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PANTHERA NEWSLETTER

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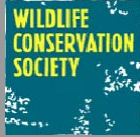
Welcome to Panthera's Newsletter!

Panthera is an international conservation nonprofit whose sole mission is the conservation of the world's 36 species of wild cats. Bringing together the knowledge and expertise of the world's top cat biologists, and working in partnership with local and international NGOs, scientific institutions, universities and government agencies, Panthera develops and implements range-wide species conservation strategies for the world's most imperiled wild cats.

Mt. Sinai and Panthera - Linking Global Health and Conservation



Panthera has formed a unique union with Mount Sinai's Global Health Program based on the very real link between functioning ecosystems and human health. Mt Sinai will be sending doctors to the site of Panthera's jaguar conservation program in the Brazilian Pantanal. Not only was this partnership featured in [Mount Sinai's newsletter](#) but Alan Rabinowitz (Panthera's CEO) recently discussed the concept behind this partnership in an interview with Jeff Young on Public Radio International's program,



Living on Earth.

To hear the interview, entitled "A Home for Jaguars" please visit <http://www.livingonearth.org/shows/shows.htm?programID=09-P13-00019>

Colombian Heads of State Welcome the Jaguar Corridor



A Panthera contingent, comprising Alan Rabinowitz, CEO, Howard Quigley, Director of Western Hemisphere Programs and Margarita Trujillo, recently traveled to Colombia to meet with key officials including Vice President Francisco Santos and Vice Minister of Environment Claudia Patricia Mora. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the expansion of

Panthera's jaguar corridor to include key regions in jaguar territory, including Colombia. Both senior officials were very eager to begin securing critical territory for jaguars in the northeastern region of Colombia - a tremendous step in conserving this species. This level of commitment and endorsement is critical for conservation. We look forward to finalizing plans for the Colombian Corridor and reporting back on the progress.

For more information on Panthera's jaguar corridor, please visit: http://www.panthera.org/jaguar_corridor.html

Flying High With Belizean Ministers

In the first week of April, Alan Rabinowitz spent five days in Belize, bringing continued and additional focus to the country that started his jaguar conservation focus and where he set up the first jaguar reserve, the Coxcomb Basin Jaguar Preserve. The trip was packed with media appearances and outreach opportunities for jaguar conservation organized by one of our partners, Sharon Matola of the Belize Zoo. One of the highlights of the trip was a helicopter tour, with government officials, of the main Belize corridor, and a landing in the jungle near Victoria Peak, in the Maya Mountains. In a truly unique opportunity for conservation, Alan spent time with Gaspar Vega, the Minister of Environment, and Michael Hutchinson, district representative from La Democracia in the jungle where he shared stories and they discussed the importance of conserving jaguars. It was an important and landmark moment for jaguar conservation in Belize.

'Jaguar-friendly' Coffee Gets Closer to Market

Last month, in collaboration with the University of Costa Rica and Fundazoo, Panthera helped organize a Jaguar Habitat and Population Analysis Workshop sponsored by coffee company Volcafe at the Simon Bolivar Zoo in San Jose. Nearly 60 people from different backgrounds and organizations participated.

The final product should be ready by May and officially presented in the same event where Volcafe will launch its highest quality exportation coffee called "Café Jaguar". We expect to work together with our partners to provide a framework for additional support for jaguar conservation in Costa Rica.



Lion Numbers Far From Majestic in Queen Elizabeth National Park



Panthera and the Wildlife Conservation Society have been conducting long-term lion research in Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) on the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Recent survey results reveal that lion numbers are severely diminished due to conflict with humans in the region. Recent instability in DRC has resulted in an influx of traditional Basongora pastoralists to the north of the QENP. The nomadic farmers have increasingly been using the protected area to graze their livestock. As a result, the level of conflict with lions - which prey on Basongora cattle - has increased, and lions are being targeted through deliberate poisoning.

We have been monitoring the lion population in the Ishasha sector in the south of the park over the past three years, and are now increasing our activities to include the entire reserve. The next step will be to undertake a questionnaire survey to

investigate the main factors predisposing conflict between the Basongora and lions and determine best interventions to mitigate conflict and improve the long-term prospects of lions in the park.

[Where in the world...check out the site via Google Earth!](#)

This link opens a folder containing a file called 'doc'. Open the file 'doc' to begin Google Earth. Google Earth is free to download and use.
Click the cat icon to access Panthera images and links.

For more information on Panthera's Lion Conservation Program, please visit: http://www.panthera.org/lion_programs_projects.html

One, Two, Three Little Snow Leopards



In our last newsletter, we reported on the capture of our 3rd snow leopard in Mongolia. We are now pleased to announce that the 4th, 5th and 6th snow leopards (left and below) were successfully captured and collared in just the past month! The team attributes some of the good fortune to the advice and training of Guy Balme, Panthera's Lion Conservation Coordinator, who traveled to Mongolia to share his trapping expertise with the Gobi field team earlier this year. The captures will shed light on the regional population and lead to an enhanced understanding of this mysterious cat.

As little is known about the snow leopard throughout most of its range, Panthera plans to expand this project's reach to several other countries in the coming months. Panthera's Vice President, George Schaller, is currently in the southern Qinghai Province, where he will spend much of May conducting snow leopard surveys in an area where the species status is mostly unknown. In June, Tom McCarthy, Director of Snow Leopard Programs for Panthera, will travel to Tajikistan to advise the government on their Snow Leopard Action Plan and train local biologists to survey the elusive cats in the important mountain range of the country.



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For more information on Panthera's snow leopard program, visit
http://www.panthera.org/snow_leopard_project.html

Steve Winter Wins World Press Photo Contest

Panthera photographer Steve Winter won first prize in the Nature Stories category of the 52nd annual World Press Photo Contest for his work capturing one of the world's most elusive subjects. His project entitled, "Snow Leopards: Out of the Shadows" was featured in the June 2008 edition of National Geographic Magazine. Steve's work is featured on Panthera's website and in Panthera's New York office.



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To see more of Steve Winter's work, visit www.stevewinterphoto.com/

Panthera Grantee Named WINGS Woman of Discovery



Leela Hazzah (center), a multi-year recipient of the Panthera Kaplan Graduate Award, and part of Panthera's Lion Conservation team, was honored last month with the Wings WorldQuest 2009 WINGS Women of Discovery Award for Field Research. Leela is a PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Director of the Lion Guardians program in Kenya. Leela's research is focused on understanding the motivations behind lion killing in Maasailand, Kenya. In 2006, she founded Lion Guardians, a

program that employs Masaai warriors as conservation practitioners in a region where over 150 lions were slaughtered between 2001 and 2006. Retaliatory and traditional spearing by Maasai warriors, called murrans, is the greatest threat to the survival of lions in Kenyan Maasailand today. Lion Guardians attempts to reduce pressure on lions by employing their greatest enemy to conserve rather than kill. This strategy has made the project an immense success.

Since the inception of the Lion Guardians on Mbirikani Group Ranch in the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem, not a single lion has been killed. During this same period, over 30 lions were killed on adjacent group ranches. In response to urgent requests from these communities and conservationists, the project is being expanded to two more Maasai ranches where lion killing continues.



In addition to the Kaplan Graduate Award, she has been awarded a Fulbright Hays Doctoral Fellowship and a Jordan Prize for African Studies.

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Click the cat icon to access Panthera images and links.

For more information on Lion Guardians, please visit:

<http://lionguardians.wildlifedirect.org/>

University of Oxford Welcomes New "Panthers"

Through a unique partnership with Panthera, the University of Oxford is now hosting a Postgraduate Diploma Course in International Wildlife Conservation Practice. The seven month residential course equips conservation practitioners with the practical skills and theoretical understanding to conduct research and take conservation action in the developing world. The program welcomed its newest group of students, or Panthers, as they are affectionately called, in April.

One of this year's Panthers has a unique story and a strong tie to Panthera. Antony Kasanga, Assistant Director of the above mentioned Lion Guardians program, relocated to Oxford last month (pictured below).

Antony is a Maasai warrior (murrans) who has been working with Lion Guardians since its inception. As a Lion Guardian, Antony's work included monitoring lions and other carnivores and advising herders to avoid areas where carnivores are present. Lion Guardians also work with livestock owners to improve livestock enclosures (bomas), recover lost livestock left out in the bush, educate communities on the importance of carnivore conservation, and prevent further killing by deterring other murrans from carrying out lion hunts.



For more information on the University of Oxford's Postgraduate Diploma Course in International Wildlife Conservation Practice visit:

<http://www.wildcru.org/diploma/index.html>

Announcing the Rabinowitz-Kaplan Prize for the Next Generation in Wild Cat Conservation

Panthera is seeking outstanding candidates for 'The Rabinowitz-Kaplan Prize for the Next Generation in Wild Cat Conservation.' The Prize is a cash award of \$25,000 in recognition of an individual under 40 years of age representing the next generation of up-and-coming conservationists, scientists, policy developers, politicians and planners who have made an important contribution to wild cat conservation. The Prize seeks to foster the efforts of early-career individuals who intend to devote their ongoing professional efforts toward the common goal of wild cat conservation. Candidates must be 40 years old or younger as of July 15, 2009.

For more information and to apply, please visit:

http://www.panthera.org/rk_next_generation.html

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JULY 15th 2009

Huffington 'Posts' - Panthera Has Three New Blogs to Date!

Several Panthera staff now have articles on the Huffington Post. To read "New Insight Into Cougar Behavior" by Howard Quigley, "Agricultural Pesticides a Major Threat to Lions" by Luke Hunter, and "Why Living with Big Cats is Critical for Future Generations" by Alan Rabinowitz, please visit <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alan-rabinowitz/>



To learn more about Panthera and how you can help save the world's wild cats, visit:

www.panthera.org

To see more 'Panthera in the News', please visit:

[**http://www.panthera.org/news_and_events.html**](http://www.panthera.org/news_and_events.html)