



Issue 6 October 2009

## PANTHERA NEWSLETTER

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### Welcome to Panthera's Newsletter!

Panthera is an international 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.

### Bridging the Rancher-Jaguar Divide in Honduras

Panthera's Honduras Jaguar Program Coordinator, Franklin Castañeda, recently co-organized a jaguar-cattle conflict workshop in a key region for jaguar conservation, Brus Laguna, Honduras. The workshop, held in partnership with Proyecto Ecosistemas, Zamorano University, and the Wildlife Conservation Society, was viewed as a resounding success by participants.



In attendance were nearly all ranchers from the region, most of whom have reported losing cattle to jaguar predation, and many of whom have admittedly killed jaguars in retaliation. One attendee, Rafael Gutierrez, is a rancher from Brus Laguna who reportedly lost 78 cattle to jaguars in a five year period. In this same time frame, Rafael claims to have killed 14 jaguars



in and around his ranch. He was invited to the workshop to learn about techniques for mitigating human-jaguar conflict, and keeping his cattle safe and healthy. In his own words Rafael said, "The ranchers from Brus Laguna see the jaguar as our enemy, but I am very pleased to see institutions becoming interested in what we do and what our problems are. I believe these kinds of workshops are key to beginning the process that will ultimately change the way ranchers view jaguars in this area."

Jaguar-cattle conflict is a significant threat throughout jaguar range due to its impact on people's willingness to tolerate living with these predators. Panthera continues to focus significant resources toward reducing conflict and implementing solutions to ensure the survival of the jaguar across its entire range.



A rancher inspects a calf that had been attacked by a jaguar in Costa Rica

To learn more about Panthera's jaguar programs, please [click here](#).

## Foreign Secretary of Bhutan Visits Panthera

Daw Penjo, former UN Ambassador and current Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Royal Government of Bhutan visited Panthera Tuesday in an unofficial capacity to meet with Dr. Alan Rabinowitz at Panthera's New York office. Dr. Rabinowitz filled the Foreign Secretary in on Panthera's recent meetings with Bhutanese government officials and our plans for coordinated efforts on tiger and snow leopard conservation in the country. Foreign Secretary Penjo is an avid supporter of conservation - a trait that clearly runs in his family! His daughter, Nawang Penjo, has just completed a human-wildlife conflict survey in the largest protected area in Bhutan, Jigme Dorji.



Panthera would like to thank the Foreign Secretary, who was in New York for the UN General Assembly, for taking time out of his busy schedule to meet with Dr. Rabinowitz to discuss wild cat conservation.

### **Bayara Agvaantseren Wins Rabinowitz-Kaplan Prize for the Next Generation in Wild Cat Conservation**

Each year, Panthera awards a prize in the amount of \$25,000 to an individual who has made a significant contribution to conserving wild cats. Candidates for the prize represent the next generation of scientists, conservationists, policy makers and politicians who will pave the future for wild cat conservation. Panthera's Cat Advisory Council recently reviewed an extremely competitive batch of applicants for the 2009 award, and we are pleased to announce this year's winner, Ms. Bayarjargal (Bayara) Agvaantseren of Mongolia.



Bayara is the Executive Director and founder of the Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation (SLCF), a national conservation NGO that works closely with the Snow Leopard Trust and Panthera to implement conservation and research programs in Mongolia. Bayara began her career in cat conservation in 1996 when she joined Tom McCarthy's snow leopard research team as a translator, working specifically with herders to understand human-snow leopard conflicts. The insight she gained during herder interviews across snow leopard range in Mongolia prompted her to develop a community-based conservation program now known as Snow Leopard Enterprises (SLE). SLE's

model allows semi-nomadic herders to increase their income through handicraft production in exchange for their tolerance of snow leopards who commonly prey on their livestock. The SLE program quickly grew from just a few villages to 26 communities, today helping over 400 herder families in every province of the country where snow leopards range. The program has

received accolades from throughout the global conservation community, and Bayara has helped to successfully replicate the model in Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

In addition to assisting in the formulation of Mongolia's National Snow Leopard Policy, Bayara has most recently played a key role in initiating the Panthera/SLT research program at the South Gobi site. Bayara's ability to forge strong partnerships at multiple levels, across remote herder communities, national and international NGOs, and diverse government agencies, has contributed to her enormous success in this field. She is a driving force for snow leopard conservation in her native Mongolia and across the region.

Congratulations, Bayara!

To learn more about Panthera's Rabinowitz-Kaplan Next Generation Prize winners, please [click here](#).

To learn more about Snow Leopard Enterprises, please [click here](#).

## **Donor Spotlight: Panthera's Youngest Entrepreneurial Benefactor**



In June, Panthera received a donation from our youngest donor to date. Six-year old Justin Kopp of Minnesota sent a check for \$100 to Panthera for jaguar conservation. Inspired by National Geographic's March 2009 article about Panthera's Jaguar Corridor Initiative, [Path of the Jaguar](#), Justin created "Cans 4 Cats", an entrepreneurial endeavor he runs with his younger sister, Kate. Together the two have been busy collecting, crushing and recycling aluminum cans, as well as designing business cards, fliers and tee-shirts to sell to friends and family. In September, Panthera received a second check from Justin, this time for \$200. He has sold \$150 worth of toys to contribute to wild cat conservation and his goal is to raise \$100 more.

Because 100% of donations received by Panthera go directly to conservation programs, Justin's contributions will further conservation on the ground in the meso-American jaguar corridor. Justin informed us that he is willing to turn down a trip to Disneyland to travel instead to Belize to see jaguars. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Justin replied, "I want to be a zoologist and a pro quarterback. I can go on safari during the week and play football on Sunday." A true conservationist in the making!



Cans 4 Cats will soon have an active website linked to [Panthera.org](http://Panthera.org), so please check back soon.

For more information on how you can also help support Panthera's conservation activities, please [click here](#).

## **Rare 'Bush Dog' Image a Healthy Sign - Even for Cats!**

Panthera, in partnership with La Sociedad Mastozoológica de Panamá (SOMASPA) recently caught an image that confirms what has only been suspected since the late 1970s. A species of bush dog, once thought to inhabit only the region north and east of the Panama Canal in its Panamanian range, was captured on film in the Santa Fe National Park, a protected area about 200 km from the Canal on the western side of the Panamanian biological corridor. This information, together with reports of new distributions of other mammals in Panama, is an indicator of the functionality and integrity of this biological corridor.

## **'Walking with Lions': The Myth of Conservation**



To check out Panthera's latest blog on the Huffington Post written by Luke Hunter, please visit <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alan-rabinowitz>

## Correction

In Panthera's last [newsletter](#) we incorrectly attributed a jaguar camera trap photo to Panthera. The photo credit should have gone to Diego Woolrich, DVM, who has been conducting a jaguar camera trapping survey in Guerrero state since 2008, and is an important collaborator for jaguar conservation in Mexico. We would like to thank Dr. Woolrich for allowing Panthera to use this photo, and Rodrigo Nuñez, President of the Mexican Jaguar Conservation Committee, for pointing out the misappropriation.

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

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

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

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