



Panthera

2023 Annual Report

COEXISTING WITH CATS

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MISSION

To ensure a future for wild cats and the vast landscapes on which they depend.

VISION

A world where wild cats thrive in healthy, natural and developed landscapes that sustain people and biodiversity.

Fostering Coexistence

AN INSIDE LOOK INTO OUR WORK TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE STATE WHERE HUMANS AND WILD CATS CAN MORE SAFELY SHARE LANDSCAPES

This year, Panthera deepened our commitment to building a world in which wild cats and humans can live alongside one another. To do this, we needed sustainable and scalable species programs that adopted a holistic approach and buy-in from all key players: local communities, NGOs, government agencies and more. Today, every conservation project, from ecotourism to reintroduction efforts, is a building block in holistically fostering coexistence between wild cats and human communities.

As a result, our programs saw substantial progress. We helped protect wild cats across the globe, from the threatened jaguars of Central America to rare fishing cats and tigers in Thailand's jungles. Panthera partners with local communities, governments, and NGOs, all essential to building sustainable concurrence between humans and wild cats. Exemplifying this holistic approach is the Olympic Cougar Project, where Panthera partners not

only with six Tribal Nations but also the Washington State Department of Transportation and other NGOs, blending traditional values with modern infrastructure and demonstrating that coexistence transcends merely sharing physical space.

We also doubled down on our conservation efforts to protect small wild cats, species that face challenges just as dire as those facing tigers, lions, and other big cats. An astonishing 72 percent of the world's most threatened wild cat species are small cats that, like their larger counterparts, contend with human-wildlife conflict, poaching, and habitat loss and fragmentation. To address these major issues, we work directly with local communities, including fishermen and farmers, who view cats as competition, to foster coexistence and, ultimately, prevent retaliatory killings.

As human populations continue to grow, conflict between wild cats and people are, unfortunately, bound to increase. Conservation efforts will increasingly need to occur outside of traditional protected areas, making our work to preserve corridors and connectivity between wild cat habitats all the more crucial. Moreover, rewilding and reintroducing wild cat species, including lions in Gabon and Arabian leopards in Saudi Arabia, are essential to restoring global populations and increasing biodiversity. Paired with proactive, community-driven measures to build local support,

safeguard livestock, and prevent human-wildlife conflicts, we can ensure sustainable reintroduction.


Each aspect of our work, from promoting safe, economically viable ecotourism to building wildlife-proof livestock enclosures to anti-poaching initiatives, contributes to the movement to coexist with wild cats. Every piece of the conservation puzzle is a building block toward coexistence. In 2023, we saw these coalesce into an increasingly encouraging conservation framework.



Thank you for your unwavering support of Panthera, wild cats, and the livelihoods of the human communities they live alongside.



FRED LAUNAY, Ph.D.
CEO and President

 A livestock night enclosure with an electric fence preventing jaguar attacks on a vulnerable group of just-weaned calves in Brazil ©Panthera

 A bobcat approaches a house near the Bay Area in California, USA ©Sebastian Kennerknecht

Reflecting on Impact

PANTHERA'S BOARD CHAIRMAN, JON AYERS, DISCUSSES HIS KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM 2023



JON AYERS

Demand for wild cat parts continues to be a major threat to wild cats. What do you think Panthera's role should be?

JA Our Furs for Life project is an excellent example of impactful threat reduction. A decade ago, the leopard population in South Africa had declined to fewer than 5,000, with an annual loss of at least 800 killed for their fur. Their coats were highly sought after for ceremonial regalia by various cultural and religious groups, including the Nazareth Baptist Church eBuhleni, also known as the Shembe Church.

Once we learned that Shembe followers used up to 15,000 leopard furs during religious events, in 2013 Panthera joined forces with Shembe Church leaders

to initiate the Furs for Life program. We surveyed how many individuals were using the capes and how often they were replacing them, resulting in the estimated losses. We worked with Church leaders to launch a project to produce high-quality faux skins to replace authentic leopard amambatha. Through cultural sensitivity, close collaboration, shared goals, and fine-tuned impact measurement, we've reduced the number of authentic leopard furs worn during Shembe events by an astounding 50 percent and have dramatically reduced this threat to leopards in the wild.

Our work to help establish and manage protected areas (PA) where wild cats can roam freely is gaining traction. What would you say about this work?

JA Protected area management of key landscapes, when paired with other effective area-based conservation measures and supported by their range states, is clearly the direction that Panthera needs to go. In this way, we can ensure that cats and the biodiversity they represent will grow and thrive.

Take tigers, for example. After collecting data from 300 sites across the tiger range, we observed higher tiger densities within protected areas. Fortunately, we've also found that tigers recover relatively quickly when they have access to sufficient prey, a secure habitat, and functional connectivity.

Some people may think that small cats do not necessarily need dedicated conservation interventions. Why do you think Panthera has taken an active role in small cat conservation and why is it important?

JA Panthera's mission is to ensure the future of all 40+ species of wild cats. Over 80% of these species and over two-thirds of those wild cats threatened with extinction are small cats. Ranging from oceans to deserts and wetlands to mountaintops, small wild cat species are specially adapted to and contribute to the stability of their diverse ecosystems. With small home ranges, short lifespans, and high reproductive rates, they are good indicators of environmental change or recovery. Small cats not only gave rise to our domestic cats, but many are also treasured for cultural or spiritual reasons.

Yet almost all threatened and near-threatened small cat species have declining populations – they need our help now. Fortunately, protecting small cats is often cost-effective and straightforward; we have proven strategies to ensure their survival given the necessary resources. Our Small Cat Program demonstrates global leadership in offering our tools, resources, knowledge, and funding to partners who work with us in amplifying the conservation of these precious species.

How has Panthera's approach to wild cat conservation evolved over the past year?

JA Panthera's science-based, data-driven approach to wild cat conservation continues to advance while our conservation action best practices continue to spread globally. A great example is a set of lion conservation principles that Panthera and other like-minded conservation organizations have developed as a model for the larger conservation community, similar to what Panthera has brought to the tiger conservation community. Frameworks like this one help deepen collaborations with local communities and Indigenous peoples, as well as range states. Similar principles can be replicated for other feline species' efforts.

Can you please talk about Panthera's health as an organization and recent growth?

JA Over the last 12 months, Panthera has made significant progress not only in the field of wild cat habitats, but also in building sustainable financial, legal, business development, communications, and human resource capabilities. While these functions are not the purpose of Panthera, our purpose cannot be achieved without their essential contribution. This progress creates a foundation for doubling our wild cat conservation impact in time.



Two followers of the Nazareth Baptist Church eBuhleni (Shembe Church) donning a synthetic Heritage Fur during a Shembe gathering in South Africa ©Rodger Jardine/Panthera

Board SPOTlight

A CONVERSATION WITH OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



CELINA CHIEN



EIRA THOMAS

Welcome to our Board of Directors! Can you please tell us a little about yourselves and share what made you want to join us?

ET I'm delighted to serve on the Board of Panthera. I am a geologist by training and I've spent my entire career in the mineral exploration and mining business. I first had the opportunity to visit Africa when I was 20 years old — a good friend of mine was a bush pilot leading tours into the safari regions in the Okavango Delta. That was my first introduction to big cats and from then on, I was hooked.

For me, joining Panthera was about going back to my roots, in some ways, having spent the early part of my career traipsing around northern Canada and many other parts of the

world as an explorer. I've had the opportunity to live in remote places, which gave me a huge passion for nature and all things in the natural environment. I think Panthera does an incredible job at understanding from that 30,000-foot view what it takes to bring communities to enact lasting change. Because you can't do it from one perspective, you must be able to create a larger conversation to have successful outcomes.

CC For me, big cats have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember — I was born in the year of the tiger and from a young age was likened to the species. It has shown me firsthand how important cultural relationships are to connecting people to wild cat conservation. I pursued conservation first through biology, getting my master's degree in Tropical Forest Ecology, and then moved into storytelling. Everything I've done in my career ever since has been guided by the compass of wanting to create an impact for biodiversity.

I love big cats because they are incredible stewards of their environments. They are also powerful as mascots, as symbols, but also indices for biodiversity and I continue to be amazed at how they can leverage so much attention, so much passion, so much emotion from people. More importantly, from a practical perspective, big cat conservation is very much at the interface of human-

wildlife conflict and how people are learning to coexist with the natural world.

This all started when I was 17 and I sent an email to Panthera's founders Alan Rabinowitz and Tom Kaplan saying, "I love cats. I'd love to help out." I got my start as a Research Assistant for the Jaguar Corridor Program in Belize. And then through the years, through all my different career activities, it's brought me even closer to Panthera. Now, it is a great honor to be a board member.

ET I did not know that you had started at Panthera when you were 17, Celina! I knew about your work with jaguars, but I didn't realize you were so young and that it was prior to your education.

CC Yes! It was the first thing I did after high school.

ET That's so fascinating.

Both of you have science backgrounds and have been able to see unique, remote parts of the world. After joining Panthera and getting an inside look into what we're doing globally, has there been anything that surprised you or stood out to you?

ET What has stood out to me most has been Panthera's reach and its ability, as a relatively small, focused team, to be in a position to influence conversations



happening all over. I always knew Panthera was doing things differently, but I have continued to be impressed by how effective Panthera has been in a relatively short period of time. Celina, you've been here since the early days, so maybe it doesn't feel short to you, but to me, it seems like a fairly short period of time to achieve such a big impact.


CC Absolutely. It's a nascent organization compared to some of the other big players in conservation. When you consider the length of a single generation of cats and how much impact Panthera has managed to achieve in only 18 years, it's hugely impressive. I got the 'behind-the-scenes view' first and what's been so wonderful about joining the board is seeing how quickly Panthera is adapting to the rapidly changing conservation landscape

I think Panthera's strengths are in

capacity-building on-the-ground, working with local communities, and conducting research and implementing conservation action in such an evidence-based way that prioritizes accountability, which is important to me as a scientist.

ET Yeah, there's a huge amount of accountability. That's something I always look for in any organization that I get involved with. If you're going to invest time and effort and capital, you need the governance and accountability. I think that's something that Panthera has worked really hard to build.

Cont. on page 4...

 Above (left to right): Celina Chien in Saudi Arabia ©Sebastian Kennerknecht; An ocelot track in the Pantanal, Brazil ©Sebastian Kennerknecht

What's one thing you want wild cat lovers to know about Panthera?

ET I want everyone to understand the importance of a healthy cat population to ensure the overall health of ecosystems and biodiversity. At the end of the day, supporting Panthera does not just support cats, it supports healthy ecosystems and I think that is such an important message. When people ask, well, “why would you be so specifically focused on cats?” and what I respond with is, “well, it’s actually not specific at all.” That’s the point, because at the end of the day, if you have a healthy cat population and you have a healthy predator population, then everything else follows within these ecosystems and corridors and the efforts that Panthera is making. For me, the most critical step in habitat preservation is to focus on the predator species.

CC I couldn't agree more. Protecting wild cats also protects the ecologies and the landscapes that they steward. I think it's both very broad in terms of protecting entire landscapes, but also really focused to the challenges of large carnivore conservation. If you wanted to argue why someone should support Panthera, we are the world's leading authority not only when it comes to researching wild cats, but also the conservation action to protect them.

To add on to what Eira said, it's not just the landscapes that these cats inhabit that we're protecting, but we also work closely with the communities that live alongside them. Big cat conservation is at the forefront of coexistence with biodiversity, which is the most pressing challenge that we face today.

So that's exactly why we're incredibly focused on cats. The problem that we're addressing is so expansive, it includes habitats, human livelihoods, coexistence, and biodiversity — all wrapped into one leopard print gift box!

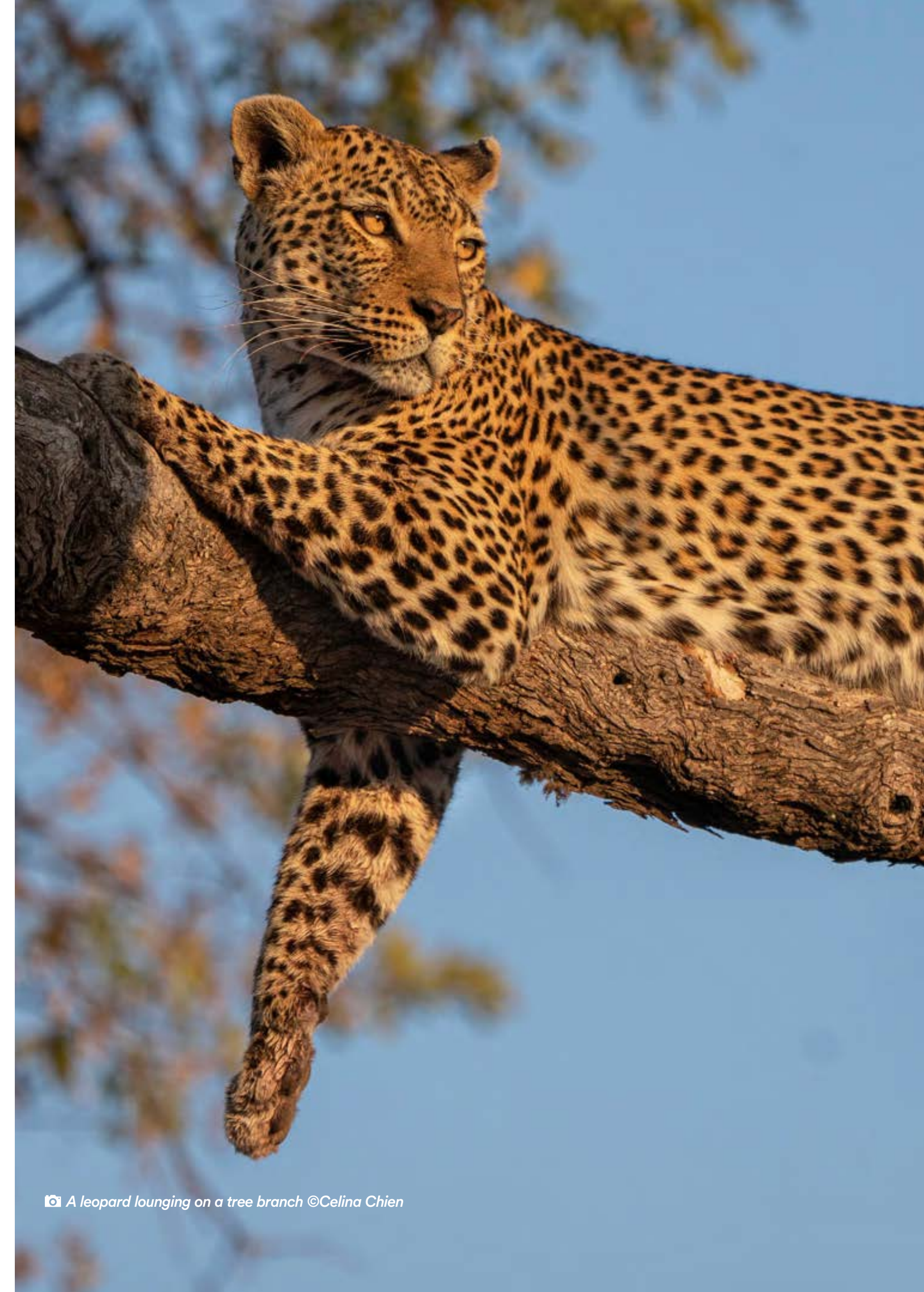
Do you have any final thoughts before we conclude?


CC I think what I'll add to that is I think Panthera protects a lot of species that other organizations have looked over. For example, our Small Cats Program is unrivaled. For such an established, successful international organization to pay attention to small wild cat species lends so much more power to their conservation efforts.

I also think that leopards tend to be the forgotten big cat, as many NGO's don't have dedicated leopard programs. Yet when it comes to an evidence-based, strategic approach to conservation action, our Furs for Life Program has likely saved more leopards than any other intervention. I think what I'm most excited about

is seeing Panthera's involvement with leopards and they're supporting leopard conservation in a new dynamic way.

ET There's so much going on within Panthera right now in terms of new objectives and mandates — I really feel the organization is firing on all cylinders. We are looking at ways to extend the reach I spoke about earlier and it feels like we are on the verge of achieving some very important milestones in the coming years under Fred's leadership and with the support of the board. What gets me excited is hearing about the new strategies, plans and programming to make as big of an impact as we possibly can.



 A leopard lounging on a tree branch ©Celina Chien



UNITED STATES
Olympic Peninsula

HONDURAS/GUATEMALA
Binational Corridor

SENEGAL
Niokolo-Koba
National Park

SAUDI ARABIA
Arabian Leopard
Initiative

GABON
Batéké Plateau
National Park

ZAMBIA
Greater Kafue
National Park

THAILAND
Khao Sam Roi Yot
National Park

MALAYSIA
Kenyir Taman Negara

INDIA
Manas National Park

BORNEO
Deramakot
Forest
Reserve

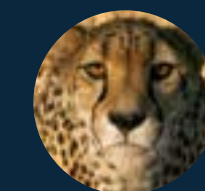
CHILE
Patagonia National Park

World of Wild Cats

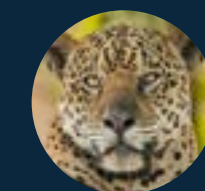
2023 Impact Site

Panthera Project Site

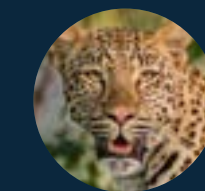
Big Cat Species



Cheetah
Acinonyx jubatus



Jaguar
Panthera onca



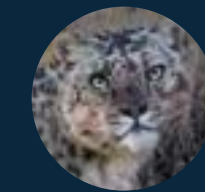
Leopard
Panthera pardus



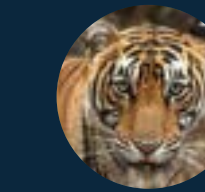
Lion
Panthera leo



Puma
Puma concolor



Snow Leopard
Panthera uncia



Tiger
Panthera tigris

Small Cat Species

African Golden Cat
Caracal aurata

African Wildcat
Felis lybica lybica
Felis lybica cafra

Andean Mountain Cat
Leopardus jacobita

Asian Golden Cat
Catopuma temminckii

Asiatic Wildcat
Felis lybica ornata

Black-footed Cat
Felis nigripes

Bobcat
Lynx rufus

Bornean Bay Cat
Pardofelis badia

Canada Lynx
Lynx canadensis

Caracal
Caracal caracal

Chinese Mountain Cat
Felis bieti

Clouded Leopard
Neofelis nebulosa

Eurasian Lynx
Lynx lynx

European Wildcat
Felis silvestris

Fishing Cat
Prionailurus viverrinus

Flat-headed Cat
Prionailurus planiceps

Güiña
Leopardus guigna

Geoffroy's Cat
Leopardus geoffroyi

Iberian Lynx
Lynx pardinus

Jaguarundi
Herpailurus yagouaroundi

Jungle Cat
Felis chaus

Leopard Cat
Prionailurus bengalensis

Ocelot
Leopardus pardalis

Oncilla
Leopardus tigrinus

Pampas Cat
Leopardus colocola

Margay
Leopardus wiedii

Pallas's Cat
Otocolobus manul

Marbled Cat
Pardofelis marmorata

Rusty-spotted Cat
Prionailurus rubiginosus

Sand Cat
Felis margarita

Serval
Leptailurus serval

Southern Tiger Cat
Leopardus guttulus

Sunda Clouded Leopard
Neofelis diardi

Sunda Leopard Cat
Prionailurus javanensis

Big Cat Overview



It takes years for conservation efforts to materialize into concrete population changes for wild cats. In 2023, we were excited to record several meaningful improvements in wild cat populations. Panthera’s interventions helped increase populations of tigers in Thailand’s Southwestern Forest Complex, leopards and lions in Zambia’s Kafue National Park, and lions in Senegal’s Niokolo-Koba National Park. Meanwhile, we’ve helped stabilize and potentially even increase populations of tigers in Malaysia’s Kenyir-Taman Negara National Park, Sunda clouded leopards in Malaysia’s Deramakot/ Tangkulap Forest Reserve, and jaguars in Porto Jofre in the Northern Pantanal of Brazil and Belize’s Cockscomb Basin. Together with partners, we aim to continue to stabilize and increase threatened wild cat populations worldwide.

In the following pages, you’ll see how we blend law enforcement, community engagement, habitat management, and scientific research to achieve positive impacts on big cat populations around the world. Highlights include:

- Our Cheetah Program utilized GPS collars and targeted monitoring to understand cheetah movements, aiding in effective protection in Zambia’s Greater Kafue Ecosystem. Efforts included removing wire snares, reducing poaching, and promoting human-wildlife coexistence through direct engagement with more than 2,500 households.
- Our Jaguar Program addressed

habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict in Latin America through extensive patrolling and educational initiatives. Collaborative efforts at the Jaguar Range State Meeting identified priority landscapes and sustainable financing mechanisms.

- Our Tigers Forever program protected tigers and reduced poaching across ten sites, leading to significant population growth — in several regions, populations even doubled. Training for over 600 personnel enhanced enforcement and legal responses to wildlife crimes.
- Our Lion Program succeeded in Senegal’s Niokolo-Koba National Park, doubling the lion population with the help of improved law enforcement and infrastructure. Meanwhile, efforts in Zambia fostered coexistence and reduced poaching.
- Our Leopard Program advanced data collection and policy influence, particularly in South Africa, Zambia, Senegal, and Saudi Arabia, ensuring the stability and growth of leopard populations.

📷 Above (clockwise): A male lion in Kafue National Park, Zambia ©Ross de Bruin; Panthera Costa Rica team members take inventory of wildlife underpasses ©Daniela Araya Gamboa; Olympic Cougar Project Lead Coordinator Caitlin Kupar chips and examines a puma kitten ©Michael Kodas; Indochinese tiger and cubs in Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand ©Panthera



OUR IMPACT

30,000 km²
of protected area inside Zambia’s Kafue National Park and three adjoining Game Management Areas

1,000+ rangers
from Indigenous and local communities employed by Malaysia’s DWNP who not only promote coexistence but play an invaluable role in effective tiger conservation

6
Téké communities in Gabon we count as partners, who will eventually co-manage a community reserve for lions

Cheetah Program

Our Cheetah Program uses a blend of enhanced law enforcement, community engagement, scientific research, habitat management, partnerships, and targeted wildlife monitoring to protect Africa's most threatened big cat. Our comprehensive efforts across the Greater Kafue Ecosystem emphasize the importance of integrated conservation strategies to ensure a future for Africa's fastest wild cat.



📷 Nkala cheetah family in Zambia's Greater Kafue Ecosystem ©Kim Young-Overton



Learning from a Cheetah Family

After diligently tracking the five members of the Nkala cheetah family, we safely placed GPS collars on the mother, daughter, and one of her three sons before the young adults dispersed. This type of ongoing monitoring of cheetahs throughout Zambia's Greater Kafue Ecosystem helps reveal the movement patterns that will inform better protection efforts across their entire range.

A Collar Fit for a King

The Greater Kafue Ecosystem, with Kafue National Park at its core, is a critical habitat for cheetahs, leopards,



and lions. Although the protected area is large, cheetah ranges loom larger, and GPS collars make it possible to track the location of cheetahs like King, whose range extends across both protected and non-protected areas.

Integrated Conservation

With the support of seven partners, we removed deadly wire snares, reduced poaching, and focused on human-wildlife coexistence and conflict mitigation techniques with local communities. This included a wildlife values program that rewards local communities for allowing wild cats to wander through shared landscapes. The program now reaches more than 2,500



households. Our collective monitoring helps illustrate the sheer scale and habitat complexity of the Greater Kafue Ecosystem and the value of an integrated collaborative program.

📷 Above (left to right): Tracking King the cheetah in Kafue National Park ©Abby Harding; Africa Coordinator Xia Stevens and Zambia Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. King Chidakwa with King the cheetah ©Abby Harding; Panthera scientists examine King including taking weight and measurements ©Abby Harding

OUR IMPACT

255 images

of cheetahs taken in the Greater Kafue Ecosystem as part of our population density study

1,127 km

traversed by King the cheetah across the crucial corridor connecting the Greater Kafue Ecosystem with the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area

Jaguar Program

In 2023, we made great strides towards addressing the two greatest threats to jaguars: habitat loss and human-wild cat conflict. Our multifaceted initiatives underscore a commitment to save jaguars and support coexistence between humans and wildlife across Latin America. Through collaboration, innovation, and community engagement, we continue to pave the way to a sustainable future where jaguars thrive alongside nearby communities.



Two jaguars in Brazil's Pantanal ©Sebastian Kennerknecht

Jaguar Conservation Beyond Borders

CITES coordinated with Brazil to host the first Jaguar Range State Meeting in Cuiabá. The meeting brought together representatives from nearly all 18 range states. Together with the Jaguar 2030 Roadmap Coordination Committee (CITES, CMS, Panthera, UNDP, WCS, WWF), delegates and jaguar experts identified 42 priority jaguar landscapes, agreed to develop an intergovernmental jaguar monitoring platform, and identified mechanisms for sustainable financing.

Our team provided key logistic and expert support for the meeting, and our Jofre Velho Conservation Ranch team hosted a site visit to the northern Pantanal. This momentous agreement signals a unified front for the future of range-wide jaguar conservation.

Critical Work in the Guatemala-Honduras Binational Corridor

Extensive patrolling activities spanned three protected areas across 9,646 km (5,994 miles). Our efforts to address cat-cattle conflict spanned 5 countries

and included 74 interventions in which we educated ranchers on conflict causes and worked with them on mitigation strategies. Partnerships with local communities and ranchers were also fortified through model farms and anti-predation measures, creating new pathways to human-jaguar coexistence.

Forming Tactical Coordination Groups

Uniting other NGOs, government agencies, and local and Indigenous communities, our tactical coordination groups combatted wildlife trafficking across Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Peru. This collaborative approach bolstered enforcement and management efforts against the illicit trade in jaguars and other wildlife.

Advancements in Central America

2023 saw two significant achievements in Belize — the Forest Department established a monitoring framework, and launched a new data collection tool that digitizes human-wild cat conflict reporting. In Costa Rica, we established a cooperation agreement with the Livestock Development Corporation to



address cases of predation and provide training to farmers around the country.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **CITES:** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- **CMS:** Convention on Migratory Species
- **UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme
- **WCS:** Wildlife Conservation Society
- **WWF:** World Wildlife Fund

Park rangers on patrol in Jeannette Kawas National Park, Honduras ©Panthera

OUR IMPACT

100% success rate

in mitigating livestock predation across 38 farms in Costa Rica, Belize, Honduras and Colombia

280 jaguars

tracked and protected through the Jaguar ID Project, which is supported by Panthera's Pantanal Jaguar Project in Brazil

3 schools

covered Panthera Colombia's Jaguar School (*Escuela Jaguar*) curriculum to change local perceptions of jaguars

Leopard Program

Our Leopard Program emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive approach that includes advanced scientific methods and building the capacity of rangers and policy makers to meet our goals. In 2023, we made substantial progress towards three key goals: 1) Collect robust leopard population data at meaningful scales that can be used to 2) inform leopard policy and management and thereby 3) stabilize and increase leopard populations across 20 percent of range states by 2030.



📷 Panthera's Niokolo-Koba Technical Assistant for Surveys and Monitoring, Mouhamadou Ndiaye, and DPN staff set out camera traps in Niokolo-Koba National Park, Senegal ©Panthera



Protecting Lesser-Known Populations

Our Leopard Monitoring and Policy Project employs spatial models and motion-activated camera surveys to gauge leopard densities in three South African provinces: Limpopo, North West, and the Eastern Cape. With over a decade of data, the project offers valuable insights into population trends, indicating stability or growth in some regions and declines in others. Expansion of this project into the Eastern Cape in 2023 has furthered our efforts to collect critical data on lesser-known leopard populations so we can bolster sustainable conservation practices where they are needed most.

Conservation Efforts in Senegal and Saudi Arabia

In Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park, we expanded park protection, infrastructure development, and capacity building, aiming to restore the park's populations of leopards and lions. Home to West Africa's largest leopard population and Critically Endangered West African lions, Senegal is a critical conservation landscape. Further north, the Arabian Leopard Initiative supported the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) in Saudi Arabia. We celebrated the birth of seven Critically Endangered Arabian leopards in the RCU's leopard center in Taif, symbolizing hope for this subspecies.



Training and Capacity Building

Together with the US government, we developed a four-week intensive lion and leopard monitoring training course for 17 ecologists from the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife's (DNPW) research division. Training enhanced ecologists' capacity to undertake and interpret lion and leopard populations, which will support robust population management planning in the future.

📷 Above (left to right): A leopard is spotted by a tour group in South Africa's Sabi Sands Nature Reserve ©Gareth Whittington-Jones; One of seven Arabian leopard cubs born through the Conservation Breeding Centre in Taif, Saudi Arabia ©Royal Commission for AlUla

OUR IMPACT

14 surveys

of leopard populations conducted in 2023

7,694 photos

of leopards taken in Southern Africa

150 rangers

trained to conduct patrols and collect data to eventually protect Arabian leopards in Saudi Arabia

Lion Program

Through a combination of strategic habitat management, community involvement, and rigorous anti-poaching measures, we've made significant strides towards ensuring the survival and prosperity of lions in regions where they are most at risk. This progress is essential, not only for the preservation of a key species, but also for maintaining the health and balance of ecosystems across Africa.



Doubling a Lion Population

Thanks to increased law enforcement efforts and significant improvements in park infrastructure and capacity building — supported in part by our team — Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park was better equipped to manage wildlife and effectively curb poaching activities. As a result, the park's lion population doubled.

Fostering Coexistence

We expanded conservation efforts to protect the vital habitat corridor that supports a diverse array of wildlife, including lions, in Zambia's Greater Kafue Ecosystem. In the game management areas surrounding

Kafue National Park, increased law enforcement patrols and wildlife monitoring, paired with community engagement efforts, have helped to safeguard lions and foster coexistence between local communities and wildlife.

Reintroducing Lions Back to Gabon

We completed the construction of a specialized lion release enclosure in Gabon's Batéké Plateau National Park. This facility is a cornerstone of our strategy to reintroduce lions in 2024 and ultimately establish a sustainable breeding population where lions have disappeared. This represents

a significant advancement towards restoring ecological balance and enhancing biodiversity in the park.

 Above (left to right): A lioness and cubs in Niokolo-Koba National Park ©Panthera/Senegal DPN; Lion monitoring Coordinator, Patricia Kayula, and partners collar an anesthetized lion, Kafue National Park, Zambia ©Panthera

OUR IMPACT

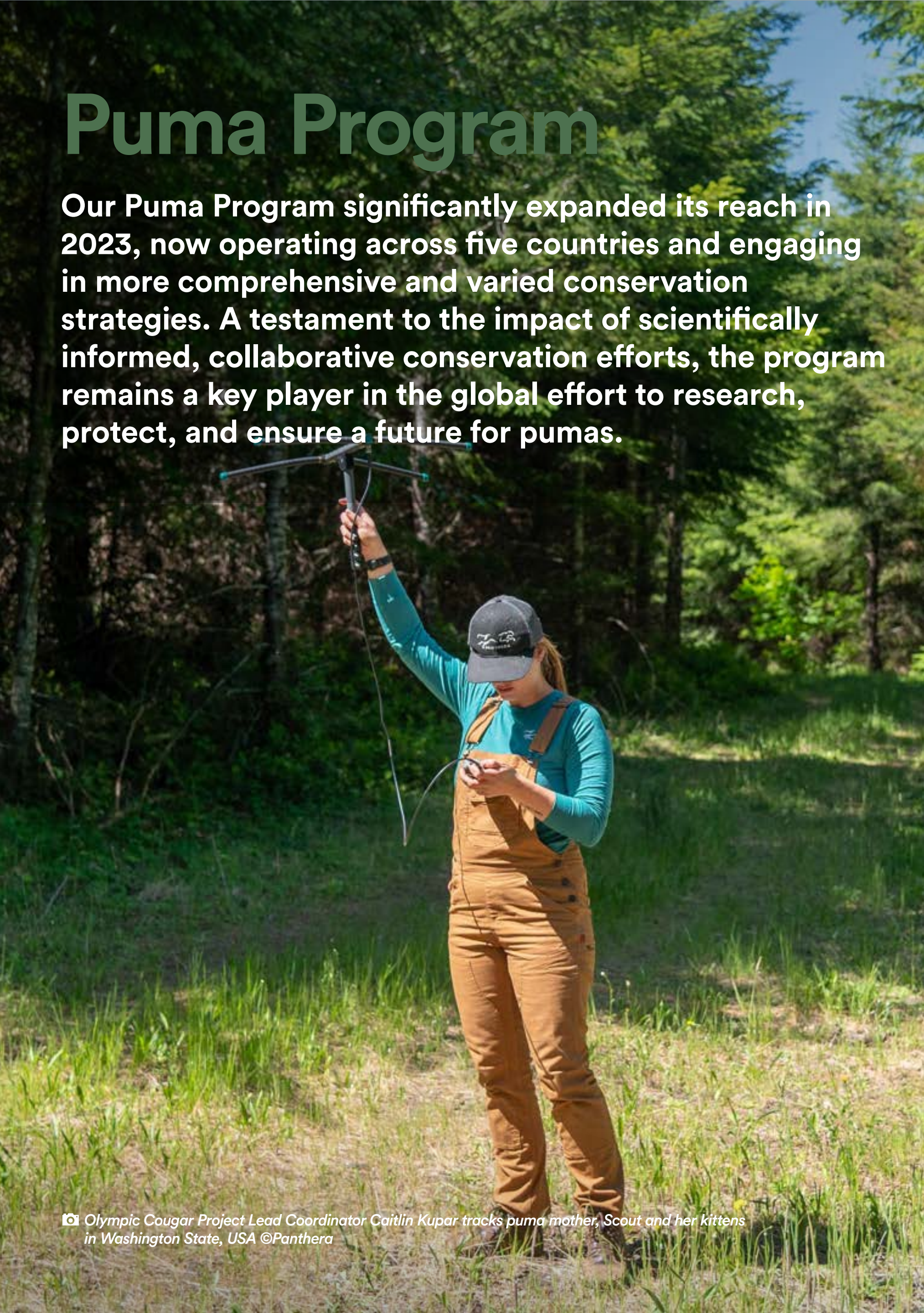
5,000+ people reached through our wildlife values program in Zambia

100% success rate of five predator-proof livestock enclosures in Zambia

80% reduction in poaching activity in Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park since 2017

Puma Program

Our Puma Program significantly expanded its reach in 2023, now operating across five countries and engaging in more comprehensive and varied conservation strategies. A testament to the impact of scientifically informed, collaborative conservation efforts, the program remains a key player in the global effort to research, protect, and ensure a future for pumas.



📷 Olympic Cougar Project Lead Coordinator Caitlin Kuper tracks puma mother, Scout and her kittens in Washington State, USA ©Panthera



Regional Conservation Efforts

The Olympic Cougar Project (OCP) in Washington and the Patagonia Coexistence Project in Chile exemplify our efforts to employ multiple interventions in a single region to increase conservation impact. Our OCP team grew and expanded its staff and footprint and is working with several partners to support the creation of a statewide Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan, which will guide and prioritize connectivity conservation interventions across Washington. We're working with partners on a feasibility study of wildlife connectivity infrastructure (bridges and underpasses) along Interstate-5 south of

Olympia, which currently severs the Olympic Peninsula from the remainder of Washington. We also worked closely with Indigenous communities to launch new policy interventions aimed at reducing the negative effects of local puma hunting.

Range-wide Assessment

By integrating motion-activated camera surveys from 201 study sites across North and South America, we mapped probable puma occupancy and connectivity among populations, each critical in identifying areas that need immediate protection and for reconnecting fragmented habitats to maintain genetic diversity. Such detailed lands-

cape analysis is pivotal to conserving puma populations by ensuring they have sufficient habitat and connectivity to maintain genetic diversity.

📷 Above (left to right): Field technicians Madison Holden and Kurt Zias collecting data in Washington State, USA ©Panthera; In Patagonia, Panthera and partners assess puma populations, test innovative tools to reduce conflict, and develop guidelines to grow sustainable tourism. A puma inspects a motion-activated camera in Argentina ©Estancia La Sofia

OUR IMPACT

557 motion-activated cameras installed on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, up from just 100 in 2020.

46 GPS collars deployed to map cougar movements and determine the greatest threats to their survival.

2 new proposed puma regulations in Texas: the banning of canned hunts and initiating trapping regulations

Tigers Forever

Our Tigers Forever program has made substantial progress in protecting the world's remaining 4,500 tigers in 2023. Together with our partners, we protected tigers across ten sites, conducted landscape-wide population surveys, and helped significantly reduce poaching in key recovery sites.



📷 A motion-activated photo of a Malayan tiger, captured in Terengganu, Malaysia ©Panthera/DWNP



Conservation Successes

Over the past several years, we've collaborated with local partners to expand conservation efforts across ten sites in Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia, and India, benefitting approximately 300 tigers — or nearly 10% of the world's remaining population. Notably, tiger populations have more than doubled in Manas, India, and the Nepalese regions of Shuklaphanta, Parsa, and Banke. In Thailand and Malaysia, tiger populations have stabilized, with signs of growth and breeding activity, and a clear increase in sWEFCOM, Thailand. We also assisted the Thai and Malaysian governments in declaring three new protected areas,

helping to increase the breadth of tiger habitat.

Security and Monitoring Improvements

Through effective security and monitoring strategies, we've witnessed a long-term reduction in poaching, especially in the Kenyir section of Malaysia's Negara National Park, where zero snares have been reported over the last three years. In an effort to enhance regional protection efforts, over 600 personnel, including rangers and legal professionals, received specialized training to improve the enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crimes.

Innovations and Partnerships

We've also been heavily involved in innovative, globally recognized conservation efforts, including leading the IUCN Red List assessments for tigers and contributing to the Tiger Conservation Landscape Assessment. We're continuing to strengthen our partnerships through the Coalition of Tiger Conservation and are committed to helping to generate an additional US \$1 billion for continued conservation efforts across tiger range.

📷 Above (left to right): Rangers training for boat patrol, Thailand ©Panthera; Panthera's team collecting data in Kenyir, Taman Negara, Malaysia ©Ryan Peters

OUR IMPACT

2x tiger population

increase in Thailand's Southern Western Forest Complex (sWEFCOM) over the past decade

40% reduction

in poaching incursions thanks to tactics developed by SPARTA, PERHILITAN's counter-poaching unit, in collaboration with civilian scout teams

80% survival rate

for tigers in sWEFCOM and Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Complex in Thailand, Kenyir in Malaysia, Manas in India, and Shuklaphanta in Nepal

Small Cat Overview



In 2023, Panthera's Small Cat Program made significant strides in the conservation and understanding of small wild cats, emphasizing ecosystem benefits and the welfare of various species across global regions.

The bulk of the program's activities were centered in Southern and Southeastern Asia, home to many of the world's most endangered small cat species, including the mainland and Sunda clouded leopards, Pallas's cat, fishing cat, marbled cat, flat-headed cat and bay cat. Our work in North America focused primarily on bobcats, while conservation efforts in Central and South America prioritized the ocella, pampas cat, guña, ocelot, and Geoffroy's cat. In Africa, our programs concentrate on the serval, African golden cat, and black-footed cat.

Our comprehensive approach included significant advancements in conservation science, like developing new techniques and gathering crucial data on population occurrence, distribution, and density. We also took specialized conservation actions aimed at enhancing survival and reproduction for nine different species.

📷 Above (clockwise): A Sunda leopard cat in Borneo, Malaysia ©Sebastian Kennerknecht; Panthera Brazil team members collar an ocelot in the Pantanal ©Fernando Tortato/Panthera; A bobcat kitten in the Olympic Peninsula, Washington, USA ©Caitlin Kupar/Panthera; Fishing Cat Conservation Promotion Project, in collaboration with the communities surrounding Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park, aims to enhance awareness and appreciation for conservation among the local communities and youth ©Panthera Thailand; An African wildcat in Saudi Arabia investigates a motion-activated camera ©RCU/Panthera

OUR IMPACT

200 motion-activated cameras

supplied to the African Golden Cat Conservation Alliance and Working Group

9.81 km²

maximum recorded home range of ocelots after a GPS collar study





A CLOSER LOOK

Fishing Cats

The fishing cat is a medium-sized wild cat native to South and Southeast Asia. Named for its unique hunting skills, the fishing cat is an adept swimmer and is often found near rivers, streams and mangrove swamps. In 2023, we ramped up our efforts to study fishing cats and gain a better understanding of the threats they face and how they interact in disconnected landscapes.

Study Implementation and Data Collection

A total of nine fishing cats (4 males and 5 females) were fitted with GPS collars in Thailand's Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park (KSRYNP). Additionally, in collaboration with King Mongkut's University of Technology, we've successfully created a dataset in the KSRYNP that currently contains information on 89 individual fishing cats.


Threat Mitigation

The team works closely with local communities to mitigate conflicts caused by fishing cats, including providing high-quality fencing materials that keep them and other carnivores out of livestock enclosures. We also initiated a new study to assess the impact of railway fences on the distribution of fishing cats in the area surrounding KSRYNP, since fishing cat scat indicates

that they use the railway as a corridor between landscapes.

Community and Capacity Building

Representatives from government agencies, the commercial sector, and the local community were invited to local meetings to discuss conflict mitigation strategies and solutions that minimize the damage caused by fishing cats. We have also organized meetings with selected schools to raise awareness and appreciation for fishing cats and are discussing the development of a fishing cat ecology training course specifically designed for young people.

 Above (left to right): Small Cat Research Project Officers, Wiroon Mongkonsin Supawat Khaewphakdee, check a male fishing cat's collar, Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park, Thailand; A male fishing cat triggers a motion-activated camera on a shrimp farm; Wiroon Mongkonsin, Chaiwat Klakhaeng, Thaksin Wongson, and Small Cat Research Project Manager Supawat Khaewphakdee with a local whose chickens have been protected by a sponsored fence, Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park, Thailand All images ©Sebastian Kennerknecht/Panthera

OUR IMPACT

9 fishing cats

fitted with GPS collars, revealing new insights about this rare species

89 individual fishing cats

detected across the study area

15+

fishing cat conflicts mitigated



A CLOSER LOOK

Oncillas

The oncilla is a small wild cat native to the forests and grasslands of Central and South America. Despite its diminutive size, it is a formidable and efficient hunter, known for its agility and keen senses. In 2023, we ramped up our efforts to study these rare and elusive small cats using motion-activated cameras and GPS collar technology to gain a better understanding of the threats they face and how they move through a fragmented landscape. This multifaceted approach to conserving oncillas combines scientific research and conservation technology to understand the ecology of a little-known small cat species.

Study Implementation and Data Collection

We established a new research site in Costa Rica, focusing on oncilla habitat use and the effects on roads on their survival. Our team was the first ever to successfully capture and collar an oncilla. GPS data after 18 and 41 days has helped identify a total of seven location clusters for further study. Additionally, we deployed 20 motion-activated cameras across the study area to gather information on population numbers.

Threat Mitigation

A major highway in Costa Rica that cuts through the Talamanca mountain range has been identified as a threat for oncillas. In 2023, our team recorded three oncilla roadkill incidents along a 45 km stretch of the highway. We

subsequently identified and cleared a number of culverts to facilitate safe wildlife passage across the highway and used motion-activated cameras to document oncillas and other wildlife using the culverts. This project was presented to the Nicaraguan Ministry of Transportation representatives to help raise awareness of the dangers of roads to wildlife and provide a foundation for the replication of these lifesaving interventions.

📷 Above (left to right): Field Researchers Amaia Autor, Nicole Espinoza, and Natalia Montero capture and collar Calcetines, a rare melanistic oncilla in Costa Rica ©La Huella del Tigrillo Project/Ingrid Molina; An oncilla photographed with a motion-activated camera in Costa Rica ©La Huella del Tigrillo Project/Amaia Autor; Team members take inventory of Costa Rica's wildlife underpasses ©Panthera; An oncilla uses a culvert in Costa Rica ©Panthera

OUR IMPACT

2 oncillas
collared with GPS technology

20 motion-activated cameras
deployed in Costa Rica as part of a long-term population monitoring survey



A CLOSER LOOK

Sunda Clouded Leopards and Marbled Cats

Panthera is actively engaged in conserving Sunda clouded leopards and marbled cats, two wild cat species deeply reliant on the forest habitats of Sumatra and Borneo and seriously threatened by habitat loss, agricultural expansion, direct killing, and prey scarcity. To combat these challenges, Panthera has set specific conservation objectives: enhancing site security and community engagement to reduce direct killings and prey loss, scientifically monitoring populations to assess the impact of conservation efforts, and better understanding their distribution and habitat use in key areas.

Data Collection

Recent studies include 63 paired motion-activated camera stations in Borneo’s Deramakot Forest Landscape (DFL), marking the fourth monitoring survey across this landscape. This effort has yielded crucial long-term data on both species, with the latest results showing 21 detections of Sunda clouded leopards and five of marbled cats, all of which are currently being analyzed for density estimates.

Community and Capacity Building

Three training sessions were conducted last year on community mapping using GPS and GIS (geographic information system). We also enhanced the capabilities of the Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) through training of 20 rangers in SMART data management and other skills.

Threat Mitigation and Outreach

To address specific threats like snaring, we collaborated with local authorities and stakeholders, such as the SFD and oil palm plantation companies, to increase border patrols and reduce poaching activities. Additionally, efforts to raise awareness and support for conservation are ongoing, with presentations delivered to local institutions and in international conferences.

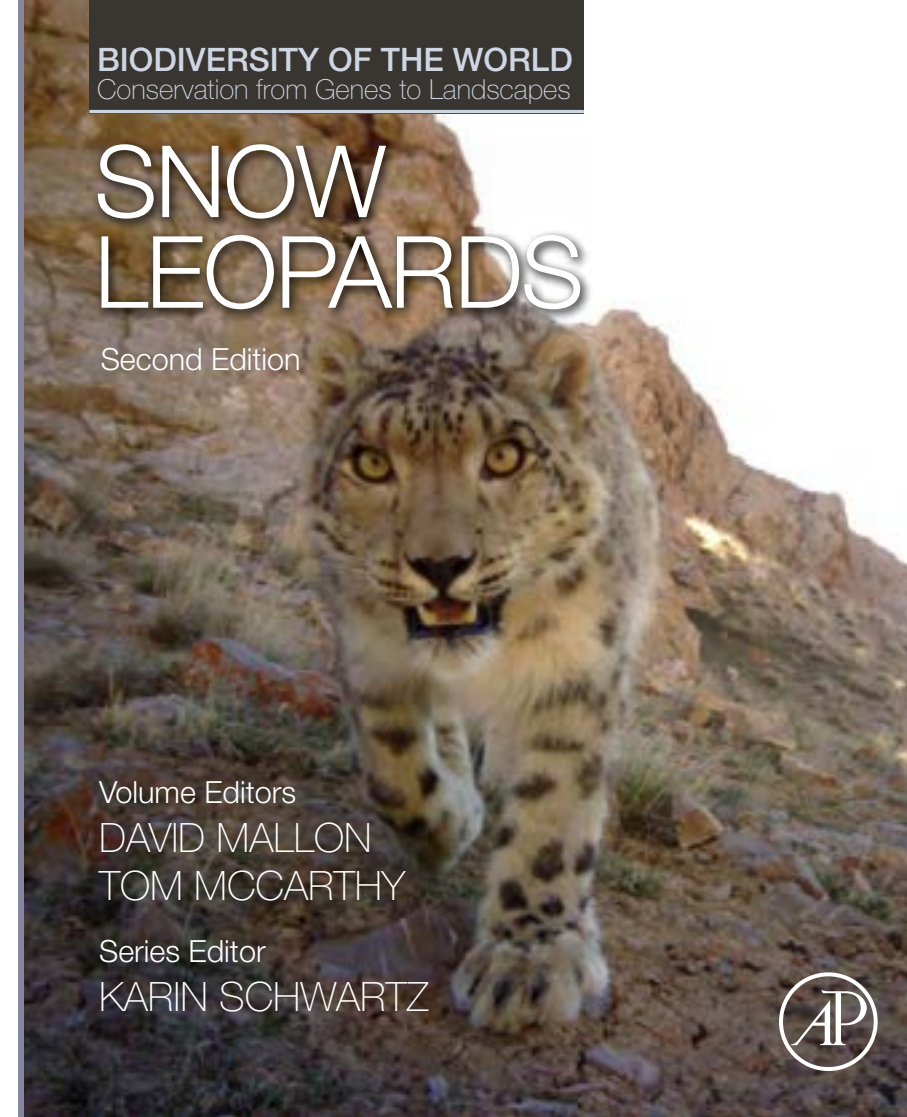
📷 Above (left to right): Monitoring Coordinator Tee Thye Lim and Jekely Jubili set up a camera trap in Deramakot Forest, Borneo ©Panthera; A Sunda Clouded Leopard triggers a motion-activated camera in Sabah, Borneo ©Panthera; Deramakot Enforcement Unit and Panthera conducting a river patrol ©Panthera; A marbled cat walks by a motion-activated camera in Sabah, Borneo ©Panthera

OUR IMPACT

10 years of data collected for clouded leopards and marbled cats. Findings suggest that clouded leopard populations have stabilized.

109 detections of leopard cats in the same study area, demonstrating Borneo’s role as an important “catscape”

20 new community rangers trained to increase the capacity of the Sabah Forestry Department in Borneo



Wild Cat Science

Tigers at a Crossroads

According to a study led by Nasir Uddin, a former PhD fellow at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Bangladesh plays a far more prominent role in the tiger trade than has previously been recognized — not only as a source of poaching, but also as a [transit area and consumption destination](#). Supported by Panthera scientists, Dr. Uddin analyzed tiger seizure records and interviewed 163 individuals involved in the country’s illegal tiger trade, including poachers, smugglers, and traders. Focusing on trafficking routes by land, sea, and air,

the team pinpointed four primary source sites from which tigers were poached: the Sundarbans Forest, the Kaziranga-Garampani landscape in India, the Northern Forest Complex in Myanmar and the Namdapha-Royal Manas tiger landscape across India and Bhutan. The study also identified key trade routes, source sites, processing and distribution centers, transit ports, unregulated border crossings, and consumption centers. A list of twelve distinct problems associated with tiger poaching and trafficking were identified. The authors recommend that authorities in Bangladesh use a problem-oriented approach to address each trafficking problem individually. In light of these findings, the authors suggest that Bangladesh is poised to play a crucial role in tiger conservation in the coming decade.

Why Might Removing Carnivores Maintain or Increase Risks for Domestic Animals?

This paper investigates the idea that eliminating carnivores could lead to greater risks for livestock in some situations. It proposes a series of mechanisms that may be responsible for this phenomenon, including: 1) disrupted carnivore social structures that attract new carnivores to fill vacant territories, which can increase carnivore abundance; 2) immigration of naïve carnivores that do not know where native prey are available, so they run into more vulnerable livestock while searching widely; 3) increased reproductive rates of remaining carnivores following social disruption; 4) altered distributions of livestock and native prey as carnivore communities reshuffle,

and more. These factors suggest that non-lethal management strategies, such as using livestock guardian animals or improved fencing, might be more effective for long-term conflict resolution than culling carnivores.

Using A Crime Prevention Framework to Evaluate Tiger Counter-poaching in a Southeast Asian Rainforest

An eight-year counter-poaching project in the Kenyir Core Area to protect the Malayan tiger was evaluated in this study in partnership with Malaysia’s Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) using a rigorous crime prevention evaluation framework. Despite increased poaching driven by demand, the study found a reduction in poaching activity through a targeted counter-poaching strategy. The deep forest counter-poaching strategy focused on intercepting poaching teams before they set snares. The team learned from failures and improved tactics through continuous adaptive learning and response. The strategy reduced poaching threats by 40% by disrupting poachers close to the forest edge. Increased costs, reduced knowledge sharing, and stronger community deterrence for Cambodian poachers contributed to this decline. However, Vietnamese poachers responded by increasing snare use, suggesting the need for a multi-faceted approach combining direct protection and community-based initi-

atives. Nevertheless, the study showed that adaptive learning and targeted patrol training can significantly improve the effectiveness of small deep-forest counter-poaching teams. During the Covid-19 pandemic, no poaching incursions were observed, indicating potential external influences on poaching activities. Although the tiger population remained below recovery potential, it showed signs of stabilization, with key females surviving and breeding. Further, the benefits of the strategy were also realized across other species.

Snow Leopards 2nd Edition

Discover the world of snow leopards in Academic Press’s newly updated edition of *Snow Leopards (Biodiversity of the World: Conservation from Genes to Landscapes)*, edited by the renowned Dr. David Mallon and Panthera’s Dr. Tom McCarthy, along with six Panthera scientists and the Snow Leopard Conservancy – India Trust. This updated edition explores the intricate biology, ecology, and conservation efforts surrounding snow leopards, allowing readers to better understand this iconic and mysterious species.

📷 Above (left to right): Patrols trek through Terengganu National Park, Malaysia ©Panthera; Maremma sheepdogs and Pyrenean Mountain dogs — fiercely loyal to their herds — are used to safeguard sheep from pumas in the Chilean Patagonia ©Nicolás Lagos; Snow Leopards (Biodiversity of the World: Conservation from Genes to Landscapes) ©Academic Press

Policy & Partnerships

Panthera's rigorous science and on-the-ground experience provides governments with robust data that helps inform conservation policy and decision-making. Last year, our research led to important advances for cats from Africa to Asia to the United States. Meanwhile, new coalitions with governments, communities, NGOs, multi-laterals and other partners ushered in an era of collaboration unprecedented in cat conservation.

Gabon Gives Strong Legal Protections to Cats

In Gabon, long-term monitoring data collected by Panthera led to significant updates in the country's wildlife protection laws. Lions, previously considered extinct, were re-listed as a protected species thanks to repeated records of a lone male lion caught on remote cameras in Batéké Plateau National Park. The African golden cat and serval were upgraded to fully protected status, while leopards remained fully protected. Additionally, several ungulate species that data showed were more abundant than previously known were downlisted, allowing local people to legally hunt culturally important species like the Grimm's duiker.



Science and Advocacy Prompt Beneficial Regulatory Changes for Pumas

Scientific studies by Panthera and a wide network of collaborators are providing crucial insights about pumas' genetic diversity and population health that, together with data-driven outreach with state wildlife authorities, are impacting conservation strategies. In 2023, following a broad-based coalition effort in support of implementing the state's first-ever management plan for mountain lions, the Texas Wildlife Commission took a critical step forward when it moved to propose new regulations for the species, which were subsequently approved in May

2024. In Washington, Panthera has long advocated for science-based hunting regulation changes, such as including juveniles in quotas, as well as including all kinds of mortality — including those animals killed by the state — in regional quotas. These efforts have resulted in recent proposed regulations, that if passed, will save countless pumas across the state.

Panthera and Argentina Partner for Cat Conservation

In May 2023, Panthera signed its first MOU with Argentina's National Parks Administration, focusing on conservation of the country's 11 species of wild cats with an




emphasis on recovering threatened jaguar populations in the North. The collaboration will involve projects that evaluate and enhance wild cat populations and conservation policies, decrease threats, and foster coexistence with local communities.

Tiger Conservation Coalition Debuts in Bhutan

The Tiger Conservation Coalition officially launched in July 2023 at a Global Tiger Day event in Thimpu, Bhutan. The coalition, comprising 10 leading international conservation organizations and multi-lateral agencies, supports Tiger Range Countries to implement science-based, whole of

society, whole of government strategies for tiger recovery. It announced a partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan and Her Majesty the Queen of Bhutan to host a first-of-its kind Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference in April 2024.

 Above (left to right): Federico Granato, President of Argentina's National Parks and Panthera CEO and President Frederic Launay sign an MOU in Baritú National Park, Argentina ©Juan Mateo Aberastain; Tiger Conservation Coalition launch in Thumpu Bhutan ©Royal Office for Media

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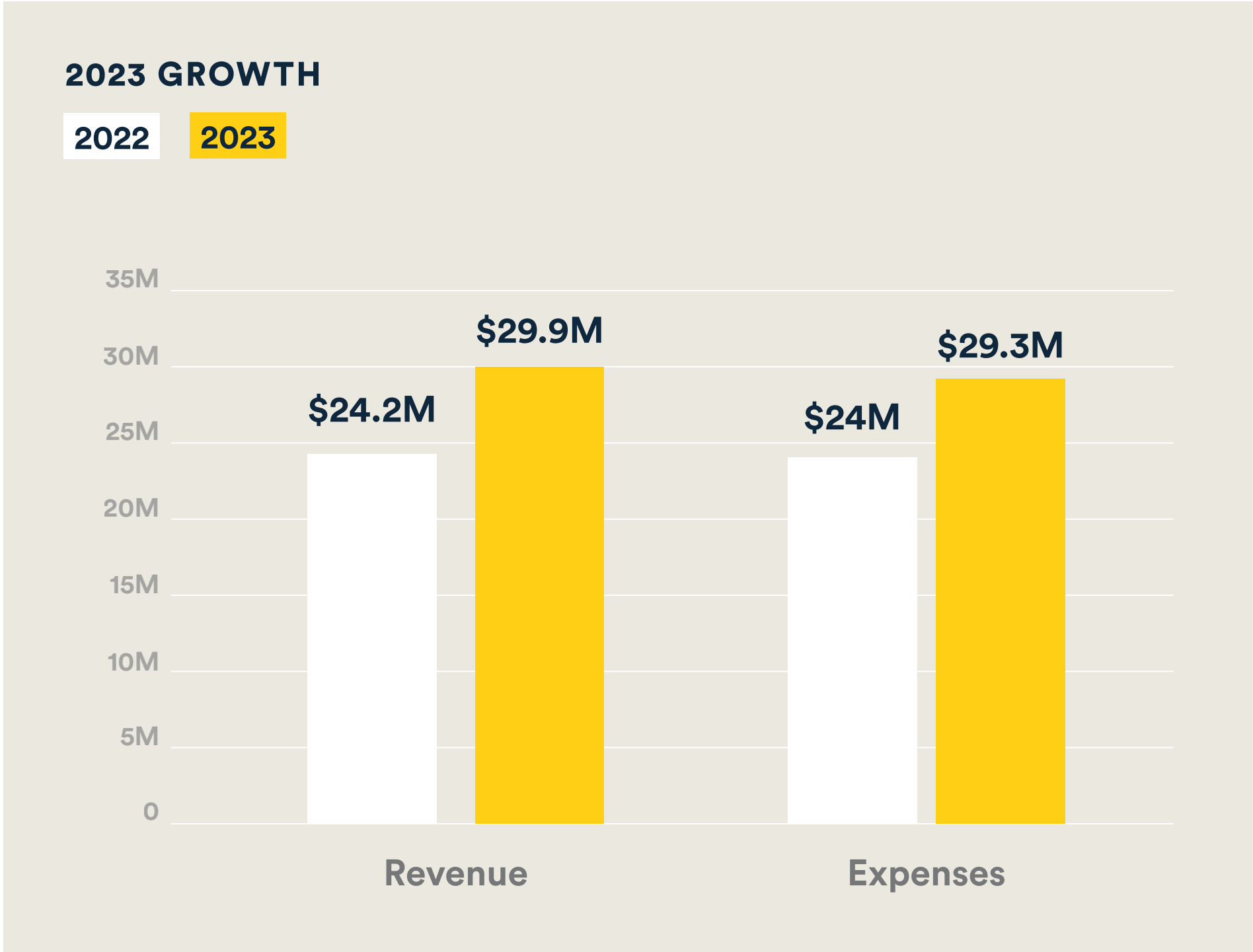
📷 *Right (clockwise): Pablo Cisneros Araujo collars an Iberian Lynx ©Panthera; Davis Bubala sets up a camera trap in Zambia ©Panthera; Rama Mishra works with community members to promote coexistence in Nepal ©Sabin Adhikari*



Financial Summary

Panthera made significant progress in 2023 towards our mission to ensure a future for wild cats and the vast landscapes on which they depend. Thanks to our donors' generosity, 2023 was Panthera's biggest financial year ever, continuing a multi-year trend of double-digit percentage growth in revenues and expenses. Panthera increased its operating revenue to \$29 million, a 24% increase compared to 2022. Our expenditures grew a similar proportion of 22%, also increasing to \$29 million in 2023. These increased resources expand our investment in our conservation efforts globally and allow capacity building in our core operations.

We extend our gratitude to our donors and partners for trusting and supporting us during this critical period of urgent need for biodiversity conservation. Your unwavering support advances our vision of creating a world in which wild cats and their cubs thrive in healthy, natural and developed landscapes that sustain people and biodiversity.



Two bobcat kittens in a tree in California ©Barry Rowan

Ways to Give

Wild cats need your help to ensure their long-term survival and the health of their habitats. Your support helps fund critical coexistence programs that prevent human-cat conflict, provide ranger patrols to protect targeted wild cat species, and other life-saving initiatives. Please consider setting up a recurring donation, making a one-time gift, or including Panthera in your estate plan today.

For more information on how you can support Panthera, please visit panthera.org/support-us or contact us at donate@panthera.org.

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Please visit panthera.org/support/unite-wildlife to make a one-time or recurring gift.

Panthera is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible in the United States to the fullest extent of the law.

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Please contact us at donate@panthera.org for more information.



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Transparency
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Panthera is a top-rated 501(C)(3) charity.

📷 Left to Right: Field technician, Jekely Jubili, calibrates a camera trap in Sabah's Deramakot Forest Reserve ©Panthera; Amaia Autor Cortes tracks onchillas using radio telemetry in Costa Rica ©Sebastian Kennerknecht

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 A jaguar in the Pantanal, Brazil ©Sebastian Kennerknecht

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CEO, Inter Mediate
Former Chief of Staff to Prime Minister
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Arnaud De Puyfontaine
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Former Reporter, the New York Times
Senior Fellow for Environmental

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Alex Rosenberg
Founder and CEO, Originals
Former Business Executive,
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Curator and Art Historian
Former Exhibitions Secretary,
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Entrepreneur and Conservationist
Chair, Sabin Metal Corporation,
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Foreign Affairs and Policy Professional,
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 A young leopard in Sabi Sands Nature Reserve
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