

20-25%

of the jaguar population (estimation) has declined in the past 20 years

185

jaguar teeth intercepted in a shipment in February 2018

► A jaguar peeks out of the bushes in the Pantanal in South America, the largest tropical wetland in the world.



Protecting jaguars from the threat of poaching and illegal wildlife trade

Jaguars are the largest felines in the Americas. Although they are a protected species, jaguars are increasingly being poached for their skin, fangs, and other body parts in this region. Jaguar products are primarily used to make jewelry and traditional “medicine.”

In the past, jaguars were poached primarily for the protection of people’s cattle and to prevent other types of human-wildlife conflict. Nowadays, poor communities, local poachers as well as smugglers see an opportunity for income due to the growing demand and value of jaguar body parts.

Data shows a significant rise in jaguar trafficking since 2012. In addition, jaguar body parts and products are being sold more openly—particularly on online platforms. Although there is a domestic market for some of these products, the demand for jaguar fangs and bones from Asia seems to be largely driving the international illegal trade.

Additionally, overseas and in-country investors in many South American countries have set up huge projects for agriculture, mining, highway construction, and other

infrastructure. This has given poachers easier access to previously isolated jaguar habitats.

Where does the jaguar live?

The jaguar is a solitary animal that lives in dry and wet forests in the Americas. The jaguar’s range once stretched across almost the entire continent: from central Argentina to the United States border.

However, in the past 100 years, the jaguar has lost 40-50% of its historic range and has gone extinct in El Salvador and Uruguay.

Put an end to poaching and illegal trade in jaguars

Operation Jaguar is a joint project of IUCN NL, IFAW and Earth League International and is made possible by the Dutch Postcode Lottery. Together, we aim to prevent the tragedy of African poaching from repeating itself in a new continent: the Americas.

Through Operation Jaguar we want to help put an end to the poaching of and illegal trade in jaguars. By exposing criminal networks, and by improving investigation

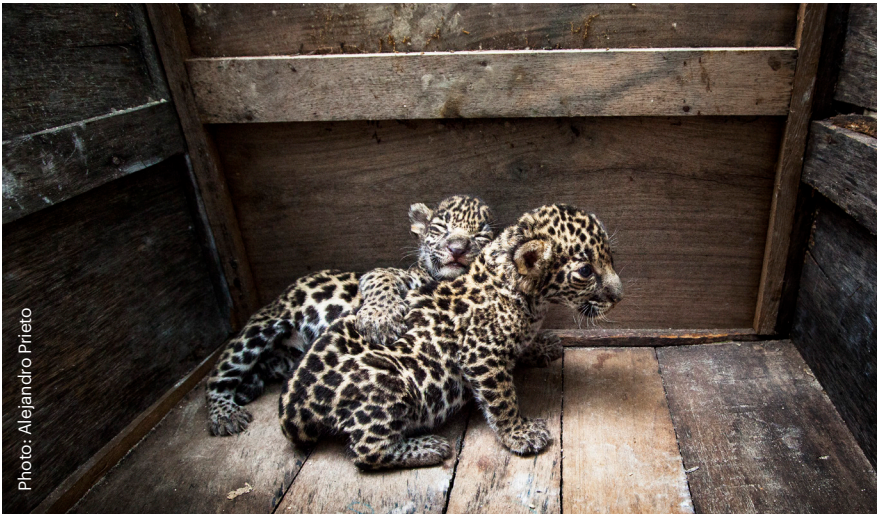


Photo: Alejandro Prieto



Photo: Alejandro Prieto

40-50%

of the jaguar's historic range has been lost in the last 100 years

- ◀ Two female jaguar cubs that were rescued by Mexican authorities in Campeche, a state in Mexico.
- ▶ An illegal hunter showing off a poached wild jaguar skin in Tabasco, Mexico.

and prosecution by authorities, IFAW and its partners want to combat this wildlife crime. By keeping poachers out of jaguar habitats we allow this top predator to continue playing its important role in maintaining biodiversity and the associated ecosystem.

IFAW conducts trainings with authorities to build capacity in detecting wildlife crime, collaborate and support the courts in building solid cases. That way, more wildlife criminals can be arrested and brought to justice.

As well as delivering training, Operation Jaguar's partners are implementing the following interventions:

- ▶ Collect, analyze and share information with investigative agencies about the extent of jaguar poaching and smuggling, the criminal networks, and the most important locations and routes.
- ▶ Support local conservationists to create solid protection plans in Bolivia, Suriname, Peru and Guyana in protecting access to areas where jaguars live from poachers.

This includes running extra patrols in places where poachers are active, using mobile phones to alarm park rangers when poachers are nearby and training on how to effectively collect and document valid evidence.

- ▶ On a local level, we encourage communities in Bolivia, Suriname, Peru and Guyana to protect jaguars; consumers in Asia to stop buying jaguar and other wildlife products; and policy-makers at all levels to put more priority on stopping poaching and illegal trade.



Locations

The emphasis lies on the source countries of Bolivia, Suriname, Peru and Guyana, but Operation Jaguar also looks at the Netherlands as a transit country and Asia as a destination continent driving the demand.

▶ see how at [ifaw.org](https://www.ifaw.org)



#StopWildlifeCrime