

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONSERVATION EDUCATION FOR THE ANDEAN CAT



Report to the Cat Specialist Group February 2006

María José Merino and Mauro Lucherini

The Workshop was held in Salta, Argentina, from the 14th to the 16th of November 2005. It counted with the Endorsement of the **Cat Specialist Group** (IUCN) and it was mainly supported by **Wildlife Conservation Network** (USA), with partial funding by **Darwin Initiative** (UK).

Organizers: *María José Merino, EduGat Program, GECEM, Depto. Biología, Bioquímica y Farmacia, Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina.*

Mauro Lucherini, The Soul of the Andes Project, GECEM, Depto. Biología, Bioquímica y Farmacia, Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina.

Pablo Perovic, IBIGEO, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Salta, Argentina

Participants:

Bolivia: *Gabriela Tavera* (Centro de Biodiversidad y Genética, Universidad Mayor de San Simón, Cochabamba), *Gabriela Aguirre* (Herbario Nacional de Bolivia)

Chile: *Magdalena Bennet* (Universidad Católica de Chile), *Constanza Napolitano* (Facultad de Ciencias Agronómicas y Pecuarias, Universidad de Chile y Fundación Biodiversitas, Santiago de Chile).

Perú: *Anali Madrid* (Asociación para la Conservación y Difusión de los Recursos Naturales de Perú, Perú Ecológico, Lima), *Jessica Espinosa* (Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales - INRENA, Lima)

Argentina: *Laura Sorli* (Dirección de Recursos Naturales Renovables, Mendoza).

Invited guest: *Claudio Sillero-Zubiri* (WildCRU, University of Oxford, UK).

All participants are members of the **Andean Cat Alliance - AGA** - the multinational institution that is leading all conservation and research activities on the Andean cat, *Oreailurus jacobita*.

Participants of the International Workshop on Conservation Education for the Andean Cat, organized by the Andean Cat Alliance (AGA).



ACTIVITIES

Before proceeding to discuss the main goal of designing a common strategy for a global education program of local communities to support conservation of the Andean cat, each participant introduced him/herself and gave a presentation of his/her experience related to education and Andean cat, with the aim of identifying potential skills of participants and problems experienced in educational activities. This session was particularly useful to identify the points in common as well as the differences between countries and indigenous populations.

C. Sillero-Zubiri, shared its experiences as leader of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program and provided useful suggestions on the general issues concerning carnivore conservation in a developing country.

Following this first session, representatives were provided a draft list of all procedures, tools and techniques used until the moment for the educational activities on the Andean cat and were asked to complete, analyze and comment each one of them to decide about their potential inclusion in the global strategy.

To accomplish this task, participants split into two groups: one concentrated on young community members, while the other worked on adult education and participation.

These are the items that were analyzed:

1. **DIAGNOSTIC**
2. **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**
 - Pre-school-age kids
 - Primary-school-age kids
 - Secondary-school-age kids
 - School teachers
 - Adults
 - General public
3. **EVALUATION**

At the end of this phase, the two groups shared with the rest of participants their conclusions and suggestions for the implementation of each activity.

OUTPUTS

The results of this analysis were then organized in a **Final Document** that has been later edited by M.J. Merino and M. Lucherini and mailed to all participants in January. This document (in Spanish) is available, under request, at edugattaller@yahoo.com.ar.

The main result of the workshop was that all participants agreed to share a common set of activities and strategies as a base for their educational activities. This common base can, of course, be modified in order to adapt it to different realities (e.g. site-specific local tradition, individual project needs, different culture, etc.).

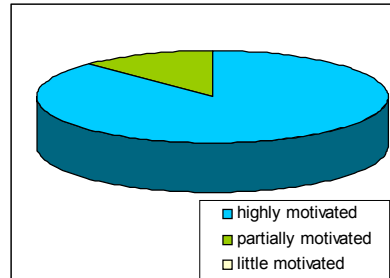
All participants accepted to participate in the follow-up activity of assembling these tools in a guide, with the proposed titled of *CONSERVEMOS EL GATO ANDINO Y SU HABITAT - MANUAL PARA CAPACITADORES*.

EVALUATION

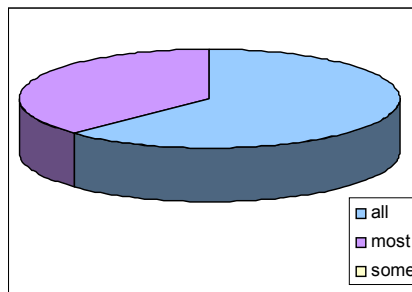
The **SWOT** (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) analysis technique was used as tool for the preliminary evaluation carried out by the organizers. The final conclusion of organizers and participants was that the project of agreeing a common strategy for the conservation education on the Andean cat is a great and especially innovative idea.

For a more objective evaluation all participants were asked to complete an evaluation form elaborated by the organizers of the event. Questions aimed at evaluating the following topics:

Q1. Personal level of motivation to participate in the Workshop

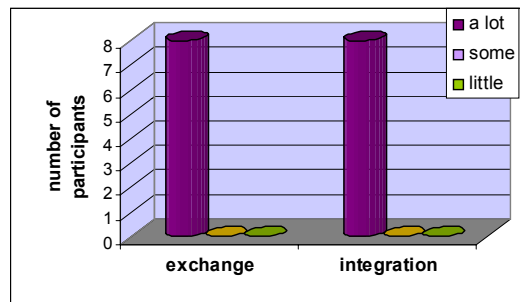


Q2. How many of the other participants were interested in participating in the workshop?

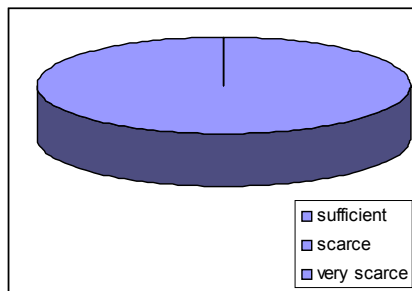


Q3. How many opportunities did you have to exchange experiences/ideas with the other participants?

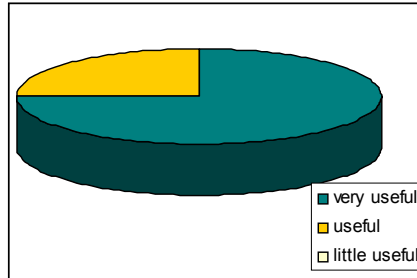
Q4. Was there integration between organizers and participants?



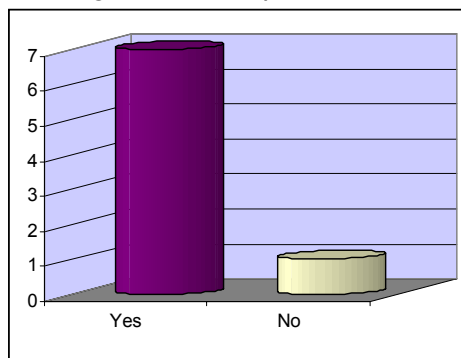
Q5. The duration of the workshop was:



Q6. In general terms, did you find the workshop:



Q7. Do you think it may be useful to organize a second Education workshop aiming to evaluate the results of the activities planned during this workshop?



Q8. The organization of the event was:

Q9. Accommodation and facilities were:

