

Cat News Special Issue: Status and Conservation Needs of the Neotropical Felids



The conference will produce updated species assessments for the IUCN Red List of Threatened species™, the most highly recognized international authority on the conservation status of the world's flora and fauna. Through this conference, the Cat Specialist Group aims to initiate a standardized method of updating species assessments, including the establishment of a regional partner group that will lead future updates. This regional approach will engage local NGOs, institutions and governments - a process that addresses regional needs and makes most efficient use of time and resources.

Conference results will be disseminated in a special issue of Cat News, the official newsletter of the Cat Specialist Group. Now entering its 21st year of publication, Cat News has been referenced as a reputable source for current information on wild cats.

The Neotropical Felids special issue of Cat News will focus on the 10 felid species of South America. The newsletter will provide standardized reports on each individual cat species, as well as summaries of working group discussions. The Neotropical Felids special issue will present a comprehensive overview of the research and conservation actions that are currently needed in order to increase understanding and ensure protection of cat species in South America.

The Neotropical Felids special issue of Cat News will be distributed to the conference participants, the members of the Cat Specialist Group, the *Friends of the Cat Group* and several others who are working with or interested in South American cat species and their habitats.

The Cat Specialist Group is currently seeking funds to produce this special issue. To become a recognized supporter of Neotropical Felid conservation, please contact our office at the details below.

The Cat Specialist Group is co-organizing the conference **Status and Conservation Needs of the Neotropical Felids**, which will take place in São Francisco de Paula, Brazil on June 9-11, 2005. Organizers also include the South American Cat Conservation Alliance SACCA and the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources IBAMA.

This three-day conference will be the first meeting to ever unite cat experts from all range countries of South America's 10 cat species. Structured plenary sessions and focused workshops will collaborate the experience and knowledge of scientists, conservationists, wildlife managers and government representatives who specialize in neotropical cat species and their habitats.

Budget:	USD
Printing (600 copies x 40)	\$4,000
Postage.....	\$1,200
Editing, Layout.....	\$3,000
Total funds needed	\$8,200

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