



Common Name: Puma

Scientific Name: *Puma concolor*

The Puma is the second largest feline in Costa Rica and throughout America, surpassed only by the Jaguar.

This mammal is solitary and it is active both night and day. It often uses some man-made trails in the forest, but it is very cautious and it is difficult to observe. As a mammal, it is very territorial and it is presumed that its territory can cover about 40 km². At birth their young have a light brown coat with dark brown spots, which go away as an adult.

It is common in the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, to find tracks of this mammal in the trails and near the road to San Gerardo Station. In one of the studies that monitored and carried out in the trajectory the attempt to collect fingerprints, traces and tracks were observed (scratches and prints) on average every 50 meters, a distance approximately 700 meters.



Delivery of camera trap by Life Environmental Association

On June 6, 2011, Life Environmental Association in cooperation with Friends of Conservation and Audrey Travel donated to Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve five camera traps to continue the monitoring of mammals. These cameras were distributed in some sectors with greatest potential for the presence of mammals, passage routes considered. These types of cameras operate with a motion sensor and work both day and night.

Currently for this monitoring has two trajectories to fingerprint collection and monitoring of non-flying mammals.



Ocelot: *Leopardus pardalis*

The ocelot was the first image captured by the camera cat trap in the same territory as the picture of the puma. It is believed to have been displaced when the cougar appeared, since it has not been returned to observe the monitoring.

Translated by: Global Volunteers

Since 2009 we have worked on monitoring mammals in Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, using trap cameras. This monitoring began with the donation of a trap camera by Estes Park Sister Cities Program. With this camera satisfactory results were obtained for monitoring. In addition, they identified some other mammals in Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve. Unfortunately this camera was damaged in early 2011, for this reason that monitoring was paused.



Footprint of a Puma collected on the way to San Gerardo station. Approximately 8 cm.



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