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# Small *Wild Cat Conservation News*

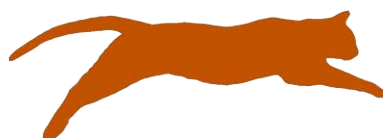
Issue 2

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A Fishing Cat focuses its aquatic prey at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, UK.

Photo credit: Neville Buck



# Small Wild Cat Conservation *News*

The mission of **Small Wild Cat Conservation News (SWCCN)** is to provide a timely outlet for the latest conservation news from conservationists working together around the world to mitigate threats to all small wild cats. **SWCCN** is published one to four times annually on as a needed basis and can be downloaded free of charge from [www.smallcats.org/SWCCN](http://www.smallcats.org/SWCCN) and [www.wild-cat.org/SWCCN](http://www.wild-cat.org/SWCCN).

## *Editors*

Jim Sanderson, Angie Appel

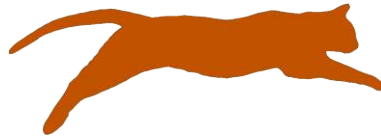
## *Contributions*

You are welcome to submit observations and manuscripts about small wild cats to [swccn@wild-cat.org](mailto:swccn@wild-cat.org).

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## *Pampas Cat conservation in northwestern Peru*

**Álvaro GARCÍA-OLAECHEA and Cindy M. HURTADO**



Pampas Cat *Leopardus colocolo* recorded on 2 March 2016 in seasonal dry forest, north-western Peru. Photo credit: Álvaro García-Olaechea

The Pampas Cat *Leopardus colocolo* is a small cat that has been poorly studied despite its wide distribution range in South America. It occurs in a great variety of habitats from northern Ecuador to southern Argentina. Specifically, there is scarce information about its northern limits and distribution range, as well as its dry forest and desert populations.

We initiated this project with a distribution assessment to confirm Pampas Cat presence and evaluate if human-cat conflict exists in the Sechura Desert (SD) and seasonal dry forest (SDF) of northwestern Peru and southwestern Ecuador. From April 2015 to March 2016 we set 34 camera-traps and interviewed 62 local people in 12 localities within and outside protected areas.

Additionally, we compiled confirmed and unpublished data from other colleagues.

As a result, we report for the first time the occurrence of Pampas Cat in 12 localities, four in the SD and eight in the SDF. Surprisingly, we recorded this small cat in the Illescas Reserve Zone, a locality within the SD with a harsh environment, almost no vegetation, high temperatures of 35–48°C, where freshwater is approximately 35 km away. Also, most of the local people are not familiar with the Pampas Cat and did not report any conflict. Based on the records in SD we will investigate Pampas Cat movements in the SD in order to identify key areas for its survival, compare its home range, movement patterns and habitat use in two habitat types, in a wetland within the desert and in areas far from water similar to the Illescas Reserve Zone. Furthermore, we will conduct environmental education workshops for local people highlighting the importance of the Pampas Cat in this ecosystem.

