

ORINOQUIA,
COLOMBIA

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

South America's grasslands and savannahs are home to unique wildlife. The loss of these ecosystems threatens the survival of many native species. When their habitat disappears, so does the ecological balance.

PANTANAL,
PARAGUAYPAMPAS,
ARGENTINA



ORINOQUIA, COLOMBIA¹

- 250 mammals
- 1,300 birds
- 119 reptiles and amphibians
- ca. 1,000 fish species

Jaguar *(Panthera onca)*

Status: Vulnerable²

Considered an “umbrella species”, maintaining ecological balance by regulating prey population.



PANTANAL, PARAGUAY¹

- 159 mammals
- 565 birds
- 98 reptiles
- 53 amphibians
- 325 fish species

Giant Anteater *(Myrmecophaga tridactyla)*

(Myrmecophaga tridactyla)

Status: Endangered³

Controls ants and termites numbers, which, when uncontrolled, could affect plant diversity.



PAMPAS, ARGENTINA¹

- 100 land mammals
- 500 birds
- 20 amphibians
- 40 reptiles

Pampas Deer *(Ozotoceros bezoarticus)*

(Ozotoceros bezoarticus)

Status: Endangered⁴

Contributes to plant diversity and biomass, and is an important part of the grassland food web.



¹ WWF 2020, Bilenca, Miñarro (2004)

² Rodríguez-Mahecha, Jorgenson, Durán-Ramírez, Bedoya-Gaitán (2006)

³ Asociación Paraguaya de Mastozoología & SEAM (2017)

⁴ Merino, Cirignoli, Perez, Lorena, Varela, Kin, Pautasso, Demaríal, Beade, and Uhart (2019)
<https://cma.sarem.org.ar/es/especie-nativa/ozotoceros-bezoarticus>



Grasslands and savannahs are under threat. Their wildlife is facing habitat loss and fragmentation due to:⁵



Agricultural and infrastructure expansion, urbanization and fossil fuel extraction



Degradation, overgrazing, and conversion to crops



Human-wildlife conflict and poaching



⁵ Valdez, Andrieu, Julien, Bouissou, S. (2022); WWF (2020); WWF (2022)

When habitats disappear, problems arise.
The consequences of losing ecosystems and
its wildlife for climate, nature and people:

Climate

Disturbance of nitrogen and soil carbon stocks, releasing carbon into the atmosphere and accelerating global warming.⁶

Ecosystem services

Reduction of agricultural productivity due to land degradation and soil erosion, which threatens food and water security.⁸

Biodiversity

Disruption of the delicate balance between wildlife and reduced plant and wildlife diversity.⁷

Community and Culture

Risk of losing pastoralism and cultural heritage, like the Llanero and Gaucho cultures in South America.⁹

6 Zhao, Zhang, Wang, Jiang, Peng, and Wang, (2021).

7 Bardgett, Bullock, Lavorel, Manning, Schaffner, Ostle, et al. (2021)

8 Labrière, Locatelli, Laumonier, Freycon, and Bernoux, (2015)

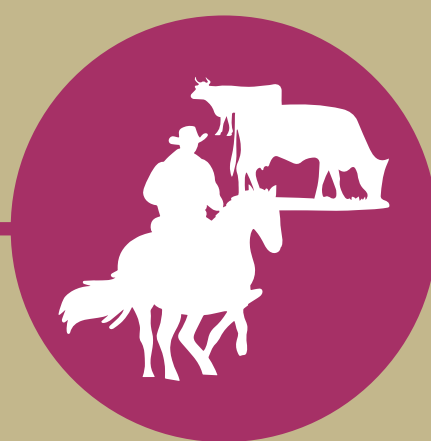
9 Dong, Wen, Liu, Zhang, Lassoie, Yi, Li, Li, and Li. (2011)

What we can do to save our savannahs and protect its wildlife:



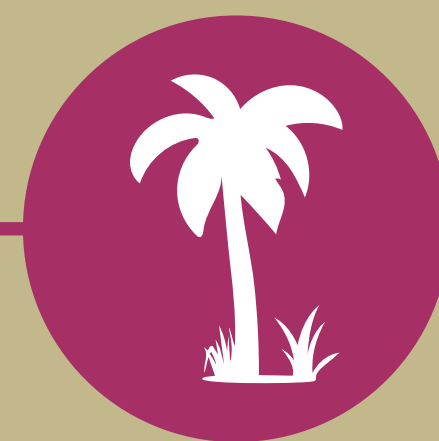
Protect

Expanding protected areas and ecological connectivity to preserve biodiversity for future generations.



Sustainably Manage

Thoughtful and inclusive planning to harmonize ecological preservation with human needs.



Restore

Protecting what remains is not enough. Restoring ecosystems are vital to maintain and increase wildlife populations.

Photos:

Slide 1: Julián Manrique, WWF-Colombia; Jaime Rojo, WWF-US; Mario Beade

Slide 3: Simon Lenskens, WWF-Paraguay

Supported by:



Leibniz-Zentrum für
Agrarlandschaftsforschung
(ZALF) e.V.

based on a decision of
the German Bundestag