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Andean spectacled bear facts

Species of Mammal Spectacled bear Temporal range: 0.1–0 Mon PreC C O S D C T T J K Pg N √ Late Pleistocene – Recent Female at the Cincinnati Zoo Conservation status Vulnerable (IUCN 3.1)[1] Scientific Classification Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Carnivora Family: Ursidae Genus: *Tremarctos* Species: *T. ornatus* Binomial name *Tremarctos ornatus* (Cuvier, 1825) Spectacled bear range Synonyms *Ursus ornatus* Cuvier , 1825 The spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), also known as the Andean bear, Andean short-faced bear, or mountain bear and local as jukumari (Aymara and Quechua[2]), ukumari (Quechua) or ukuku, is the last remaining short face bear (subfamily Tremarctinae). Its closest relatives are florida's extinct bear spectacles,[3] and giant short-faced Bears from the Middle to Late Pleistocene Age (Arctodus and Arctotherium). [4] [5] Spectacled bears are the only surviving species of bear native to South America, and the only surviving member of the Tremarctinae subfamily. The species has been classified as vulnerable by the IUCN due to habitat loss. Description In the Cincinnati Zoo The bear's glasses are the only bear native to South America and is the largest land carnivore on that part of the continent, although as little as 5% of the diet is composed of meat. South America's largest obligate carnivorous mammal is the jaguar (*Panthera onca*). Among South America's existing native land animals, only the Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), South American tapir (*T. terrestris*) and mountain tapir (*T. pinchaque*) are heavier than this species. [6] The spectacle bear is a medium-sized species of bear. In general, the coat is blackish in color, although bears can range from jet black to dark brown and even a reddish hue. The species usually has distinctive beige or ginger-colored markings across its face and upper chest, although not all spectacle bears have spectacle markings. The pattern and size of pale markings are slightly different on each individual bear, and bears can be easily distinguished by this. [7] Males are a third larger than females in dimensions and sometimes twice their weight. [8] Males can weigh from 100 to 200 kg (220 to 440 pounds), and females can weigh from 35 to 82 kg (77 to 181 pounds). [9] Head and body length can range from 120 to 200 cm (47 to 78.5 inches), although adult males measure no less than 150 cm (59 inches). [10] [11] On average males weigh about 115 kg (254 pounds) and females average about 65 kg (143 pounds), so it competes the polar bear for the most sexually dimorphic modern bear. [12] [13] A male in captivity who was considered obese weighed 222.5 kg (491 pounds). [14] The tail is only 7 cm (2.8 in) in length, and the shoulder height is from 60 to 90 cm (23.5 to 35.5 inside). Compared to other living bears, this species has a more rounded face a relatively short and wide snout. In some extinct species of the Tremarctinae subfamily, this facial structure thought to be an adaptation to a largely carnivorous carnivores despite modern glasses bears herbivorous diet preferences. [15] [16] [17] The smell of the spectacled bear is extremely sensitive. They can see from the ground when a tree is loaded with ripe fruit. On the other hand, their hearing is moderate and their vision is short. [18] Distribution and habitat Despite some rare spilling-over in eastern Panama,[19] spectacled bears are mostly limited to certain areas of northern and western South America. They can vary in western Venezuela,[20] Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, western Bolivia, and northwestern Argentina. The elongated geographical spread is only 200-650km wide, but with a length of more than 4600 km. [21] The species is found almost entirely in the Andes mountains. Before spectacled bear populations became fragmented during the last 500 years, the species had a reputation for adaptable because it is found in a wide range of habitats and heights throughout its range, including mist forests, high-altitude grasslands, dry forests and scrub deserts. A single spectacled bear population on the border of Peru and Ecuador inhabited as large a range of habitat types as the world's brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) now occupy. [11] The best habitats for spectacled bears are moist to very humid montane forests. These mist forests typically occupy an elevation band of 500 to 1,000 m (1,600 to 3,300 ft), depending on latitude. Generally, the wetter these forests are the more food species there that can support bears. [11] [22] Occasionally, they can reach heights as low as 250 m (820 feet), but are not typically found under 1,900 m (6,200 feet) in the foothills. They can even vary up to the mountain snowline at more than 5,000m (16,000 ft) in altitude. [6] [11] [23] Therefore, it is well known that bears use all these species of habitats in regional movements; however, the seasonal patterns of these movements are still unknown. [21] Nowadays, the distribution area of the *Ornatus tremartos* is affected by the human presence, mainly due to habitat destruction and degradation, hunting and fragmentation of populations. This fragmentation occurs mainly in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador and poses several problems for this population, because firstly their persistence is compromised when it comes to small, isolated populations, even without being confronted with lost habitats or hunting. Second, the transformation of the landscape represents loss of availability of the type of habitat spectacles bears need. Third, fragmentation exposes bears to hunting and killing because of their accessibility. [21] Naming and etymology *Tremarctos ornatus* is commonly referred to in English as the bear's glasses, a reference to the light color on his chest, neck and face, which may resemble spectacles in some individuals, or the Andean bear for the along the Andes. The root trem-comes from a Greek word meaning hole, arctos is the Greek word for bear. Tremarctos a reference to an unusual hole on the animal's humerus. *Ornatus*, Latin for decorated, is a reference to the markings that give the bear its common English name. [24] Behavior and diet Skull At a zoo in Venezuela Spectacled bears are one of four existing bear species that are habitually arboreal, alongside the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and Asian black bear (*U. thibetanus*), and the sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*). In Andean cloud forests, spectacled bears can be active both during the day and at night, but in the Peruvian desert they are reported to be under vegetative cover during the day. Their continued survival alongside humans usually depends on their ability to climb even the highest trees of the Andes. They usually withdraw from the presence of people, often by climbing trees. [25] Once up a tree, they can often build a platform, perhaps to help in disguise, as well as to rest and store food. [25] Although spectacled bears are solitary and tend to isolate from each other to avoid competition, they are not territorial. They are even included to feed in small groups on abundant food sources. [19] Males are reported to have an average home range of 23 km² (8.9 square mi) during the wet season and 27 km² (10 square mi) during the dry season. Females are reported to have an average home range of 10 km² (3.9 square mi) in the wet season and 7 km² (2.7 square mi) in the dry season. [26] When found by humans or other spectacled bears, they will react in a docile but cautious manner, unless the intruder is seen as a threat or a mother's cubs are threatened. Like other bears, mothers protect their young and have attacked poachers. There is only a single reported human death due to a spectacled bear, which occurred while it was being hunted and was already shot. The only predators of cubs are cougars (*Puma concolor*) and possibly male spectacled bears. The bears seem to avoid jaguars, but the jaguar has significantly different habitat preferences, does not overlap with bear glasses in height on a specific mountainside, and overlaps only slightly (900m) in height as the entire Cordillera Oriental is considered based on unpublished data. [11] Generally, the only threat against adult bears is humans. [27] The longest-lived captive bear, at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, reached a lifespan of 36 years and 8 months. Longevity in the wild has not been studied, but bears are believed to often live up to 20 years or more unless they run afoul of humans. [6] Spectacled bears are herbivorous than most other bears; normally about 5 to 7% of their diet is meat. [6] The most common foods for these bears include cactus, bromeliads (especially *Puya* spp., Ssp. and *Guzmania* spp.) palm nuts, bamboo hearts, frailejón (*Espeletia* spp.), orchid bulbs, fallen fruit on the forest floor, and unopened palm fronds. [28] [29] [30] They will also peel back tree bark to eat the nutritious second coat. [31] Much of the vegetation is very difficult to open or digest for most animals, and the bear is one of the few species in its range to exploit these food sources. The spectacled bear has the largest zygomatic mandibular muscles relative to its body size and the shortest muzzle of a live bear, slightly more than the relative size of giant pandas (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) morphology here. [32] [33] Not coincidentally, both species are known for consuming tough, fibrous plants on a large scale. Unlike the ursid bears whose fourth premolar has a more well-developed protoconid, an adaptation for shaving meat,[34] the fourth premolar of spectacled bears has blunt lophs with three pulp cavities instead of two, and can have three roots instead of the two that characterize ursid bears. The musculature and dental characteristics are designed to support the stress of grinding and crushing vegetation. In addition to the giant panda, the spectacled bear is perhaps the most herbivorous living bear species. [35] These bears also eat cultivated plants, such as sugar cane (*Saccharum* spp.), honey (made by *Apis* spp.), and corn (*Zea mays*), and are known to travel above the tree line for berries and more ground-based bromeliads. [36] When food is abundant, such as large corn fields, up to nine individual bears have fed close to each other in a single proximity. Animal prey is usually quite small, but these bears can prey on adult deer, llamas, llamas and pets (*Forest primigenius taurus*) and horses (*Equus ferus caballus*). [19] [30] [37] A spectacled bear was caught on a remote video monitor predaeously attacking and killing an adult mountain tapir perhaps nearly twice its own body mass, although the adult horse and cattle killed by spectacled bears have been even heavier. [38] Animal prey has included rabbits, mice, other rodents, birds at the nest (especially ground-nesting birds such as tinamous or lapwings (*Vanellus* spp.), arthropods, and bait.[28][29][39] They are occasionally accused of killing cattle, especially cattle, and raiding corn fields. [11] [25] Allegedly, some bears are getting used to eating cattle, but bears are actually more inclined to eat cattle like bait and some farmers may happen to assume the spectacled bear killed them. For fear of losing stock, bears can be killed on sight. [40] [41] Reproduction *Tremarctos ornatus* in the Chaparri Reserve - Chiclayo - Lambayeque Region - Peru Most of the available information on the reproduction of this grout is through observation of captive animals. [42] In captivity, mating is concentrated in between February and September, according to the width,[42] and, in the wild, it has been seen how mating can occur at almost any time of the year, the activity peaks normally in April and June, at the beginning of the wet season and in accordance with the peak of fruit-opening. The pair have been together for one to two weeks, during which they copulate multiple times for 12-45 minutes at a time. Time. courtship is based on games and non-aggressive fights, while sexual intercourse can be accompanied by loud noises from both animals. [42] In the wild, births are usually common in the dry season, between December and February, but in captivity it occurs year-round within the distribution of the species. [42] The gestation period is 5.5 to 8.5 months. [6] [11] [43] From one to three cubs can be born, with four being rare and two being the average. The cubs are born with their eyes closed and weigh about 300 to 330 g (11 to 12 oz) each. [44] Although this species does not give birth during the hibernation cycle as northern bear species, births usually occur in a small cave and the female waits for the cubs to be able to see and walk before she leaves with them, this happens in between 3 to 4 months after birth. [42] Females grow slower than males. [42] The size of the litter is positively correlated with both the weight of the female and the abundance and variety of food sources, in particular the degree to which fruiting is temporally predictable. [11] The cubs often stay with the female for a year before hitting on their own. [6] [11] [19] This is related to the time mothers breastfeed (1 year), but keep providing care for mothers for an additional year. [42] The maturity of the breeding is estimated to be reached at between four and seven years age for both sexes, which are based exclusively on captive bears. [43] Females usually give birth for the first time when they are 5 years old and their fertility is shorter than that of the males, who hold fertility almost all their lives. [42] Something that is in favor of the bear population's livelihood is their longevity, as they can raise at least 2 cubs to adulthood, helping to population replacement. [21] Conservation Threats Spectacled bear at Tennoji Zoo in Osaka, Japan The Andean bear is threatened due to poaching and habitat loss. Poaching can have several reasons: trophy hunting, animal trafficking, religious or magical beliefs, trade in natural products and conflicts with humans. [45] Trophy hunting of the Andes bear was apparently popular during the 19th century in some rural areas of Latin America. In the costumbre novel *María* by the Colombian writer Jorge Isaacs, it was portrayed as an activity for privileged young men in Colombia. Stories about bears are also known from documents about the Ecuadorian aristocracy of the time. [46] These threats might have diminished in recent years, but there are still isolated reports of captive bears being confiscated in rural areas, which are usually unable to re-adapt to their natural habitat and must be kept in zoological facilities. Religious or magical beliefs might be motivations for killing Bears Andes, especially in places where bears are related to myths of the disappearance of women or kids, or where bear parts are related to traditional medicine or superstition. In this context, the trade in bear parts may have commercial value. Their gallbladders seem to be appreciated in traditional Chinese Chinese and can fetch a high price on the international market. Conflicts with humans, however, seem to be the most common cause of poaching in large parts of distribution. [45] Andean bears are often suspected of attacking livestock and raiding crops, and are killed for retaliation or to avoid further damage. It has been argued that attacks on cattle attributed to Andean bear are partly due to other predators. Raiding crops can be frequent in areas with dwindling natural resources and extensive crops in the former bear habitat, or when problematic individuals get used to human environments. The intensity of poaching can create ecological traps for Andean bears. That is, if bears are attracted to areas of high habitat quality that are also high in poaching risk. [48] Perhaps the most epidemic problem for the species is extensive logging and agriculture, which has led to habitat loss for the largely tree-dependent bears. Only 5% of the original habitat in Andean cloud forest remains. [11] The shortage of natural food sources might push bears to feed on crops or livestock, increasing the conflict that usually results in the poaching of individual. The effects of climate change on surrogate habitats and food sources are not fully understood, but may have a potential negative impact in the near future. As mentioned, one of the main limitations for the viability of bear populations is man-made mortality, mainly poaching and habitat loss; but the other major limitation is the size of the population. Therefore, the most effective actions for their viability will be to increase population size and reduce poaching. In order for these actions to be effective, it is necessary to understand where they are being implemented, identifying areas where habitat protection and landscape management are realistically able to sustain large bear populations. [21] Perception of the Andean bear There are two views of the Andean bears. One is ex-situ, people who live far from where the bears live; For them, the spectacled bears are usually charismatic symbols of the wilderness, animals that are not aggressive and which are mainly vegetarians. The other view is in-situ, people living in areas where the bears inhabit; for them, bears are cattle predators, pests to be killed preventively and where any loss of livestock is immediately attributed to them, persecuted and hunted. Therefore, it is important to understand the actual conflict extent and intensity of the perception of people's conflict. Also, environmental education campaigns are a must to change this public perception of the Andes wearing as predators. [49] Conservation actions and plans The IUCN has recommended the following courses the preservation of spectacles: expansion and implementation of conservation land to prevent further development, research at greater species level and monitoring of trends and threats, more coordinated management of current protected areas, stewardship stewardship for bears involving local residents and public information regarding spectacles bears, in particular the benefits of preserving the species due to its effect on natural resources. [11] National governments, NGOs and rural communities have made various commitments to protect this species in its spread. Conservation efforts in Venezuela date back to the early 1990s and are mostly based on environmental education at various levels and the creation of protected areas. The efforts of various organizations have led to widespread recognition of the Andean bear in Venezuelan society, raising it as an emblematic kind of conservation effort in the country, and establishing a 10-year action plan. [50] The evidence on the objective effectiveness of these programmes (such as reducing poaching risk, maintaining population viability, and reducing extinction risk) has been subject to debate and should be further evaluated. [51] [52] Legislation against bear hunting exists, but is rarely enforced. [45] [53] This leads to persistence of the poaching problem, even within protected areas. [48] In 2006, the Spectacled Bear Conservation Society was established in Peru to study and protect the spectacled bear. [54] Wearing glasses and protected areas To evaluate the protected status of the Andean bears, back in 1998 researchers evaluated the percentage of their habitats included in national and protected areas. This evaluation showed that only 18.5% of the bear range was in 58 protected areas, indicating that many of them were small, especially those in the northern Andes. The largest park covered 2050 km², while the median size of 43 parks from Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador was 1250 km², which may be too small to maintain a sustainable bear population. Therefore, these researchers have explained the importance of creating habitat blocks outside protected areas, as they could provide opportunities for the protection of these animals. [21] Other proposed conservation strategies Researchers propose the following spectacled bear conservation strategies:[55] Protect high-quality habitats while maintaining connectivity between their different altitude zones. In reality, it is not possible to manage all the undisturbed habitat that the bears need in the long term, so it is important to identify those high-quality habitats that maximize biodiversity gains. Alleviates conflicts between humans and bears through conflict management, thinking of the spatial configuration of this animal habitat. Reduce human impacts on protected areas by designing comprehensive management strategies. Preserving landscape diversity in the bear study areas to ensure that they provide food and seasonal access to resources in all habitats they frequent. Maintain the connectivity of the carrier population and behaving that emphasizes nature reserves that connect different ecosystems, such as the cloud forest and the paramo. Rethink roads: where they are built, built, and for what purpose, understanding that they determine the macro configuration of bear habitat and are a barrier to bear movements and population connectivity. Integrating hydrological criteria on a landscape scale will benefit bears and other biotic communities that associate with aquatic environments, including humans. Linking bear habitats and water management can be effective in developing conservation strategies that benefit everyone. In places where it is almost impossible to establish new protected areas,

mainly due to the fact that many people already live in the area, creating natural corridors is perhaps the best tool for preserving species with migratory patterns such as the endangered Andean bear. Spectacled bear in Ecuador Spectacled bears in Ecuador live in about 50,000 km² of páramo and cloud forest habitats. Of this total area, 33% is part of the National System of Protected Areas and the remaining 67% is in non-legally protected, undeveloped areas which have suffered a significant reduction of about 40% compared to the original distribution. [55] Because of this conversion of the land use into agricultural use, significant amounts of the spectacle bear habitat have been lost, fragmenting, at the same time, their territory and isolating population to small areas that might not be enough for the persistence of long-term growth. Therefore, the distribution of grout in the country is set in numerous habitat patches, many of which are small. [55] Distribution Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) Maquipucuna Reserve, Ecuador It could be said that Ecuador is the land of bears. The species covers a variety of habitats, including páramos, Andean forests and cloud forests; and, in southeastern Ecuador, it is recorded at 290 masl in the Kutukut Mountain Range, in humid piedmont forest. [56] Based on spatially explicit ecological area and professional models, it is estimated that the current size of presence and area of occupation of andes bear in Ecuadorian Andes is approximately 78 500 and 71 000 km², respectively. 31% of the estimated occupancy area is in protected areas; an additional 21% is in protective forests, forest heritage, and areas consistent with Socio Bosque[56]. This species inhabits fifteen of the country's 24 provinces, on both the eastern and western sides of the Andes, but it is in the western mountain range where its habitat most threatened, barely protected and where the population, especially in the southwest of the country, is at risk of disappearing. [56] Because of this, the MAAE has identified four conservation cores for this species, areas large enough to retain long-term ecologically functional populations with areas larger than 3800 km² each. [56] About 80% of the surface area is protected areas or other management units and 20% is part of disturbed areas and intensive use, use, with great potential for connectivity. These conservation centres were identified and selected on the basis of biological, socio-economic, and conservation chances criteria and are[56]: El Ángel - Cotacachi-Cayapas - Pululahua Cayambe - Coca - Llanganates Sangay - Rio Negro-Sopladora Podocarpus - Yacuri - Cerro Plateado Cultural importance of the Andes bear The Andes bear is of great importance to our indigenous nationalities, especially from the highlands, although it is also known by the Aestach, Coffán, Kichwa and Shuar Amazon indigenous nationalities. So, depending on the area, it has received different names, the most common is the bear glasses, although it is also known as cariblanco, negro, anteojudo and bestia, to name a few. He also has a name in several of our indigenous languages; In Achuar Chicham (Achuar language) he is called Chayú; in A'ingae (Cotán language) he is called Ocomari; in Kichwa language he is known as Ucumari, Yana Puma, Yana Usu, or Uturunku, depending on the region or the Kichwa people; In the language Pai Cocá (people Secoya) it is called Kina Take; while in the Shuar Chicham language (Shuar people), the bear is called Cháhi, Sanchipin Cháhi, Cheiva or Chánkrap (Tirira, 2004)[56]. There are several myths and legends about this species; many recount his strength, his solitary character and his apparent shyness to emphasize characteristics of certain local leaders[56]. In different stories of indigenous populations, the conflict between bears and humans is already told, making them look like the beasts that destroy crops; on the other hand, the Shuar believe that the Andean bears should not be touched and, worse, a child must touch them, because that means death. [56] National Strategy for the Andes Bear Several coordinated conservation efforts for the Andean bears have already been generated in the Andean region[57]: National Andean Bear Conservation Programme in Colombia, 2001 Ecoregional Strategy for the Conservation of the Andean Bear *Tremarctos ornatus* in the Northern Andes, 2003 Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bear in Venezuela , 2007 For example, Ecuador joined these efforts in 2010 , with the National Strategy for the Conservation of the Andean Bear, through the Ministry of Environment and Water of Ecuador, MAAE. This strategy was planned for a period of 15 years (2010-2025) with the aim of giving concrete and effective actions aimed at protecting and preserving the species and its habitats in the country[57]. Objectives: Update and improve the knowledge of the biology, ecology and distribution of the Andes carry as one of the mechanisms to promote the creation of connectivity, management and recovery in the field of distribution of the species. Developing tools for managing conflicts between people and looking for mechanisms for protection and conservation support the species in the range. Improving knowledge and communication and between institutions to strengthen the management of bear populations in wildlife management centres. Promote, improve and increase the level of public awareness, interest and sensitivity to the importance and benefits of preserving the Andean bear and its habitat. Encourage the active and committed participation of civil society in the enforcement and strengthening of legal requirements as a means of ensuring sustainable development, natural resource management, spatial planning and biodiversity conservation. Promoting management capacity and interinstitutional cooperation between entities involved in conservation with a view to implementing the Andean Bear Strategy in Ecuador[57]. Identifying priority areas for the conservation of spectacled bears in Ecuador Due to the accelerated degradation and habitat loss persistent in Ecuador, it becomes a priority to identify the areas important for the conservation of the Andean bear to prevent the fragmentation and isolation of this population. Several areas have been studied for this issue, such as Oyacachi River Basin, the cloud forest of the Metropolitan District of Quito, Intag, the northeastern Andes cordillera, the southern area of the Andes in Ecuador, to better understand the habitats where this grout is found, determining the areas that could work best for establishing habitat blocks or corridors and design strategies that allow these areas , and what they entail, to stay in the long term. [55] Example of the study area: Northeast Andes Cordillera The northeastern studying area of Ecuadorian Andes was formed by cayambe Coca Ecological Reserve (47.7%), the northern part of Antisana Ecological Reserve (3.3 2%), plus adjacent páramo and cloud forest areas from the provinces of Sucumbíos and Carchi (49.1%), with a total area of 6048 km² with altitudes between 1800 and 4300 m. Protected areas are mostly based on general biodiversity patterns that may not meet the needs of large carnivores , therefore, some of these areas would not be able to support viable populations of these species in the long term, which is why it is important to identify other areas as a complement to the system of protected areas and andean bears regionally protected. [55] Vegetation There is a huge diversity in this area based on its altitudinal range, geographical location and its multi-climate layers. This region is part of the Biome of tropical Andes, one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, as described by Norman Myers in 2000. This is of extreme importance when thinking about the places that guarantee carries adequate access to resources throughout the year and knowing that the use of the bears intensity of the various types changes with the seasons. [55] Watersheds (hydrological resources) Intact watersheds are important to assess to conservation potential of an area. The Cayambe Coca Ecological Reserve and its surroundings represent one of the most important Ecuador's reserves, due to their relatively undisturbed and high-altitude watersheds. Four major rivers start in this: the Aguarico River (1,395 km²), the Quijos River (2,504 km²), the Mira River (67 km²) and the Esmeraldas River (2,624 km²). In addition, a total of 1560 turning points were located, representing 97% (5865 km²) of the total study area. [55] Land-coverage types This northeast Ecuadorian Andean study area has 4 major land cover types:[55] LAND-COVERAGE HUMAN EFFECT ALTIMARITUDINAL RANGE Moist páramo (herbaceous páramo, frailejones páramo, pillow páramo, and mixed-forest páramo) Limited with relatively low impact on the natural habitats. The intensity depends on the accessibility and proximity of populated areas. 3400-4300m High evergreen upper montane forest 3000-3600m Montane cloud forest 1800-3000m Disturbed areas a) West of the study area: They dominate in the inter-Andean valleys. These are landscapes dominated by a matrix of anthropogenic land use such as agriculture, used by humans for millennia and urban areas. b) East of the study area: on the contrary, these are part of the recent deforestation and colonization limits usually associated with road connectivity between the highlands (Andes) and the lowlands (Amazon basin). Key habitat areas: The research was based on the collection of past data on the presence of bears in the Oyacachi River basin, which is also part of the Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve, and a series of 7 environmental variables. This made it possible to predict the suitability of the Andean bear habitat using the Mahalanobis distance. As a result, 12 key habitat areas for the conservation of spectacled raccoons were identified, representing 30% (1820 km²) of the total study area. [55] These areas were classified on the basis of their conservation values with a weighted index including height range, impact of disturbed areas and the current conservation status. [55] They were identified mainly at the cloud forest and at the páramo. [55] With this information it was possible to confirm the correlation between human-land use and the fragmentation of the Andean bear habitat in the area. [55] At the time, it allowed us to see the importance of maintaining and preserving the connectivity of the bear population to ensure seasonal movements in the different ecosystems they inhabit. [55] It is also important to emphasize areas with high habitat stability but close to areas of intense human use, using conservation strategies, such as bear-human conflict management, to solve related problems. [55] The authors of the study also explain that a promising conservation opportunity for these animals on their livelihood in the maintaining long-term water supply. [55] Ecological corridor of the Andean bear in the Metropolitan District of Quito - DMQ Ecological corridors are connecting landscape and ecosystem management strategies that aim to connect remnants of natural vegetation in good condition areas with light or medium intervention, in order to prevent habitat fragmentation and increase biodiversity, in order to allow the free movement and distribution of species and to ensure the genetic supply between individuals of the same species[58]. In the DMQ, the results of the research carried out so far on the Andean Bear in the Northwest identified the need to establish a corridor connecting national protected areas with local protective forests, private reserves, areas of the DMQ Subsystem of protected areas and other areas that, despite the fact that they are not protected, are not protected , still have important remnants of vegetation, the preservation of which is crucial for the survival of andean bears in the northwest of the DMQ. It includes the following rural parishes: Calacalí, Nono, Nanegalito, Nanegal and San José de Minas with 62% of the area under different types of ecological protection; However, in some areas there are significant threats that jeopardise the survival of this species[58]. This programme is already in the course and has objectives based on the protection and restoration of local ecosystems, safe environmental services for the benefit of the human population; and promoting sustainable development in depth tourism, research, education, agro-ecology. [58] In popular culture The character of children Paddington Bear is a spectacled bear, famous from darkest Peru. [59] In the documentary Paddington Bear: The Early Years, British actor Stephen Fry meets a spectacled bear named Yogi, who was kept in a small cage by Andean villagers. Fry exchanged with the villagers to release the bear, and it was taken to a fence in Machu Picchu. Fry's interest in the bears led to the follow-up documentary, Stephen Fry and the Spectacled Bears, and he also wrote and published his experiences in Saving the Spectacled Bear: A Peruvian Diary. [quote needed] In the BBC television programme Serious Andes, a team of eight teenagers built a pre-release enclosure for two spectacled bears before returning to the wild. The BBC documentary Spectacled Bears: Shadows of the Forest looked at conservation issues and conflicts with farming communities. [60] See also Biology portal Animals Portal The People of Latin America Portal Andean black bear Grizzly bear bear References ^ Velez-Liendo, X.; García-Rangel, S. (2017). Tremarctos ornatus (errata version published in 2018). IUCN Red List of Endangered Species. 2017: e.T22066A123792952. Retrieved February 14, 2020.CS1 maint: ref-harv (link) ^ Schirra, Inge (2003). La vitalidad del quechua: lengua y sociedad en dos provincias de Cochabamba (in Spanish). Plural redactes. p. 121. 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