



2019

YEARLY
REPORT

SUMMARY

Who we are	3
Message from the Board	6
Message from the President	8
Results	
Ecotourism	11
Science	13
Education	16
Rewild	17
Social	18
Forests	19
Significant events	20
Message from the Partner	23
Financial and economic results	25



ONÇAFARI

The Onçafari Association was created to promote natural conservation and to contribute to socioeconomic development in the regions where it's active through ecotourism and scientific studies.

We work to preserve biodiversity in several Brazilian biomes, with emphasis on jaguars and maned wolves.

WHO WE ARE

Founding: 2011

Category: Non-profit association

Biomes of activity: Pantanal, Amazon, Cerrado and Atlantic Forest

Structure and partnerships:

Headquarters in the Pantanal with a Reintroduction Enclosure for Large Mammals – Caiman Ecological Refuge

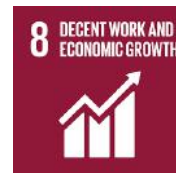
Amazon Base with a Reintroduction Enclosure for Large Mammals – Thaimaçu Inn

Cerrado Base - Trijunção Inn

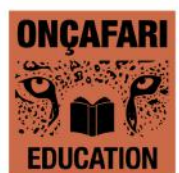
Atlantic Forest Base - Velloçitã

3 Safari vehicles

This project is committed to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



Work fronts:



OUR WORK

Important numbers in eight years of history in the Pantanal

Over

153

jaguars identified

Over

3.406

jaguar sightings

32

different jaguars had
their biological
samples collected

41

tracking collars set on
monitored jaguars

GOALS

To preserve Brazilian fauna and natural habitats through ecotourism, thus contributing to the country's socioeconomic development.

1

Preserve biodiversity in the biomes where it's active;

2

Bring socioeconomic development to target regions;

3

Transform and value the local Pantanal culture

4

Increase scientific knowledge about jaguars and maned wolves

5

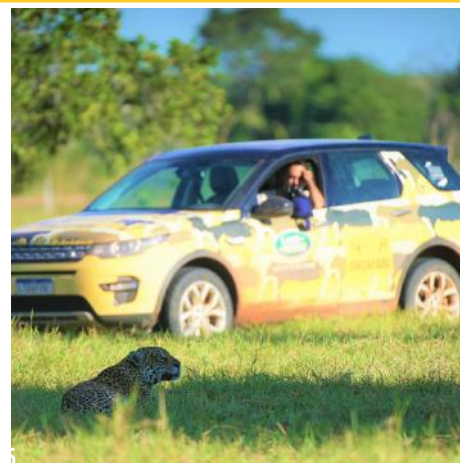
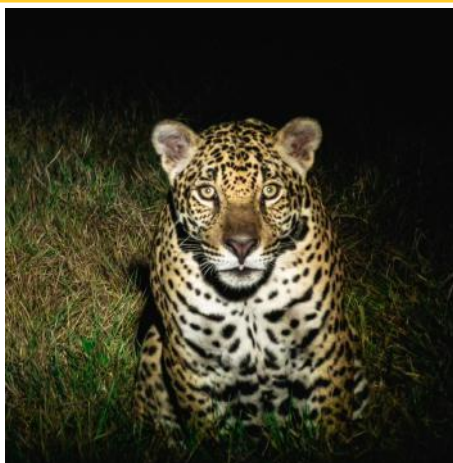
Consolidate ecotourism as a conservation tool

6

Increase the number of visitors in the Pantanal and in the Cerrado

7

Reintroduce jaguars in nature





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

My passion for nature springs from the same premises and territory on which Onçafari grows its roots. From the Pantanal I dreamed big and searched for ways to transform the experience of savvy travelers who dared to leave the conventional form of tourism. The inspiration from African safaris that inspired Roberto Klabin to think of Caiman and Mario Haberfeld to habituate the jaguars also inspired me, and I could contribute through Onçafari's board to the Pantanal and to the jaguar preservation that symbolizes ecological balance.

The Pantanal inspires all who know it, with its abundance of scenery and micro-regions that it offers to the boldest explorers, without letting the less adventurous travelers down. Around Caiman and Onçafari there's an orbit of very interesting communities with people engaged in daring challenges and who are willing to think big and touch the world.

This positive and exemplary attitude is not bound only to this small region of Brazil. For over 10 years, we have seen how we are spreading our mission contagiously to other biomes and communities in love with sustainability.

Away from the Pantanal, Onçafari already has projects happening in the Cerrado and the Amazon and is having several conversations with entities based in the Atlantic Forest, in the wetlands of the Argentinean Iberá and even in the tropical forests of Belize. Mario and his team are following the wave to share knowledge and work with an open-source mentality, which is to say promoting replication and always putting the conservation goal above personal recognition. It's an example of humility that always inspires me.

My personal mission on Onçafari's board is to help the project grow in an organized and professional fashion, offering an opportunity to have a solid partnership with a project that has transparency, ethics, partnership, range and sustainability as foundations. Through the board and the project, I've had the pleasure to meet numerous people who think the same way and have dedicated tremendous energy to do the same with Onçafari.

Today the board has renowned professionals in legal, financial, administrative, marketing, communications, and tourism, among other areas.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This talent plurality, with aligned goals, is what makes it possible for the project to be strongly structured so the field team can focus its energy on the organization's main goal alongside jaguars, maned wolves and other species. This dedication goes beyond time and knowledge: many times, it involves taking risks in order to get a new internal project or a partnership going.

The results of this collective effort are incredible partnerships with companies from different sectors that believed the mission, the model and the people that work hard to make it happen. We are helping transform the economy around jaguars and other species at the top of their biome's food chain. By doing that, we preserve the biome in which they live, since without a balanced habitat there's no presence of these humble and discreet but always noble and admirable ambassadors!

Here's our path and the examples we should follow to go far and wide.

Robert Betenson, management board member.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends, supporters and partners: 2019 was an excellent year for the Onçafari Association, a year when we grew a good deal in terms of team, processes and management, which can be proved by our great results.

On the Ecotourism front, which is Onçafari's cornerstone, our results get better year after year.

When Onçafari was founded, in 2011, we had less than 80 sightings of jaguars and only 5% of guests who visited our main base, the Caiman Ecological Refuge in the Pantanal biome, could see one or more jaguars. We were able to change those numbers in the following years by perfecting our techniques and investing in new talents for our team. In 2019, we registered 905 jaguar sightings at Caiman and 98% of guests had the pleasure of seeing the largest cat in the Americas in its natural habitat.

As Onçafari matured at Pousada Trijunção (in the Cerrado biome), another base where we develop ecotourism, we have quickly reaped results when it comes to maned wolves sightings.

There were 248 of them just in our second year of local work. At this base, 71% of guests were already able to see the wolves with our team.

Still on ecotourism: it's interesting to notice high demand by the English to visit our project. That's due to the BBC documentary "Jaguars: Brazil's Super Cats" which has Onçafari's work as its main theme, and also due to efforts to divulge Caiman, Onçafari and Pantanal in that country.

When it comes to our Science front, we keep generating important data, which will be used in public and private strategies to preserve the species and biomes where we work. Much knowledge has been acquired throughout the year on the habits of jaguars and wolves, many species were monitored by our camera traps and the data was put to use in the publication of articles and scientific papers.

Just at Caiman, in less than 8 years of work, we have already identified over 150 individual jaguars and keep monitoring whole families to get to know more and more about their territories and forms of dispersion. Esperança, the jaguar that became Onçafari's symbol, has been accompanied since the beginning and had her first "great-granddaughter", now among her 10 cubs and 12 "grandchildren" we already monitored.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At Trijunção we identified 8 different jaguars (3 of them melanistic jaguars), 13 maned wolves and we even found the first den of this species, with 2 newborn cubs.

In July of this year, always in partnership with Cenap/ICMBio, we had the pleasure to release two sister jaguars into the wild, this time into the Amazon, in the region of the São Benedito River, in Pará state. There we rehabilitated the two females until they were able to go back to nature in an enclosure built in the land of the Thaimaçu inn. The pair was released in a large reserve owned by the Air Force and it all points to a successful effort.

During the rehabilitation process we were also able to identify 14 other jaguars living nearby, including a melanistic one. Still on that Rewild front, this year we kept closely monitoring Isa and Fera, the jaguars reintroduced into the Pantanal in 2016, and their cubs. We saw them hunt, climb trees, swim and take care of their offspring many times, among other behaviors. The 3 cubs born in nature (two are Fera's and one is Isa's) at the end of 2019 became independent from their moms, which fills us with joy and hope for new cubs... From them and from their mothers.

We also participated in an international jaguar conservation project where we rehabilitated a male jaguar with the help of several partners (Cenap/ICMBio, Imasul, UFMS, Cras - Campo Grande, Acaia Pantanal, LOG Nature, and Caiman Ecological Refuge). The animal was found very debilitated on the grounds of the Jatobazinho school, close to the Paraguai River. At the Caiman enclosure, the jaguar was taught to hunt and then taken to Iberá, a national park in Argentina, where it will be part of a Conservation Land Trust /Tompkins Foundation project to repopulate with jaguars a region where they've gone extinct long ago.

Another unmissable highlight was the dawn of a new Onçafari front: Onçafari Forests. With it, we intend to conserve areas of high biological value beginning with the Amazon and the Pantanal. This project began with an important step: the purchase of a 100% preserved forested area by the margins of the São Benedito River in the state of Pará. The land was acquired with resources donated by 6 important Onçafari contributors and is now part of an extensive conservation area on the left bank of that river, which has suffered a lot with deforestation close by.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During 2019 we kept giving our talks in schools as well as in areas where we operate, in other states and in other countries. The goal is to educate children, young people and grownups about the importance of natural conservation. Besides the lectures, and as often as we can, we take employees from the Caiman Ecological Refuge and their families to safaris with our team, so they can also live the experience.

When it comes to media presence, we had significant growth in social media and good exposure through articles online and in newspapers and magazines, as well as TV stories, including ones broadcasted on Fantástico and Jornal Nacional – two of the most watched news programs in Brazil. Through that we were able to inform a greater number of people, thus fulfilling another Onçafari goal.

Besides the articles and videos, we also actively took part in Jaguar Parade, an art event where jaguars made from fiberglass are painted by several artists and displayed in many points and many cities. This first edition happened in São Paulo, between August and October, and brought a lot of exposure to the species. It was the biggest artistic intervention event in the history of São Paulo, with over 90 sculptures throughout the city.

In 2020 we intend to take part in other events of this kind and in other Brazilian municipalities.

This year's low point was the great fire that happened in the Pantanal in September, when unprecedented flames reached around 60% of the Caiman Ecological Refuge despite the efforts of over 200 people, among them firefighters, Ibama's Prevfogo firemen, police, soldiers, farm and hotel employees, and Onçafari and Arara Azul Institute workers. A lot of heavy equipment, planes and even a helicopter were used to fight the fire, but it was very hard to contain it and several wild animals were lost. However, the Pantanal was green again in December and it became hard to see the severity of the fire. That filled us with hope.

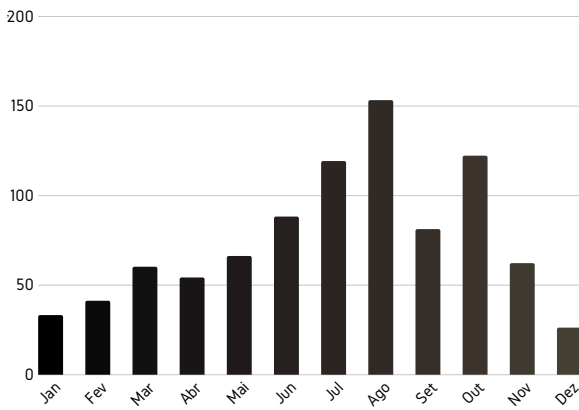
Here, I thank everyone who has somehow contributed to Onçafari, from our collaborators and board members to the people who follow our work through social media, the companies that support us or provide their services, the institutional partners and others who work towards preservation in the world's most biodiverse country... Our very own Brazil.

Warmly & wishing for a 2020 filled with nature, Mario

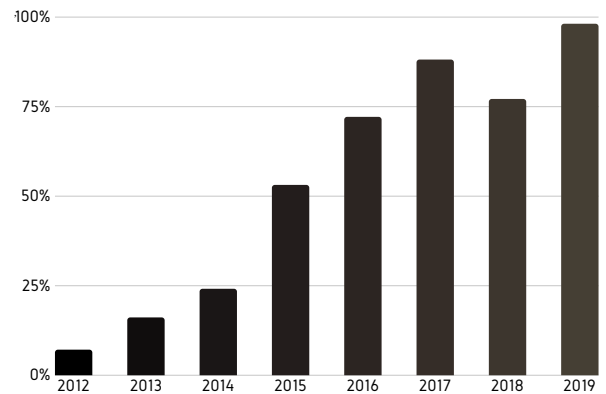
ECOTOURISM

Onçafari Ecotourism works to habituate animals like the jaguar and the maned wolf to the presence of vehicles. As the animals get used to the safari cars, they stop thinking of them as threats and become more at ease, which makes developing regional ecotourism easier. Currently, we develop this activity on two bases: Caiman (Pantanal) and Trijunção (Cerrado). Below are the 2019 highlights.

CAIMAN BASE - PANTANAL



Number of jaguar sightings per month



% of guests who saw jaguars per year



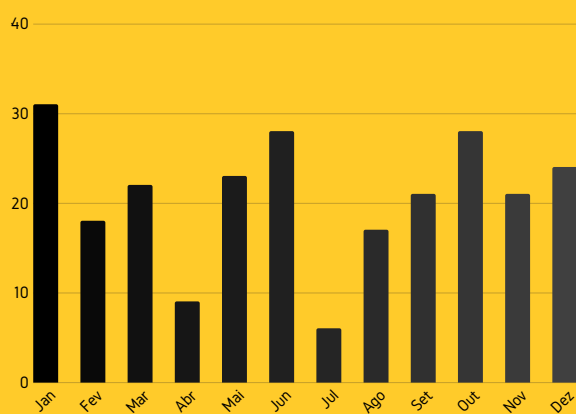
905 jaguar sightings in 2019



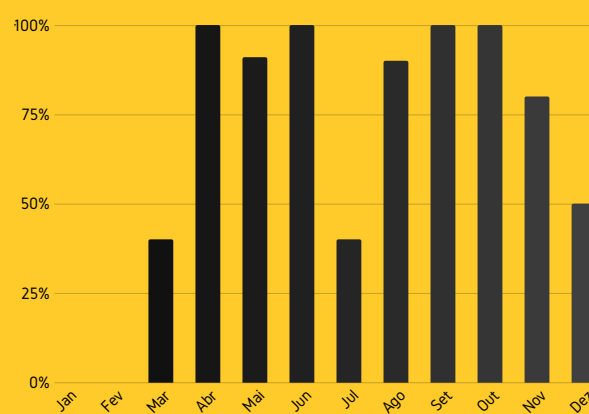
98% of guests saw jaguars in 2019



TRIJUNÇÃO BASE - CERRADO



Number of maned wolves sightings per month



% of guests who saw maned wolves per month



248 maned wolf sightings in 2019



71% of guests saw maned wolves in 2019



SCIENCE

Onçafari Science has as its goals: to monitor the behavior of jaguars and maned wolves; to constantly evaluate the animals' health through captures and exams; and to develop ecology and physiology research to broaden scientific knowledge about these species, fortifying their protection. Below are the 2019 highlights.

CAIMAN BASE - PANTANAL



2 capture campaigns



6 jaguars captured



5 jaguars got tracking collars



7902 records of jaguars on camera traps



61 jaguars caught on camera traps



SCIENCE

TRIJUNÇÃO BASE - CERRADO



During the whole of 2019, the Onçafari team observed a high frequency of wolves walking in pairs outside of their reproductive period. These observations broaden previous knowledge in the literature, which classifies the maned wolf as a solitary animal that only pairs up during reproductive season.



1 capture campaign



3 maned wolves captured



2 wolves got tracking collars



2369 records of maned wolves on camera traps



11 maned wolves caught on camera traps

VELLOCITÀ BASE - ATLANTIC FOREST



108 records of maned wolves on camera traps



3 maned wolves caught on camera traps

ARTICLES

PUBLISHED:

•NEOTROPICAL XENARTHANS: A DATA SET OF OCCURRENCE OF XENARTHAN SPECIES IN THE NEOTROPICS (REVISTA ECOLOGY).

Access:

<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/ecy.2663> - Onçafari collaboration on research about Xenarthra (anteaters, armadillos and sloths), from data collected in the field;

•SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA FOR THE PANTANAL WETLAND: PERSPECTIVES ON A COLLABORATIVE INTERFACE FOR SCIENCE,POLICY, AND DECISION-MAKING (JOURNAL TROPICAL CONSERVATION SCIENCE). Access:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1940082919872634> - Article on a sustainable agenda for the Pantanal, with Onçafari's participation.

SUBMITTED:

•IS (RE)INTRODUCTION A TOOL FOR THE CONSERVATION OF JAGUARS (PANTHERA ONCA)? A CASE REPORT IN THE BRAZILIAN PANTANAL.

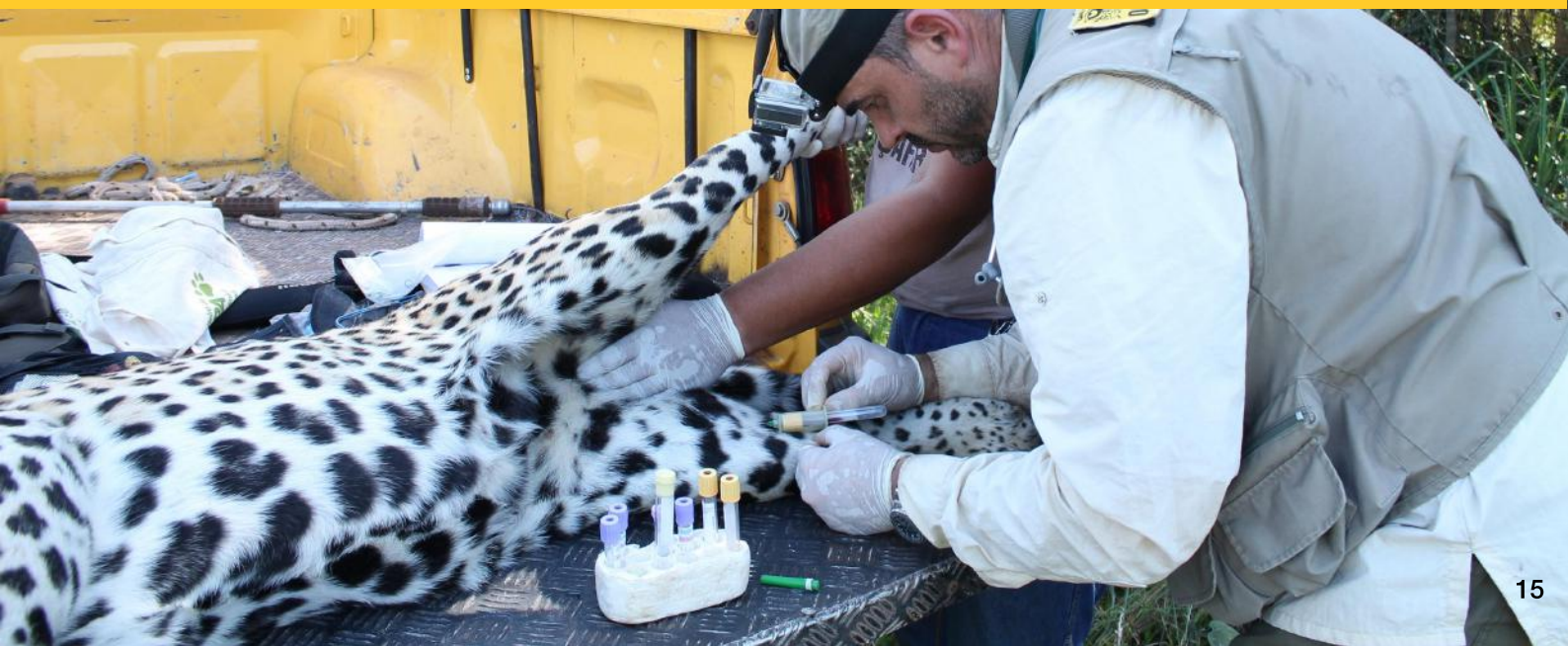
Article about reintroduction, submitted and reviewed;

•NEOTROPICAL CARNIVORES: A DATASET ON CARNIVORE OCCURRENCE IN THE NEOTROPICS.

Article about the occurrence of neotropical carnivores;

•ANTAGONISTIC INTERACTIONS BETWEEN PREDATOR AND PREY: MOBING OF JAGUARS (PANTHERA ONCA) BY WHITE-LIPPED PECCARIES (TAYASSU PECARI).

Article on the relations between white-lipped peccaries and jaguars at the Caiman Ecological Refuge.



EDUCATION

Onçafari Education's goal is to create popular awareness about the importance of preserving biodiversity. It does so through lectures, field activities, events and by offering support for television programs and documentary recordings.



Throughout 2019, there were the following activities:

1

Lectures to around 250 students in 3 units of Colégio Porto Seguro, in São Paulo;

2

Lecture about Onçafari and field work with 30 students from the Federal University of Dourados enrolled in courses of Biology, Veterinary Medicine, Forest Engineering and Environmental Management;

3

Participation with a booth focused on jaguars and the biomes where they live during Virada Sustentável, a two-day event in São Paulo's Parque do Ibirapuera that attracted hundreds of people;

4

Lecture for 15 students enrolled in courses of Biology and Veterinary Medicine on Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul's campus.

REWILD

In partnership with Cenap-ICMBio, Onçafari Rewild structured research projects to reintroduce jaguars into their habitats, an important tool to recover populations threatened with extinction. There have been reintroduction initiatives in the Amazon before, in the cities of Jacareacanga, in the state of Pará, and Miranda (at the Caiman Ecological Refuge), in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul

Onçafari's first experience with reintroduction happened in 2016, in the Pantanal, with two orphaned jaguar sisters, Isa and Fera, who were the pioneers of a very successful process, specially after the birth of their three cubs, already independent.

The second experience happened this year with the release of another pair of orphaned sisters, this time in the Amazon, Pandora and Vivara. They got their freedom back after a year of habituation and hunting training. The sisters were reintroduced in a vast and preserved area, at the heart of the Amazon forest.

The third experience is currently ongoing. Rescued in very poor condition, the male Jatobazinho has gained strength and weight and spent 10 months in a rehabilitation enclosure. He's going through intensive training to perfect his hunting abilities in order to finally fly to Argentina. He's currently accompanied by a female in a very large enclosure inserted in the place chosen for his release, and soon will be walking through and marking the beautiful and protected forests of Iberá.



2 jaguars reintroduced in the Amazon



3 cubs born in the Pantanal after their moms were reintroduced in the biome



1 jaguar in training in Iberá, Argentina

*All reintroduced jaguars are being monitored through tracking collars and there's also camera traps in their territories, both in the Pantanal and in the Amazon, for constant observation. The same applies to Iberá.



Onçafari Social acts directly in the communities where our projects are. We offer uniforms, books and teaching materials to students and teachers, as well as talks about new professional possibilities that promote social mobility. We also offer help with maintenance of schools and other social institutions nearby. Sporadically, we make medical and dental care available to some communities. In partner farms, we organize neutering and vaccination campaigns for domestic animals.



Throughout 2019, there were 5 social events:

1

Lecture at Caiman Ecological Refuge for 10 children from the local village

2

Lecture at Caiman Ecological Refuge on jaguar identification and tour for 10 children from the local village

3

Conversation about the Release Center and tour with 15 employees and their families at Caiman Ecological Refuge

4

Lecture for 50 people, among them neighbors and farm employees, at Vera Lucia Farm, a property near the Negro River

5

Lecture and field trip for 25 students between the ages of 11 and 16 from the Bodoquena Municipal School

FORESTS

Onçafari Forests' goal is to preserve ecological interest areas, thus guaranteeing protection for all wild fauna and flora and maintaining the services and resources offered by all this biodiversity. Besides managing its own lands, it also helps to create new conservation units, either private (Private Natural Heritage Reserves - RPPNs, in Portuguese) or public (on a federal, state or city level) by offering technical studies that make them viable and engaging all the stakeholders in the process.



In 2019, a 300 hectares property was purchased by the margins of the São Benedito River, in the city of Jacareacanga, in the state of Pará. The property is close to the deforestation arch, a relevant agricultural frontier situated at the transition between the biomes of Cerrado and Amazon. Information signs and periodical monitoring guarantee the protection of this part of the forest near the water.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

NEW HIRES

With growing demand specifically for Onçafari tours from Brazilian and international guests at Caiman, four new biologists were hired and received specific training to become bilingual guides. These professionals are part of the Pantanal team and, when they are not guiding guests, they help monitor the jaguars in the region. At Trinjunção Inn, in the Cerrado, there was also a new hire.

The new professional is also a biologist, works directly in the field that involves maned wolf monitoring, and also helps guide tours and give talks for guests.

Currently, the executive field team has nine professionals at the Pantanal base and 2 professionals at the Cerrado base.



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

SPECIALIZED TEAM TRAINING

During the first two weeks of February, Onçafari provided, to all its guides, a training led by two professionals from South Africa. This training added theoretical and practical experiences, stimulating newly hired guides to begin in this profession and adding new knowledge to experienced field guides.



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

FOREST FIRES

Due to the intense period of drought in various regions of the world, this year brought several large forest fires globally. Unfortunately, the Pantanal region was also severely hit.

In the beginning of September, a forest fire of gigantic proportions reached Caiman Ecological Refuge's area and spread out, burning over 60% of the property. Besides helping fight the fire at the front line, the Onçafari team also joined forces to remove the jaguar Jatobazinho from the enclosure and move him to a neighboring property where he could stay until the fire stopped. After weeks of combat, the fire was finally suppressed, Jatobazinho returned to his enclosure and rains contributed to make the Pantanal scenery go from gray and burnt to green and vast.





MESSAGE FROM THE PARTNER

Eight years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Mário Habermeld, his excellent team and Onçafari. The institution was still establishing itself and evaluating how to expand, which results to seek and which model to use.

I remember my first moment at the Caiman Ecological Refuge, in July of that year, while it was still coming out of the wet season. That enchanted flooded space, the sky reflected in the floor below, a powerful sun, blue macaws flying low over our heads, caimans all around flowing under the bridge, nature as exuberant, beautiful, and majestic as it exists in few places. It was really unforgettable. The idea was to understand the project's touristic potential, which was evident from the first minute.

From there we began to talk about Onçafari's strategy and how it was built. Mário told me about his vast experience with trips to natural reserves all over the planet and how he identified a model in South Africa that could be applied in Brazil. It was by habituating the animals in the lands around Kruger Park that the country's whole ecotourism industry began a couple of decades ago. It's the main reason for that area's preservation today.


The secret for the Pantanal would be to make the jaguar visible, to habituate the animal to the presence of cars without domesticating it.

A proof of concept that could be expanded throughout Pantanal to position this reserve on humankind's global ecotourism map.

The jaguar – the third largest cat on the planet, owner of the strongest bite, an apex predator – was used as a catalyst to attract investments in infrastructure, to create countless new qualified jobs for the local population, including women, to protect the environment and to generate sustainable and sustained development.

The population wins with access to local work, education, and income. Businesspeople win with potential returns in multiple sectors. Governments win with higher revenues and economic health. In addition, we guarantee for the next generations the privilege to experience this wonderful ecosystem, allied with many personal growth opportunities.

The biggest results are still to come, but we have plenty of evidence we're on the right track. At first, only 5% of guests at the Caiman Ecological Refuge saw a jaguar. Now they are 98%. The inn's occupancy rate more than doubled, even with a significant increase in the cost of daily rates.



And Onçafari is pointed out as the main reason tourists visit. The base is solid. Other inns were created and are being introduced to the methodology so we can build an attractive ecotourism pole that's able to receive visitors of all types, interests, and budgets.

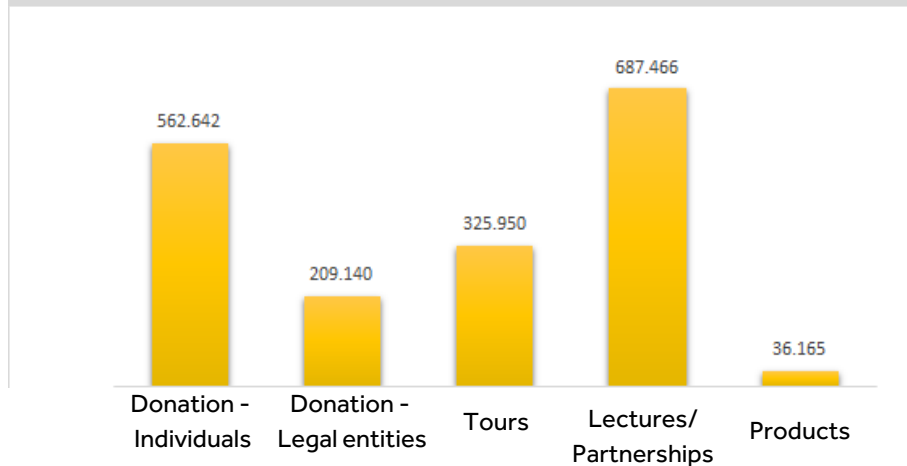
It's with that perspective of sustainable economic development that we work and maintain Bank of America's long-time support to Onçafari and hope to soon see the awakening of this Pantanal that belongs to all of us, nature lovers from all over the world!

Thiago Fernandes, Bank of America.

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESULTS

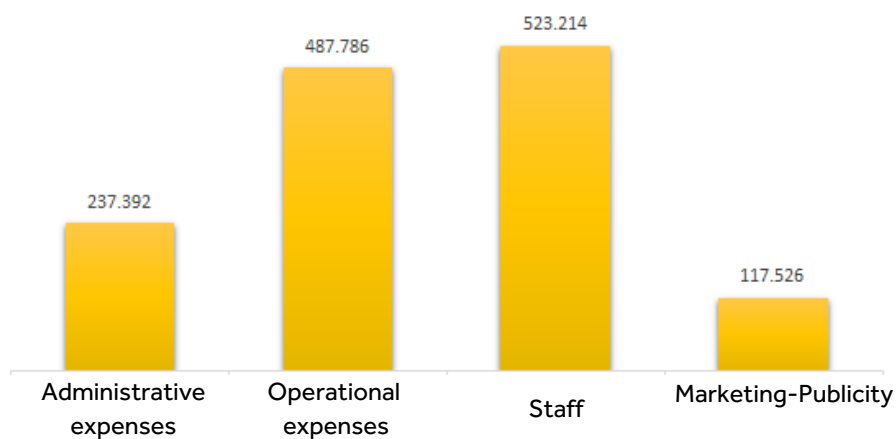
TOTAL

REVENUE



R\$ 1.821.363

EXPENSES



R\$ 1.365.918



Address:

R. Ferreira de Araújo, 221/225 - Cj.14 - Pinheiros
São Paulo/SP - CEP: 05428-000

Contact:

info@oncafari.org
+55 11 3094-7050