

Jaguar released in Argentina to help endangered species

January 1 2022, by Liliana Samuel



Handout picture released by Rewilding Argentina Foundation showing a five-year-old jaguar named Jatobazinho after he was released back into the wild at Ibera National Park, in Corrientes, on December 31, 2021.

A jaguar named Jatobazinho was released into a national park in Argentina Friday as part of a program to boost the numbers of this

endangered species.

This was the eighth jaguar freed this year into Ibera National Park but the first adult male, said the environmental group Rewilding Argentina, which is behind the project.

Jatobazinho weighs about 90 kilos (200 pounds) and has brown fur peppered with black spots.

He first appeared at a rural school in 2018 in Brazil, looking skinny and weak after crossing a river from Paraguay.

The big cat spent a year in an animal refuge in Brazil until he was sent to a jaguar reintroduction center operating since 2012 in Argentina's northeast Corrientes province, where the species had been extinct for 70 years.

Sebastian Di Martino, a biologist with Rewilding Argentina, said that as the jaguar needed to be nice and relaxed as it left its enclosure and entered the wild.

"If the animal is stressed it can become disoriented and end up anywhere," he said.

He said these jaguars were fed live prey while in captivity because they have to know how to hunt.

In the Ibera park, there is plenty of wildlife for them to feed on such as deer.

The jaguars are tracked with a GPS device they wear.

There are plans now to release a female that was born at the

reintroduction center.

The [park](#) is also awaiting the arrival of three wild jaguars from Paraguay, and two more raised in captivity in Uruguay and Brazil.

Jaguars are native to the Americas.

It is estimated there were more than 100,000 jaguars when Europeans arrived in the 15th century, their habitat ranging from semi-desert areas of North America to the tropical forests of South America.

Conservation groups say the [jaguar](#) population of South America has fallen by up to 25 percent over the past 20 years as deforestation eats up their habitat.

© 2022 AFP

Citation: Jaguar released in Argentina to help endangered species (2022, January 1) retrieved 30 May 2023 from <https://phys.org/news/2022-01-jaguar-argentina-endangered-species.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.