



# JAGUAR RESCUE CENTER

Annual Impact Report

2025

# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

The global biodiversity crisis is no longer a distant warning, it is unfolding in real time. Wildlife populations worldwide have declined dramatically over recent decades, with the steepest losses occurring in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the Jaguar Rescue Center (JRC), these global trends arrive at our doors every day. Injured, orphaned, and displaced animals brought to our clinic reflect the growing pressures wildlife face as forests intersect with roads, electrical infrastructure, tourism development, and expanding communities.

Costa Rica represents less than **0.03% of the Earth's land surface**, yet it contains nearly **6% of the planet's biodiversity**. Protecting wildlife within landscapes such as the **Talamanca Biological Corridor**, part of the wider Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, is therefore globally significant.

Wildlife rehabilitation centers like JRC have become something more than places of care. They now function as part of the conservation infrastructure itself, responding to wildlife emergencies while helping maintain the balance within these increasingly fragile ecosystems.

This work has always been deeply personal to me, but it is sustained by a dedicated team and a growing community of supporters who make it possible every day.

After studying biology in Barcelona and working with primates at the Barcelona Zoo, I came to Costa Rica to dedicate my life to wildlife conservation. Today, living alongside the center, I remain closely connected to the work on the ground, while our team continues to expand the impact of JRC's mission.

Every rescue reminds us how fragile these ecosystems have become.

Every animal returned to the forest helps restore the balance that sustains tropical wildlife.

Thank you for standing with us to protect and restore the wildlife and forests of Costa Rica's Caribbean region.



**ENCAR GARCIA**  
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

# OUR IMPACT IN 2025



Animals rescued  
**1,429**



Community participants reached  
**2,497**



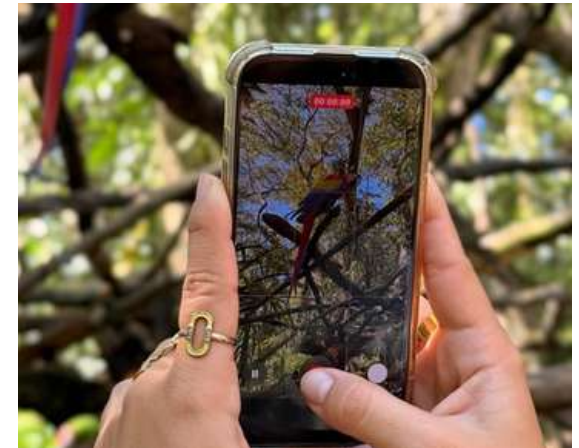
Transformers insulated through  
**Shock Free Zone 34**



Wildlife canopy crossings installed  
**10**



Protected forest managed for wildlife release  
**50 hectares**



**410,885 followers**  
across social media platforms

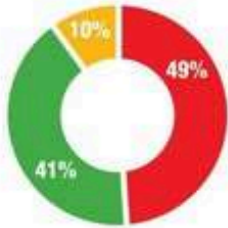
Wildlife rescue operations take place **24 hours a day, 365 days a year**, in collaboration with Costa Rican authorities including MINAE, firefighters, police, and coast guard teams.



## 1429 Rescued animals

- Released (590)
- Dead (697)
- In the Center (142)

### All animals



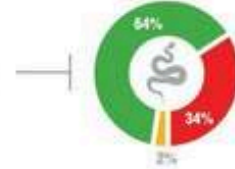
### Mammals



### Birds

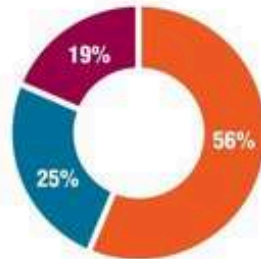


### Reptiles

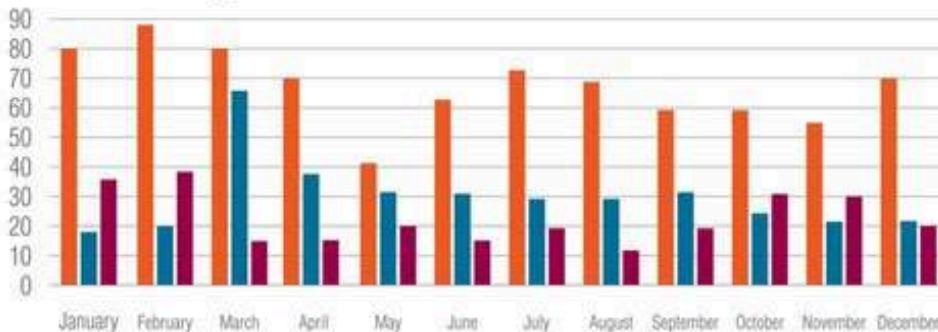


## All animals (1429)

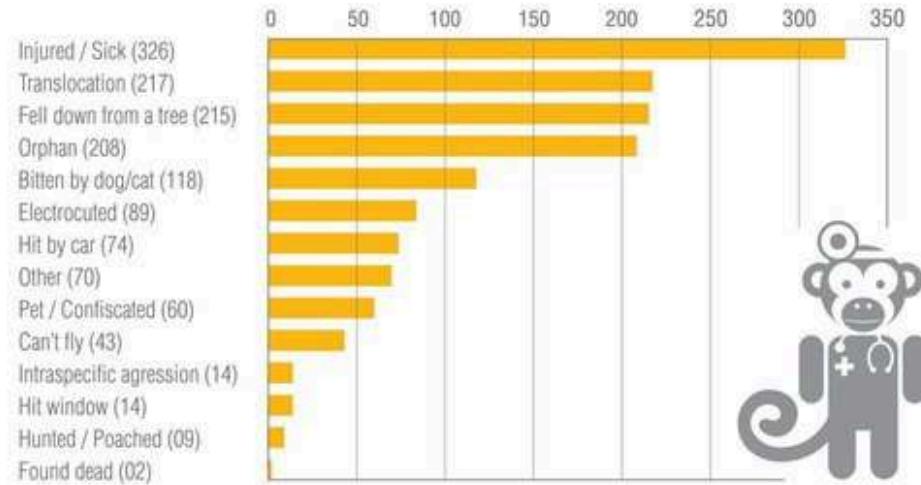
- Mammals (807)
- Birds (352)
- Reptiles (270)



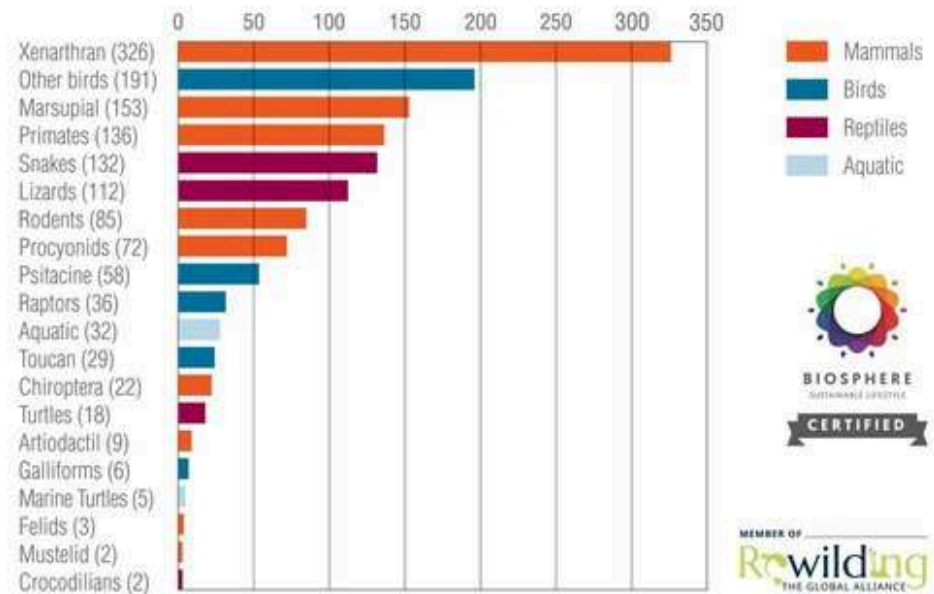
## Admissions per month



## Cause of admission



## Admission by taxon





## Protecting Wildlife in a Global Biodiversity Corridor

Costa Rica's Caribbean region forms part of the **Talamanca Biological Corridor**, one of the most biologically rich landscapes in the Americas and a key component of the wider **Mesoamerican Biological Corridor**.

These interconnected forests allow wildlife to move between protected areas, Indigenous territories, and community lands. Maintaining ecological connectivity across these corridors is essential for preserving biodiversity and supporting the long-term resilience of tropical ecosystems.

Within this landscape, the Jaguar Rescue Center plays a unique role by responding to wildlife emergencies, rehabilitating injured animals, and returning them to functioning ecosystems where they contribute to forest regeneration and ecological balance.

# From Rescue to Ecosystem Recovery

Many wildlife injuries treated at the center are preventable.

Animals frequently arrive after:

- electrocutions on power lines
- vehicle collisions
- domestic animal attacks
- habitat fragmentation

When animals recover, they are released into protected forest areas such as **La Ceiba**, the Jaguar Rescue Center's release site within the Talamanca Biological Corridor.

Species such as sloths and monkeys play essential roles in **seed dispersal and forest regeneration**, contributing to the ecological health of tropical forests.

Wildlife centers like JRC also function as an **early warning system for emerging threats to biodiversity**, helping identify patterns of wildlife injuries linked to infrastructure and human activity.



# Our Conservation Model

Established in 2008, the Jaguar Rescue Center is dedicated to helping animals in need and promoting coexistence between people and wildlife.

Our work operates through three interconnected pillars:

## Conservation

Rescue, veterinary treatment, rehabilitation, and release of injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife.

## Education

Environmental education programs, community outreach, and responsible tourism awareness.

## Research

Collaboration with universities and scientists studying wildlife ecology, veterinary medicine, and conservation.

In **2025**, these collaborations resulted in **three peer-reviewed scientific publications** related to wildlife rehabilitation and sloth health.



# Our Facilities and Protected Forest

The Jaguar Rescue Center operates across two main sites in Costa Rica's southern Caribbean region.

## RESCUE CENTER AND SANCTUARY – COCLES

Located near the Caribbean coast, these facilities provide veterinary care and rehabilitation for injured wildlife and permanent sanctuary for animals that cannot be released.



## LA CEIBA FOREST RESERVE

Located 4.5 km from the center, this protected area serves as a release site for rehabilitated wildlife.



Since 2014, JRC has acquired and manages **50 hectares of tropical forest**, including **35 hectares of primary forest**, helping restore wildlife populations within the Talamanca Biological Corridor.

# Preventing Wildlife Injuries

Rescue alone cannot solve the growing threats wildlife face. Preventing injuries is a key part of JRC's conservation strategy.

## Shock Free Zone

In partnership with Costa Rica's national electricity institute (ICE), electrical infrastructure is modified to reduce wildlife electrocutions.

In 2025 these efforts included:

- insulation of **34 electrical transformers**
- protection of **2.1 km of secondary lines**
- insulation of **1.1 km of primary electrical lines**

## Canopy Bridges

10 new wildlife crossings reconnect now fragmented forest canopy, allowing arboreal animals to move safely across roads.



# Community and Education Impact

Environmental education is a central pillar of the Jaguar Rescue Center's mission.

The **JRC Community Program**, launched in 2022, works to raise awareness among children, youth, and adults about environmental challenges and conservation solutions.

In 2025 the program reached **2,497 participants** through:

- educational tours for schools and institutions
- community workshops and talks
- environmental restoration initiatives
- waste cleanup projects

These initiatives help strengthen community engagement in conservation and encourage coexistence with wildlife.



# Women in Conservation Leadership

The Jaguar Rescue Center was founded by biologist Encar García and her late husband, whose shared commitment to wildlife protection shaped the organization's early years.

Today **60% of the JRC team are women**, serving across veterinary care, wildlife management, education, administration, and conservation programs.

From treating injured animals to coordinating rescues and engaging local communities, their leadership plays a vital role in protecting the biodiversity of Costa Rica's Caribbean forests.



# Global Recognition

In 2025 the Jaguar Rescue Center joined the **Global Rewilding Alliance**, a network of organizations working to restore ecosystems and biodiversity worldwide.

The center also renewed **Biosphere Certification**, recognizing its commitment to responsible tourism, environmental protection, and sustainable engagement with local communities.

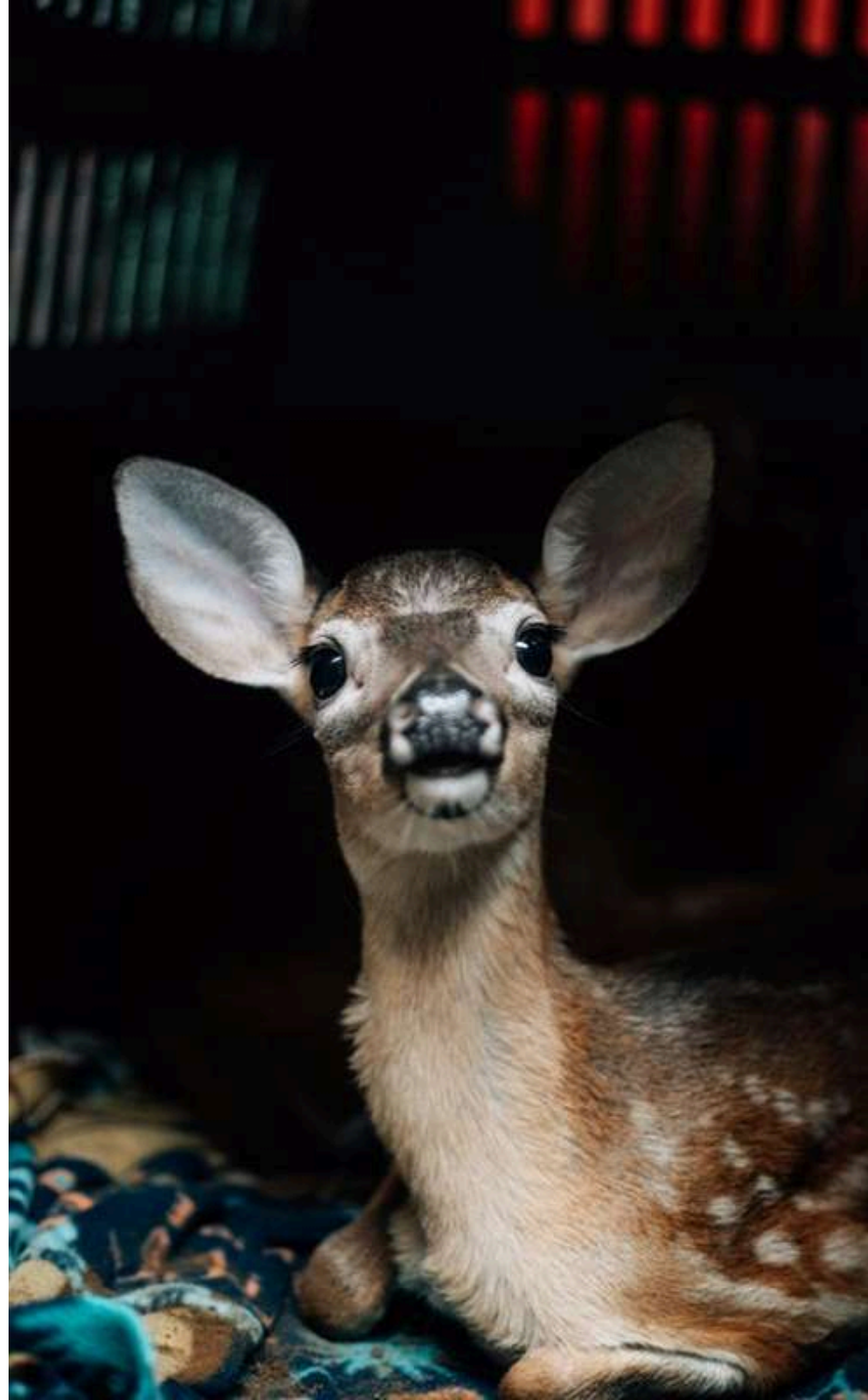
Local conservation efforts like JRC contribute to broader global goals, including the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, which calls for protecting **30 percent of the planet's land and oceans by 2030, the 30x30 target**.

These efforts support the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly:

- **SDG 15 – Life on Land**
- **SDG 13 – Climate Action**
- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**



**BIOSPHERE**  
SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE



# Financial information

In 2025, approximately 69% of expenditures supported conservation activities, including wildlife rescue, veterinary care, rehabilitation infrastructure, and habitat protection initiatives. This reflects JRC's primary focus on protecting wildlife and strengthening the ecological resilience of Costa Rica's Caribbean forests. To help readers understand how financial resources support conservation outcomes, expenses are presented across two functional categories: conservation work (programs and infrastructure) and administration and organizational support.

Charitable contributions are managed through the CEIBA Foundation, our Costa Rican nonprofit partner, ensuring transparent financial reporting and alignment with conservation outcomes delivered by the Jaguar Rescue Center.

## 2025 Financial Overview

Total Donations Received: \$349,490

Total Expenses: \$394,969

## Conservation Work

(Programs + Infrastructure) | \$253,018 | 69%

## Administration & Support

| \$111,533 | 31%

## Conservation Work (Programs + Infrastructure)

This category includes direct conservation programs and infrastructure investments that increase the center's ability to rescue, treat, rehabilitate, and release wildlife. Expenses include veterinary products (\$4,491), conservation social projects (\$9,460), and construction and expansion of rehabilitation and veterinary facilities (\$239,067).

## Administration & Support

This category includes essential organizational costs required to operate responsibly and maintain professional management, financial oversight, and regulatory compliance. Expenses include administrative expenses (\$47,551), salaries and social charges (\$59,236), and professional services (\$4,746). Every contribution directly supports wildlife rescue and conservation programs.

This structure ensures that contributions are both responsibly managed and directly translated into measurable conservation impact.

Every contribution is carefully stewarded to support wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and the long-term resilience of these ecosystems.

2025 reflects a planned investment year, during which the Center strategically utilized prior-year funds to expand rescue, rehabilitation, and veterinary infrastructure in support of long-term conservation impact.

This structure ensures that contributions are responsibly managed and directly translated into measurable conservation outcomes.



## Looking Ahead: 2026-2028 Priorities

As wildlife emergencies continue to increase across Costa Rica's Caribbean region, the Jaguar Rescue Center is entering a new phase focused on scaling prevention, strengthening veterinary response capacity, and expanding wildlife-safe infrastructure.

**Over the next three years, the organization aims to:**

- Expand the Shock Free Zone program to reduce wildlife electrocutions across priority corridors.
- Strengthen veterinary and rehabilitation capacity to respond to rising wildlife emergencies.
- Protect and manage forest habitat critical for wildlife release and recovery.
- Expand environmental education and community engagement across the Talamanca region.
- Develop long-term conservation partnerships aligned with global biodiversity goals.

**With the right partnerships and sustained support, these priorities can significantly reduce preventable wildlife injuries and strengthen the ecological resilience of Costa Rica's Caribbean forests. As a small organization that does not receive government funding for our work, this work is made possible through the continued support of our community of partners, supporters, and collaborators. We are therefore deeply grateful to all who make this work possible and look forward to continuing this effort together in the years ahead.**



## STORY OF HOPE

At the end of 2025, eight howler monkeys took an important step in a journey that began years ago. Many of them arrived at the center as infants, vulnerable and fully dependent on human care. Over time, through long-term rehabilitation, they grew stronger and more independent, gradually developing the skills they will need to survive in the wild.

They have now been transferred to La Ceiba, our primary forest release site, located deep within protected habitat. This is not the end of their story, but the beginning of a new phase.

In the forest, they will continue adapting with minimal human intervention, progressively integrating with wild groups and strengthening the behaviors required for full independence.

Rewilding is a gradual process that can take years. These eight monkeys represent that long-term commitment, where rescue is only the first step, and true success happens over time, in the forest where they belong.



# THANK YOU!

Wildlife rescue is only possible thanks to the support of our community. Supporters, visitors, volunteers, and conservation partners make this work possible. Together we are helping wildlife return to the forests where they belong.