

Chacoan Peccary (*Catagonus wagneri*)

The Chacoan peccary is an endemic and endangered species that inhabits the thorn forests of the Gran Chaco of Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina. The Gran Chaco is the second largest eco-region in South America after the Amazonia. In 1993, the entire Chacoan peccary population was estimated to be less than 5,000 individuals and has been declining since then. The situation for the Chacoan peccary keeps deteriorating, primarily because of habitat destruction and over-hunting. Recent economic changes have greatly boosted the export of natural resources and agriculture production. Large areas of forest are being replaced with intensive ranching and agriculture. These trends, in addition to the already unsustainable subsistence hunting that occurs in the region, represent a major threat to the survival of the Chacoan peccary. Despite the importance and critical situation of this species, little is being done for its protection. The last, and only, conservation plan for the species was written more than 20 years ago. Learn more at the [IUCN Red List](#).



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Priority Goals

Representatives from Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia, representing government agencies, indigenous communities, Mennonite communities, NGOs, and research institutions reviewed the species status and distribution and ran population viability and habitat suitability models. Participants created a vision, identified problems, and determined goals and actions to address the main threats: habitat loss, hunting, and lack of knowledge. Potential roles for captive breeding programs were also assessed.

- All responsible institutions for hunting control operate efficiently and in a coordinated way.
- The species is considered emblematic of Chaco conservation and under the maximum level of protection.
- There is no illegal hunting, pet trade, or commercialization of Tagua hides and community-based monitoring programs of subsistence hunting and biological data are implemented.
- Education programs about responsible ownership of dogs and dogs' impact on wildlife are implemented to reduce the number of dogs to the minimum necessary.
- The value of the Chaco ecosystem, its resources and services, is recognized.
- There is interaction among relevant actors (government, research institutions, NGOs, etc.) to promote sustainable alternatives of forest management and livestock. Ideas and information are exchanged between academic and productive sectors.
- Regulations for sustainable practices are improved and designed to be locally appropriate and coordinated among the three range countries.
- New protected areas are created and the existent ones are consolidated.
- Alternative methods to facilitate the titling of land for local people within the species range are identified and promoted to secure land rights.
- There is a standardized system for monitoring the species and its habitat use as well as standardized protocols for radio telemetry studies.
- There is information about the biology and ecology of the species as well as its socio-economic value and the different perceptions of stakeholders. The research priorities identified are available at the higher education institutions to encourage research on these topics (CONICET, CONACIT, universities, etc.).
- Locally adapted environmental education programs are established in local languages, addressing the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices.
- Captive breeding centers obtain and provide biological and genetic information on the species and develop a standardized protocol for captive management.
- There is a collaborative system among captive breeding centers, the IUCN Specialist group, and CCCI, and CCCI works as a key center for educational activities about the species.

Full workshop report available at: <http://www.cbsg.org/content/chacoan-peccary-conservation-strategy-2016>
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