


**Summer Field School [Online] on
 MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine :: 19-28 September, 2021**

DELEGATE PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE

	<p>Dr. Cláudia Sofia Guerreiro Martins <i>Researcher</i> Center for Ecology and Environmental Monitoring Federal University of São Francisco Valley and Institute for the Conservation of Neotropical Carnivores</p> <p>Petrolina, PE, Brazil Tel: +5587992039152 Email: csgmartins@gmail.com</p>
<p>Highest Education</p>	<p>Doctor of Science (Applied Ecology)</p>
<p>Personal Statement</p>	<p>Dear colleagues!</p> <p>I am happy and grateful for the opportunity to enjoy almost 10 days of this incredible event with you! Despite the fact of being virtual, I am sure the interchange will be a milestone in our lives - and with the safety assured in these uncertain times we live in.</p> <p>Shortly I will introduce myself to you and convey to you my sincere availability to further questions. Let us turn this encounter into a step to establish an upbuilding network, considering our common goals, aims and values. I am a Portuguese agricultural engineer residing in Brazil since 2005. I moved abroad with the purpose of doing my master's in applied ecology. However, after the master's degree, opportunities to engage in new projects in different states and biomes kept me in the country for the next few years. When I made up my mind to go back to Portugal, because I was driven too far from my background, an opportunity to start a pioneer program of jaguar and puma conservation in an exclusively Brazilian biome kept me in Brazil... again. Seven years later here I am. In 2020 I finished my doctorate, but the uniqueness of the region encouraged me to apply to a post as</p>

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	<p>a researcher in a program of prevention and combat to desertification, hosted in the University. Yes, I live and work in the second most vulnerable Brazilian biome to climate change - conditions are challenging for people and wildlife. I guess that we value what challenges us more.</p> <p>I have been very lucky with the teams I had the chance to be part of. The group of women in the jaguar and puma conservation and the amazing group of researchers doing degraded land restoration on a large scale, along São Francisco River Transposition and Spix's macaw ecosystem within protected areas... - want to be good? Join the best! I wish each one of you may have the chance to see in person the challenging and rewarding region called 'Caatinga'. Meanwhile, let us make the forthcoming Summer School on 'Mountain Ecosystems and Resource Management' a pleasant and enriching gathering, going beyond the gazing of our individual achievements towards collective commitments for a common good and a better world for all living beings on Earth. I rely on your recommendations and personal and academic performances to inspire me to improve my own role as conservationist and educator.</p> <p>Thank you for accepting me!</p>
Paper/Presentation Title (Unpublished Research or Review or Field Work)	<i>Jaguar and Puma – Scapegoats for weak governance?</i>
Keywords	Biodiversity conflicts; Semiarid; Jaguar; Puma; Human dimensions
Abstract (100-300 words)	Caatinga is an exclusively Brazilian Seasonally Dry Tropical Forest and Woodlands, where endangered jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>) and puma (<i>Puma concolor</i>) cooccur with the lowest regional Human Development Indexes. In 2018 a 9,000 km ² polygon of protected areas was established. Modern land uses, like wind farms and mining, challenge traditional livelihoods, and threaten jaguar and puma populations (historically poached in retaliation for livestock depredation)

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	<p>and its habitats. Chronicle biodiversity conflicts became acute after a reported increase in depredation, allegedly a consequence of those changes in territory and related stakeholders' arrival.</p> <p>I led a pioneer research on the vulnerability of rural communities to jaguar-and-puma conflicts, using the framework of human dimensions of wildlife management. A pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire approved by the Committee of Ethics was applied face-to-face to 134 adults, to collect data on attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, beliefs, and socioeconomic conditions. The aim was to identify, describe, understand, and predict human behavior.</p> <p>Exploratory research revealed a negative attitude of 72% and 35.2% towards the proximity of jaguar and proximity of puma, respectively. However, asked about perceptions of risks to personal safety and to livelihood, most respondents stated that jaguar do not pose a threat. Asked about institutions working for jaguar and puma protection, and about institutions working for people facing problems caused by jaguar or puma, 64.9% and 88.8% of participants, respectively, were unaware of them. Regarding beliefs about co-occurrence with jaguars or pumas, 80.9% and 82.9% of respondents, respectively, mentioned more problems than benefits, with 74.5% of believers in the increase of both species' populations due to the establishment of protected areas. It seems to lack communication between stakeholders, and to prevail a perception of prioritization of wildlife welfare instead of a movement towards reducing dwellers' vulnerability. This may pave the way for jaguar and puma becoming scapegoats of human-wildlife conflicts.</p>
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