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Habitat loss is a major threat to jaguars, but by supporting communities in Bolivia to develop forest-friendly livelihoods we can help turn the tide on deforestation, which means the big cats' home can be preserved

MANURUPI WILDLIFE RESERVE  
NORTH-WEST BOLIVIA

# Hello!

## Welcome to your latest jaguar update



**Michelle Peñaranda,** monitoring and wildlife officer (south-west Amazon), WWF-Bolivia

Hi, I'm Michelle. I'm passionate about wildlife conservation, because for me the health of the wildlife reflects the health of the Amazon. Studying animals here – including your adopted

jaguars – enables us to find ways to protect the rainforest, and this benefits the communities whose livelihoods and wellbeing depend on the forest. My goal is to encourage people to embrace the view that we all share the same home. Each living being plays a role in nature, and the absence of any one of them has far-reaching consequences. Turn over to learn about our efforts in Bolivia, where we're working with local communities to protect forests through sustainable, forest-friendly livelihoods. **Thanks for your support!**

### MEET THE ADOPTION TEAM

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# FIELD NOTES

"I love nature, I think she's my friend," says Manuel

# FRUITS OF THE FOREST

## In Bolivia, we're supporting communities to protect the Amazon while harvesting its delicious forest foods



It's early morning in the rainforest in National Protected Area Reserve of Manuripi Wildlife, in the north-western corner of Bolivia. Amid the hush of the forest, Manuel Salvatierra skilfully climbs a towering palm tree, up to heights shared with macaws and monkeys. Sliding back down to the forest floor, he cradles a bunch of deep violet berries: "My little açais," he breathes.

Producers like Manuel have developed a close relationship with the Amazon rainforest. The trees are vital not only for the survival of wildlife like your adopted jaguars, but also for local communities who depend on the bounty of the forest for their livelihoods – fruits, nuts and other natural resources that can be harvested without causing harm to the trees or the species that call them home.

Between January and March, these communities harvest Brazil nuts. But

yields depend on reliable rainfall, and can vary dramatically from year to year. From April, their focus shifts to açai berries, the fruits of the açai palm tree. Indigenous peoples of the Amazon have consumed these blueberry-like berries for centuries, but in recent years the fruit's appeal has expanded beyond their homeland. Due to their potential antioxidant properties and associated health benefits, açai berries have become globally popular in smoothies and juices, fuelling a staggering rise in demand.

Importantly for Manuel and other producers, açai berries boast greater climate resilience than Brazil nuts, as they're better

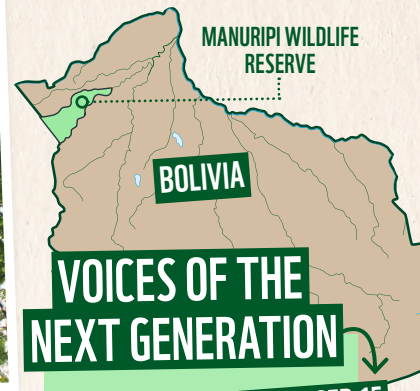


Going up!

With his years of experience, Manuel now teaches others how to scale the tallest trees



Manuel adores açai berries



## VOICES OF THE NEXT GENERATION

LIBANIA, AGED 15

"Taking care of the forest is important because everything is connected, and it's a beautiful place. The jaguar takes care of nature, protects nature, like all the animals that live in the forest."



equipped to withstand dry conditions and reduced rainfall – a crucial advantage in a warming world.

Unlike Brazil nuts, açai berries spoil quickly, so they're usually pulped when fresh and then frozen. "In the afternoon, I deliver my berries to the processing plant, where they're weighed and registered," explains Manuel. He's a member of the Villa Florida community in Manuripi reserve, so fortunately his journey is a short one. Built with the support of WWF, his local açai processing plant offers not only convenience, but also boosts the value of the berries by preserving them when they're at their freshest.

"The plant is the best thing about our community," says 15-year-old Maily. "It benefits us all. Now we have enough money to go to school."

Forest products like açai berries can only thrive in healthy rainforests, which makes these ecosystems more valuable when they're intact – the opposite of the usual rift between agriculture and the natural environment. Unsurprisingly, the people who rely on these products are deeply protective of the forests that sustain them. "There's no deforestation in Manuripi reserve because we manage the forest for its fruits," explains Manuel. "If we felled the trees, we'd lose the fruits that enable us to support our families." It's a win-win for jaguars and people.

Your invaluable support enables us to work with local communities to protect the rainforest and monitor jaguars in the Manuripi reserve and beyond. This helps to safeguard the wildlife and people whose future is inextricably intertwined with the fate of the Amazon. Thank you.

Michelle



DANIEL, AGED 16

"It's important to protect jaguars because we view them as owners of the entire forest. We need to take care of the forests, because not only are they the jaguar's home but they clean the air we breathe."

"I'm very proud of caring for the Amazon, and all the beautiful, interesting animals and plants that call it home."

DAN, AGED 16



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