

Project Update: December 2016

Jaguar activity was primarily nocturnal (86% of records between 18:00 and 06:00), with peaks early and late at night. Terrestrial prey exhibited a diurnal activity pattern (87% of records between 06:00 and 18:00), while sea turtles were strictly nocturnal. The activity and movements of jaguars were positively correlated with the nesting cycles of sea turtles, suggesting they are an important prey for jaguars in the study area. The presence of jaguars on the beach and the number of sea turtles killed by jaguars were negatively correlated with the number of people who visited the beach. Temporal and spatial displacement of jaguars caused by tourism should be further investigated; however, restricting the access of tourists to the beach at night might substantially decrease their interference in the predation of sea turtles by jaguars. Further research should tap on the ecological significance of the jaguar-turtle interaction and its potential impact for the conservation of both species.

