



ITM INDIGENOUS TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT

▶ **TACANA INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

SUBSISTENCE HUNTING IN THE TACANA INDIGENOUS TERRITORY



**SOCIOCULTURAL
VALUE**

The self-monitoring of hunting: social, cultural, and economic sustainability

Hunting is an essential activity for the social, cultural, and economic wellbeing of the Tacana people who depend on a wide diversity of mammal, bird, and reptile species for their subsistence. The Tacana possess valuable knowledge about the biology and ecology of their local wildlife. Such information includes reproductive cycles, diet information, and perception about which species are vulnerable. The Tacana use firearms, but have also maintained traditional hunting methods such as the bow and arrow, along with traps.

Given the importance of hunting for the Tacana, a self-registration system was put in place from 2001–2008 with 114 hunters from five Tacana communities: Cachichira, Villa Fátima, San Antonio del Tequeje, Esperanza, and Carmen del Emero. The Tacana hunters used the information gathered to make management decisions such as the reduction of hunting intensity for certain species, including the lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*).

Through self-monitoring, 55 species were registered, including 27 mammals, 24 birds, and four reptiles. This involved completing forms with information on: hunting dates, location, departure and arrival times, as well as species and their age, weight, sex, reproductive state, and the end destination of the bushmeat.

The greatest number of recorded entries (49.5%), relate to six species: the white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*), the Bolivian red howler monkey (*Alouatta sara*), the South American coati (*Nasua nasua*), the yellow-spotted river turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*), the brown capuchin monkey (*Sapajus apella*) and the Bolivian squirrel monkey (*Saimiri boliviensis*). Other regularly hunted species were the collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*), the razor-billed curassow (*Mitu tuberosum*), the black-faced black spider monkey (*Ateles chamek*), and the yellow-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis denticulata*).

Three species were preferred for their meat: the white-lipped peccary followed by the tapir and the collared peccary. These three large mammal species account for 56% of the total harvested volume of bush meat. Another 13 species account for 40% of harvested biomass, and the remaining 39 species represent just 4% of harvested bush meat.



Mileniusz Spanowicz/WCS

It is important to highlight that for all species more than 60% of hunted individuals were adults, which is an evidence that wildlife populations remained stable. This is an indicator of the sustainability of hunting and forest health. It also demonstrates the contribution of territorial management by the Tacana people to the conservation of wildlife and the food security of their households.

Since 2014, a new self-monitoring hunting registration system has been implemented involving schools in the Tacana indigenous territory. Schoolchildren complete hunting records in their My Wildlife Monitoring Notebooks. This represents a new focus for the registration system and links to the aims of the Regional School Curriculum to strengthen ethnic and cultural identities, approved by the Ministry of Education in 2016.

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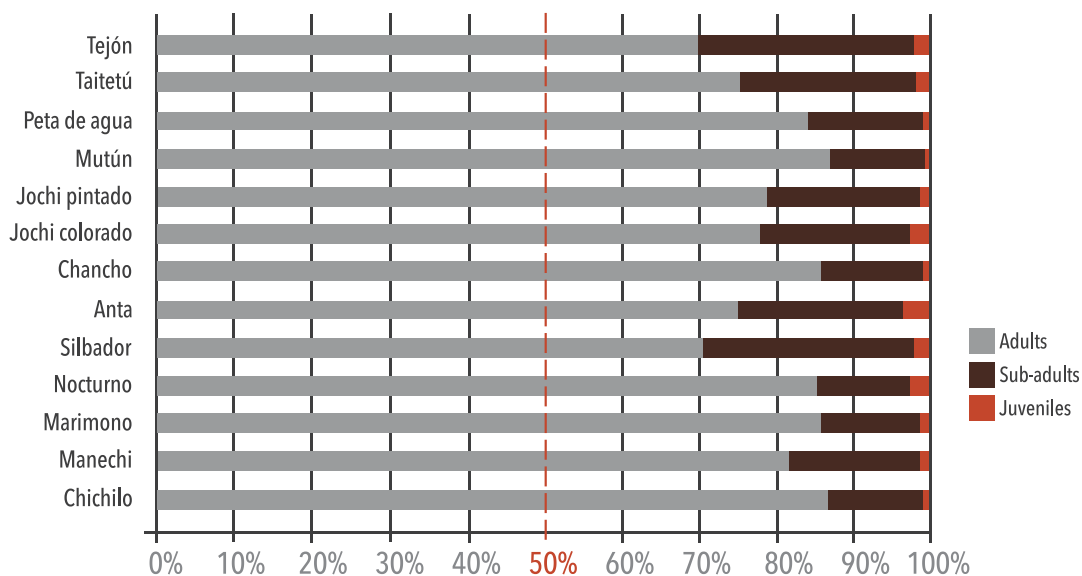
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Age proportion of hunted individuals by species



Hunting is considered sustainable if the percentage of adults is greater than 50%.

* The graph shows that more than 70% of the individuals of the species hunted in the tacana territory are adults, demonstrating that the use of wild fauna by the tacana communities is sustainable.

Food security and the economic contribution of subsistence hunting for Tacana households

The self-monitoring of hunting is a useful instrument for the Tacana people. It enables them to gather valuable information and take decisions that ensure the activity's long-term sustainability while promoting habitat conservation and the preservation of wildlife.

Over seven years, the total biomass of bush-meat obtained through hunting by 77 Tacana households is estimated at 182,135 kg and a daily consumption of 150 g/per person. The economic value of hunting is calculated by the weight of the animals in kg multiplied by the cost of a kilo of beef sold in the market US\$ 5. This gives a total value of US\$ 910,675, providing an average total income of US\$ 11,827 per household, which represents an approximate average annual bush meat subsidy per household of US\$ 1,690.

The monitoring program results show that subsistence hunting obtained on average a daily protein supply of 30 g consumed per person (kg/day/person). This demonstrates the important contribution of land management in the Tacana territory to families, in particular those isolated from population centers. This type of forest contribution has scarcely been quantified in economic terms, and with such significant data in terms of time and the number of participating communities, the Tacana hunting self-registry is a regionally important effort.

HUNTING

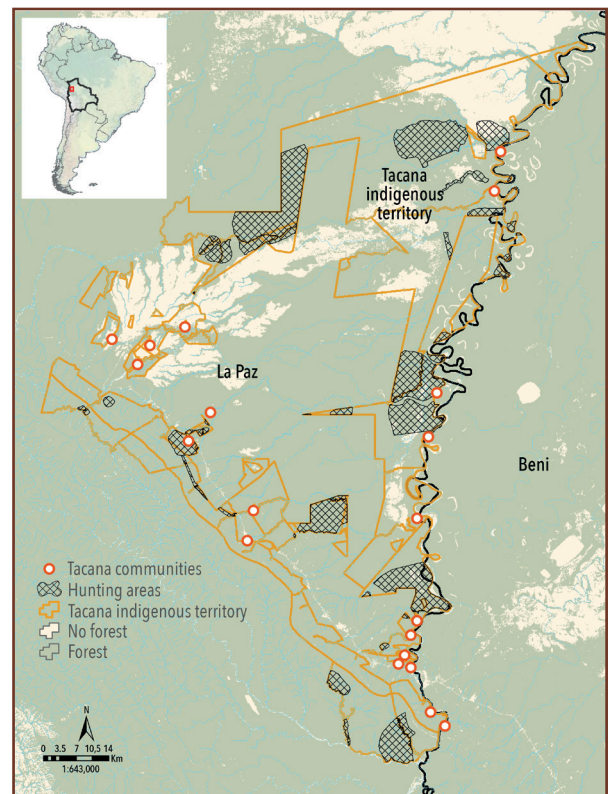
Hunting has always had an important role in the cultural and economic life of the Tacana people. It is not only considered a means of subsistence, but is an integral part of their social life and spiritual world. Hunters observe a series of rituals directed at the spirits, or "edutzis," of wild animals. Their hunting knowledge, beliefs, and practices have enabled the Tacana people to endure over time and have guided their close relationship with wildlife and its conservation.

SUBSISTENCE HUNTING IS A TRADITIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE TACANA PEOPLE, WHICH MAINTAINS STABLE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

Hunting is an important activity for the Tacana Indigenous People

- The indigenous peoples of the Amazon possess a wealth of knowledge and practices for wildlife management and the conservation of healthy wildlife populations in their territories.
- The traditions and culture of the Tacana people support the responsible use of wildlife.
- The welfare of wildlife species is guided by research and approved by local communities and CIPTA, their representative indigenous organization.
- The hunting of species in danger of extinction, such as the giant otter, is forbidden by Tacana law.
- Vulnerable species like the lowland tapir are protected through actions to reduce the intensity of hunting.
- Subsistence hunting, along with fishing and agriculture, ensure food security by providing the necessary protein in the diet of Tacana households.
- Hunting preserves an ancestral cultural tradition and is essential for ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

Hunting areas within the Tacana indigenous territory



This study was conducted by the Tacana Indigenous People's Council (CIPTA) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and was supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Blue Moon Fund.