

Juan Carlos Huaranca. / Active Member

One of the groups of animals that caught his attention from his childhood were carnivores, such as lions and tigers. In his undergraduate years he had the fortune of being able to observe (albeit accidentally) several species of native carnivores, such as foxes and small cats, even without being able to recognize the species. As he progressed in his career, he had the opportunity to do an internship in Argentina with colleagues working with Andean Cats. There he learned much more about this species and had the fortune of making his first Andean cat sighting.

Being a member of AGA, he has coordinated several projects focused on obtaining information about the Andean cat in different locations in Bolivia. Currently he is working on his PhD in Sciences with a major in Conservation and Management of Natural Resources in Chile. His doctoral thesis focuses on evaluating the effects of livestock on Andean cat populations. In the near future, he will focus on the development of projects that help reduce the effect of threats on the Andean cat, mainly mining and cattle grazing. Additionally, he is focused on strengthening the knowledge of the distribution and local perceptions of the Andean cat, its habitat and its associated species.