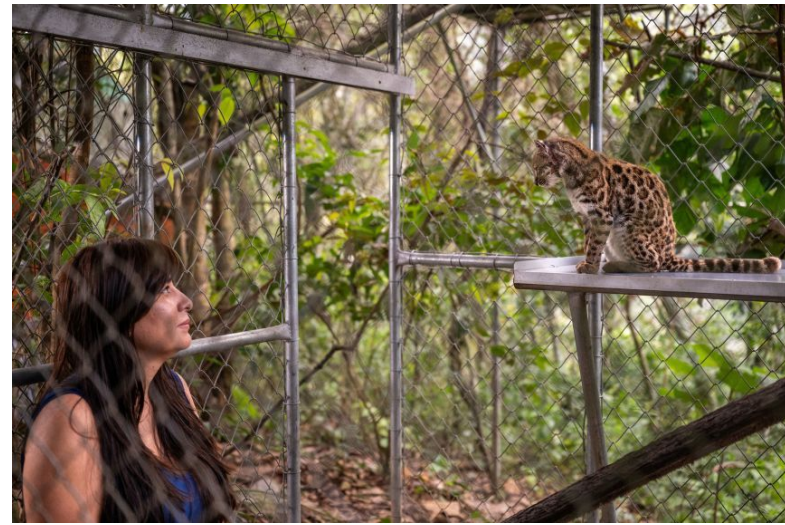


THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

In 2016 a man in Bolivia's Nor Yungas region found a tiny kitten by the side of the road and took it home thinking it was a domestic cat. About a year later he handed the clearly wild animal named 'Tigrino' to the Senda Verde wildlife **sanctuary**, as it was clearly not a domestic cat but a tiger cat.

Bolivian scientist Paola Nogales-Ascarrunz was volunteering at the sanctuary when she noticed that Tigrino's markings did not match those of other tiger cat species. Dr Nogales-Ascarrunz investigated Tigrino's DNA and working with other tiger cat researchers all over South America she has discovered that Tigrino is the only known member of a distinct species of tiger cat now named *Leopardus tilcayo* ([Current Biology article](#) / [BBC News summary](#)).

Their work also showed that there are at least five distinct species of tiger cats, not the previously thought three, and brings the number of known cat species worldwide to 44. Locals in Yungas have known about the *tilcayo* cats for years, though the dense forests that they live in are threatened with deforestation.



- If you found a kitten by the side of the road what would you do with it?
- Does a career being a research scientist studying new wild animal species appeal to you?
- Does a unique species of tiger cat living in the Yungas forests make this habitat more important to protect or does it make no difference?

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

A ten-year-old tiger cat living in a **sanctuary** in Bolivia named 'Tigrino' has been identified by scientist Dr Paola Nogales-Ascarrunz as the only known member of a unique species known locally as tilcayo and given the species name *Leopardus tilcayo* ([BBC News](#)).

Using the cat's DNA, Paola and other South American scientists found there are five species of tiger cat, not the previously thought three. Though the dense Bolivian forest habitat of the tilcayo are at threat from deforestation.



- If you found a kitten by the side of the road what would you do with it?
- Does a career being a research scientist studying new wild animal species appeal to you?