

The Yellow Anaconda Management Program: Traceability and Compliance

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The Species

- Large aquatic species, females can grow up to 4 m
- Plastic in habitat requirements and a trophic generalist
- Potentially long lived, but able to grow and mature fast (2 years)



Distribution



Yellow anacondas are widely distributed throughout the Paraguay and medium – lower Paraná River basin (400,000 sq km)

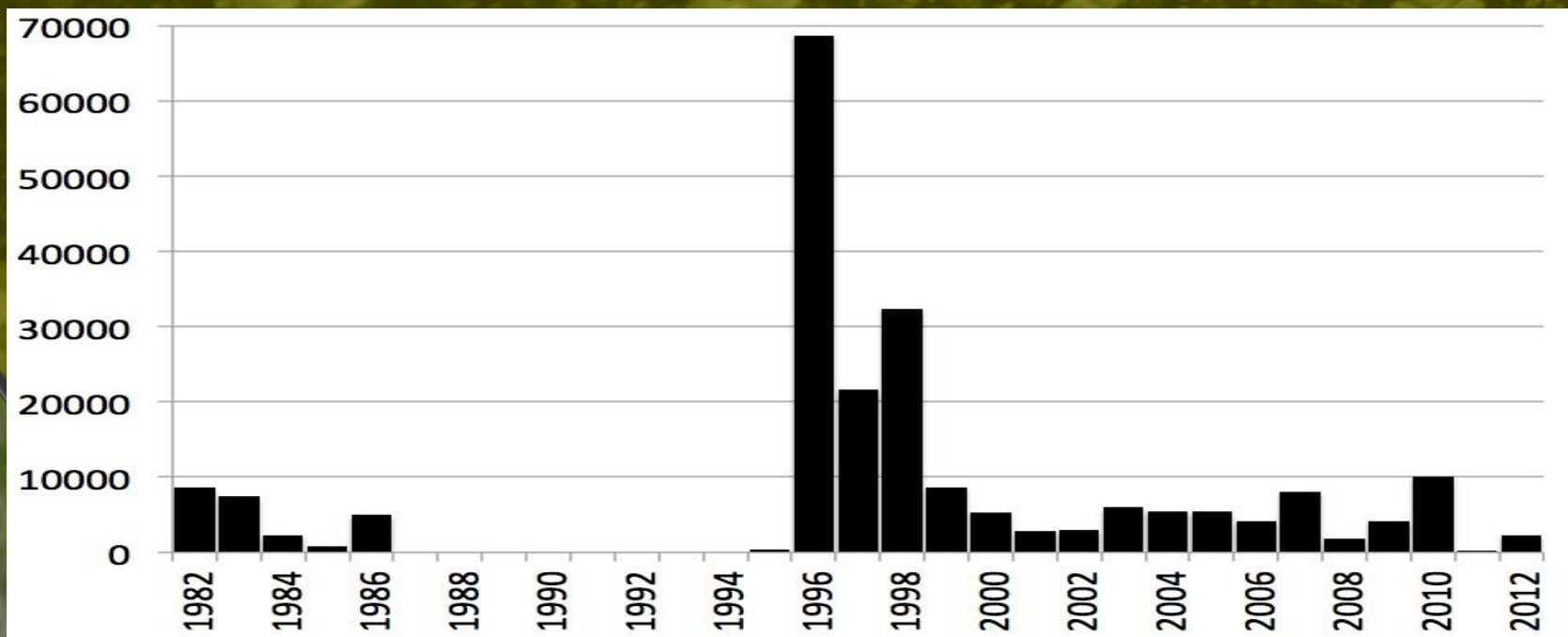
Argentina: 110,000 sq km

Threats: IUCN RL – non assessed / CITES – Appendix II

Habitat trends: stable in most part of the distribution range

Paraguay and Argentina were the main source of skins

Argentina established in 2002 a Management Program in the Province of Formosa



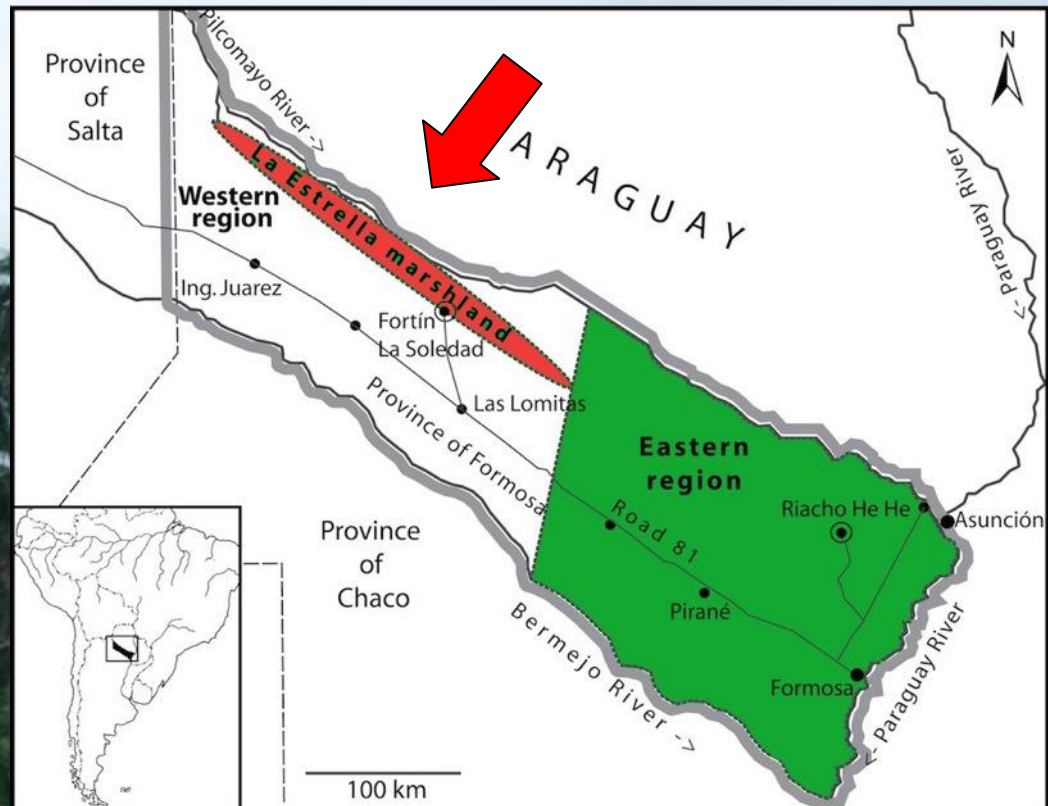
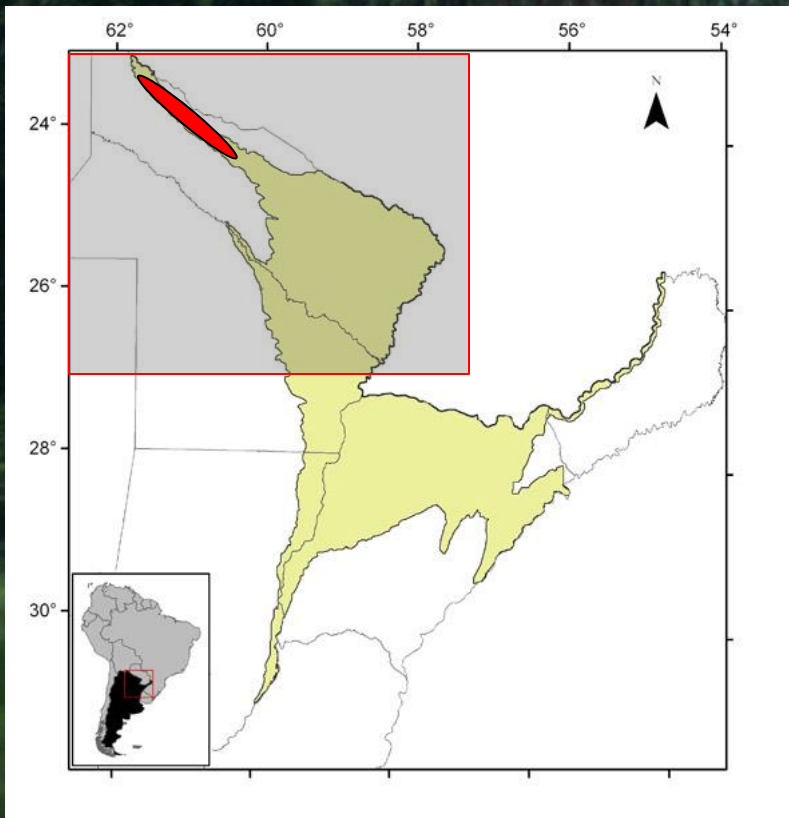
The Yellow Anaconda Management Program (YAMP) (2002 – ongoing)



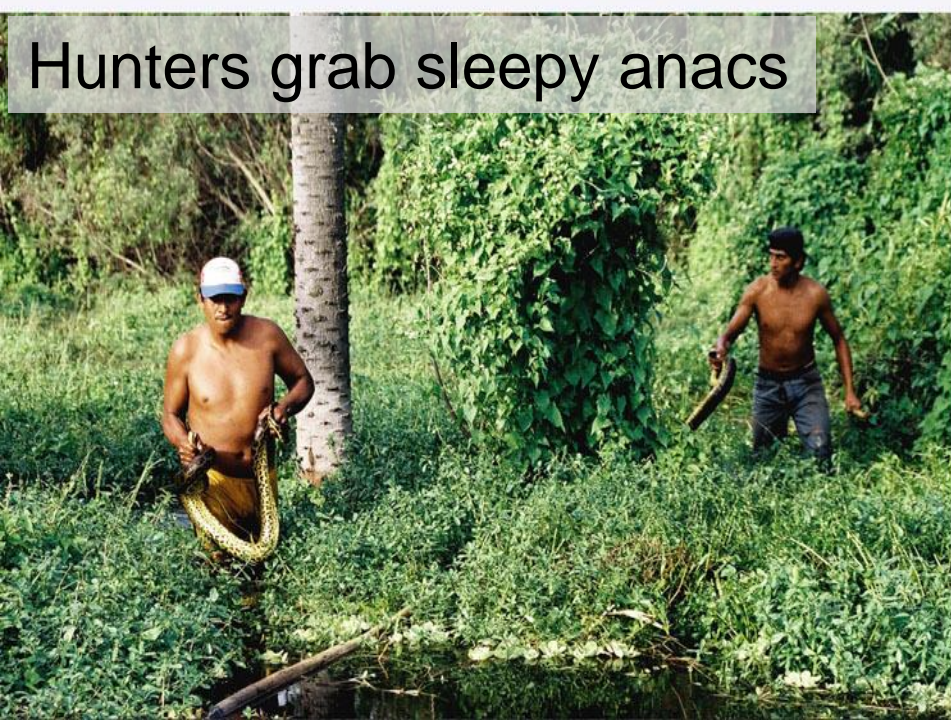
- Reconcile traditional utilization with long-term conservation
- Favor resource and habitat appreciation by local people
- Promote biological research
- Avoid resource misuse and waste



YAMP location



La Estrella marshes
< 3,000 Sq Km
<5% range in Argentina



Program main product

Entire skins for export for manufacture into premium goods.



230 cm up skins per year at La Estrella Marsh



YAMP conceptual framework

Adaptive Management (Hollins 1978)

- **Precautionary start up** – minimum size limit, short harvest season (local winter)
- **Control variables** – to ensure compliance and traceability
- **Estate variables** – to ensure sustainability
- **Research** - progressive reduction of uncertainty

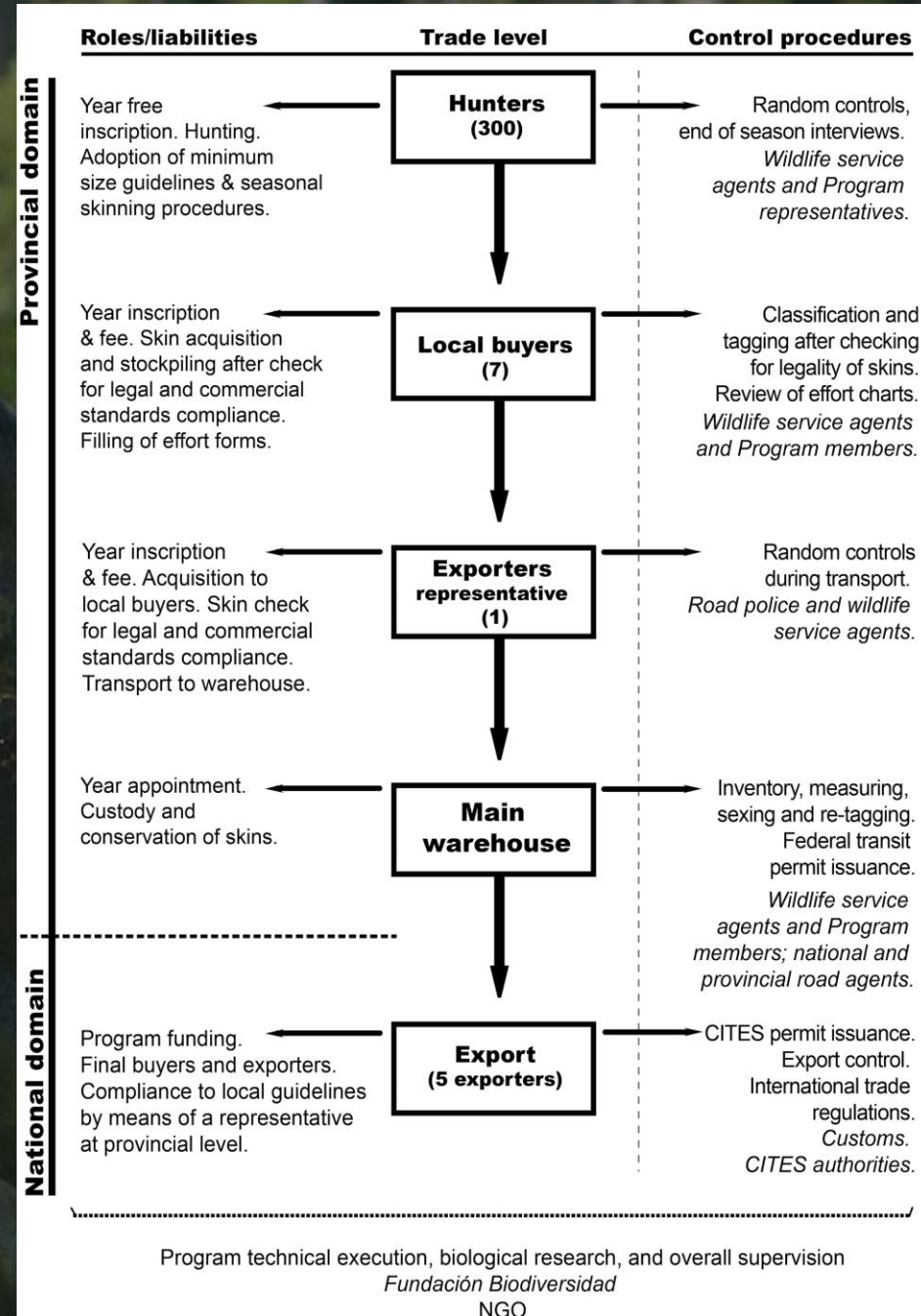
Program provisions are ruled every year

- Harvest season limited to three winter months: June to August, to limit the harvest to the non-reproductive season.




Program rationale

- A limited number of **local buyers (LB)** are appointed every year.
- Hunters enroll with LB – unlimited.
- LB are obliged to keep a record of transactions with the hunters.
- Exporters appoint a single Main buyer (MB) to acquire skins to LB on their behalf.
- All skins acquired by MB to LB are stockpiled during the season in a warehouse.



Program rationale

- Main control effort is applied to LBs.
 - Acquisition events from MB to LB are scheduled and supervised by Program representatives.
 - During the buying events, skins are checked for compliance to main provisions and provisionally tagged at LBs facilities; then immediately transported to the main warehouse.
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- A large snake, possibly a python, is coiled on a log in a forest. The snake has a dark, patterned body with lighter yellowish-green markings on its head and neck. The background is a lush green forest with many trees and a small stream or pond visible in the distance.

Program rationale



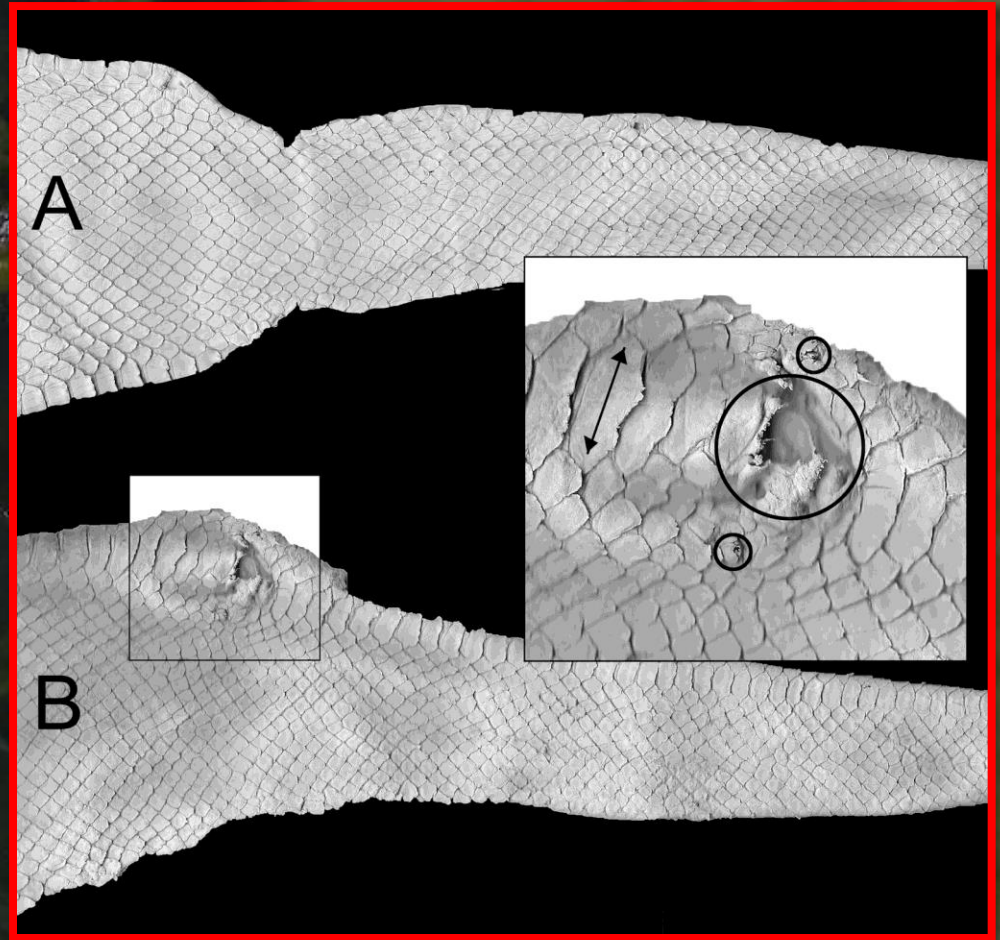
Program main provisions

- A 230 cm skin minimum size limit is established to ensure recruitment, and to reduce risk of stock depletion (precautionary approach) – compliance checked at LBs.



Program provisions...

- Every year a skinning pattern is set to avoid out of season stocking – compliance is checked at LBs premises.



Program provisions...

- It is mandatory to leave cloacal spurs attached to skin in order to check for the sex structure of the harvested skins.



Program rationale

- At the end of the season, skins are measured again, sexed, button tagged for export, and distributed to traders at the main warehouse. Data is incorporated into a data base kept by Fundación Biodiversidad.



Program rationale



Program rationale

- Polls to hunters and middlemen are carried out at the end of the harvest season to crosscheck for compliance, prices paid, etc.



A photograph of a snake swimming in shallow, clear water. The snake's head is in the foreground, facing right, with its eyes and nostrils visible. The water is a light greenish-brown color, and the background is slightly blurred. The text "Thanks!" is overlaid in yellow, underlined, in the upper center of the image.

Thanks!

Acknowledgements

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Wildlife Conservation Society

UNCTAD/CITES