

Tapir Conservation

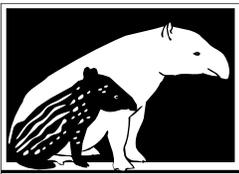
The Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group

www.tapirspecialistgroup.org

Edited by Siân S. Waters and Stefan Seitz



TAPIR SYMPOSIUM



2004 PANAMA



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Printing and distribution of the Tapir Conservation Newsletter is supported by the Houston Zoo Inc., 1513 N. Mac Gregor, Houston, Texas 77030, United States, <http://www.houstonzoo.org>

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Tapir Conservation

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Production & Distribution	This issue is kindly sponsored by Houston Zoo Inc., General Manager, Rick Barongi, 1513 North Mac Gregor, Houston, Texas 77030, USA.
Subscriptions	Members of the Tapir Specialist Group receive the newsletter free of charge. Subscriptions for non-members are \$10.00 per year and can be obtained from Sheryl Todd, Tapir Preservation Fund, tapir@tapirback.com .
Website	www.tapirspecialistgroup.org

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From the Chair

Letter from the Chair Patrícia Medici

I would like to start this letter by saying that the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group is very proud to announce that the Second International Tapir Symposium held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from January 10 to 16, 2004, was a major success! As we reported in the June 2002 issue of this newsletter, the First International Tapir Symposium in Costa Rica in 2001 was a major boost for the TSG as a group and for tapir conservation as a whole. That conference was without any doubt the moment when things really started happening for the TSG. Tapir conservationists from many different countries, with many different backgrounds, representing many different institutions and doing many different types of research had the opportunity to meet each other in person, to learn about each other's work and to exchange ideas and experiences. After the First Symposium, the TSG went through an intense process of growth and improvement never before seen in the history of the group.

In spite of this, the Second International Tapir Symposium's organisers, institutional and financial supporters and participants agreed that this second conference was even better and more productive than the first one in Costa Rica. We had 80 enthusiastic participants from 19 different countries, and the atmosphere during the conference was perfect. All participants were more than willing to share their knowledge, exchange ideas and experiences, establish partnerships, take over commitments, work hard and have fun. It always amazes me how much we can accomplish when we get together, face to face. Approximately 50% of the TSG membership attended the conference, and during time we spent together in Panama we were able to discuss the work of our Specialist Group, evaluate what has been done over the past two years since the First Symposium in Costa Rica and develop a whole new set of plans for the near future.

I will not go into the details of the conference because there is a complete report about it included in this issue. Nevertheless, I would like to talk a little bit about the TSG Plans for Action Workshop, one of the sessions conducted during the symposium. This workshop consisted of a full-day meeting dedicated to identifying and discussing TSG issues, developing short-term goals for TSG activities, and developing a list of specific actions that the TSG needs to take in or-

der to reach those goals and be more effective in terms of tapir conservation worldwide. The final outcome of this workshop was the development of the TSG Plans for Action 2004-2005, an ambitious list of 27 goals ranked in order of priority and 55 specific actions that the TSG will put into practice between now and the Third International Tapir Symposium to be held in Chiapas, Mexico, in January 2006. For each one of the actions, a deadline, an estimated cost, a person responsible for its completion, potential collaborators and indicators of success were established. The first draft of the document produced during the workshop was thoroughly reviewed and edited by a committee of TSG members, symposium participants and workshop facilitators. The final version of the plan was distributed to all TSG members and other interested people and organisations, and will soon be available online in PDF format on the TSG Website.

Still on the subject of the conference in Panama, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to THANK all the organisations and people who helped us to turn the Second Tapir Symposium into reality. The symposium had institutional and/or financial support from 60 conservation organisations worldwide, mostly tapir-holding zoological institutions in the United States, Europe and Japan. The symposium would not have been possible without their support and we will probably never have enough words to demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation. Special acknowledgements go to our biggest donors, Houston Zoo Inc., Conservation International, Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, Peace River Center for the Conservation of Tropical Ungulates, Los Angeles Zoo, Brookfield Zoo, International Animal Exchange Inc. and Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG). A detailed list of the symposium's institutional and financial supporters is provided in the Second International Tapir Symposium article included in this issue. Special acknowledgements also go to the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), especially Rick Barongi, Lewis Greene and Alan Shoemaker, and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)



Patrícia Medici

Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), especially Bengt Holst. The TSG and both the American and European Tapir TAGs worked side by side to raise the necessary funds for the conference, which made it all possible. A very special person who deserves to be acknowledged is Philip Schaeffer from Caligo Ventures, who was the major player in the organisation of the logistics of this conference. Also, we would like to thank ANCON Expeditions, our ground operator in Panama. Another person who was fundamental in the process was Alberto Mendoza from the Houston Zoo Inc., who worked really



Mayor of Panama City, Juan Carlos Navarro, giving his welcome speech to the participants of the Second International Tapir Symposium. Since beginning the organisation of this conference Mr. Navarro has committed the resources of the entire staff of the Municipality of Panama City to support this initiative.

hard on various aspects of the conference organisation and also on the construction of the new tapir exhibit at the Summit Zoo in Panama City. Speaking of the tapir exhibit, we would like to thank the entire staff of the Summit Zoo, the other members of the Houston Zoo staff and Charles Forster for all their hard work on the construction of the 5,000-square-meter

enclosure.

Special thanks also need to go to Kelly Russo from the Houston Zoo who designed most of our symposium materials.

Additionally, during the entire organisation process for the conference and construction of the tapir exhibit, we had the full support from the Municipality of Panama City, and for that we are extremely grateful to the Mayor, Juan Carlos Navarro, and his entire staff. Mr. Navarro kindly agreed to give a welcome speech during the symposium's opening ceremony, and we truly appreciated his efforts to accommodate this event in his busy schedule. We also would like to thank all our keynote speakers, William Konstant, Matthew Colbert, Stanley Heckadon-Moreno, William Karesh and Wally van Sickle, our paper and poster session's presenters, and our workshop presenters and facilitators. Special thanks also go to Philip Miller and Amy Camacho from

the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) who kindly agreed to facilitate our TSG Plans for Action Workshop, and to our dear friend Wally van Sickle who once again agreed to conduct our auctions between many other tasks we gave him!

On another note, I would like to mention that our TSG Action Planning Committee keeps working really hard towards achieving the goal of reviewing and updating the first version of the IUCN/SSC *Tapir Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* (1997). As previously announced, we have agreed that conducting Population and Habitat Viability Assessments (PHVAs), in the framework of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), will be the most efficient method to develop updated versions of the Action Plans for each one of the four species of tapirs. The first of a series of four workshops was the Malay Tapir PHVA held in Malaysia, in August 2003. During the Second Symposium in Panama, participants agreed that the next workshop should focus on mountain tapirs. The Mountain Tapir PHVA will be held at the Otún-Quimbaya Sanctuary, Colombia, from October 12 to 15, 2004. The institutional supporters of this project are the IUCN/SSC CBSG; AZA Tapir TAG; EAZA Tapir TAG; Houston Zoo Inc.; Colombian Tapir Network; World Wildlife Fund, Colombia; and Conservation International, Colombia. The CBSG will once again be responsible for the design and facilitation of the workshop, as well as production of workshop materials and final reports. Approximately 60 representatives from the three mountain tapir range countries – Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru – are expected to attend the meeting. Currently, the workshop's planning committee is putting together a list of potential participants, and submitting proposals to raise funds for the workshop. The Baird's Tapir PHVA will be held at The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center, Belize, in the second semester of 2005, and TSG members are still discussing the best venue and dates for the Lowland Tapir PHVA. For further details about the TSG Action Planning Committee and its previous and future activities please see the committee's report included in this issue.

Regarding our fundraising activities, I would like to point out that during 2004 the TSG Fundraising Committee will once again conduct fundraising campaigns for private donors and tapir-holding zoos, in order to raise funds for the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF) and support tapir conservation projects. During the symposium in Panama we conducted live and silent auctions, and we were able to raise US\$4,500 for the TSGCF. These funds will be distributed to tapir research projects in the form of small grants during the TSGCF 2004 Funding Cycle, which will be probably conducted in June 2004. It is also important to mention that the Fundraising Committee will be work-

ing closely with the recently created TSG Marketing Committee, coordinated by Gilia Angell, who is also our Webmaster. Gilia has been working tirelessly on creating a marketing plan for the group, and she has been also putting a lot of effort into the construction of the new TSG Website. If you still haven't had the chance to visit the site at www.tapirspecialistgroup.org, please check it out. I must tell you it looks great! As we already mentioned several times over the past few months, we need our membership to help Gilia to build THE website we want to have. Gilia needs our constant feedback in order to be able to translate our needs and help us with our tapir conservation initiatives.

Last but not least, I would like to use this opportunity to report a few modifications on the TSG structure and membership. First, I would like to announce that Charles Foerster has decided to resign as Deputy-Chair of the group. Charles will be very busy in Costa Rica in the next few months and will be in the field and away from e-mail for extended periods of time, which is the main reason why he has decided to step down. Charles continues to be a TSG member and will keep working with us whenever he is able. I have a lot to thank him for particularly all his help over the past few years when we worked side-by-side co-chairing this group. THANK YOU, Charlie! As a consequence of this, and considering that the amount of TSG work and responsibilities has been growing exponentially, we decided that it would be a good idea to have two Co-Deputy Chairs. In this way, we believe that we will be able to coordinate our work a lot more efficiently, and share the group's responsibilities and workload. With that said, I would like to announce that our new TSG Co-Deputy Chairs are Siân Waters and William Konstant. Siân Waters has been our TSG Zoo Committee Coordinator for the past two years, besides being the Contributions Editor for this newsletter. William Konstant has recently accepted TSG membership during the symposium in Panama, but as many of you know he has always been a constant and major supporter of virtually all TSG activities. Both Siân and Bill are very communicative and very enthusiastic

about tapir conservation, and I have no doubts we will be able to accomplish a lot working as a team. Most importantly, they are both very much willing to help us to make the TSG even more efficient and active than it already is! THANK YOU, Siân and Bill, for accepting our invitation and taking the challenge!!!

Still on the subject of TSG structure changes, and, as a direct outcome of the TSG Plans for Action Workshop conducted during the symposium in Panama, TSG members attending the conference decided to create a few new committees in order to improve our group's efficiency in terms of putting our priority actions into practice. In addition to the five TSG Committees formed in Costa Rica in 2001 – Action Planning, Fundraising, Red List, Veterinary and Zoo Committees – three new ones – Education & Outreach, Genetics and Marketing Committees – were created in Panama. Each one of these eight committees will have their own roles and responsibilities and the committees' coordinators and members are truly committed to work hard. Further details about and reports from all TSG Committees are included in this issue.



From left to right: Rick Barongi, Director of the Houston Zoo Inc. and member of the AZA Tapir TAG; Lewis Greene, Director of the Virginia Zoo and Chair of the AZA Tapir TAG; Patrícia Medici, Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG); and Michael Dee, Curator of Mammals of the Los Angeles Zoo and member of the AZA Tapir TAG, during the Second International Tapir Symposium in Panama.

Also in Panama, 17 new members were added to our membership and four were removed. Therefore, we now have 83 members from 24 different countries (Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Taiwan, Thailand, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela). The reason for these additions and removals were very simple. During the symposium in Panama, we had the pleasure of meeting many tapir conservationists from many different countries, who demonstrated their willingness to join the group and help us with our activities. We decided that we needed this new energy and commitment in order to put our priority actions into practice and reach our goals. On the other hand, we decided to review our previous membership list and remove some of the “not so communicative” members from the group, something we have decided to do every

six months. We completely understand that Specialist Group membership is voluntary and that sometimes people cannot dedicate much of their time to the TSG, but we strongly believe that once you send in your registration form to join a Specialist Group, it is assumed that you are willing to help in some way. The TSG is not only about information exchange anymore. Over the past few years, we have grown stronger, we have become more pro-active, we have people dedicating their time to specific tasks and actions, and we need all members to be involved at some level.

As a result of the TSG Plans for Action Workshop, we now have a considerable amount of work to do, and we need our entire membership to be as communicative and active as possible. I am certain that if we do not communicate well and work effectively as a group, we will never be able to reach our goals. Therefore, one of the goals listed as a priority for the TSG over the next two years is to "improve communication between TSG members", and one of the actions recommended to reach this goal is to have the TSG Officers (mostly the chair, deputy-chairs, and committee coordinators) communicating with the entire membership and/or members of specific committees at least once a month. By doing that, we expect that each member of the TSG will become involved in at least one of the tasks listed on the TSG Plans for Action 2004-2005.

As a final comment, I would like to urge our TSG members to get as involved as much as possible in the general work and specific activities of the Tapir Specialist Group. Please contact the coordinators of the TSG Committees and get involved with their work. Contact the people responsible for the tasks listed on the TSG Plans for Action, offer your help, send your comments, suggestions, and criticisms! Submit articles to the *Tapir Conservation Newsletter*, post information on Tapir Talk. Please contribute as much as you can, and try your best to be a communicative and active member. I strongly believe, that there is something different and something really special about the Tapir Specialist Group and its network of supporters. During the symposium in Panama I realized that our group is definitely surrounded by some sort of positive energy that becomes undoubtedly evident when we gather together under the same roof, and I am sure that tapirs can only benefit if we take advantage of this "energy".

My very best wishes from Brazil,

Patrícia Medici

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Letter from Co-Deputy Chair Siân S. Waters

Dear Colleagues,

I met many of you at the Second Tapir Symposium in Panama in January this year. However, for those of you who have never heard of me I would like to introduce myself. First of all, many people who have never met me think I must be a male due to my strange Welsh name but I am female and don't worry if you have addressed me as a male in a message – I'm quite used to it!

I am a psychology graduate and my M.Phil research focused on a South American primate, the white-faced saki. I have worked in both captivity and the field, working mainly primates and carnivores. I initiated the EAZA Tapir and Hippo TAG when I worked as a curator at Bristol Zoo Gardens and have worked in Indochina and Indonesia as a technical advisor to zoos there.



Siân S. Waters

I have to say that I was very surprised and pleased when Pati invited me to take on this position as I don't think I am a particularly active TSG member and I am certainly no tapir expert, but I am a conservationist and that's what it's all about. The TSG is a really active Specialist Group with a great group dynamic. Everything is achieved through teamwork and that's something I am very happy to be part of. I am looking forward to working hard with all TSG members to achieve the goals set at the Action Planning meeting over the next two years and meeting you all again in Mexico at the next Symposium.

Last but not least I would like to thank Pati for the invitation to be a Co-Deputy Chair. I just hope I'm up to the job!

Cheers,

Siân S. Waters

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Letter from Co-Deputy Chair William Konstant

Let me begin by saying how honoured I was when Pati Medici asked me to serve as Co-Deputy Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group, even though I did not immediately accept the invitation. More than two decades as a member of the Primate Specialist Group have shown me the magnitude of the task and why such responsibilities shouldn't be taken lightly.

Three things convinced me to accept Pati's invitation. First and foremost is the opportunity to work more closely with her. Few people I know are as dedicated, dynamic and organised, but I don't need to tell you that. Equally important is the nature of the TSG itself. I was fortunate to have attended the first two international tapir symposia and to have met the majority of the specialists whose work is critical to secure the future, not only for tapirs but for myriad other plants and animals that share their tropical habitats. The TSG is more than just a network. It's a great team as well, including my Co-Deputy, Sian Waters.

And then there are the tapirs themselves.

At the symposium in Panama, I spoke about tapirs as "flagship species", a term that is sometimes thrown around a bit too much to support the case for conservation. Taking a critical look, however, it applies to tapirs as much as to any other charismatic creatures and I think it can be used very effectively as a tool to secure support for conservation actions. What we need to do is back it up with good solid data. "Flagship species for what?" is the question we continually need to ask ourselves. In Panama, I presented some rough figures based on Conservation International's recent hotspot and wilderness area analyses, impressive figures for how much biodiversity wild tapir populations may actually represent. Though they may be less well known and not as appealing to the public as jaguars, tigers, rhinos and elephants, tapirs are certainly just as representative of tropical diversity and can be used effectively to promote ecosystem conservation.

Since the Panama symposium, I have been working with Pati and several other TSG members to raise



William Konstant

funds for specific projects, which is probably the best way I can best contribute to the group's mission. We've had some good success recently and look forward to more in the weeks and months ahead. One of the great pleasures of the fund-raising task is the opportunity to learn more about the work and needs of individual tapir specialists, and I hope to visit a few of your project sites as we continue to make progress. Each and every TSG member has a story about tapirs worth telling and it is important that we get the word out whenever possible. Tapir conservation efforts can suffer from a lack of public recognition, as you all are well aware, so we need to share more interesting information with prospective supporters to gain an advantage. Pati can add that to my list of duties.

Let me conclude by thanking Rick Barongi and the Houston Zoo for supporting my new position. His personal encouragement and the institutional support behind it made accepting the invitation an easy decision. I very much look forward to the tasks ahead and to working more closely with all of you.

William Konstant

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MOUNTAIN TAPIR CONSERVATION WORKSHOP Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) Otún-Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, Pereira, Colombia, 12-15 October 2004

The main goal of this workshop is to gather, systematize and discuss all the available data and information on Mountain Tapirs (population demographic parameters – e.g. age structure, birth rates, mortality, dispersal, and other biological data, the species current status and distribution, threats to survival across its range, available habitat etc) and use this information to establish research, management and conservation priorities for the species. The expected outcome of this workshop will be an updated Action Plan for Mountain Tapirs, concentrating on recommendations for the preservation in the wild, but also with attention for the captive population, education and capacity building, research priorities, and funding.

If you know of any people and/or organizations in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru that should be considered as potential participants of this workshop, please let me know as soon as possible. For the success of a PHVA we must have all stakeholders represented, including researchers, representatives from governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, conservation organizations, research institutes, universities, members of local communities, zoological institutions etc.

*Patrícia Medici, Chair, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)
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Second International Tapir Symposium

By Patricia Medici

The Second International Tapir Symposium was held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from January 10 to 16, 2004. The main organisers of the conference were the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) and the American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG). Caligo Ventures Inc. in the United States was the symposium's planner, and ANCON Expeditions of Panama was the symposium's operator on the ground in Panama. Several organisations collaborated with the organisation of the conference between them, the Houston Zoo Inc. in the United States, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) and the Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark. The symposium had financial and/or institutional support from about 60 conservation organisations worldwide, mostly tapir holding zoological institutions in the United States, Europe and Japan (see the list of institutional and financial supporters on page 12).

The main purpose of the Tapir Symposium is to bring together a multi-faceted group of tapir conservationists and experts, including field biologists and researchers, educators, husbandry and captive management

specialists, veterinarians, governmental authorities and non-governmental organisation representatives, academics, politicians, and other key players in the development and implementation of tapir conservation and management programmes. The main goal of this conference is to conduct overviews of current tapir research (*in-*

situ and *ex-situ*), conservation and management issues to generate the necessary information to promote action planning in terms of priorities for tapir conservation in Central and South America and Southeast Asia. This conference also aims to establish conservation partnerships and develop and maintain a communication network of tapir conservationists worldwide, allowing for the conference recommendations to be carried out and evaluated at future meetings.



Researcher and TSG Member Adriana Sarmiento from Colombia presenting her poster during the symposium's poster session.



Researcher and TSG Member Olga Lucía Montenegro from Colombia making a presentation during the Lowland Tapir paper session.

The Second International Tapir Symposium was extremely successful and even better and more productive than the First Symposium in Costa Rica in 2001. We had 80 participants, including tapir conservationists from 19 different countries (Argentina, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, French Guiana, Guatemala, Honduras, Malaysia, Mexico, Republic of Panama, Peru, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela). About 50% of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) membership attended the conference, and as a consequence, the group was very well represented. The Chair (Lewis Greene) and 4 other members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), and the Chair (Bengt Holst) and another member of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) also attended the conference.

The first part of the symposium consisted of keynote speeches and paper and poster sessions addressing tapir research, conservation and management. The second part of the symposium was devoted to workshops addressing and prioritising specific topics relevant to the conservation of the four species of tapirs and their remaining habitats in Latin America and Southeast Asia. Paper and poster sessions covered a wide range of issues relevant to tapir conservation, such as tapir ecology, field research, population management, threat assessments, husbandry and captive management, veterinary issues, implementation of action plans, habitat evaluations, research methodologies, identification of priority areas for tapir conservation, education, ethnozoology etc. Paper sessions were organised by species and each speaker had 15 minutes for their presentations and 5 minutes for questions. Presentations were made in either English or Spanish and simultaneous translation was available throughout the conference. In all, 14 papers were presented, four in the Lowland Tapir Session, two in the Malay Tapir Session, four in the Mountain Tapir Session, two in the Baird's Tapir Session, and two in the General Topics Session. Posters were exhibited throughout the first two days of the conference and presenters were available by their posters during coffee breaks. In all, 21 posters were presented, seven about lowland tapirs, three about Malay tapirs, three about mountain tapirs, seven about Baird's tapirs, and one on general topics. Paper and poster presenters represented many different tapir range countries in Central and South America and Southeast Asia, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, French Guiana, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mexico and Venezuela, and there were also presenters from Australia, Canada and the United States.

Six keynote speakers made presentations throughout the conference. Dr. William Konstant with Conservation International and Houston Zoo Inc., United States, was the first keynote speaker of the conference and gave a speech about the tapir's potential to be used as a flagship species. Patrícia Medici, Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) made a presentation about the recently founded TSG Conservation Fund, sharing with the audience the history of the Fund and its main activities and accomplishments in 2003. Dr. Matthew Colbert of the University of Texas, United States, gave a speech about how to estimate maturity of tapirs using skeletal and dental indicators. Dr. Stanley Heckadon-Moreno with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Republic of Panama, made a presentation about the history of Panama and the involvement of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in the conservation of the natural resources of the country, mostly focusing on the Smithsonian's communications and public programmes. Dr. William B. Karesh with the

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the IUCN/SSC Veterinary Specialist Group (VSG), United States, gave a speech about conservation medicine and the many factors affecting wildlife health and how WCS and the VSG have been addressing the complexities of maintaining ecosystem health. Wally Van Sickle with Idea Wild, United States, was the last keynote speaker of the conference and made a very inspiring presentation about Idea Wild's conservation work supporting researchers and educators around the world.

Another session conducted during the conference was the TSG Committee Reports Session. Siân S. Waters, Coordinator of the TSG Zoo Committee and Pilar Alexander Blanco Márquez, D.V.M., Coordinator of the TSG Veterinary Committee, gave reports about the work of those committees over the past two years. Additionally, both committee coordinators conducted meetings with their committee members to discuss their future steps and actions for the next two years.

The Tapir Genetics Workshop was conducted by Anders Gonçalves da Silva from Brazil, Ph.D. Graduate Student at Columbia University, United States and Javier Adolfo Sarria Perea from Colombia, M.Sc. Graduate Student at the Universidade Estadual de São Paulo (UNESP), Brazil. The main goal of this workshop was to propose the creation of the TSG Genetics Committee and the design and establishment of the TSG International Tapir Genetics Project, a concerted effort to undertake the job of answering important genetic questions surrounding tapir conservation.

The Husbandry and Captive Management Workshop included presentations by AZA and EAZA members, as well a representative from a lowland tapir



Rick Barongi, Director of the Houston Zoo Inc. and one of the main organisers of the conference, holding a wooden tapir purchased during the live auction. Live and silent auctions conducted during the conference raised a total of US\$4,500 for the TSG Conservation Fund.



Lewis Greene, Director of the Virginia Zoo and Chair of the AZA Tapir TAG, making a presentation during the Tapir Husbandry and Captive Management Workshop.



Bengt Holst, Vice-Director of the Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark and Chair of the EAZA Tapir TAG, making a presentation during the Action Planning for Tapir Conservation Workshop.

range country. Lewis Greene, Chair of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) and Director of the Virginia Zoological Gardens, and Rick Barongi, former chair of the AZA Tapir TAG and Director of the Houston Zoo Inc., made a presentation about the AZA Tapir TAG Action Plan developed in 2003. Alan H. Shoemaker, Permit Advisor to the AZA Tapir TAG, made a presentation about the management plans for captive tapirs in North America. Bengt Holst, Chair of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) and Vice-Director of the Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark, gave a report about the activities of the EAZA Tapir TAG over recent years. Rick Barongi made a presentation about the history of tapirs in captivity in Panama and the significant developments in raising awareness for the conservation of tapirs in the country over the last 13 years. Alberto Mendoza, Community Programmes Coordinator of the Houston Zoo Inc., United States, made a presentation about the construction of the new tapir exhibit at the Summit Zoo in Panama City. Viviana B. Quise, Senior Veterinarian of the Temaikén Foundation, Argentina, gave a speech about hormonal and ultrasonography studies during the pregnancy of a lowland tapir at her zoo.

The Action Planning for Tapir Conservation Workshop included presentations about the many different methods of developing action plans. Olga Lucía Montenegro from Colombia, Ph.D Graduate Student at the University of Florida, United States, made a presentation about the *National Programme for Tapir Recovery and Conservation in Colombia*, which was developed as a joint effort with the Colombian Ministry of Environment and the Institute of Natural Sciences of the National University of Colombia, in October 2002. Dr.

Eduardo J. Naranjo Piñera, researcher at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), Mexico, made a presentation about the development of the *Mexican National Plan for Tapir Conservation and Recovery*. Dr. Philip S. Miller, Senior Programme Officer of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), United States, gave a speech about the CBSG's Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) process and how it can be used as a tool to design and develop species action plans. Bengt Holst, Vice Director of the Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark, Chair of the EAZA Tapir TAG and Convener of CBSG Europe, made a presentation about the PHVA conducted for Malay Tapirs in August 2003, in Malaysia. He explained how this methodology was used for the development of an updated Malay Tapir Conservation Action Plan.

The Fundraising Workshop included presentations about how to identify potential donors and raise funds for tapir conservation. Wally Van Sickle, President of Idea Wild, United States, and Patricia Medici, Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG), shared their particular experiences and discussed the many different types of fundraising, the different types of donors, how to write successful proposals, how to approach donors, and how to cultivate a relationship with donors. Gilia Angell, Web/Graphic Designer of Amazon.com in the United States, and TSG Webmaster and Coordinator of the TSG Marketing Committee, made a presentation about the use of web design as a conservation tool and the marketing and fundraising strategies for the new TSG Website and the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF).

On the final day of the conference, we held a workshop entitled TSG Plans for Action. It consisted of a full-day meeting and the main objective of this session

was to set short-term goals and actions that the TSG should take during the next two years (2004-2005) in order to be more effective in terms of tapir conservation worldwide. Dr. Philip S. Miller, Senior Programme Officer of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), United States and Amy Camacho, General Director of Africam Safari and Convener of the CBSG – Mexico Regional Network, facilitated the workshop.

In advance of the conference, participants were asked to prepare a list of ten actions they believed should be considered as priorities for the TSG over the next two years. Participants were requested to ask themselves “What the TSG should do as a group?” and “What actions should the TSG take in the next two years in order to be more effective in terms of tapir conservation?” The workshop facilitators reviewed the lists of actions previously prepared by the symposium participants and defined the workshop dynamics. Four different working group topics were identified based on the actions suggested earlier. They were: 1.) Research; 2.) *In-Situ* Management; 3.) *Ex-Situ* Management; and 4.) Communication & Education/Public Awareness. Participants were then asked to join one of these groups at their own discretion and each group was requested to identify a leader, a flip-chart recorder, a computer recorder, a timekeeper, and a reporter. As a first step, each working group was given the tasks of identifying the issues and developing the short-term goals for TSG activities related to the main topics they were covering. The goals identified by each one of the working groups during these initial deliberations were presented in a plenary session. This guaranteed everyone had an opportunity to contribute to the work of the other groups and ensured that issues and goals were carefully reviewed and discussed by the group. Once all the identified goals were presented, each participant was asked to rank them in order of priority. The work-

shop facilitators then compiled the individual scores in order to obtain a group prioritisation for TSG goals. As a second step, all working groups reassembled and were asked to develop a list of specific actions that TSG needed to take in order to reach those higher-priority goals. For each one of the actions, a deadline, an estimated cost, a person to be responsible for its achievement, potential collaborators, and indicators of success was established. Where necessary, similar actions developed by different working groups for an individual goal were combined in the most effective manner. The final outcome of the TSG Plans for Action Workshop was a list of 27 priority goals and 55 specific actions that the TSG will put into practice over the next two years (2004-2005) in order to reach those goals between now and the Third International Tapir Symposium to be held in Chi-

apas, Mexico, in January 2006. Long-term issues directly related to the conservation of the four species of tapirs and their habitats were not addressed during this specific workshop, but will be carefully discussed during the process of revising and updating the first edition of the IUCN/SSC *Tapir Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* (1997), which is underway. The final document produced during this workshop was carefully reviewed and edited by TSG Members and symposium participants, and will be made available on the TSG Website soon.

Another event conducted during the symposium was an auction to raise funds for the recently founded TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF). Attendees were asked to bring typical items from their home countries to sell at the silent and live auctions. Wally Van Sickle with Idea Wild, United States, with the help of Gilia Angell with Amazon.com, United States, kindly organised and conducted the auction and the symposium raised \$4,500 for the TSG Conservation Fund. These funds will be distributed in the form of small grants to tapir field and captivity conservation projects through a selective process to be conducted in May 2004.



Rick Barongi, Director of the Houston Zoo Inc., and Jim Brighton with PJ Architects, presenting the Mayor of Panama City, Juan Carlos Navarro, with a framed Baird's tapir painting during the inauguration of the new tapir exhibit at the Summit Zoo. Mr. Brighton, a very respected and well-known zoo architect and designer, donated the design of the new exhibit to the Summit Zoo.

Second International Tapir Symposium

ORGANIZERS

IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) and American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG).

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Patrícia Medici – Conservation Biologist, Lowland Tapir Project, IPÊ - Institute for Ecological Research, Brazil
Chair, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)

Rick Barongi – Director, Houston Zoo Inc., United States; Former Chair / Member, American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG); Member, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)

Philip Schaeffer – Zoologist/Conference Planner and Registrar, Caligo Ventures Inc., United States

Alberto Mendoza – Community Programs Coordinator, Houston Zoo Inc., United States; Member, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)

Kelly Russo – Conservation Program Assistant, Houston Zoo Inc., United States; Education & Outreach Committee Coordinator, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)

Marco Gandasegui – Vice President, ANCON Expeditions of Panama, Republic of Panama

Charles R. Foerster – Biologist, Baird's Tapir Project, Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica; Member, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)

SYMPOSIUM LOGISTICS

Caligo Ventures Inc., United States; ANCON Expeditions of Panama, Republic of Panama; and Hotel Continental, Panama City, Republic of Panama.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Africam Safari, Mexico; American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG); Conservation International, United States; Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark; European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG); Fundación AndígenA (AndígenA Foundation), Venezuela; Houston Zoo Inc., United States; Idea Wild, United States; IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (Institute for Ecological Research), Brazil; IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), United States; Municipality of Panama City, Republic of Panama; Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, United States; PJ Architects, United States; Red Danta de

Colombia (Colombian Tapir Network), Colombia; Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Republic of Panama; Summit Zoo, Panama City, Republic of Panama; Tapir Preservation Fund (TPF), United States; and Virginia Zoological Gardens, United States.

MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Houston Zoo Inc., United States; Conservation International, United States; Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, United States; Peace River Center for the Conservation of Tropical Ungulates, United States; Los Angeles Zoo, United States; Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Zoological Society, United States; International Animal Exchange Inc., United States; and Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) c/o Audubon Park Zoological Garden, United States.

OTHER SPONSORS

Africam Safari, Mexico; Asociación Mervalvis (Mervalvis Association), Costa Rica; Beardsley Zoological Gardens, United States; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, United States; Fundación Zoológica de Cali (Cali Zoological Foundation), Colombia; Center for Environmental Conservation and Research (CERC), Columbia University, United States; Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno, United States; Chester Zoo, North of England Zoological Society, United Kingdom; Continental Airlines, United States; Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark; Detroit Zoological Institute, Detroit Zoological Society, United States; El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), Mexico; El Paso Zoo, United States; Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, United States; Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno, Fresno Zoological Society, United States; Fundación Temaikén (Teimaikén Foundation), Argentina; Hattiesburg Zoo, United States; Idea Wild, United States; IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), United States; Marwell Zoological Park, United Kingdom; Miami Metro Zoo, Zoological Society of Florida, United States; Miejski Ogród Zoologiczny Lodz (Lodz Zoo), Poland; Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens, United States; Mountain View Conservation and Breeding Center, Gilman Investment LLC, Canada; Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha Zoological Society, United States; Paignton Zoological & Botanical Gardens, United Kingdom; Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park, United States; Parc Zoologique Doué-la-Fontaine (Doué-la-Fontaine Zoo), France; Parc Zoologique de Lille (Lille Zoo), France; Parque XCARET (XCARET Park), Mexico; Rotterdam Zoo, The Netherlands; Sedgwick County Zoo, United States; The Belize Zoo and The Tropical Education Center, Belize; Ueno Zoo and Tama Zoo, Tokyo Zoo Conservation Fund, Japan; Universidad del Mar - Campus Puerto Escondido, Mexico; University of Florida, United States; White Oak Conservation Center, United States; Wildlife Conservation Society, Argentina; Wildlife World Zoo Inc., United States.



Wally Van Sickle, President of Idea Wild, making a presentation during the Fundraising Workshop.



Diego J. Lizcano, Ph.D. Graduate student at Kent University in the UK and a mountain tapir researcher in Colombia, presenting the results from the Research Working Group during the TSG Plans for Action Workshop.

Mid-conference trips provided the opportunity for the symposium participants to either spend the day at the Barro Colorado Island (BCI), one of the most studied patches of tropical forest managed by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), or take a tour



Dr. Philip S. Miller, Senior Programme Officer of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), facilitating the TSG Plans for Action Workshop.

around Panama City, including visits to the City's Metropolitan Park, the Panama Viejo and the Panama Canal Miraflores Locks. Both trips ended at the Panama City's Summit Zoo in the late afternoon for a cocktail reception and the inauguration of the new 5,000 square metre tapir exhibit attended by the Mayor of Panama City, Dr. Juan Carlos Navarro, other local dignitaries, the Summit Zoo

and Houston Zoo staff members who worked on the construction of the exhibit, symposium participants and the press. A partnership between the Houston Zoo and the Municipality of Panama City was forged to bring this exhibit to reality. Jim Brighton of PJ Landscape Architects, United States, and staff at the Houston and Summit Zoos combined their design and husbandry expertise with ecological knowledge provided by Baird's tapir biologist Charles R. Foerster to design an enclosure that would best suit the zoo's seven tapirs. Four separate trips to Panama by Houston Zoo staff, led by Houston Zoo's Community Programmes Coordinator Alberto Mendoza, ensured that construction stayed on schedule and that extra hands were put to work building two large exhibits, six holding pens (all with individual pools), welding fences and building viewing platforms out of trees harvested from Summit Park. Funding for the project came from Houston Zoo's Naturally Wild Conservation Programme and the Municipality of Panama City.

During the next few months, the TSG will be asking all paper and poster presenters, keynote speakers and workshop facilitators of the First and Second International Tapir Symposiums to submit complete articles so that a complete Proceedings CD-ROM can be produced and distributed, ensuring that all the information and recommendations generated during these conferences are published and implemented so that there are immediate and long-term benefits for tapir conservation worldwide.

If you are interested in receiving the complete report about the Second International Tapir Symposium or the final version of the TSG Plans for Action 2004-

2005, please do not hesitate to contact me. We will also keep you all posted about the progress on the organisation of the Third International Tapir Symposium!

Hope to see you all in Mexico in 2006!

Patrícia Medici

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From left to right: Silvia C. Chalukian from Argentina, Philip S. Miller from the USA, Amy Camacho from Mexico, Siti Khadijah Abd. Ghani from Malaysia, Jaime Andres Suárez Mejía from Colombia, Adriana Sarmiento from Colombia, and Adrián Naveda Rodríguez from Venezuela, during the symposium's final banquet dinner.

TSG Committee Reports

TSG Action Planning Committee: Report and Plans for Action

By Patrícia Medici

During the First International Tapir Symposium, which was held in San José, Costa Rica, in November 2001, participants agreed that the revision and update of the first version of the IUCN/SSC *Tapir Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* (Sharon Matola, Richard Bodmer and Daniel Brooks, 1997) should be one of the priority goals for the TSG in the medium-term. As a result, the TSG Action Plan Committee was created, and discussions about the most efficient and practical ways to accomplish the revision of the 1997 Plan were carried out. The final conclusion of these discussions was that conducting Population and Habitat Viability Assessments (PHVAs), in the framework of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), would be the most appropriate and efficient methodology to develop updated versions of the Action

Plans for each one of the four species of tapirs.

The major partner of the TSG in this ambitious goal is the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG). With 975 volunteer members, the CBSG is one of the largest Specialist Groups within the Species Survival Commission (SSC). CBSG has over 10 years of experience developing, testing and applying scientifically based tools and processes for risk assessment and decision-making in the context of species management. These tools, based on small populations and conservation biology, human demography, and the dynamics of social learning are used in intensive, problem-solving workshops to produce realistic and achievable recommendations for both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* population management.

The Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) is a very efficient and systematic working process for species action planning. Managing endangered species is an extremely complex conservation problem. It requires a coalescence of expertise from different professions and sectors, an exchange of knowledge and technology, a building of consensus around threats and solutions and a mobilization of resources. The PHVA balances the need to integrate information necessary for evaluating alternative species conservation strate-

gies with the need to integrate, or at least connect, individuals from different disciplines and backgrounds that are centrally concerned with the species of interest. This is done in the hope that some realignment of priorities among individual stakeholder groups will result which takes into account the needs, views and initiatives of other groups. Central to this process is the use of *Vortex*, a computer software simulation model of wildlife population dynamics that performs a risk assessment, and provides a tangible focus for quantitative evaluation of conservation options for a species and a vehicle for integrating diverse species biological and human sociological data. Taken together, the risk assessment modelling and focused, stakeholder-driven deliberations are designed to directly address the issues affecting the species so that alternative strategies can be analysed rationally and systematically. When this occurs, better conservation decisions and specific action steps with targeted responsibility result.

The first step of the PHVA Workshop is to compile all the available information and data about the species. Participants are requested to contribute scientific articles, data and knowledge of the species and its habitat, and list the major issues related to the species conservation. Based on this, participants are divided into working groups to work on specific topics identified as major issues. Each group has a series of tasks: 1.) Identify and define problems and rank them in order of priority; 2.) Develop goals to achieve the change in the conditions identified in the problem statement, specifying minimum and maximum goals to be achieved over the next five years, developing goals for each problem and ranking the goals in order of priority; 3.) Develop actions to accomplish the goals identified under the problems or issues, taking into account the scientific information on the species, its habitat, and the threats identified. Additionally, the PHVA develops a large set of alternative models that represent different hypotheses of the species biology/ecology and then, through comparison of model behaviours, identifies those biological factors that most acutely influence population growth. With this knowledge, and with data on the specific threats that are known to impact the species populations now or in the future, it is possible to design and test management strategies that minimize those specific threats which act on the most influential biological factors. In this comparative approach, significant insight can be gained with surprisingly little detailed biological data.

During the First Symposium in Costa Rica, it became clear that one of the most serious concerns among tapir experts and conservationists was the limited attention that had been given to the conservation of Malay tapirs, and that TSG should give this species priority. As a consequence, the TSG decided that the

first step towards achieving the goal of conducting PHVA workshops for each one of the four species of tapir should be the organisation of the Malay Tapir PHVA Workshop. As reported in a previous issue of this newsletter, the Malay Tapir PHVA was held in Malaysia, from August 12 to 16, 2003. The main organisers of the meeting were the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG), the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), and the Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). The workshop group included 35 participants from the Malay tapir range countries in Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, and also TSG representatives from several other countries. The main topics discussed by the PHVA's working groups were distribution and habitat, habitat threats, species management, and population biology and simulation modelling, and recommendations coming from all working groups were put together and prioritised. The final outcome of the meeting is a very detailed and updated action plan, listing and prioritising strategies, recommendations and actions for the conservation of Malay tapirs. The CBSG editorial team and members of the TSG are still working on reviewing the draft of the action plan, and as soon as we have the final version of the document we will print and distribute copies to all interested parties in Southeast Asia.

During the Second International Tapir Symposium held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from January 10 to 16, 2004, participants agreed that the next PHVA should focus on mountain tapirs. Although some previous efforts for the conservation of Mountain tapirs already exist, it is important to identify strategies at a larger scale and include the three range countries – Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. In 2002, a National Recovery and Conservation Programme for Tapir Conservation was designed in Colombia (Ministry of Environment 2002). This programme identified short, medium and long-term goals for the conservation of the three Latin American tapir species, all occurring in Colombia, based on a preliminary assessment of the conservation status of tapirs in the country. However, Population and Habitat Viability Assessments based on the species demographic data have not been conducted yet but are urgently needed in order to identify conservation strategies for mountain tapir along its entire range, refining those goals previously identified for specific areas.

The Mountain Tapir Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) Workshop will be held at the Otún-Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary in Pereira, Colombia, from October 12 to 15, 2004. The institutional supporters of this project are the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG); American

Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG); European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG); Colombian Tapir Network (Red Danta de Colombia); World Wildlife Fund (WWF – CEAN), Colombia; and Houston Zoo Inc., United States. The CBSG will once again be responsible for the design and facilitation of the workshop, as well as production of workshop materials and final reports. Approximately 60 representatives from the three mountain tapir range countries – Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru – are expected to attend the meeting. Currently, the workshop's planning committee is putting together a list of potential participants, and submitting proposals to raise funds for the workshop.

The Baird's Tapir PHVA will be held at The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center, Belize, Central America, in the second semester of 2005. TSG members are still discussing the best venue and dates for the Lowland Tapir PHVA.

As I mentioned before, the major goal of these Tapir PHVA workshops is to develop updated Action Plans for each one of the four species of tapirs, concentrating on recommendations for their conservation in the wild, but also with attending to the captive population, education and capacity building, research priorities and funding. Eventually, these documents will be incorporated as chapters in the next, revised edition of the IUCN/SSC *Tapir Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*.

During the TSG Plans for Action Workshop conducted as part of the programme of the Second Symposium in Panama, the major priority goal listed for the TSG during the next two years is the development of National Action Plans for Tapir Conservation and Management in all the tapir range countries in South and Central America and Southeast Asia. We know that this is a very ambitious goal, but the TSG Action Planning Committee is certainly committed to work hard and give it a try.

The specific actions we will be taking in order to reach that goal are:

Action 1. Identify TSG Members (appoint new members if necessary) to be TSG Country Coordinators, responsible for coordinating the development of the National Action Plan in each tapir range country in Central and South America, and Southeast Asia.

Action 2. Re-structure the TSG Action Planning Committee including the TSG Country Coordinators.

Action 3. Elaborate Guidelines for the Development of National Action Plans. Distribute document to all TSG Country Coordinators in Central and South America and Southeast Asia.

Action 4. Establish Regional Tapir Action Planning Committees to work on the development of National Action Plans for Tapir Conservation and Management in each tapir range country in Central and South America and Southeast Asia.

Action 5. TSG Country Coordinators compile a directory of all key people and organisations directly or indirectly involved in tapir conservation and management within their countries (researchers, governmental and non-governmental organisations, universities, zoological institutions, community organisations etc.).

Action 6. TSG Country Coordinators send questionnaires to all key people and organisations directly or indirectly involved in tapir conservation and management within their countries (researchers, governmental and non-governmental organisations, universities, zoological institutions, community organisations etc.). Questionnaires will include questions about tapir status, distribution, threats etc. Questionnaire templates will be provided in the Guidelines for the Development of National Action Plans (See Action 3). The information gathered through this initial survey will be used to draw up preliminary documents for each country, which will be presented and discussed during the Regional Action Planning Meetings.

Action 7. Organise and conduct Regional Action Planning Meetings in each tapir range country in Central and South America and Southeast Asia. The objective of these meetings is to discuss, improve and prioritise the preliminary action planning documents, and produce the first drafts of the National Action Plans for Tapir Conservation and Management.

Action 8. Elaborate the final version of the National Action Plan for Tapir Conservation and Management in each tapir range country in Central and South America and Southeast Asia.

It is important to mention that for each one of the actions, a deadline, an estimated cost, a person to be responsible for its completion, potential collaborators, and indicators of success were established.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions etc. about the work of the TSG Action Planning Committee, please feel free to contact me at any time. As I always say, your feedback is more than welcome.

Patricia Medici

M.Sc. in Wildlife Ecology, Conservation and Management

Chair, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)

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TSG Fundraising Committee: Report and Plans for Action

By Patrícia Medici

The TSG Fundraising Committee was created during the First International Tapir Symposium, which was held in San José, Costa Rica, in November 2001. During the conference in Costa Rica fundraising was one of the most exhaustively addressed issues, and participants discussed their difficulties in raising funds for tapir conservation projects. It became clear that the TSG as a group should put together a committee to help tapir researchers and conservationists to raise funds for their projects. The most important initial objective of this committee was to create the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF), and to develop the Fund in such a way so that it could centralise our fundraising efforts. Other objectives included providing assistance to tapir researchers on the development and design of project proposals and, most importantly, on the identification of potential donors; reviewing and endorsing tapir proposals submitted to funding sources; and stimulating the development of joint proposals involving researchers from different countries and creating international conservation efforts that could have a better chance of getting funded.

The whole process of creating of the TSG Conservation Fund involved several different phases and was finalised in January 2003. The first steps involved discussions within the TSG membership, and exchanging ideas with IUCN officers, representatives from conservation organisations, people from zoo conservation funds etc. The organisations involved in the creation and management of the TSGCF are the TSG, AZA Tapir TAG, EAZA Tapir TAG, Houston Zoo, and Tapir Preservation Fund, in other words, the key groups working for tapir conservation today.

The concept of the TSG Conservation Fund is to work as a vehicle to raise and contribute funds towards tapir conservation initiatives. The structure of the Fund is pretty similar to many other funding agencies. We have application guidelines and application forms, deadlines, and we have a reviewing committee to review the proposals and decide which ones will be funded. In 2003, our funds were collected, managed and dis-

tributed via the Tapir Preservation Fund in the United States, but for 2004 we have decided to move the Fund to the Houston Zoo. As most of you probably know, Specialist Groups are not legal entities and therefore need a partner organisation, preferably a non-profit or charity, to support any fundraising activities.

The funding priorities of the TSGCF are projects targeting research with wild and/or captive tapirs; projects targeting restoration, protection and conservation of tapir habitat in South and Central America, and Southeast Asia; education and capacity-building programmes for local communities within the tapirs' range in South and Central America, and Southeast Asia; implementation of the recommendations of the *IUCN/SSC Tapir Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* (1997); and operational costs for TSG and tapir meetings. The TSGCF criteria for funding specific proposals are: 1.) The proposal must be cooperative in nature and may have matching funds; 2.) The proposal must be scientifically sound, significant and logistically feasible; 3.) The proposal must have a high probability of success, and clearly contribute to the conservation of tapirs and/or their remaining habitats. We also decided that, for many different reasons, this fund should not support salaries, university tuition fees, scholarships, and operational/overhead costs for institutions or established projects and/or programmes.

Once we finished the process of creating and structuring the TSGCF, establishing our objectives, funding priorities and funding criteria, the next step was to raise funds so that we could start running our funding cycles and distributing conservation grants. The main questions we had in mind were "What should we do to raise money for a Fund like this?", "What kind of public should we approach?", and "What kinds of fundraising strategies should we use?". Therefore, we started a process of identifying potential donors and establishing appropriate methods for fundraising to attract and target those potential donors. We decided on three strategies as being those most appropriate for the TSGCF. The first is to conduct annual campaigns targeting private donors, such as tapir enthusiasts, researchers, conservationists etc. The second strategy is to conduct annual campaigns targeting tapir-holding zoological institutions worldwide, especially those in the United States and Europe. The idea is to approach all tapir holders and ask for small contributions for the fund. The third strategy is to produce written and multimedia TSG proposals that we can submit or present to large conservation NGOs, corporations, conservation trusts and foundations. These proposals should include details about the group itself, and also information about the projects being conducted by our members.

We conducted our first Campaign for Private Donors in March 2003. Our partner organisation for

this campaign was the Tapir Preservation Fund, which was in charge of collecting and managing the donations. Campaign flyers were printed and mailed to 400 postal addresses worldwide. We received 41 donations, signifying 10% of the mailing list, mostly from the United States and Europe. Donations ranged from \$5 to \$200 dollars, and we were able to raise a total of \$2,900 dollars, which was not much, but helped us to get started!

In July 2003 we started our first Zoo Campaign. The campaign was organized through a partnership between the TSG, the AZA Tapir TAG and the EAZA Tapir TAG, and our main goal was to raise funds specifically for the Second International Tapir Symposium. The sponsors of the campaign were the Houston Zoo in the States and the Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark. Both these zoos covered all the expenses of mailing the zoo campaign letters. We sent letters to 164 tapir holders in Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe and the United States. Most of the zoos we approached were located in the USA (48 zoos) and Europe (100 zoos). We received 20 donations, which means 12% of the mailing list. Most of the contributions came from the United States, from which 12 zoos made donations, then Europe with 7 zoos and Asia with 1 zoo (Tokyo Zoo in Japan). Donations ranged from \$100 to \$750 dollars, and we were able to raise a total of \$8,450 dollars.

In 2003, we also wrote proposals and made contacts in order to raise funds for specific TSG activities. The Houston Zoo Inc. provided funds for the printing and distribution of the *Tapir Conservation* Newsletter (2 issues per year), and also provided support for the attendance of TSG members to tapir meetings. The Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark was the major donor of the Malay Tapir Conservation Workshop held in Malaysia in August 2003, which was also partially supported by the Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), Wildlife Conservation Society Thailand, and Idea Wild. The total budget of the workshop in Malaysia was US\$15,000. The Second International Tapir Symposium was financially supported by about 60 conservation organisations worldwide, mostly tapir holding zoos in the US, Europe and Japan, but the major donors were the Houston Zoo Inc., Conservation International, Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, Peace River Center for the Conservation of Tropical Ungulates, Los Angeles Zoo, Brookfield Zoo – Chicago Zoological Society, International Animal Exchange Inc., and Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) c/o Audubon Park Zoological Garden, which donated a total of US\$30,000 for the conference.

In total therefore, we raised about US\$56,350, this doesn't include the newsletter costs, which are covered by the Houston Zoo. Our financial report for 2003 includes expenses with research grants distributed to three tapir field projects selected during our TSGCF

2003 Funding Cycle (US\$1,950); the Malay Tapir Conservation Workshop (US\$15,000); the Second International Tapir Symposium (US\$33,000); and small expenses such as 10% overhead for the Tapir Preservation Fund, bank fees, the new TSG Website, gifts for the private donors campaign etc. (US\$1,000).

Our TSG Fundraising Committee had other activities in 2003. We contacted about 150 funding agencies worldwide, mostly zoological institutions, and created a database of potential donors for tapir conservation projects, which was distributed to TSG members and other interested people. We provided assistance to a number of tapir researchers in the development and review of project proposals. We reviewed and endorsed 32 tapir proposals submitted to 12 different funding agencies. And finally, we developed our first joint proposal involving enclosure plots experiments coordinated by tapir researchers from five different countries (Charles Foerster in Costa Rica, Silvia Chalukian in Argentina, Diego Lizcano in Colombia, Carl Traeholt in Malaysia, and myself in Brazil).

Our plans for 2004-2005 include the following specific goals and actions:

GOAL 1. Re-Structure the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF).

Action 1. Create web pages for the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF) on the TSG Website, and establish a system of donations online.

Action 2. Improve the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF) Proposal Reviewing Forms.

GOAL 2. Raise a larger amount of funds for the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF) and distribute these funds to tapir conservation projects (field and captivity) through selective processes.

Action 1. Conduct Annual TSGCF Campaigns for Private Donors worldwide (printed flyers, e-mails, and through the TSG Website).

Action 2. Increase our mailing list of private donors.

Action 3. Implement an intensive marketing campaign making full use of our new TSG Website.

Action 4. Conduct annual TSGCF Campaigns targeting tapir holding institutions worldwide (Tapir Appeals).

Action 5. Develop the TSG Proposal (printed and multimedia) and the "Menu" of Tapir Conservation Projects. Submit or present the proposal to at least five major potential funding sources.

Action 6. Identify two conservation organisations to establish partnerships with the TSG, adopting the group and supporting its activities on a regular basis.

Action 7. Conduct at least two funding cycles, and distribute at least ten tapir conservation grants.

GOAL 3. Raise funds for the upcoming tapir meetings in 2004, 2005 and 2006: Mountain Tapir PHVA (Pereira, Colombia, October 2004), Baird's Tapir PHVA (Belize City, Belize, 2005), Workshop about Data Collection Standardisation (2005), and the Third International Tapir Symposium (Mexico, 2006).

Action: Write and submit proposals for each one of the meetings.

GOAL 4. Seek financial support for TSG printing and mailing expenses (fundraising campaigns, action plans, brochures etc.), promotional materials (T-shirts, posters, bags etc.), educational CDs etc.

Action: Identify and contact as many potential donors as possible.

GOAL 5. Raise funds for the establishment of specific TSG-Supported Projects such as the International Genetics Project, Lowland Tapir GIS Project, TSG Veterinary Committee Training Fund, TSG "Vets Without Frontiers" Programme, TSG Exclosure Plots Project etc.

Action: Write and submit proposals for each one of the projects.

GOAL 6. Provide support for TSG members and other tapir conservationists to identify potential funding sources and raise funds for their projects.

Action: Continue to provide TSG endorsement for tapir proposals.

It is important to mention that for each one of the actions, a deadline, an estimated cost, a person responsible for its completion, potential collaborators, and indicators of success were established.

I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge some people and organisations that have been helping our TSG Fundraising Committee to achieve its goals. Most of our work would not have been possible without the support received from Mariano Gimenez Dixon, Programme Officer of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC); Rick Barongi, Director of the Houston Zoo Inc.; William Konstant, Director of Conservation and Science of the Houston Zoo Inc.; Alan Shoemaker, Permit Advisor of the AZA Tapir TAG and TSG Red List Authority; Lewis Greene, Chair of the AZA Tapir TAG; Bengt Holst, Chair of the EAZA Tapir TAG; Gilia Angell, our Webmaster and Marketing Committee Coordinator; Siân S. Waters, our Newsletter Contributions Editor and Zoo Committee Coordinator; Sheryl Todd, President of the Tapir Preservation Fund; Kelly Russo and Alberto Mendoza, members of the staff of the Houston Zoo Inc.; Wally Van Sickle, President of Idea Wild; Jeffrey Flocken, International Affairs Specialist of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; and several TSG members who are constantly sending ideas and suggestions. All

these people are in constant communication with our TSG Fundraising Committee, and keep their eyes open for any opportunities for us, and for that, I am deeply thankful!!!

If you are interested in receiving more detailed information about the activities of the TSG Fundraising Committee, or if you have any comments, suggestions, ideas, or criticisms, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. Also, if you have any suggestions for any potential funding sources for the TSGCF we should contact, PLEASE let me know!!! We are still learning how to deal with all this, and any feedback will be more than welcome.

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TSG Zoo Committee: Report

By Siân S. Waters

The TSG Zoo Committee was formed during the First Tapir Symposium in Costa Rica in 2001. Heidi Frohring was the co-ordinator at that time but she decided to step down in 2002 and I took over about 18 months ago.

At the first zoo committee meeting in Costa Rica it was decided that the committee would have four main tasks. The tasks are listed below but are not in order of priority.

1. Compile a list of funding resources available from zoos for tapir conservation projects. Pati had already begun this task and the final document was circulated to TSG members in the spring of last year. We would be interested in knowing if any of you have found it useful whilst looking for funding agencies. This resource will need to be updated on a fairly regular basis and Pati Medici is currently doing this.

2. The second task was to compile and maintain a list of experts in the captive husbandry and management of tapirs. This list or register holds the names, contact addresses and fields of expertise for about 20 people from nine countries and is an ongoing project. Requests for voluntary registrations were placed in the electronic newsletter *ZooNews Digest* and in print in *International Zoo News*. A request was also placed on various listserves. This generated a reasonable response. Australia, Central and South America, Europe and the US are all represented, but unfortunately there are no representatives from Asia.

3. The third goal was to improve communication between those working with tapirs in captivity and those working with tapirs in the field. During the Second Tapir Symposium it seemed that most TSG members felt that the newsletter, *Tapir Conservation*, was fulfilling this role adequately.

4. The last task from the original zoo committee meeting was a project working with zoos on new zoo signage/labelling for their tapir exhibits. The idea was to encourage zoos to include information about the work of the TSG on their signage and perhaps to talk about a tapir conservation project they were sponsoring.

This last project has made little progress, and during a meeting of the Zoo Committee at the Second Tapir Symposium held in Panama the possibility of developing a CD containing photos from the field which could be used by zoos for in new tapir signage etc. The CD would also include accurate and interesting information about all four species of tapir. Later on, during the TSG Planning Workshop it was decided that there was such a lot of work to do regarding education and outreach that a new committee specifically for that should be formed. Therefore, the task of compiling the CD has passed to the new Education and Outreach Committee co-chaired by Kelly Russo (Houston Zoo, Inc.) and Gareth Redston (Chester Zoo).

During the Zoo Committee meeting a new task was discussed which will concentrate on attempting to get basic husbandry information to those taking care of tapirs in range country zoos and elsewhere. Basic husbandry guidelines have been developed and are available on the web in English and Spanish. However these are a little out of date and needed to be revised and translated into Spanish, Portuguese and some Asian languages. Alan Shoemaker volunteered to take on this work and his progress report follows.

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Tapir Standards

By Alan Shoemaker

Last summer, husbandry standards for keeping tapirs in captivity were finalised by the AZA. These standards were much more rigorous than the earlier guidelines developed by the AZA at the request of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for use by its inspectors when inspecting zoos, circuses, dealers, laboratories, etc. Specifically intended for use by members of AZA Accreditation Inspectors who may not be familiar with tapirs, the new husbandry standards cover all aspects of tapir husbandry, including exhibit and enclosure requirements, dietary needs, veterinary issues and social behavior.

After the standards were written and announced in Tapir Talk and other tapir-related publications, it became apparent that there was a great deal of interest by non-USA holders of tapirs in this document. Nearly 50 requests for copies of the final standards were electronically distributed to all who requested a set of standards. More recently and as a result of the Second International Tapir Symposium in Panama, it has become apparent that there is a great deal of interest by TSG members and others worldwide in receiving this data, albeit in languages more suitable for range countries. While many veterinarians and other senior staff read and understand English, most keeper-level staff in range countries does not. With that in mind, the AZA husbandry standards were modified for international use, deleting references that only impact AZA members. Of particular importance was the substitution of the veterinary standards section from the AZA Husbandry standards to the original basic guidelines which were already available. TSG members were solicited to translate the standards into Spanish, Portuguese, Thai, Malaysian and Indonesian. Most gratifying was the turnout of TSG members that saw the need for translating these standards into appropriate languages and who volunteered to take on this time-consuming task. Regardless, by spring, this document will hopefully be ready for electronic, if not

paper, distribution to range country zoos, veterinarians, wildlife biologists and any others working with tapirs. Their availability will be announced in all tapir publications in order to reach as many individuals as possible. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of this document in English, Indonesian, Spanish or Portuguese and shortly, other languages, should contact Alan Shoemaker, sshoe@mindspring.com.

We are very grateful to Leonardo Salas for the translation from English to Bahasa Indonesian, Viviana Quse for the Spanish translation and George Velastin and Patricia Medici for the translation into Portuguese.

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TSG Veterinary Committee: Report and Plans for Action

By Pilar Alexander Blanco Márquez

The TSG Veterinary Committee was created during the First International Tapir Symposium held in November 2001 in San José, Costa Rica. Dr. Sonia Hernandez Divers, Ph.D. Graduate Student at the University of Georgia, United States, was the coordinator when the committee was created, and I took over during the Second International Tapir Symposium in Panama in January. The initial goal of this committee was to identify the role of veterinarians in multidisciplinary teams involved in tapir conservation projects. With the participation of a number of veterinarians from Latin America and the United States, this committee launched a series of activities, such as the compilation of bibliographic materials and the standardization of field methodologies in order to guarantee that health studies will be effectively conducted.

During the last two years we have accomplished a number of tasks:

1. We responded to 71 e-mails in regard to health issues. The majority of these questions came from Latin America. The most commonly requested information dealt with reproduction/contraception, nutrition, vaccination, immobilization and questions about specific clinical signs.
2. We summarised tapir mortalities in the North American captive population from 1996-2002.
3. We developed Pre-Shipment/Quarantine Guidelines for tapirs for the AZA Tapir TAG Veterinary Advisory Group.
4. We formulated a document, which outlines the rationale for including a veterinarian in field projects.
5. We formulated a list of health-related priorities for research, as a way to aid the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group Chair in prioritising research needs.
6. We created a document to guide field researchers who do not have continuous veterinary assistance in the area of biological sample collection.
7. We summarised previously reported immobilisation protocols in one document.
8. We revised the updated version of the AZA Husbandry Manual for Tapirs.

During the TSG Veterinary Committee meeting held during the Second International Tapir Symposium in Panama and during the TSG Plans for Action Workshop conducted as part of the Symposium's programme, we were able to discuss and evaluate our previous activities, and set new goals and actions for the committee:

GOAL: To provide support for technical training and capacity building on veterinary issues.

Action 1. Identify possibilities of training and capacity building for field and zoo veterinarians working on tapirs. Develop and distribute a list of potential courses on wildlife medicine including training in anaesthesia, health assessments, epidemiological studies, collection, handling and storage of biological samples, biomedical parameters etc.

Action 2. Develop a curriculum for a training course specifically directed at field veterinarians working on tapirs.

Action 3. Establish a small annual fund within the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF) to support the activities of the TSG Veterinary Committee, including professional training of committee members, veterinary support for tapir field projects worldwide and establishment of a TSG "Vets Without Frontiers" Programme.

GOAL: To encourage field projects to include health aspects.

Action 1. Resume and complete the process of developing the Tapir Veterinary Manual started during the First International Tapir Symposium in Costa Rica. Distribute the Manual to the entire TSG Membership and any other researchers and organisations working on tapirs.

Action 2. Develop a list of areas of veterinarian expertise within the TSG Veterinary Committee (Anaes-

thesia, Medicine and Health, Parasitology, Microbiology, Public Health, Health Management, Capture and Manipulation, Genetics, Reproduction, Immunology, Pharmacology etc.). Distribute the list to the entire TSG Membership and any other researchers and organisations working on tapirs.

Action 3. Create the Tapir Talk Vet e-list to facilitate communication and information exchange among veterinarians working on tapirs.

Besides these specific goals and actions, the TSG Veterinary Committee will contribute to the development of the International Tapir Genetics Project coordinated by the TSG Genetics Committee (For further details about this committee and the project please see the TSG Genetics Committee Introduction and Report in this issue), and collaborate with the development of TSG approved husbandry and veterinary guidelines for all four species of tapirs.

For further details about the activities of the TSG Veterinary Committee, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Pilar Alexander Blanco Márquez

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TSG Red List Committee: Report

By Alan Shoemaker

In 2000, the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) assembled its first Red List Committee in order to review the present (1990's) IUCN categories of the four species of tapirs to decide if changes were in order. Beyond the fact that all four species are declining due to habitat loss and over-hunting, the official status of some species was thought to need upgrading. This committee of the TSG was chaired by Alan Shoemaker (USA) as-

sisted by field biologists from the range countries of all four species: Denis Alexander Torres (Venezuela), TSG Lowland Tapir Coordinator; Emilo Constantino (Colombia), TSG Mountain Tapir Coordinator; Eduardo Naranjo Pinera (Mexico), TSG Baird's Tapir Coordinator; and Nico Van Strien (The Netherlands/Indonesia), TSG Malay Tapir Coordinator. After all species were reviewed by the Red List Committee, the entire TSG was invited to contribute additional information. This solicitation of information resulted in responses from several normally quiet members whose replies often provided new and vital information on the status of tapirs in several poorly surveyed countries. As a result of the Red List Committee's activities, the status of the lowland tapir was changed from Low Risk to Vulnerable, with the population of Colombian lowland tapirs noted as being Critically Endangered.

IUCN/SSC requires that Red List assessments be reviewed every three years. As a result, the TSG Red List Committee was reactivated during winter, 2004 and two new members added. The TSG Malay Tapir Coordinator is now Carl Traeholt, a research coordinator based in Krau Wildlife Reserve, Malaysia. He replaces Nico Van Strien whose new work responsibilities have prevented him from being as active as he would like. Also, another lowland tapir specialist, Silvia Chalukian of El Rey National Park, Argentina was added to give additional insight into the status of this species at the opposite end of its range. Since the Second International Tapir Symposium in Panama, the Chair of the IUCN/SSC TSG Red List Committee has sent last cycle's information to all committee members as well as instructions for review. Given the information presented in Panama, it may be necessary to change (upgrade) the status of the Malay tapir, and to separate Colombian lowland tapirs away from the rest of the species in order to heighten international awareness of the plight of this isolated subspecies. By mid-spring, committee responses should be completed, thus allowing for the entire TSG membership to provide input before submitting updated information to IUCN.

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TSG Genetics Committee: Introduction and Report

By *Anders Gonçalves da Silva, Javier Sarria & Emilio Constantino*

Conservation only makes sense if we are conserving the evolutionary process. That should be the ultimate goal of any conservation programme. The reason is quite simple. By speciation and extinction the evolutionary process drives biodiversity. Through speciation, new species come into existence to fill the void left by the species that became extinct, and to fill new niches. The last 650 million years are full of illustrative examples of this turnover process, with five particularly evident events in the fossil record. Of these, probably the closest one to us is the dinosaur extinction 65 mya, which opened the pathway for the mammalian radiation. Through this interplay between speciation and extinction absolute biodiversity has increased markedly since the origin of life on this planet, albeit with a few bumps in the road. The hope is that we are only one of the minor bumps on this road.

Conserving the evolutionary process requires a concerted effort that incorporates knowledge of the ecology, population biology, natural history and genetics of species. Furthermore, we must incorporate the human component, not as a problem, but as a part of the solution. The tapir conservation efforts, embodied by the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG), have been very good so far at all the components listed above, with the one exception: genetics! The importance of understanding the underlying genetic variability for conservation purposes cannot be overstated. Genetic variability is what drives evolution, making natural selection possible. Nevertheless, this is now changing. During the Second International Tapir Symposium in Panama the TSG Genetics Committee was created to start filling this void. The purpose of the committee is to facilitate the use of the genetic tool for the conservation of tapirs.

To start the job, we are initiating an International Tapir Genetics Project to involving all four species of tapirs, and most, if not all, of the members of the TSG. The objective here is to answer basic questions about the systematics, population genetics and history of the four living tapirs. The information produced by this study will contribute to our understanding of the evolution of tapirs, and provide a first picture of the amount and location of genetic diversity in each species. Yet, more importantly, at the end of the project we hope to have established a network among members of the TSG and molecular labs. The network will hopefully make it possible for more regional and local genetic studies

of tapirs to be carried out more readily. In addition, we might find along the way a few more TSG members keen on tapir conservation and trained in genetics. I am happy to say that the Project is currently underway. The first step was taken at the Symposium in Panama with the presentation of the Project ideals and goals. (Thank you all that attended and provided invaluable criticism and support.) Furthermore, we already have samples from several countries, and have taken the first steps towards the collection of the information necessary to start our fundraising efforts. (Thanks to all that have replied to our survey, and have collected samples for the Project! And, hope to hear soon from those who haven't replied yet.)

This is just the beginning though, the main job of the Genetics Committee will be to advise members on potential techniques and methods of analysis. For instance, one of the main uses of genetic tools today is to assist ecologists in understanding the behaviour and dispersal patterns of their focal species. New techniques have been developed in the past decade to assess, for example, mating systems and structures (*i.e.* sex-biased dispersal). The most recent breakthroughs are in identifying fine-scale barriers to dispersal, likely roots of dispersal in a landscape, and first and second-generation immigrants within a population and their most likely population of origin. Furthermore, significant development has been achieved in using unlikely and poor sources of DNA such as faeces. In turn, this makes it possible to have higher sampling sizes, with less effort and less stress for the animals, and higher confidence in statistical analyses. In as much, the Committee's job is to make sure that the TSG has a core of genetic experts that can advise members, if a member has an interest in using genetic tools. This is not completely operational as yet, and probably won't be until the Genetics Project is well underway. However, we have started by cooperating with the Veterinary Committee in preparing an appropriate protocol for genetic sampling, which should soon be available.

One final point that must be stressed is that genetics is an important and essential source of information for both ecology and evolution, but it is only one source of information, and should not be deemed sufficient for making conservation decisions. Data collected using molecular genetic tools must always be interpreted in light of what is independently known about the ecology, natural history, and evolution of the species. If this information is not available, genetic information should be considered preliminary and not final. Additionally, we believe we have to be pragmatic and take into consideration what is economically viable and politically acceptable before making action decisions based on genetic, or any kind of data, that unnecessarily complicate and hinder the conservation effort. With that said, I reiterate what was said before, we need a concerted ef-

fort to guarantee the success of any conservation effort, and the Genetics Committee is only one part of this effort. Through this effort we hope to ensure that we will only be a minor bump on the biodiversity road.

Anders Gonçalves da Silva

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TSG Education & Outreach Committee: Introduction and Report

By Kelly Russo & Gareth Redston

At the recent Action Planning Session of the TSG, it was determined that there is a critical need to spread the word about the fight to save tapirs above and beyond the TSG membership. Consequently, a new TSG committee was formed – the Education & Outreach Committee (E&O). The co-chairs are Gareth Redston from Chester Zoo, UK and Kelly Russo from the Houston Zoo, USA.

The main responsibility of the E & O is to increase awareness about tapirs and tapir conservation to, well,

everyone. We will work hand in hand with the marketing and zoo committees to establish the TSG as the “point of reference” for anyone seeking information on tapirs. Additionally we want to improve communication between TSG members and with other organisations.

Our first task is to create an educational CD-Rom, which will contain facts, figures and range maps of all four tapir species. Also included on the CD will be a database of copyright free images allowing zoos and other tapir holding institutions to create their own educational materials.

Another product of this committee will be the long awaited TSG brochure. Our plan is to have it widely distributed both electronically and in hard copy to zoos, in-country partners, museums and universities around the world.

We realise that informing the world about tapirs is a huge undertaking, so Gareth and I are formally asking for help. Anyone interested in joining this committee or those who have any ideas to share on E&O topics then please don't hesitate to contact either of the Co-Chairs.

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TSG Marketing Committee: Introduction and Report

By Gilia Angell

A new committee was formed at the 2004 Tapir Symposium: The Tapir Specialist Group Marketing Committee. Gilia Angell, TSG Marketing Committee Coordinator, will lead this committee in fundraising campaigns, public relations and marketing of the TSG

and its mission. The TSG Marketing Committee's goals are outlined in the Final Report from the symposium. They are:

1. Launch the new TSG Website.
2. Create the "TSG Members" and "Tapir Project Profiles" pages on the TSG Website.
3. Design and distribute an attractive and multi-lingual HTML E-mail including information about TSG and its activities.
4. Design and distribute attractive and multi-lingual TSG educational and promotional brochures.
5. Develop an educational CD with tapir information and high-resolution photos for zoo exhibit graphics and placement of our materials on other websites.
6. Use Stephen Nash's tapir illustrations for promotional materials (T-shirts, bags, posters etc.) and fundraising.
7. Send TSG information (HTML E-mail) to mass media vehicles (newspapers, magazines, television networks etc.), pointing back to the TSG Website as the point of reference for multi-media/mass media and articles on tapirs.
8. Invite producers of different animal-related television programs (Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, BBC etc.) to include tapirs in their programmes.
9. Identify a celebrity to act as TSG spokesperson.

In addition to these goals, the TSG Marketing Committee will design and distribute at least one (1) print fundraising campaign for the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF) for the year 2004 (targeted at zoo directors & officials, targeted at past givers, and targeted to new potential donors).

In preparation for launching these various marketing strategies, the Committee Coordinator is inviting members of TSG to join the committee and voice their opinions on prioritising these tasks, and offer any connections, ideas, or funding sources. Several non-TSG marketing and conservation professionals will be consulted and invited to sit in on an advisory basis as well. Please join in this important effort!

Gilia Angell

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The New Tapir Specialist Group Website

By Gilia Angell

The new Tapir Specialist Group Website was launched in January 2004. Tapirspecialistgroup.org has now commenced as the group's official website and online source for up to date document downloads, committee rosters and announcements regarding tapir-related events and news items. We gratefully thank Sheryl Todd who maintained several pages on her Tapir Gallery site for the TSG for so many years, and we have rebuilt much of her content on our own site.

The TSG's goals and activities are global – a strong online presence can help create influence, enable easy access to information, and become a potential marketing tool for our fundraising efforts. Ultimately, we would like the site to be the number one online resource about tapirs and tapir conservation. Maintaining and building the website will take the combined efforts and participation of all TSG members. We plan on providing researcher project pages, which can be used for individual grant proposal marketing. We also plan to launch an up-to-date tapir article bibliography and an online donation form for the Tapir Specialist Group Conservation Fund (TSGCF).

Our site can only be as good as its content, so please submit any and all content or ideas to gilia_angell@earthlink.net or to webmaster@tapirspecialistgroup.org. English, Spanish, Portuguese and Asian languages are all accepted. Content will be edited for spelling and grammar and posted as submitted. We want this to be OUR site, so send us anything you'd like to have posted about your project, findings or tapir events at your institution, country or research site. Sharing information is key to creating and maintaining our already fantastic consortium of tapir researchers and aficionados. By maintaining a strong web presence, we can create even more awareness about the issues surrounding tapir conservation.

Thanks for your participation.

Gilia Angell

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Newsletter Report

By *Siân S. Waters, Stefan Seitz & Kelly Russo*

As everyone else has had something to report in this newsletter we thought that we ought to have a report about the actual newsletter! The important news is that we now have an Editorial Board. The board is made up of willing (well most of them!) volunteers who will review contributed articles falling within their specialist remit. These longer contributed articles are being submitted more frequently and we hope that this means that *Tapir Conservation* is becoming better known in general and not just amongst those working with tapirs.

Apart from Siân, Stefan Seitz, Patrícia Medici and Sheryl Todd, the other members of our Editorial Board are William Konstant, Conservation and Science Director, Houston Zoo Inc., USA; Leonardo Salas, Ph.D. Freelance Consultant, Venezuela/Indonesia; Diego Lizcano, Ph.D. Graduate Student, Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent, Colombia/UK; Alan H. Shoemaker, Permit Advisor, American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), USA; Pilar Alexander Blanco Márquez, D.V.M. Fundación Nacional de Parques Zoológicos e Acuários (FUNPZA), Venezuela; Matthew Colbert, Ph.D. Research Associate, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Texas, USA; Anders Gonçalves da Silva, Graduate Fellow, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), Columbia University, Brazil/USA; Gareth Redston, Education Division, North of England Zoological Society, Chester Zoo, England; and Angela Glatston, Curator of Hoofstock & Conservation Coordinator, Rotterdam Zoo, The Netherlands. We are very grateful to everyone on this list and we hope that the newsletter will get even better as a result of their input.

A slight downside to this is that articles may not be published quite as promptly because the review process will be slightly longer. It does mean, however, that contributed articles can be submitted throughout the year but deadlines remain as 31st March and 30th September for news, project updates etc. This means that the latter will be published in a timely manner – June and December respectively. We would also ask all contributors to refer to the instructions for contributors which are usually found on the inside back page of the newsletter before submitting their contribution.

We are also in the process of obtaining an ISSN number for the newsletter and we hope this will be achieved by the end of the year. Regarding the content of the newsletter I would like to thank Leonardo Salas for his idea of the “Ask the Experts” section. This has

dealt with some interesting topics so far and please don't hesitate to contact Leo if you have a topic on which you would like to initiate a discussion (LeoAS alas@netscape.net). If anyone else has an idea for the newsletter then please don't hesitate to contact us.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter in the last two years and encourage those of you who haven't to send us something. Thanks to Patrícia Medici and Sheryl Todd for their help with final editing. And last, but most certainly not least, many thanks to Rick Barongí and the Houston Zoo Inc. for sponsoring the publication and distribution of the newsletter as without that there wouldn't be a publication.

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Regional News

COLOMBIA

Red Danta Colombia (Colombian Tapir Network): An Update

By **Diego J. Lizcano, Jaime Andres Suárez & Olga Montenegro**

The Colombian Tapir Network (*Red Danta de Colombia*) was created during the First International Tapir Symposium, held in Costa Rica in 2001. This network has carried out several activities during its two first years, such as designing and producing the network's website (<http://tapiruscol.tripod.com>), holding an on-line discussion group, participating in the joint effort to formulate a National Programme for Tapir Conservation in Colombia, and improving communication among its members.

Two years after its creation, *Red Danta* held a meeting during the Second Tapir Symposium held recently in Panama. The Colombian participants at the symposium talked about *Red Danta's* perspectives and future. During the discussions, new and important ideas were suggested and commitments made.

Our web page is to include more and new information regarding traditional knowledge about tapirs among indigenous communities. This task will be undertaken by Adriana Sarmiento who will put together the information regarding this issue which is currently dispersed among other sources. The publications link will not just be a list of references, but will become a real tapir library for downloading articles in PDF format. This huge task is being undertaken by Olga Montenegro.

There will be a bi-annual news bulletin, which will be distributed to regional environmental offices, National Parks, NGOs, private reserves and universities in Colombia. This bulletin will contain information about TSG, and an abstract of *Red Danta's* activities. This first bulletin will also include information promoting the mountain tapir PHVA, to be carried out in October 2004 in Otun Quimbaya Sanctuary, Pereira, Colombia. Editors for the first edition will be Jaime Andres Suarez, Olga Montenegro and Javier Sarria.

There will be an editorial committee dedicated to providing assistance with proposal preparation, as well as projects and publications related to tapirs. The aim for these articles is that they be published in *Tapir*



From left to right: Colombian participants in the Second International Tapir Symposium. **Javier Sarria, Sergio Sandoval, Olga Montenegro, Jaime Andrés Suárez, Carolina Villegas, Emilio Constantino, Adriana Sarmiento and Diego J. Lizcano.**

Conservation, the newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG), and other journals. The coordinator of this committee is Diego J. Lizcano.

Currently we are committed to the implementation of the National Programme for Tapir Conservation in Colombia, and we will be bringing our experience in the development of our National Programme to the Mountain Tapir PHVA to be held later this year.

Diego J. Lizcano

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BELIZE

By Sharon Matola

Due to a 3-2 ruling against the environmental concerns presented by the Canadian proposed Chalillo Dam, Fortis, Inc continues to push this project forward. This court decision by the UK's Privy Council was summed up by their admission indicating that Belize was a sovereign nation, and if it should choose to go forward with this dam, that is its decision, and not one in which the Privy Council will interfere. Unfortunately, this decision has been bad news for the populations of Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) in the Upper Macal River Valley. Having made a site visit in October 2003, it was startling to note that, in over ten years, this was the first time that not one sign of wildlife was observed. Reliable sources state that hunting is rampant. Fortis, Inc, has employed Chinese workers and there is no monitoring of hunting activities. Belizean workers are also joining in the hunting scene and as a result, this once-biodiverse rich region is now without the populations of tapir, peccaries, and other species, which once thrived there. Any field research on *T. bairdii* and the other 3 extant species is so important as we need to consider the reality of the steady depletion of our natural resources.

A PHVA for Baird's tapir is in the early planning stages, and will take place at The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Centre in 2005.

TSG members Humberto Wohlers and Sharon Matola will be making strenuous efforts during 2004 to locate a female *T. bairdii*, from captive collections. We hope to acquire a female on breeding loan to pair with our 14-year-old male. As the species becomes rarer, breeding in captivity is a crucial option, which should be considered. In the future, *T. bairdii* may become a role model species for release into the wild, into possible restored habitat. Collecting field data to empower this future work is a vital part of a conservation strategy.

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HONDURAS

Notes on the Relative Abundance and Hunting of Baird's Tapir in the Rus-Rus Region of La Moskitia, Honduras: A Proposed Biological Reserve

By Nereyda Estrada

One of the recommendations made by the IUCN/SSC Tapir Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan is to investigate the population status of the four species of tapirs throughout their range (Brooks *et al.* 1997). The status and distribution of the Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) in Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama is poorly known (E.J. Naranjo, *com. pers.*). According to Marineros & Martínez (1998) most of the reports of Baird's tapirs in Honduras come from the lowland tropical forests in the Eastern area of the country (La Moskitia).

The region known as La Moskitia comprises the lowland forests of Eastern Honduras and Northeastern Nicaragua, which forms the largest continuous area of tropical forest in Central America (Wilber 1996), covering an area of about 17,000 km². Four indigenous groups inhabit the area: Miskitos, Pech, Garífunas and Tawahkas. All of these groups practice traditional hunting and, in many communities, wild game is the only source of animal protein available. The proposed Biological Reserve of Rus-Rus (PBRR) is located in the Southern Honduran Moskitia, near the Nicaraguan border (Figure 1). Broadleaf forest covers 48.8% of the PBRR, pine forest 38%, *guamiles* 5.6% and natural grasslands and swamps cover 6.6%. There are five communities within the PBRR area, accounting for a total population of 1,762 inhabitants covering 1% of the area.

From July 8 to 23, 2002, I walked 20 km of transects within the proposed limits of the PBRR. Transects had an average length of 1 km. The average walking speed was 1 km per hour. I recorded the number of tracks, faeces and other signs indicating the presence of Baird's tapirs and other mammals. Eighty-six percent (86%) of transects were in broadleaf and riparian forest, the remainder were in pine forest and swamps. Transects were walked with the assistance of an experienced hunter from the Rus-Rus community.

Evidence of Baird's tapir was found only in broadleaf (0.42 tracks/km) and riparian forests (2.22 tracks/km). The average relative abundance index was (SE) 0.77 ± 0.41 tracks/km. Near the headwaters of the Rus-Rus River, several tracks of young and adult tapirs were found near the remains of fruits from *Astrocary-*

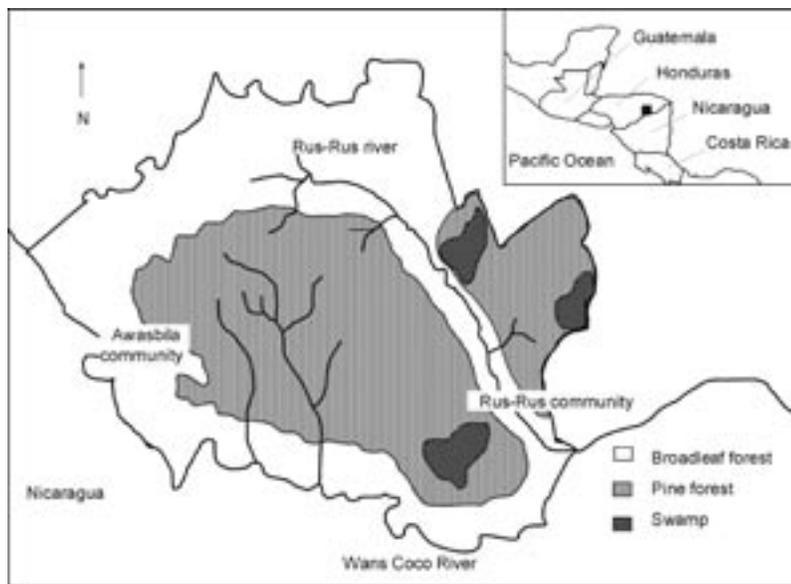


Figure 1. Proposed Biological Reserve of Rus-Rus (PBRR) with vegetation types, Honduras.

um alatum palms and *Bellucia pentamera* trees, and there was evidence that tapirs were consuming these two types of fruits. The native Miskitos call the tree *Bellucia pentamera* “Tilba takaika” (Zamora 2000), which means “the place where the tapir jumps suddenly”.

Through informal interviews done in the Rus-Rus community, I found out that the local hunters have a preference for white-lipped peccaries (*Tayassu pecari*), pacas (*Agouti paca*), and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Baird’s tapir is not preferred game in the community and its meat is seldom consumed. I visited the PBRR in November and December 2000 and found tapir tracks within one kilometer of the Rus-Rus community. This could indicate that there is no strong hunting pressure on tapirs, given that their tracks can still be seen near the villages. Nonetheless, a greater hunting pressure in the PBRR comes from Honduran and Nicaragua villagers outside the area. These hunters enter the PBRR for several days and they preserve the meat with salt or smoke. In this way they are able to hunt in the area for longer periods of time and extract larger amounts of meat. This kind of hunting is not only for subsistence, but also has a commercial purpose.

In the PBRR some areas of forest are in the process of regeneration. These patches of secondary broadleaf forest are the result of the establishment of about 4,000 Nicaraguan refugees during the 1980’s. During their stay of about ten years in the PBRR, the refugees exerted strong pressure on the local natural resources. They cleared out large areas of forest and hunted heavily. According to Rus-Rus hunters, after the refugees

went back to Nicaragua towards the end of the 1980’s, the local fauna was almost exhausted. Nonetheless, they also mentioned that towards the mid 1990’s they started to notice gradual recovery in the populations of some mammal species.

Contrary to the situation in the other areas of La Moskitia, tapirs are not preferred game in the Rus-Rus village, implying that the PBRR is a potential refuge for this mammal. Therefore, the legal declaration of this area as a protected reserve, and the establishment of strict control over the non-local commercial hunters that come into the area are urgent and must be implemented as soon as possible. Additionally, I would recommend the establishment of a long-term Baird’s tapir research project in the area in order to conduct extensive sampling and monitoring of the population.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Patricia Medici and Eduardo Naranjo for their comments and corrections to the manuscript and for their enthusiastic support of this study. Finally, I want to thank F. Castañeda J. McCranie and T. Manzanares for their invaluable help.

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SUMATRA, INDONESIA

By Deborah Martyr

In early March, undercover investigators from the FFI/Kerinci Seblat National Park Tiger Protection Unit who were seeking to penetrate a tiger trafficking syndicate were offered a live tapir for sale by a broker for an illegal wildlife dealer in the South Sumatra provincial capital of Palembang. The broker claimed to have seen the animal and, from his description, it was probably a young adult. Contact was made with the vendor – a Chinese woman – through the broker and the investigators learned that the animal had recently died after being held at an unknown location in or close to Palembang city for some weeks.

This is not the first time the FFI team has received reports of live tapir in trade in Sumatra and in 2002, a private zoo in the Philippines was found to have a tapir, from Sumatra on display and was reportedly negotiating with brokers in Indonesia to buy one and possibly two more. Checks with Indonesian authorities advised that no legal exports of tapir to the Philippines had taken place in the time frame in which this animal had been acquired.

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GERMANY

Successful Breeding of the Malay Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) at Dortmund Zoo, Germany, with a “Problem” Female

By Frank Brandstätter

Dortmund Zoo has been keeping Malay tapirs (*Tapirus indicus*) since 1978. The first birth was recorded in 1981, but the baby died within a few days. The first successful births (two animals from two different mothers) were recorded in 1982. From then on Dortmund Zoo became a regular breeder of Malay tapirs and successful births occurred in 1984, 1985, 1993, 1995, 1998 and in 2000.



Malay Tapir offspring “Kakak Götz” at Dortmund Zoo, Germany.

The last offspring, a male called “Jinak”, was born on 1st February 2000 and is now our breeding male. He is paired with the female “Aria”, born at Oklahoma City Zoo (USA) in 1996, later transferred to Munich Zoo and from there to Dortmund Zoo in 2000. When she arrived, she was considered to be a “problem” animal as she had previously failed to be paired with any male. When “Aria” arrived the breeding male was “Paul”, an animal originally born at Mulhouse Zoo (France) in 1988, later transferred to Rotterdam Zoo (The Netherlands) and finally to Dortmund Zoo in 1990 after they had lost their breeding male. “Paul” was a successful and proven breeder fathering all four Malayan tapirs born at Dortmund Zoo after 1990. Although he was a tame and handsome animal, “Aria” was afraid of him from the beginning. She seemed very nervous and became more so as the weeks went by. She obviously had problems, not only with being paired with a male she was afraid of, but also with the visitors. The Malay tapirs at Dortmund Zoo are kept in a rectangular enclosure of about 650 m² with two sides being accessible to visitors, the rear being accessible to zoo staff members exclusively and the fourth side covered by a dense hedge separating the tapir enclosure from the one for Asian hoofed stock.

Due to her obvious problems “Aria” was finally paired with the, by then still juvenile, “Jinak” in early 2001. “Paul” was transferred to Berlin Zoo where he died in 2002. After being paired with “Jinak” of whom she was obviously unafraid, “Aria” seemed to calm down for the first time since her arrival.

In early 2002 “Jinak” began to show courtship behaviour and tried to “climb” “Aria” which she seemed to accept without problems. At first “Jinak” was too small but when he grew up he was finally successful and on 2nd August 2003 “Aria” gave birth to a young male. Due

to her previous behaviour, the staff at Dortmund Zoo was at first sceptical about whether "Aria" was calm enough to rear her baby. However, to everyone's relief, "Aria" proved to be an exemplary mother, even allowing keepers and veterinarians to check up on the youngster, named "Kakak Götz" in an Indonesian style honouring its sponsor, German entertainer Götz Alsmann.

When she gave birth to her first offspring "Aria" was already seven years old, "Jinak" on the other hand must have been only two years of age when he successfully mated with her, as the gestation period for tapirs is given as 390 to 395 days (Nowak 1999). Standard zoological references quote an age of three to four years for reaching maturity in tapirs, the earliest being two years of age (Kauffels 2004). Thus, it must be considered that "Jinak" was one of those rare animals who bred much younger than the average.

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UNITED KINGDOM

In October 2003, London Zoo produced its first Malay tapir for nearly a century. 'Sayang', a female was born at the beginning of October to first time parents 'Doris' (from Oklahoma Zoo) and 'Hutan' (from Dortmund Zoo).

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A first bibliographic outline has been published in *Tapir Cons.* Vol. 11 No. 2 from June 2002. We would like to continue this service and list some more scientific references related to tapirs and of further ecological importance. This update considers most recent articles published out of this newsletter.

New records are asked to be sent to Stefan Seitz for completion: tapirseitz@web.de

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Scope

This newsletter aims to provide information regarding all aspects of tapir natural history. Items of news, recent events, recent publications, thesis abstracts, workshop proceedings etc concerning tapirs are welcome. Manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word.

Deadlines

There are two deadlines per year. They are 31 March for publication in June and 30 September for publication in December.

Please include the full name and address of the authors underneath the title of the article and specify who is the corresponding author.

Full length articles on any aspect of tapir natural history should not be more than 15 pages in length (including references). An abstract is required and British English spelling is requested.

Figures and Maps

Articles etc can include black and white photographs, high quality figures and high quality maps and tables.

References

Please refer to these examples when listing references:

Journal Article

Herrera, J.C., Taber, A., Wallace, R.B. & Painter, L. 1999.

Lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) behavioural ecology in a southern Amazonian tropical forest. *Vida Silv. Tropicale* 8: 31-37.

Chapter in Book

Janssen, D.L., Rideout, B.A. & Edwards, M.S. 1999. Tapir Medicine. In: M.E. Fowler & R. E. Miller (eds.) *Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine*, pp.562-568. W.B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, USA.

Book

Brooks, D.M., Bodmer, R.E. & Matola, S. 1997. *Tapirs: Status, Survey and Conservation Action Plan*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Thesis/Dissertation

Foerster, C.R. 1998. *Ambito de Hogar, Patron de Movimiento y Dieta de la Danta Centroamericana (Tapirus bairdii) en el Parque Nacional Corcovado, Costa Rica*. M.S. thesis. Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica.

Report

Santiapilli, C. & Ramono, W.S. 1989. *The Status and Conservation of the Malayan tapir (Tapirus indicus) in Sumatra, Indonesia*. Unpublished Report, Worldwide Fund for Nature, Bogor, Indonesia.

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Tapir Conservation

The Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group

Volume 13/1 ■ No. 15 ■ June 2004

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