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TAPIR SPECIALIST GROUP

Tapir Conservation

The Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group

www.tapirs.org

- **Fourth International Tapir Symposium Report**

- **TSG Chair Honoured with two Environmental Leadership Awards**
- **TSG Committee Reports**

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Southeast Asia
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Myanmar: Antony Lynam
Thailand: We are in the process of identifying a coordinator.

I would like to start this Letter from the Chair by mentioning how very, very proud I am of the Tapir Specialist Group! Earlier this year we all got together once again for the Fourth International Tapir Symposium held in Parque XCARET in Quintana Roo, Mexico, from April 26th to May 1st. During the conference, we had the chance to look back and evaluate what we have done since the Third Symposium in Argentina in 2006 and it was absolutely amazing to realize how much we have accomplished as a group! It is truly incredible and reflects our group's continuous commitment to the conservation of the four tapir species and their habitat.

The Fourth International Tapir Symposium was another extremely successful event of the Tapir Specialist Group, another landmark in our history, and most of this issue of *Tapir Conservation* will be dedicated to providing information generated during the conference. In this issue you will find a detailed report and pictures of the conference as well as reports from all our TSG Committees, Taskforces, and Working Groups.

On behalf of the main organizers of the Fourth International Tapir Symposium, including the Tapir Specialist Group, Parque XCARET in Mexico, Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), and European Association of Zoos & Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), I would like to thank all participants and all organizations that provided institutional and/or financial support for the conference.

We had 90 participants, including tapir conservationists from 22 countries worldwide (Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, French Guiana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States). The conference had the financial and/or institutional support from over 90 conservation organizations worldwide, mostly tapir holding zoological institutions in North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia. We could not be more grateful for their contributions and, most importantly, their confidence in the importance of this meeting.

During the entire process of the organization of this conference, we had the full support from our major partner on this challenge, the Parque XCARET in Mexico, and the Tapir Specialist Group will always remain thankful for this. On behalf of the entire TSG membership and all symposium participants, I would like to thank the entire XCARET staff, especially Efrain Rios Castillo, for all their assistance in making the conference happen. Also, I would like to thank our TSG member Alberto Mendoza who was a major part of our symposium planning committee and who went out of his way to make this conference happen! This conference would not have happened without Alberto's energy and hard work.

A more detailed report about the Fourth International Tapir Symposium, including a complete list of all our supporters is included on this issue.

As always, the last session of the conference was the **TSG Strategic Planning Workshop**. The main goal of this session was to evaluate what the TSG has accomplished over the past two years since the Fourth Symposium in Argentina and develop a new strategic plan for the group. Dr. Bengt Holst, an active member of the Tapir Specialist Group and Convener of the European Network of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), and myself (as a facilitator of the Brazilian Network of CBSG) facilitated the workshop. During this session, we split the participants in topic-based working groups and guided them through the process of thinking about and discussing the TSG's future challenges and demands, as well as setting short-term goals and actions for the next three (3) years in order to be more effective in terms of tapir conservation worldwide. I say three

Baird's tapir exhibit at Parque XCARET, Mexico.

years because during the conference in Mexico we decided that from now on the Tapir Symposium will be held every three years instead of two, which will give us more time to establish tapir research and conservation initiatives, and produce tapir conservation knowledge. Additionally, holding the conference every three years will give our donors more time in between events.

The final outcome of the TSG Strategic Planning Workshop held in Mexico was a list of twenty-two (22) priority goals and sixty-one (61) specific actions that the TSG will put into practice over the next three years (2008-2010) in order to reach the goals between now and the Fifth International Tapir Symposium to be held in 2011. The final version of the TSG Strategic Plan 2008-2010 will be made available online on the TSG Website very soon and I would like to ask all TSG members and symposium participants to please review the document and let me know if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, criticisms etc. This document is extremely important for the TSG and will guide our work over the next three years. We need our entire membership to be familiar with our priority goals and actions as a group. Additionally, I would like to invite all of you to please get involved with our activities, committees, taskforces and working groups, and contribute as much as you can. Most importantly, each of the 61 actions is attached to the name of a person responsible for completing it and we do expect that those named will step up to the task.

During the conference in Mexico we made several changes to the TSG Membership. A few members were removed from the group, mostly because of lack of participation in the group's activities, and new members were added. We now have **121** members, including field researchers, educators, veterinarians, governmental agencies and NGO representatives, zoo personnel, university professors and students, from **27** different countries worldwide: Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, French Guiana, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Republic of Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela.

Additionally, we made several necessary changes in our TSG Structure:

- We have a new Species Coordinator for Baird's Tapir, Manolo García from Guatemala.
- We have new Editors for the *Tapir Conservation* newsletter: Michael Dee from the United States for English contributions and Diego Lizcano from Colombia for Spanish contributions. Kelly Russo from the Houston Zoo in the United States and Stefan Seitz from Germany will continue as our Layout and Distribution Editors. Additionally, we put together a new Editorial Board for *Tapir Conservation*, which is now formed by Patrícia Medici (Brazil), Mathias Tobler (Switzerland/Peru), Anders Gonçalves da Silva (Canada), Alan Shoemaker (USA), Matthew Colbert (USA), Carl Traeholt (Denmark/Malaysia), Budhan Pukazhenthi (USA), and Benoit de Thoisy (France/French Guiana).
- We have officially established our TSG Action Plan Implementation Taskforce, with different Focal Points for different tapir species and some specific relevant issues. More details about this taskforce can be found in a TSG report included in this issue.
- Our Marketing and Education Committees, previously coordinated by Gilia Angell and Kelly Russo respectively, have been merged. From now on, Gilia and Kelly will co-coordinate a new committee called Marketing and Education Committee.
- We reviewed the coordination and membership of all our different committees, taskforces, working groups etc. Each coordinator was requested to re-structure his/her committee and make sure to communicate effectively with the members. Each coordinator was requested to provide a report for this issue of *Tapir Conservation*.
- We reviewed TSG Country Coordination. We contacted all of our Country Coordinators in order to assess their interest to continue in their positions and to explain that we need their active participation if we want to successfully implement our new Strategic Plan. Most of the Country Coordinators reaffirmed their interest to continue their work, help the TSG implement the Strategic Plan and develop National Action Plans for their countries (which was the original goal when we created the Country Coordinator position). However, some Country Coordinators resigned due to busy schedules and lack of time to dedicate to the TSG.

As a consequence, we are currently searching for Country Coordinators for Venezuela, Belize, Nicaragua, Panama and Thailand.

- Now that our Tapir Re-Introduction and Translocation Taskforce has finalized its main goal of developing and publishing the TSG Guidelines for Tapir Re-Introduction and Translocation, it has turned into an Advisory Committee to assist any researchers and organizations planning on establishing re-introduction and/or translocation programs. I will be coordinating the Re-Introduction and Translocation Advisory Committee. More details about the activities of this advisory committee can be found in a TSG report included in this issue.
- As I mentioned before, from now on we will hold the International Tapir Symposium every three (3) years instead of two. Therefore, we decided to put together a **TSG Steering Committee** formed by key, active TSG members that could meet once or twice during the 3-year intervals in between conferences in order to carry out mid-term assessments of the implementation of the TSG Strategic Plan. We discussed this idea and selected **14** TSG members representing a core group including all species and themes such as in-situ/ex-situ conservation, NGOs, universities, different TSG committees/taskforces/working groups etc. (genetics, zoo, veterinary, newsletter, marketing/education, re-introduction/translocation, red listing, virtual library etc.), some species coordinators, some country coordinators, AZA and EAZA Tapir TAG members, Latin America, Europe, USA, Southeast Asia etc. The members of the TSG Steering Committee are: Alan Shoemaker (USA), Alberto Mendoza (Mexico/USA), Anders Gonçalves da Silva (Canada), Bengt Holst (Denmark), Carl Traeholt (Denmark/Malaysia), Diego Lizcano (Colombia), Gilia Angell (USA), Jeffrey Flocken (USA), Kelly Russo (USA), Mathias Tobler (Switzerland/Peru), Michael Dee (USA), Olga Montenegro (Colombia), Rick Schwartz (USA), and Viviana Quse (Argentina). We strongly believe that this is something that will help us be more efficient in terms of monitoring the implementation of our Species Action Plans and TSG Strategic Plan. And last but not least, it will take some of the TSG responsibilities off my shoulders, giving our membership a lot more freedom to make decisions and take the lead on different TSG initiatives!!!

The updated versions of both our TSG Membership and TSG Structure directories are included in this issue. Please review your name, title, job positions, and contact information please let us know if these must be updated. The directories of members of all different committees, taskforces, working groups, species coordinators, country coordinators etc. have been made available online on the TSG Website.

On a final note, I would like to announce that the Fifth International Tapir Symposium will be held in Malaysia, most probably in Kuala Lumpur, in April 2011. We decided it is about time to bring our tapir conference to Southeast Asia! Our TSG Coordinator for Malayan Tapirs, Dr. Carl Traeholt, and our TSG Country Coordinator for Malaysia, Zainal Zainuddin, both based in Malaysia, have already started the process of identifying a venue for the event as well as potential local partners.

We hope to see all of you in Malaysia in 2011!!!
All the best from Brazil!

Patrícia Medici
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Research Coordinator, Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative
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TSG Strategic Planning Workshop held during Fourth International Tapir Symposium at Parque XCARET, Mexico, from April 26th to May 1st, 2008. Credits: Tim Stahl

TSG NEWS

Tapir Specialist Group Chair Honored with two Environmental Leadership Awards!

March, 2008: Patrícia Medici received the international Golden Ark Award from the Golden Ark Foundation in the Netherlands for her contributions to lowland tapir research and conservation in Brazil, as well as for her work as Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG). See press release below. For further information about the Golden Ark Foundation and Golden Ark Award please visit: **www.goldenarkaward.org**

Golden Ark Award

Patrícia Medici, Coordinator of the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative (LTCI) in Brazil, and Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (CBSG) is one of the three winners of the Golden Ark Award from the Golden Ark Foundation in the Netherlands. Patrícia received this award for her long-term contributions to lowland tapir research and conservation in Brazil, as well as for her work as chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG).

The goal of the Golden Ark Foundation is to promote the conservation of species of wild animals and plants. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation has established the Golden Ark Award, a prestigious conservation award, which rewards and funds individuals for their internationally outstanding species conservation efforts. The Golden Ark Award honors creativity, leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of species conservation, and aims to stimulate award winners to sustain their dedicated work.

In September 2007, 69 conservationists from 40 different countries worldwide were nominated for the Golden Ark Award. Patrícia Medici was nominated by the Dutch Foundation Zoos Help of the Dutch Federation of Zoos, a long-term supporter of Patrícia's tapir conservation efforts in Brazil. Ten of the nominees were short-listed for the second phase of the selection process, and three of them were selected as the winners of the award.

The other two winners of the Golden Ark Award 2008 were Charudutt Mishra from India, who works on Himalayan wildlife, with a strong focus on the snow leopard, and Michiel Hötte from the Netherlands, a pioneer in Amur leopard conservation in Russia. Patrícia, Charudutt, and Michiel received the Golden Ark Award during the Golden Ark Conference at Burgers' Zoo in Arnhem, the Netherlands, on the 14th of March, 2008.

Each winner received a €50,000 contribution to their conservation work to be used in a project of their choice. Patrícia made the decision to use this funding to establish an endowment fund for the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative (LTCI) in Brazil. The goal of this fund will be to generate, in the future, at least 25% of the annual budget of the LTCI. Ultimately, the endowment fund will guarantee part of the financial sustainability of Patricia's current tapir field projects in the Atlantic Forest and Pantanal, as well as future projects in the Amazon and Cerrado.

Credits: Future for Nature Foundation, Patrícia Medici

May, 2008: Patrícia Medici received the **Whitley Award** from the Whitley Fund for Nature in the United Kingdom, a top environmental leadership honor, which was presented to her by Princess Anne. See press release below. For further information about the Whitley Award and the Whitley Fund for Nature please visit: **www.whitleyaward.org**

Whitley Award
Princess Gives Top Nature Award to Tapir-Led Initiative by Brazilian Biologist

LONDON, UK: 21 MAY 2008 - HRH The Princess Royal (Princess Anne) tonight presented one of the world's top environmental awards - a Whitley Award - to Dr Patrícia Medici, of Brazil, for a project that uses tapirs as ambassadors for grassroots nature conservation.

Dr. Medici, 35, a founder member of the Brazilian conservation organization, IPÊ, was one of 11 people honored at the ceremony, held at the Royal Geographical Society, London, by The Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) - the UK-based charity which administers the international awards program. Dr Medici's prize includes a Whitley Award project grant of £30,000, donated by The Friends of WFN plus long-term support and the opportunity to seek further WFN funding. Other Whitley Award winners came from Bangladesh, Borneo, Chile, China, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Peru and Turkey.

The Whitley Award to Patrícia Medici recognized her work in the Atlantic Forests of Brazil. There, she is using lowland tapirs as ambassadors for conservation, introducing them to local communities and so capturing interest and support for active habitat conservation of benefit to many wildlife species. One of the project's greatest achievements is its agro-forestry work with landless communities. They are creating forest corridors that link up fragmented wildlife habitats while also giving themselves an income by selling excess saplings. Plans are now in hand to roll-out the model to other parts of Brazil, starting in the world's largest freshwater wetland, the Pantanal.

Credits: Whitley Fund for Nature, Patrícia Medici

Speaking before the results were announced, WFN's founder, Edward Whitley, said:

"The aim of the Whitley Awards is to find and support the environmental leaders who are helping to build a future where nature and people co-exist in a way that benefits both. Once again, this year's finalists have risen to the challenge. They have impressed and heartened us by telling us their conservation success stories, and by showing what can be achieved when vision, passion, intelligence and determination are brought to bear. An added bonus is that they give us hope. The example set by people like Patricia Medici is an inspiration for us all."

The awards ceremony was co-hosted by BBC broadcaster Martha Kearney and held in front of a 350-strong audience that included Sir David Attenborough, embassy representatives leading scientists and celebrity conservation supporters.

Edward Whitley added: "As well as providing our winners with a substantial financial prize, we also strive to support them in wider ways – for instance, by offering them opportunities to seek further funding in future years and by uniting them with other donors and conservation organizations. They also become part of the Whitley Fund for Nature's network of past finalists which, after 15 years, now takes in over 100 dynamic environmentalists in more than 50 countries, making it an invaluable source of experience, ideas and best practice."

SYMPOSIUM REPORT

Fourth International Tapir Symposium

Report

By Patrícia Medici

The main purpose of the International Tapir Symposium is to bring together a multi-faceted group of tapir experts and conservationists, including field biologists and researchers, educators, husbandry and captive management specialists, veterinarians, government authorities and non-governmental organization representatives, academicians, politicians, and other key players in the development and implementation of tapir conservation and management programs. To this end, the conference is carried out in such a way that participants are stimulated to conduct overviews of current tapir research (*in-situ* and *ex-situ*), conservation and management issues, thereby generating the necessary information to promote action planning in terms of priorities for tapir conservation in Central and South America, and Southeast Asia.

Also, this conference aims to establish conservation partnerships, and develop and maintain a communication network of tapir conservationists worldwide in order to facilitate the implementation of conference recommendations and their evaluation in future meetings.

The First International Tapir Symposium was held in November 2001, in Costa Rica, and attracted 95 participants from 22 countries, proving to be a major boost for tapir conservation. Never before had there been so many tapir experts and conservationists, key players in the development of tapir conservation programs, assembled under one roof to share knowledge and address the challenges ahead. The Second Symposium was held in January 2004, in Panama, and attracted 80 participants, including tapir conservationists from 19 countries. Our Third Symposium was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in January, 2006, and 95 participants from 18 countries worldwide attended.

The Fourth International Tapir Symposium was held in Parque XCARET, State of Quintana Roo, Mexico, from April 26th to May 1st, 2008, and it was another extremely successful event for the Tapir Specialist Group!!! We hosted a total of 90 participants, including tapir conservationists from 22 countries worldwide (Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, French Guiana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States). Approximately 40% of the Tapir Specialist Group members attended the conference; therefore the group was very well represented. Tapir experts from many different backgrounds and institutional affiliations, and who are carrying out a variety of research projects all throughout the world had the opportunity to meet each other in person, exchange ideas and experiences, and establish partnerships.

The first part of the conference consisted of paper and poster sessions covering a wide range of issues relevant to tapir conservation, such as tapir ecology, field research, population management, threat assess-

ments, husbandry and captive management, veterinary issues, genetics, implementation of action plans, habitat evaluations, research methodologies, identification of priority areas for tapir conservation, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), environmental education etc. Paper sessions were organized by topic 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 total, 21 papers were presented: three in the Tapir Captive and Reproductive Management Session, four in the Tapir Genetics Session, 11 in the Tapir Conservation Initiatives: Research, Management & Education Session, and three in the Tapir Action Planning and Identification of Priority Areas Session. Twelve posters were exhibited throughout the conference and presenters were on hand to discuss their respective posters during the coffee breaks.

Three keynote speakers made presentations throughout the conference. Dena Cator from the IUCN´s Species Programme in Switzerland was the first keynote speaker of the conference and presented an outline of the structure of the IUCN´s Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Species Programme, explaining how its staff and functioning can help to support and implement the important work of the SSC Tapir Specialist Group as well as international conservation work on tapirs as a whole. Our second keynote speaker, Jeffrey Flocken from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in the United States and also member of the TSG, made a very inspiring presentation about how to become a tapir conservation guru, guiding the audience through a whole series of tips and advice about motivation, project planning and organization, fundraising and networking. Rick Schwartz, Director of the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere in the United States, gave a presentation about the Brazil Exhibit he is building and how he is planning to link it to long-term in-situ conservation and education for a variety of Brazilian biomes and species, including lowland tapirs.

Another session conducted in the first part of the conference was the TSG Reports Session. Viviana Quse, Coordinator of the TSG Zoo Committee; Anders Gonçalves da Silva and Cristina Luis, Coordinators of the TSG Genetics Committee; Patrícia Medici, Coordinator of the TSG Re-Introduction and Translocation Taskforce; Gilia Angell, Coordinator of the TSG Marketing Committee, and TSG Webmaster; Kelly Russo, Coordinator of the TSG Education & Outreach Committee; Mathias Tobler, Manager of the TSG Virtual Library; Alan Shoemaker, TSG´s Red List Focal Point; and Patrícia Medici, Coordinator of the TSG Fundraising Committee, gave reports about the work of those committees, taskforces etc. during the past two years.

Tapir Symposium Organizers: Bengt Holst, Alberto Mendoza, Patricia Medici and participant Carl Traeholt. Credit: Patrícia Medici

ORGANIZERS

IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)
Parque XCARET, Mexico
Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG)
European Association of Zoos &Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG)

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG)
Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark
European Association of Zoos &Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG)
Houston Zoo Inc., United States
IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (Institute for Ecological Research), Brazil
IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) - Brazil & Europe
IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)
Parque XCARET, Mexico

The second part of the conference was devoted to round-tables and workshops addressing specific topics relevant to the conservation of the four tapir species and their remaining habitats in Central and South America, and Southeast Asia: (1) Action Plan Implementation, (2) Paleontology, (3) Permit Issues: Regulations for *In-Situ* and *Ex-Situ* Conservation, and (4) Tapir Population Modeling.

The Workshop on Action Plan Implementation was organized by the TSG Action Plan Implementation Taskforce and facilitated by Bengt Holst, an active member of the Tapir Specialist Group and Convener of

Keynote Dena Cator

Keynote Jeff Flocken

Keynote Rick Schwartz

Paper Session Budhan Pukazhenthi

Paper Session Carl Traeholt

Paper Session Juliana Rodriguez

Paper Session Kendra Bauer

Paper Session Diego Lizcano

Poster Session Cristian Gillet Argentina

Poster Session Agueda Bernal Colombia

Round Table Permits Alberto Mendoza

Poster Session Mexican Participants

Credits (all pictures): Patrícia Medici, Diego Lizcano, Tim Stahl, Carl Traeholt

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Apenheul Primate Park - Nature Conservation Trust, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands
Audubon Nature Institute, United States
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo, United States
Bergen County Zoological Park, United States
Brevard Zoo, United States
Brights Zoo, United States
Bronx Zoo, Wildlife Conservation Society, United States
Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno, United States
Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Park, United States
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo Conservation Fund, United States
Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark
Dallas Zoo, United States
Denver Zoological Gardens, United States
Dutch Zoo Association's Conservation Fund, The Netherlands
El Paso Zoo, United States
Ellen Trout Zoo, United States
Evansville's Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden, United States
Houston Zoo Inc., United States
Howletts Wild Animal Park, United Kingdom
Jackson Zoological Park, United States
Lee Richardson Zoo, United States
León Zoo, Mexico
Los Angeles Zoo, United States
Louisiana Purchase Gardens & Zoo, United States
Minnesota Zoo, United States
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, United States
Odense Zoologiske Have, Denmark
Paignton Zoo Environmental Park, United Kingdom
Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park, United States
Parque XCARET, Mexico
Point Defiance, United States
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Rum Creek Preserve, United States
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Virginia Zoological Gardens, United States
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Wildlife World Zoo Inc., United States
Woodland Park Zoo, United States
Zoo de La Palmyre, France
Zoo New England, United States
Zoo Nuremberg, Germany
Zoo Parc Overloon, The Netherlands
Zoologicka Garden & Chateau Zlin-Lesna, Czech Republic

the European Network of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), and Patrícia Medici, Coordinator of the Taskforce and Convener of the Brazilian Network of CBSG. A very detailed report of this session is provided on the Report of the TSG Action Plan Implementation Taskforce included in this issue.

The Workshop on Paleontology was organized and moderated by Dr. Matthew Colbert from the University of Texas at Austin in the United States, and also Evolutionary Consultant for the TSG. The main concept of this session was to provide the audience with a general overview of the fossil record of tapirs, and what this record - which includes some remarkable fossil assemblages - reveals about patterns and process in the evolution of the group, about biogeography, and about ancient environments and paleoecology. Matthew Colbert gave an overview of the fossil record of the genus *Tapirus*, and its implications to our understanding of evolutionary relationships of living and extinct species, to their biogeographic distribution; and to patterns of morphological change in tapirs. Dr. Michael Zavada from the Department of Biological Sciences and Center of Excellence in Paleontology, East Tennessee State University in the USA, presented a case study of a new fossil site containing abundant remains of a fossil species of tapir, and what such an extraordinary site can tell us about fossil tapirs, past environments, and paleoecology.

Our way to the conference.

The Round-Table on Permit Issues was organized and moderated by Alberto Mendoza, former chair of the AZA Tapir TAG and member of the TSG. The need for this session comes from a long process. Following the Mountain Tapir PHVA Workshop held in Colombia in 2005, biological samples from captive mountain tapirs in the United States were sent to laboratories in Colombia. More recently, live captive born tapirs have been transferred between zoos in Europe and the United States, as well as between zoos in Mexico and Costa Rica, with zoos in the USA. As researchers in range countries more closely examine biomaterials from captive tapirs living in other countries in their quest for better understanding of tapir biology and biology as well as ways to further their conservation efforts, and as zoos in range countries

and elsewhere further develop captive breeding and management programs, the international transfer of live animals and biomaterials will become increasingly commonplace. To make these transfers as simple as possible, it will be increasingly important that tapir researchers, CITES authorities and managers of captive tapirs all fully understand international law and how to safely and expeditiously ship living tapirs and preserved materials internationally. Therefore, the main goal of this session was to educate shippers of CITES I and II species of regulated tapirs of international laws that impact their trade. Better understanding of this area will reduce problems related to the growing numbers of transfers in live tapirs and preserved materials between zoos, researchers and NGOs worldwide.

The Workshop on Tapir Population Modeling was designed by Arnaud Desbiez, Modeler of the Brazilian Network of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), and moderated by Anders Gonçalves da Silva, Post-Doc Student at University of British Columbia in Canada and Coordinator of the TSG Genetics Committee. In April 2007, the Lowland Tapir PHVA Workshop held in Brazil concluded the cycle of TSG sponsored tapir action planning workshops. As part of these PHVA Workshops, population dynamic models were developed for each one of the four tapir species. The models were developed within VORTEX, a computer simulation program specifically designed for Population Viability Analysis (PVA). Computer modeling is a valuable and versatile tool for assessing risk of decline and extinction of wildlife populations. Complex and interacting factors that influence population persistence and health can be explored, including natural and anthropogenic causes. Models can also be used to evaluate the effects of alternative management strategies to identify the most effective conservation actions for a population or species and to identify research needs.

Our bus.

PARTICIPANT SPONSORSHIP

Africam Safari, Mexico
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BRIT - Botanical Research Institute or Texas, United States
Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
Centro Tecnológico de Recursos Amazónicos - CENTRO FÁTIMA, Ecuador
Chicago Zoological Society - Brookfield Zoo, United States
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo Conservation Fund, United States
Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark
Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), Malaysia
East Tennessee State University, United States
El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), Mexico
Escuela de Ciencias Biologicas, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Costa Rica
Escuela de Gestión Ambiental de la Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador
Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal
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Instituto de Ecología, UNAM, Mexico
Instituto de Historia Natural y Ecología, Mexico
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), United States
IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (Institute for Ecological Research), Brazil
IUCN South America Regional Office, Ecuador
IUCN Species Programme, Switzerland
Kwata Association, French Guiana
León Zoo, Mexico
McGill University, Canada
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, United States
Parque Municipal Summit, Republic of Panama
Parque XCARET, Mexico
Pronatura Península de Yucatán, Mexico
Rafiki Safari Lodge, Costa Rica
Reserva Ecologica El Eden, Mexico
San Diego Zoo, United States
San Francisco Zoo, United States
Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore
Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación, Ministerio del Ambiente (MINAE), Costa Rica
Smithsonian National Zoological Park, United States
Universidad de Pamplona, Colombia
The Nature Conservancy
Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNAL), Colombia
University of Texas at Austin, United States
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, United States
Virginia Zoological Gardens, United States
Woodland Park Zoo, United States
Zoologico de San Juan de Aragón, Mexico

Tapirs are distributed across different biomes and ecosystems where they face various levels types of threats. VORTEX models can be extremely useful to assess these threats and the potential threshold at which the thre-

Round Table Permits Bengt Holst

Round Table Permits Joaquin Calvo Costa Rica

Round Table Permits Jorge García Panama

Strategic Planning 1

Strategic Planning 2

Strategic Planning 3

Strategic Planning 4

Strategic Planning 5

Strategic Planning 6

Strategic Planning 7

Strategic Planning 8

Strategic Planning 9

at may cause extinction of the tapir population. Now, we have at our disposal baseline biological models for each tapir species. In other words, we have models that predict future outcomes of an ideal tapir population growing unconstrained and unhindered by external factors. The parameter values of each of these models are based on current knowledge and years of experience working with the species. These baseline models are now available for download on the TSG Website. Starting from these baseline models, we now have the potential to model tapir populations, modifying crucial parameters values to suit the reality of the region or population we are focused on, including threats and other factors we may judge important. The tool can assist in prioritizing threats, scientific goals, and to gather support to effect change in policy. Therefore, the main goals of this session were: 1.) To illustrate the utility of tapir population modeling; 2.) To present VORTEX and the baseline models developed during the PHVA Workshops for all four tapir species; and 3.) To showcase specific study cases (Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador) of modeling results and actions stemming from them by tapir researchers and conservationists working on the ground.

The last session of the conference was the TSG Strategic Planning Workshop. The main goal of this session was to evaluate what the TSG has accomplished over the past two years since the Fourth Symposium in Argentina and develop a new strategic plan for the group. Once again, Bengt Holst and Patrícia Medici were the facilitators of the workshop. During this session, we split the participants in topic-based working groups: 1.) Education, Outreach, Marketing, and Communication; 2.) TSG Structure & Functioning; 3.) Action Planning & Implementation; and 4.) *Ex-Situ* Conservation. Facilitators guided the working groups through the process of thinking about and discussing the TSG's future challenges and demands, as well as setting short-term goals and actions for the next three (3) years in order to be more effective in terms of tapir conservation worldwide. The final outcome of the TSG Strategic Planning Workshop held in Mexico was a list of twenty-two (22) priority goals and sixty-one (61) specific actions that the TSG will put into practice over the next three years (2008-2010) in order to reach the goals between now and the Fifth International Tapir Symposium to be held in Malaysia in 2011. The final version of the TSG Strategic Plan 2008-2010 will be made available online on the TSG Website. This document is extremely important for the TSG and will guide our work over the next three years.

The main organizers of the Fourth International Tapir Symposium were the Tapir Specialist Group, Parque XCARET in Mexico, Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), and European Association of Zoos & Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG). The conference had the financial and/or institutional support from over 90 conservation organizations worldwide, mostly tapir holding zoological institutions in North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia. Please see below a complete list of institutional and financial supporters of the Fourth International Tapir Symposium. Thanks to the support from these organizations we were able to cover the conference's expenses and sponsor the participation of key participants from several tapir range countries, who otherwise could not have attended the conference.

During the entire process of the organization of this conference, we had the full support from our major partner on this challenge, the Parque XCARET in Mexico, and the Tapir Specialist Group will always remain thankful for this. On behalf of the entire TSG membership and all symposium participants, I would like to thank the entire XCARET staff, especially Efrain Rios Castillo, for all their assistance in making the conference happen.

A complete report of the Fourth International Tapir Symposium will be made available on the TSG Website soon.

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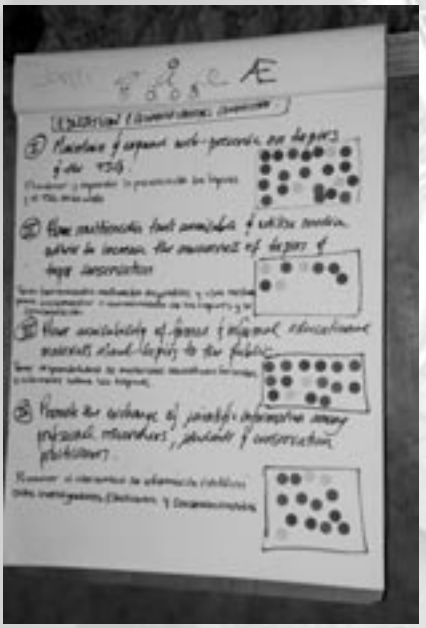
Our conference room. **Credits: Diego Lizcano**

Strategic Planning 10 - Prioritization of goals

Strategic Planning 11 - Prioritization of goals



Strategic Planning 12 - Prioritization of goals

TSG Reports Alan Shoemaker - Red List

TSG Reports Gilia Angell - Marketing

TSG Reports Kelly Russo - Education

TSG Reports Mathias Tobler - Virtual Library

TSG Reports Viviana Quse - Zoo

Workshop Action Plan Implementation 1

Workshop Action Plan Implementation 2

Workshop Action Plan Implementation 3

Workshop Action Plan Implementation 4

Workshop Action Plan Implementation 5

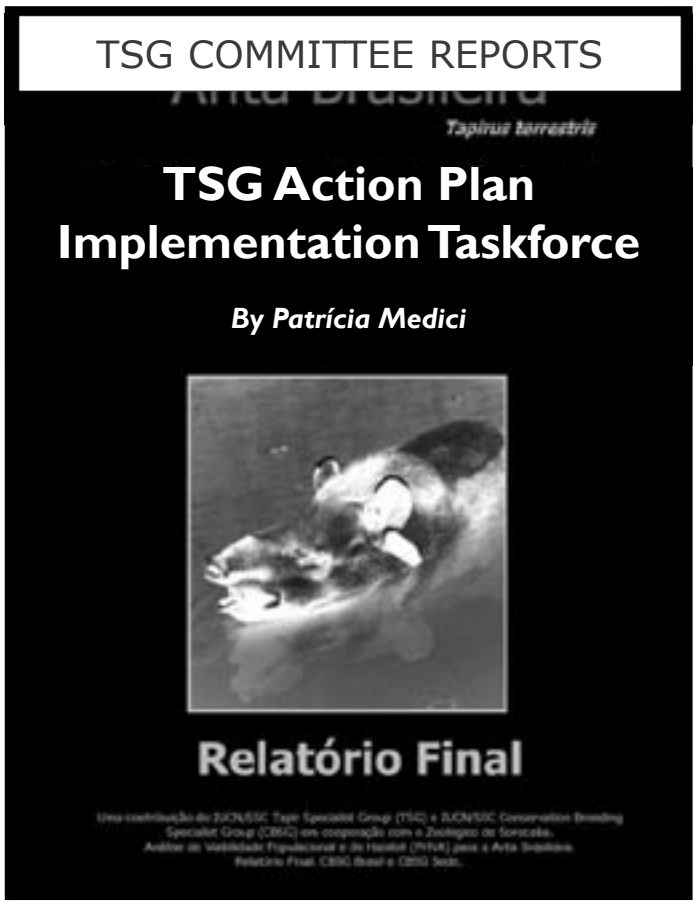
Workshop Action Plan Implementation 6

Workshop Modeling Olga Montenegro Colombia

Workshop Modeling Andres Tapia Ecuador

Workshop Paleotology Matthew Colbert

Workshop Paleotology Michael Zavada



As we all know, one of the committees of the Tapir Specialist Group is the TSG Action Planning Committee, established after the First Tapir Symposium in Costa Rica in 2001. This committee's main goal was to organize and hold PHVA Workshops for each tapir species and publish a new, updated Tapir Action Plan.

As we stated before several times in many different TSG communications, this goal has been reached! We now have a new Tapir Action Plan, and a LOT of energy and hard work was necessary to fundraise for and organize the four TSG PHVA Workshops around the world! Therefore, the publication of our new Tapir Action Plan cannot be the end of our efforts. The TSG must make sure that our new plan will be actively used by all organizations directly or indirectly involved with tapir conservation, and guarantee that all the actions listed as priorities will be implemented.

The new Tapir Action Plan is a LIVING DOCUMENT, which means it will be constantly reviewed, updated and adapted according to tapir conservation needs identified in the years to come. The new Tapir Action Plan has not been printed. It is only available online on the TSG website (in all appropriate languages).

To this end, we have already established an Action Plan Implementation Taskforce, which has an enormous responsibility including the following:

- To publicize the new Tapir Action Plan throughout all tapir range countries in Central and South America and Southeast Asia, reaching all possible stakeholders and key conservation players;
- To promote the active use of the new Tapir Action Plan as the main source of information for all organizations directly or indirectly involved with tapir conservation in the range countries and internationally;
- To lead a constant process of review, update and adaptation of the Tapir Action Plan, incorporating any evolving and emerging tapir conservation needs identified through this process (*living document*);
- To maintain the network of professionals and organizations formed during the process of organizing and holding the PHVA Workshops;
- To provide technical assistance for any professionals/organizations aimed at raising funds to implement actions of the Tapir Action Plan: assist with proposal development and review, translations, identification of potential donors, proposal endorsement, lobbying;
- To provide institutional support for any initiatives aiming at implementing actions of the Tapir Action Plan: endorsement, discussions and negotiations with interested parties and potential partners, establishment of partnerships and political lobbying;
- To keep in close contact with the persons who are committed to put into practice all the actions listed as priorities and make sure they work on their actions accordingly with proposed deadlines;
- To report back to the TSG membership on a regular basis.

The progress made in implementing the Tapir Action Plan will be evaluated during the International Tapir Symposium every three (3) years, when we will have a session dedicated to Action Plan Implementation.

In fact, during the Fourth International Tapir Symposium held in Mexico earlier this year, we had our first opportunity to review our new Tapir Action Plan. We held an Action Plan Implementation Workshop, which was facilitated by Bengt Holst and myself.

In advance of the symposium, Bengt and I discussed and worked on the design of this session and how to carry out this first evaluation. We only had four hours available on the symposium's schedule and we had to make the most of it! We split the participants into six (6) different working groups: 1.) Baird's Tapir Action Plan; 2.) Lowland Tapir Action Plan; 3.) Malayan Tapir Action Plan; 4.) Mountain Tapir Action Plan; 5.) *Ex-Situ* Tapir Conservation (*ex-situ* actions from of all 4 action plans); and 6.) Marketing, Communication & Website (actions from all 4 action plans).

Each working group received a digital copy of their Species Action Plan (or all action plans in the case of the topic-based working groups) and was requested to go through the document using a laptop and answer

the following questions: 1.) What actions have already been implemented?; 2.) What actions are in the process of implementation?; and 3.) What actions have become irrelevant, obsolete, no longer necessary, over the past years since the development of each specific action plan? These initial discussions were presented during a first plenary session.

As a second step, each working group was requested to carry out the following tasks: 1.) Identify if the people/organizations responsible for the actions are still active in the tapir conservation arena. If not, the groups were asked to suggest alternative names to be responsible for the actions, providing contact information; 2.) Identify if there are any actions that need to be changed; 3.) Identify if there are any actions that need to be updated; 4.) Identify if there are any actions that need to be added; 5.) Re-think deadlines and other related variables for each action; 6.) Prepare a written report for the taskforce; 7.) Identify a member of the working group to be a focal person for the TSG Action Plan Implementation Taskforce.

All working groups had to be given extra time to finalize their tasks, so we had to postpone the second workshop plenary and presentation of final results to the following day. The six written reports were finalized and are currently under review. Once finalized, they will be made available on the TSG Website as separate documents. Therefore, anyone downloading the original Tapir Action Plans will be able to download the action plan reviews as well.

The focal points identified to be members of the TSG Action Plan Implementation Taskforce are listed below. This group, under the coordination of Patrícia Medici, will now be working together on all the different responsibilities listed above.

- **Focal Points Lowland Tapir:** Olga Lucía Montenegro (Colombia), Juliana Rodríguez Ortiz (Colombia), and Benoit de Thoisy (French Guiana)
- **Focal Point Baird's Tapir:** Kendra Bauer (United States/Costa Rica)
- **Focal Point Mountain Tapir:** Carlos Alberto Pedraza (Colombia)
- **Focal Points Malayan Tapir:** Carl Traeholt (Denmark/Malaysia) and Zainal Zahari Zainuddin (Malaysia)
- **Focal Points *Ex-Situ* Conservation**
  - **Lowland Tapir:** Viviana Beatriz Quse (Argentina)
  - **Baird's Tapir:** Alberto Mendoza (Mexico/ United States)
  - **Malayan Tapir:** S R Nandakumaren (Singapore)
- **Focal Point Marketing & Education:** Kelly J. Russo (United States)

The original **TSG Action Planning Committee** will continue to operate with the main goal to assist TSG Country Coordinators on the development of National Action Plans, and linking the Tapir Specialist Group with professionals and organizations in the tapir range countries.

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AZA Tapir Taxon Advisory Group

By Alberto Mendoza

Within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the organizations in North America to which most large zoos belong, two species of tapirs are recommended for management and display: Baird's tapirs and Asian tapirs. This decision was made in 2003 at a Regional Collection Plan (RC) hosted by the Houston Zoo that was subsequently approved by the AZA. The basis of this decision involves space. If it takes 75 tapirs of any species to maintain that species for 100 years, and if there are a maximum of 150 spaces in AZA zoos, then there is only space for two species in AZA zoos. This triage approach to animal management may sound heartless but it is reality. This being the case, the Asian tapir was selected as one of the two species for the RCP because it is the only species of tapir found in the Old World. In the case of New World tapirs, Baird's tapir was selected because there is an adequate founder size in captivity, and additional captive born animals may become periodically available to AZA zoos. Lowland tapirs are the least threatened species in the New World, and mountain tapirs are unavailable regardless of their rarity.

With this RCP in place, the last two years has found the AZA Tapir Tag aggressively phasing out lowland

tapirs from its members' collections by helping zoos export younger animals to Europe in support of their EEP for that species. In the case of remaining animals, the TAG successfully convinced most member zoos that they should not allow the older lowland tapirs to breed but rather, to phase them out and replace them with Baird's tapirs. All owners of mountain tapirs have also been reminded that that species should be phased out as well, as the founder size is only two and no additional animals are available from and range country.

In addition to the general acceptance of the Regional Collection Plan, there have also been several changes in AZA Tapir TAG leadership, as well as progress in importing additional new founders by an AZA zoo. Some of the salient features include the following:

Leadership Changes

In January, 2007, Alberto Mendoza was officially appointed as Chair of the AZA Tapir TAG. Alberto is extremely familiar with AZA issues impacting tapir husbandry and management needs, as well as being very knowledgeable about the Latin American zoos and their staff. Alberto is a veterinarian by training. In May, Alberto left the Houston Zoo but he remains critical to the success of the Tapir TAG and TSG. He was instrumental in organizing the Fourth International Tapir Symposium, and his experience in Latin American programs is probably the best within the AZA. A replacement for him will hopefully be identified during the summer of 2008.

Earlier in 2006, Michelle Stancer, Animal Care Manager at the San Diego Zoo, was approved to become the North American Regional Studbook Keeper and SSP chair for Asian tapirs. Michelle has been employed at the San Diego Zoo for over 20 years and has worked with tapirs for nearly all that time. Michelle attended the Fourth International Tapir Symposium that was held recently in Mexico and will be hosting an Asian Tapir SSP masterplan meeting later this summer.

Importation Activities

As a result of a recent (May 2006) master plan meeting that was hosted by the El Nispero Zoo in Panama for all range country zoos holding Baird's tapirs, a masterplan for Central American tapirs was developed that will initiate the transfer of surplus animals among zoos of that region and North America. There are many captive born animals in zoos of this region, and many tapir holders have more specimens than they can accommodate satisfactorily. One of these animals identified for transfer was a young, captive born male at the La Marina Zoo in Costa Rica. After a lengthy application process, the Nashville Zoo successfully imported him in January, 2008. This is extremely significant because there has not been an importation of a Baird's tapir into the United States in over 30 years, and there has never apparently been an exportation of a CITES-regulated species from Costa Rica.

To facilitate this importation, the former TAG chair Alberto Mendoza, Rick Schwartz, Director of the Nashville Zoo, and Alan Shoemaker, Red List Authority for the IUCN Tapir Specialist Group, met with the Costa Rican CITES officials at the La Marina Zoo. The La Marina Zoo was very excited about this transfer as this animal is surplus to their needs. In addition the CITES authorities in Costa Rica were excited about the conservation potential related to this exportation and are extremely interested in being able to help in the international genetic management of Baird's tapirs held in captivity. Also, an unrelated captive born female at the Summit Zoo in Panama has been identified for exportation to Nashville as a future mate for the male from La Marina and is expected to export in June, 2008.

During this year a young male Baird's tapir was transfer from the Milwaukee Zoo to Africam Safari in Mexico, this institution is planning to get a female in the region for pairing with their new male.

In 2005 the Houston Zoo hosted an SSP masterplan meeting for Asian tapirs. Unlike Baird's tapirs whose populations are heavily biased towards males, the Asian tapir population within the AZA, Europe and Asia has far more females than males. To help improve that situation, as well as to add additional founders to the SSP population, the Denver Zoo successfully imported a young male Asian tapir from the Belfast Zoo and is now seeking a mate for it in Asia. Hopefully such a female can be identified in the spring of 2008.

TSG Fundraising Committee & TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF)

By Patrícia Medici

Our TSG Fundraising Committee was very busy over the last two years since the Third International Tapir Symposium held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in January 2006. Our main activities included:

- Raising funds for TSG events:
  - Lowland Tapir PHVA Workshop held in Sorocaba, São Paulo, Brazil, in April 2007. This was our last PHVA workshop and concluded the TSG´s Species Action Planning activities.

  - Raising funds for the Fourth International Tapir Symposium held in Parque XCARET, Quintana Roo, Mexico, from April 26th to May 1st, 2008.
- Securing funding for TSG annual operating costs;
- Running Annual Cycles of the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF);
- Working with the TSG Marketing Committee on the establishment and maintenance of a website donation system (PayPal);
- Maintaining our TSG List of Endorsed Projects;
- Providing endorsement letters to TSG members submitting proposals for funding.

Raising Funds for TSG Events

Our campaigns to raise funds for the Lowland Tapir PHVA Workshop and the Fourth International Tapir Symposium were conducted, as always, in partnership with the AZA and EAZA Tapir TAGs. Besides connecting the TSG with tapir holders worldwide and providing us with opportunities to link *in-situ* and *ex-situ* initiatives for tapir conservation, stimulating the exchange of data and information, the Tapir TAGs provide the TSG with critical support for the design and implementation of fundraising campaigns for specific activities of the group, including PHVA Workshops and Tapir Symposia.

Thanks to this long-term partnership with the Tapir TAGs, over the past eight years the TSG has been able to secure financial support from **131** zoological institutions worldwide, including three zoological associations (AZA, EAZA, and WAZA), four AAZK Chapters, and 124 individual zoos (62 in North America, 31 in Europe, 27 in Latin America, three in Asia, and one in Australia). From this pool of 131 institutions, 66 made contributions to the PHVA Workshops (Malaysia 2003, Colombia 2004, Belize 2005, and Brazil 2007), as mentioned before, and 108 supported the Tapir Symposia (Costa Rica 2001, Panama 2004, Argentina 2006, and Mexico 2008). Many of them contributed to several different events over the years. We have received financial contributions from 123 individual tapir holding zoos out of the 200 tapir holders worldwide. This means that 62% of all tapir holders worldwide have supported the work of the Tapir Specialist Group in some way.

The main strategy used by the TSG and the Tapir TAGs to raise the necessary funds to hold the TSG events is to approach tapir holders worldwide with letters of request for US$1,000 contributions for the specific event being organized that year. In the case of the PHVA Workshops, only holders of the species for which the PHVA was being held for were approached. For the Tapir Symposia, all holders of all four species of tapirs received a request letter.

The letters of request for contributions are signed by the chair of the TSG and both chairs of the Tapir TAGs, and sent out by mail. The chair of the AZA Tapir TAG organizes the mailing and follow up for North American and Latin American holders. The chair of the EAZA Tapir TAG does the same for European, Australian and Asian holders. The TSG has bank accounts in the United States (Houston Zoo) and in Europe (Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark). The letters are mailed one year before the event. Whenever necessary, the chairs of the Tapir TAGs follow up with phone calls to some zoos, explaining the importance of that specific event and stimulating them to make a donation.

Additionally, the TSG Chair attends the AZA and EAZA Annual Conferences and makes presentations about the TSG during their Tapir TAG meeting sessions. These presentations give the zoo community members a clear picture of the work of the TSG, explanations about how their funding has been used, and reasons why they should continue making donations!

Finally, the TSG and Tapir TAGs provide all zoological institutions supporting the TSG with complete reports at the end of each PHVA Workshop or Tapir Symposia. These reports are sent with a thank you letter acknowledging the importance of their contributions. All institutions supporting the TSG are listed and acknowledged in articles published in *Tapir Conservation* and on the TSG Website.

Just to give you a few more numbers in terms of funding obtained for TSG events:

PHVA Workshops
219 Contributions / 150 Organizations

This support was provided in the form of actual donations to the workshops (grants), expenses with planning and organization of the meetings, traveling expenses for employees of these organizations, sponsorship for key participants, infra-structure and logistics for the meetings, time of professionals, and free plane tickets or vouchers for organizers and facilitators (airlines). Many of these organizations contributed to more than one PHVA workshop.

- 03 Zoological associations (AZA, EAZA, WAZA)
- 29 American zoos
- 16 European zoos
- 23 Latin American zoos
- **71 zoological institutions**
- 04 Networks of CBSG (Headquarters, Brazil, Europe & Mexico)
- 02 Local communities in range countries
- 16 International conservation organizations
- 16 NGOs in range countries
- 38 Governmental agencies (international & range countries)
- 21 Universities (international & range countries)
- 02 Airlines (American and Continental)

Malayan Tapir 2003	Mountain Tapir 2004	Baird's Tapir 2005	Lowland Tapir 2007
US$ 15,725	US$ 22,330	US$ 42,350	US$ 46,500
16 contributions (2 zoo institutions) 12.5 %	50 contributions (6 zoo institutions) 12 %	68 contributions (24 zoo institutions) 35.3 %	85 contributions (39 zoo institutions) 45.9 %

Total spent to develop new Action Plan: US$ 126,905

Tapir Symposia 312 Contributions / 201 Organizations

Once again, this support was provided in the form of actual donations to the workshops (grants), expenses with planning and organization of the meetings, traveling expenses for employees of these organizations, sponsorship for key participants, infra-structure and logistics for the meetings, time of professionals, and free plane tickets or vouchers for organizers and facilitators (airlines). Many of these organizations contributed to more than one Tapir Symposium.

- 03 Zoological associations (AZA, EAZA, WAZA)
- 04 AAZK Chapters
- 55 American zoos
- 23 European zoos
- 13 Latin American zoos
- 03 Asian & Australian zoos
- **101 zoological institutions**
- 09 IUCN Groups (Specialist Groups, CBSG Networks, SSC etc.)
- 01 Local community in range countries
- 20 International conservation organizations
- 23 NGOs in range countries
- 08 Governmental agencies (international & range countries)
- 30 Universities (international & range countries)
- 09 Airlines, travel agencies, hotel chains

Securing Funding for TSG Annual Operation Costs

The TSG has been able to secure two major sources of funding for its Annual Operation Costs:

Houston Zoo, United States: Provides an annual contribution of **US$5,000** for the production, printing and distribution of the TSG's newsletter, *Tapir Conservation*. We publish two issues per year (June and December), distributing approximately 200-250 printed copies to TSG members, AZA and EAZA Tapir TAG members, IUCN offices, as well as TSG donors and institutional supporters. We would like to THANK Rick Barongi and Peter Riger from the Houston Zoo for providing continuous support to our main publication.

Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark: In January 2007, Bengt Holst, an active member of the Tapir Specialist Group and Vice Director/Director of Conservation and Science for the Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark, secured an annual contribution to the TSG in the amount of US$5,000, to be used strictly for TSG Operating Costs. In 2008, the Copenhagen Zoo contribution was increased to US$10,000 per year. This funding is used to cover the following expenses:

1. Participation of TSG chair in meetings, workshops, conferences (airfare, registration, accommodations);
2. Translation of TSG documents and publications;
3. 35% of TSG chair's office expenses (phone bills, internet access, mailing); and
4. Design and production of TSG promotional materials (brochures, t-shirts, pins, hats).

Running Annual Cycles of the TSG Conservation Fund (TSGCF)

We held a funding cycle for the TSGCF in 2006, during which we reviewed 17 proposals and selected six projects to receive $1,000 donations each. This funding cycle was reported in a previous issue of Tapir Conservation. In 2007, we were incredibly busy with the conclusion of our new Action Plan and with the organization of the Fourth Tapir Symposium and, unfortunately, we did not manage to run the annual cycle of funding.

Now that the symposium is behind us, we are running a funding cycle for 2008. The first call for proposals was distributed in early May and the deadline for proposal submission is August 15, 2008. Applicants will be notified of the final decision by September 15, 2008. For this cycle, we should be able to distribute 5-6 grants of $1,000 dollars. We have put together a new Reviewing Committee for 2008.

The TSGCF grants continue to be restricted to members of the Tapir Specialist Group, or members of the AZA or EAZA Tapir TAGs. Additionally, TSGCF grants are restricted to projects contributing to the implementation of actions listed on the Tapir Action Plans developed during previous Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) Workshops.

Costa Rica 2001	Panama 2004	Argentina 2006	Mexico 2008
US$ 40,430	US$ 32,515	US$ 52,506	US$ 52,703
60 contributions (16 zoo institutions) 26.7 %	69 contributions (42 zoo institutions) 60.9 %	93 contributions (58 zoo institutions) 62.4 %	90 contributions (57 zoo institutions) 63.5 %

Total spent on Tapir Symposia: US$ 178,154

Maintaining our TSG List of Endorsed Projects

We continue to try our best to maintain our TSG List of Endorsed Projects and keep it as up to date as possible. Currently, the list includes 55 different projects worldwide. The list is available online on the TSG website and has proved to be an important resource for funding agencies searching for good tapir projects to support. However, our TSG List of Endorsed Projects is in urgent need of some serious review and updates and we are currently looking for a volunteer to do this important task.

Annual Financial Reports

Our TSG Fundraising Committee is now working hard to develop annual financial reports to be sent to all our donors and institutional supporters. Additionally, we will make these annual reports available online on the TSG Website, so that all our members as well as the general public will have access to this information.

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Genetics Committee

By Anders Gonçalves da Silva and Cristina Luis

It has been two years since our last Symposium in Argentina where we announced several changes to the objectives of the Genetics Committee. In particular, we chose to have a more passive role, providing technical support for the TSG members interested in developing genetic projects with tapirs. It has also been four years since the creation of the Genetics Committee. Before 2004, we were aware of one group in North America that was doing genetic work with tapirs, which was Mary Ashley's lab in Illinois, USA. Now, there are genetic projects being carried within most range countries, and with all four species. Even though the TSG is not responsible for all this work, it has certainly been a significant driver.

Among this work, it is important to point out some of the new tools being developed. Currently, there are four different groups - each working on developing microsatellite primers for one of the four species of tapirs. For those of you not familiar with microsatellites, they are small tandem repeats (e.g., ATATATAT) that are spread throughout the genome of most organisms. These small repeats are inherited in Mendelian fashion, have great variability both within as well as among individuals, and are easily assayed in the lab. In forensics, they are used to identify the perpetrators of crimes, or to establish parenthood. In wildlife biology, they can be used for many things from surveying genetic variation to identifying parts of the genome that may be under natural selection and reconstructing levels of relationship among individuals. These markers promise to revolutionize the level of detail with which we will be able to examine genetic diversity in tapir populations. In addition to these markers, new tools should soon be added to our genetics toolbox. For instance, tools for sexing non-invasively collected samples (e.g., dung or hair), and for analyses at broader temporal and spatial scales based on mitochondrial DNA markers will soon be available.

Nevertheless, it is not possible for us to carry out genetic studies without samples. Work being carried out will hopefully allow for more seamless sampling for genetic material from tapirs. Currently, forensic technologies are being tested to sample and preserve DNA from dung of sufficient quality for most genetic tools. Twenty-four different combinations of dung age, storage temperature, media and time, as well as extraction and marker systems are being tested to identify the best protocol. So far, the results have been very promising, with DNA of sufficient quality and quantity being recovered for successful genetic analyses. In addition, the protocol is simple to carryout, relatively cheap, and easy to store and transport. Once the final results of these tests are in, we will re-write the TSG Genetics Manual to reflect the findings. Meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

The future, therefore, is full of interesting and exciting prospects. As the IV Symposium was ending, we had heard many of the members of this Committee talking about their ongoing and future projects. Right now, I (Anders) am involved in analyzing the genetic variation in the captive population of lowland tapirs in the Argentina, with views of making recommendations for a new management plan in the country. During the meeting we heard about Gina della Togna's project, in collaboration with Budhan Pukazhenthi from the National Zoo (USA), to analyze genetic variation in the Panamanian captive population of Baird's tapirs, with objectives in mind. I also heard about the effort of Benoit de Thoisy (French Guiana) and Andrés Tapia (Ecuador) to infer the phylogeography of lowland tapirs, and of a similar effort being carried out in Malaysia with the Malay tapir in partnership with Zainal Zainuddin. Cristina Luis and Carina Cunha (Portugal) have proposed to examine genetic variation in historical samples of Malay tapirs from museums, in order to complement the picture found from contemporary samples. Manolo García (Guatemala) has contacted the Committee asking for assistance in designing a genetics project with Baird's tapirs in his home country. Finally, during the meeting we put into contact Ann Snook (TNC Mexico) and Georgina O'Farrill (Mexico), who are both interested in using genetic tools to answer questions of conservation importance to the Baird's tapirs in the Yucatan Peninsula.

On other fronts, the TSG Committee has an informal invitation to participate in the Genetics Workshop being developed by Zainal Zainuddin and Carl Traeholt, which should include among its participants some of the main Malay tapir biologists. This will be an amazing opportunity to showcase the TSG Genetics Committee as a resource to be used by Malay tapir conservationists and biologists interested in developing their own genetics projects. This opportunity will hopefully address what we think is the Committee's biggest weakness, which has been our ability to assist our comrades in the East. The Committee is also working with the American Museum of Natural History (USA) to create a database of mitochondrial DNA sequences, or barcodes. Our initial objective is to catalogue all captive individuals of tapirs in the US, and hopefully Argentina and Panama. This database may then be used to screen for individuals with similar genetic profiles to ones in the regions chosen for re-introduction programs. As such, this database could act as a first step in identifying potential individuals for re-introduction. Now, it is important to state that this has not been done before, and is still subject to testing and modification. Finally, we have agreed to revive the *Small Texts in Genetics* project, which was discussed during the Lowland Tapir PHVA. The objective is to have a series of small, one-page, texts with crucial information on genetic tools and analyses to be used as a starting point for any TSG member interested in developing a genetics project or collaborating with someone on a genetics project.

All in all, the Genetics Committee will have a busy three years ahead leading up to the next Symposium. Beyond the projects above, the strategic planning identified actions that fall within the purview of this Committee. In addition, the new tools which are becoming available open exciting and new prospects of research, not only for understanding the basic biology of tapirs, but also for developing conservation actions. It should be exciting and we can't wait to get our hands dirty!

TSG's Marketing and Website Committee

By Gilia Angell

TSG's Marketing and Website Committee met at the Symposium in Mexico and evaluated the last four years of work using our goals as a committee:

1. To amplify and highlight the great work YOU do as TSG researchers and tapir advocates
2. Spread the word about tapir conservation
3. To help create tools for tapir advocacy

We decided to base our next set of actions on those actions and types of achievements TSG has made up to now, and build on advances in technology to further market our work and tapir conservation.

Actions that were successful for us in the past:

- Expand media coverage on tapirs: Get tapir placements, articles and photos into major television programs, newspapers, online publications and

magazines – this reaches a large audience for very little cost.
  - A dozen magazine placements (BBC Wildlife, Somos, Chickadee, etc)
  - Several tv appearances of TSG researchers & tapirs (SkyOne TV, Discovery Channel/Animal Planet)
  - A chapter on tapirs in author Jeffrey Masson's latest book
- Have a consistent message about tapirs and tapir conservation: Tapirs.org is the point of reference for materials with the TSG brand and messaging; these materials would be available to all TSG members for use in their respective countries. Could include talking points about tapirs, education kit, an expanded press kit, video & photos
  - TSG Educational & Fundraising brochures
  - Expansive downloads area with many useful documents
  - Recognizable "TSG" brand and tapir conservation message
  - Preliminary press kit available for download

In addition to continuing and building on those actions above, we created the following new actions at the meeting:

- Improve communication within TSG and with outside organizations: Better harness our member network and areas of expertise and existing relationships with NGOs, such as IUCN, to more swiftly affect marketing opportunities for TSG and tapir conservation
- Expand our web presence: Make our website (tapirs.org) the #1 point of reference on tapirs and tapir conservation, and the place for TSG members to come for any and all needed documents
  - Search engine optimization
  - Harness online Communities presence
  - Technical updates to our site
  - Add more content to our site
  - Add video of tapir captures and researchers in action to site

We also decided to combine the Educational and Marketing Committees into one committee because the goals and projects of each committee were so closely aligned. As a result, Kelly Russo and Gilia Angell are the new co-coordinators of Marketing, Web and Education Committee. Two subcommittees were also created: Website subcommittee & Spanish Language Subcommittee, managed by Gilia Angell and Juliana Rodriguez, respectively.

Those of you with skills or an interest in helping to accomplish our initiatives, please contact Kelly (krusso@houstonzoo.org) or Gilia (gilia@tapirs.org).

Look to tapirs.org to see changes, updates and announcements on our projects. Thanks!

Developing the new 2008 Red List

By Alan H. Shoemaker
Red List Focal Point,
IUCN Tapir Specialist Group

Prior to 2000, much of the information available about tapirs in the wild was anecdotal and outdated. Although tapirs are physically the largest species of mammal in three of the four species' ranges, too often they have not benefited from the significant levels of support offered families such as primates, felids, elephants and bovids. In 1997, the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) wrote its first "modern" Red List and put the world on notice that a number of biologists and conservationists were concerned about the declining status of tapirs in nature. In that first edition of the Red List, mountain tapirs and Baird's tapirs were considered Endangered while lowland and Asian tapirs were listed as Vulnerable.

To update the outdated 1997 Red List, a new Red List Assessment for tapirs was initiated in 2003 by the TSG. To begin this review, the TSG Chair identified English-speaking species coordinators for all tapir species that could work with the Red List Authority (RLA). All four coordinators quickly responded with current information that was consolidated and then sent to all other members of the Specialist Group. As a result of this TSG-wide request, a blizzard of additional information was received by the RLA within weeks that would become the basis for the new Red List. After the draft Red List was completed, the final 2004 version was prepared and in this way, the 2004 Red List for tapirs was developed that is currently in use by IUCN.

When the TSG held its First International Tapir Symposium in Costa Rica in 2001 all participants attending the symposium agreed that the TSG should initiate a series of Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshops to review the conservation status for all four tapir species. The first PHVA workshop was held in 2003 in Krau Wildlife Reserve in Malaysia for Malayan tapirs. While not widely attended by TSG members outside of Asia, the workshop did provide new information that strongly suggested that populations in Sumatra were declining rapidly even though populations in Malaysia and Thailand were still larger.

The second PHVA, for Mountain Tapirs was held in 2004 in the Santuario de Fauna y Flora Otún-Quimbaya near Pereira, Colombia and high in the Colombia Andes, within a park that physically possessed mountain tapirs. Participants representing all

three mountain tapir range countries, including park rangers, local village representatives and biologists working with all aspects of mountain tapir conservation attended the meeting. The final result provided the world with the most up to date information on mountain tapirs ever developed since the inception of the Red List.

With such outstanding results, the third PHVA of this series, one held for Baird's tapirs, was hosted by the Belize Zoo and again, a wide assortment of field biologists, university professors, and government officials came together to discuss problems facing tapirs in Central America. Remarkably, a number of staff members from zoos in range countries and beyond were also present, many providing funding for this meeting even though they were not expecting to obtain animals as part of their participation. Like the earlier PHVA for mountain tapirs, this meeting provided new and important information about this species, and provided information about Baird's tapirs in Colombia, a country not widely considered to be within its range. As a result of this meeting, it was decided by those in attendance that although tapirs are found in all countries of historical attendance except El Salvador, they were steadily declining because of habit loss and hunting and should remain protected under the category of Endangered.

Six years after the First International Tapir Symposium was held in Costa Rica in 2001, the fourth and last tapir PHVA, one for lowland tapirs, was held in Brazil in 2007 and a new Red List is now being developed that contains substantially updated information that should be ready for approval by IUCN later this year. In this instance, this widely ranging species that remains Vulnerable overall does nevertheless have some populations that are Endangered in the Cerrado region of central Brazil or even Critically Endangered in Brazil's Atlantic Forest or in the region surrounding Lake Maracaibo in Colombia and adjacent Venezuela.

Since completing this fourth PHVA, all TSG Country and Species Coordinators were given one last chance to update the new Red List prior to submission to IUCN. New information provided by delegates at the Fourth International Tapir Symposium was also submitted to IUCN's representative in Washington, DC for consideration. The Red List will always be considered a "living document" by the RLA of the TSG and new information will always be welcome. In this way, we have all brought our understanding of tapirs to a new level, and it is this type of support that makes this Specialist Group so successful.

TSG Tapir Re-Introduction & Translocation Advisory Committee

By Patrícia Medici

One of the sessions held during the Third International Tapir Symposium in Argentina in 2006 was a Tapir Re-Introduction and Translocation Workshop, which was organized and moderated by Siân Waters. One of the outcomes of this session was a recommendation to develop **TSG Guidelines for Tapir Re-Introductions and Translocations**, in accordance with the criteria of the IUCN/SSC Re-Introduction Specialist Group (RSG). As a result, a TSG Re-Introduction & Translocation Taskforce was established, under the coordination of Patrícia Medici and incorporating members from the TSG Veterinary, Genetics and Zoo committees.

The first action of the taskforce involved a literature review, initial contacts with the chairs of the IUCN/SSC Re-Introduction Specialist Group and IUCN/SSC Wildlife Health Specialist Group, as well as contacts with chairs and members of other Specialist Groups, such as rhinos and elephants, that had already developed or were in the process of developing re-introduction and/or translocation guidelines. Last but not least, we discussed these issues with a number of wildlife veterinarians with experience in re-introductions and translocations.

In January 2007, Patrícia Medici and the coordinators of both the TSG Veterinary and Genetics committees, Javier Sarria and Anders Gonçalves da Silva respectively, as well as the veterinarians of the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative in Brazil, Paulo Mangini and Joares May Jr., also members of the TSG Veterinary Committee, got together in Patricia's Atlantic Forest field site in Morro do Diabo State Park, São Paulo, Brazil. The group participated for two weeks on one of Patricia's tapir capture rounds in Morro do Diabo during which we decided to take advantage of the opportunity to finalize the development of the Re-Introduction and Translocation Guidelines!

The document was written in sync with the TSG Veterinary Manual published in 2007, which provides protocols for tapir capture, immobilization, manipulation, collection of samples, necropsy etc., and the TSG Genetics Manual published in 2005, including information about sampling procedures to collect and preserve biological samples for genetic studies. Additionally, most of the tapir transport recommendations came from the Zoo Committee's Husbandry Guidelines.

Members of the team that developed the TSG Guidelines for Tapir Re-Introduction and Translocation. Credit: Patrícia Medici

The first draft of the document was ready by the end of the 2-week capture round in Morro do Diabo and was immediately sent out to all TSG members for review and comments. We also sent the document to members of the AZA and EAZA Tapir TAGs, as well as other wildlife veterinarians, members of the RSG etc. In the following four months, the document was reviewed by over 30 professionals who made extremely useful comments, suggestions, additions, criticisms etc. which helped us refine our guidelines tremendously.

In December 2007, the final stage after a rigorous process of finalizing the guidelines, the document was submitted for review to the IUCN/SSC Re-Introduction Specialist Group (RSG) and IUCN/SSC Wildlife Health Specialist Group (WHSG). We wanted to make sure our Guidelines were in accordance with the criteria established by these two Specialist Groups and we wanted to make sure we had their endorsement. The chairs of the two groups reviewed the document very carefully and made some extremely useful and relevant final comments that we incorporated into the guidelines before its publication.

The English version of the TSG Guidelines for Tapir Re-Introduction & Translocation was presented and launched during the Fourth International Tapir Symposium in Mexico in April and immediately afterwards made available online on the TSG Website! The document is currently being translated into Spanish and Portuguese.

Given that the TSG Tapir Re-Introduction and Translocation Taskforce has finalized its main goal of developing and publishing the TSG Guidelines for Tapir Re-Introduction and Translocation, we have decided it should become an Advisory Committee to assist any researchers and organizations planning on establishing re-introduction and/or translocation programs. Patrícia Medici will be coordinating the **Re-Introduction and Translocation Advisory Committee**. Members of this Advisory Committee will be the members of the TSG Veterinary, Genetics and Zoo Committees, and we have selected a few external advisors to be consulted on a case-by-case basis, including: IUCN/SSC Re-Introduction Specialist Group (RSG); IUCN/SSC Wildlife Health Specialist Group (WHSG); IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG); IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSC); and IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSC).

As mentioned in the TSG Tapir Re-Introduction and Translocation Guidelines document itself, we opted to keep an experimental approach to developing the guidelines. As such, the document is composed of some scientifically-gathered information, well-informed suggestions and recommendations about how to proceed with tapir re-introductions and translocations as an experiment. We hope that our approach will encourage tapir researchers, conservationists and other interested parties to follow our recommendations and think critically about these guidelines, keeping records, sharing results and helping us improve the document over time.

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TAPIR SPECIALIST GROUP

Veterinary Committee

By Javier Sarria, Paulo Rogerio Mangini and Viviana B. Quse

The last two years since the Third International Tapir Symposium held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in January 2006, was a very productive period for the TSG Veterinary Committee, especially in terms of publications. We published our *Tapir Field Veterinary Manual*, a complete set of guidelines for field veterinarians and researchers including topics such as tapir anatomy, capture and restraint, sampling, reproductive assessments and pathology (including necropsy protocols). This document was published in English, Spanish and Portuguese and is available online on the TSG website. We also compiled, in association with the International Species Information System (ISIS), the *Physiological Data Reference Values for Tapir Species*, a document including all the information about tapir normal physiological values that is now available to all professionals involved with tapir health investigation. Finally, we collaborated with the TSG Tapir Re-Introduction and Translocation Taskforce and TSG Genetics Committee on the development and publication of the *TSG Guidelines for Tapir Re-Introductions and Translocations*.

In addition to that, members of the TSG Veterinary Committee provided assistance to several veterinarians in Europe and Latin America on tapir health and management issues, and oriented some veterinary students in their curricular projects. We were also invited by Aude Desmoulins, coordinator of the European Captive Population of Lowland Tapirs, to participate in the design of the management plan for Tuberculosis, a zoonotic disease that is becoming a serious hazard for the captive tapir populations in Europe and South America.

In the next three years until the the next International Tapir Symposium, which will be held in Malaysia in April 2011, the TSG Veterinary Committee will address efforts to improve our connections with zoos and captive breeding centers holding tapirs around the world. We will try to establish a global network to share information about collections and better assist institutions facing problems with tapir breeding management and to try and unify criteria in the management of the four tapir species in captivity.

For this purpose, our plans for the next three years are:

1. To establish a network among zoos holding tapirs around the world to promote the adequate management of tapirs in captivity;
2. To collect available information about current health status and hazards for captive tapirs and to aid in the creation and maintenance of international and regional studbooks;
3. To create and promote, together with universities and research institutes, research programs in priority topics such as pathology, reproduction, immunology and others;
4. To collaborate with on-going efforts to develop protocols for the diagnosis of Tuberculosis in tapirs;
5. To stimulate the research on tapir health in different areas
   a. To spread the need for more research on tapir health issues, stimulating field researchers to include veterinarians as part of their teams.
   b. To design a session to be held during the next Tapir Symposium, where specific issues related to tapir health may be presented, in order to promote discussions about relevant infectious diseases in tapirs.
6. To widely promote the distribution of the protocols published by the Committee in the TSG website, enhancing its reviewing by the users and promoting the creation or publication of additional protocols;
7. To create a tapir health information network that includes:
   a. The establishment of the network and the in-situ and ex-situ global tapir health database.
   b. To contact worldwide specialists in the areas of

Veterinarians of the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative, IPÊ, Institute for Ecological Research, Brazil. Credits: Patrícia Medici

epidemiology, pathology, microbiology, parasitology, clinical pathology, toxicology, nutrition, endocrinology and reproduction among others.
   c. To contact reference laboratories in each country and/or geographic region, where new biological samples may be submitted for analysis.
8. To develop a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) based on health data. For this purpose we will include:
   a. The establishment of a system of compilation, interpretation and diffusion of epidemiological data valuable for the PVA.
   b. To create a taskforce group formed by TSG members and other qualified professionals.
   c. To create a system for the analysis of health data, which may be applied to advanced PVA models such as Outbreak.

TSG Virtual Library 2008

By Mathias Tobler

The idea of compiling all tapir-related articles in PDF format and making them available to all TSG members through the internet came up in 2005 and was included as a goal for the TSG strategic planning at the 2006 Tapir Symposium in Buenos Aires. Harald Beck and his students started compiling all the articles they could get their hands on and other TSG members contributed articles from their personal collections. Soon the collection contained over 300 documents, and in a next step, Mathias Tobler entered all the bibliographic information into a database. At the same time, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) completed a virtual library module as part of their Atrium biodiversity information system. This module met all the requirements for easily publishing and managing the tapir literature, and BRIT agreed to host the TSG Virtual Library on one of their servers. The TSG Virtual Library was officially released in September 2006 at the 7th International Conference for the Management of Wildlife in Amazonia and Latin America in Ilhéus, Brazil. Since then, the number of documents in the library has been growing continuously, moving us closer to the goal of bringing together everything ever published on tapirs.

In May 2008, the library contained a total of 485 documents spanning a time period from 1821 to 2008. Figure 1 shows a steady increase of publications since 1960. The majority of the documents are journal articles followed by book sections and thesis (Figure 2), indicating that most of the available information on tapirs has been published in a peer-reviewed form. A quick analysis shows that the largest number of publications are about the lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), followed by Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*).

The TSG Virtual Library can be accessed at http://atrium.tapirs.org. It allows for simple searches by keywords as well as advanced searches by year, author, document type etc. Search results can be downloaded in a variety of formats including some that allow easy import into reference software such as Endnote and Reference Manager. Registered users have full access to all PDF documents and can store references in a personal workspace for later export. The library also allows administrators to add and edit records through simple web interfaces.

Two goals were set for the TSG Virtual Library at the 2008 Tapir Symposium in Mexico: (1) to continue adding new articles to the library and search for older articles that are still missing and (2) to add standardized keywords to all documents. These keywords will include the tapir species mentioned in the document as well as the general subject of the article (e.g. diet, husbandry, genetics, conservation). This will allow for more specific searches returning more complete results. The goal is to have these keywords added to all documents by the end of 2008.

If anybody has documents about tapirs that are not in the library yet, please send the reference and if possible a PDF to Mathias Tobler (matobler@gmx.net). Also please indicate if you hold the copyright to the document (for example for a thesis or a report) and would like to make it available to the general public. If you are a TSG member or else work with tapirs and need an account to access the PDFs please write to Mathias to request a username and password.

TSG Zoo Committee

By Viviana Quse, Alan Shoemaker, Bengt Holst and Alberto Mendoza

During the Third International Tapir Symposium celebrated in Argentina in January 2006, different goals were established between zoos that hold tapirs in captivity. In this sense, different actions were taken for the four species of tapirs: *Tapirus bairdii; T. indicus; T. terrestris and T. pinchaque*.

One of the first actions involved the development of a Master Plan for range countries holding Central American Tapirs, *Tapirus bairdii*. This meeting was held in May 2006 because of problems identified at the Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop

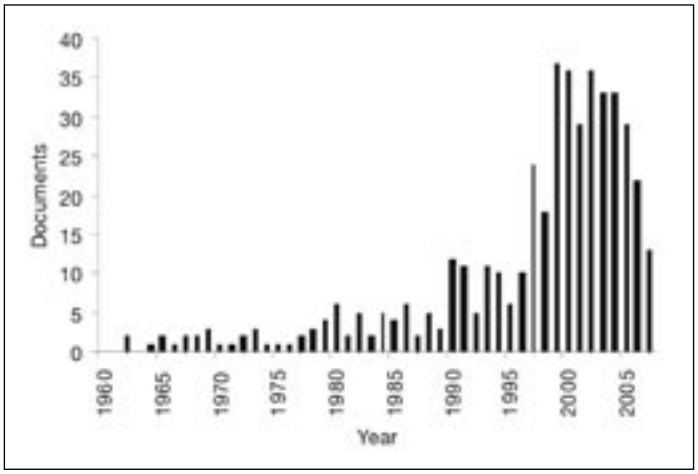

Figure 1: Number of documents hosted by the TSG Virtual Library for each year between 1960 and 2008 (May 2008).

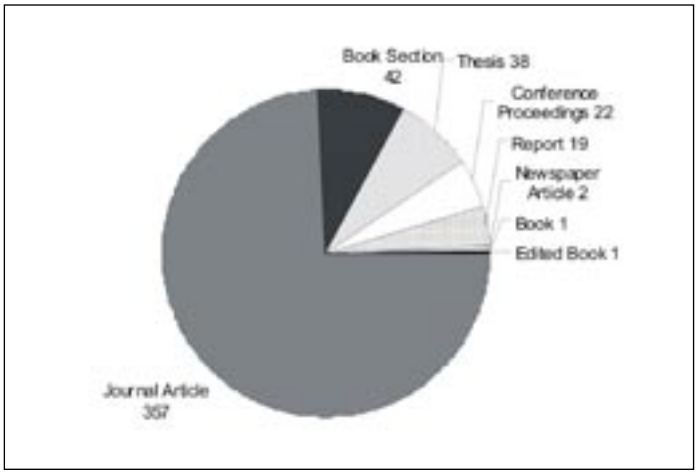

Figure 2: Contribution of different document types to the 485 documents stored in the TSG Virtual Library (May 2008).

(PHVA) for the conservation of the Central American Tapir that was held the preceding August 2005.

The objective of this masterplan was to review the *ex situ* status of *T. bairdii* and identify conservation actions in all area of their distribution in order to develop a Central American Regional Collection Plan. Representing range countries were 12 zoos from Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama as well as zoos from the United States and Canada. IUCN and AZA were also represented. The main problems identified at the meeting included the following:

1. Lack of communication between tapir holders.
2. Little research on captive population.
3. Difficulty in transferring tapirs between institutions.
4. Budgetary constraints in many institutions.
5. Lack of a Regional Collection Plan.

In order to be able to solve these problems it was necessary to know the actual and potential capacity of the zoos in Mexico and Central America. The majority of zoos in this region have completed a questionnaire and the International Studbook is completed and available on the Tapir Specialist Group website, www.tapirs.org

The results of the questionnaire are as follows: There are 54 captive ***Tapirus bairdii*** in 6 Central American countries (31.22.1). Unsexed tapir are also present at Thomas Belt Zoo in Nicaragua. The biggest collection of captive tapirs in the world is in the private collection in Panama at Villa Griselda with 19 tapirs. In North Korea also there are some *bairdii* tapirs, but, we need to gather more information from there.

In April of 2007 a PHVA workshop for lowland tapirs, ***Tapirus terrestris***, was held in Sorocaba Zoo, San Pablo, Brazil. Goals were identified for the zoos of the region and include the following:

1. To develop collection plans at National, Regional, and International level.
2. To increase the value of tapirs in all holding institutions within the region.
3. To increase the communication between lowland tapir investigators *in situ* and *ex- situ*.

In order to reach these goals, the Zoo Committee decided that the first objective would be to identify zoological institutions holding *Tapirus terrestris* within their collections. For accomplish this, individuals were identified in each country that would be responsible for the distribution of a questionnaire in Spanish, English and Portuguese asking for past and present inventory data of captive tapirs within their countries. Although this work is still in process, we already have some information about the status of captive tapirs in some of these countries. A summary of this information is as follows: In South America, 54 zoos in 7 countries hold 241 tapirs (Table 1).

Of the 241 tapirs registered, 43% are males and 39% are females; 18% have no data about the sex. Of these 241 tapirs, 102 were males including 51% that were born in captivity, 13% were born in the wild and 37% of the animals' owners did not specify their animals' origin. Of the 94 females, 48% were born in captivity, 22% were born in the wild and 30% of them did not have information on their origin reported.

Regarding ages, of 102 males, 40% were of unknown age. The remaining 60% averaged 4 years in age. In the case of the 94 females, 36% were of unknown age. The average age of the remaining 64% was 3 years.

In Argentina, a complete studbook is maintained by the Temaiken Zoo. In it, 12 zoos report holding a

Table 1. *Tapirus terrestris* registered in South America.

Country	Tapirs
Argentina	55
Brasil	84
Chile	5
Colombia	12
Ecuador	32
Perú	18
Venezuela	35
Total	241

Table 2. Distribution of captive mountain tapirs.

Zoo	Males	Females
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs, CO USA	1	1
Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angles, CA USA	4	1
San Francisco Zoo, San Francisco, CA USA	1	1
Mountain View Farm, Ft. Langley, British Columbia, Canada	1	1
Private Collection, Colombia	1	0

total of 53 tapirs (28.25). Of these 53 tapirs, 49 are identified with microchips. Genetic studies by the TSG Committee of Genetics are being developed in Canada and the sanitary studies of this captive population are progressing, among other areas of need.

In the case of Asian tapirs, ***Tapirus indicus***, there is some data from Malaysia, Indonesia and China. From Indonesia and Malaysia, 17 zoos report holding 56 *T. indicus*.

The information until the present is the following:

1. **Indonesia:** 8 zoos report holding 23 (7.6) tapirs. There are also 10 tapirs whose gender was not reported.
2. **Malaysia:** There are 9 zoos holding 33 (12.21) tapirs. Of these 33 tapirs, adults include 28 (9.19). There are also 3.2 tapirs.
3. **China:** In Beijing data was received for 9 (2.7) tapirs.

In the case of mountain tapirs, ***Tapirus pinchaque***, Alan Shoemaker informs reports that there are 12 tapirs (8.4) in captivity in 5 zoos. Table 2 provides distribution of captive mountain tapirs.

The female at the LA Zoo is post-reproductive and the female in Cheyenne Mountain Zoo may be separated from the male to prevent reproduction. From an AZA point of view, the one in Colombia and the two in Canada have no relationship to the AZA and its RCP as they are outside of the US, and outside of the AZA. Mountain View is not an AZA member.

A high degree of inbreeding exists because the first reproductive tapirs were born in 1983 (the male: #26) and in 1988 (the female: #27); both have the same father (#2). They have provided several descendants, and in some cases they have reproduced among them.

About the ages, the older age correspond to this reproductive pair: 25 years for the male and 20 years for the female. The youngest corresponds to a male, that was born in September 2007 (son from #26 and #27), in Los Angeles Zoo.

During the Fourth International Tapir Symposium, held in Mexico, the Zoo Committee established the following activities to develop in the following 3 years:

1. Disseminate husbandry guidelines to all facilities holding captive tapirs.
2. Increase communication and cooperation.
3. Identify veterinary and nutrition issues for all four species.
4. Develop international/regional collection plans for all species.
5. Increase representation of governmental agencies, researchers and facilities holding tapirs at future meetings.
6. To promote outreach in facilities holding tapirs.
7. To identify research priorities for management of tapirs in captivity.
8. Contribute in the veterinary investigations/ research about tapir health.

Illustrations by Stephen Nash

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TAPIR SPECIALIST GROUP

Currently, the TSG has **122** members, including field researchers, educators, veterinarians, governmental agencies and NGO representatives, zoo personnel, university professors and students, from **27** different countries worldwide (Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, French Guiana, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Republic of Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela).

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TAPIR CONSERVATION

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NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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: 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 are accepted in English, Spanish or Portuguese language. They should not be more than 5,000 words (all text included). In any case, an English abstract up to 250 words is required.

Figures and Maps
Contributions can include black and white photographs, high quality figures and high quality maps and tables. Please send them as separate files (formats preferred: jpg, pdf, cdr, xls).

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 Movimentso 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

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