



Patrícia Medici

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

129

Social networks

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/TapirSpecialistGroup

Twitter:

@IUCN_Tapirs



Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) is a global group of biologists, zoo professionals, researchers and advocates dedicated to conserving tapirs and their habitat through strategic action-planning in countries where tapirs live, information sharing and through educational outreach that shows the importance of the tapir to local ecosystems and to the world at large.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Bolster work at national scales

■ Conservation activities

i. We have promoted the creation of new action plans at national level in both Nicaragua and Guatemala via the TSG and Fondation Segré World Tapir Conservation Programme. Furthermore, through our nascent Baird's Tapir Survival Alliance, we hope to update the Baird's Tapir Action Plan and turn it into a larger proposal that can be used for more active fundraising initiatives. We have initial plans to go through a similar process for mountain tapirs. In short, we are re-thinking the process of continually updating action plans by developing smaller, more active tapir species working groups that can better maintain TSG momentum between International Tapir Symposiums that will work on strategic plans for the working groups that include priority actions for each range country. (KSR #15)

Communications

■ Communication

i. Our webpage got re-designed and revamped. (KSR #28)

Conservation Action

■ Proposal development and funding

i. Some proposals were developed for joint conservation programs with Fondation Segré and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. (KSR #30)

■ Research activities

i. 2016 Red List updated map based on Schank et al. (2015); García et al. (2016). *Tapirus bairdii*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e. T21471A45173340. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-1.RLTS.T21471A45173340.en>.

ii. Two papers developed for Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) distribution (one regional and one for Guatemala): (1) Schank et al. (2015). Integrating current range-wide occurrence data with species distribution models to map the potential distribution of Baird's Tapir. *Tapir Conservation – The Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group* 24(33): 15-25; (2) García, M. J. & Leonardo, R. (2016). Clasificación del hábitat potencial del tapir centroamericano (*Tapirus bairdii* Gill, 1865) para su conservación en Guatemala. *Therya* 7 (1): 107-112. doi: 10.12933/therya-16-345, ISSN 2007-3364. (KSR #32)

iii. The largest body of information about tapir health available today comes from the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative (LTCI), IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas, Brazil, coordinated by Dr. Patrícia Medici. The LTCI has been collecting data and evaluating lowland tapir health for the past 22 years and will soon reach the point where it will be possible to perform Disease Risk Analysis (DRA). The use of DRA will be part of the PhD of LTCI's Veterinarian Renata Santos, to be started in 2019. (KSR #23)

iv. Undergoing and future projects about reproductive biology of lowland tapirs: (1) micro and macroscopic morphology of reproductive system of female lowland tapirs; (2) micro and macroscopic morphology of reproductive system of male lowland tapirs is under development



Lowland Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), Vulnerable
Photo: Jason Woolgar

Close encounter between P. Medici and a young Lowland Tapir and its mother
Photo: Marina Klink



[Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative, IPÊ – Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas, Brazil; Coordinator: Dr. Patrícia Medici]; (3) DVMS Renata Santos and Carolina Testa have collected vaginal cytology from wild lowland tapirs in the Pantanal and Cerrado biomes [Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative, IPÊ-Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas, Brazil; Coordinator: Dr. Patrícia Medici] and the smears are being evaluated; (4) Semen collection and evaluation, performed in the Bela Vista Biological Sanctuary, ITAIPU Binacional, Brazil, in 2015 and 2016 by Dr. Budhan Pukazhenth (results under evaluation); to be performed in captive lowland tapirs in 2018. (KSR #32)

Acknowledgements

The TSG is supported by hundreds of zoological institutions in North America, Europe and Latin America. Main partners include: Houston Zoo (USA), Copenhagen Zoo (Denmark), Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) and Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG).

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Communication: publish a visual, popular version of at least 2 TSG Action Plans (Baird's and Mountain tapirs), condensed, accessible and mobile for use.

Research activities: (1) work on and update a list/map for existing biosamples and biobanks; (2) augment the number of people/projects collecting biosamples for each tapir species.

Capacity building

Capacity building: integrate education curriculum Tapir Tracks with education programs.

Communications

Communication: (1) publish a scientific article (newsletter) annually for scientific audience to cover tapir conservation topics; (2) prepare an awareness campaign about tapir conservation that includes TSG talking points for every country with a TSG representative; (3) effectively communicate one success story from each species every year; (4) upload at least 100 papers to the TSG Virtual Library; (5) increase the search visibility of TSG website.

Documents review: enhance the *ex situ* Tapir Husbandry Manual.

Research activities: raise, at least by one, the number of tapir-related citizen science projects.

Synergy: (1) ensure that *ex situ* tapir populations are utilized in basic and applied research contributing to conservation; (2) create a TSG full-time representative position to attend (participate and report) in international meetings; (3) involve TSG members with at least three TSG Strategic Plan actions; (4) share information between available through existing databases (Species 360) *in situ* and *ex situ* partners; (5) obtain a minimum of 10 new alliances between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation efforts; (6) prepare an evaluation survey for self-assessment in place for TSG Country and Species Coordinators; (7) implement an internal online communication channel; (8) establish a GSMP in range countries of Malayan tapir; (9) liaise with other ecosystem/restoration stakeholders.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: working inventory of the tapirs under human care in tapir range countries.

Synergy: establish three additional long-term partnerships between tapir projects with zoos.

Policy

Synergy: have one governmental representative from each tapir range country present at next Tapir Symposium.

Projected impact for the quadrennium

2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we want to have a strong representation in all tapir range countries in Latin America and Southeast Asia and stable, long-term research and conservation programs in several of these countries. In addition, we want to see our Action Plans implemented.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Communications (1 activity)
- Conservation action (6 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 15, 23, 28, 30, 32

KSR: Key Species Result