

# IUCN SSC Tapir Specialist Group

2018 Report



Patrícia Medici

## Chair

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## Location/Affiliation

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## Number of members

130

## Social networks

Facebook:

Tapir Specialist Group

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.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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 programmes in several of these countries. In addition, we want to see our Action Plans implemented.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Research activities: (1) working inventory of the tapirs under human care in tapir range countries; (2) work on and update a list/map for existing biosamples and biobanks; (3) augment the number of people/projects collecting biosamples for each tapir species; (4) raise, at least by one, the number of tapir-related citizen science projects.

### Network

Capacity building: integrate our education curriculum 'Tapir Tracks' with education programmes.

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

Synergy: (1) have one governmental representative from each tapir range country present at the next Tapir Symposium; (2) establish three additional long-term partnerships between tapir projects with zoos; (3) ensure that *ex situ* tapir populations are utilised in basic and applied research contributing to conservation; (4) create a TSG full-time representative position to attend (participate and report) international meetings; (5) involve TSG members in at least three TSG Strategic Plan actions; (6) share information available through existing databases (Species 360) with *in situ* y *ex situ* partners; (7) obtain a minimum of 10 new alliances between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation efforts; (8) prepare an evaluation survey for self-assessment in place for TSG Country and Species Coordinators; (9) implement an internal online communication channel; (10) establish a Global Species Management Plan in range countries of Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*); (11) liaise with other ecosystem/restoration stakeholders.

## Communicate

Communication: (1) publish a scientific article (newsletter) annually for a 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) publish a visual, popular version of at least two TSG Action Plans (Baird's Tapir *Tapirus bairdii* and Mountain Tapir *Tapirus pinchaque*), condensed, accessible and mobile for use; (4) effectively communicate one success story from each species every year; (5) upload at least 100 papers to the TSG Virtual Library; (6) increase the search visibility of the TSG website.



Lowland Tapir, Brazil  
Photo: Patrícia Medici

Patrícia Medici and her team gathering genetic data from an anesthetized tapir in Brazil's Pantanal  
Photo: Patrícia Medici



SZB Conference. Keynote Speech  
*My Friend is a Tapir* Campaign  
Photo: Patrícia Medici

## Activities and results 2018

### Network

#### Capacity building

- i.** We now have Tapir Tracks in Portuguese and Spanish. (KSR #17)
- ii.** The TSG Fellowship is a major success. We have trained dozens of tapir conservationists from all over Latin America.

#### Synergy

- i.** Our tapir conservation alliances have been successful in raising funds from several zoos in the United States, Europe, and Latin America. (KSR #29)
- ii.** We have concluded the first grant from our TSG & Segre World Tapir Conservation Programme. We have approved a continuation grant for three more years.
- iii.** We have established a project where several zoos in the United States and Brazil are photographing tapir calves over time as they lose their skin pattern (spots and stripes). This will be useful so that tapir researchers working in the wild will be able to estimate tapir age. (KSR #29)
- iv.** TSG members have been requested to list at least three TSG Strategic Plan actions with which they would like to get involved.
- v.** New alliances: (1) we have linked a number of tapir researchers and conservationists with zoo conservation funds; (2) we have facilitated the link between staff from field projects and zoo personnel, creating opportunities for professional exchanges; (3) zoos and breeding centres in Brazil are supporting a Lowland Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) re-introduction programme in Rio de Janeiro State. (KSR #29)

### Communicate

#### Communication

- i.** TSG members in different countries have been running a multitude of awareness campaigns. (KSR #28)
- ii.** TSG Country Coordinators are working on reviewing Species and National Action Plans. (KSR #28)
- iii.** One-hundred and fifty papers uploaded to the TSG Virtual Library.

### Acknowledgements

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) (Michele Stancer); Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark; European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA); Tapir TAG (Bengt Holst); Foundation Segre, Switzerland; Houston Zoo, US; IPE - Institute for Ecological Research, Brazil; IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG); ProCAT, Colombia.

### Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

|             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| Network     | 6 |  |
| Communicate | 3 |  |

Main KSRs addressed: 17, 28, 29

KSR: Key Species Result