



Patrícia Medici

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas, Brazil

Number of members

135

Social networks

Facebook: Tapir Specialist Group

Twitter: @IUCN_Tapirs

Website: <https://tapirs.org/>



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) establish a 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; (5) establish a network of tapir research and conservation programmes representing all tapir range countries; (6) establish 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).

Plan

Planning: 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.

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 in and report on) 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* and *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; (12) expand the TSG fellowship; (13) establish tapir conservation alliances for the purpose of networking, national action planning and fundraising.



Endangered Mountain Tapir, *Tapirus pinchaque*, Colombia
Photo: Diego Lizcano

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 and Mountain Tapir), 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.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Research activities

- i.** An inventory of the tapirs under human care in tapir range countries has been achieved for Malayan Tapirs in Southeast Asia and for Baird's Tapirs in Central America. We are working on compiling this information for Lowland Tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*) in South America. (KSR #43)
- ii.** Updated list/map for existing biosamples and biobanks: This information is currently being compiled for European Zoos (EAZA Biobank). In addition, the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative (LTCI) in Brazil maintains a biobank. (KSR #43)
- iii.** People/projects collecting biosamples for each tapir species: The number of TSG members and long-term, systematic research programmes collecting biological samples has increased by 15%. (KSR #12)
- iv.** We have been running tapir-related citizen science projects in Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica.

- v.** Project to photograph tapir calves over time as they lose their skin pattern (spots and stripes): We have six zoos participating in Brazil and at least three zoos in the United States. (KSR #12)

Network

Capacity building

- i.** TAPIR TRACKS was integrated into education programmes in Brazil and Honduras. (KSR #17)

Documents review

- i.** The AZA Tapir Care Manual has been enhanced and widely distributed.

Synergy

- i.** Due to the pandemic, we were not able to hold our International Tapir Symposium in 2020. We are trying to put together a virtual conference for the first half of 2021.
- ii.** We now have a number of tapir research and conservation programmes working in partnership with and/or receiving support from zoological institutions worldwide. (KSR #29)
- iii.** TSG members are involved with at least three TSG Strategic Plan actions.
- iv.** Expanding the TSG Fellowship: Despite the pandemic, we found different ways to stay in touch and support each other. We carried out a number of virtual workshops and seminars.
- v.** We have managed to establish a number of tapir conservation alliances: Latin American Tapir Species Programme (Fondation Segré), Malayan Tapir Conservation Programme (Fondation Segré), Baird's Tapir Conservation Alliance, Mountain Tapir Conservation Alliance. These regional, national and international networks have been the main pillars of the work of the TSG. We do not yet have all tapir range countries represented. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

- i.** We are currently trying to identify a new editor for our journal *Tapir Conservation*. (KSR #28)
- ii.** The TSG and its members run a number of awareness campaigns in different countries, particularly Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Zoological institutions worldwide continue to be major forces towards communicating the tapir conservation cause. (KSR #28)
- iii.** We have uploaded ca. 50 scientific publications to the TSG Virtual Library.

Acknowledgements

TSG Steering Committee; Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA); Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG); Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark; European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA); Fondation Segré, Switzerland; IPE - Institute for Ecological Research, Brazil; IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG); ProCAT Colombia; and so many others.

Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess	5	
Network	8	
Communicate	3	

Main KSRs addressed: 12, 17, 28, 29, 43

KSR: Key Species Result