

**SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND  
PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS**

**PROGRAMA DE CONGRESO Y  
RESÚMENES DE PRESENTACIONES**

**TAPIR SYMPOSIUM**



**2001 COSTA RICA**

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL TAPIR SYMPOSIUM  
PRIMER CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE TAPIRES**

**SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA**

**NOVEMBER 3 - 8, 2001**

**NOVIEMBRE 3 al 8 de 2001**

# ORGANIZATIONS - ORGANIZACIONES

IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Tapir Specialist Group

American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TTAG)

Tapir Preservation Fund (TPF)

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regarding the forest uses, besides fomenting productive alternatives different to the agricultural, cattle and timber; otherwise the density of the Baird's tapir will register an irrecoverable descent during next years.

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## (20) THE GENUS *Tapirus* IN VENEZUELA: DISTRIBUTION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS CONSERVATION

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*Tapirus terrestris* is the only species of the genus *Tapirus* Brunnich, 1771, found in Venezuela. We did a distribution map based on an extensive literature review, data from collections and interviews. The degree of reliability for each source was qualitatively classified. A cartographic analysis shows that: (i) *T. terrestris* is widely distributed in the country, with notorious absences in arid, high Andean and insular areas; (ii) the greatest number of records are south of the Orinoco river, associated to rain forests and savannahs; (iii) the few records North of the Orinoco are associated mainly to montane forests (Perijá, Mérida, Coastal and Oriental Mountain ranges); (iv) lack of records on the Maracaibo Basin and the Llanos (flatlands). Most records correspond lower than 500 m elevations, with very few records over 2000 m elevations. The low number of records north of the Orinoco can be related to habitat loss. We suggest for tapirs conservation: determine taxonomic position of *T. t. colombianus* and verify its presence in the country; promote research projects in areas of special interest (i.e., Coastal Mountain range); evaluate the system of protected areas based on tapir and other mammal distribution patterns; implement environmental education programs to show the status and conservation needs of tapirs; implement breeding programs to study biology and management issues about the species to strengthen and restore populations affected by human activities.

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## (21) TRANSLOCATION EXPERIENCE OF TAPIRS (*Tapirus terrestris*) IN HENRI PITTIER NATIONAL PARK

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This paper reports the experience of the translocation of 4 tapirs to the Henri Pittier National Park. Three females and one male were translocated due to the fact that the animals were in danger to be hunted, being in perturbed area. A protocol was elaborated in order to detect, capture, immobilization, be moved and reubicate the animals at the National Park. An interdisciplinary group of people especially equipped, with a previous studies of the area, which included: animal immobilization plan, selected liberation area, morphometric evaluation, laboratory and clinical personal were used during the procedure. The protocol of use of Ketamine, Xilazine and combination of Tiletamine-Zolazepam to immobilize the species to be translocated allowed to acquire experience in the sedation and to manage the animals in the procedure without stress. The hematological values found in each individual are presented. The coprologic examination allowed the detection of parasite population of the species. The presence of bacteria in nasal, pharyngeal and fecal samples is reported. The translocation is an alternative method to preserve survival of species in extinction. It is a good strategy for ecological recovering and allows expanding the biological knowledge of these animals.

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## (22) STATUS OF TAPIRS IN VENEZUELAN ZOOS

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The Zoological parks are playing an important role in the conservation ex-situ of wildlife species through the accomplishment of their main objectives: Education, Conservation, Research and Recreation. In order to know the status of the tapir populations in captivity, we analyzed the data provided, in the last eight years, by eight institutions related with the handling of the specie. The information was obtained through different sources: phone interviews, inventories and the scarce historical records contributed by the institutions. The