

# Second International Tapir Symposium

Panama City, Republic of Panama  
January 10-16, 2004

## TAPIR SYMPOSIUM



**2004 PANAMA**

## Symposium Program Schedule and Presentation Abstracts

**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union



IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)  
Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)



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



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

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### ORGANIZATIONS

IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Tapir Specialist Group (TSG)  
American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG)

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

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#### KELLY RUSSO

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## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

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Africam Safari, Mexico

ANCON Expeditions, Republic of Panama

Belize Zoo, Tropical Education Center, Belize

Colombian Tapir Network, Colombia

Conservation International, United States

Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG)

Houston Zoo Inc., United States

Idea Wild, United States

IPÊ - Institute for Ecological Research, Brazil

IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG)

Municipality of Panama City, Republic of Panama

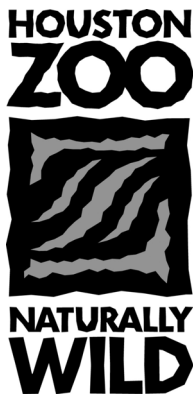
Tapir Preservation Fund (TPF), United States

Virginia Zoological Gardens, United States



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL

Africam Safari, Mexico  
Beardsley Zoological Gardens, USA  
Belize Zoo, Tropical Education Center, Belize  
Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Board of Trade Conservation Group, USA  
Cali Zoological Foundation, Colombia  
Center for Environmental Conservation and Research (CERC), USA  
Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno, USA  
Chester Zoo, North of England Zoological Society, United Kingdom  
Cleveland Zoological Society, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Scott Neotropical Fund, USA  
Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark  
Detroit Zoological Institute, USA  
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, USA  
El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Mexico  
El Paso Zoo, USA  
Fresno Zoological Society, USA  
Fundación Temaikén, Argentina  
Hattiesburg Zoo, USA  
Idea Wild, USA  
International Animal Exchange, USA  
IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG)  
Los Angeles Zoo, USA  
Marwell Zoological Park, United Kingdom  
Miami Metro Zoo, USA  
Miejski Ogród Zoologiczny Lodz, Poland  
Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens, USA  
Mountain View Conservation & Breeding Center, Canada  
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, USA  
Omaha Zoological Society, Henry Doorly Zoo, USA  
Paignton Zoological & Botanical Gardens, United Kingdom  
Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park, USA  
Parc Zoologique Doué-la-Fontaine, France  
Parc Zoologique de Lille, France  
Peace River Refuge, USA  
Rotterdam Zoo, The Netherlands  
Sedgwick County Zoo, USA  
Ueno Zoo and Tama Zoo, Tokyo Zoo Conservation Fund, Japan  
University of Florida, USA  
Virginia Zoological Gardens, USA  
White Oak Conservation Center, USA  
Wildlife Conservation Society, Argentina  
Wildlife World Zoo Inc., USA  
Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) c/o Audubon Park Zoological Garden, USA

## POSTERS - LOWLAND TAPIR



### Use and Commerce of Individual Parts of the Amazonian Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) in Peru

#### Judith Figueroa

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Between February 2002 and June 2003, 26 markets in the Peruvian Departments of Amazonas, Ancash, Arequipa, Cajamarca, Cuzco, Huánuco, Junín, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Madre de Dios, Pasco, San Martín and Ucayali were visited. Fourteen of these places were illegally selling Amazonian tapir's parts. Most significant sales were recorded in Lambayeque (33.3%), San Martín (19.0%) and Ucayali (14.3%). The products sold were the claws (37.5%, US\$3 to 5.8), leathers (31.3%), skulls (18.8%) and dry meat (12.5%, US\$2/kg). Also, in some markets of Ucayali, the retailers reported the sale of young tapirs as pets. This commerce is local and it is mainly for the use in medicine of some tapir's parts, as much of the people from the city as from the field. From the 120 interviews, 98% indicated to use the nails mainly to cure diverse diseases like epilepsy, asthma, breakage of bones, cardiac problems, faints, hemorrhages and help for pregnant women. Some parts are also used as contraceptives. The meat comprises of the feeding and is well-known as "mounting meat". Skulls and leathers are used like trophies or adornments.

### Captive Management of *Tapirus terrestris* at the Chorros de Milla Park Zoo, Mérida, Venezuela

#### Denis Alexander Torres<sup>1</sup> & Rodríguez-Hernández, A.<sup>2</sup>

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"Chorros de Milla" Park Zoo is a Venezuelan governmental institution administered by CORMETUR (the regional tourism corporation). It is located to the Northeast of Mérida city, occupying an area of 12 ha in a small valley crossed by the Milla River to 1,850 m.a.s.l. During the last 50 years, the Milla River presented two exceptional floods that forced the construction of two dikes to mitigate the force of the flow during the rainy season. One of these dikes was used to establish an enclosure of 1,400 m<sup>2</sup> for the lowland tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*). In 1988, we obtained the first tapir from the Caricua Park Zoo (Caracas), a juvenile male named "Pijiguao". Since then, we have maintained 5 tapirs in the park (2 males and 3 females) although always a single breeding couple (M, F) at the same time. Between 1990 and 1995, two females brought from Las Delicias Park Zoo (Maracay, Aragua State) died; one due to *anaplasmosis* and the other one drowned during a flood of the river. After this event, modifications were made in the enclosure in order to guarantee the life of the animals. Thanks to the inter-institutional cooperation, in 2000, we received a juvenile female named "Simona", brought from Bararida Park Zoo and Botanical Garden (Barquisimeto, Lara State). "Simona" and "Pijiguao" are currently the breeding tapir pair in the park. In 2002, we achieved the first species breeding event: a male named "Sebastian". The tapir is one of the conservation focal species at the "Chorros de Milla" Park Zoo by means of an integrated program of research, breeding and environmental education.