

P R E S S K I T





As Chair of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group for the past eleven years, most people would expect me to be dedicated to tapir preservation. I am. But it goes much deeper than that. My commitment to tapir conservation began sixteen years ago in a chance encounter with this remarkable animal while studying primates deep in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. Seeing this large, seemingly prehistoric animal move so gracefully and quietly through the forest, I could only marvel at their adaptive qualities and resourcefulness.

Since that day, studying this secretive animal and understanding its role in the environment it inhabits has become my life's work and passion. In order to advance scientific knowledge and promote the conservation of this widely spread but seriously imperiled large mammal, I have worked alongside the amazing IUCN Tapir Specialist Group members to establish an unprecedented global initiative of tapir research and conservation programs. This is even more shocking knowing that the TSG is made up entirely of volunteers - we are a multi-faceted group of tapir experts, including field biologists, environmental educators, captivity specialists, academicians, researchers, veterinarians, governmental authorities, politicians and other interested parties; all drawn together to help save tapirs.

TSG researchers have learned some astonishing things about tapirs over the years but one truth remains constant: all four species are in trouble. Habitat encroachment, fragmentation, hunting and logging are threatening their existence on this planet.

It is my hope that this information packet will not only inform readers about tapirs, but that it will inspire them with the same passion I have for the species: inspire them to write about tapirs, to teach about them, to further research them; to find away to help them. It is only through such individual efforts that the four tapir species will find a way to survive into the future on our shared planet.

Patricia Medici, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group Chair





The Tapir Specialist Group, a unit of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, strives to conserve biological diversity by stimulating, developing and executing practical programs to study, save, restore and manage the four species of tapir and their remaining habitats in Central and South America and Southeast Asia. Our strategies:

- a.) Frequent review, status determination and publicizing of tapirs and their needs;
- b.) Promoting and supporting research and distributing materials;
- c.) Promoting the implementation of conservation and management programs by appropriate organizations and governments; and,
- d.) Establishing strong and effective relationships among tapir conservationists to stimulate communication and cooperation.

The Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) was founded in 1980 as one of the 120 specialist groups of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC). The IUCN/SSC-affiliated TSG is a global group of 92 biologists, zoo professionals, researchers and advocates from 25 countries worldwide dedicated to conserving tapirs and their habitats 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 the world at large.



Tapirs are large browsing mammals, with short prehensile snouts, which are used to grab leaves and used as a snorkel when swimming. The four subspecies of tapir live in the jungles and forest regions of South and Central America and Southeast Asia and are all classified as either vulnerable or endangered. The tapir's closest relatives include horses and rhinoceroses. Tapirs are disappearing from the wild in large part due to hunting pressures, habitat destruction and fragmentation, and encroachment into protected park areas by subsistence farmers and illegal logging operations.

The Four Living Species of Tapir

(See individual fact sheets in this kit for more information)



Baird's Tapir

The Baird's tapir's range extends from southern Mexico through Central America to the western side of the Andean mountain range in Colombia. The Baird's tapir can grow to five feet and 550 lbs. The major conservation threats to this endangered species are habitat destruction and fragmentation and hunting throughout its range. *There are estimated to be fewer than 5,500 Baird's tapir remaining in the wild (2006).*



Mountain Tapir

The critically endangered mountain tapir is the smallest and furriest of the tapir species, but the largest mammal in the tropical Andes. Mountain tapirs live in the montane forests and páramos in Colombia, Ecuador and northern Peru at between two and four thousand meters elevation. The major conservation threats to this species are warfare and habitat loss due to poppy farming and growth of ranching and agriculture. *The current population of mountain tapir is around 2,500 individuals and numbers are decreasing.*



Lowland Tapir

The lowland tapir's range is the rainforest and wetlands of South America. The lowland tapir can grow to six feet and 550 lbs and has a distinctive mane or crest from shoulder to forehead that distinguishes this species from other tapirs. The major conservation threats to this vulnerable species are habitat loss due to deforestation, hunting for meat and competition with domestic livestock. *Although there is not enough information available to accurately estimate the lowland tapir population, it is known that population numbers are in decline.*



Malayan Tapir

The endangered Malayan tapir is the largest of the four tapir species and lives in a range that extends from southern Thailand and Myanmar through the Malayan peninsula and on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The major conservation threats for Malayan tapir are habitat destruction and fragmentation due primarily to illegal logging and palm oil production. *There are estimated to be 1,500 to 2,000 individuals remaining in the wild and numbers are decreasing.*



- 1980**
 - Keith Williams appointed as the founding Chairperson of the Tapir Specialist Group
- 1990**
 - Sharon Matola took over as Chairperson of the TSG. She wrote the first issue of Tapir Conservation
- 1996**
 - First Tapir Red List Assessment
- 1997**
 - First Tapir Action Plan published
- 2001**
 - First International Tapir Symposium, Costa Rica
- 2003**
 - Malayan Tapir PHVA Workshop, Malaysia
- 2004**
 - Second International Tapir Symposium, Republic of Panama
 - Mountain Tapir PHVA Workshop, Colombia
- 2005**
 - Baird's Tapir PHVA Workshop, Belize
- 2006**
 - Third International Tapir Symposium, Argentina
 - ISIS/TSG Physiological Data Reference Values for Tapir Species published
- 2007**
 - Lowland Tapir PHVA Workshop, Brazil
 - TSG Tapir Field Veterinary Manual published
- 2008**
 - Fourth International Tapir Symposium, Mexico
 - TSG Guidelines for Tapir Re-introduction and Translocation published





Frequently Asked Questions



What are tapirs?

Tapirs are large herbivorous mammals, with short prehensile snouts, which are used to grab leaves and used as a snorkel when swimming. The four species of tapir live in the jungles and forest regions of South and Central America and Southeast Asia and are all listed as either vulnerable or endangered. The tapir's closest relatives include horses and rhinoceroses. Tapirs are disappearing from the wild in large part due to hunting pressure, habitat destruction and fragmentation, and encroachment into protected park areas by subsistence farmers and illegal logging operations.

Why are tapirs important?

Tapirs play a critical role in shaping and maintaining the biological diversity of tropical ecosystems. The tapir is one of the first species in its habitat to be adversely affected by human disturbance because of their size, and because of their sensitivity to habitat changes. Local extinction or population decrease may trigger adverse effects in the habitat, causing disruptions of some key ecological processes (e.g. seed dispersal, nutrient recycling), and eventually compromising the long-term integrity and biodiversity of the ecosystem.

How are tapirs doing?

Where are they particularly endangered?

Where are they doing okay?

Tapirs are becoming rare in their occurrence areas--the forests of Central and South America, and Southeast Asia--mostly due to habitat destruction and poaching. The IUCN Red Book lists the four species of tapirs as either vulnerable or endangered. The Mountain tapir, *T. pinchaque*, is one of the most endangered large mammals in the world. The Baird's tapir, *T. bairdii*, is the largest land mammal in the Neotropics and also endangered. The Malayan tapir, *T. indicus*, is the only Old World extant species and is also endangered in Sumatra and mainland Malaysia. The lowland tapir, *T. terrestris*, is now either completely absent or its distribution is extremely fragmented across much of its historic range, with the northern Amazon and the remaining Pantanal (Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay) becoming important strongholds as southern, eastern and northwestern populations decline rapidly.

What threats do tapirs face?

- Hunting pressure from humans on tapirs throughout their ranges
- Habitat destruction and fragmentation
- Encroachment into protected park areas by subsistence farmers and illegal logging
- Tapirs do well where there are few threats impeding their normal needs to thrive in large undisturbed tracts of habitat. Certain areas of the Brazilian Amazon, Brazilian Pantanal, Peruvian Amazon, Honduran Mosquitia and Panamanian Darien forests have healthy tapir populations.

How can I help tapirs?

- Write letters to your government officials supporting legislature that funds wildlife conservation in the Neotropics
- Write your favorite international conservation organization asking them to make tapir conservation a funding priority
- Tell others about tapirs--spread the word about their uniqueness and their status in the wild
- Support tapir research and conservation through Tapir Specialist Group Conservation Fund:
<http://www.tapirs.org/tsgcf/>
- Donate field equipment or gear to Neotropical researchers through organizations like IdeaWild:
<http://www.ideawild.org/>
- Travel to tapir range countries and visit parks where tapirs are known to live; ecotourism to see specific animals can stimulate a local economy by providing hospitality and guiding jobs
- Consider studying tapir-specific subject matter at your university; there are many ecological, biological, sociological and historical aspects of tapir information that are not being studied. Ask the Tapir Specialist Group for ideas

Where can I see tapirs in the wild?

Any large wild animal will be difficult to find in the wild. However, there are some parks in the world where tapirs have not been threatened by hunting or predation and are less shy than other areas. We recommend

you make travel arrangements through a reputable local agency or guide who specializes in wildlife-watching tours and eco-sensitive travel. Some places where tapir sightings are not uncommon:

Baird's tapir:

Chan Chich Lodge property, Belize

Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica

Lowland tapir:

Morro do Diabo State Park, São Paulo State, Brazil

Southern and Northern Pantanal of Brazil

El Rey National Park, Salta, Argentina

Amazon River, Brazil

Manu National Park, Peru

Tambopata River and National Preserve, Peru

Malayan tapir:

Taman Negara National Park, Malaysia

Krau Wildlife Reserve, Malaysia

Mountain tapirs:

These tapirs are very difficult to see in the wild--their low numbers and inaccessible habitat make locating them very difficult, even for our researchers. They are even rare in zoos, found only in a few, including the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado, USA. Consider yourself lucky if an animal reveals itself to you while you're enjoying the beautiful wild setting!

What do tapirs eat in the wild?

Tapirs eat a variety of seasonal fruits and plants and their home ranges (2 to 5 kilometers square) reflect the seasonal food growth patterns of the forest. When mango or fig trees come into season, tapirs can often be found underneath these trees, eating the fruits that fall from them, or are dropped by monkeys munching on fruit from above. Tapirs also eat a lot of different fruits of palm trees (especially tapirs living in low lands) and they visit salt licks to complement their diet. A salt lick is a naturally occurring salt deposit that animals visit periodically to supplement their diet with minerals such as sodium, calcium, phosphorus and iron.

What do tapirs eat at the zoo?

Tapirs eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, such as carrots, lettuce, apples and a zoo kibble diet formulated especially for herbivore ungulates (hoofed mammals).

Do tapirs come out at night?

Yes, and in the morning; their activity levels peak in the hours when temperatures are cooler, primarily dawn and dusk. This behavior is referred to as "crepuscular." Tapirs do most of their feeding at night, working their way through a forest eating fruit, leaves and plants.

Are tapirs nice?

Yes and no. Tapirs are very large, wild animals. Like any large herbivore (and prey species), they are inherently shy and timid. In captive or zoo situations, tapirs are usually friendly and curious. However, they are still large mammals whose behavior can be unpredictable and they must be treated with care. In the wild, however, tapirs are most safely observed from a distance. If surprised, attacked, or taunted they will defend themselves with their very dangerous teeth. Wild and domestic tapirs have maimed and killed humans who attack or surprise them.

How big are tapirs?

Full grown tapirs are approximately the size of small ponies or very large hogs, 100 to 300 kilos (300 to 700 pounds), but please see individual tapir pages for more specific species information.

Are tapirs soft?

Despite the soft curves of a tapir's body, their hides are very tough. They have tough skin to deflect attacks by predators, and to withstand the thick vegetation and challenges of maneuvering through the rain forest. All tapirs except for the mountain tapir have very short, coarse hair. Mountain tapirs develop a much thicker and "woollier" coat of hair due to their high mountain habitat--they live in a much colder climate than their more low elevation cousins.

Do tapirs have hooves like horses?

No. Tapirs have three and four-toed feet.

Can tapirs run fast?

Yes, they can run very fast for short bursts of speed, and maintain a brisk clip run through dense forest. Their running style and speed is like that of a small pony.

Does the tapir have any natural predators?

The adult Malayan tapir is prey to tigers and leopards in the Malayan peninsula and to tigers only on the island of Sumatra; the adult lowland tapir and Baird's tapir are prey to jaguars and pumas; the adult mountain tapir is prey to pumas.

What's involved with studying tapirs in the wild?

Studying tapirs in the wild requires many resources and a solid scientific question that only studies in the wild can answer. The sort of person attracted to research on tapirs will need to be intrepid, creative, motivated and dedicated. Usually a researcher conducts their research and gathers his or her data while pursuing a masters or Ph.D degree or if sponsored by a scientific NGO.

Actual time in the field--the best part about research--does not make up the bulk of a researcher's time. Often fundraising, coordinating travel and transportation, hiring and training field assistants, analyzing data in the lab or at an academic institution and writing up reports and papers on findings makes up the majority of a researcher's time.

More questions?

See the contact information included in this kit for additional questions.





Baird's Tapir Habitat Range
(*Tapirus bairdii*)

Maps by Carlos Pedraza, TSG, 2008

Illustration by Stephen Nash,
Conservation International

Range: Distributed from Oaxaca Province in Mexico through Central America to the western side of the Andean mountain range in Colombia (the Darien). It occurs in rainforests, lower montane forests, deciduous forests, flooded grasslands and marsh areas.

Characteristics: Up to 2.3 meters long (7.5 feet) and 350 kg (770 pounds). The Baird's tapir is dark brown or grayish-brown and has a distinctive cream-colored marking on its face and throat and a dark spot on each cheek, behind and below the eye. The edges of the ears are white.

Status: Endangered

Conservation threats: The major threats to the species are habitat destruction and fragmentation and hunting throughout its range.

Population Estimate (2006): Estimates suggest that there are less than 5,500 Baird's tapir remaining in the wild, with populations in Mexico under 1,500, Guatemala under 1,000, Honduras under 500, Nicaragua under 500, Republic of Panama under 1,000, Costa Rica under 1,000, and Colombia approximately 250. Populations of Baird's tapir are in a continuing decline.

Behavior:

Mating: Primarily solitary, the species forms occasional associations with others and for breeding.

Sounds: Communication is by a range of whistles of different pitch and duration.

Activity: Primarily becomes active at dusk and throughout the night, retiring to shelter of

thick vegetation in the early morning. However, it is occasionally seen throughout the day seeking water in which to rest and cool down. The species frequently defecates in water as well as on land and at specific locations. These sites and the spraying of urine onto vegetation and trees are thought to be associated with home range marking. There is no evidence of exclusive territoriality. Males appear to have small home ranges, about 1 sq km (250 acres) and females range much more widely.

Feeding habits: The species eats the twigs and growing tips of a wide range of understory vegetation, including snapping small saplings with its mouth to get to tall plants. It also takes a large quantity of fruits and leaves from the forest floor and aquatic vegetation when and where available.

Other: The species is vulnerable to predation by jaguars and pumas. It has thick and tough skin, particularly on its hindquarters. Occasional deaths have been recorded through collisions with automobiles (particularly in Belize).

Other names: Tapir, danta (Spanish), mountain cow (Belize), macho del monte (Colombia & Costa Rica).

Sources: Available at <http://www.tapirs.org/tapirs/bairds.html>



Lowland Tapir Habitat Range (*Tapirus terrestris*)
Maps by Carlos Pedraza, TSG, 2008
Illustration by Stephen Nash, Conservation International

Range: The Lowland tapir occurs through a wide geographic range from North-Central Colombia and east of the Andes throughout most of tropical South America. It occurs mostly in tropical lowland rainforest but can also be found in seasonally dry habitats such as the Chaco of Bolivia and Paraguay.

Characteristics: Up to 2.4 meters long (7.9 feet) and 300 kg (660 pounds). Lowland tapirs are blackish-brown dorsally with the ears edged in white. They have a well-developed sagittal crest that runs to the middle of the back, which is covered by very long black hair.

Status: Vulnerable

Conservation threats: The major threats to the species are habitat loss due to deforestation, hunting for meat, road-kill and competition with domestic livestock.

Population Estimate (2008): There is not enough research information available to estimate population. We do know that due to habitat loss population numbers are in decline, though numerous strongholds exist. The lowland tapir, although generally rare and elusive, can be locally common, such as around water sources.

Behavior:

Mating: There is very little information about the reproduction of lowland tapirs in the wild. Overall, the four species of tapirs have very slow reproductive cycles. Adult females usually produce a single offspring after a lengthy gestation period of 13–14 months (390–410 days).

Activity: The lowland tapir is primarily solitary and shy, grazing and foraging at night, and resting or hiding during the day. The lowland tapir is a strong swimmer, known to cross rivers and take to the water to escape predators.

Feeding habits: Lowland tapirs eat a variety of fruits and plants. In fact, more than 170 species of fruits in over 60 different plant families have been identified as eaten by lowland tapirs throughout their range.

Other: In some locations it has been found that lowland tapirs are considerably less active during the brighter phases of the moon. Previous studies suggest that a lower level of animal activity during moonlit nights is a result of higher predation risk.

Other names: Tapir, danta (Spanish), anta (Brazil), maypouri (Quichua), danta de tierras bajas o amazónica (Spanish), sachavaca, huagra (Perú); anta (Brasil); gran bestia (Colombia, Ecuador).

Sources: Available at <http://www.tapirs.org/tapirs/lowland.html>



Malayan Tapir Habitat Range (*Tapirus indicus*)

Maps by Carlos Pedraza, TSG, 2008
Illustration by Stephen Nash, Conservation International

Range: This species is found from southern Thailand and southern Myanmar (Burma) through the Malayan Peninsular and on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. It occurs in rainforests and lower montane forests. It survives well in secondary, regenerating native forests.

Characteristics: Up to 3 meters long (9.8 feet) and 400 kg (880 pounds). It is the largest of the four tapir species. The Malayan tapir can be easily identified by its color pattern. A white saddle starts behind the front legs and extends over the back to the tail. The contrasting colors form a disruptive pattern that blends the animal with its environment and makes it more difficult for predators to recognize it as potential prey.

Status: Endangered

Conservation threats: Habitat destruction and fragmentation is the primary threat. Large scale deforestation, including illegal logging for timber, is a major source of habitat loss. The growth of palm oil plantations is also a major factor in habitat loss. Hunting is also on the rise as other large "prey" species in the area are reduced in number.

Population Estimate (2008): 1,500 to 2,000 individuals. Numbers are decreasing.

Behavior:

Mating: Primarily solitary, the species forms occasional associations for breeding.

Sounds: Communication is by a range of whistles of different pitch and duration.

Activity: The Malayan tapir is more active throughout the night. Tapirs studied in Taman Negara in Malaysia were observed to browse occasionally during the daytime hours but were mostly encountered at rest. Males appear to have small home ranges, about 1-2 sq km (250-500 acres) and females possibly range more widely.

Feeding habits: Malayan tapirs are selective browsers, concentrating their diet on young leaves and growing twigs. In addition to foliage, Malayan Tapirs consume considerable amounts of fruit that they pick up from the ground. During feeding they sometimes push over small trees and break smaller sapling stems and branches in order to get to the leaves and twigs.

Other: A lot is still unknown about this species. It is vulnerable to predation by tigers. Its only defense is to run through thick vegetation. It has very thick and tough skin, particularly on its hindquarters. It also has a vicious bite.

Other names: Malayan tapir, badak (Malaysia and Indonesia), som-set (Thailand).

Sources: Available at <http://www.tapirs.org/tapirs/malay.html>



Mountain Tapir Habitat Range (*Tapirus pinchaque*)

Maps by Carlos Pedraza, TSG, 2008
 Illustration by Stephen Nash, Conservation International

Range: The Mountain tapir is the largest mammal in the tropical Andes. It lives in montane forests and Paramos in Colombia, Ecuador and northern Peru, between 2,000 and 4,000 meters (6,000 to 13,000 feet) elevation.

Characteristics: Up to 2 meters long (6.6 feet) and between 150 and 200 kilos (300 to 440 pounds). The Mountain tapir is the smallest of the tapir species. Their color is brownish to black with long hair and a white line around the lips and usually the tips of the ears. The adults have two characteristic hair-free patches in the rump.

Status: Endangered

Conservation threats: The primary threats to the mountain tapir are warfare and habitat loss due to poppy farming and growth of ranching and agriculture, driven by human population growth in the Andean region. Hunting is no longer a major threat due to local regulations and increased awareness of this species' rarity and conservation status.

Population Estimate (2008): Exact numbers are not known as more research is needed, but estimated population is more than 2,500 individuals. Numbers are decreasing.

Behavior:

Mating: There is virtually no information about reproduction of mountain tapirs in the wild. Adult females produce a single offspring after a gestation period of 13–14 months (390–410 days).

Activity: Mountain tapirs are solitary and their activity is mainly between the first hours of dusk and first hours in sunrise. They are more active in low temperatures than on warm days. Like other tapir species the mountain tapir is comfortable in water and can swim. They also have a very developed sense of smell and hearing. They are strong and very well adapted to locomotion in forested hills and to the harsh weather conditions of the high Andes.

Feeding habits: The mountain tapir diet includes a variety of understory plant species including herbs, grasses, shrubs, fruits and berries, twigs and a predominance of leaves. Mountain tapirs are important seed dispersers and a key component for the maintenance of the structure and composition of montane forests in South America.

Other: The mountain tapir has splayed hooves which allow it considerable versatility for locomotion in the high Andes, even on the snow banks and glaciers.

Other names: Tapir de montaña, danta conga, danta de páramo, danta lanuda.

Sources: Available at <http://www.tapirs.org/tapirs/mountain.html>



Across their range the four tapir species are threatened to differing extents by hunting pressures; habitat fragmentation and encroachment into parks and protected areas by people clearing forests for small scale farming or those illegally logging.

Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*):

Baird's tapir is listed by the IUCN as endangered due to an ongoing population decline estimated from habitat loss and fragmentation throughout its range and hunting pressure. Habitat fragmentation is caused by conversion of forests into cattle ranching and agricultural lands. Population declines are estimated to be greater than 50 percent in the past 33 years. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that infectious diseases may contribute to the decline of the species in the future as cases are now being found in the northern portion of the range where cattle are present. The current overall population estimate for this species is less than 5,000 mature individuals, with populations in Mexico under 1,500, Guatemala under 1,000, Honduras under 500, Nicaragua under 500, Republic of Panama under 1,000, Costa Rica under 1000, and Colombia approximately 250. Range-wide habitat change is severely impacting and separating populations of Baird's tapirs, which do not generally occupy human dominated or modified habitats and often struggle from the various human-related threats. It is estimated that around 70 percent of Central America's forests have been lost through deforestation and alteration in the last 40 years.

Because occasional deaths have been recorded through collisions with automobiles (particularly in Belize) the construction of roads, such as the one through the Maya Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala, are likely to become a major problem for tapirs in those areas.

That said, there do appear to be several strongholds for populations (e.g. La Amistad), however, increasing threats from hunting and the lack of enforcement in these areas will cause continuing declines of those tapirs remaining.



In Costa Rica, sport hunting is a threat for tapir in the Cordillera Talamanca, including within La Amistad International Park. A recent survey of tapir in the Cordillera Talamanca, Gonzalez-Maya reports high hunting pressure of tapirs in mountain ecosystems around 2,500 meters, with hunting clubs and hunting dedicated only to this species, such as in La Amistad International Park where it was reported as one of the most commonly hunted species in the protected area.

Researchers have also detected a number of infectious diseases and parasites in Baird's tapirs of southern Mexico that originated from cattle and horses. In addition, several dead adult tapirs have been found in Chimalpas, near livestock areas, that are thought to have died from infectious diseases.

In Belize, continual habitat fragmentation of the Selva Maya is threatening Baird's tapir populations in northern Central America. This is particularly the case in the area where the Chalillo Dam is being built and tapirs are being illegally hunted to feed construction workers. In Panama, major threats include hunting and habitat loss.

Lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*):

The main threats to the lowland tapir include loss of habitat through deforestation, hunting for meat and competition with domestic livestock. This species is considered to be vulnerable by the IUCN due to an ongoing population reduction estimated to be slightly greater than 30 percent in the past 33 years. The species has been lost over large portions of its former range and severely reduced in other large portions. Lowland tapir populations seem unlikely to persist anywhere that there is more than one person per square kilometer. Although only about 15 to 20 percent of the Amazon has been deforested in the past 30 years, 90 percent of the Atlantic forests have disappeared and 40 percent of the Pantanal has been converted to human use. Most of the Cerrado and Caatinga regions have been converted to agriculture and cattle ranching. Even where habitat remains, populations of tapirs are reduced and dispersed due to the effects of hunting - which is greatly increased around increasing human populations of the Amazon basin, especially along rivers and in the Andean foothills. The effects of deforestation, hunting and competition from domestic livestock have all contributed to population declines in the past and are expected to continue at the present rate (if not greater) into the future. Deforestation is increasing in certain parts of the species' range, while small-scale hunting and a developing wild-meat industry may cause further declines in the future. The lowland tapir is now either completely absent or its distribution is extremely fragmented across much of its historic range, with the Northern Amazon and the remaining Pantanal (Bolivia,

Brazil and Paraguay) becoming important strongholds as southern, eastern and northwestern populations decline rapidly.

The impacts of hunting on populations are amplified by the very low ability of tapir to quickly repopulate impacted areas. Though several strongholds occur - populations have been severely reduced and fragmented across the entire Cerrado (Brazil), Atlantic forest (Brazil) and llanos (Venezuela/Colombia) biomes.



In the northeast, tapirs are mostly present only inside protected areas where illegal hunting is minimal. Outside protected areas, they are still hunted, chased by dogs, and negatively impacted by competition with cattle and illegal timber activities. The species is in rapid decline along the eastern Amazon and its southern tributaries where extensive hunting and deforestation have reduced almost all large mammal populations. In addition populations are declining rapidly along the agricultural front spreading into western Brazil and along the Andean foothills of Ecuador and Colombia.

Although the lowland tapir may be common in some areas of Argentina, it is sensitive to deforestation and human activities and the species has already disappeared in many areas. In Bolivia, tapirs are susceptible to hunting and habitat degradation. While they may well be more common than expected in protected areas, as was determined in Costa Rica and elsewhere, they do not fare well in the presence of hunting. In French Guiana, tapirs are regularly hunted and sold commercially for meat in markets and restaurants. Little information is available for the population in Guyana, however, tapirs are not protected there at present and are hunted by small-scale hunters as well as by a developing bush-meat industry as roads are cut into the forest for logging.



Mountain tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*):

The mountain tapir is listed as endangered by the IUCN due to an ongoing and suspected future decline inferred from loss of habitat, fragmentation and hunting pressure.

Population declines are estimated to be greater than 50 percent in the past 33 years. There are estimated to be less than 2,500 mature individuals remaining. There has been and remains significant hunting pressure on this species. It is extremely rare to encounter an area with mountain tapirs where they are not being over-hunted. There has also been widespread cattle introduction into the last remaining mountain tapir refuges. Cattle have been observed forming breeding herds in western Sangay National Park, causing mountain tapirs to abandon certain areas. Visits to other legal refuges of the mountain tapir, i.e., Cayambe Coca Ecological Reserve in Ecuador, and reports from Sanctuario Ecologico Tabaconas-Namalle in Peru and parks in Colombia, indicate that the same problem with cattle invasion into mountain tapir sanctuaries is occurring and negatively affecting the mountain tapirs as well as increased hunting associated with vaquero roundups of the mountain tapir. Poachers use the tapir skin to manufacture working tools (backpacks, ropes to ride horses, baskets etc.) and other things such as carpets and covers for beds. Poachers also sell tapir skin and feet for medicinal purposes. Additionally, the mountain tapir population is fragmented as a result of human activities, such as a mining project in northern Peru that threatens to destroy the headwater cloud forests and páramos of the scant population of mountain tapirs there.

Formerly hunting pressure was the primary threat through most areas of the mountain tapir's distribution, but today, poppy growing and its eradication, warfare and habitat fragmentation are currently the main threats to this species. In some areas, hunting is

decreasing due to local regulations and people's increased awareness of this species' rarity and conservation status. While a few mountain tapir populations in Colombia may benefit because guerrilla presence may deter the normal threats because of the abandonment of conflict areas, most local biologists feel the presence of the guerrilla is having an overall negative impact on the species' conservation. Additionally, the guerrillas see the presence of field biologists and researchers in the areas that they control as a threat for their safety.

The major threat to mountain tapirs in Colombia is human population growth in the Andean region. People settling in the region need land, consumables and services, and their activities lead to habitat destruction.

Additional threats include the development of hydroelectric dams, highways crossing protected areas, petroleum exploration and electrical networks etc. There are numerous reports of tapir being hit by cars so infrastructure development through its habitat is a potential major threat. There are numerous proposed highways and other projects in the Andes which would greatly increase vehicular deaths. Once the construction of these highways is finalized, the vehicles will be able to drive at high speed and the animals crossing the roads will become even more vulnerable. Additionally, these roads will provide easier access by poachers, given that the park lacks enough park rangers to patrol and protect the area.

Widespread cattle introduction into the last remaining mountain tapir refuges is a serious problem which will likely escalate in the near future. The cattle come from small ranches near the park and compete with the tapirs for food inside the protected areas. Besides the competition for food, there is a serious risk of transmission of diseases carried by the cattle, as previously documented for Baird's and lowland tapirs in other locations. Another problem in Colombia is the fumigations being conducted in National Parks and other areas where the cultivation of drugs can be found, including Andean forests in the Central and Oriental Cordilleras. These fumigations are authorized by the Colombian government, and are a major threat for the mountain tapir populations. The habitat is seriously affected and the animals can possibly be poisoned when in contact with the poison used for the fumigations (Round-Up), which is selective but can affect the availability of food.

Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*):

This species is listed as endangered by the IUCN due to an ongoing decline estimated from loss of available habitat, fragmentation of remaining habitat and increasingly hunting pressure. Population declines are estimated to be greater than 50 percent in Thailand and Malaysia, whereas it is suspected to be slightly less than 50 percent in Sumatra in the past 36 years. This has been driven primarily by large scale conversion of Malayan tapir habitat to palm oil plantations and other human dominated land-use. The rate of reduction in population is inferred to be proportional to the reduction of the tropical rainforest area in Southeast Asia over the same period – but may be more due to indirect threats. Remaining populations are isolated in existing protected areas and forest fragments, which are discontinuous and offer little ability for genetic exchange for these forest dependant species. This situation is expected to continue at a slightly diminishing rate in the future as non-protected areas, which are available as logging concessions, become less available. Because hunting seems to be increasing throughout the range – this could be cause for concern in the future as isolated subpopulations which are already reduced would be at great risk for localized extinction.



Destruction of habitat is the main threat to the species: in central Sumatra much of the remaining habitat is outside of any protected area and uncontrolled illegal logging continues; in Thailand, almost all remaining intact forest now lies within protected areas, with mostly degraded lands outside; in contrast, Myanmar's protected areas make up 3.2 percent of land area and most tapir habitat lies outside these protected areas. In Malaysia forest loss is extremely severe, especially for expanding oil palm plantations. While forest

loss continues in Thailand, forests in protected areas remain relatively stable in size and composition to other countries because of a ban on commercial logging that has been in place since 1989. For this reason, while tapirs may indeed be threatened in general by forest loss, populations in Thailand and Malaysia are probably more stable.

Large-scale habitat destruction has continued in Sumatra, historically the species' main stronghold, and most remaining habitat in central Sumatra is outside protected areas. In Sumatra, populations have declined by slightly less than 50 percent simply because the onslaught of habitat only started to be serious in the late 1980s. However, the rate of decline is continuing to escalate in this region. In fact Sumatra has only 60 percent of the forest cover that it had 15 years ago, so things are developing fast there and future declines of the species are likely well over 50 percent in the next 30 years. Given the uncontrolled illegal logging situation in Sumatra, they are becoming increasingly threatened island-wide. Localized hunting also occurs and is suspected elsewhere in its distribution range. Unless serious efforts to stem illegal logging and forest encroachment are made, all Sumatran forests outside conservation areas will be lost over the next few decades.

In Malaysia the current forestry trend seems to be stabilized at approx. 43 percent remaining forest cover (57 percent lost), of which at least half can be considered tapir habitat. In Thailand, 40 percent of the remaining forest is outside protected areas and only 5 percent of Myanmar's land area is protected forest. The species has uncertain status and future in Myanmar due to security issues and forest clearance for rubber and oil palm plantations. However, two new protected areas have been designated in the Tenasserims: Taninthayi National Park and Lenya River Wildlife Sanctuary. If these areas can be protected, they will preserve valuable tapir habitat in the future.

Hunting has been a minor threat to the Malayan tapir in the past, but is has been increasingly a cause of concern as more and more hunting of the species is discovered. Some localized hunting has been reported in Sumatra, however, and historically tapirs are not hunted for small-scale or commercial trade in Thailand or Myanmar, since their flesh is considered distasteful or in some populations that it will bring bad luck.

Biographies

Key Tapir Conservationists



Patrícia Medici

Patrícia Medici has been the Chairperson of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) for the past eleven years, and facilitator of the Brazilian Network of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) for the past seven years.

Since 1996, Patrícia has coordinated a long-term research and conservation program on lowland tapirs in the Atlantic Forests of São Paulo State, Brazil. In 2008, she expanded this program to other Brazilian biomes, establishing a nation-wide Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative.

As a Brazilian conservation biologist, Patrícia's professional interests outside of tapirs include tropical forest conservation, metapopulation management, landscape ecology and community-based conservation. For the past 19 years, Patrícia has been working for a Brazilian non-governmental organization called IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (Institute for Ecological Research) of which she was one of the founding partners.

She has a bachelor's degree in Forestry Sciences from the São Paulo University, a master's degree in Wildlife Ecology, Conservation and Management from the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, and a Ph.D. degree in Biodiversity Management from the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) of the University of Kent in the United Kingdom.

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Ph.D. in Biodiversity Management

Chair, IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist
Group (TSG)

Coordinator, Lowland Tapir
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Diego Lizcano

Diego Lizcano is a member of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group and the current Mountain tapir project coordinator.

He is the Director of the biology and chemistry department of the Pamplona University, Colombia, and focuses on endangered species ecology, with an emphasis on tapirs. Diego has been working to protect the species against threats including habitat destruction and poaching.

Diego was born in Colombia and moved to Bogotá where he decided to study biology. He graduated with a biology degree from Andes University in Bogotá, Colombia. As an undergraduate student, he became interested in ecology and zoology and decided to carry on his undergraduate thesis studying the Mountain tapir in the Central Andes of Colombia. Diego then worked as a research assistant in the Vegetal Ecology Laboratory at Andes University. In 2006, Diego finished his Ph.D. studies in the United Kingdom at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent, studying the ecological relationship of five large mammal species, including the Mountain tapir, in the tropical Andes.

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Biographies

Key Tapir Conservationists

Biographies

Key Tapir Conservationists



Viviana Beatriz Quse

Viviana Beatriz Quse became a member of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group in 2004 and is the Lowland tapir Neotropical Region conservation and research coordinator. For the past four years, she has acted as the TSG worldwide Zoo Committee coordinator. Viviana also lends her expertise to the TSG Veterinarian and Genetic Committees and acts as a consultant on tapir management manuals and protocols. She is the South American Lowland tapir Studbook keeper and is working to develop a rationale for the reproductive and captive management of tapirs.

Viviana began her professional career at the Cordoba Zoo in Argentina, and worked there for ten years as the head veterinarian. In 1991, she obtained a fellowship from the Partners of the Americas organization to continue her studies in the United States of America. She became a member of a research group focused on understanding the genetics, reproduction and infectious diseases of wild cats from Central and South America.

In the 90's, Viviana expanded her professional activity to marine species research working mainly with birds and mammals. She worked as a vet at Sea World, San Clemente del Tuyú and in the first Sea Animal Rehabilitation Center of Argentina. Since 2001, she has been the senior vet with the Temaiken Foundation and has coordinated three conservation projects, including one focused on the Lowland tapir.

In 1982, Viviana graduated with a veterinary degree from the Esperanza Veterinarian Science Faculty, Litoral National University in Santa Fe, Argentina. Her main professional interests are focused on clinical and epidemiologic topics as well as research and conservation of terrestrial and marine wildlife. One of the first Argentinean professionals interested in wildlife medicine, she expanded her specialization at the Los Angeles Zoo in California and in D.C. at the Washington National Zoo.

Veterinarian

Lowland tapir Conservation and Research Coordinator

Zoo Committee Coordinator
TSG-UICN

Coordinadora de Especie del
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Kelly J. Russo

Kelly Russo has been a member of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group since 2003. Besides being a member of the TSG Steering Committee, she also chairs the Marketing & Education Committee and is one of the newsletter distribution editors.

Kelly has worked for the Houston Zoo since 1996 and is currently the Director of Interactive Marketing. In this role she manages all online content for the Houston Zoo including the Zoo's main Web site, blogs, video production and all social media channels. She is also very active in several other conservation organizations including the International Rhino Foundation and The National Elephant Center.

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Biographies

Key Tapir Conservationists

Biographies

Key Tapir Conservationists



Carl Traeholt

Active in several IUCN Specialist Groups, Carl Traeholt works with the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group as the regional coordinator for Malaysia and editor of the Tapir Conservation Newsletter. Since 2003, he has been an employee of Copenhagen Zoo as their Southeast Asia Conservation Program coordinator, which initiated the Malay Tapir Conservation Project. The project collaborates with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Malaysia, and studies the ecology of the illusive and little-known Malay tapir in order to formulate a long-term conservation plan for the species. Carl continues as the program coordinator and aims to expand the activities to include conservation intervention in oil palm plantations.

Officially residing in Kuala Lumpur since 1990, Carl has worked primarily in Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Peru and Zambia, focused on wildlife research, biodiversity conservation and organizational capacity building. From 2001 to 2002 he acted as Fauna & Flora International's "primate program coordinator." He maintains his links with Cambodia's conservation development and is chief academic advisor at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia and co-editor at the Journal of Cambodian Natural History.

Carl is a co-founder and member of the Society for Conservation Biology's "Asia Chapter." In Malaysia, he acts as a visiting scientist at the University of Technology, Centre for Biodiversity Conservation and is member of Malaysian Nature Society's Conservation Advisory Committee.

Carl was born in Malaysia and moved with his family to Denmark when he was four years old. In 1989, he received his M.Sc. in eco-physiology and behavioral ecology and in 1993, his Ph.D. in behavioral ecology and population ecology at Copenhagen University. From 1989 to 1997, he worked as a senior research officer for the university with wildlife research projects in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Ph.D. Research

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Manolo José
García Vettorazzi

Manolo José García Vettorazzi has been the Baird's Tapir Coordinator for the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group and coordinator of the Baird's Tapir Project in Guatemala since 2008.

Currently, Manolo works in the Conservationist Studies Center (CECON) at San Carlos University in Guatemala, where he both coordinates a program focused on strengthening the Guatemalan Protected Areas System using the Baird's tapir as a conservation flagship species and is responsible for the Conservation Data Center in the Wildlife Department. His main interest areas are biological conservation, wildlife management, landscape ecology and protected areas.

In 2006, Manolo graduated with a biology degree from San Carlos de Guatemala University, Guatemala (USAC) and in the same year he became a member of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group. As an undergraduate student, Manolo collaborated in research groups that studied tapirs and the general landscapes of Guatemala. These experiences gave him the opportunity to learn a great deal about the species, their threats and conservation challenges.

Biographies

Key Tapir Conservationists

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Recent Tapir Releases

The New York Times

Expect the World®



New Research on Malaysia's Odd, Elusive Tapir

June 2, 2009
Anthony King

TAMAN NEGARA NATIONAL PARK, Malaysia — In the Malaysian and Sumatran rain forests, tapirs are rarely glimpsed.

Ponderous, powerful herbivores, weighing about 650 pounds, tapirs have faces like anteaters, with a incessantly sniffing mobile snout. In dim rain forests, smell and hearing are the important senses. The animals have black and white shape-disrupting camouflage and make a whistling noise, sounding almost more bird than mammal. The Malay tapir, the largest of the world's four tapir species, remained largely invisible to science until recently. The other three species of these odd, endearing animals all live in South America.

There was just one scientific study from the 1970s on the Malay tapir. Then, in 2002, the Malay Tapir Conservation Project was created, supported largely by the Copenhagen Zoo, and field biologists began filling in another blank page in zoology.

Great swaths of the rain forest in Malaysia and Sumatra had been destroyed for palm oil plantations and through illegal logging, and scientists had begun to worry that

the tapir could slip silently toward extinction. A conservation center was set up within the Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve, an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur, and researchers like Carl Traeholt, a Danish-Malaysian biologist, began to gather data on tapir numbers and on the animals themselves.

Dr. Traeholt is the Malayan tapir coordinator for the international Tapir Specialist Group, which is concerned with all four tapir species. For the past five years, he has used cameras with motion sensors to photograph tapirs as they move through the forest at night to feed on fruits, leaves and soft twigs. An important early breakthrough was the realization that the patterns of wrinkles on tapirs' necks can identify individuals.

The photographs showed that tapirs normally have a small home range, but will travel up to three miles a night to reach salty mineral deposits, presumably to consume minerals like calcium or iron. One of the sites studied was the Krau Wildlife Reserve north of Kuala Lumpur. "At some of these salt licks in Krau, tapirs are the most common animal on cameras, but it's all the same individuals coming back," Dr. Traeholt said.

The results showed that claims for a population of 800 to 1,000 individuals for an area the size of Krau, and 15,000 to 20,000

in Malaysia, were outlandishly optimistic. "This was way off reality. Otherwise we would have a traffic jam of tapirs in Krau," Dr. Traeholt said.

There were actually just 40 or so individuals in Krau, which would mean about 1,500 to 2,000 in Malaysia, he said. There are perhaps 300 in Thailand; an unknown, unstudied population in Myanmar; and an unknown but decreasing number on Sumatra. A best guess, he said, is 4,000 individuals in Southeast Asia, a figure similar to the number of wild tigers.

The Malaysian research team last year attached a new kind of radio collar to a tapir in Krau. Half the reserve has coverage from a local telephone tower, and once within its range the new collar can transmit its data via phone signal to the tapir team's computer. Tapirs are patchily distributed in what seems like homogenous forest. And the scientists want to know why. The collection of data from the collar, which occurs every five minutes, should help answer their questions.

Dr. Traeholt was recently joined by Boyd Simpson, a behavioral ecologist with experience in conservation projects in Australia and Asia, who is doing research on the Malay tapir for his doctorate. The two biologists met while working in Cambodia. Mr. Simpson

is to take charge of a new phase of the tapir research in Taman Negara, the largest national park in Malaysia. This is an extension of the Krau research, and a comparison of findings between the two sites should prove fruitful. "If sightings are the same in the two areas we can extrapolate over the

cameras are to be set up at licks to record their behavior. Mr. Simpson had just begun working in Taman Negara when the team traveled to Keniam, a field station 90 minutes upstream via motorized canoe from the park

The animal's salt lick habit could be an Achilles' heel: it makes them predictable and vulnerable to poaching. Just a single calf — cute, with white stripes — is born after 13 months' gestation, so flattened tapir populations would rebound slowly.



whole country," Dr. Traeholt said. "But if they are different, we will have to go from area to area to find the density of the population."

Mr. Simpson said that the big difference in the park research "is we're planning to reintroduce captive animals from Sungai Dusun." Before any reintroductions, the team will check whether there is an established animal that may "boot the newcomer out," he said.

Though not aggressive, tapirs will defend their own patches, and they have large canine teeth, an oddity for plant eaters. That they use them is clear from the nicks and scars on their ears. They are thought to be more combative during the mating season, probably in April and May, Dr. Traeholt said, because there are more photos of two adult tapirs together during those months.

Mr. Simpson looks forward to seeing what makes tapirs tick. "They are funny-looking creatures, really intriguing," he said.

The physiological need for minerals is especially interesting. He plans to look at the chemical composition of salt licks and try to work out why certain licks are preferred. It may be that tapirs consume lots of plant toxins and therefore need to ingest kaolin-type clays to absorb the toxins. Whether they drink water, lick rocks or eat mud around the licks is unknown, but infrared

headquarters. The station is run in association with the University of Technology, Malaysia and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks. Taman Negara contains some of the oldest rain forest in the world and sprawls over 1,676 square miles; it is part of a larger forest complex and has almost all of Asia's large mammals, including sun bears, gaur, tigers, elephants and tapirs.

With its local field officer, Mohamed Sanusi bin Mohamed, the research group hiked through the forest to check camera traps and to place new ones along tapir trails. Dr. Traeholt, adept at locating tapir prints in the jungle, explained that trails and tracks were important signs, but tapir dung was almost never found. They defecate in water, possibly to avoid leaving a calling card for predators, will often stay close to water and can swim.

Though Malay tapirs are listed as endangered, Dr. Traeholt is confident their habitat in Malaysia and Thailand is now stable. He acknowledged that low numbers in some locations leave them vulnerable. Even in Krau, poaching could wipe out the viability of the entire population by removing just 20 to 25 animals.

Whether there is just one Malay tapir species or different subspecies, as is the case for tigers, is not known. Genetic analysis using tissue samples from Thailand, Malaysia and Sumatra has just begun. Dr. Traeholt said he thought small fragmented populations in parts of Thailand could be managed and invigorated by introducing animals, but it would be important to recognize genetic variations and identify any subspecies before mixing animals from different areas.

Dr. Bengt Holst, scientific director of the Copenhagen Zoo, which has a history of collaboration with the Malaysian wildlife authorities, said researchers planned to develop conservation priorities for the Malay tapir by discovering its habitat needs, social structures and behavior. By transforming it into a high-profile research species, he hopes researchers will be attracted to Malaysia and the species described from all angles — physiology, behavior, genetics and ecology. Tapir conservation would also put many other lower-profile species under its umbrella of protection.

For now, Dr. Traeholt hopes to create a conservation plan backed by ecology. And so this unique animal will avoid becoming either forgotten or extinct.

Recent Tapir Releases



Malayan tapir introduced by San Diego Zoo

February 28, 2010

It looks like a pig with a trunk, but it is related to horses. Not yet a month old, San Diego Zoo's newest Malaya tapir is starting to nibble on solid food already, the zoo said in a caption released with this photograph.

The tapir has been named Tembikai, which means "watermelon" in Malay, the zoo said.

The Malaya tapir is an Endangered species, so this birth is significant to the species' population, the zoo said. "It also was significant because his mother, Chantek, is 25 years old, which is older than most tapirs when they give birth. But, Tembikai is doing well. He weighed 13 pounds when born Jan. 29, 2010, and is now 30 pounds," the zoo added.



Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo New Tapir Calf Goes on Exhibit

February 24, 2010
Steph Husman

Omaha, NE - Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo® welcomes a male Malayan tapir calf, now on display in the Lied Jungle®.

The calf is on display with his mother, Knobbie, in the Asian Rainforest of the Lied Jungle. The calf, named JonHi, was born on December 6, 2009.

Tapir calves are born brown and white and have a watermelon pattern. By six months of age, JonHi will look like a miniature adult. Adult tapirs are black and white in color which acts as camouflage by breaking up the tapir's outline in the forest.

Malayan tapirs originate from Southern Burma, Malay Peninsula, Southeast Thailand and Sumatra. They are one of four tapir species in existence and are the only Asian species. Malayan tapirs are listed as Endangered with a decreasing population trend on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Their nose and upper lip are combined to a long snout which they use to reach and pull leaves into their mouth. Tapirs have four toes on their front and three toes on their back. They prefer to live in wooded or grassy areas with a water source nearby for swimming. Their diet at Omaha's Zoo consists of grain, apples, carrots, bananas, lettuce and browse. Tapirs can live for up to 30 years. They are primarily not exclusively nocturnal animals.

The Malayan tapir is being managed in captivity by a Species Survival Plan (SSP). The birth of the male Malayan tapir is important because the population is small with only 19 males and 22 females in the breeding program.

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo is located at Nebraska's I-80, Exit 454 and is open year-round from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. Admission prices for 2010 are \$11.50 for adults, \$7.75 for children (ages 3 - 11) and \$10 for seniors. Household memberships are available for \$78 until April 4, 2010. Additional information can be found on the website, www.omahazoo.com.



Tapir Holdings Worldwide



BAIRD'S TAPIR
(*Tapirus bairdii*)

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Malay Tapir
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FAX: +45-72-200-219

EMAIL: fc@zoo.dk / WEBSITE: www.zoo.dk

Howletts Wild Animal Park

ADDRESS: Port Lympne Zoo Park,
Kent CT21 4PD, United Kingdom

PHONE: +44-1227-721286 /
FAX: +44-1303-264944

EMAIL: info@howletts.net /
WEBSITE: www.howletts.net

Marwell Zoological Park

ADDRESS: Colden Common, Winchester,
SO21 1JH, United Kingdom

PHONE: +44-0-1962-777-925 /
FAX: +44-0-1962-777-511

EMAIL: director@marwell.org.uk /
WEBSITE: www.marwell.org.uk

Mulhouse Zoo

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51 Rue Du Jardin Zoologique Mulhouse
68 100, France

PHONE: +33-389-318511 /
FAX: +33-389-318526

EMAIL: zoomulhouse@agglo-mulhouse.fr /
WEBSITE: www.zoo-mulhouse.com

Munchener Tierpark Hellabrunn

ADDRESS: Tierparkstrasse 30, Muenchen
D-81543, Germany

PHONE: +49-89-62-5080 /
FAX: +49-89-62-50832

WEBSITE: www.zoo-munich.de

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park

ADDRESS: Port Lympne, Kent CT21 4PD,
England, United Kingdom

PHONE: +44-1303-264649 /
FAX: +44-1303-264944

EMAIL: info@howletts.net /
WEBSITE: www.howletts.net

Rotterdam Zoo

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Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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Fax: +31-10-443-1424

EMAIL: directie@rotterdamzoo.nl /
WEBSITE: www.rotterdamzoo.nl

**Royal Zoological Society
of Antwerp**

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Astridplein 26, B-2018 Antwerp, Belgium

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FAX: +32-3-202-4547

WEBSITE: www.zooantwerpen.be

Tiergarten Heidelberg

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FAX: +49-6221-645588

EMAIL: info@zoo-heidelberg.de /
WEBSITE: www.zoo-heidelberg.de

Twycross Zoo

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3PX, England, United Kingdom

PHONE: +44-1827-880250 /
FAX: +44-1827-880700

EMAIL: twycross.zoo@btinternet.com /
WEBSITE: www.twycrosszoo.com

Wilhelma Zoo

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Baden-Württem D-70342, Germany

PHONE: +49-711-5402102 /
FAX: +49-711-5402221

EMAIL: info@wilhelma.de /
WEBSITE: www.wilhelma.de

Zoo & Aquarium of Madrid (GRPR)

ADDRESS: Casa de Campo,
Madrid E-28011, Spain

PHONE: +34-91-512-3770 /
FAX: +34-91-711-8163

EMAIL: comzoo@zoomadrid.com /
WEBSITE: www.zoomadrid.com

Zoological Society of London

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England NW1 4RY, United Kingdom

PHONE: +44-20-7449-6450 /
FAX: +44-20-7722-2852

WEBSITE: www.zsl.org

Africa

**National Zoological Gardens
of South Africa**

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Gauteng, South Africa

PHONE: +27-12-328-3265 /
FAX: +27-12-323-4540

EMAIL: zoologic@cis.co.za

North America

Chaffee Zool Gardens of Fresno

ADDRESS: 894 W Belmont Avenue,
Fresno, CA 93728-2891, USA

PHONE: +1-559-498-4692 /
FAX: +1-559-264-9226

EMAIL: toucan@chaffeezoo.org /
WEBSITE: www.chaffeezoo.org

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

ADDRESS: 3900 Wildlife Way,
Cleveland, Ohio 44109, USA

PHONE: +1-216-661-6500 /
FAX: +1-216-661-3312

WEBSITE: www.clemetzoo.com

Denver Zoological Gardens

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Denver, Colorado 80205-4899, USA

PHONE: +1-303-376-4800 /
FAX: +1-303-376-4801

EMAIL: zooinfo@denverzoo.org /
WEBSITE: www.denverzoo.org

Disney's Animal Kingdom

ADDRESS: 1200 North Savannah Circle
East, P.O. Box 10000, Bay Lake, FL
32830-1000, USA

PHONE: +1-407-939-6381 /
FAX: +1-407-939-6391

WEBSITE: disneyworld.disney.go.com/
wdw/parks

El Paso Zoo

ADDRESS: 4001 E. Paisano, El Paso,
TX 79905-4223, USA

PHONE: +1-915-521-1850 /
FAX: +1-915- 521-1857

EMAIL: epzooeduca@aol.com /
WEBSITE: www.elpasozoo.org

North America (continued)

Ellen Trout Zoo

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TX 75904, USA

PHONE: +1-936-633-0403 /
FAX: +1-936-633-0311

WEBSITE: ewww.ellentroutroutzoo.com

Henry Vilas Zoo

ADDRESS: 702 South Randall Avenue,
Madison, WI 53715, USA

PHONE: +1-608-266-4732 /
FAX: +1-608-266-5923

WEBSITE: www.zoo.org

Jackson Zoological Park

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Jackson, MS 39209, USA

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EMAIL: jzpdev@aol.com /
WEBSITE: www.jacksonzoo.com

Louisville Zoological Garden

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1100 Trevilian Way (40213),
Louisville, KY 40233-7250, USA

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WEBSITE: www.louisvillezoo.org

Lowry Park Zoo

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Tampa, Florida 33604-4756, USA

PHONE: +1-813-935-8552 /
FAX: +1-813-935-9486

EMAIL: information@lowryparkzoo.com /
WEBSITE: www.lowryparkzoo.com

Miami Metrozoo

ADDRESS: 12400 SW 152 Street,
Miami, FL 33177, USA

PHONE: +1-305-251-0400 /
FAX: +1-305-378-6381

EMAIL: Miamimetrozoo@miamidade.gov /
WEBSITE: www.miamimetrozoo.com

Milwaukee County Zoological

ADDRESS: 10001 West Bluemound Road,
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4384, USA

PHONE: +1-414-771-3040 /
FAX: +1-414-256-5410

EMAIL: cwzoo@execpc.com /
WEBSITE: www.milwaukeezoo.org

Minnesota Zoological Garden

ADDRESS: 13000 Zoo Blvd.,
Apple Valley, MN 55124, USA

PHONE: +1-952-431-9200 /
FAX: +1-962-431-9300

WEBSITE: www.mnzoo.com

Mountain View Conservation & Breeding Center

ADDRESS: 8011 - 240th Street,
Langley, B.C., Canada V3A 4P9

PHONE: +604-881-1220 /
FAX: +604-881-1221

EMAIL: drichardson@mtnviewfarms.com /
WEBSITE: www.mtnviewfarms.com

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

ADDRESS: 3701 S. 10th Street,
Omaha, NE 68107, USA

PHONE: +1-402-733-8401 /
FAX: +1-402-733-4415

WEBSITE: www.omahazoo.com

Peace River Center for the Conservation of Tropical Ungulates

ADDRESS: 4300 SW County Road 769,
Arcadia, Florida 34268, USA

PHONE: +1-863-993-4529 /
FAX: +1-863-993-4547

EMAIL: peacriver@desoto.net / WEBSITE:
www.peacriverrefuge.org

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

ADDRESS: 5400 North Pearl Street,
Tacoma, WA 98407-3218, USA

PHONE: +1-253-404-3630 /
FAX: +1-253-591-5448

WEBSITE: www.pdza.org

Rolling Hills Zoo

ADDRESS: 625 North Hedville Road,
Salina, KS 67401, USA

PHONE: +1-785-827-9488 /
FAX: +1-785-827-3738

WEBSITE: www.rhrwildlife.com

San Diego Zoo

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 120551, 2920 Zoo Drive
San Diego, CA 92112-0551, USA

PHONE: +1-619-231-1515 /
FAX: +1-619-231-0249

WEBSITE: www.sandiegozoo.org

Sedgwick County Zoo

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Wichita, Kansas 67212-1698, USA

PHONE: +1-316-942-2212 Ext. 237 /
FAX: +1-316-942-3781

EMAIL: mammals@scz.org; info@scz.org /
WEBSITE: www.scz.org

Wildlife Conservation Society

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Bronx, NY 10460-1099, USA

PHONE: +1-718-220-5125 /
FAX: +1-718-220-3133

EMAIL: bz.general@wcs.org /
WEBSITE: www.wcs.org/zoos

Wildlife Safari Inc

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1600, 1790 Safari
Road, Winston, OR 97496, USA

PHONE: +1-541-679-6761 /
FAX: +1-541-679-9210

WEBSITE: www.wildlifesafari.org

Woodland Park Zoological Gardens

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Seattle, Washington 98103, USA

PHONE: +1-206-684-4880 /
FAX: +1-206-233-7278

WEBSITE: www.zoo.org

Asia

Khao Kheow Open Zoo

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Siracha, Chonburi 20110, Thailand

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FAX: +66-38-298-187

EMAIL: kkoz_wanchai@yahoo.com /
WEBSITE: www.zoothailand.org

Singapore Zoological Gardens

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Singapore 729826

PHONE: +65-6269-3411 /
FAX: +65-6365-2331

EMAIL: info@zoo.com.sg /
WEBSITE: www.zoo.com.sg

Taiping Zoo

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34008 Taiping PERAK, Malaysia

PHONE: +60-5-808-6577 /
FAX: +60-5-806-6025

EMAIL: zootaiping@zootaiping.gov.my /
WEBSITE: www.zootaiping.gov.my

Tama Zoological Park

ADDRESS: 7-1-1 Hodokubo,
Hino-Shi Tokyo 191-0042, Japan

PHONE: +81-42-591-1611 /
FAX: +81-42-593-4351

EMAIL: tama-zoo@po.gws.ne.jp / WEBSITE:
www.kensetsu.metro.tokyo.jp/zoo/tama

Yokohama Zoological Gardens (ZOORASIA)

ADDRESS: 1175-1 Kamishirane-cho,
Asahi-ku Yokohama Kanagawa-ken
241-0001, Japan

PHONE: +81-45-951-1297 /
FAX: +81-45-951-0777

EMAIL: ksg50413@city.yokohama.jp

Zoo Melaka

ADDRESS: Ayer Keroh, Melaka 75450,
Malaysia

PHONE: +60-6-232-4054 /
FAX: +60-6-232-5859

WEBSITE: www.melaka.net

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Zoo Negara Malaysia

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Ampang Selangor 68000, Malaysia
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FAX: +6-3-410-75375

Australia

Melbourne Zoo

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 74,
Parkville VIC 3052, Australia
PHONE: +61-3-9285-9300 /
FAX: +61-3-9285-9330
EMAIL: zpbg@zoo.org.au /
WEBSITE: www.zoo.org.au

**Royal Zoological Society
of S.A. Inc.**

ADDRESS: Frome Road,
Adelaide SA 5000, Australia
PHONE: +61-8-8267-3255 /
FAX: +61- 8-8239-0637
WEBSITE: www.rzssa.org.au

Taronga Zoo

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 20, Bradleys Head
Road Mosman NSW 2088, Australia
PHONE: +61-2-9969-2777 /
FAX: +61-2-9969-7515
EMAIL: tz@zoo.nsw.gov.au /
WEBSITE: www.zoo.nsw.gov.au



MOUNTAIN TAPIR
(*Tapirus pinchaque*)

North America

**Cheyenne Mountain
Zoological Park**

ADDRESS: 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo,
Colorado Springs, CO 80906, USA
PHONE: +1-719-633-9925 /
FAX: +1-719-633-2254
EMAIL: info@cmzoo.org /
WEBSITE: www.cmzoo.org



LOWLAND TAPIR
(*Tapirus terrestris*)

Europe

Almaty Zoo

ADDRESS: Esenberlin Street, 166 Almaty
480007, Kazakhstan
PHONE: +7-3272-913732 /
FAX: +7-3272-913719
EMAIL: tair@nursat.kz /
WEBSITE: www.almatzoo.nursat.kz

Amazon World

ADDRESS: Watery Lane, Newchurch, Isle of
Wight England, PO36 0LX, United Kingdom
PHONE: +44-1983-867122 /
FAX: +44-1983-868560
EMAIL: amazonworld@dialstart.net /
WEBSITE: www.amazonworld.co.uk

Blackpool Zoo

ADDRESS: East Park Drive, Blackpool,
Lancashire England FY3 8PP,
United Kingdom
PHONE: +44-1253-830801 /
FAX: +44-1253-830800
EMAIL: contact@blackpoolzoo.org.uk /
WEBSITE: www.blackpoolzoo.org.uk

**Bristol Clifton West of England
Zoological Society**

ADDRESS: Bristol Zoo Gardens, Clifton
Bristol England BS8 3HA, United Kingdom
PHONE: +44-117-974-7300 /
FAX: +44-117-973-6814
EMAIL: bzganimals@compuserve.com /
WEBSITE: www.bristolzoo.org.uk

**Budapest Zoological &
Botanical Garden**

ADDRESS: Allatkerti krt. 6-12,
Budapest HU-1146, Hungary
PHONE: +36-1363-3820 /
FAX: +36-1363-2971
EMAIL: info@zoobudapest.com /
WEBSITE: www.zoobudapest.com

Burger's Zoo En Safari

ADDRESS: Schelmseweg 85, 6816 SH
Arnhem, Netherlands
PHONE: +31-26-445-0373 /
FAX: +31-26-443-0776
EMAIL: info@burgerszoo.nl /
WEBSITE: www.burgerszoo.nl

Cotswold Wildlife Park

ADDRESS: Burford, Oxfordshire England
OX18 4JW, United Kingdom
PHONE: +44-1993-823006 /
FAX: +44-1993-823807
WEBSITE: www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

Curraghs Wildlife Park

ADDRESS: Ballaugh Isle of Man IM7 5EA,
United Kingdom
PHONE: +44-1624-897323 /
FAX: +44-1624-897327
WEBSITE: www.gov.im/wildlife

Dudley Zoological Gardens

ADDRESS: Dudley & W Midlands Zoological
Society, 2 The Broadway Dudley, West
Midlands England DY1 4QB, United Kingdom
PHONE: +44-1384-215313 /
FAX: +44-1384-456048
EMAIL: marketing@dudleyzoo.org.uk /
WEBSITE: www.dudleyzoo.org.uk

**Edinburgh Zoo-Scottish
National Zoo**

ADDRESS: 134 Corstorphine
Road, Edinburgh Scotland EH12 6TS, United
Kingdom
PHONE: +44-131-334 9171 /
FAX: +44-131-334 6775
WEBSITE: www.edinburghzoo.org.uk

**Espace Zoologique la Boissiere
du Dore**

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44430 La Boissiere du Dore, France
PHONE: +33-240-337032 /
FAX: +33-240-337515
EMAIL: zoo.boissiere@wanadoo.fr /
WEBSITE: www.zoo-boissiere.com

Fota Wildlife Park

ADDRESS: Carrigtwohill,
County Cork, Ireland
PHONE: +353-21-4812736 /
FAX: +353-21-4812744
EMAIL: info@fotawildlife.ie /
WEBSITE: www.fotawildlife.ie

Herberstein Tier-und Naturpark

ADDRESS: Schloss Herberstein OEG,
Buchberg 2 A-8222
St. Johann Herberstein, Austria
PHONE: +43-3176-8825-0 /
FAX: +43-3176-877-520
EMAIL: office@herberstein.co.at / WEBSITE:
www.herberstein.co.at

Europe (continued)

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howletts.net

Kaliningrad Zoopark

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Kaliningrad 236000, Russian Fed

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FAX: +7-112-21-89-24

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Kharkiv Zoo

ADDRESS: 35 Sumskaya str,
61022 Kharkiv, Ukraine

PHONE: +380-572-474582 /
FAX: +380-572-432704

EMAIL: info@zoo.kharkov.ua

Kolmardens Djurpark

ADDRESS: 618 92 Kolmarden Norrkoping,
Sweden

PHONE: +46-11-249066 /
FAX: +46-11-249040

EMAIL: vet.klin@kolmarden.com

Krakow Miejski Ogród Zoologiczny

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14, 30-232 Krakow, Poland

PHONE: +48-12-425-3551 /
FAX: +48-12-425-2710

EMAIL: zoo@kraknet.pl /
WEBSITE: www.zoo-krakow.pl

Krefelder Zoo

ADDRESS: Uerdingerstrasse 377, Krefeld N
Rhine-Westph D-47800, Germany

PHONE: +49-2151-95520 /
FAX: +49-2151-955233

EMAIL: zoo.krefeld@krefeld.de /
WEBSITE: www.zookrefeld.de

Kristiansand Dyrepark ASA

ADDRESS: N-4609 Kardemomme By
Ostfold, Norway

PHONE: +47-38-049700 /
FAX: +47-38-043367

WEBSITE: www.dyreparken.com

Kyiv Zoo

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P.O. Box 133 03055 Kyiv, Ukraine

PHONE: +380-442-417-769 /
FAX: +380-442-417-769

EMAIL: admin@zoo.freenet.kiev.ua /
WEBSITE: www.zoo.kiev.ua

La Palmyre Zoo

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 8, 17570
Les Mathes Royan, France

PHONE: +33-546-224606 /
FAX: +33-546-236297

EMAIL: admin@zoo-palmyre.fr /
WEBSITE: www.zoo-palmyre.fr

Le PAL, Parc Animalier

ADDRESS: 03290 Dompierre-sur-Besbre,
France

PHONE: +33-470-426810 /
FAX: +33-470-420152

EMAIL: zoosoto@lepal.com

Lisbon Zoo

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Lisieux CERZA

ADDRESS: Hermival les Vaux, 14100
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EMAIL: lisieux@cerza.com /
WEBSITE: www.cerza.com

Miejski Ogród Zoologiczny w Łodzi

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FAX: +48-42-632-9290

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Monde Sauvage Safari SPRL

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EMAIL: zoo.mosa@pophost.eunet.be

Paradise Wildlife Park

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Hertfordshire England EN10 7QA,
United Kingdom

PHONE: +44-1992-470490 /
FAX: +44-1992-440525

EMAIL: info@pwpark.com /
WEBSITE: www.pwpark.com

Parco Zoo Punta Verde

ADDRESS: Via G. Scerbanenco,
19/1 33054 Lignano Sabbiadoro Udine, Italy

PHONE: +39-431-428775 /
FAX: +39-431-427051

EMAIL: info@parcozooportaverde.it /
WEBSITE: www.parcozooportaverde.it

Parc Zoologico de Barcelona

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Barcelona 08003, Spain

PHONE: +34-93-225-6780 /
FAX: +34-93-221-3853

EMAIL: zoobarna@mail.cinet.es /
WEBSITE: www.zoobarcelona.com

Parc Zoologique Branféré

ADDRESS: Le Guerno, 56190 Muzillac,
France

Email: branfere@wanadoo.fr

Parc Zoologique d'Amiens

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80000 Amiens, France

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EMAIL: zooamiens@wanadoo.fr

Parc Zoologique d'Amnéville

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57360 Amnéville, France

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FAX: +33-3-87-703848

EMAIL: alexis.zoo@wanadoo.fr /
WEBSITE: www.zoo-amneville.com

Parc Zoologique de Lille

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59800 Lille Nord, France

PHONE: +33-328-520700 /
FAX: +33-320-573808

EMAIL: zoolille@mairie-lille.fr /
WEBSITE: www.zoolille.com

Parc Zoologique Doue-la-Fontaine

ADDRESS: Parc Zoologique,
49700 Doué la Fontaine, France

PHONE: +33-241-592884 /
FAX: +33-241-592586

EMAIL: pgay@zoodoue.fr /
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Parken Zoo i Eskilstuna AB

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Sodermanland, Sweden

PHONE: +46-16-100100 /
FAX: +46-16-100114

EMAIL: info@parkenzoo.se /
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Miejski Ogród Zoologiczny Wybrzeza

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Sea Coast, ul. Karwienska 3 Gdansk-Oliwa
80-336, Poland

PHONE: +48-58-552-0041 /
FAX: +48-58-552-1751

EMAIL: zoo@zoo.gd.pl /
WEBSITE: www.zoo.gd.pl

Europe (continued)

Miejski Ogród Zool. we Wrocławiu

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Wrocław, Poland

PHONE: +48-71-3483024 /
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EMAIL: lutra@zoo.wroc.pl /
WEBSITE: www.zoo.wroclaw.pl

Newquay Zoo

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Cornwall England TR7 2LZ, United Kingdom

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WEBSITE: www.newquayzoo.co.uk

Nikolaev Zoo

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FAX: +380-512-556045

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North of England Zoological Society, Chester Zoo

ADDRESS: Caughall Road, Upton-by-
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FAX: +44-1244-371273

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Odense Zoologiske Have

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FAX: +45-22231132

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Ogród Zoologiczny Opole

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094, Poland

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WEBSITE: http://www.zoo.poznan.pl/

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WEBSITE: www.paigntonzoo.org.uk

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Sources available at:

<http://www.tapirs.org/tapirs/mountain.html>
<http://www.tapirs.org/tapirs/lowland.html>
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More About Baird's Tapirs:

IUCN Red List Report on Baird's Tapir
Tapir Virtual Library
EDGE Baird's Tapir Profile
Wikipedia/Bairds_tapir Credits, Baird's tapirs
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More About Lowland Tapirs:

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Tapir Virtual Library
Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative (Brazil) Official Website (www.tapirconservation.org.br)
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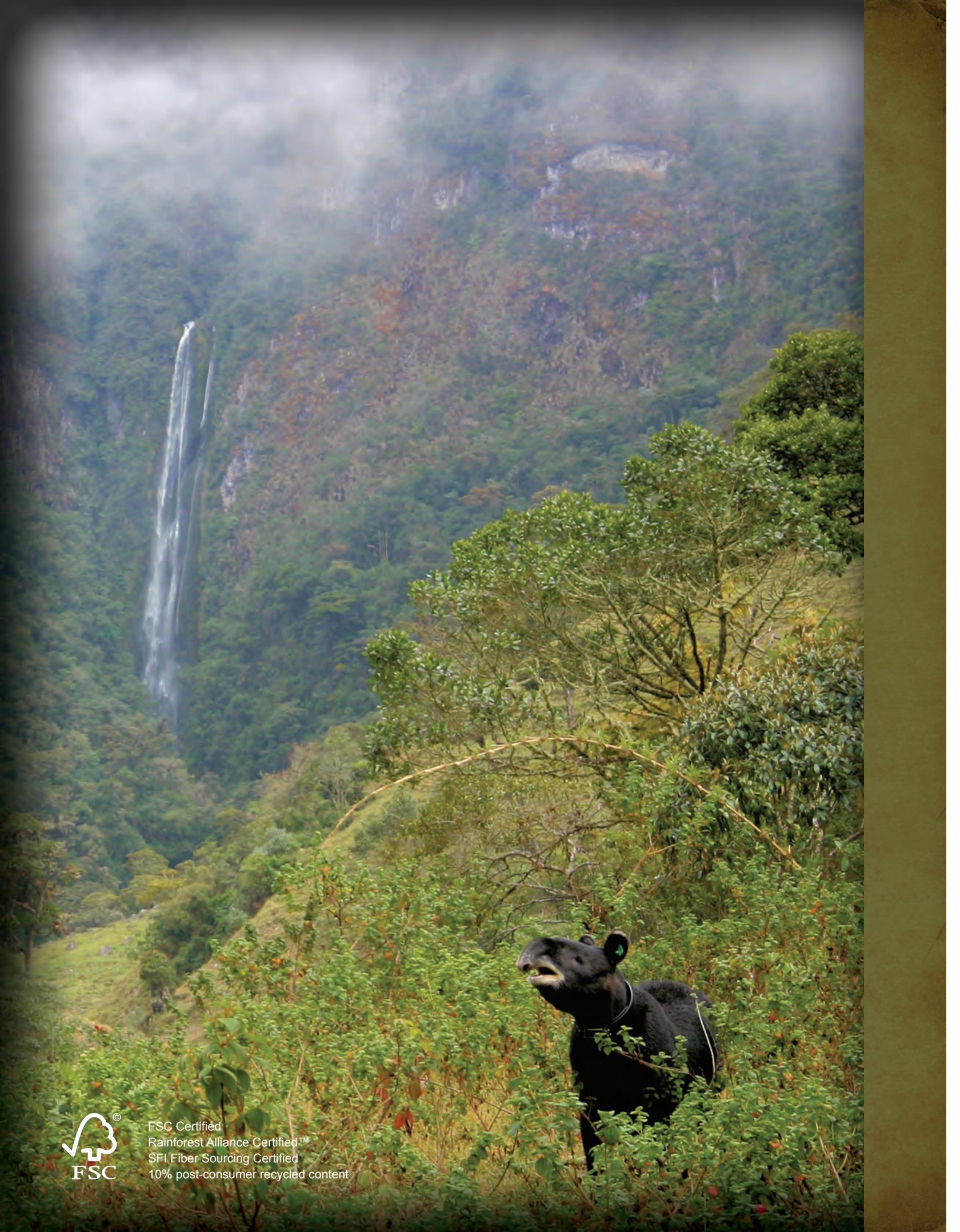
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