



# Tapir Conservation

The Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group

[www.tapirspecialistgroup.org](http://www.tapirspecialistgroup.org)

*Edited by Siân S. Waters and Stefan Seitz*

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### Website

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The large picture on the cover page shows a lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) at a breeding facility in Araxá, Minas Gerais State, Brazil. Credit: Cláudio Valladares-Pádua.

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The Grantees of the  
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## Field Verification of Baird's Tapir Distribution in Oaxaca, Mexico: An Important Step Towards a National Conservation Action Plan

Iván Lira Torres, Mexico



Iván Lira Torres  
from Mexico.  
Photo by Steve Divers.

**Abstract:** Baird's tapir is listed as an endangered species in all Mesoamerican countries. This species had a continuous distribution from southeastern Mexico to northwestern Colombia, ranging from coastal forests and wetlands at sea level to cloud forests and paramos above 3,000 m. However, high rates of deforestation, habitat fragmentation and over hunting have restricted current tapir distribution to protected and/or remote areas. Given the fast human population growth in southeastern Mexico, it seems essential to maintain large preserves for the survival of viable tapir populations. It is also very important to identify large forest fragments where tapirs remain in order to promote habitat management, hunting regulation, and

other conservation practices in the surrounding human communities. Within the country, it is suspected that tapirs survive in some forested areas of southeastern Mexico. Nonetheless, the presence of these mammals has not been verified in most of the potential distribution areas, especially those without protection. This project aims to: (1) obtain field data to create an updated map of tapir distribution in Oaxaca, Mexico; (2) identify non-protected areas in the state where tapir populations still survive; and (3) to assess the isolation of forest fragments large enough to shelter viable tapir populations. These objectives are all included in the Action Plan's list of priorities for Baird's tapir conservation (Matola *et al.* 1997).

## Ethnozoology of Lowland Tapir in Venezuela

Adrián Naveda-Rodriguez, Venezuela



Adrián Naveda  
from Venezuela.  
Photo by  
Sonia Hernandez-Divers.

**Abstract:** This project will study the different uses and management of *Tapirus terrestris* and its products (meat, skin, bones) by local people in two states of Venezuela. We will interview hunters and their families in order to gather information on the relationship that they have with tapirs and other wildlife species. With these interviews we

also hope to gather information on the biology and local distribution of tapirs. The information gathered will let us know the biomass extracted and measure the local level of threat which tapirs are under in Venezuela, at the same time the information may be used for the design of management plans.

## Identification of Forest Fragments with Populations of the Colombian Tapir *Tapirus terrestris colombianus* and Strategies for its Conservation

Emilio Constantino, Colombia



Emilio Constantino  
from Colombia.  
Photo by Diego Lizcano.

**Abstract:** The Colombian tapir *Tapirus terrestris colombianus* is one of the most endangered tapir species in the world, due to its small range, the destruction of its habitat and to over hunting. Identification of the remnant populations needs to be done urgently if remaining populations are to be conserved for the future. Its habitat in central Colombia is becoming highly fragmented due to forest destruction and cattle ranching. Most of the area is today in private hands, so the localisation of remnant populations could lead to the establishment of private nature reserves and regional strategies for tapir conservation. The best frag-

ments will be located by means of satellite imagery and aerial photography and also by interviews with local hunters, biologists and conservationists. Visits to several of those places will be useful to confirm the presence of the tapirs, to assess their local conservation status, to determine threats to them and to propose actions for their conservation. Some of these actions could be to acquire land for the establishment of new reserves, development of an educational strategy for the local communities or other activities identified in the Action Plan for Tapir Conservation in Colombia.