

## FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

## Message from the Editorial Board

**To the readers of the  
*Tapir Conservation Newsletter*,**

In 1990, Sharon Matola wrote the first issue of *Tapir Conservation* with her manual typewriter in her office at the Belize Zoo. She introduced it with the following words: “*This newsletter represents the first real effort of the Tapir Specialist Group/IUCN/SSC to establish an effective international network of communication among its members. Our immediate goal is to strengthen communication within the TSG and then, unified, work towards achieving the measures that will promote conservation of the family Tapiridae.*”

Today, 18 years and 23 issues later these goals still stand true, but our content has slowly evolved. The early issues contained short updates on ongoing field studies and news from captivity. Sharon published one issue a year until 1997, when Sheryl Todd joined the effort and the *Newsletter* got its first makeover. Published now in a professional layout, the news and field updates got more detailed, and included illustrations and black and white photos. The focus of the *Newsletter* was still on the exchange of information among TSG members, but more and more information of interest to a broader audience was included. The second makeover occurred in 2002, when Siân Waters and Stefan Seiz became the editors and the layout became more journal-like, with a front cover in color and more photos throughout the issue. A new section on Contributed Article was also added, with the goal of publishing peer-reviewed scientific articles on topics related to tapirs. This new format was a great success, further promoted and developed by Leonardo Salas during his tenure as editor (2005-2008). Between 2002 and 2008, over 34 articles were published in *Tapir Conservation*, covering topics from diet, habitat use, population genetics, conservation status and captive management.

At the Fourth International Tapir Symposium in Mexico in April 2008, a new editorial board was put together, consisting of TSG members with expertise in various fields. During the Symposium, the members of the editorial board discussed the future of *Tapir Conservation*, agreeing that scientific articles should



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### First issue of *Tapir Conservation*, published in 1990.

become the primary focus of our efforts. We wish for *Tapir Conservation* to be a journal for researchers who want to publish their tapir data, observations, and conservation successes and failures (we can always learn from our mistakes) quickly. We also want it to be a place for students working on tapirs to gain some experience with scientific writing. The new editorial board is committed to reviewing new contributions in a timely manner and to help authors improve their manuscripts for publication in *Tapir Conservation*. If you have data sitting in a drawer, a great observation you want to share, or an idea you want to propose, but are not sure how to go about it, please contact us and we can help you get started. We won't write the article for you, but we can review a draft and give you ideas on how to outline your manuscript.

The next issue of *Tapir Conservation* will be the first to include a new Spotlight feature where tapir-related publications in other journals are highlighted and presented with a short summary. Each year one paper highlighted in the Spotlight section or published as a full article in *Tapir Conservation* will be selected by the editorial board to receive an award sponsored by the Natural History Museum of the East Tennessee



# Tapir Conservation

The Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group

Number 7, October 1997

**Editor:** Sharon Matzke, IUCN Chair  
**Co-Editor:** Sheryl Todd, IUCN Deputy Chair

The vision in *Tapir Conservation* is to offer the members of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group and other concerned with the family Tapiridae, news, insight, opinions, and general information about the threatened mammalian group.

Anyone wishing to contribute to *Tapir Conservation*, please send materials to:

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## Issue #7 of *Tapir Conservation* offers new avenues of information

For the first time since the formation of the Tapir Specialist Group, increased communications have added exciting new avenues of information for members interested in tapirs.

The Tapir Specialist Group is fortunate to have the enthusiastic participation of Sheryl Todd. For over twenty years, Sheryl has held a strong interest in tapirs. She was instrumental in founding the Tapir Research Institute located in California, where she successfully raised both T. americanus and T. borealis among Life-Changing. Sheryl found herself in a world different than one dominated by tapirs, but her enthusiasm for these animals never faded. Today, she is back on line to assist with tapir conservation. She accepted the position of Deputy Chair of the TSG in early September.

Besides creating a world wide web site for tapirs, "The Tapir Gallery," <http://www.tapirbook.com/tapirgal>, Sheryl has brought to life a unique communications network through Tapir Talk. Access to Tapir Talk is easy through e-mail. Write to Sheryl Todd at [ap@tapirbook.com](mailto:ap@tapirbook.com), include the words, "Tapir Talk" in the subject line. That's all one needs to do to be in two competing conversations about the latest research, and a variety of tapirs which address all species of tapirs.

Some highlights of recent Tapir Talk e-mailings are included in this issue. On the downside of communications, frequently no response is received from people who consider themselves "tapirologists," when their suggestions and advice or

comments are requested. It is our hope that the tapir communications network will continue to grow stronger and more productive. Thanks to all who have been active in the TSG, providing valuable information and ideas.

### Action Plan

The Tapir Action Plan is being finalized in IUCN headquarters, Gland, Switzerland and will soon be published.

### Symposium

A symposium regarding Field Research in Mesoamerica is in planning stages. The venue is the Tropical Education Center at the Belize Zoo and the occasion dates in August 1998. An enclosed flyer for complete information. A sub-meeting of the TSG will be held.

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the latest *Tapir Conservation* online at [www.tapirs.org](http://www.tapirs.org). If you'd like to participate, please let us know.

As a closing note, *Tapir Conservation Newsletter* is what it is today thanks to the efforts of Sharon Matola, Sheryl Todd, Siân Waters, and Leo Salas. To all our former editors-in-chief, thank you for the hard work you put into transforming *Tapir Conservation*. We can only hope to live up to the standards and vision of those that have preceded us. To make this true, your contribution is invaluable, and we look forward to receiving many more from all of you. We also have to recognize the incredible efforts of our creative team, Kelly Russo and Stefan Seitz, who bring it all together just in the nick of time to form the fantastic publication that currently is our *Newsletter*. Many thanks, Kelly and Stefan. Finally, our warmest gratitude to the Houston Zoo for financing the printing and distribution of the *Newsletter*, without which none of it would be possible.

With wishes of a happy year.

## The Tapir Conservation Newsletter Editorial Board

### The Newsletter got its first makeover in 1997.

State University. This way we hope to encourage tapir researchers to publish the data they have collected with so much effort and help promote wider information sharing. This is the first issue of *Tapir Conservation* that is entirely dedicated to articles contributed by tapir researchers over the last year. The work ranges from observations of behavior in Colombia to the value of natural licks in determining tapir presence/absence at the landscape scale. Unfortunately, all our contributions to this issue are from field biologists in Latin America. We hope that our members in the zoo community and our brothers in Far Asia will soon leave their mark too.

The new editorial board is also working on expanding the reach of the *Newsletter*. However, we are only able to print so many copies per volume. As such, we would like to request volunteers from the TSG membership to forgo their print subscription of *Tapir Conservation* in favor of a university or library in a tapir range country. You can name the institution you would like to sponsor, or we can find one for you. The goal is to get the conservation work that TSG members are doing as much exposure as possible and help increase awareness. As always, you can download



Since 2002, the layout became more journal-like.