Baird´s Tapir Conservation in Nombre De Dios National Park; Honduras (02208014)

Honduras, Nombre de Dios National Park; November 2014 – January 2018

Grupo ProTapir, Panthera.org, IUCN-TSG united to:

"Contribute to Baird´s Tapir (Tapirus bairdii) survival in Honduras through guarantying its viable populations' conservation"

Luis Herrera, Diana Mencía y Claudia Banegas with collaboration of Josué Vásquez

luisalbertohb@gmail.com; https://www.facebook.com/TapirHonduras

April 2019

Table of Contents

Project Partners & Collaborators

This project was done by young Honduran volunteer biologist which get together to form "Grupo ProTapir". We will like to thank the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) for its economic and advisory support. To PANTHERA who embrace us into their activities in the National Park and gave us economic, advisory, and logistic support, specially its Honduran Program director Franklin Castañeda. To IUCN-TSG Honduran voluntary member Nereyda Estrada for her advisory. To local NGO that runs Nombre de Dios National Park (FUPNAND) who help us with their local contacts. To our field guides Santos Pacheco in Roma, Alexis and Fernando in Las Mangas, Mateo and Maximo in El Pital and El Cangrejal and all the other people and volunteers who went with us to the field, specially José Conscepción "Chon" Núñez and Josué Vásquez. To the local watersheds Associations, Teachers, and University and School Students who received our conservation awareness workshops. To the local and national Forestry and Natural Resources Governments Departments who received us and made us part of their advisors for Tapir Conservation in the Country.

Section 1:

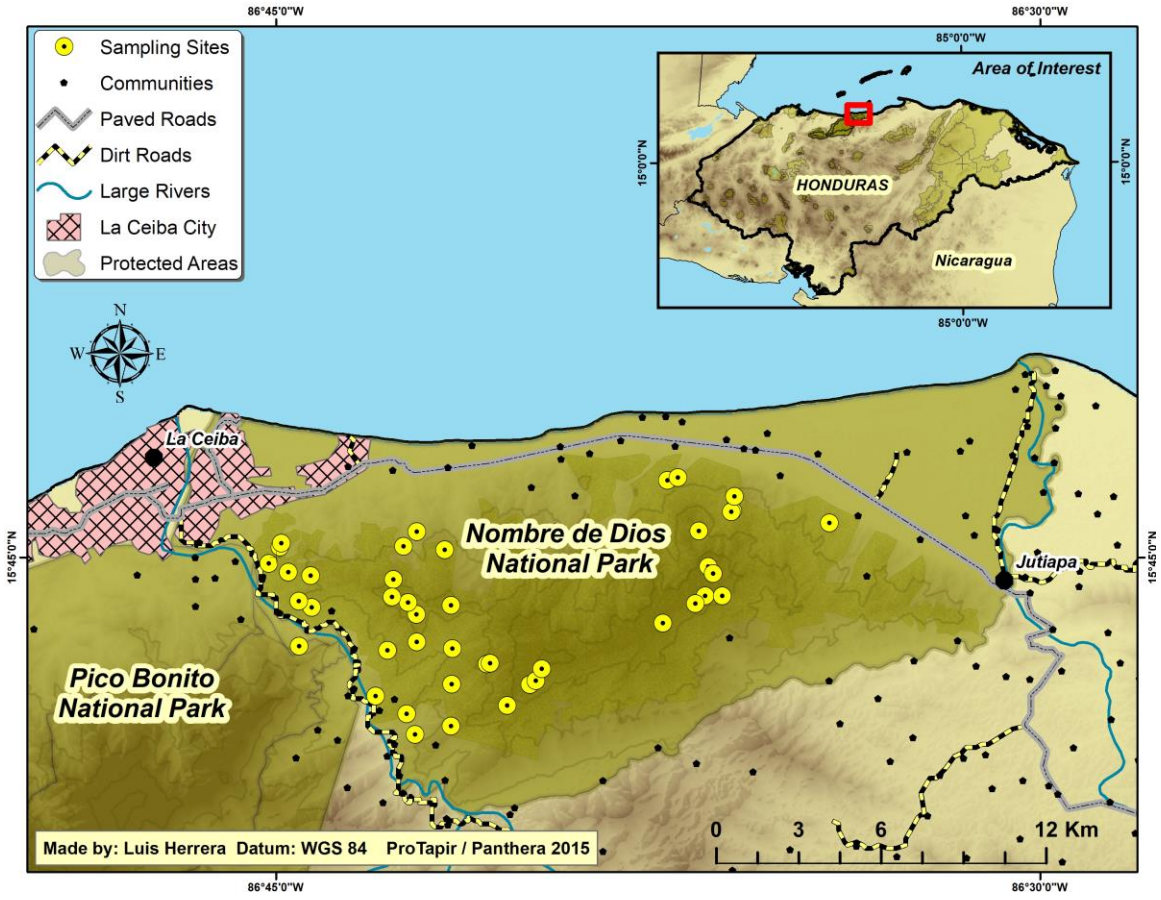
Summary

Baird´s Tapir (Tapirus bairdii) is the largest wild terrestrial species living in Honduras. It gives structure to biodiversity communities within the forests it inhabits. Its extirpation from natural environments, creates serious detriment in the ecological health and quality of ecosystem services that forests provide to the human being. Within the mountainous Nombre de Dios National Park, there was no prior information regarding this species. We carry out an assessment of its conservation status and promote its survival within the Park with local and national audiences. We achieved this through non-invasive methodologies documenting any sign of its presence, and developed outreach activities local and nationwide. Tapirs were detected only in inaccessible areas of the park. It, apparently, have problems to subsist in the long term. The main problem is the presence of detrimental human activities in the low and middle areas of the park, like poaching and deforestation, genetically weakening this species by reducing the numbers of individuals. This is leading to unhealthy forests, decreasing aspects as water quality that it provides to the people. We promoted the need of a prompt intervention by local and national authorities to stop the loss of more individuals within the Park and the country.

Introduction

Baird´s Tapir is the largest land mammal species in Central America (Reid 2011). It is considered Endangered for its decreasing population trend due to habitat loss and focalized hunting (IUCN 2013). It is a key species for ecosystems thanks to its large herbivorous consumption rate (Foerester 1998), and its loss may cause a severe impact in the forest health (Medici 2010). In Honduras very little is known about its conservation status especially in the Nombre de Dios mountain range population due to scarce research (ICF 2011). Through this project we make the first ever survey for gathering information on the situation of the Baird´s tapir individuals that lives in the Nombre de Dios National Park, plus the first direct attempt to promote its conservation in this area of the country. This park is part of a mountainous Cordillera system in northern Honduras. The second largest Tapir population is considered to be present within this mountains. Out of the three adjacent protected areas, this one is the smallest and most eastern located, and will tend to receive all the human impacts that comes from the lowlands. Although it was originally protected to preserve the water production for the city and villages that are located on its foothills. Back in 2012, we confirmed its presence in the park for the first time, by tracks and other evidences of its presence within one of its zones. So this encouraged us to start this project to help protect the specimens that where remaining in the area. Since we knew that jaguars were living there also, we partnered with PANTHERA to share the information in exchange of economic, logistic, and advisory support. Plus the UICN TSG Honduran representative became our advisor also. The local NGO that runs the park, was key also to help us complete our project. Plus several ex poachers, local stakeholders and students help us in the field activities. Local community members, schools, national Universities, and national tourists were one of our main target audiences to create awareness on the species.

Map of Area



Project members

Luis Alberto Herrera Bardales (Team leader)

Luis was in charge of the field work logistics planning and strategic communication during the project. He was the designated driver. He worked for Panthera during most of the project, and then started as an assistant professor at the public Univesity in San Pedro Sula. He is one of the most skilled camera trappers in the country.

Diana Melissa Mencía Baide

Diana started as a biology student during the project and was in charge of Environmental Education and Outreach activities. She use to be a primary school teacher, which facilitated her creating awareness to local communities' students and adult people. She volunteered helping directly all the activities of the local government Forestry office during the project. Afterwards she started teaching in two Universities in San Pedro Sula and El Progreso cities in the Biology and Agriculture departments.

Claudia Carolina Banegas Jovel

Claudia is a biologist and was in charge of media and communication she helped during all the poject with logistic preparation of field work and outreach activities. She is now studying her Master Degree on Entomology in a university at Panamá.

Section 2:

Aim and objectives

Our main aim was to ***Contribute to Baird´s Tapir (Tapirus bairdii) survival in Honduras through guarantying its viable populations' conservation.*** *We were able to contribute first by* **performing a general assessment of Baird´s Tapir ecological aspects in Nombre de Dios National Park,** in which we went to the field and carry out pertinent research. Although Tapir presence in the park was located only in the most remote sites, were access was difficult, but we gathered enough information to determine its conservation status. Afterwards, we **disseminate knowledge and promote awareness about Tapir ecological importance** in the local and national community. Especially with school and university students, national tourists and general publics in various media. We **published and shared acquired scientific information with institutions, organizations, and people interested in Baird´s Tapir conservation,** especially through university speeches, national and international congresses and with local, national, and regional government agencies and NGOs. We have highly **strengthen relationship between key stakeholder organizations to perform conservation activities for Baird´s Tapir with base on the main results obtained** by been appointed as part of the national government advisors on activities regarding Tapir conservation in Honduras.

Changes to original project plan

Project activities were planned to start on August 2014. Due to final project application modification for acceptance, delayed the first money transference. Finally initiating by the end of September 2014. Unusual heavy rainfall in November and December caused severe flash flooding around the park, cutting the main access roads to part of our study site. Field work started on January ending in June 2015. The main problem we encounter was that Tapir presence in the park is lower than expected, located only in highly remote areas with highly difficult access, consequently becoming logistically more complex. The lack of robust results and good quality tapir images, at the project early stages, delayed awareness workshops and the production of outreach materials. After activities dates modification, by the circumstances mentioned before, Progress Reporting delayed, as well as the final economic installment; two team members were forced to involuntary decline all activities because of the acquisition of a job and studies respectively. The rest of the group members earned new jobs in different cities, which difficult ending the Project on time. But we gained a new volunteer that worked really well and supported the project as an original member of the project group.

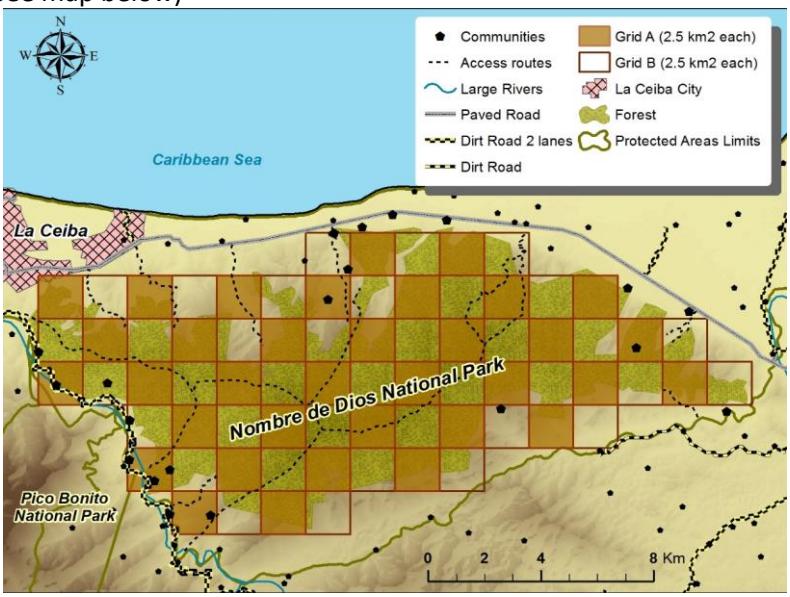
Methodology

1. **Perform a general assessment of Baird´s Tapir ecological aspects in Nombre de Dios National Park.** We used Geographic Information System, Nombre de Dios National Park was divided into 2.5 Km^2 grids as survey sites. We selected 70% of those grids to visit in search of tapir presence. Camera traps were used in most of the grids to obtained stronger information on the presence of the species. After getting Tapir data, we used logistic regression to determine which aspects were affecting tapir presence in each grid.

2. **Disseminate knowledge and promote awareness about Tapir ecological importance** Using the acquired data from the grids, and with images obtained from the field, especially with camera traps, we developed awareness materials to promote Tapir Conservation. A colouring story booklet was done to work with small children.
3. **Publish and share acquired scientific information with institutions, organizations, and people interested in Baird´s Tapir conservation.** Scientific promotion was done using National and International Congresses platforms, and the National Environmental Agency´s scientific bulletin.
4. **Strengthen relationship between key stakeholder organizations to perform conservation activities for Baird´s Tapir with base on the main results obtained.** We are part of the national Tapir conservation committee which coordinates all the activities that are done in terms Tapir survival in the country. Be part of the UICN Tapir specialist group (TSG) and into the Honduras

Outputs and Results

1. **Perform a general assessment of Baird´s Tapir ecological aspects in Nombre de Dios National Park.** We divided the park into grid system to search for the Tapir presence on most of its. (See map below)



After obtaining all evidence of tapir presence within the park, we analysed it to determine which variable was affecting the existence of tapirs in each grid obtaining the next table:

No.	Model	AICc	ΔAICc	Weight	Interception
1	Tapir ~ Peo * Elev	-13.95	0	0.965148	-0.29(0.23)
2	Tapir ~ Peo + Elev	-7.31	6.64	0.034837	0.29(0.13)
3	Tapir ~ Peo	8.28	22.23	0.000014	0.800 (0.064)
4	Tapir ~ Elev	15.23	29.18	0	0.04 (0.06)
5	Tapir ~ Dist.Rds	32.85	46.8	0	0.08(0.07)
6	Tapir ~ Dist.Vil	33.14	47.09	0	-0.31(0.07)
7	Tapir ~ ForCov	63.76	77.71	0	-0.25(0.12)

Meaning that tapirs were only present in places were access was tougher and were there were no evidence of people being in them (poaching, farms, cattle ranches, etc.). Camera trap tapir images were obtained from the park to create awareness and outreach materials:

2. **Disseminate knowledge and promote awareness about Tapir ecological importance** Awareness and outreach materials were obtained to promote Tapir conservation. A total of 100 posters, 2 banners, 500 stickers, 500 colouring booklets, 3 tapir tracks, 5 stamps for colouring skin, 500 Tapir paper masks, one picture frame celebrating the International tapirs Day. One real size plasticised tapir. 450 national tourists were stopped to talk them about tapir conservation during the summer week, 1500 University students were informed about tapirs. Three local school students workshops were done. Two television appearances, two newspapers notes, one facebook page created with 950 Fans. 50 No poaching sings were done for watersheds asociations to install in the park forests.

3. **Publish and share acquired scientific information with institutions, organizations, and people interested in Baird´s Tapir conservation.** Scientific promotion was done using 2 National and 2 International Congresses platforms, and on publication was done in the National Environmental Agency´s scientific bulletin.

4. **Strengthen relationship between key stakeholder organizations to perform conservation activities for Baird´s Tapir with base on the main results obtained.** We are part of the national Tapir conservation committee which coordinates all the activities that are done in terms Tapir survival in the country, we have attend 5 meetings to evaluate Tapir conservation in the country. And we are part of the Baird´s Tapir Survival Alliance, which engulf key organizations and experts in all the 7 countries were the species is present. One of our members will be appointed as the country co-coordinator for the UICN Tapir Specialist Group.

Communication & Application of results

After creating all outreach materials, we selected key dates, places, areas, and people to perform socialization of our results and promote tapir conservation awareness. We celebrated twice the World Tapir Day of 2015 and 2016, plus took advantage of the large quantity of tourist that come to La Ceiba City in the summer week to promote awareness. We did threw workshops at Two schools located at the park base and a private school in La Ceiba to teach children about the ecological benefits that tapirs give them. Community leaders were also attended in workshops with an specific focus in the importance of Tapir presence in their watersheds. Meetings with local and national government environmental agencies were done to make them have a word with their superiors to help stop tapir poaching in the park and the rest of the country. In National and International Congresses our information was used and shared to increase the scientific knowledge of the species.

Monitoring and Evaluation

When performing student talks, a small inquiry is presented to kids. At the end of the activity, a small quiz is done to them to ensure they have understood what a Tapir is. In the University level, student were asked later by their professors in pop quizzes about Tapir conservation. We are constantly called to be part of government and international conservation meetings regarding tapir conservation in the country and in its whole distribution range.

Achievements and Impacts

Through this project we have reach a great variety of audiences. Since most of the people in Honduras don´t know about Tapirs, we have shared the importance of this species to the people. In the park, no evaluation ever existed for this ecologicaly important species. So this project first addressed and fulfilled this issue. After obtaining this information, we went on two ways. One way was using this this information for the general public to reach a bigger audience for them to know about the Tapir importance. The other way was that information is becoming part of the few data that is available for this species in the country. And it is used by the government and international agencies to develop strategies for conservation of this species. The local people accepted the project but work is still needed to avoid Tapir Poaching. We have gotten international interest to continue working in this or nearby Tapir populations.

Capacity Development and Leadership capabilities

All the team members were trained from the beginning after one of the team members returned from the Canada training process. Afterward, all the members received a GIS course and a camera trap and field activities planification, navigation and techniques course to perform all the relevant field work. Unfortunately two members had to withdraw the project due to other compromises. The three remaining members, and the voluntary student did learn and gain practice in all the field trips. One of the main development was the ability to work with local community people and gain their confidence for future projects. Some of the team members already had some skills (field work, environmental education, GIS) shared those skills with the rest, building greater capacities on them. Out of the three members, they divided the work and gain leadership capabilities in that field which now has make them earn a good job position in Universities and environmental agencies.

Section 3:

Conclusion (max 250 words)

Provide accurate, detailed and specific conclusions, avoiding general inferences and interpretations. Describe the overall project's contribution to its central conservation aim and answer questions raised in the introduction, highlight any new information exposed by the project process.

1. Tapir population in Nombre de Dios National Park is the smallest of the Nombre de Dios Cordillera Core Population site. The only way that this species is to be protected and its survival ensured, is to work hard on awareness and perform conservation actions in the forest area that join this site with Pico Bonito National Park. Fortunately that area is a constant focus of development projects, but none has fully address poaching, and this will be our main goal in the future.
2. General public in Honduras don't know about the existence of Tapir as a wild animal that inhabits Honduras so we addressed this situation through this project but still additional work is needed.
3. Due to the ecological importance of Baird´s Tapir in the forests it inhabits, it is crucial that this species is preserved in this park and on its whole range. In this park it is responsible of keeping the high elevation areas with good health to produce good quality water.

Problems encountered and lessons learnt

- *Which project activities and outcomes went well and why?*

We strongly believe that the field activities went well because we did have support and the right equipment to do them. We manage to get good relationships with the people which enormously facilitated our work there. We took advantage of the political platform in the country that we were part of to start making lobbying to ensure that tapir conservation is part of a national and international mission.

- *Which project activities and outcomes have been problematic and in what way, and how has this been overcome?*

We did overcome several problems that we found, including climatic, topographic, personal security issues. The two main problems were that because of a first delay in preliminary reporting, which lead to a delay in the final instalment our bank account was frozen. CLP sent the payment but the account didn't exist so we had to go through a difficult process to ask for a devolution to the bank. At the same time, all the group members earned a different job which took us out of La Ceiba city where our head quarter was. That increased difficulty to return to the park to keep working in the project. This made that two members were forced to withdraw and to rest to visit the park only in our spare time, forcing the project to delay even more.

- *Briefly assess the specific project methodologies and conservation tools used.*

To perform field work, we were forced to use camping and other equipment gear to leave several days in the forest. Added to this, we used a GPS and plasticised maps to navigate in the deep forest. Camera traps were our main tools to obtained Tapir and other wildlife images. So we need to climb up the mountain, and come down several times. At least one to install the camera traps and other to retrieve it. Water in the high ridges was scarce, so we were forced to obtain rain water and use a purification method (using iodine, a filter straw or boiling the water). In the outreach activities, we used a life sized plastic tapir, which impressed the kids, as they can nearly "touch" the animal and caused a great impact. A digital projector was crucial to show the small kids, and other audiences, videos and presentations to increase awareness.

- *Please state important lessons which have been learnt through the course of the project and provide recommendations for future enhancement or modification to the project activities and outcomes.*

Looking back at what was originally proposed, and what were the final outcomes of the project, we all have learn a lot of lessons and might want to change some activities and methodologies to complete them. We did good with the field work and obtain good data. We think that the main problem, which can occur to future CLP projects' groups, is that none of the team members had a job that make them exclusively dedicate their time to the project, and make them difficult to be all committed to it, if any big change in their jobs or student status changes, so group members should definitely work at an organization that has the project as a priority. The other big change we would have made, was to invest more time and resources with the community people, to create even more awareness and impact on the species conservation. A last recommendation will be to have a CLP member or alumni as an appointed advisor to monitor what is happening, especially with young groups.

In the future (max 200 words)

After finishing the project, we were called to be part of all the activities regarding Tapir conservation in the country and one of the team members was appointed as the second coordinator for the newly formed Bairds Tapir Survival Alliance (BTSA). As a member he has to be actively committed to continue doing Tapir conservation in tha country and all around Mesoamerica were this species inhabit. And Nombre de Dios National Park, and the whole Cordillera Nombre de Dios site, is and will definitely keep as a priority for further conservation activities.

Financial Report

Please copy and paste the summary sheet from your financial report here

Itemized expenses	Total CLP Requested (USD)*	Total CLP Spent (USD)	% Difference	Details & Justification (Justification must be provided if figure in column D is +/- 25%)
PHASE I - PROJECT PREPARATION				
Communications (telephone/internet/postage)	250.00	362.63	45%	Internet and telephone use to communicate with stakeholders ar
Field guide books, maps, journal articles and other printed materials	150.00	132.10	-12%	
Insurance	240.00	72.72	-70%	Most of this was covered by a different funder
Visas and permits				
Team training	900.00	391.12	-57%	Most of this was covered by a different funder
Reconnaissance	595.00	508.34	-15%	
Other (Phase 1)				
EQUIPMENT				
Scientific/field equipment and supplies	3,788.00	3776.95	0%	
Photographic equipment	174.00	156.53	-10%	
Camping equipment	1,435.00	642.49	-55%	Most of this was covered by a different funder
Boat/engine/truck (including car hire)				
Other (Equipment)		183.67		Projector acquisition
PHASE II - IMPLEMENTATION				
Accommodation for team members and local guides	1,000.00	1213.81	21%	
Food for team members and local guides	1,050.00	1228.14	17%	
Travel and local transportation (including fuel)	1,500.00	1312.94	-12%	
Customs and/or port duties	500.00		-100%	There were no expenses in this area
Workshops	400	536.18	34%	More workshops and awareness activites than planned
Outreach/Education activities and materials (brochures, posters, video, t-shirts, etc.)	1,677.00	2759.17	65%	More outreach/education activities and materials (brochures, pos
Other (Phase 2)	1,125.00	1223.81	9%	
PHASE III - POST-PROJECT EXPENSES				
Administration				
Report production and results dissemination	200.00	374.14	87%	Presentations with government officials and Universities
Other (Phase 3)				

Section 4:

Appendices

Please include important additional information not required in the main text along with:

- *Completed CLP M&E measures table (see below)*
- *Raw field data: if large amounts of data were generated, include them here and summarise results using tables and statistics in the main text.*
- *Copies of any newspaper/magazine articles relating to the project.*
- *Papers published or manuscripts proposed based on project data*

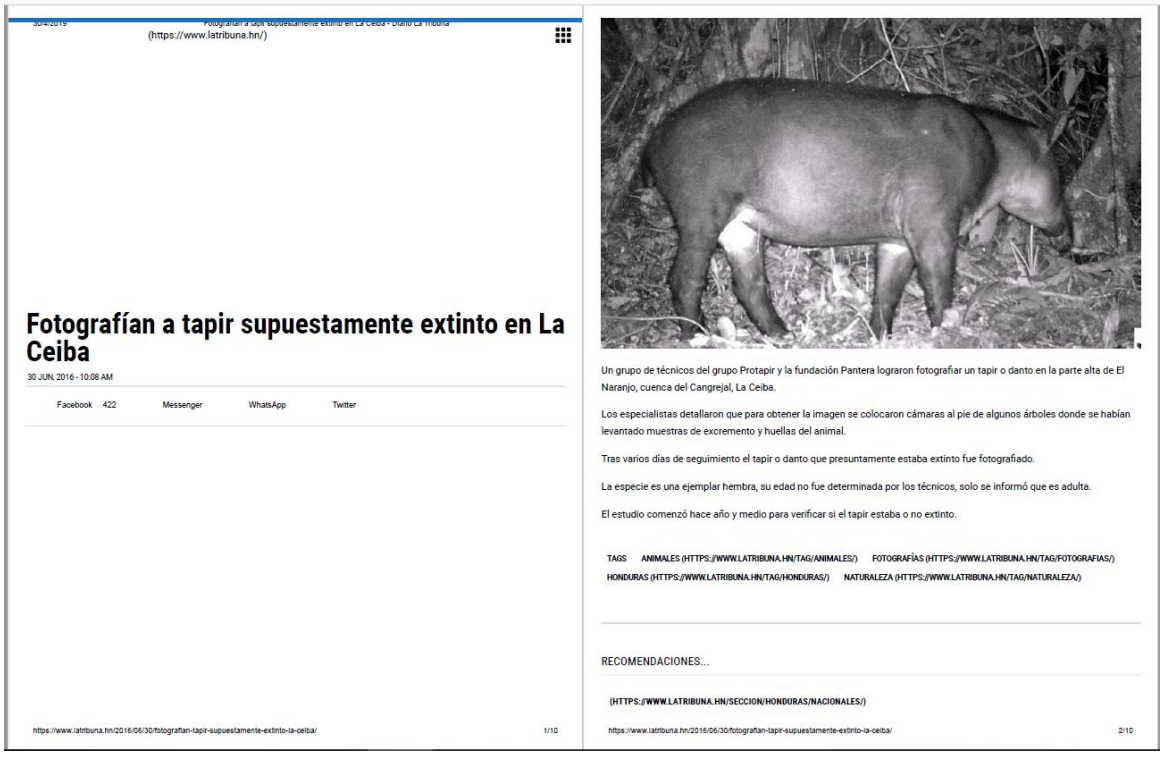
Output	Number	Additional Information
Number of CLP Partner Staff involved in mentoring the Project	5	One volunteer was added at the end.
Number of species assessments contributed to (E.g. IUCN assessments)	1	Bairds Tapir Survival Alliance
Number of site assessments contributed to (E.g. IBA assessments)	0	
Number of NGOs established	0	
Amount of extra funding leveraged ($)	$7000	In Kind and vehicle lown by Panthera
Number of species discovered/rediscovered	0	
Number of sites designated as important for biodiversity (e.g. IBA/Ramsar designation)	0	
Number of species/sites legally protected for biodiversity	0	
Number of stakeholders actively engaged in species/site conservation management	2	

Number of species/site management plans/strategies developed	1	
Number of stakeholders reached	12	
Examples of stakeholder behaviour change brought about by the project.	1	Local NGO that runs the park has gotten camera traps to continue monitoring large mammals
Examples of policy change brought about by the project	0	
Number of jobs created	14	Temporal jobs distributed in local field guides, cookers
Number of academic papers published	1	
Number of conferences where project results have been presented	7	

Appendix 4.1 CLP M&E measures

Local newspapers related to our work:

1. https://www.latribuna.hn/2016/06/30/fotografian-tapir-supuestamente-extinto-la-ceiba/



30/4/2019 Fotografían a tapir supuestamente extinto en La Ceiba - Diario La Tribuna
(https://www.latribuna.hn/)

Fotografían a tapir supuestamente extinto en La Ceiba

30 JUN, 2016 - 10:08 AM

Facebook 422 Messenger WhatsApp Twitter

https://www.latribuna.hn/2016/06/30/fotografian-tapir-supuestamente-extinto-la-ceiba/ 1/10

Un grupo de técnicos del grupo Protapir y la fundación Pantera lograron fotografiar un tapir o danto en la parte alta de El Naranjo, cuenca del Cangrejal, La Ceiba.

Los especialistas detallaron que para obtener la imagen se colocaron cámaras al pie de algunos árboles donde se habían levantado muestras de excremento y huellas del animal.

Tras varios días de seguimiento el tapir o danto que presuntamente estaba extinto fue fotografiado.

La especie es una ejemplar hembra, su edad no fue determinada por los técnicos, solo se informó que es adulta.

El estudio comenzó hace año y medio para verificar si el tapir estaba o no extinto.

TAGS ANIMALES (HTTPS://WWW.LATRIBUNA.HN/TAG/ANIMALES/) FOTOGRAFÍAS (HTTPS://WWW.LATRIBUNA.HN/TAG/FOTOGRAFIAS/) HONDURAS (HTTPS://WWW.LATRIBUNA.HN/TAG/HONDURAS/) NATURALEZA (HTTPS://WWW.LATRIBUNA.HN/TAG/NATURALEZA/)

RECOMENDACIONES...

(HTTPS://WWW.LATRIBUNA.HN/SECCION/HONDURAS/NACIONALES/)

https://www.latribuna.hn/2016/06/30/fotografian-tapir-supuestamente-extinto-la-ceiba/ 2/10

2. https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/975208-410/en-monta%C3%B1a-de-la-ceiba-hallan-danto-que-cre%C3%ADan-extinto

29/4/2019 En montaña de La Ceiba hallan danto que creían extinto - Diario La Prensa

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HONDURAS Mayoría de rutas en San Pedro Sula no pide antecedentes a

HONDURAS Colegio de Periodistas condena agresión contra el comunicador Denis

HONDURAS Fuertes enfrentamientos entre manifestantes y policías

En montaña de La Ceiba hallan danto que creían extinto

29 de Junio de 2016 / 11:04 PM / Redacción

Las imágenes de los técnicos de instituciones que protegen los parques nacionales evidenciaron la riqueza biológica que tiene la costa norte.

https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/975208-410/en-montaña-de-la-ceiba-hallan-danto-que-creían-extinto 1/5

29/4/2019 En montaña de La Ceiba hallan danto que creían extinto - Diario La Prensa

INICIO HONDURAS SAN PEDRO SULA MUNDO SUCESOS ESPECTÁCULOS DEPORTES

TEMAS DESTACADOS Avengers: Endgame Game of Thrones Donald Trump Caravana de migrantes

Un ejemplar hembra de danto fue fotografiado una madrugada en la montaña de la cuenca del Cangrejal.

La Ceiba, Honduras.

Un danto o tapir que se creía extinto en la costa norte del país fue fotografiado en las montañas de la cuenca del río Cangrejal por técnicos del grupo Protapir y la fundación Pantera.

El personal colocó cámaras trampa al pie de algunos árboles en zonas donde se han levantado muestras de excremento y huellas de estos animales.

Después de unos dos meses de vigilancia en la montaña fueron analizadas las imágenes, y para sorpresa de todos apareció el danto.

Se trata de un ejemplar hembra adulta que fue captado en la parte alta de la comunidad de El Naranjo, en la cuenca del Cangrejal.

Los técnicos no determinaron la edad del animal. "Desde hace año y medio estábamos haciendo unos estudios para verificar la presencia de dantos en la costa norte. Se logró capturar unas imágenes el año pasado; sin embargo, estas fotografías tienen que ir ante la autoridad competente en mamíferos en otro país para que ellos las validen, así como la investigación científica, y se evidenció que son reales después de los estudios", manifestó Manasés Padilla, del Parque Nacional Nombre de Dios.

Asimismo, indicó que para ellos fue una sorpresa porque creían que el mamífero estaba extinto en la zona.

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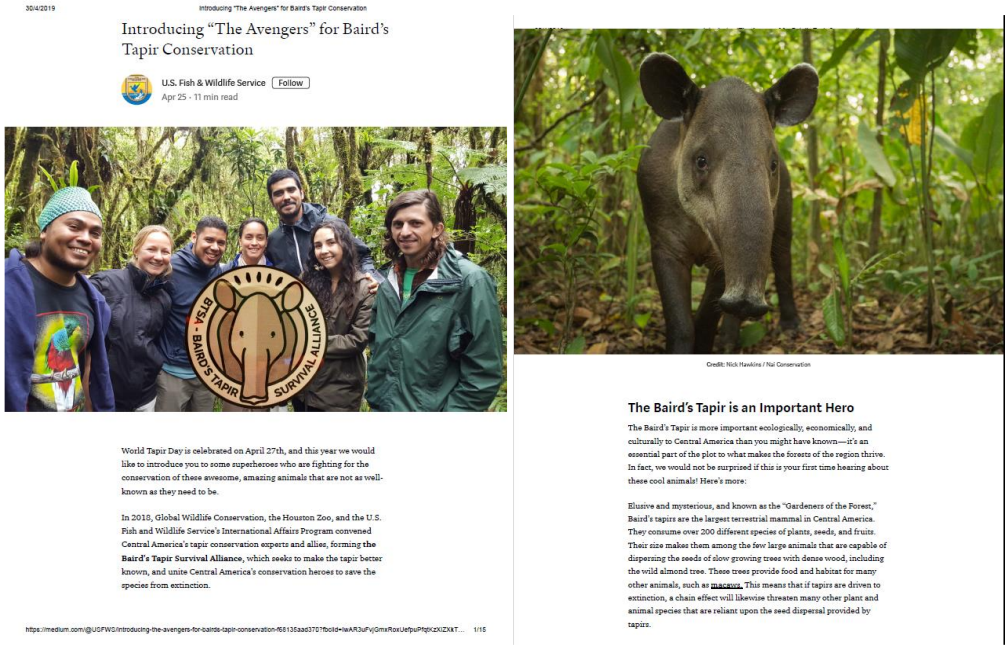
https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/975208-410/en-montaña-de-la-ceiba-hallan-danto-que-creían-extinto 2/5

BTSA Bairds Tapir Survial Alliance: https://www.facebook.com/bairdstapir/

USFWS (Support Received by the US Fish and Wildlife Service): https://medium.com/@USFWS/introducing-the-avengers-for-bairds-tapir-conservation-f68135aad370?fbclid=IwAR3uFvjGmxRoxUefpuPfqtKzXiZXkTMi89L6OEY5VurPYR0vt4jtPvhJRZg



30/4/2019 Introducing "The Avengers" for Baird's Tapir Conservation

Introducing "The Avengers" for Baird's Tapir Conservation

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Follow

Apr 25 · 11 min read

BTSA - BAIRD'S TAPIR SURVIVAL ALLIANCE

World Tapir Day is celebrated on April 27th, and this year we would like to introduce you to some superheroes who are fighting for the conservation of these awesome, amazing animals that are not as well-known as they need to be.

In 2018, Global Wildlife Conservation, the Houston Zoo, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's International Affairs Program convened Central America's tapir conservation experts and allies, forming the **Baird's Tapir Survival Alliance**, which seeks to make the tapir better known, and unite Central America's conservation heroes to save the species from extinction.

https://medium.com/@USFWS/introducing-the-avengers-for-bairds-tapir-conservation-f68135aad370?fbclid=IwAR3uFvjGmxRoxUefpuPfqtKzXiZXkT... 1/15

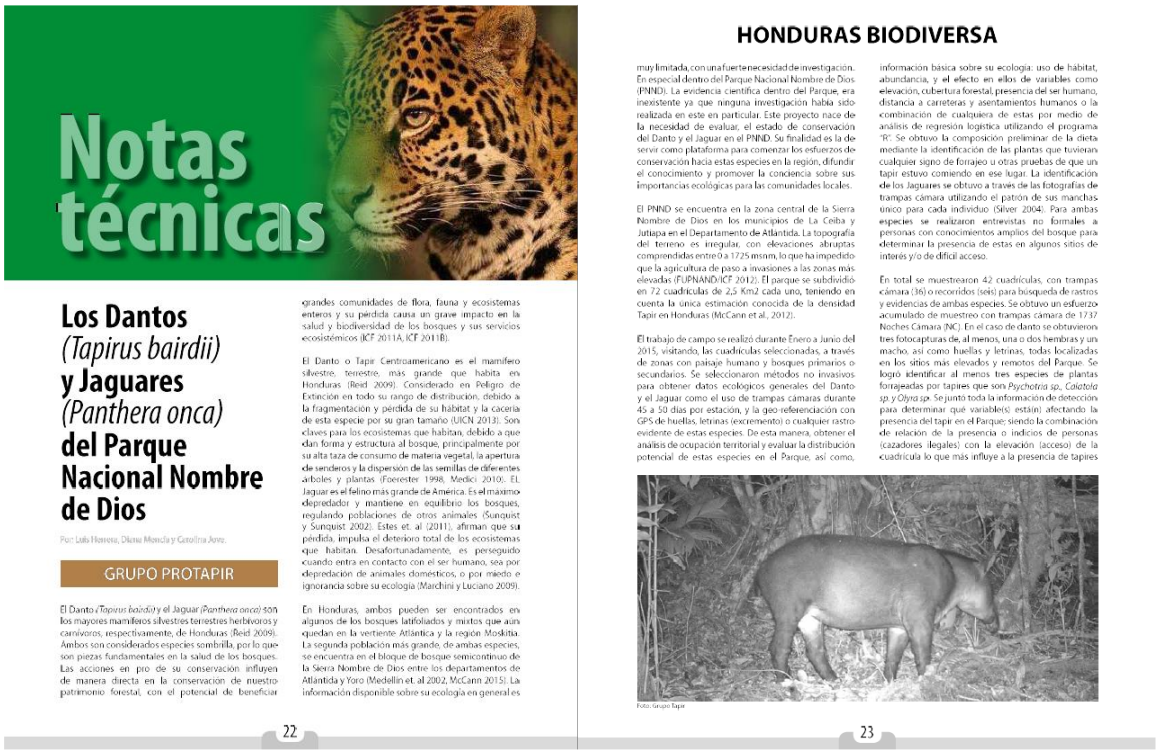
Credit: Nick Hawkins / Nat Conservation

The Baird's Tapir is an Important Hero

The Baird's Tapir is more important ecologically, economically, and culturally to Central America than you might have known—it's an essential part of the plot to what makes the forests of the region thrive. In fact, we would not be surprised if this is your first time hearing about these cool animals! Here's more:

Elusive and mysterious, and known as the "Gardeners of the Forest," Baird's tapirs are the largest terrestrial mammal in Central America. They consume over 200 different species of plants, seeds, and fruits. Their size makes them among the few large animals that are capable of dispersing the seeds of slow growing trees with dense wood, including the wild almond tree. These trees provide food and habitat for many other animals, such as macaws. This means that if tapirs are driven to extinction, a chain effect will likewise threaten many other plant and animal species that are reliant upon the seed dispersal provided by tapirs.

Scientific Publications:



Notas técnicas

Los Dantos *(Tapirus bairdii)* y Jaguares *(Panthera onca)* del Parque Nacional Nombre de Dios

Por: Laila Herrera, Diana Moncla y Carolina Arce.

GRUPO PROTAPIR

El Danto (*Tapirus bairdii*) y el Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) son los mayores mamíferos silvestres terrestres herbívoros y carnívoros, respectivamente, de Honduras (Reid 2009). Ambos son considerados especies sombrilla, por lo que son piezas fundamentales en la salud de los bosques. Las acciones en pro de su conservación influyen de manera directa en la conservación de nuestro patrimonio forestal, con el potencial de beneficiar grandes comunidades de flora, fauna y ecosistemas enteros y su pérdida causa un grave impacto en la salud y biodiversidad de los bosques y sus servicios ecosistémicos (ICF 2011A, ICF 2011B).

El Danto o Tapir Centroamericano es el mamífero silvestre, terrestre, más grande que habita en Honduras (Reid 2009). Considerado en Peligro de Extinción en todo su rango de distribución, debido a la fragmentación y pérdida de su hábitat y la cacería de esta especie por su gran tamaño (UICN 2013). Son claves para los ecosistemas que habitan, debido a que dan forma y estructura al bosque, principalmente por su alta taza de consumo de materia vegetal, la apertura de senderos y la dispersión de las semillas de diferentes árboles y plantas (Foerester 1998, Medici 2010). EL Jaguar es el felino más grande de América. Es el máximo depredador y mantiene en equilibrio los bosques, regulando poblaciones de otros animales (Sunquist y Sunquist 2002). Estes et. al (2011), afirman que su pérdida, impulsa el deterioro total de los ecosistemas que habitan. Desafortunadamente, es perseguido cuando entra en contacto con el ser humano, sea por depredación de animales domésticos, o por miedo e ignorancia sobre su ecología (Marchini y Luciano 2009).

En Honduras, ambos pueden ser encontrados en algunos de los bosques latifoliados y mixtos que aún quedan en la vertiente Atlántica y la región Moskitia. La segunda población más grande, de ambas especies, se encuentra en el bloque de bosque semicontinuo de la Sierra Nombre de Dios entre los departamentos de Atlántida y Yoro (Medellín et. al 2002, McCann 2015). La información disponible sobre su ecología en general es

muy limitada, con una fuerte necesidad de investigación. En especial dentro del Parque Nacional Nombre de Dios (PNND). La evidencia científica dentro del Parque, era inexistente ya que ninguna investigación había sido realizada en este en particular. Este proyecto nace de la necesidad de evaluar, el estado de conservación del Danto y el Jaguar en el PNND. Su finalidad es la de servir como plataforma para comenzar los esfuerzos de conservación hacia estas especies en la región, difundir el conocimiento y promover la conciencia sobre sus importancias ecológicas para las comunidades locales.

El PNND se encuentra en la zona central de la Sierra Nombre de Dios en los municipios de La Ceiba y Jutiapa en el Departamento de Atlántida. La topografía del terreno es irregular, con elevaciones abruptas comprendidas entre 0 a 1725 msnm, lo que ha impedido que la agricultura de paso a invasiones a las zonas más elevadas (FUPNAND/ICF 2012). El parque se subdividió en 72 cuadrículas de 2,5 Km2 cada uno, teniendo en cuenta la única estimación conocida de la densidad Tapir en Honduras (McCann et al., 2012).

El trabajo de campo se realizó durante Enero a Junio del 2015, visitando, las cuadrículas seleccionadas, a través de zonas con paisaje humano y bosques primarios o secundarios. Se seleccionaron métodos no invasivos para obtener datos ecológicos generales del Danto y el Jaguar como el uso de trampas cámaras durante 45 a 50 días por estación, y la geo-referenciación con GPS de huellas, letrinas (excremento) o cualquier rastro evidente de estas especies. De esta manera, obtener el análisis de ocupación territorial y evaluar la distribución potencial de estas especies en el Parque, así como, información básica sobre su ecología: uso de hábitat, abundancia, y el efecto en ellos de variables como elevación, cobertura forestal, presencia del ser humano, distancia a carreteras y asentamientos humanos o la combinación de cualquiera de estas por medio de análisis de regresión logística utilizando el programa "R". Se obtuvo la composición preliminar de la dieta mediante la identificación de las plantas que tuvieran cualquier signo de forrajeo u otras pruebas de que un tapir estuvo comiendo en ese lugar. La identificación de los Jaguares se obtuvo a través de las fotografías de trampas cámara utilizando el patrón de sus manchas único para cada individuo (Silver 2004). Para ambas especies se realizaron entrevistas no formales a personas con conocimientos amplios del bosque para determinar la presencia de estas en algunos sitios de interés y/o de difícil acceso.

En total se muestrearon 42 cuadrículas, con trampas cámara (36) o recorridos (seis) para búsqueda de rastros y evidencias de ambas especies. Se obtuvo un esfuerzo acumulado de muestreo con trampas cámara de 1737 Noches Cámara (NC). En el caso de danto se obtuvieron tres fotocapturas de, al menos, una o dos hembras y un macho, así como huellas y letrinas, todas localizadas en los sitios más elevados y remotos del Parque. Se logró identificar al menos tres especies de plantas forrajeadas por tapires que son *Psychotria sp., Calatola sp.* y *Ojoya sp.* Se juntó toda la información de detección para determinar qué variable(s) están) afectando la presencia del tapir en el Parque; siendo la combinación de relación de la presencia o indicios de personas (cazadores ilegales) con la elevación (acceso) de la cuadrícula lo que más influye a la presencia de tapires

Foto: Grupo Tapir

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List all the sources that you used, highlighting the most important ones. Also include the publications and communication outputs from the project as well as papers being prepared for publication by project members.

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Address list and web links

An annotated list of useful names, addresses and websites
https://www.facebook.com/TapirHonduras/?ref=bookmarks

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List where copies of the report have been distributed for reference by future project leaders and others, and where the report can be bought (if relevant).

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Fundación para la Protección y Conservación del Parque Nacional Nombre de Dios (FUPNAND)
Instituto Hondureño de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (ICF)
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