

## **Andean Tapir Fund Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2007 (July) to 2008 (June)**

By ATF President: Craig C. Downer, P.O. Box 456, Minden, NV 89423;

[ccdowner@yahoo.com](mailto:ccdowner@yahoo.com) ([www.andeanapirfund.com](http://www.andeanapirfund.com))

For AFT Secretary Kathryn Thomas & ATF Treasurer Betty Kelly & other interested

Date: June 25, 2008 A.D.

### **Overview of Support Situation for ATF** (budgetary report is included at bottom):

Main support was from Alice G. Downer who passed away to the Higher Plane at 95 years of age on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, 2008.

Next most major support was from the CEPA conservation organization of France. This organization continues to feature ATF's northern Peruvian project to establish the Cerro Negro Nature Sanctuary in its magazine. ZGAP of Germany also continues with its significant support. The support of these two European organizations is aimed at the establishment of the Cerro Negro Nature Sanctuary in northern Peru. Significant support has come from many people who contributed in honor of my dear mother of this life.

### **Principal Activities of ATF:**

The main thrust of the Andean Tapir Fund this past year continues to be the establishment of the mountain tapir sanctuary in northern Peru. This has mainly involved the grassroots activism of Señor Alejandro Zegarra-Pezo of Sullana, Piura, Peru, and his coordinating resistance to open-pit mining projects, thoroughly described in earlier years' reports. As ATF's president, I have continued to foment support and publicity for the project through elaborate and near daily correspondence with a great variety of interested parties. This has included semi-annual reports to CEPA also sent to ZGAP. My main coordination, of course, has been with Zegarra and, next in order, other Peruvians or conservationists of other nationalities who are working to achieve the same end: repulsion of the large-scale mining projects in this remnant Andean forest and paramo that is of such vital importance for the survival of the mountain tapir and myriad other rare/endemic species, and that is of such vital importance to the continued agrarian way of life in northern Peru. This spectacular region depends upon the water from these natural mountain forests and paramos. This is especially true given the fact that all of Peru's glaciers, upon which most of its people depend for water, are projected to disappear within the next few decades (ENS newswire, National Geographic, etc.). At my request, Zegarra has been including this vital point in his public addresses on radio and at community meetings in the area of the newly proposed sanctuary. Zegarra's radio addresses continue to provide a knowledgeable, scientific basis for repelling the superficial claims of the pro-mining factions that everything is alright, that no major environmental or health harm will be done, etc. -- claims belied by the utter devastation and massive long-term chemical contamination that have been caused by the very same companies using the very same open-pit excavation and toxic heap-leach extraction of

metals from crushed ores throughout Peru, Bolivia, Chile, as elsewhere in the world, including here in Nevada!

Several massive demonstrations have taken place by a union of grassroots agrarian folk, especially those residing in the mining project area, as well as conservationists, affected downstream agrarian, rural and urban folk who also depend upon the food and water that ultimately depends upon the mountain forest and paramos. These demonstrations have been in Ayabaca, Sullana, department capital Piura, and of general extension blocking major arteries of communication throughout northern Peru. There have also been demonstrations in Peru's capital Lima. These have triggered some cruel suppressive tactics by some of the federal authorities and police, who support the mining. According to grassroots and local media sources, a considerable number of people have been killed and even more injured. This is largely covered up by the major media.

The major victory of the Andean Tapir Fund this year has been the referendum among a number of Piuran Cordillera communities on the issue of whether or not to allow the open-pit mining project to proceed. According to statutes of Peruvian national law, the local communities must approve of such projects for them to proceed. Well, the good news is that on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, this referendum took place in Ayabaca and the citizens of several communities came in to vote. These voters rejected the mining projects by ca. 95% in favor of conservation of forests and paramos, water sources, mountain tapirs and other endangered and endemic species and the wildlife ecosystem in general (see enclosed ENS article on referendum).

This victory has given substantial validity to the conservationist's anti-mining, pro sanctuary movement here and I am proud to announce that the Andean Tapir Fund, Alejandro Zegarra and I played a major role in this. Unfortunately the mining companies and their bureaucratic supporters, in some but not all federal offices and including Peruvian President Alan Garcia, are denying the validity of this referendum and continuing to press for the unwise mining invasion of the Piuran Cordillera. It was internationally monitored.

### **Future Plans**

This brings us to the future strategy of the Andean Tapir Fund in northern Peru. Following the democratic process, community leaders, Zegarra and I are now organizing a democratically convened "Asamblea General", or General Assembly of communities to the end of issuing a legal "declaratorio" by all the Andean communities establishing the Cerro Negro Nature Sanctuary. Zegarra is even now (6/25/08) up in the mountains organizing this important meeting and it is our hope that this will soon take place. Since the General Assembly is a centuries-old tradition and proceeds from the grassroots, its sanctuary declaration will be prove a crucial step toward protecting this last natural areas and vital watershed. This will be ast the departmental, northern Peruvian regional, and ultimately at the national level.

### **Other Achievements:**

Zegarra has also continued to advance on the prosecution of animal traffickers in mountain tapirs, alive or dead body parts. He reports have denounced several major traffickers before the police and achieved some major actions here.

I am encouraged that the mountain tapir treatise for the *Species Account* series published by the American Society of Mammalogists, of which I am a member, will be shortly published, after over 10 years in the making. My fellow co-authors Miguel Padilla and Dr. Robert Dowler have recently sent the final draft, which I immediately checked and sent back with corrections. It highlights many of my findings over the years about this little known species. This is a very thorough-going compendium on this endangered tapir and should do much to focus attention and support upon this beleaguered animal, very threatened by Global Warming, hunting, habitat destruction, and most of all by ignorance and apathy!

I continue to supply information to people all over the world who are interested in the mountain tapir and many of whom want to do something concrete to help save this precious species. As far as volunteers, right now I have to tell them that the region is too dangerous for them to go to northern Peru, but that hopefully in the near future when the conflict is resolved or at least much less dangerous, they can all come to help establish and get to know the marvelous new sanctuary. Concerning projects in Colombia, the article on the new distribution of the mountain tapir in Antioquia, mentioned in last years report (remember the old skull found in the natural history museum), has been submitted to *Vida Neotropical* of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and should soon be published. Our team from Medellin remains hopeful that funding for our joint project to search out possible surviving mountain tapirs in the southern region of Antioquia will soon result. Camilo Pineda also remains ready and willing to follow through on proposals earlier elaborated. He continues his work in Central Colombia.

#### **Needs of Andean Tapir Fund:**

Zegarra is requesting a new computer so he can do his work at home and not have to put up with the lack of privacy and the considerable expense at computer cafes. Perhaps a state of the art laptop with printer would suffice. He had informed me earlier that his mother Olga would be willing to pay for this monthly internet connection fee. Zegarra continues to request an economical 4WD vehicle as well as a mobile cellular phone and a digital camera.

Mainly it is more major monetary support and collaboration that are needed now. To organize the General Assembly will require major coordination and transportation efforts and a budget of \$20,000 would assure its success. This would include the preparation of the professional map of the proposed sanctuary, and necessary legal assistance.

Zegarra reports continued persecution, bribes, cajoling, and these failing, death threats against anti-mining conservationists including himself, and says he must be very circumspect concerning his comings and goings.

#### **Article in Preparation:**

I am pleased to announce that ENS has agreed to do another article on the northern Peru situation, including an expose on the violent repression by the pro-mining establishment and the prospects for the new sanctuary. We are amassing facts and proofs, including photos, for this article at present. As before, this will get the world out all over the world.

Enclosed please find copies of various reports to CEPA and ZGAP, the ENS publication on the referendum's successful conservationist result, etc.

**Final Note:**

*This report is dedicated in honor of my dear mother, Alice Gottschalk Downer, who -- along with my dear father Robert -- was always such a wonderful supporter of the Andean Tapir Fund and its efforts to know and to save the endangered mountain tapir together with its Andean forests and paramos. The faith and belief and support of this dear and compassionate lady remain an inspiration and are most appreciated – and these shall not be in vain!*

**Budgetary Accounting for Andean Tapir Fund, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, to June 30, 2008**

By Craig C. Downer, President ATF, P. O. Box 456, Minden, NV 89423 USA

For ATF Board of Directors as part of end of June, 2008, annual report and meeting.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Justification/Project</u>
7/2/07	\$3,000	Ernest Karell		N. Peru Project, Gen. Exp.
7/2/07	\$35	Kathryn Thomas		General Expenses
7/11/07			\$33.04	Internet, office expenses
“	\$35	Re-credit from bank		Adjust overcharge
8/8/07	\$47.75	Alistair Davie, London		N. Peru project
8/11/07			\$9.94	Internet monthly connect
9/12/07	\$300	Alice G. Downer		N. Peru project, sanctuary
“			\$1,000	Wire to A. Zegarra N. Peru proj.
9/14/07	\$500	Dr Jaime Cavelier, D.C.		N. Peru project, sanctuary
9/25/07			\$47.93	Gen. operat. Exp. Internet con.
10/02/07	\$2,804.08	CEPA, France		N. Peru project, estab. Sanct.
10/04/07	\$300	Ria Katz, Reno		General expenses
10/11/07	\$121	Slide Talk, Silver Springs, NV (several)		“
10/15/07	\$200	Alice G. Downer		General contribution
10/15/07	\$200	Jennifer Bullock, Reno		“
10/15/07			\$600	Medellin Col. proj. insurance
“			\$30	Wire charge Wells Fargo
10/17/07			\$21.19	Gen. monthly exp. Via MC
11/14/07			\$1,000	Wire to Zegarra, n Peru proj.
“			\$40	Wire fee W.F. bk.
11/20/07			\$11.99	Gen. Exp. Internet. MC

11/20/07				\$25	St. of NV ann. Filing fee
12/11/07				\$15.61	Gen. Exp. Internet. MC
12/29/07				\$4,000	Refund to Karell + survey
1/10/08				\$35	Ann. Memb. Am Soc Mam.
1/18/08				\$72	Dexlen, webpg. Ann. Fee
1/21/08				\$71.95	Gen. monthly exp. MC
1/22/08	\$500	Best Friends, Kanab UT			N. Peru project, sanctuary
1/23/08				\$500	Wire to Zeg. N. Peru proj.
1/23/08				\$30	Wiring fee Wells Fargo
2/19/08				\$9.95	AOL internet con. MC
3/22/08				\$9.95	"
4/15/08	\$200	Alice G. Downer			General contribution
"				\$29.94	Gen. Exp. Intern. MC
4/21/08	\$3,613.76	CEPA, France (2000 E) ZGAP (300 E)			N. Peru proj. sanct. Est.
"				\$10	bank charge for receiv. wire
4/23/08				\$1,500	Wire Zeg. N Peru Proj. sanc
"				\$30	bank wire charge
4/26/08				\$435.52	Equip repair, gen exp MC
6/5/08	\$145	Contrib in honor of Alice G. Downer (several)			General expenses projects
6/10/08	\$265	" " " " " " " " "			" " " " "
6/16/08	\$190	" " " " " " " " "			" " " " "
6/16/08				\$1,250	Wire to Zeg. N. Peru proj.
6/16/08				\$30	bank wiring fee
6/23/08				\$48.94	Gen. Op. exp. Mthly MC
6/24/08	\$25	" " " " (Barnard)			General expenses projects
<b>Totals: \$12,481.59</b>				<b>\$10,927.95</b>	

**IN KIND CONTRIBUTION: Use of home of dear mother Alice G. Downer as office for Andean Tapir Fund, electricity, telephone, heating, etc.: Estimated value at least \$7,000**

**GRANDE TOTAL SUPPORT INCLUDING IN KIND: \$19,481.59**

Current balance in ATF Wells Fargo Bank Account: \$1,784.70