

## **Andean Tapir Fund (ATF) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009 (July) to 2010 (June)**

By ATF President & Wildlife Ecologist Craig C. Downer, P.O. Box 456, Minden, NV 89423; [ccdowner@yahoo.com](mailto:ccdowner@yahoo.com) ([www.andeantapirfund.com](http://www.andeantapirfund.com)) cellular 775-901-2094.

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

Date June 28, 2010 (for Annual Meeting at 6 PM 6/29/10 at home of Secretary)

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

About equal sums over \$3,000 were donated to ATF from Alice G. Downer Trust and S. Summers. Next major support ca. \$2,000 was from ATF President Craig C. Downer. Another major support earmarked for the northern Peru mountain tapir sanctuary was the sum of \$500 from J. Bullock. Several other contributions were received. The sum total of donations was \$9,331.62 in money. In kind support in the form of home and car usage and many other aids including especially utilities and communications is valued at at least \$7,000. So total support can be estimated at \$16,331.62, which is about \$3,000 less than the Grande Total support for last Fiscal Year.

Support was divided among: (1) the northern Peruvian mountain tapir rescue and Cerro Negro nature sanctuary establishment; (2) the project in Colombia for the documentation of a newly registered occurrence of the mountain tapir in the northern part of Colombia's Western Andes and in general an educational and action-oriented campaign in the nation involving several professional and lay persons; and (3) support for all activities of ATF president from his home office base in Nevada. This has included major educational directive and coordinating activities mainly via the internet but also involving telephone conversations and trips taken to meetings, public presentations, etc. This support has finally resulted the long awaited Mountain Tapir Species Account being sent for publication (see below).

More major funding is urgently needed, especially to realize the sanctuary establishment in northern Peru, so if anyone has any ideas or contacts to follow up on, I would much appreciate these. Application for more support to an interested party in Germany has not yielded any support to date.

### **Principal Activities/Accomplishments of ATF**

- (1) N. Peru: Ongoing educational and coordinating activities toward the better protection of the mountain tapir and chiefly toward the establishment of the Cerro Negro Nature Sanctuary. Support wired to conservationist Alejandro Zegarraz-Pezo has resulted in continued vigorous resistance by local communities and conservationists to the takeover of the region by large open-pit mining companies. In relation to this, a particularly dramatic event occurred on November 1, 2009, in the resistance movement, which is subject the enclosed article by Alejandro Zegarraz Pezo. This I translated from the Spanish with certain contributions and it

was published on the world-wide-web by Environment News Service on November 13, 2009. I refer you to the article: "INSIGHTS: Death at Dawn in a Peruvian Mining Camp" for further details. Please do not associate the Andean Tapir Fund with this violent action. The reprisals that have taken place subsequent to the event have been even more horrifying as national police crack downs have resulted in numerous unfair captures, jailing, torturing and even several documented killings of people who have been part of the anti-mining resistance. Assassinations have also occurred, including of elected officials such as one mayor of a significantly sizeable Andean town. Sr. Zegarra has sent me much documentation and photographic evidence of the latter, including documented severe beatings and even cadavers, which I will spare the readers of this report. Please contact me if you want to see these. I have sent them on to ENS for publication earlier this year, without receiving a response. In general, Sr. Zegarra continues his dedicated conservation activities aimed at safeguarding the mountain tapir population and their habitat and involving the same types of public educational activities as in previous years, e.g. writing, speaking, radio appearances, meetings. The violent and unfair reprisals that have followed the attacks on the mining camps have caused Sr. Zegarra and the conservationists and local citizens to be much more careful, as many have suffered terrible persecutions, been imprisoned and even lost their lives. Sincere and heartfelt homage I pay to these true heroes of conscience in the war to save the future life of this planet we share with myriad other kinds and upon whose restoration in freedom we all, human or non, depend. Needless to say, any donation, however big or small, would be greatly appreciated to keep this valiant project going forth. Together we are staving off ecological disaster and the Andean Tapir Fund counts as a vital and indispensable part of this life-saving movement. The basic proposal I prepared for the Mohamed Bin Zayed Foundation can still be used to submit to funding organizations. Please remember that the value of saving the Andean forests and paramos is also critical for the future of the life-support ecosystem as vital sources of water, especially in this day and age of Global Warming. The years that remain for the Andean glaciers are very shortly numbered are quite shortly numbered! With this report, I include a copy of my published article: "Cerro Negro: An Important Mountain Tapir Conservation Area in the Piuran Andes, Piura and Cajamarca states, NW Peru" that was published in the June, 2009, *Tapir Conservation* journal published by the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group.

- (2) ATF's project in Colombia has produced some very encouraging achievements. These involve a vigorous outreach to local communities in the form of public education and action-oriented projects aimed at preserving mountain tapirs and their cloud forest and paramo habitat. Also working with biologists at the University of Medellin in Antioquia, I am proud to announce the accepted publication of the northernmost register of the mountain tapir in the prestigious *Mastozoologia Neotropical* journal based in Mendoza, Argentina. This is in Spanish with an English abstract and is enclosed for your perusal and as a record of ATF's significant accomplishments. This article should result in support for a major project to search out a possible remnant population of mountain tapirs in

- the northern part of Colombia's Western Andes and, depending on the results of this, to either promote the restoration of this population or to accomplish the reintroduction of the species in or around a region where it has now been documented to occur in 1911 (see enclosed article). The Colombian biologists are keen to involve the Andean Tapir Fund in this future project, and I will be conferring with them on this great opportunity for restoring the species.
- (3) In addition to the usual dissemination of information on the mountain tapirs and the promotion of mountain-tapir-saving actions in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, as already mentioned, I am proud to announce that the Mountain Tapir Species Account, over a dozen years in preparation, has just gone to the publisher. I am the co-author of this thoroughgoing scientific work and have spent many hours giving original input to and perfecting this major contribution to our knowledge about the Andean Tapir. I have just authorized a signing off of release for this publication and should shortly have copies in hand. This should greatly bolster world-wide interest and conservation support for the species and its habitat, especially among professions. Hopefully this will result in greater support for the Andean Tapir Fund and its projects. If you know of some organization or individual who is interested in supporting ATF and wants to read this publication, please contact me immediately. Already the organization In Defense of Animals (CEO Anand Ramanathan) has indicated such an interest. Any initiative you would like to take for gaining greater support would be greatly appreciated. The telephone of IDA is 508-364-6802 in San Rafael, California.

### **Future Plans and Goals:**

- (1) N. Peru: ATF still plans to realize the General Assembly of communities in the Piuran Andes. Its aim will be to democratically establish the Cerro Negro Nature Sanctuary and, thus, preserve and restore the endangered mountain tapir and its critical habitat in northern Peru. This will redound in the conservation of many rare/endangered/endemic species of flora and fauna tied to the Andean Tapir and that have co-evolved for thousands of generations – millions of years -- along with the prodigious uplifting of the awesome Andes! With greater national and international attention and appreciation of this special and even magical part of the world, we are sure to produce a win-win for life here. Toward this vital role we must persist, for doing so will stand the crucial test of time and produce the results so long sought.
- (2) Colombia: Realize search for mountain tapir in northern part of Western Andes and based on results, foment preservation and/or restoration programs for the mountain tapir. Continue to support educational and conservation projects also in other branches of the Andes, i.e. Central and Eastern cordilleras, by working with conservation team led by Conservationist Camilo Pineda of Genova, Quindio state (Central Cordillera).
- (3) In general, continue to promote Andean Tapir conservation through public education and direction/advice for projects in the northern Andes and continue to collaborate with the IUCN Species Survival Commission Tapir Specialist Group, of which I am a longstanding and founding member. Continue to work to wean

people from grossly blind tradition and lifestyles, consumerist habits, that are, in fact, doing in the life of the mountain tapir, the life of its cloud forest and paramo habitats, regional water supplies, and, in general, the life of planet Earth. Each species and each individual – has an indispensable role to play in that great unfolding upon which we all depend. So let us all do our unique part, fulfill our assigned role!

**Needs of Andean Tapir Fund:**

As in previous years, there is a great need for much more major support to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars rather than donation of only a few thousand or in the hundreds of dollars. The latter has been crucial in keeping the Andean Tapir Fund alive and for these I am very grateful, but after 14 years of existence and with all its accomplishments achieved on a mere shoestring of support, isn't it high time for a greater level of support so that the many projects that the Andean Tapir Fund has kept alive all these years may attain true fruition?! Though I know that motivation, clarity and vision stand head-over-shoulders over mere monetary considerations and that these must not become ends in themselves, still ATF could do with a higher degree of financial support. The salvation of the endangered mountain tapir in the wild together with its precious and life-preserving and restoring Andean forest and paramo will be greatly bolstered by the latter. Again, anything anyone can do to help will be greatly appreciated, especially by our ancient, life-preserving co-denizens of planet Earth: the mountain tapirs.

Specifically ATF needs two up-to-date lap top computers, preferably Apple Mac's, one for the President and one for A. Zegarra, a better cellular phone for the president and an economical 4WD like a Suzuki Samurai for the n. Peru project. An up-to-date digital camera with zoom lens is also needed for documentation in the n. Peru project (perhaps as a donation). Please stress that all contributions to the ATF are tax deductible since it is a non-profit, 501 c 3 organization.

Note aside: As earlier indicated, I am considering expanding the charter mandate of ATF to include the preservation of all the Order Perissodactyla (the odd-toed ungulate herbivores) and their habitats, meaning in the wild, and especially including, of course, the wild horses and burros in the U.S. as members of the Horse Family, an effort that has occupied my major time since September. I will keep you informed here.

**Budget for Andean Tapir Fund, July, 2009, through June, 2010**

**Beginning ATF Wells Fargo Balance as of July 1, 2009: \$586.94**

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Donation/Source</u> | <u>Expenditure/Description of Services/Activities</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|---|
| 7/15/09     | \$500 Jennifer Bullock |   |
| 7/16/09     |                        | \$500 Wire to n. Peru mtn. tapir/sanctuary project    |
| ditto       |                        | \$30 Wiring fee Wells Fargo Bank                      |
| 7/29/09     |                        | \$50.66 Pay ATF Master Card, office expenses          |
| 8/24/09     | \$100 Lloyd Whitley    |   |

|          |                               |                |  |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
|          | Cox, Jr. Living Trust         |                |  |
| Ditto    |                               | \$44.41 Ditto, | Ink for printer                              |
| 9/23/09  | \$150 Barbara Warner          |                |  |
| 10/15/09 | \$50 Geraldine H. Olson       |                |  |
| 10/22/09 | \$160 Alice G. Downer Trust   |                |  |
| Ditto    |                               | \$400          | Wire to n. Peru mtn. tapir/sanctuary project |
| Ditto    |                               | \$10           | Wiring fee Wells Fargo Bank                  |
| 10/23/09 | \$160 Craig C. Downer         |                |  |
| Ditto    |                               | \$79.38        | Pay ATF Master Card, office, travel exp.     |
| 11/02/09 | \$3,000 Alice G. Downer Trust |                |  |
| 11/03/09 |                               | \$500          | Wire to Colombia, mtn. tapir proj. support.  |
| Ditto    |                               | \$10           | Wiring fee Wells Fargo Bank                  |
| 11/06/09 |                               | \$1,000        | Wire to Colombia, mtn tapir proj supp.       |
| Ditto    |                               | \$10           | Wiring fee Wells Fargo Bank                  |
| 11/20/09 |                               | \$45.08        | ATF office heating                           |
| Ditto    |                               | \$65.63        | ATF office electricity                       |
| Ditto    |                               | \$195.38       | Am Ex ATF gas for travel, office supp.       |
| Ditto    |                               | \$67.92        | Round trip travel                            |
| 11/30/09 |                               | \$81.78        | ATF Master Card for cell ph, office supp     |
| 12/01/09 |                               | \$21.78        | Telephone, public education                  |
| 12/06/09 |                               | \$500          | Promote film, Fractured Atlas                |
| 12/09/09 | \$3,500 S. Summers            |                |  |
| 12/14/09 |                               | \$600          | Wire to n. Peru mtn. tapir/sanctuary project |
| Ditto    |                               | \$10           | Wiring fee Wells Fargo Bank                  |
| 12/22/09 |                               | \$84.92        | Office heating                               |
| Ditto    |                               | \$92.49        | Office electricity                           |
| Ditto    |                               | \$37.13        | Office utilities, services                   |
| Ditto    |                               | \$45           | Renew American Society of Mammalogists       |
| Ditto    |                               | \$56           | Renewal P.O. Box 456, Minden, NV 89423       |
| 01/27/10 |                               | \$126.10       | Office internet, phone service               |
| Ditto    |                               | \$190.93       | Heating office                               |
| Ditto    |                               | \$186.73       | Travel & office expenses                     |
| Ditto    | \$1,711.62 Craig C. Downer    |                |  |
| Ditto    |                               | \$1,179.45     | Travel, hotel, meals DC meeting              |
| Ditto    |                               | \$54.90        | ATF office utilities                         |
| 02/22/10 |                               | \$195.98       | ATF MC, copy, office. Travel exp.            |
| 03/05/10 |                               | \$375.82       | Office, travel, communications exp.          |
| 03/08/10 |                               | \$72           | Annual ATF website fee, Dexlen, Inc.         |
| 03/30/10 |                               | \$247.10       | Public educ., office, travel                 |
| Ditto    |                               | \$148.28       | ATF WF MC, Off. Trav. Cell.                  |
| 04/02/10 |                               | \$562.89       | Public education expenses                    |
| 04/28/10 |                               | \$62.73        | ATF WF MC, Off. Cell. Commun.                |
| Ditto    |                               | \$101.48       | Travel, hotel expenses                       |
| 06/01/10 |                               | \$80.40        | ATF WF MC, Off. Cell. Trav.                  |
| 06/18/10 |                               | \$400          | Wire to n. Peru mtn. tapir/sanctuary project |

|               |                           |                                  |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ditto         |                           | \$20 Wiring fee Wells Fargo Bank |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>\$9,331.62 (input)</b> | <b>\$8,542.35 (outgo)</b>        |

**Ending Balance** Andean Tapir Fund Wells Fargo Account: **\$474.78**

**In Kind** contributions: Use of home for office, cars of president, etc., at least: **\$7,000**

**Total Money & In Kind Support for Andean Tapir Fund: \$16,331.62.**