

Endorsed Project of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Tapir Specialist Group 2011
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Creation of Cerro Negro Mountain Tapir Nature Sanctuary, Peru
www.andentapirfund.com

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A nature sanctuary in NW Peru's Piuran Cordillera (including *de Las Lagunillas*) would be created in an area of vital importance to Peru's remaining endangered mountain tapirs (*Tapirus pinchaque*). This sanctuary would link occupied mountain tapir habitat in Peru's existing Tabaconas-Namballe National Sanctuary with similar habitat in Ecuador, thus preventing population fragmentation through the establishment of a biological corridor. The approximate size of this projected sanctuary is 60,000 hectares [and may be considerably more]. The following steps would be taken to achieve this goal:

- (1) Professional preparation of a map delineating the precise boundaries of the new sanctuary based on existing montane forests and paramos habitat and documenting present distribution of the mountain tapir, habitat contiguity, land ownership and usage, and political jurisdiction. This map would include several overlays, including for mountain tapir presence, vegetation type, and land tenancy;
- (2) The preparation of descriptive lists of species found in the proposed sanctuary and their conservation status (already largely done);
- (3) The preparation of a thorough-going professional justification for the new sanctuary to include items (1) and (2) above and additionally the legal, ecological and conservation bases for its creation. The proposed sanctuary is located at the southern limit of the Northern Andean Center of Endemism and just to the north of the Huancabamba Depression of the Andes, a significant North/South barrier to many species and an area of high species endemism in its own right;
- (4) The professional presentation of this proposal would be made to all appropriate government agencies from the municipal and provincial to the departmental to the national levels and in coordination with all relevant natural resource agencies, such as Peru's national INRENA, and to conservation organizations, such as WWF-Peru, and most immediately before a General Assembly of native communities who would exercise their democratic rights to consider and possibly declare the sanctuary, knowing its mutually agreed-upon boundaries and the rules that apply to its protection;
- (5) Contingent upon the sanctuary's legal creation, the Andean Tapir Fund would actively pursue the sanctuary's implementation through budgetary allocations, public education, the establishment of sanctuary boundaries, the promotion of

alternative lifestyles, active in-field and legal vigilance of ecosystems/species present, scientific study and monitoring of wildlife species, including especially the mountain tapir, among other activities. An official referendum by communities in September of 2007 rejected an open-pit consortium of mining projects that threatens the cloud forests and paramos of this region – by 95% of the vote.

Project Status: On-going since 2000.

Project Timeframe: From time of reception of funds through one year, hopefully June or July 2011 + one year.

Project Annual Budget: US \$20,000 [Details available upon request.]