

NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY

IMPACT



Costa
Rica **wildlife**
Foundation

| APRIL • 2023

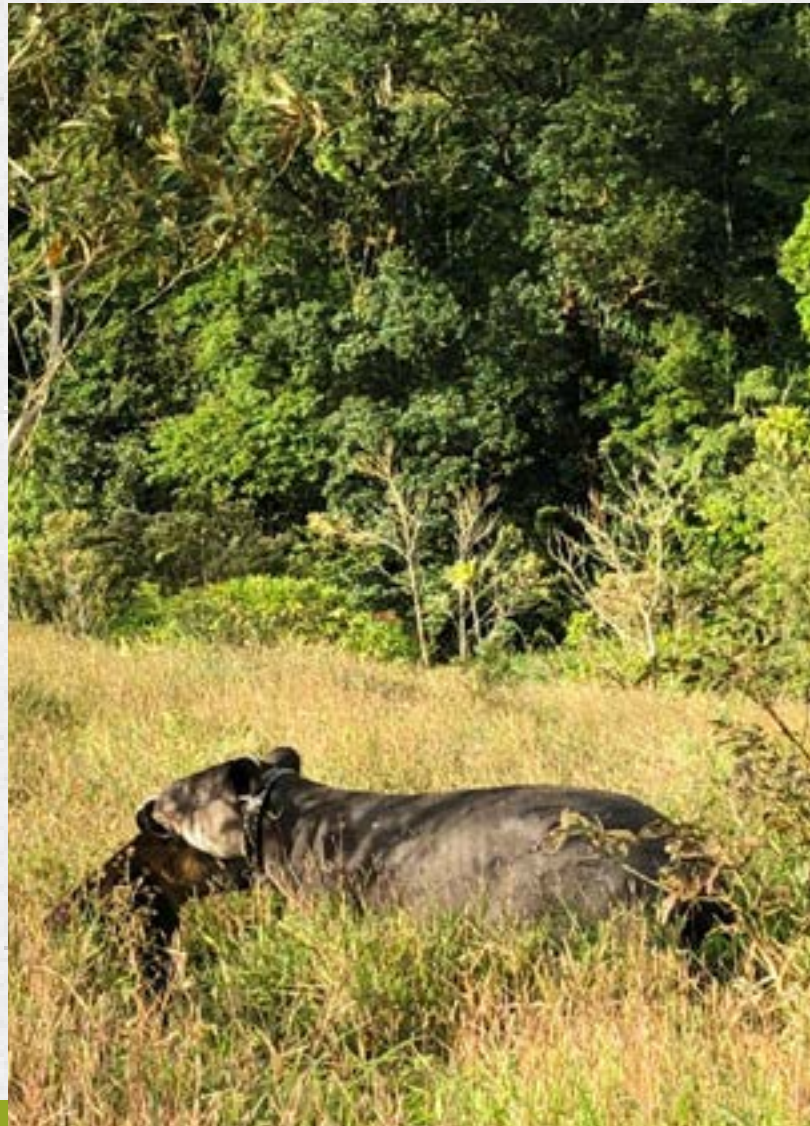
MONTHLY IMPACT NEWSLETTER

CRWF BOOTS IN THE GROUND

The research team led by Nai recovered many camera traps from around the Tenorio Miravalles Biological Corridor. The data obtained from the camera traps provided valuable information regarding the presence of tapirs in various locations throughout the corridor. This information is utilized to guide conservation and coexistence efforts. Additionally, Dr. Jorge Rojas has been collecting samples of tapir feces for ongoing DNA testing.

APRIL WAS A BUSY AND EXCITING MONTH FOR FIELD WORK!

A methodology for extracting high-quality DNA from tapir biological samples is currently being tested in collaboration with Juan Carlos Delgado, a master's student at Laboratorio Genética de la Conservación in the University of Costa Rica. Once a satisfactory methodology is achieved, the goal is to analyze genetic diversity and compare it between tapir populations in different regions of the country.



Dr. Jorge captured a remarkable image of a mother tapir and her adorable baby.

Conservation of Holdridge's Toad



The Tlaloc team has also been busy in the field, with particular efforts on conservation of Holdridge's toad *Incilius holdridgei* in Braulio Carrillo National Park. This species was thought to be extinct until its rediscovery by herpetologist Juan Abarca, who is working closely with Tlaloc Conservation on establishing a conservation action plan.

This month's field work involved camera trap placement to monitor a spawning pool and the creation of artificial spawning pools to promote reproduction. Due to the species spending most of its life underground, the current mating season is a key window for observation and conservation actions.

Jicaro Danto restoration at Tapir Valley has greatly advanced this month with the planting of 150 new trees! Additionally, the first seeds of the other tree species that will be used in the restoration efforts were collected. These species will also be cultivated in the greenhouse and planted alongside Jicaro Danto specimens to support their health by providing benefits such as shade and soil improvement.

“One of the most gratifying moments for me this month was observing Holdridge's Toad for the first time. This critically endangered species is an example of resilience. It was believed to be extinct, but thanks to Juan Abarca, a population was found”.

– Valeria Aspinall



LEADING THE WAY TO COEXISTENCE IN HAND WITH THE COMMUNITY



The Oncilla team has been taking action for coexistence with farmers in Heradura and San Gerardo. Currently, they are working on a project to provide chicken coops for rural families. This month the final selection of the farms participating in the project was made, and their properties were visited. This is one of many ways in which CRWF acts for coexistence and prioritizes the wellbeing of communities impacted by conflict with wildlife.

“In the chicken coops project, we have observed the relationships that women have with chicken ownership. The women and their chickens have taught us that to understand the ecology of a territory, we must learn its culture, since each tree that grows and each animal that breathes is the product of a historical relationship between people and their landscapes”.

– Fabian Peñaranda



COLLABORATION TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

All the conservation projects have valuable collaborators that advance their conservation initiatives, such as master's students conducting thesis research. This month, exciting progress was made on two projects. Michiel van Noppen concluded his field work collecting samples of tapir feces to compare the diet habits of tapirs eating Jicaro Danto and Guava fruits in different seasons.

Génesis Naranjo and Tlaloc completed the planning and preparations for her research project characterizing the environmental variables of the Tapir Valley wetland and the habitat selection of *Tlalocohyla celeste*, which will take place over the next few months and provide valuable information to future conservation efforts for the species.

EDUCATION FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

In Barra del Colorado, 17 students between the ages of 15 and 18 began the program Club Manatee at their local school. For the past couple years, integrating youth into conservation efforts for the manatees has been a key priority, and it is exciting to finally see it happen! Sea Cow Conservation hopes that these students can be future conservation leaders and promote coexistence between their community and the manatee population.



CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen science initiatives are a high priority at CRWF because leadership from local communities is essential for the success of conservation. This month Nai Conservation collaborated with the community group Vida Entre Volcanes to conduct a tapir count for World Tapir Day. The activity involved groups surveying various regions of the Tenorio Miravalles Biological Corridor for signs of tapir presence, such as tracks and feces.

World Tapir Day

More than 35 people participated and 89 observations of tapir presence recorded! Overall, the event was a big success and is planned to be repeated in September for the tapir festival with the goal of establishing it as an ongoing activity conducted twice per year during dry and rainy season.

“The 1st Tapir Count in the CBTM was an event where the interest and commitment of the communities was seen. It was very motivating to see the effort of the people to contribute to the care and monitoring of the tapirs”.

– Dr. Jorge Rojas



COMMUNICATION FOR CONSERVATION

As a part of the Tlaloc program's social outreach initiatives, engaging talks were organized with officials from the Ministry of Environment and tourists alike. The objective behind these talks was to emphasize the utmost significance of conserving amphibian species. Through such activities, we cultivated a stronger connection with Braulio Carrillo National Park and expanded the scope of our amphibian program to encompass a broader range of endangered species.

The team is excited to share this observation with the herpetology community to contribute to a more accurate understanding of the habitat range of this species.



The SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) team has been working on communication within communities to address environmental crimes. Meetings were held to discuss the topic among the patrol group, public police force, and neighboring farmers. The product of these activities was the creation of a network of organized farmers in the Tenorio-Miravalles area to monitor the area for cases of environmental crimes or suspicious activities.

Additionally, a plan was made to place the same artistically designed signs on all the participating farms to spread awareness of the patrolling organization and discourage perpetrators of environmental crimes.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR YOUTUBE CHANEL?

You can learn about our conservation actions in:



<https://www.youtube.com/@crwildlife>

CR WILDLIFE

Work to ensure the prevalence of wildlife and its habitat through interdisciplinary and community-based stable conservation initiatives that promote coexistence and improve decision-making.

BE PART OF THE ACTION!

Contact us to learn how to participate and support CRWF's conservation actions accross Costa Rica.



<http://costaricawildlife.org/donate>



TLALOC

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