

Turning angles along recent tapir trails were used to assess tapir foraging behaviour, as well as a comparison of the frequency of encounter for each resource between tapir trails and randomly placed trails. Tapirs fed mainly on fleshy fruits during the wet season in all habitats, particularly palm fruits. Preferred fruits were mainly either palms or from the Moraceae and Sapotaceae families.

During the wet season lowland tapirs fed mainly on abundant fleshy fruits across all four habitat types. However, this study recognizes that this pattern might shift to a more folivorous diet during the fruit scarce dry season.

**Pamela Avila**

E-mail: [wcsmadidi@zuper.net](mailto:wcsmadidi@zuper.net)

## Lowland Tapir Activity Patterns and Capture Frequencies in Lowland Moist Tropical Forest

By Rob Wallace, Guido Ayala and Humberto Gomez  
(Wildlife Conservation Society — Bolivia)

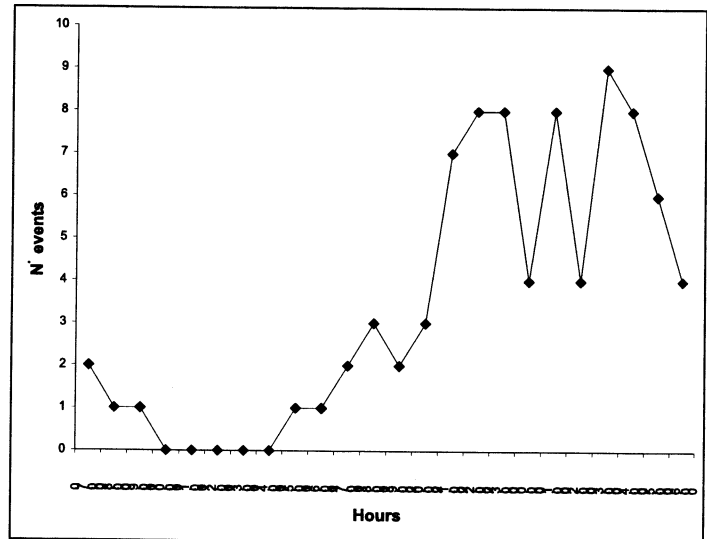
As part of the Northwestern Bolivian Andes Landscape Conservation Programme we conducted camera-trapping efforts in 2001 and 2002 designed for jaguar abundance and density estimates in the Tuichi and Hondo valleys of the Madidi National Park and Natural Area of Integrated Management. A total of 92 lowland tapir photographic capture events were obtained across two separate campaigns. These took place in August-October 2001 in a 47 km<sup>2</sup> study area in the Tuichi valley and July-August in a 146 km<sup>2</sup> study area spanning both the Tuichi and Hondo valleys.

We present preliminary data from camera trapping efforts and express the results as standard capture frequencies (number of captures per 1000 trap nights) for tapirs, comparing these with the other solitary ungulate in the area (see Table 1). We formally recognize the problem that these traps were set to target a species that might be expected to be actively avoided by tropical ungulates. According to these data lowland tapirs appear to be almost as commonly encountered as the red brocket deer (*Mazama americana*), although the fact that many camera traps were set along the beaches of forest streams and rivers probably leads to an inflated value for tapirs. In subsequent analyses we will compare only forest habitats.

**Table 1.** Camera trap capture frequencies for tropical ungulates in the Tuichi and Hondo valleys, Bolivia.

Species	Events	Capture Frequency
Lowland Tapir ( <i>Tapirus terrestris</i> )	92	7
Red Brocket Deer ( <i>Mazama americana</i> )	130	9.9

In addition, we present data on activity patterns - given that the date and time of each photographic event was recorded by camera traps (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Activity Patterns for Lowland Tapir in the Tuichi and Hondo valleys, Bolivia.

Tapirs are clearly nocturnal animals in the Tuichi and Hondo valleys, although some diurnal activity is evident. Given that pre-1996 intensive hunting associated with logging activities in the area and current levels of ecotourism may still be influencing tapir activity patterns, similar studies in more remote areas may reveal more diurnal activity patterns. Nevertheless, these results have major implications for future population studies on lowland tapir suggesting that apart from relatively low natural abundance considerations, diurnal line transects may not be efficient at capturing primarily nocturnal animals.

**Robert B. Wallace**

E-mail: [wcsmadidi@zuper.net](mailto:wcsmadidi@zuper.net)