

the previous legislation, which implied the removal of local residents. Quite to the contrary, the new law will promote their active participation in the management of the reserve, protect their access to the natural resources, and make them principal partners in this conservation endeavor.

While fishing and timber production within the reserve is of crucial importance to local residents and regional markets, the maze of lakes, channels and forests in this inland delta in the upper Amazon is also home to a wide range of endangered or endemic species of wildlife. These include a large number of aquatic birds, the Brazilian manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), the giant Amazon river otter (*Pteroneura brasiliensis*), the black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), tapirs (*Tapirus brasiliensis*), and jaguars (*Panthera onca*), and the Reserve covers the entire known geographic ranges of the blackish squirrel monkey (*Saimiri vanzolinii*), and the white-faced uakari (*Cacajao calvus calvus*). The conservation value of Mamirauá's biodiversity and its importance for studying the intricate aspects of *várzea* ecology have resulted in the area being included in the Ramsar list of Internationally Important Wetlands, and also its proposal as a future Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program.

The Mamirauá Project has concentrated its efforts so far in the eastern fifth of the reserve, and has supported local initiatives to protect fishery resources, vital to the lifestyle of the local people (*caboclos*) in the flooded *várzea* forests. In addition to helping residents organize the enforcement of regulations regarding the judicious use of natural resources, the project has developed a wide range of socioeconomic and ecological studies aimed at understanding the workings of this unique ecosystem and developing guidelines for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use aimed at improving the living standards and reducing the impact of subsistence and small scale commercial activities in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Results of the first four years of the project include a wide variety of research projects carried out by more than 80 Brazilian and foreign researchers in anthropology, epidemiology, fisheries management and ecology, terrestrial ecology, agroforestry, soils, and limnology, among other fields. Extension efforts have supported the development of environmental education in local schools, participation of local communities in policy formulation and resource protection, and increasing interest in agroforestry and traditional agricultural techniques.

The Project has been coordinated since its inception by Dr. José Márcio Ayres of the Sociedade Civil Mamirauá

and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Institutional agreements have been signed with both state and national authorities, including the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), the Brazil Science Council (CNPq), and the Institute for Protection of the Amazon Environment (IPAAM). Financial support has come from a wide range of organizations, including the British Overseas Development Administration (ODA), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the European Union (EU), and the Brazil Science Council (CNPq).

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NEW FOUNDATION DEDICATED TO SUPPORT FOR PRIMATE CONSERVATION

We are very pleased to announce the creation of the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation, a new charitable foundation dedicated exclusively to primate conservation. This foundation was created by the late Margot Marsh of La Jolla, California, a long-time supporter of a wide variety of primate research and conservation efforts, who died in May 1995.

I had the great privilege of knowing Margot Marsh for 13 years, and was able to enjoy her company on various trips, including one to Madagascar to see lemurs and another to Kenya and Rwanda to see mountain gorillas and some of savanna-dwelling species of Kenya's Masai Mara Reserve. Margot was extremely knowledgeable about primates and human evolution, not to mention many other aspects of biodiversity, and was a great friend and supporter of many of our organizations. We should all be honored that she saw fit not only to remember us in her will, but also to ensure that the kinds of projects that she supported during her life would continue receiving support in the future.

The Primate Specialist Group was specifically mentioned in Margot's will, as were some of our newsletters, journals and action plans, so she clearly recognized the

value of our group and the critical role that it plays in global primate conservation activities. In recognition of this, some of the first projects supported by the Foundation have been aimed at ensuring the continuity of publications such as *Neotropical Primates*. We are extremely grateful to this wonderful friend, and will miss her all very much.

The mission of the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation is straightforward: "To contribute to global biodiversity conservation by providing strategically targeted, catalytic support for the conservation of endangered nonhuman primates and their natural habitats".

Project guidelines are as follows, with preference being given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics: 1) Projects focusing on endangered nonhuman primates living in their natural habitats; 2) primate projects being conducted in areas of high overall biodiversity and under great threat (e.g., "threatened hotspots", "megadiversity countries") to ensure maximum multiplier effect for each project; 3) projects being carried out by nationals from the tropical countries to increase local capacity for implementing biodiversity conservation; 4) projects that strengthen international networks of field-based primate specialists and enhance their capacity to be successful conservationists; and 5) projects that result in publication of information on endangered primate species in a format that is useful both to experts and the general public.

Projects should contribute to at least one, and preferably more, of the following themes: 1) Enhancement of scientific understanding/knowledge of the target species/ecosystem; 2) improved protection of a key species, habitat, or reserved area; 3) demonstration of *economic* benefit achieved through conservation of a species and its habitat, as compared to loss thereof; 4) increased public awareness or educational impact resulting from the project in question; and 5) improved local capacity to carry out future conservation efforts through training or practical experience obtained through project participation.

The Board of Directors of the Margot Marsh Foundation consists of three members, and an Advisory Group has also been created with an additional three members, all of them selected on the basis of their past relationship with, and knowledge of the interests of, Margot Marsh. I currently serve as President of the Board of Directors, and inquiries about how to apply for support from the foundation can be sent to me at the address below.

Russell A. Mittermeier, Margot Marsh Biodiversity

Foundation, 432 Walker Road, Great Falls, Virginia 22066, USA. Fax: + 1 703 759 6879.

INTERNATIONAL STUDBOOKS AND REGISTERS

An international studbook for the pied tamarin, *Saguinus bicolor bicolor*, has been endorsed by the World Zoo Organization (IUDZG) and the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The studbook keeper is Dr. Andrew J. Baker, Curator of Primates and Small Animals, Philadelphia Zoological Garden, 3400 West Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104-1196, USA. Dr. William Langbauer Jr., also of the Philadelphia Zoological Garden, has taken over as studbook keeper of the cotton-top tamarin, *Saguinus oedipus*. Reported in *CBSG News*, December 1995, 6(1):15.

PADRÕES DE DISTRIBUIÇÃO DA BIODIVERSIDADE DA MATA ATLÂNTICA DO SUL E SUDESTE BRASILEIRO

A Conservation International do Brasil, Fundação Biodiversitas, Fundação SOS Mata Atlântica e Fundação André Tosello/Base de Dados Tropicais, promoveram nos dias 23 e 24 de maio, o *Workshop* "Padrões de Distribuição da Biodiversidade da Mata Atlântica do Sul e Sudeste Brasileiro", em Campinas, São Paulo. O encontro é parte de uma série de *Workshops* para a definição de áreas prioritárias para a conservação dos biomas brasileiros.

A reunião de Campinas teve dois objetivos principais: apresentar e discutir com os especialistas em Mata Atlântica das regiões sul e sudeste a metodologia e as ferramentas utilizadas para realizar diagnósticos de áreas prioritárias para conservação sob a ótica regional; e identificar as principais subunidades biogeográficas e seus problemas de conservação. Para tal, reuniram-se cerca de 40 especialistas provenientes de instituições acadêmicas, organizações não-governamentais ambientalistas, órgãos estaduais e federais de meio ambiente, e pesquisadores com larga experiência sobre a Mata Atlântica do sul e sudeste brasileiro.

Os especialistas trabalharam em grupos temáticos - répteis e anfíbios, mamíferos, aves, peixes e invertebrados, flora e estratégias de conservação - para fazer um pré-diagnóstico das informações existentes e discriminar os dados mais importantes a serem obtidos para definir as áreas prioritárias para conservação, segundo o grupo biológico em discussão.