

BRAZILIAN TAPIR



Tapirus terrestris

Although the tapir looks like a cross between a pig and an elephant its closest relatives are horses, zebras and rhinos.

The youngster has a striking coat of pale spots and stripes on a reddish brown background which camouflage it on the forest floor. This is moulted out after about a year but the youngster may stay with its mother for up to 2 years.

Left: Tiana, born here 2nd June 2010. This is the 11th calf to proud parents Shannon and Tanya.



Tapirs are as happy in water as on the forest floor and often forage along river bottoms. They use water as an escape from predators such as jaguars using their long nose as a snorkle!



Above: Tanya, our adult female Tapir.

Tapir are so well adapted to their rainforest environment that they have remained unchanged for about 30 million years.

FACTS & FIGURES

Where found	South America
Habitat	Low lying forest, swamplands
Diet	forest fruits and vegetation
Average Length	180-250cm
Average weight	150-250 Kg, females larger than males
Number of young	1 every 15 months
Gestation	13 months
Maximum lifespan	30 years

International Union for Conservation of Nature
RED LIST for the Brazilian Tapir

LEAST CONCERN NEAR THREATENED **VULNERABLE** ENDANGERED CRITICALLY ENDANGERED EXTINCT IN THE WILD EXTINCT

THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS CURRENTLY BEEN ASSESSED AS *VULNERABLE* IUCN RED LIST