

PROGRESS REPORT V

2008



Appleton, R. (2008)

Evaluating the conservation status of the threatened Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) in Sierra de Portuguesa, Venezuelan Andes: Designing a management strategy.

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ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Field-data entry and identification of botanical samples. Wildlife Research Group - University of Cambridge, UK / January - June 2008.

During this period, the PI was focused on finishing entering the data collected in the field on a specially-designed database. By May this task was over, and it was followed by database compilation, error assessment and correction that were carried out until June. In parallel, the identification of botanical samples was completed by experts of the BioCentro-UNELLEZ Herbario Universitario (PORT). Finally, the project was awarded third place at the Wolfson Science Day, and a talk on latest results was given at the Ecology Lunch Talks of the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge.

GIS training and data analysis. Wildlife Research Group - University of Cambridge, UK / July - December 2008.

Following data entry, the PI was trained on the use of ArcGIS 9.3 and ENVI software. New satellite images (5) were granted to the project by Planet Action – Spot Image, together with ESRI and ENVI software licenses. By September 2008, data analysis started on a regular basis, with the redefinition of the boundaries of Sierra de Portuguesa, based on a review of the geological and physiographic features of the area. Currently, the PI is focused on incorporating the new satellite images to the existing assessment of Andean bear habitat availability. Results are expected by the end of January 2009. In November 2008, Dr Nathalie Pettorelli from the Institute of Zoology – London agreed to join the existing advisory team to supervise data analysis and thesis outcome.

II International Symposium on the Andean bear. Lima/ November 2008.

In November, the PI attended the II International Symposium on the Andean bear. This meeting proved to be paramount for the consolidation of an international community working towards the species conservation. Venezuelan researchers working as a group presented 13 talks and posters on issues such as: 1) evaluation of the impact of protected areas and education programs to reduce the species threats, 2) guidelines for the management of rescued individuals, and 3) the Action Plan for Andean-bear conservation in Venezuela. As part of this effort, the PI presented a brief summary of the Action Plan and an overview of the Andean bear – Sierra de Portuguesa Project^[1, 2]. In addition, she was part of the organizer team of the workshop “Gaps in Andean bear knowledge”. Following this meeting, the **Equipo Venezolano Oso Andino** (EVOA) (Andean bear Venezuelan Team) was consolidated as a platform to foster project development, collaboration and step-change towards the species conservation.



Figure 1: Photo by MSc. Edgard Yerena: Principal Investigator together with members of the EVOA and other conference participants.

FINANCES REPORT

GRANTS AWARDED

Table 1.- Grants awarded during 2008.

Source	Amount (US \$)
Denver Zoological Foundation	5,000
North England Zoological Society - Chester Zoological Gardens	4,400
Lundgren Fund – University of Cambridge	1,420
Funds for Women Graduates (F/WG)	2,210
Planet Action	In kind – Satellite Imagery
The ESRI Conservation Program	In kind – Software and training
Total	13,030

PROJECT SCHEDULE 2009

Table 1.- The following table represents the schedule proposed for the coming year when the project is expected to be finished.

2008												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Analysis Stage												
2009												
Analysis Stage												
PhD Thesis Submission												
Results Dissemination												

REFERENCES

1. García-Rangel, S., *Proyecto Oso Andino – Sierra de Portuguesa: Una Vista General*, in *Segundo Simposio Internacional sobre el Oso Andino*. 2008: Lima - Perú.
2. García-Rangel, S., et al., *Conservación del Oso Andino (Tremarctos Ornatus) en Venezuela: Trabajo en Equipo para la Actualización y Puesta en Práctica de un Plan de Acción*, in *Segundo Simposio Internacional sobre el Oso Andino*. 2008: Lima - Perú.