

CHATTANOOGA ZOO CONSERVATION AWARD



2014 CHATTANOOGA ZOO CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER—PATRÍCIA MEDICI

Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) and the Chattanooga Zoo are pleased to announce **Patrícia Medici**, conservation biologist and principal investigator of the Brazilian Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative (LTCI), as the 2014 recipient of the *Chattanooga Zoo Conservation Award*. Dr. Medici is Chairperson of the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG), a founding member of the Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ), and the recipient of several prestigious, international conservation awards, including the Harry Messel Conservation Leadership Award, Golden Ark Award, and Whitley Award. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry Sciences from the Universidade de São Paulo, a Master's in Wildlife Ecology, Conservation and Management from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, and a Ph.D. in Biodiversity Management from the University of Kent's Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology.



Patrícia Medici feeding Brazilian tapir and offspring.

Since 1996, Dr. Medici has conducted pioneering research on the biology and ecology of Lowland tapirs and promoted their conservation in the wild. Her early research on Lowland tapir population demography in Brazil's Atlantic Coastal Forest helped identify and protect critical tapir habitat and led to the design and implementation of an action plan to promote the species' conservation within this threatened biome. More recently, Dr. Medici's efforts have focused on the Brazilian Pantanal, where she is utilizing environmental education, community outreach, and scientific tourism to promote tapir conservation awareness.

Dr. Medici will present on the status and future of the LTCI—*'Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative: Putting tapirs on the conservation radar in Brazil'*—from 4:00PM-4:30PM on Saturday, September 13, 2014 in the Fiesta 2 Room of Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Please contact zcog@zcog.org for additional details.

ABOUT THE AWARD:

The Chattanooga Zoo Conservation Award was established in 1999 by Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) and the Friends of the Chattanooga Zoo (FOTZ). The award recognizes excellence in wildlife, habitat, and conservation education efforts in Latin America while honoring the memory of Patrick Jones, a longtime friend and volunteer of the Chattanooga Zoo. Award recipients receive round trip airfare, hotel, and registration to attend the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) National Conference, where they present the results of their pioneering research and conservation efforts and network with members of the global zoo and aquarium community.