

# Callitrichid husbandry and conservation workshop series



## Goal:

To run the next in a series of workshops in Brazil focusing on the conservation management of threatened marmoset and tamarin species.

## Target participants:

Brazilian conservation professionals and policy makers working in rescue centres, zoos, universities, national and local government.

## Background:

Marmosets and tamarins (Callitrichidae) are the smallest of the world's monkeys, and many are under great threat in the wild due to habitat loss and fragmentation, and illegal animal trafficking in their native South America. Multi-faceted integrated action plans have been put in place to ensure the continued survival of several species. These often include building genetically viable assurance populations under human care, as numbers are so low in many case and the threats are so great.

For these programmes to be successful, it is essential to build capacity and specialisation within Brazil in the care and management of callitrichids. Several of the most threatened are not well represented in assurance populations in captivity. Therefore a series of callitrichid conservation workshops in Brazil was started in 2014, initially funded through Durrel Wildlife Conservation Trust and led by Dominic Wormell. Five workshops have been held since, each in an area with a population of one of the country's threatened callitrichid species.

Ultimately it is far better for endangered species to be bred in their range country by conservationists there. The overall aim of the workshops, therefore, is to build the skill base and



Buffy tufted-ear marmoset, *Callithrix aurita*

capacity for this to take place, to establish viable populations of the most threatened callitrichids both in- and ex-situ, and bring together specialist teams to work together on a one-plan approach to each species' conservation.

Participants are encouraged to keep coming to the workshops so that focused groups can form and ultimately run the workshops themselves in the future.

### Location:

The proposed location for the next workshop is Belem, at the mouth of the Amazon, near the distribution of *Mico* marmosets.

### Outcomes of workshop series to date:

- **Increased capacity** within Brazil, with greater knowledge and a focus on the key species needing conservation management, particularly those that are not doing well in captivity, for example, the pied tamarin *Saguinus bicolor*, and the mountain marmosets *Callithrix flaviceps* and *Callithrix aurita*.
- **Improved captive reproductive success and health**, including for some of the more “difficult” species, such as the pied tamarin.
- **Formation of specialist groups** within Brazil, who come together regularly at the workshops, where they can discuss any issues with one another and with external experts. This keeps momentum going for each programme.
- **Greatly increased collaboration** between Brazilian zoos, academic institutions and NGOs.
- **Establishment of new studbooks** within Brazil to manage captive populations.
- **Establishment of specialist captive centres** such as the Mountain Marmoset Centre at the University of Viçosa, MG, that act as triage posts where rescued individuals can come for assessment before they are either rehabilitated and returned to the wild, or join a captive programme at the centre or other institution.
- **Research** into genetics, health, status and distribution of wild populations, and threats.

### Workshop structure:

Workshops focus on marmoset and tamarin husbandry and conservation, using the target species as an example, and are tailored to the needs and interests of the participants.

**Topics** may include developing and building on national conservation action plans for each species, to small population management, best practice in husbandry, and sessions that cover problems and questions raised by participants.

**Teaching** involves a mix of lectures, practical sessions (e.g. enclosure design, furnishing and enrichment), participant presentations, discussions and Q&A opportunities.

**A field trip** during each workshop enables participants to see the target species in the wild and develop an understanding of their behaviour and ecology, and the threats that they face.

**Tutors** are usually 4 international experts, people who have huge experience of working with callitrichids in captivity and the wild. People with experience and success in breeding endangered callitrichids are invited to give presentations on their work, experts in population management and nutrition.

Connections between institutions and individuals are nurtured at the workshop so long term partnerships are formed working on the issues that face callitrichids. This international collaboration has proved to be very successful with some species.

**Number of participants:** Typically there are 30-40 people from over 20 institutions throughout Brazil, including universities, zoos and government facilities and agencies.



*One of the theory sessions during a workshop.*



*Practical day at CIGS zoo, Manaus.*

### **Budget:**

All accommodation and food for attendees will be paid for by the workshop organisers. This helps key staff working directly with the target species to attend.

International travel , including stop over accommodation, to Brazil for 4 tutors	£5,000
Logistical organisational support in Brazil and tutor fees	£2000
Accommodation for participants and tutors @ £50 per person per day for five days, assuming 40 participants	£10,000
Food for whole group @ £12.50 per person per day for five days	£ 2,500
Internal transport between hotel, workshop venue and field sites for group	£1000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£20,500</b>



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