



# MOUNTAIN MARMOSETS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## JANUARY 2019 Newsletter

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## AN INTRODUCTION TO AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Buffy tufted-ear marmoset (*Callithrix aurita*) and the Buffy headed marmoset (*Callithrix flaviceps*) are two beautiful small primate's endemic to the montane rainforests of the Brazilian South-eastern Atlantic Forest. The Mountain Marmosets Conservation Program has been formed to prevent these two primates from becoming extinct!

Both of these species are classified as *Endangered* in the Brazilian Red List of fauna threatened with extinction, and their status is increasingly a cause for alarm. Their occurrence area is heavily impacted by human demands (urbanization, industrial agriculture, commercial agriculture and industrialization), which greatly increases the pressures on the few and fragmented remaining habitats available to the marmosets. Over the last century, the species habitat has been dramatically reduced to just 8%.

Another huge threat to their continued survival is hybridization which is caused by the rising populations of introduced species of other marmosets (*C. jacchus*, *C. penicillata* and *C. geoffroyi*), which for many years have been brought in from distant Brazilian states by the illegal pet trade. For example, inside one of the most important conservation areas in Rio de Janeiro, the Serra dos Órgãos National Park (PARNASO), invasive marmosets *C. jacchus* and *C. penicillata* and hybrids have been identified since 2008.

In 2014 a group of concerned primatologists from Brazilian and international organizations met with the Brazilian authorities ICMBio (Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade) to form a working group to address the issues facing one of these species continued survival, the *C. aurita* Project was formed.  
*Continued overleaf...*

## A word from the program coordinator

It has been a very busy few months for me, not always the type of busy that I get excited about, however, I am excited that the MMCP has made several important steps towards becoming an internationally recognizable and accessible conservation program, the most visible of which is an online presence with the launch of our website in late November 2018.

Many of you who read this newsletter will have been introduced to the conservation program by one of the MMCP Advocates, my deep gratitude for their support and contributions to the conservation programs progress. I hope that many new EAZA and BIAZA zoos will join the support for the conservation program to save two very special and endangered marmosets.

I would like to congratulate Claudia and her team at Guarulhos Zoo, State of Sao Paulo, on the recent additions to the assurance population (I bet you will smile at the story as well as the beautiful picture on page 3).

Also worthy of a good read are the plans and opportunities at the forthcoming Callitrichid Conservation Husbandry Workshop here in Brazil in February 2019.

Any questions or fundraising ideas then please get in touch, I look forward to forging great friendships and meeting inspiring supporters as this conservation program evolves.

Enjoy our first newsletter and thank you for taking an interest!



Dr. Rodrigo Salles de Carvahlo  
Mountain Marmosets Conservation Program coordinator

Introduction continued...

## INITIAL FOCUS:

The initial assessment of the facts and factors known about the Buffy tufted-ear marmoset clearly indicated that there was a need for urgent action to safeguard pure populations in the wild and further investigate how to build pure populations in a conservation-breeding program.

The conservation program has developed over the last four years and encompasses participants from many institutions and communities. The significant progress in developing a conservation program for the Buffy tufted-ear marmoset (*C. aurita*) and rapidly increasing concerns for the Buffy headed marmoset (*C. flaviceps*) which was not part of a conservation program led to 'C. aurita Project' evolving into the 'Mountain Marmosets Conservation Program' to cover the conservation of both species.

## CRUCIAL CONSERVATION ACTIONS:

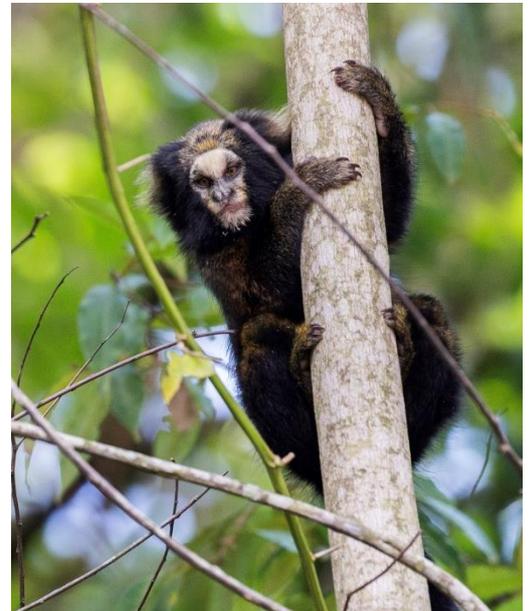
In 2014, there were 18 Buffy tufted-ear marmosets in the conservation breeding program held in three institutions, during 2018, progress with husbandry and the implementation of a Studbook saw the assurance population grow to 47 individuals in several breeding groups with four institutions in the program. The current master plan expects the ex situ population to reach 60 individuals, kept in at least 5 institutions, within 3 years, with the formation and maintenance of 12 reproductive pairs. This will be possible with the current captive population, but to maintain a genetically healthy population in captivity the population needs to reach 350-400 individuals.

The rapid accumulation of data on the two species current occurrence and the level of threat each population is under is urgently needed. Whether it is habitat loss, competition or hybridization, identifying the threats and prioritising the actions for different populations will be essential for effective integrated management of these two species in the landscape and will guide how we integrate captive and that they still occur in, wild populations.

## NEWS.... Stunning success and smiles all round...

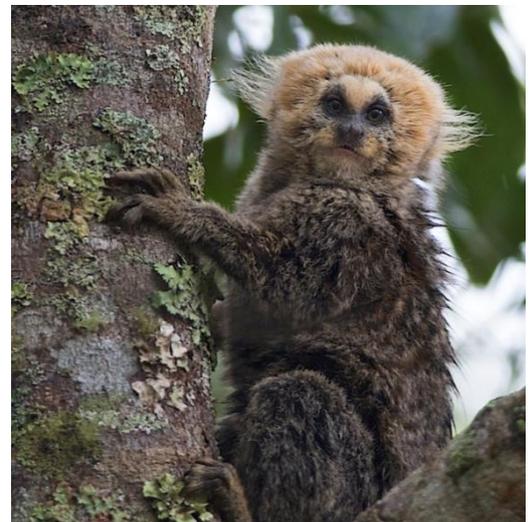
Congratulations to Cláudia Igayara and her team at Guarulhos City Zoo, São Paulo, Brazil with an amazing double act delivery – 2 females gave birth to twins on the same day contributing 4 very precious additions to the assurance population for *Callithrix aurita*!

They are doing very well, this is fantastic news brings with it even greater urgency to expand facilities so that new pairings can be made to further the capacity of the assurance population. Cláudia is also the Studbook keeper for the species. Brilliant news!



*C. aurita*

Image © Diogo Lagroteria



*C. flaviceps*

Creative Commons Wiki © Peter Schoen





We make no apology for wishing to pull on heart strings, **the Buffy tufted-ear marmoset is in serious trouble**, we cannot lose this species, far too precious and far too beautiful; be inspired, **help us make a difference that saves this species from extinction!** Copyright C. Igayara



[WWW.MOUNTAINMARMOSETSCONSERVATION.COM](http://WWW.MOUNTAINMARMOSETSCONSERVATION.COM)

## Fundraising

Enormous thanks to **Jess Leaper, Park Manager at AWCP** and her team in Gibraltar for fundraising an amazing £950 at their annual Halloween event where they fundraised specifically for the Buffy tufted-ear marmoset. The theme was **'Little skeleton faces'** as they were **raising awareness of Buffy tufted-ear marmoset**. Funds were raised through events on the day: Cake stall and pumpkin soup. Fancy dress competition, raffles, pumpkin carving and crafts.

**'Little skeleton faces'** fits perfectly with both our species, their facial markings do give them a certain Goth look and indeed locally in Brazil the Buffy tufted-ear marmoset has the nickname 'little skull face'.

*We send our thanks and appreciation, not only for the money that has been donated but also for making our conservation program and the plight of the Buffy tufted-ear marmoset important to you and your visitors. Your Halloween event looks like great fun, we are glad so many people enjoyed it!*



## MMCP Advocates

In June 2018 a group of advocates for the conservation program joined forces to streamline assistance being given to the primatologists working in Brazil on the conservation of the Buffy tufted ear marmoset and the Buffy headed marmoset, most of them are members of the EAZA callitrichid TAG. These European advocates are providing expertise in the husbandry and maintenance of animals in conservation breeding as well as supporting the project coordinator in his role as species representative in the new 5-year Brazilian National Action Plan for Primates and Sloths of the Atlantic Forest.

**Dominic Wormell** – Head of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust's Mammal Department

Dominic has been working for Durrell for over 29 years. He is an internationally renowned expert on the captive management of marmosets and tamarins and has contributed to several in-situ recovery and reintroduction programmes for these small monkeys in their native South America. Dominic is a lead expert in the Callitrichid Conservation Husbandry Workshop run by Durrell and IMCBio each year and has been very active in his support for the Buffy tufted-ear marmoset conservation program since news of its perilous situation became apparent in 2014.

**Nic Dunn** – Curator of Mammals, Paignton Zoo

Nic has been working with callitrichids for over 20 years and took part in the 2017 workshop at Guarulhos, and alongside Dom, helped initiate gathering support from zoos based in Europe for this conservation programme. Nic provides technical support and expertise in the captive management of marmosets as well as sharing his experience and knowledge of how zoos of any size can make significant contributions to conservation programmes.

**Eric Bairrão Ruivo** - Director of Science, Collection and Conservation at ZooParc de Beauval, France and the Executive Director of Beauval Nature Conservation and Research Foundation.

Eric is currently the chair of the EAZA Conservation Committee and the chair of the EAZA Callitrichid TAG, and in this quality, he's actively working for the conservation of callitrichids. Eric has been a great supporter of the conservation program since he first heard of the situation being faced by these endangered marmosets from Dom and over the last 2 years has been instrumental in funding support for surveys and taking a keen interest in progress. Eric has been an important advocate of our conservation program and instrumental in funding significant survey work for both species through grants from Beauval Nature and AFdPZ.

**Sally Fransen** – Secretary MMCP advocate group

Sally has a deep interest in the development of effective conservation programmes, has experience working with NGO's as well as zoos over the past 11 years. Sally's professional background is in Senior Retail Operations Management, Brand development strategy and the Design industry. Sally gives project development support to the program coordinator, website, graphics and helps with many of the tasks that make things tick.



## Invitation to EAZA and BIAZA zoos

from the MMCP Advocates

As part of our commitment to in-situ conservation, zoos often struggle to demonstrate valuable input that is more than simply fundraising for overseas projects. Many small zoos often do not hold species with which there is a conservation project linked that they can support.

We are asking that all holders of Common, Black pencilled and Geoffroy's marmosets to consider ways of using the animals in their zoos as ambassadors for the MMCP. There are over 200 common marmosets in UK zoos alone. **This is a wonderful opportunity to raise the profile of species recently acknowledged as one of the 'Top 25' and will be in the 2018 -20 Primates in Peril publication.**

If you hold Common Marmosets and would like to know more about how you can support us, please contact Nic Dunn or Dominic Wormell. Remember, it doesn't always have to just be financial donations.... **There is currently a list of equipment needs that we are trying to gather together ahead of the trip to Brazil in early February 2019.**

Supporters of the MMCP will receive a supporters' certificate, donation certificates and access to logo, graphics, posters as well as PR ideas and updates in our quarterly Newsletter.



**MOUNTAIN MARMOSETS CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

A serious crisis for two beautiful and endangered mountain marmoset species!

Invasive marmoset species and forest fragmentation  
**MOUNTAIN MARMOSETS FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL**

Buffy tufted-ear marmoset (*C. aurito*)  
Image: © Diego Lagarino

Buffy headed marmoset (*C. flaviceps*)  
Image: © Frederico Pereira

South-eastern Atlantic Rainforest, BRAZIL

Community engagement  
Conservation breeding initiative  
Population management and relocation for family groups under immediate threat  
Monitoring pure bred populations  
Developing solutions to counteract the presence of hybrid and invasive species

Fragmented forest landscape

Forest fragmentation causes elusive endangered species to lose territory or become entrapped in a forest pocket and escalate the problem of hybridizing with invading marmoset species.

THE MMCP IS LEADING AND CO-ORDINATING THE CONSERVATION PROGRAM TO SAVE THE Buffy tufted-ear & Buffy headed marmosets from extinction.

**MOUNTAIN MARMOSETS CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

Zoos as small as Shaldon and Gibraltar have donated equipment, staff resources, as well as fundraising for this project, so the possibilities are endless.

## 2019 Callitrichid Conservation Husbandry Workshop, Viçosa, Brazil

The 2019 callitrichid workshop will be held in Viçosa, in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. As well as developing the skills of primatologists from many regions of Brazil, we will be using the combined experience of the MMCP advocates and supporters to build and develop the new specialized breeding centre at the Federal University of Viçosa. Further work on the genetic management of the studbook will be undertaken to ensure the viability of the growing population.

- Send your keepers to assist with the enclosure building
- Consider donating supporting equipment that we need, see the list below, can you help?

Contribute to in-situ conservation by bringing your ex-situ skills and experience to the team in Brazil and help support and develop the expertise that is needed.

**The new Centre needs lots of help to get started: UV lamps | Digital camera | GPS tracker | Microchips | People with building skills | People with enclosure set up skills | People with insect production skills and folks who are good with a paintbrush... February 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019. Contact **Dominic Wormell** for more information.**



# MOUNTAIN MARMOSETS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Our current initiatives focus on the integrated management of both species:

- ❖ Investment into conservation breeding facilities is urgently needed to ensure pure populations
- ❖ Rapid survey work to collect information on the native wild populations and proximity of invasive species and hybrids.
- ❖ Development of campaign materials to generate and motivate support for the species conservation in country

The program is led by me, Dr. Rodrigo Salles de Carvalho, the programs objectives and conservation actions are aligned with, and feed into, the National Action Plan (PAN) for the Atlantic Rainforest Primates & Sloths. The program is also a strong component of the **Brazilian Callitrichid Working Group**, this group is composed of people and institutions working with the conservation of marmosets and tamarins across Brazil.

The MMCP Brazilian team is large, in each newsletter two or three members from a different aspect of the program will contribute regarding the work that they do for the program. The majority of the MMCP collaborative team members are also listed on our websites 'Team' page. My thanks to Fabiano R. Melo, Leandro Jerusalinsky and Claudia Igayara for their contributions to our first Newsletter.

- ▣ **Fabiano R. Melo** - Lecturer and primatologist at the Federal University Viçosa (UVF) Fabiano secured the use of the facilities at UVF and will manage the new specialist breeding centre being developed at Viçosa.
- ▣ **Claudia Igayara** - Chief Veterinarian of the Guarulhos City Zoo. Studbook keeper for *Callithrix aurita*, Claudia is one of only two people with in depth experience of captive management of *C. aurita*.
- ▣ **Leandro Jerusalinsky** - Head of the National Centre for Research and Conservation of Brazilian Primates CPB/ICMBio lead advocate for these species and instrumental in *Callithrix aurita* being recognized as one of the Top 25 most endangered primates in the world by the International Primate Society.

## JOIN THE PROGRAM

A final message from the MMCP Advocates - Support from five European organisations over the last four years has helped establish significant progress; we need to expand that support!

**Our priority task is fundraising for surveys and investment into the conservation breeding facilities, every zoo, no matter how small, can make a significant difference to this conservation program and safeguard two important primates from the threat of extinction.**

Our contact details are below, any questions then please don't hesitate to ask.

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Sally Fransen: [sally@mountainmarmosetsconservation.com](mailto:sally@mountainmarmosetsconservation.com)



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