



MOUNTAIN MARMOSETS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

October 2019 Newsletter

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Welcome to our third newsletter! It has been a very busy five months following some exciting events that occurred during May and June followed by more good news in July.

Exciting events and progress - Viçosa

I'll start with the very positive events in July when our long-time funder and supporter of the conservation programs surveys visited the new centre at Viçosa.

Eric Bairrão Ruivo secured the funding for the majority of the surveys I have completed in the Rapid survey program over the last 3 years from Beauval Nature and AFdPZ. Funding again secured through Eric from both Beauval Nature and AFdPZ is funding the refurbishment completion and the operational funding for the new conservation



Eric was accompanied on his visit to the Viçosa centre by Dominic Wormell (Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust) and me, it was a fleeting visit as both Eric and Dominic were also on route to Colombia to work with the *Saguinus leucopus*, white handed tamarin programme.



Our sincere thanks to Apenheul and Warner Jens for their initial funding and support that got the renovations of the centre off to a flying start in February 2019.

We are delighted that Beauval Nature and AFdPZ have added to Apenheul's 2018 and 2019 funding to ensure the centre becomes an operational reality in the very near future. Planning and preparation for receiving the first pair of *Callithrix aurita* who will be coming to the centre from rescued animals is currently in hand, more news soon!

A word from the program coordinator

As normal, it has been a very busy few months for me, and it is great to see progress continuing with important aspects of developing and implementing conservation actions that get us closer to meeting some of the objectives set out in the Brazilian PAN. For me, the most significant highlight over the last few months has been the agreement of a Conservation Unit (Protected area) to engage with the Conservation Program in establishing a Pilot Project that will hopefully get us significantly closer to the establishment of a 'Safe Habitat' for *Callithrix aurita*, read about the **REVISEST** Project on page 4.

The news isn't all rosy though and recent survey expeditions have **highlighted the serious and precarious situation for *Callithrix flaviceps*** Page 3.

On a more positive note, it was heartening and inspiring to follow the fantastic story of **Nathan Viegas**, a *nine year old student* who won the "Change the World" challenge promoted by CodeBuddy (a School of Programming, Robotics, Entrepreneurship for children and adolescents.)



Read more about Natan's amazing achievement on page 4.

Happy reading, I hope you enjoy catching up on all our news and the exciting challenges that lie ahead!

Dr. Rodrigo Salles de Carvalho

Mountain Marmosets Conservation Program coordinator
President of NGO PREA



Viçosa events and progress continued ...

Exciting times for the CCSS – UFV who are using a variation of the conservation programs logo to help build recognition and familiarity with the conservation efforts of our two species.

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE VIÇOSA



CENTRO DE CONSERVAÇÃO
DOS SAGUIS-DA-SERRA

International training trip to Europe

The Centre will be managed and run by Fernanda de Fátima Rodrigues da Silva with the assistance of Isabela Mascarenhas and Mayra Zerlotini. Bela and Mayra recently travelled to Europe to train at Apenheul in the Netherlands and Durrell in Jersey. Very many thanks to Dominic Wormell from Durrell Wildlife Trust and Warner Jens from Apenheul for your effort and support to secure the funding from your respective institutions and special thanks to Tim Wright from Durrell Academy for making all the arrangements! Also, a big thank you to the Callitrichid Working Group for the donation of £1000 secured by Kelly-anne Kelleher to support this important training initiative.



In the IMAGE ABOVE – on the right is Mayra who is to be the veterinary in residence and on the left is Bela who is to be the Junior Keeper.

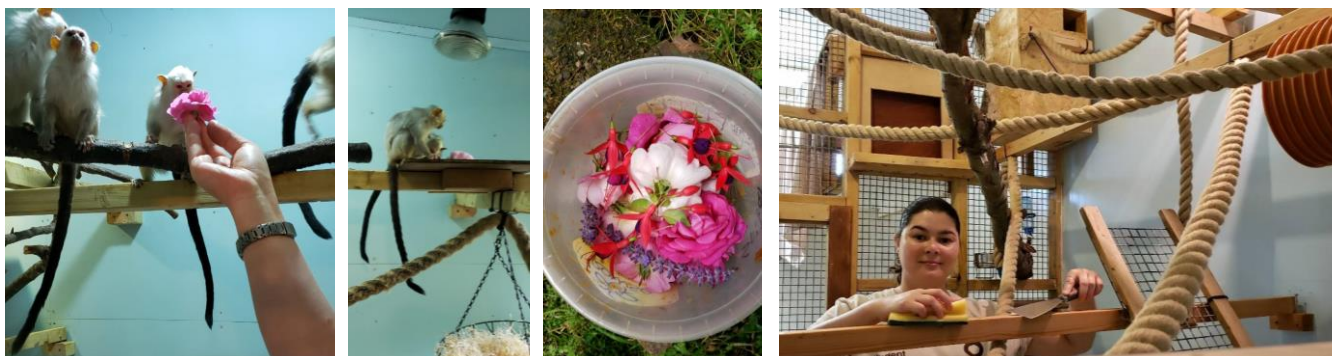


The training will be used at CCSS-UFV to promote the wellbeing and welfare of *Callithrix aurita* in captivity, potentially if *C. flaviceps* comes into captivity then this Centre will be the most likely organization to receive them. During the training, it was possible for Mayra and Bela to develop a greater understanding about the importance of diets, health care and social behaviour of these species.

In addition, it was a valuable opportunity for Mayra and Bela to learn about "hands off management" and 'free roaming' management techniques from two leading institutions; Durrell in Jersey and Apenheul in the Netherlands. Free roaming mgt techniques will be a key aspect of the new centre's future strategy for the conservation breeding, triage, reintroduction and relocation of the endangered marmosets.



In addition to captive management, Marya Zerlotini who is a qualified vet was also able to add to her veterinary experience while at Durrell and Apenheul, the opportunity at Durrell was especially relevant when one of the more vulnerable callitrichid species a pied tamarin needed a veterinary intervention requiring an anaesthetic.



In search of the Buffy-headed marmoset and other in situ news...

Since March, four surveys have been carried out in what were prime areas to locate populations of *Callithrix flaviceps*. These surveys built upon Ipanema; Pedra Azul; Santa Barbara; Caparaó in the States of Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo that began late last year. To date we have still only located 6 potential family groups and have 2 remaining surveys to be completed.

Our sincere thanks to Beauval Nature and AFDZ for funding the sequence of rapid surveys carried out to date.



In June 2019, Jorge Guimarães and Sarisha Trindade completed a five-day field activity, researching the presence of *C. flaviceps* in Santa Teresa - ES. They found 3 groups of *C. flaviceps*: the first group about five to six individuals within the Augusto Ruschi Biological Reserve; the second group, about five to six individuals, was found in a very small forest fragment within the urban center of the city sharing the space with a family of *Sapajus sp.* (capuchin monkey). The third group was found in a fragment, not very far but outside the city, but still with many residences around it, this one about eight individuals were sighted, which led to the thought that it could be a meeting of two groups at that time.



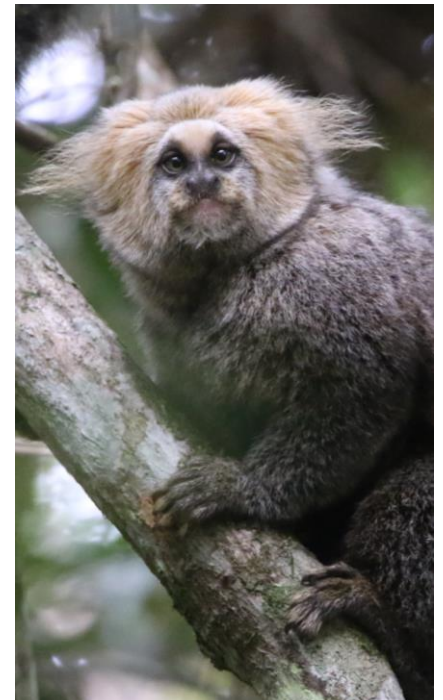
No invasive *Callithrix* were sighted within the fragments in which *C. flaviceps* was found, however, invasive marmosets were reported by locals circulating in the inner city, and 'penicillata like' individuals were seen inside the Mello Leitão Biology Museum (less than 1Km far from the first group of *C. flaviceps*).

The situation looks extremely serious and following the early results we reached out to several networks in Brazil to extend our 'eyes and ears' for news and potential sightings but so far without any success. There is much to be done to highlight and promote awareness to expand the network of interested parties and increase public engagement with the conservation urgency surrounding this species.

In situ conservation planning workshop for 2020

We are very grateful to Zoo and Wildlife Solutions and Dr Matt Hartley for their support in furthering the urgent need to secure funding for a conservation planning workshop. The workshop is currently in the early planning stage aiming for Spring 2020, more news very soon. **This important milestone** will enable the core team members and experts to gather together for a four-day meeting to establish in situ conservation action plans for both *Callithrix aurita* and *Callithrix flaviceps*, and **enable us to apply for Conservation Grant funding with greater authority and confidence** and establish the beginning of an adaptive management conservation plan for both species.

Call for action – We are biting our fingernails here, are these the last few remaining *Callithrix flaviceps*? **Can we save a species that may seriously be on the brink of extinction? *C. aurita's* plight is now globally acknowledged**, but the race is on to secure funding for field researchers to monitor family groups of *Callithrix aurita* and *Callithrix flaviceps*! It is imperative that we are able to fully evidence essential information needed to establish an adaptive management plan, only then will we find solutions to the acute in situ threats posed by invasive *Callithrix* - can you help fund in situ family monitoring, or perhaps gain sponsorship from an organization to come and join us for 4, 6 or 8 weeks?



Buffy-headed marmoset © Sarisha Trindade
Congratulations to **Sarisha Trindade** on capturing such a fantastic and rare image of *Callithrix flaviceps* while she was out on survey. Absolutely stunning!

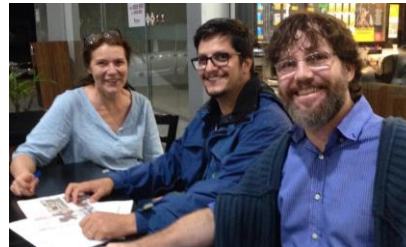


Time nor money grows on trees...

On the theme of money, costs and progress, I recently wrote to the three British zoos who directly supported me by making their donation ringfenced to my salary. This support and their belief in my work was a real boost. Sometimes, I don't know how I manage and am indebted to my family for their long-term support and patience with my mission to save these two species from extinction. Sincere and heartfelt thanks to **Shaldon Wildlife Trust**, **Lakeland Wildlife Oasis** and **Amazona** for their support and funding!



Finding myself able to free up several large blocks of time to plan and manage important meetings in person, enabled me to make some enormous strides forwards for the conservation program. Perhaps the most important achievement over the last four months was securing our first pilot project aimed at developing a safe haven habitat for *Callithrix aurita*.



A landmark meeting and smiles all round as 'in principle' agreement to further investigate the opportunity to run the first pilot project aimed at establishing a safe habitat haven for *C. aurita*.

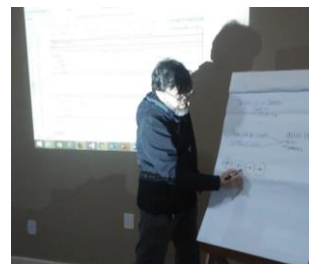


A presentation to a closed meeting to both public servants and community representatives; One of 16 meetings related to the City of Petropolis positively engaging with the 'Save Aurita' campaign!

FIRST PILOT PROJECT DESIGNED TO RESOLVE THE CREATION OF 'SAFE HAVEN' HABITAT

I hope the readers of this newsletter will understand the significance of finally finding a Park Manager concerned in the extremely precarious situation that *Callithrix aurita* is in! Eduardo Antunes is the first manager of a protected area to positively engage with the conservation challenges for this species. The challenge for protected area managers is the political sensitivity of resolving the invasive marmoset species, and resulting hybrids, and to date Eduardo Antunes is the first to agree to run our pilot project, host all the research and support the myriad of data collection and political scrutiny that creating a safe haven will involve.

It has been a tall order pulling together all the documentation, licence applications and seeking well qualified volunteers to assist on the project ahead of securing the necessary funding. I wish to thank Jorge Guimarães for his unwavering support over recent months, Jorge just finished his graduation studies as a veterinarian and has proved to be invaluable in his attention to detail and positive good humour in helping to progress the foundations of the pilot project. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Eduardo for his interest and support to be the first ever conservation unit or park manager to undertake this significant step to help 'Save Aurita'.



On September 24th a momentous first day on site at REVISST (a legally protected area known as a 'conservation unit'). Jorge and I were there to train 3 rangers and Eduardo was there to take part in the initial briefing. It's fantastic to have such a sense of high priority backing to support us. We urgently need funding for three field researcher kits, they include:



Snakeproof gaiters, a machete, sound box (to playback *Callithrix* calls) and ideally 1 camera per person (so that images can be studied carefully to confirm species and any hybridization)



PETROPOLIS BECOMES A HUB FOR 'SAVE AURITA' CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

During the same period that conversations with Eduardo Antunes began about the potential to establish a pilot project for *C. aurita* at REVERSEST, Petropolis there were many other conversations and meetings that were inter-connected. Several of those conversations had been started by Alessandro Antunes our Environmental Education guru, however Alessandro had recently made it known that he needed to drastically reduce his hours due to work pressure.

Looking back it would have been impossible for me to step into the meetings, let alone been able to do so with confidence that I could attend the subsequent meeting without the funding from **Shaldon Wildlife Trust, Lakeland Wildlife Oasis and Amazona**, these three institutions were instrumental in my ability to secure the pilot project, gain the support of Petropolis City councilmen for the conservation program. The additional bonus happened after we explained that the conservation program couldn't 'employ' Alessandro and his time could only be managed on a voluntary basis, to everyone's delight, Alessandro Antunes was offered a position to with the city education department as an employee! What a fantastic result for *Callithrix aurita* and for Alessandro whose passion and drive help us to win hearts and minds through his amazing and engaging environmental education and engagement games and strategies.



'Save Aurita' spotlight

Eleven-year-old Nathan Viegas a student at **Codebuddy, Petropolis**, designed and built a computer game based on our 'Save Aurita' EE material that won the "Change the World" challenge. Natan's prize was a day at 'Game XP' the largest eSports event in the world and he has gained a lot of media attention and interest from different State TV stations in Brazil as well as coverage in the USA media. One event promoted by TV Globo, (São Paulo) took him to the Rio Primate Centre (CPRJ) which is closed to the public, to meet *Callithrix Aurita family* groups in person. CPRJ Director, Dr Alcides Pissinatti (image to the right) was there to greet Nathan, CPRJ are also one of our collaborators with the ex situ insurance breeding program.

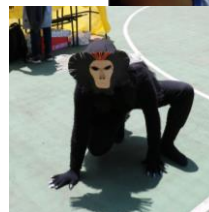


We are currently looking at costs and methods of getting the game freely available on-line, many thanks to Rebecca Sweet and Flavia Banister for their help and making the very best use of their contacts – hopefully more news on this very soon!

Fiesta Day at a Petropolis School – 'Save Aurita' up close and personal!

On the 4th October 2019 the local Municipal school, GERALDO VENTURA DAYS held a fiesta to promote urgent awareness to their students about the perils that *Callithrix aurita* faces. Municipal SCHOOL, GERALDO VENTURA DAYS is within the protected area where PCSS are working with the Park management team of REVERSEST to research and protect the species!

Five of the MMCP team were there to support the teachers and students. It is fantastic to have four hundred 8-14 year olds and their entire teaching staff taking such a passionate interest and joining the conservation effort to **Save Aurita!** A spectacular day... A video will be out shortly so we can share the energy and vibe of the day!



HOW TO HELP...

My biggest challenge is funding, for those who can support the MMCP by general donations you can ring-fence the donation, there are three primary funds:

- 1) **Coordinators Salary and expenses fund** - Without this funding the active progression of the conservation program is compromised. I wish there was a money tree, but the reality is that without funds for a minimal salary and to keep my car on the road, progress becomes very slow and stressful. I report thoroughly on the activities and actions that are carried out through this fund so that institutions have a record of the direct conservation actions they are supporting.
- 2) **Pilot project fund - funding for the REVISEST Pilot Project (*C. aurita*)**
For items that do not receive specific funding: Includes: radio collars IRO £150 per collar; Telonics TR-4 Receiver and VHF antenna £300 - £350; genetic test process; tomahawk traps (to safely catch animals); researcher monitoring stipend and travel (IRO £400-month, location dependant).
- 3) **Environmental education and Promotional Material fund**
Getting our message out there with all the opportunities that currently exist would be reinforced with greater recognition and self-promotion. We are currently trying to raise £850 for new updated information leaflets (print costs only), local city signage, MMCP T-shirts and polo shirts for volunteers who represent the conservation program as well as t-shirts to sell via schools in the Petropolis area.

Specific funding - Would you prefer to sponsor or fundraise specifically for a specific item? We have a list of equipment we need, the most urgent items are:

GPS Garmin 64S £260 | Tascam40X 4 track audio recorder £140 | Field cameras Camera PowerShot SX70 HS (£550 in Brazil, in the UK it could be purchased for under £400) | Field researcher equipment set £250

'Family group monitoring, yearly cycle' - Is there anyone out there who would sponsor a researcher? Perhaps too big for one institution to fund, but there are endless possibilities to collaborate or partner with other zoos or businesses locally. If you are interested in taking on this challenge then get in touch with Sally: sally@mountainmarmosetsconservation.com

A helping hand - Practical help is also needed, we are currently on the lookout for volunteers

- o Self-funded researchers or field helpers to assist with surveys – any date can be accommodated.
- o Translators and copy writers to assist with social media, newsletters - Preferably fluent in PT and EN
- o Website content manager or assistant? Someone who is unfazed by WIX CMS and can help us keep on top of the ever-growing website updates. Training and support given.

CONTACT: Dom Wormell: dominic.wormell@durrell.org or Sally Fransen: sally@mountainmarmosetsconservation.com

WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



NGO PREA (Programa de Educação Ambiental/Environmental Education Program) has been established for over 16 years. Working to progress environment conservation and social improvement in Brazil. The Mountain Marmosets Conservation Program/Programa de Conservação dos Saguis-da-serra is part of PREA NGO.



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