

News

PARTNERSHIP WITH NURTURED BY NATURE



We are proud to announce that our Specialist Group has entered a partnership with **Nurtured by Nature**. Nurtured by Nature is dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and their habitats. This is achieved through an international portfolio of conservation, research and education

projects. Through their interactive programs and significant social media following, this non-profit organization based in California is able to influence and promote conservation and preservation by endearing humans to animals and their habitats. Nurtured by Nature shares the Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group's interests and aspirations for the global conservation of xenarthrans and their ecosystems. Combining the expertise and resources of both organizations will allow us to collaboratively increase general awareness of the plight of xenarthrans and to enhance their conservation.

SUPPORT XENARTHRA CONSERVATION THROUGH PAYPAL!

Our Specialist Group can now receive donations via PayPal! If you wish to support our activities, please visit our website (<https://www.xenarthrans.org/donations/>), where you will find a new "donate" button. You can also use the QR code included here. Our group depends on these charitable donations to advance our conservation work and publication efforts. All donations are administered by our partner institution Nurtured by Nature and are tax deductible. We thank you in advance for your support!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, INSTITUTO TAMANDUÁ!

Instituto Tamanduá was founded by Flávia Miranda in 2005. While it initially focused on the research and conservation of anteaters, with time it extended its activities to other xenarthrans. Today, Instituto Tamanduá is

widely recognized as the leading institution dedicated to *Xenarthra* conservation in Brazil, if not in all of South America. Its team of biologists, veterinarians, administrators, and volunteers works on a wide range of projects, primarily in Piauí, Bahia, and the Pantanal. In addition to performing field studies on the biology and ecology of xenarthrans, Instituto Tamanduá has developed considerable experience in *in situ* and *ex situ* population management and has helped create public conservation policies in several South American countries. More recently, the team has been involved in landscape protection by reforesting areas of importance for the conservation of xenarthrans. In September 2020, Instituto Tamanduá celebrated its first fifteen years of tireless work, and the team's passion and dedication for these amazing creatures is stronger than ever. *Happy birthday!*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GREEN HERITAGE FUND SURINAME!

GREEN HERITAGE FUND
PROTECTING NATURE & WILDLIFE IN SURINAME

This success story started with the care of one orphaned baby sloth in 2005. On 24 October 2005, Green Heritage Fund Suriname (GHFS) was established to help sloths that were in trouble. Over the past 15 years, GHFS has grown into a foundation dedicated to protecting nature and wildlife in

Suriname. It provides professional care to sloths, anteaters, and armadillos (and the occasional porcupine). Since 2018, GHFS staff have been fortunate to provide this care in a professional shelter in the forest. Over the years, its team has rescued, cared for, and released over 1000 animals into safe environments. In recent years, the foundation's education and research program has also been further developed. GHFS's many volunteers and interns, both from the Surinamese community and from abroad, have contributed to the creation of educational materials, collection of scientific data, and the training of individuals in wildlife conservation. *Happy birthday, GHFS!*

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON XENARTHRA CONSERVATION

The First International Congress on Xenarthra Conservation (CICX) was held from November 30 to December 3, 2020. In this very difficult and atypical year, Instituto Tamanduá saw the opportunity to celebrate their 15th birthday by organizing a virtual congress that would bring together Xenarthra experts and fanatics from all over the world. The packed program consisted of 33 talks by renowned experts from 10 countries on the biology, paleontology, phylogeny, systematics, medicine, captive management, nutrition, and conservation of xenarthrans. In addition, several mini-courses provided even more information about the biology and ecology of the Xenarthra, *ex situ* conservation, and Xenarthra medicine. To reach a wide audience, all talks were pre-recorded and subtitled in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. And there's more! Ten of the 68 accepted abstracts were selected for an oral presentation, which gave talented young researchers the opportunity to talk about their research in this international, albeit virtual, setting.

The congress was an immense success. It was attended by 520 participants from 26 countries, representing five continents. It was a celebration of the passion we share for these amazing mammals, and we are already looking forward to the second edition of this congress!

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Instituto Tamanduá for their excellent work organizing this congress; the official sponsor, Concessionária Litoral Norte (CLN), for their generous support; Foundation for International Aid to Animals, for having sponsored 200 grants that allowed many students and young professionals to



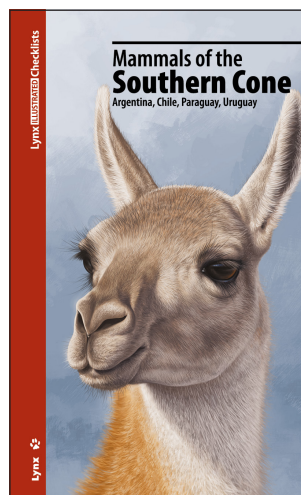
participate; and the congress partners Sociedade Brasileira de Mastozoologia, Quimtia, and Armadillos de Chile.

If you missed the congress, you can still register and watch all pre-recorded talks as they will be available for the next six months! Please visit the Congress website <<https://congresse.me/eventos/cicx>> for additional information.

VIRTUAL SPECIALIST GROUP MEETING

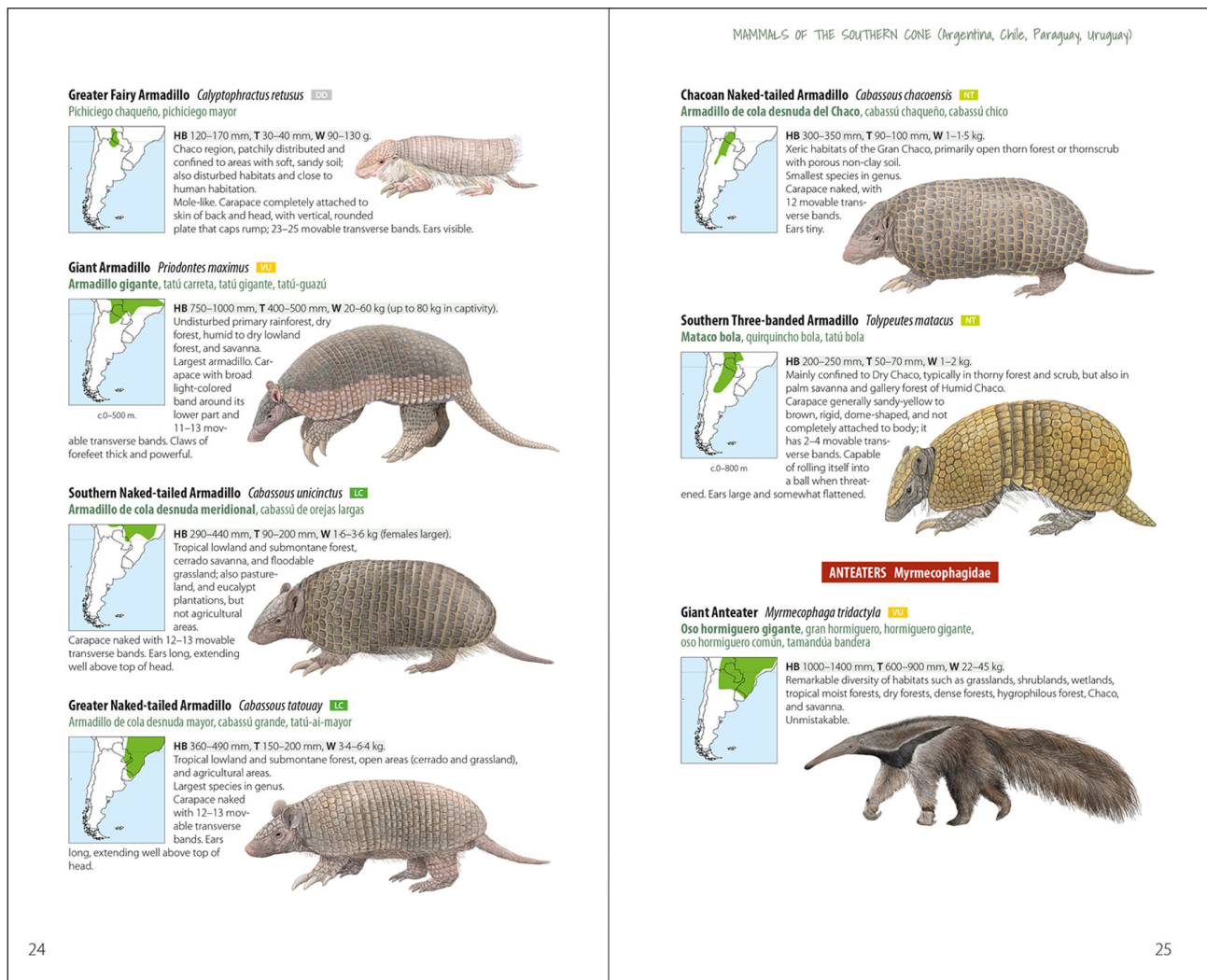
Our Specialist Group held a virtual meeting on December 3, 2020. It was attended by 16 members and two representatives of Nurtured by Nature. The meeting provided an opportunity for an open and informal discussion on the group's structure, its priorities, and the range of activities we would like to accomplish during the next IUCN quadrennium (2021–2024). There was agreement that our Specialist Group would benefit from having thematic sub-groups, as this would enhance membership engagement and increase outputs. The proposed thematic groups were taxonomy, trade, conservation planning, education and outreach, and *ex situ* conservation. The exchange of ideas and discussion of possible activities was highly motivating and inspiring, and the participants agreed that the Specialist Group should hold regular virtual meetings. We thank all members for their active participation!

ARMADILLOS, SLOTHS, AND ANTEATERS IN A NEW ILLUSTRATED CHECKLIST OF THE MAMMALS OF THE SOUTHERN CONE



This Illustrated Checklist is based on the book series *Handbook of the Mammals of the World* (HWW). It covers all 486 mammal species, including 17 introduced species with established wild populations and three domesticated species, of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and south-eastern Brazil, representing 26% of the total land area of South America.

The Checklist includes 18 species of Xenarthra: *Dasyus novemcinctus*, *D. septemcinctus*, *D. mazzaei*, *D. hybridus*, *Euphractus sexcinctus*, *Chaetophractus vellerosus*, *C. villosus*, *Zaedyus pichiy*, *Chlamyphorus truncatus*, *Calyptrophractus retusus*, *Priodontes maximus*, *Cabassous unicinctus*, *Ca. tatouay*, *Ca. chacoensis*, *Tolypeutes matacus*,



Myrmecophaga tridactyla, *Tamandua tetradactyla*, and *Bradypus variegatus*.

The concise species descriptions include descriptive notes to facilitate their identification, such as head-body and tail measurements, mean weight, and relevant details about the habitats they occupy. Common names in English and Spanish, and the conservation status according to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, are also given. All species descriptions include a beautiful illustration and a range map.

It is difficult to compare this Checklist with the *HMW*, as the latter includes a huge amount of information, including detailed descriptions of families and species. The Checklist's advantage is that, with a size of 14 × 22.8 cm and a weight of 340 g, it is a

compact and useful compilation that can be taken in the field—something we would not suggest to do with the original *HMW8* that measures 24 × 31 cm and weighs 4.13 kg. At roughly 20 Euros for this entire compilation *vs.* 140 Euros per book of the *HMW* series, its price is also more accessible.

In summary, this by-product of the *HMW* is a very attractive complement or alternative that allows quick and practical access to basic information on the many *Xenarthra* species and other mammals that share their habitats.

Vilalta, A.M. (compiler). 2020. *Mammals of the Southern Cone, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 160 pp. ISBN 978-84-16728-26-8. Available at: <<https://www.lynxeds.com/es/producto/mammals-of-the-southern-cone/>>.