

of 36 Priority Areas for conservation. In a series of working group sessions participants reviewed and prioritized the above list, identifying key sites for focused action, including a number of potential Transboundary Conservation Areas.

The Species Conservation Planning component used the framework provided by the IUCN Species Survival Commission to examine the key elements of Regional Species Conservation Plans and how these may be translated into National Species Action Plans. Delegates reviewed the status of species planning in their countries and then, with reference to the Regional Plans for the Arabian leopard *Panthera pardus nimr* and the Arabian oryx *Oryx leucoryx*, drafted examples of objectives, targets and actions that could be taken up at a national level, and also assessed the constraints and limitations in drafting such national plans. A final session considered possible candidate species or groups of species for the development of regional and national plans. For the regional Red List assessment of the breeding birds of Arabia, including the island of Socotra, conducted in collaboration with BirdLife International, more than 360 species were assessed, including all those that are endemic and near-endemic to Arabia, and the more widespread species.

As in 2012 the Workshop included a technical training component, with a day and half of hands-on exercises, regional case studies, and equipment assessments relating to the selection and application of VHF, GPS, PTT and geolocator tags for wildlife tracking.

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### **Rediscovery of Marca's marmoset and the challenges for its conservation**

In 1914 an expedition organized by Theodore Roosevelt and Candido Rondon went to the confluence of the rivers

Aripuanã and Roosevelt (then known as the River of Doubt) in Brazilian Amazonia, where three specimens of an unknown marmoset were collected. The skins, sent to the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, were found in 1993 by Ronaldo Alperin, who described them as a new subspecies, *Callithrix argentata marcai*. After a taxonomic reassessment of *Callithrix* the taxon became *Mico marcai*.

Two expeditions to relocate the species have recently visited the confluence of the rivers Aripuanã and Roosevelt. In January 2012 interviews with local people suggested potential survey sites. Following these leads, we found a group of three *M. marcai* on the left bank of the Aripuanã river, confirming the continued presence of the species in the type locality. In January 2013, supported by the Conservation Leadership Programme and the Mamirauá Sustainable Development Institute, we made further observations of *M. marcai*, sighting it 24 times. Mean group size was four, similar to that of other species of *Mico*.

As elsewhere in Amazonia, habitat loss is the main threat to primates in this region. Forest is being lost through selective logging and expansion of cattle ranching, and now there is a new threat from infrastructure projects. These include the expansion of transport systems and the construction of seven hydroelectric plants in the Aripuanã and Roosevelt basin. These projects will affect eight protected areas and at least five indigenous areas. In the known range of *M. marcai* about 640 families will be displaced by one of the hydroelectric plants. It has taken almost 20 years to verify that *M. marcai* still lives in the wild and it is currently categorized as Data Deficient on the IUCN Red List—will it now move immediately into one of the threatened categories?

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