



The Wildtracker



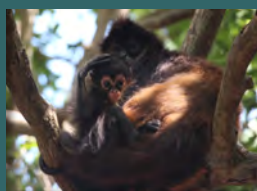
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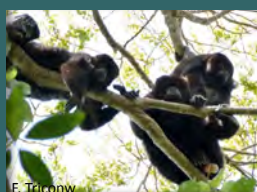
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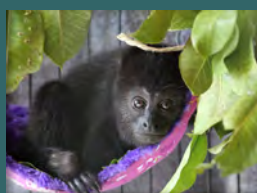
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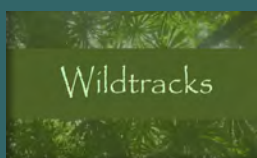
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Conservation and Research



Education and Outreach



Sustainable Development



Support



Welcome...

We are excited to be able to share with you the many wonderful things happening here at the Wildtracks Centre

A word about Wildtracks

Wildtracks is based in Belize, and has been active since 1990, and was registered as a Belize non-profit organization in 1996. It implements its activities through three primary Programme Areas:

- Conservation and Research
- Education and Outreach
- Sustainable Development

...supported by the fourth, the Support Programme, through volunteer work, financial sustainability, grants and, donations.

Under the Conservation and Research Programme, Wildtracks hosts two of Belize's four officially recognized national wildlife rehabilitation programmes - one for primates, the other for manatees.

The Primate Rehabilitation Centre works with Belize Forest Department towards ending the illegal wildlife trade in endangered Yucatan black howler monkey and Geoffroy's spider monkey, and returning confiscated, surrendered and rescued primates to the wild.

The Manatee Rehabilitation Centre is also managed in partnership with the Belize Forest Department, and in collaboration with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network and the National Manatee Working Group. It provides facilities for all injured manatees and orphaned manatee calves rescued in Belize's waters.

Both rehabilitation programmes are focused on returning animals to health, and releasing them back into the wild once they have gained the skills necessary to survive.

We would like to thank all of you - volunteers and donors alike - for becoming part of the Wildtracks network! Your support is an essential part of every success story!

Antillean Manatees

Manatees in Belize

Belize is home to the Antillean Manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*), a subspecies of the West Indian Manatee. Ranging from Mexico to Brazil, this marine mammal is endangered. Belize is considered the regional and global stronghold, with a population estimated at between 700 and 1,000 individuals.

The Manatee Rehabilitation Centre contributes towards Wildtracks' strategies for improving the viability of this species in Belize, and has been established to:

- care for all orphaned or injured manatees found in Belizean waters
- prepare rehabilitated manatees for reintroduction to the wild
- raise awareness of manatees and manatee conservation

Why do manatees need rehabilitation?

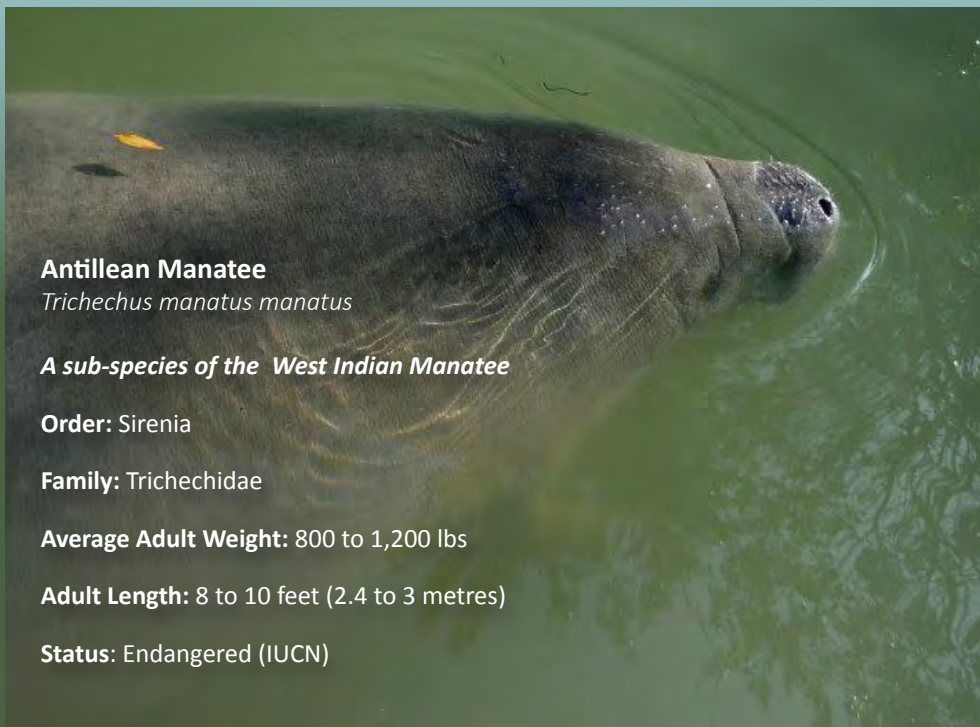
Manatees are facing increasing threats in Belize – particularly from boat traffic and associated watercraft collisions. Whilst many animals do not survive such collisions, a number of orphaned calves and injured individuals are rescued each year, and transported to Wildtracks for rehabilitative care. With the national and regional wild population being so low, it is important that all individuals are returned to the wild where possible.

With the support of a network of manatee vets and biologists, Belize's Manatee Rehabilitation Centre has become well known for its commitment and successes, despite its limited resources, and now plays an active role in the sharing of skills and experiences of its approach.

The Manatee Rehabilitation Programme at Wildtracks...



Eran Gissis



Antillean Manatee

Trichechus manatus manatus

A sub-species of the West Indian Manatee

Order: Sirenia

Family: Trichechidae

Average Adult Weight: 800 to 1,200 lbs

Adult Length: 8 to 10 feet (2.4 to 3 metres)

Status: Endangered (IUCN)

...preparing
manatees for
their return to
the wild

Manatees in Danger

The Increasing Manatee Crisis in Belize



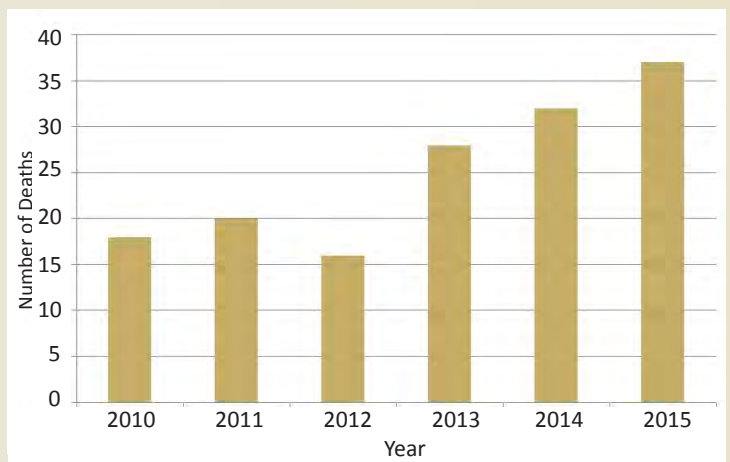
Belize, thought to have the highest known density of Antillean manatees in the world, plays an important role in the survival of this endangered sub-species. Unfortunately, with rapidly increasing boat-based tourism activities and coastal development in key manatee areas, human-related manatee deaths are on the rise and reaching unsustainable levels. Destruction of critical habitats, pollution, and entanglement in fishing gear have also been responsible for manatee deaths in the last ten years. In 2015, a shocking 37 manatees have died in Belize's waters - 36 of these in the first six months of the year - surpassing 2014's previous record of 32.

Watercraft/manatee collisions are the highest cause of death and injury - with propeller wounds, broken ribs and punctured lungs, and most prevalent in the waters adjacent to Belize City – areas with heavy tourist boat traffic, cruise ship tenders and water taxis. Since 2009, this increase in mortality has been reflected by a rise in the number of manatees injured and/ or orphaned calves rescued and transferred to the Manatee Rehabilitation Programme at Wildtracks.

A second area of concern is Placencia Lagoon, another key manatee area, where preparations are underway for a major cruise ship terminal.

With five manatees already in care, and the predicted increase from expanding tourism boat traffic, Wildtracks is urgently having to plan for expansion in 2016, to include an additional Intensive Care Pool and a second, larger Rehabilitation Pool.

Wildtracks, with its partners, is working to bring increasing awareness to the tourism industry and coastal development sectors to help reduce the number of animals requiring rehabilitation care.



Recorded Manatee Deaths in Belize, 2010 - 2015

Data: CZMAI / J. Galves

Manatees at Wildtracks

We have seen a significant rise in the number of manatees in rehabilitation - with five individuals in the Rehabilitation Centre at the moment (December, 2015). Whilst it can never be considered good news to have manatees in the Centre, it is good news to be able to report that all five are doing well!

The Three Wildtracks Calves

Khaleesi, Mitch and Lucky, the three calves introduced in the 1st and 2nd Wildtracks Newsletters, are all thriving in the Lagoon Enclosure, happily integrated with each other, and putting on weight daily.

Arriving in July, 2013, Khaleesi was the youngest and smallest manatee calf Wildtracks has ever seen, estimated at only two to three days old, and weighing only 39lbs. Now, however, at two and a half years old, she weighs in at over 220lbs - the largest of the three calves - and is enjoying the space of the lagoon enclosure. True to her regal name, she was initially a "little bit of a princess", and was slow to accept sharing her space with the other two calves. Now, however, the three are happily integrated.

Mitch was rescued from the sea in front of the Belize City towards the end of June, 2014 (Wildtracks Newsletter 2/2014). He was found soon after being orphaned, with bruised ribs and shoulders. He quickly healed, and within two months of arrival, he was integrated with Lucky. He has put on weight steadily, gaining strength, length and girth since then.

Lucky was extremely emaciated and dehydrated on arrival - this little manatee calf was indeed 'lucky' to survive. He suffered from spinal bruising, and initially had very little movement in his flippers. He was also very weak, and required many weeks of 24-hour care, with constant in-water presence, until he could surface to breathe unassisted. He is now a fat, playful calf, weighing in at about 150lbs and enjoying the company of Khaleesi and Mitch.

Feeding Time!

Each manatee has a carefully regulated diet dependent on its age, and how far along the path to weaning it has come. The manatee milk used is a high protein, high fat milk replacement formula, with additional Vitamin B, taurine, and lactobacillus, as well as pureed prunes to assist gut movements. As calves grow, banana is blended in to provide more fiber, and then, as they move towards weaning, calaloo leaves are also added. Over time, the number of feeds decreases, and the size of each feed increases. Calves gradually shifting their focus to solid foods, becoming more dependent on seagrass and water hyacinths, until they are ready to move into the lagoon. Here they learn how to forage for their own food, as a first step in the soft release process.





Photo: Pete Oxford

Ben arrived at the beginning of June, 2015, with a series of propeller wounds on his back, indicating that he had been hit by at least three boats. The extent of his injuries became apparent after arrival at the Centre, when he was diagnosed with broken ribs, and a collapsing right lung, listing on one side and unable to submerge. The prognosis was poor, with an estimated 50% chance of survival. With intensive care over a prolonged period, Ben started showing signs of healing. His propellor wounds began to close and the broken ribs gradually stabilized to the point where we were able to implement an aspiration of the trapped air in his lung cavity to assist the reinflation of the damaged lung. Six months into his rehabilitation, Ben is now finally able to swim beneath the surface and is steadily regaining weight.

Ben is now known for his love of seagrass, going through several buckets a day. His wounds have now closed, and he spends most of his time underwater. Once considered ready, he will be introduced to other manatees in care. Wildtracks volunteers and staff are extremely happy with how far he's come already, and look forward to his planned release in 2016.

Twiggy, originally rescued as a 56lb orphaned calf in June 2009, was released into Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in March 2013, weighing close to 350lbs. The six month post-release monitoring showed Twiggy to be doing very well, quickly linking with wild manatees and finding the key manatee holes and seagrass.

This summer, two years later, a manatee was reported by local fishermen, trapped in the lower Shipstern Lagoon system, blocked from returning to the sea by shallow waters following a period of drought, and looking thin. It was Twiggy. Having exhausted the food supplies in that section of the lagoon, Twiggy had lost a significant amount of weight, and also developed a respiratory infection. An onsite assessment indicated that she should be brought back into rehabilitation for treatment of the respiratory infection and to regain weight prior to her return to the coastal waters, where she had previously been thriving.

She is doing well in the Recovery Pool, eating her way through large buckets of seagrass and water hyacinth and putting on almost ¾ pound a day! Twiggy will be re-released into Corozal Bay in early 2016.



Photo: Annelise Hagan

Manatees Back in the Wild....

Rameses

Rameses was estimated at 10 months old when he arrived at Wildtracks Manatee Rehab Centre in June, 2013. In severe pain and suffering from a pneumothorax of the right lung, Rameses was very buoyant, and unable to swim below the surface of the water. He had been struck by a boat, sliced by the propeller and, without treatment, would have had little chance of survival in the wild.

For the first weeks, he was unable to dive under the water surface - though bobbing around on the surface didn't restrict his appetite in any way. As Rameses started to recover, he happily consumed three to four buckets of seagrass a day, as well as water hyacinths, mangrove propagules and algae growing on the walls of the lagoon enclosure. Slowly but surely, Rameses began to recover. His wounds started to heal, and swimming became easier. With a ravenous appetite for seagrass, Rameses turned from an injured calf into a large, healthy young male. In February, 2015, weighing in at 420lbs, he was moving and behaving as would be expected from a normal, healthy manatee, and was ready for soft release.

Soft release provides the link between rehabilitation and being back in the wild. In an enclosed lagoon, with limited access to the sea, manatees in soft release build on the life skills they learnt in their lagoon enclosure. They learn how to map and navigate their environment - find seagrass patches, algae, mangroves, sun, shade, deep and shallow water. They learn how to become self-sufficient, supporting themselves on naturally growing seagrass, as well as learning how to shelter from rough weather - strong winds and rough waters. These are critical components of their preparation for release.

In the spring of 2015, Rameses completed his soft-release phase - he was a confident grazer, frequenting seagrass beds in the lagoon and able to maintain his weight....he was ready for release!



Thank You!

Thank you to the many organizations, donors, volunteers, staff and individuals who help make the work here at the Wildtracks Manatee Rehabilitation Centre possible.

Thank You!

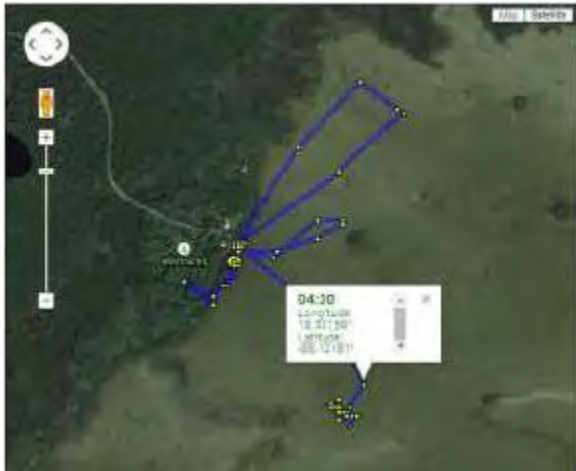


Tracking Manatees!

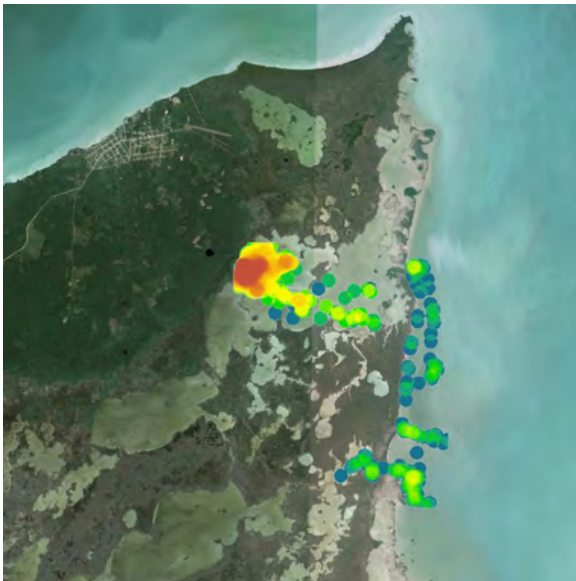


Manatees such as Ramases entering soft release are fitted with either a VHF transmitter or a combined VHF / satellite transmitter. This allows us to track their positions - with the satellite transmitter, it allows almost real-time tracking with an accuracy of within 10 metres! Tracking manatees in soft release is very valuable, enabling us to assess the ability of individual manatees to forage for food, and demonstrate the life skills they will need for life back in the wild. It also provides information for ongoing adaptation of release protocols for even greater success.

One example of this is the development of natural foraging patterns. During the soft release and release phases for Twiggy, we noticed that once the enclosure door was open full time, she would also graze at night – generally between 11:00pm and 4:00am – then return to the enclosure for supplemental food first thing in the morning. We were interested to see if Rameses would show a similar pattern, once he had night access to the lagoon.



Above: Tracking Rameses: 26th March, 2015... he grazed between 10:45pm and 4:15am, but by 6:00am, he was back in the enclosure, ready for his morning water hyacinths



Left: Frequency mapping based on satellite information showing areas of high frequency of visitation (red) to low visitation (blue).

24 hour access started on the 25th March. Sure enough, the satellite tracking showed that he did indeed leave the lagoon enclosure area after dark, heading out to his favoured grazing areas at between 10:00pm and 4:30am, and returning to the enclosure at 6:00am, ready for his water hyacinth feed. Whilst initially grazing close to the mangroves bordering the Wildtracks facility, he gradually extended his grazing area to include the whole lagoon, eventually reaching the far coastal strand. His consumption of supplied greens in his enclosure trailed off to virtually zero, and he became self-supporting.

We have also been looking at areas of high use outside of the waters immediately in front of Wildtracks, and investigating the resources that attract Rameses. With the assistance of Adam Lloyd, of Spatial Data Solutions, we now have mapping of frequency of use for the soft release phase on which to base the resource assessment, to enable comparison of areas of high use with those of low use. Is it seagrass that drives his choice? Benthic algae? Freshwater upwellings? These results can be compared with those from Twiggy's release – do they favour the same areas? The same activity times? How can we integrate this into the release protocols? What can we continue improving?

Rameses soft release went very well, but however successful, there are always new things to learn and things that can be improved. As the data starts rolling in, we look at how we can improve our protocols for the next release. To strengthen our releases, we host Masters students each year, tasking them to investigate specific questions that have arisen during the rehabilitation and release process. Questions such as what drives the behaviour of the released animals?

One such study was completed by Laura Shakespeare: "Using satellite-telemetry to analyse the movements of a post-release rehabilitated Antillean manatee in response to resource distribution in Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary", based on the tracking data for Twiggy, the first manatee released into Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

I Am Not A Pet

The Illegal Trade in Primates in Belize



The two species of primate found in Belize - the Yucatan black howler monkey and the Geoffroy's spider monkey, are globally endangered. Belize's primate populations are being increasingly pressured by forest clearance and fragmentation as well as poaching for the illegal wildlife trade. Wildtracks, in partnership with the Forest Department, is working to combat not only the illegal pet trade but to contribute towards viable primate populations in Belize through confiscation, rehabilitation, and reintroduction back to the wild.

In order to catch primates for the illegal trade, poachers venture into the forest to shoot nursing females and take their infants. This is traumatic, not only for the injured or dying mothers, for the rest of the troop, and for the infants. Like human infants, monkeys require maternal care for two to three years or more, depending on the species and individuals. Primates have complex social structures and highly specialized diets, both of which are impossible to recreate in a human home environment. As a result, newly confiscated primates are often found suffering from malnutrition, parasites, and in a few cases, severe wounds from their capture.

Having a primate in a home is not only bad for the monkey, but also puts the owners and their families at risk. Monkeys have large canines, used for defense, and they can deliver a nasty bite. These bites are painful, and are at high risk of infection. Monkeys can also carry communicable diseases such as giardia and hookworm, putting family health in danger. As the Forest Department focuses on enforcement, and awareness about the illegality of the primate trade and the implications on human health continues to spread through Belize, the problem of illegal pets is gradually decreasing. Belize has the potential to become an example for not only the surrounding countries, but any country that seeks to successfully address the trade in endangered primates and other threatened species.



Left: Wildtracks provides training for the Belize Forest Department in how to approach confiscations, and handling of illegal pet and wild monkeys.

Cas's Story

Cas, an endangered Central American (or Geoffroy's) spider monkey, arrived at Wildtracks in September, 2015. Spider monkeys live high in the tree canopies, and are very protective of their young. The mother would therefore have been shot for him to have been taken from the wild to be sold.

He was confiscated from the hunter by the Belize Forest Department, and is now doing well at the Primate Rehabilitation Centre. He will be in rehabilitation for up to five years before he will be ready for release.

This is a sad reality for any monkey taken as a pet - who should be with his mother, learning from her how to live in the wild, moving fast through the treetops, covering vast areas, bonded with his troop, and enjoying freedom.



The Primate Rehabilitation Centre

The Spider Monkeys

2015 has seen the Primate Rehabilitation Program grow from strength to strength. The Spider Monkey Complex is being expanded to include a fourth Satellite Enclosure, constructed for the younger spider monkeys, Izzie and Chippa, who are moving towards their integration with Mikaila, an older, gentle female.



Capacity Building

Team members Alysha, Molly, and Jaimy represented Wildtracks this year at the Spider Monkey Release Course hosted by Centro Rescate Tericaya in Peru. With the first spider monkey releases scheduled for 2016, Wildtracks has been building capacity in this area, learning from others in the region.



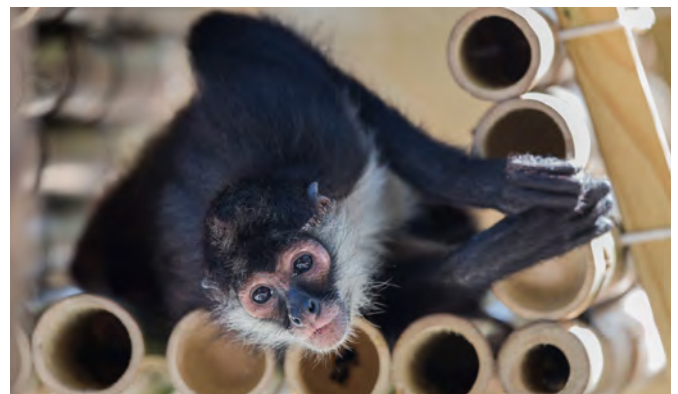
In April, the Satellite One spider monkey troop increased by one, when Frisky gave birth to Fig (Frisky arrived at the Primate Rehabilitation Centre with her partner, Frolic). Fig is healthy and providing everyone at the Centre with an excellent opportunity to observe a mother/ offspring relationship. It is also excellent to see that Frisky, despite being taken illegally from the wild, has not lost her natural instincts and is such a competent and caring mother to Fig.



Frisky and Fig

J. Tambor

The Satellite Two spider monkeys (Duma, Mel, Mattie, Charlie and Penny) are now being prepared for their potential release in 2016. These are the younger, more adaptable of the three adult troops at Wildtracks, and therefore considered the most suitable for the pilot release.



Mel

E. Gissis

The Howler Monkeys

The Howler Forest Enclosure Complex is close to completion, with all non-nursery howlers already moved in. Darwin and Sansa, Pachuco, and the new arrival, Joe, have all made the move. The groups have been thoroughly enjoying the new style of enclosure, with added height and climbing infrastructure.

Innie's group (Innie, Vicky, Maggie, and Finn) has now moved from the Nursery Unit into their Forest Enclosure. Kenya has been successfully introduced to the troop, with lots of chuckling, playing, and purring. Innie and Finn, in particular, seem to be enamoured with her!



Vicky



Innie and Co. in the Forest Cage

Little Bean's group (Little Bean, JW, Jessie, Suri and Hobbes) have recently been transferred to Pre Release Two – three quarters of an acre of enclosed forest. This is a significant step for them, and they are doing extremely well, bonding even closer as a troop, improving their climbing skills, and becoming far more independent of their carers.



Hobbes

Jaz and Little Pea have moved into Pre-Release One. The pair had originally been set for release in the summer of 2015 but had shown signs of not being quite ready. As Wildtracks firmly believes in the rehabilitation and release process of each animal being tailored to their individual needs, the decision was made to hold Jaz and Little Pea until the 2016 release. With the extra care and time dedicated, Jaz and Little Pea have now moved successfully into the Pre-Release stage and are rapidly becoming wild monkeys.

Teddy and Tilley were rescued together, and arrived at Wildtracks in September 2013, seriously emaciated and covered in faeces. They have grown from terrified, skinny monkeys with matted coats into strong and healthy individuals, and have now been moved from the Forest Enclosures to the initial pre-release phase, in the smallest of the Pre-Release enclosures. Here, a small patch of low trees provides them with their first experience of life in the forest. On being introduced to the trees, Tilley was off, and with great excitement, immediately demonstrated excellent climbing skills, leaving Teddy to catch up. They are now both confident climbers, and spend their days roaming through the trees in their enclosure.

Thank You!

PACT
Protected Areas Conservation Trust


Wild & Free
Rehabilitation and Release



The Magic of Fireburn



Fireburn is a complex matrix of tropical forest and mangrove savanna located in northeastern Belize. Measuring 1,818 acres, the Fireburn Reserve is part of the north east forest node, linked by a forest corridor to other protected areas across Belize and providing refuge for endangered and threatened species. It is rich in wildlife, and serves as the reintroduction site for endangered Yucatán black howler monkeys.

The Reserve is a private protected area managed through a collaborative partnership between Wildtracks and the Fireburn Community - one of the last traditional “in-the-bush” communities in Belize. Only accessible by boat, the area has been largely protected from the pressures on the forests elsewhere in Belize. It is also part of the North East Biological Corridor - one of three high priority national corridors, identified as important in building Belize’s resilience to predicted climate change impacts.

Wildtracks has worked in the Fireburn area for over 17 years, establishing the Reserve, monitoring wildlife, and, most recently, reintroducing howler monkeys. It has also worked with the community, establishing a school for the children, providing access to education, and assisting with medical emergencies.

The Wildtracks Team has a strong presence in Fireburn, and is based from the field base - a large, screened building set under the canopy, with views out to the forest. Despite the long work days, evenings are often spent looking for frogs, bugs, and everything else that goes bump in the night. There is never a dull moment living in Fireburn and there is an endless supply of peace and tranquility. The Team is lulled to sleep each night by the sounds of the tropical forest.



Fireburn (Google Earth)



The Fireburn Fieldbase

E. James

Update on Howler Monkey Reintroduction Programme

Fireburn

Fireburn Release Season, 2015

Celebrating Five Years of the Yucatan Black Howler Monkey Reintroduction Programme

Wildtracks has now released a total of 40 Yucatan black howler monkeys into Fireburn. Each year, from June until October, the dedicated Post-release Tracking Team, volunteers, and Masters students work tirelessly to monitor the most recent release groups.

Post-release monitoring is an intensive process, as all tracking is visual. In 2015, students from both the University of Belize and University of Leeds (UK) worked with the Wildtracks Post-release Tracking Team to check that the released howler groups settle into the wild without problems, and to collect information on their feeding and behaviour patterns. Rising in the pre-dawn hours, each tracking team locates their assigned troop and spends the day following them. Howlers tend to move at a relaxed pace throughout the day, moving from tree to tree, eating and resting. When the sun sets, and the howlers have settled down for the night, the tracking teams then return to the field base.

Beginning in January, 2015, Wildtracks conducted a post-release assessment, headed by Fanny Tricone, who spent six months focusing on measuring the success of the Reintroduction Program. She worked with the Fireburn Team to relocate the previously reintroduced howlers, determining their condition, studying changing group dynamics, and mapping current territories.

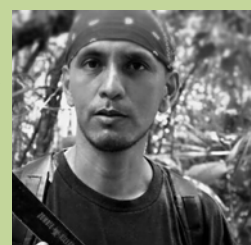
The project validated the success of both the rehabilitation and the reintroduction of this endangered species, recording the first wild-born babies and some exciting surprises! Bonnie, a female howler who disappeared eight months after her release in 2011, was found live and well. This is incredibly good news and gives Wildtracks a current post release success rate of approximately 95%!

2015 Release Groups

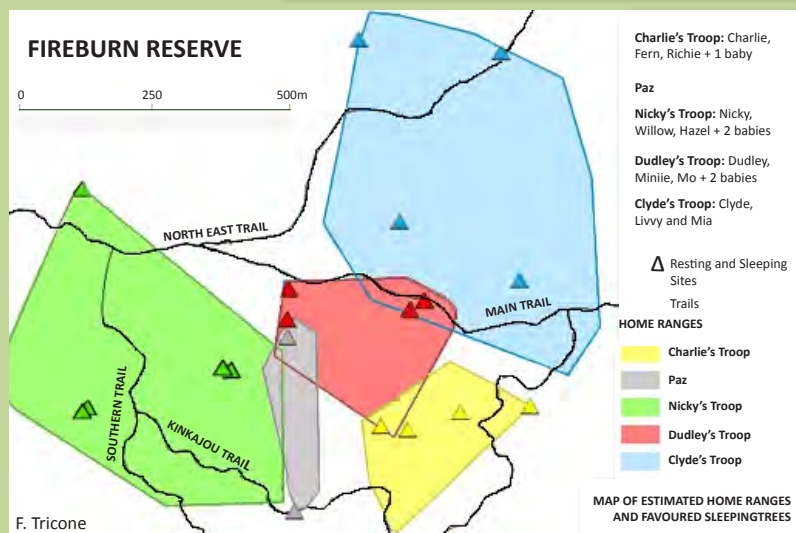
- Elliot and Athena
- The "Teens" - Sam, Polly, Pebbles and Peanut
- Spartacus and Jenny
- Beth and Ty

Wildtracks is excited to announce the birth of the first six wild howler monkeys in Fireburn – the first howlers born there since their disappearance over 70 years ago!

Right: Rudy Castellanos, Post-release Tracking Team Leader



Below: One of the Post-release Tracking Teams at work in the Fireburn forest



New Arrivals, Updates and Other News

The Nursery Unit

There are currently five infants in the nursery - four Yucatan black howler monkeys and one Central American (or Geoffroy's) spider monkey.

Cho arrived emaciated, ill, and verging on catatonic earlier this year, and has made amazing progress in the past few months. Tripling in size, she has become a healthy, well-balanced, active and happy monkey, and is ready for integration into a troop.

Annie was once a wild youngster, living in trees along the Belize River. Clearance of river-side vegetation is an increasing issue for howler monkeys, as this is their prime habitat, and when trees no longer connect overhead, the monkeys are forced to come lower, increasing risks of being attacked or captured. Annie was attacked by dogs as she followed her troop across open ground along a newly cleared stretch of river bank. With severe wounds in the lower half of her tail, much of the tail had to be amputated, leading to questions as to her long term future. However, she makes up for the loss of the prehensile section of her tail with the development of impressive jumping skills. She has tripled in size and is doing extremely well, and we are optimistic that she will be releasable.

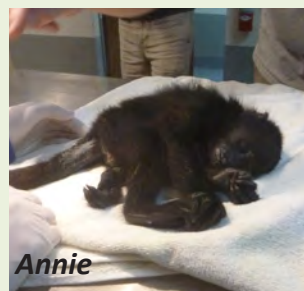
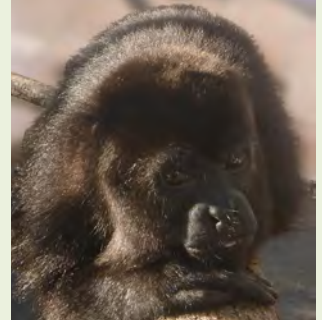
Cas was only four months old when he was confiscated from a hunter - at this age, he would be inseparable from his mother. To provide him with the security he needs, he spends his days with a rotation of four carers. Learning to climb, play, and growing in strength and character each day, Cas is certain to be a Wildtracks favourite, and should soon be integrated with other monkeys.

Before...

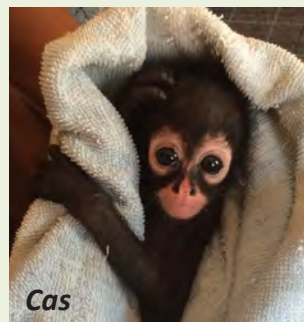


Cho

...and After



Annie



Cas



A Monkey called Joe

"Why is rehabilitation important? If I have an illegal pet monkey and it gets too large, bites too hard, makes too much mess...why can't I just release it back into the wild where there are other monkeys?"

This is a question that is asked from time to time - and the simple answer is that released pets are not equipped with the skills to survive. A few of the monkeys we have at Wildtracks were reported as wild, but are obviously released pets. The most recent is Joe.

Joe is a handsome sub-adult howler monkey found injured, on the ground, at the Lamanai Archaeological Site, an area known for its howler monkey population. He had pelvic bruising, and was unable to walk or climb the nearby trees. His behaviour - his lack of fear of people, and the way he moved around his quarantine enclosure, indicated that he was once a pet.

Several things may have happened - he had no monkey communication skills, and would have been chased and possibly attacked by the wild monkeys. As he lacked good climbing skills, he may have fallen from the tree tops...whatever the reason for his injury, his chances of surviving in the wild were very, very small, and he was going to suffer a slow death. Rehabilitation gives him the skills he needs and matches him with a group to provide the social skills and support for a successful release.

Strategic Planning...

Wildtracks has come a long way since its establishment in 1990!
In 2015, strategic planning has plotted our path forward,
identifying and prioritising the activities needed to be achieved
in the coming five years in each of the four programme areas -
Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Development, Education
and Outreach, and Support.

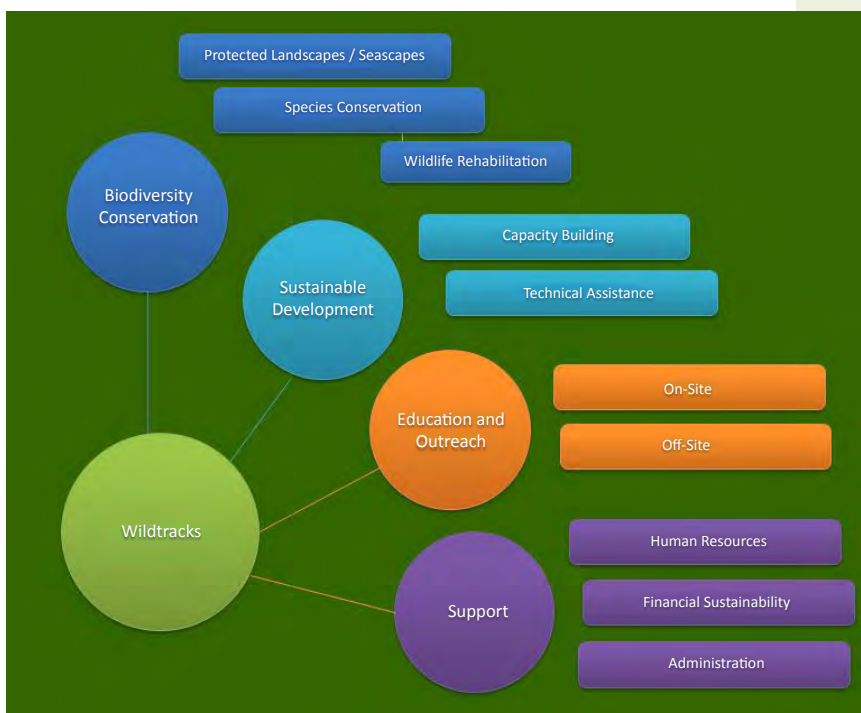
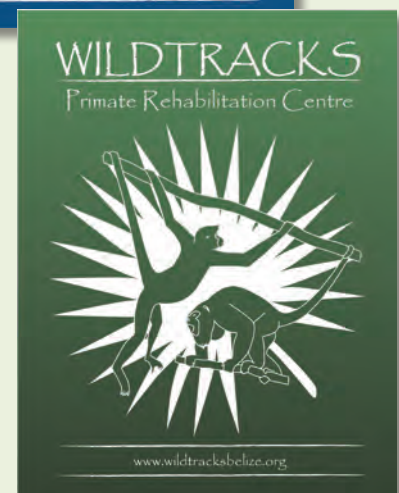
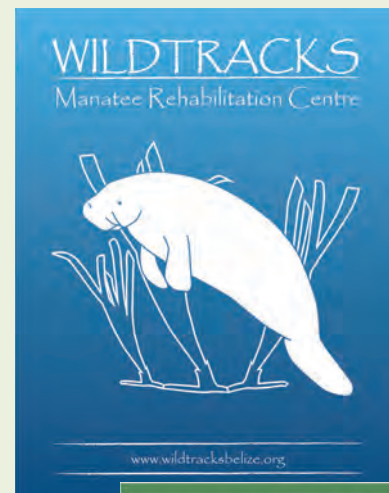


Wildtracks Biodiversity Conservation Programme Species Conservation Sub-Programme

The Species Conservation sub-programme includes the two wildlife rehabilitation centres, and is focused on increasing the viability of the endangered primate species and Antillean manatee in Belize through:

- further strengthening rehabilitation and release of these species back into the wild,
- increasing awareness of the issues facing primates and manatees,
- strengthening national collaboration towards addressing conservation needs of these species,
- strengthening protected area management in key protected areas, and
- addressing key threats.

As part of the restructuring of the Programme areas, Wildtracks has two new logos for the two rehabilitation programmes, designed by Fanny Tricone:



The Final Word

As 2015 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the achievements of the past year, and the people who have made all things Wildtracks possible- the Belize-based staff who work so hard both at Wildtracks and in the field, those from all over the World giving up their time to work as volunteers, those individuals and organizations supporting the Wildlife Rehabilitation Programme through donations and grants, those who assisted with confiscations, rescues and broken vehicles...

This year would not have been possible without
you!



Thank You!



The Wildtracks Team

End Notes

"Before going to sleep each night, we had a cabana tradition of naming our top three events of the day. Some of the things on the lists ranged from having a baby peccary pig named Lexxi living in our bathroom, watching a lunar eclipse over a Belizean lagoon with amazing people, a baby spider monkey and pina colada's, building emergency fencing around a manatee pool in the middle of a raging tropical storm, sing-alongs during fruit chop, countless monkey stories about the weird and wonderful things monkeys do, my main monkey man Pachuco, a 'quest' to the magical bamboo forest, seagrassing (yes, that's a verb at Wildtracks) and some really interesting conversations with some really awesome people from all around the world.

I only have six days left at Wildtracks and it's going to be hard to leave all the animals and the people. Leaving Twiggy will be the hardest part, but I know she is well on her way back to swimming in the sea as a wild and free manatee, hopefully one day adding to the manatee population. I feel like I played a small part in a big team to get her there and that is really, really incredible."

Susan Mosey
Wildtracks Volunteer, 2015

Alysha, talking to Cas....

*"Are you a little alien?
...that would certainly explain a lot!!"*

