

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release | August 4, 2020
Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Meghan Sawyer
206.548.2550 | woodlandparkzoopr@zoo.org

#SeattleWatermelon baby tapir gets a name!

SEATTLE—Woodland Park Zoo's lovable baby Malayan tapir has a name: **Sempurna** (sem-PURN-uh), which means flawless, a beautiful dream, in Indonesian. The female tapir's name pays tribute to the culture and language of the people sharing the species' native range.

Sempurna was born June 10 to mom Ulan and dad Bintang. Zoo guests can visit the tapirs in the Trail of Vines habitat and might get to see Sempurna swimming in the pool!

Lucky bidders, Donna H. and Gene "Bean" Baxter, won the opportunity to name Sempurna through the zoo's virtual Jungle Party fundraiser held last month.

A baby tapir looks like a watermelon on legs due to its reddish-brown coat dappled with white and cream-colored spots and stripes! This color pattern works wonders as camouflage in bamboo or reed jungles. The striped pattern begins to fade after a few months and the calf begins to look like a miniature adult at about 5 to 8 months old.

Fascinating facts about tapirs

- Tapirs are among the most primitive large mammals in the world, changing little in appearance for millions of years. This prehistoric-looking animal looks like a massive pig with a long snout. Because they have an odd number of toes (four toes on each front foot, three on each back foot), their closest relatives are horses and rhinos.
- Tapirs are great, fast swimmers. They often use their trunk-like snout like a snorkel!
- Malayan tapirs are the largest of the four species of tapirs and are fairly rare in zoos in North America. Only 39 Malayan tapirs currently live in North American zoos.
- Tapirs are endangered in the wild. The Malayan tapir ranges in Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Myanmar. The other three species are found in Central and South America. Fewer than 2,500 Malayan tapirs remain in the wild.
- Woodland Park Zoo partners with conservation projects in [Peninsular Malaysia](#) and Sumatra, where tapirs are found. One of the greatest threats to tapirs is loss of habitat. By protecting land for tigers, orangutans and hornbills, the zoo is also protecting land for tapirs. Protect tapirs and the forests they live in by making informed purchasing decisions and buying products with certified [sustainable palm oil](#).

Help save tapirs around the world

Become a Digital ZooParent by adopting a baby tapir! When you become a digital ZooParent, your donation goes directly to Woodland Park Zoo's Relief Fund dedicated to amazing animal care and the zoo's wildlife conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Woodland Park Zoo has reopened—visit now! Go to www.zoo.org to purchase timed-entry admission tickets and to learn about changes to help keep zoo visitors, animals and staff safe and healthy. For additional ways to support your zoo, consider a membership or contribute to the Relief Fund at www.zoo.org/relief. The zoo appreciates the community support!

###

