



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
BASED IN UBATUBA, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL,
DEDICATED TO CONSERVATION,
NATURAL HISTORY FIELD RESEARCH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.
WE WORK A LOT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD:
A 131.6-HECTARE (325 ACRES) PRIVATE RESERVE



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OUR PROJECTS

We develop a variety of projects, some of them independently and some jointly with state and federal environmental agencies:

Fauna surveys. The team's constant presence in our reserve results in fauna monitoring (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates) throughout the year, allowing us to map their movements, seasonalities and the forest's overall health. We use photography and/or audio recordings, and also count on trail cameras, which record images and videos 24/7. So far (the list is always growing), the area hosts 31 mammal species; 265 bird species; 34 amphibian species; 25 reptile species; and 8 fish species. Some of them are threatened or endangered. Ensuring the reserve's integrity could prove vital for their survival.



Natural History studies in our private reserve. The aim is to deepen knowledge about different species that inhabit the forest and the complex relations between living beings. This data is essential to develop management plans and conservation strategies, both for the Projeto Dacnis area and the Atlantic Forest in general. Parts of our research have already resulted in articles published in the scientific media.



Native plants and recovery of degraded areas.

There are parts of the Dacnis area that were deforested and altered by previous occupants or fires before the non-profit acquired them. Our native seedling nursery contains pioneer species, with seeds gathered from the forest floor, to recover these areas as quickly as possible. Pioneer species attract birds which help with seed dispersal, accelerating the regeneration process.



One species in need of help is *Euterpe edulis*, an endangered and protected palm tree of the Atlantic Forest. It is illegally cut down for its tender heart of palm and doesn't grow back. Its fruit is favored by many birds – bellbirds, trogons, fruitcrows, toucans, araçaris, guans, and others –, as well as mammals. Animal seed dispersal is vital for the juçara:



without it, seedling survival rate is only about 0.3%. We gather seeds on the ground around palm trees, plant them in the nursery and transfer the young plants to the reserve, ensuring the juçara palm's survival and also providing food for the animals.

Environmental education. Projeto Dacnis coordinates lectures and guided walks for students, and is developing an education project based on Natural History. Environmental awareness and respect for nature are easier to acquire during youth, and our focus on Natural History makes it easier for the children to understand the interactions and interdependencies between living organisms.



Fauna survey and monitoring at Alcatrazes Archipelago. A technical partnership with ICMBio (Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade, a branch of the Environment Ministry), Estação Ecológica (ESEC) Tupinambás, São Sebastião, for the implementation of the federal marine park. We have the proper permits to work with birds and herpetofauna in surveys and photographic records.

National Action Insular Plan (PAN Insular) for bird monitoring in Queimada Grande island. Technical partnership with ICMBio, ARIE (Relevant Area of Ecological Interest) Queimada Grande e Pequena, with the purpose of mapping the birds that are predated by *Bothrops insularis*. We have the permits to work with birds and herpetofauna, conducting research and photographic records.



ESEC Tupiniquins and ARIE Queimada Grande e Queimada Pequena Council. We contribute with information and participate in the decision-making to establish conservation policies for both units.

National Action Plan for the Conservation of Endangered Herpetofauna in the Southeast Atlantic Forest. Through our biologist Edelcio Muscat, we participate in the project to help with strategic planning and actions that will aid the conservation of these species and their environments.

Technical Ecotourism Chamber of the Serra do Mar State Park (PESM), Picinguaba nucleus, Ubatuba. Discussion and implementation of actions for ecologically correct use of the nucleus and, in consequence, its preservation.

Serra do Mar State Park Management Council, Picinguaba nucleus. An effective contribution to the conservation of the Atlantic Forest in Ubatuba.

THE ATLANTIC FOREST



One day it linked the country from north to south, running along the coast of 17 states and into Paraguay and Argentina. It took up almost 1.3 million km² (501,933 mi²), about 15% of Brazil's territory. Today, the Atlantic Forest resists in 13 states, but only 8.5% of its original coverage consists of areas larger than 100 hectares (247 acres). Between 2000 and 2008, 2777 km² (1072 mi²) of forest were lost, and it just keeps on vanishing... **The Atlantic Forest is one of the most threatened biomes in the planet.**

What remains of this natural heritage is very rich in biodiversity. In it can be found:

- 270 mammal species (55 endemic, that only live there)
- 992 bird species (188 endemic)
- 342 amphibian species (90 endemic)
- 197 reptile species (60 endemic)
- 350 fish species (133 endemic)
- 20,000 plant species (8,000 endemic)



New species are still being discovered. But the Atlantic Forest currently harbors 383 of the country's 633 endangered animals, according to the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and of Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama).

The forest's destruction began soon after the Portuguese arrived, in 1500, with the exploitation of wood and gigantic forest clearings for pasture land and sugar-cane plantations. It hasn't stopped since. Many plants are still taken from it. Hunting, fishing and trafficking of wild animals also do a lot of damage. Besides, great urban centers – today, about 145 million people inhabit the original forest's area –, exert intense demographic pressure on it. **While man expands, the forest shrinks.**

Different landscapes harbor the forest's biodiversity. There are coastal strips, with mangroves and *restingas*, lowland forests, interior forests and high altitude fields, each one with its characteristic flora, fauna and climate. These ecosystems are intertwined from sea level up to about an altitude of 2,000 meters (6,562 ft.).

If these diverse and rich habitats aren't protected and preserved, many animal and plant species will disappear. That's not all: human populations depend on the forest for their water supply: there are seven great water basins in it.

We want, and need, the forest to survive untouched and healthy. We want to go on seeing animals like the Brazilian Tanager, the Golden Lion Tamarin and the Jaguar.

The forest is good for everyone.

