

BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY: CENIBRA'S BUILDING A SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR

AUTHORS



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CENIBRA is located in the Atlantic Forest biome, one of the world's most threatened and biodiverse biomes, for which reason it is deemed a hot spot of global importance. The Company recognizes that being sustainable while operating in such a context is a great challenge, as sustainability depends on biodiversity and all other services provided by healthy, protected ecosystems.



Scope and objectives

In view of this biome's criticality level, CENIBRA's responsibility for pursuing sustainability has been

Innovative approach

- In addition to the challenge of protecting more than 100,000 hectares of Atlantic Forest remnants on its properties, CENIBRA has invested in native forest recovery, especially in critical areas in terms of connectivity restoration and protection of locations relevant to the conservation of soil, water, and biodiversity at the landscape scale.
- These investments have resulted in the restoration of more than 5,000 hectares of native forests and recovered and expanded the ecosystem services by the forest far beyond its boundaries. Along with flora restoration, a biodiversity monitoring and reintroduction of endangered wildlife program has been in place since 1990. Its purpose is not only recovering forests, but also recreating the required ecological complexity for the forest to be sustainable and spread its benefits into neighboring production arrangements.
- translated into the following purposes:
- Increasing the area of native forests in the Atlantic Forest biome within the Company's area of operation as a strategy to expand the provision of ecosystem services.
- Enhancing the connectivity of forest remnants in its area of operation as a strategy to favor biodiversity conservation.
- Contributing to the development of a solution to the global climate crisis by removing carbon from the atmosphere and fixing it permanently in diversified forms of life.
- Supporting the ecosystem balance as a way of favoring the sustainability of the provision of environmental services.
- This reintroduction program has already released 480 birds in nature and periodic field monitoring campaigns have recorded 327 chicks born in the wild. However, the actual number of chicks is estimated to be significantly larger as many of them may have migrated to distant areas and, therefore, have not been detected by the campaigns. A recent survey published by a Newcastle University's research team found at least 21 bird species saved from extinction throughout the world over the past 30 years as a result of conservation efforts.
- One of such species is the red-billed curassow (Crax blumenbachii), which has been reintroduced in the wild by CENIBRA since 1990 and is the symbol of the company's bird reintroduction program. Monitoring campaigns carried out in the Company areas detected <u>397 bird</u>, 80 mammal, 42 amphibian, 36 reptile, 36 fish, and <u>622 flora</u> species native to the regional biome. Such outstanding biodiversity stems from protection, recovery, and reintroduction actions carried out by CENIBRA.

Conclusions

These flora and fauna recovery programs provide inputs to dissertations, theses, scientific articles, and various forest restoration projects. The information generated can also be used to work out income generation projects for the neighboring population and projects to develop non-wood forest products and new potential strains for forestry applications. CENIBRA's wildlife reintroduction program was used by Brazil's Ministry of the Environment as a basis to prepare the National Plan for the Bird Conservation in the Atlantic Forest, whose purpose is to orient bird species conservation in one of the most endangered biomes on the planet.

Currently, CENIBRA owns the most extensive private protected, restored, and under-restoration areas in the middle course of Doce River, where the degradation of biodiversity, soils, and water resources is widely recognized as critical. As the owner of these areas and for conducting scientific studies on ecological processes that take place there, CENIBRA has become a source of fundamental knowledge for the pursuit of sustainability of economic activities in the regions in which it operates. In addition to generating value for its own business and neighbors, such benefits are also global in scope when one takes into consideration carbon removal from the atmosphere, thus contributing to mitigating global warming.



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