



Brazil

Atlantic Forest Restoration

November 2015



A total of 271,290 trees have been financed thanks to the support of donors and sponsors

THE PROJECT

In the Pontal do Paranapanema region of western São Paulo State, WeForest and Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas are working together to create biodiversity corridors that connect fragments of the Atlantic Forest. Increasing habitat connectivity enables the movement of endangered species and the genetic exchange between animal populations, improving the chances of survival of important species like the highly endangered black lion tamarin. Seedlings are grown in community-based agroforestry nurseries, where local landowners gain experience in seedling production and planting techniques. Working with local communities, this project seeks to reconnect the biodiverse and extremely threatened Atlantic forest for the benefit of human and non-human species alike.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Location and GPS coordinates: **Pontal do Paranapanema (22.29.134S/52.34.115W)**
- Project area: **125 hectares**
- Number of trees: **271,290**
- Number of tree species: **115 species**
- Number of nurseries: **10**
- Number of employees: **17 (9 women and 8 men)**
- Number of families trained: **180 (40 families)**

PLANTING UPDATE

April 2015 – September 2015

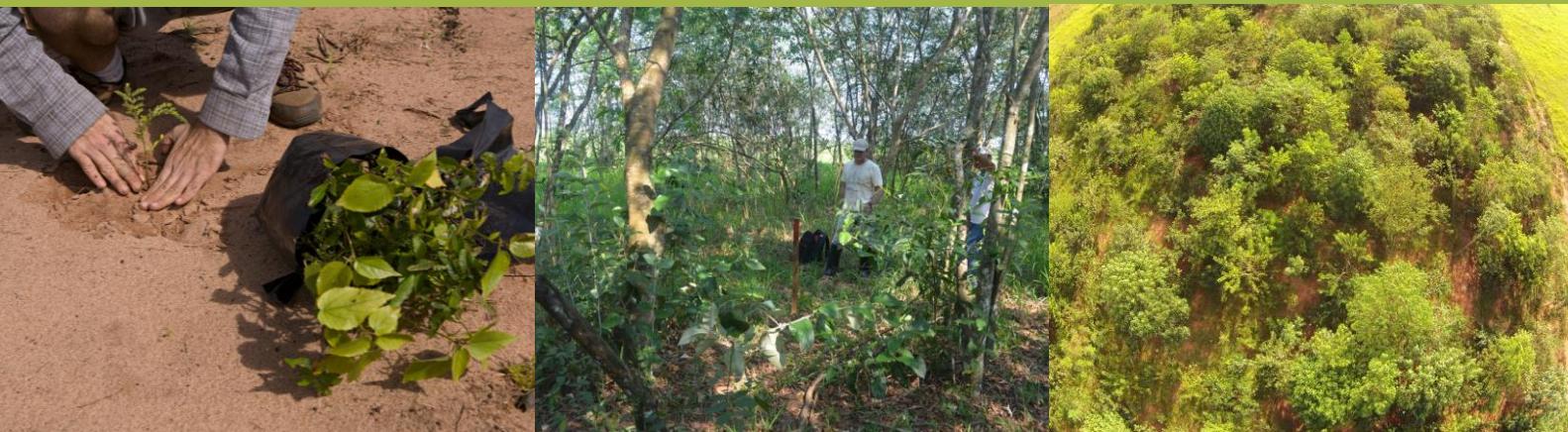
Since March 2015, the team has planted 600 trees to complete their restoration of the “Arco Iris” Farm forest, bringing the total number of trees planted in this area to 40,600. Planting is also underway at the Santo Antonio Farm. Here, 10,200 trees have been planted in the last six months, and seedlings are ready to be planted. In July, we carried out ecological surveys at the Arco Iris Farm to monitor the progress of the growing forest. The results demonstrate that the growing forest has high levels of floristic diversity and healthy growth patterns. Seven new areas measuring 314 hectares have been identified for assisted natural regeneration and wildlife corridors in 2016.



ECOLOGICAL SURVEY

For the first time, the project team is using a new protocol for monitoring progress – the SMA-32 State Resolution. The protocol sets guidelines for monitoring ecological restoration projects in the State of São Paulo and criteria and parameters to evaluate the results and certify completion. *Canopy cover, basal area¹, density of saplings, and richness of the understory* are indicators for restoration success. In July, the team sampled ten plots of 20 x 5m and used the SMA-32 State Resolution to measure the progress of the Arco Iris Farm restoration. The results of the study suggest that the ecological restoration project in the Arco Iris Farm is producing a healthy, diverse forest. In the ten plots the team recorded 236 individuals from 86 species. The plots have high levels of floristic diversity and good values of tree height and circumference. Of particular importance are the results of the understory richness and canopy cover. Both have reached the critical level as described by the the SMA-32 State. Photos taken by drones (bottom right) provide further evidence of success.

¹Basal area refers to the area of land that is occupied by the cross-section of tree trunks and stems at a certain height.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Since the project began we focused on identifying community needs through community workshops. So far, 180 people, from 40 families, have set up their own community based nurseries and received training in numerous forestry activities and extra income through involvement in the project and the sales of seedlings. A further 17 people are directly employed as field technicians, forestry engineers, environmental educators and field assistants. Of these, more than half are women. The project employs 9 women and 8 men.



Map showing the location of San Antonio Farm and Arco Iris Farm in relation to the Morro de Diablo State Park. Planting at the Arco Iris Farm has been completed. At the San Antonio Farm, planting is underway.