

National Parks **Brazil**

Brasil
Parques Nacionais

EMPRESA DAS ARTES



Brasil
Parques Nacionais



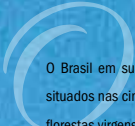


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O Brasil em sua imensidão abriga hoje 69 parques nacionais situados nas cinco macro-regiões, protegendo no Norte áreas de florestas virgens e praticamente intocadas pelo homem, dunas e pinturas rupestres no Nordeste, a exuberância de Mata Atlântica no Sudeste, os Campos Gerais no Sul e uma flora e fauna do exuberante do Cerrado no Centro-Oeste. Através desta publicação a Localiza disponibiliza mais uma vez aos seus clientes e leitores a possibilidade de descoberta de exemplos bem sucedidos de manutenção da riqueza natural, legando às próximas gerações áreas de rara beleza. Juntas, elas compõem hoje um rico mosaico de preservação de nossa inigualável biodiversidade, de nossa história e também nossa cultura.

Brazil in its immensity today houses 69 national parks located in the five macro-regions, protecting the northern areas of virgin forests – virtually untouched by man, dunes and rock paintings in the Northeast, the exuberance of the Southeast Atlantic Forest, Campos Gerais in the South and the exuberant flora and fauna of the Cerrado in the Midwest. Through this publication, Localiza makes available once more to its clients and readers the chance of discovering successful examples of the maintenance of natural wealth, bequeathing to future generations areas of outstanding beauty. Together they compose today a rich mosaic of conservation of our unique biodiversity, our history and our culture.

Apoio:

Patrocínio:

Realização:

Em 1876 o engenheiro abolicionista negro André Rebouças, foi precursor ao idealizar que o Brasil destinasse parte de seu território para a criação de áreas protegidas com o intuito de salvaguardar de forma sistemática, legal e organizada, aspectos importantes de nossos ecossistemas regionais. Anos depois, em 1937, era criado o Parque Nacional do Itatiaia, por decisão do então presidente da República, Getúlio Vargas. Na Serra da Mantiqueira; entre Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro e São Paulo, surgiu então uma unidade de conservação que nos levaria, nos dias de hoje, a termos 69 paraísos ecológicos brasileiros. Descubram conosco, através deste livro, os esforços que o ICMBio brasileiro, os governos estaduais, os diretores dos parques nacionais e as comunidades de seu entorno realizam para proteger as nossas paisagens, nossa fauna, nossa flora, nossa gente e, portanto, nossa cultura.

Fábio Ávila
Editor

In 1876, the abolitionist engineer André Rebouças was a precursor when he idealized that Brazil would separate part of its territory to create protected areas with the intention to safeguard in a systematic, legal and organized way, important aspects of our regional ecosystems. Years later, in 1937, Itatiaia National Park was created due to decision of the president Getúlio Vargas. In the Serra da Mantiqueira, between Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, a conservation unit was created, which would take us these days to the 69 Brazilian ecological paradises. Discover with us through this book the efforts that the Brazilian ICMBio, state governments, the directors of the national parks and the communities surrounding it, perform to protect our landscapes, our wildlife, our flora, our people and, therefore, our culture.

Publisher



Parques Nacionais: é Preciso Conhecer para Conservar

Basta pensar em uma beleza cênica brasileira, qualquer que seja ela, para logo concluirmos a importância dos parques nacionais: Tijuca, Lençóis Maranhenses, Abrolhos, Fernando de Noronha, Pantanal Matogrossense e Chapada Diamantina... Todos são unidades de conservação que compõem um sistema complexo, rico e extremamente importante para o Brasil – o Sistema Nacional de Unidades de Conservação da Natureza (SNUC), materializado na Lei nº 9.985/2000.

Da criação do primeiro parque nacional para cá já se foram 76 anos. Em 1937 nasceu o primeiro – o Parque Nacional do Itatiaia. Em 2013, tivemos a criação do mais recente – o Parque Nacional Marinho das Ilhas dos Currais, totalizando até o momento 69 parques nacionais.

Presentes em todas as regiões do País e em praticamente todos os biomas – Amazônia, Mata Atlântica, Cerrado, Caatinga, Pantanal e também na Zona Costeira e Marinha – eles ajudam a conservar importantíssimos ecossistemas – como florestas, montanhas, cachoeiras, mares, rios, áreas semidesérticas, zonas úmidas e cavernas.

E tão importante quanto a conservação são os serviços que eles oferecem à sociedade brasileira. Exatamente por guardarem bens naturais de extrema delicadeza, únicos no planeta, e abrigarem ecorregiões inteiras, é que eles têm gerado uma mudança positiva em seu entorno.

A visitação a esses parques tem crescido. Em 2012, o ICMBio registrou mais de cinco milhões de visitantes brasileiros e estrangeiros a alguns deles. Toda essa movimentação ecoturística incentiva atividades econômicas de pequeno e médio porte no entorno dos parques, como hotéis, pousadas, restaurantes, lojas de souvenir e artesanatos, estabelecendo-se uma cadeia produtiva com benefícios para as comunidades locais.

Em algumas localidades, principalmente em municípios de baixo Índice de Desenvolvimento Humano (IDH), os parques atuam como um dos principais estímulos ao desenvolvimento regional. No rol dos serviços ambientais decisivos está, ainda, a manutenção de mananciais de água doce, que abastecem as cidades, e das florestas, que ajudam a regular o clima e controlar a erosão do solo, que evita parte das catástrofes ambientais.

Eles funcionam, também, como verdadeiros laboratórios a céu aberto, onde pesquisadores desenvolvem trabalhos voltados à conservação e ao uso da biodiversidade e dos recursos genéticos – matéria-prima para a produção de medicamentos, cosméticos, alimentos e novos materiais. Atualmente, mais de três mil pesquisas científicas estão sendo realizadas nos nossos parques nacionais.

Em seu interior é permitida a realização de pesquisa científica, atividades de educação e interpretação ambiental, de recreação em contato com a natureza e de turismo ecológico. Mas não se pode perder de vista a função precípua à qual eles se destinam, que é a de preservar ecossistemas naturais de grande relevância ecológica.

Nesse sentido, toda e qualquer publicação que eleja os parques nacionais como tema central deve ser valorizada. E isso passa pelo entendimento do que eles representam, das riquezas naturais e culturais que guardam e, mais importante, dos benefícios que eles geram para toda a sociedade.

Conhecendo-os, inevitavelmente a sociedade estará do nosso lado nessa importante missão de conservar esse patrimônio. Fica o convite a todos: conheçam os parques nacionais do Brasil!

Roberto Vizinin
Presidente do ICMBio



National Parks: Visit them and you Will Preserve them

You just have to picture any Brazilian landscape in your head to see how important the national parks are. Tijuca, Lençóis Maranhenses, Abrolhos, Fernando de Noronha, Pantanal Matogrossense and Chapada Diamantina... All of them are conservation units representing a complex, rich and extremely important system for Brazil – the National System of Conservation Units (SNUC), incorporated under Law number 9985/2000.

It has been 73 years since the creation of the first national park. In 1937, we would have the first one – the Itatiaia National Park. In 2013, the most recent park came along – the Marinho das Ilhas do Currais National Park, representing, so far, 69 national parks.

There are parks all over the Country and in almost all of the biomes – Amazon, Atlantic Forest, Cerrado Area, Caatinga, Pantanal, in addition to the Coastal and Maritime Zone – and they help preserve very important ecosystems – i.e., forests, mountains, waterfalls, seas, rivers, semi-desert areas, humid zones and caverns.

And as important as their conservation are the benefits they provide to the Brazilian society. Because they hold extremely delicate and unique natural resources and cover entire ecoregions, the parks have been changing their immediate surroundings in a positive way.

Visitation to these parks has increased. In 2012, ICMBio registered five million Brazilian and foreign visitors to some of these parks. All this ecotourism activity encourages small and medium economic activities around the parks, such as hotels, inns, and souvenir and crafts stores establishing a successful chain full of benefits for all local communities.

In some areas, especially the ones with a low Human Development Index (HDI), the parks are considered one of the main incentives for the regional development. Within the decisive environmental services list there is also the maintenance of fresh water sources, which fill up the cities, and of forests, which help adjust the weather and control the soil erosion, preventing some environmental disasters.

They also are considered real outdoor laboratories focused on the preservation and biodiversity usage of genetic resources – raw material for manufacturing drugs, cosmetic products, food and new material. Today, more than three thousand scientific researchers are being carried out inside our national parks.

Inside of those parks, scientific research, activities for environmental education and interpretation, recreation in contact with nature and ecotourism are allowed. But you cannot forget their essential function, which is preserving such important natural ecosystems.

So, every publication appointing national parks as a main theme should not be taken for granted. This includes what they represent, their natural resource wealth and most importantly, the benefits they provide for the society.

By visiting them, the society will inevitably join us in this important mission of preserving this national heritage. So, everybody is invited: come visit the national parks in Brazil!

Roberto Vizinin
President of ICMBio



18 *Sul South*

- 20 Aparados da Serra SANTA CATARINA, RIO GRANDE DO SUL
- 22 Araucárias SANTA CATARINA
- 24 Campos Gerais PARANÁ
- 26 Iguaçu PARANÁ
- 28 Ilha Grande PARANÁ, MATO GROSSO DO SUL
- 30 Lagoa do Peixe RIO GRANDE DO SUL
- 32 Saint-Hilaire/Lange PARANÁ
- 34 São Joaquim SANTA CATARINA
- 38 Serra do Itajaí SANTA CATARINA
- 40 Serra Geral SANTA CATARINA, RIO GRANDE DO SUL
- 42 Superagui PARANÁ

44 *Sudeste Southeast*

- 46 Caparaó ESPÍRITO SANTO, MINAS GERAIS
- 48 Cavernas do Peruaçu MINAS GERAIS

- 52 Grande Sertão Veredas MINAS GERAIS, BAHIA

- 56 Itatiaia RIO DE JANEIRO, MINAS GERAIS
- 60 Restinga de Jurubatiba RIO DE JANEIRO
- 62 Sempre-vivas MINAS GERAIS
- 66 Serra da Bocaina SÃO PAULO, RIO DE JANEIRO
- 70 Serra da Canastra MINAS GERAIS
- 72 Serra do Cipó MINAS GERAIS
- 76 Serra dos Órgãos RIO DE JANEIRO
- 78 Tijuca RIO DE JANEIRO

82 *Nordeste Notheast*

- 84 Abrolhos BAHIA
- 88 Alto Cariri BAHIA
- 90 Boa Nova BAHIA
- 92 Catimbau PERNAMBUCO
- 96 Chapada das Mesas MARANHÃO

- 98 Chapada Diamantina BAHIA

- 100 Descobrimento BAHIA
- 102 Fernando de Noronha PERNAMBUCO
- 104 Jericoacoara CEARÁ
- 106 Lençóis Maranhenses MARANHÃO
- 108 Monte Pascoal BAHIA
- 110 Pau Brasil BAHIA
- 112 Serra da Capivara PIAUÍ
- 114 Serra das Confusões PIAUÍ
- 116 Serra das Lontras BAHIA
- 118 Serra de Itabaiana SERGIPE
- 120 Sete Cidades PIAUÍ
- 122 Ubajara CEARÁ

126 *Centro-oeste Middle west*

- 128 Brasília DISTRITO FEDERAL
- 130 Chapada dos Guimarães MATO GROSSO
- 132 Chapada dos Veadeiros GOIÁS
- 136 Emas GOIÁS, MATO GROSSO DO SUL
- 138 Pantanal Matogrossense MATO GROSSO
- 140 Serra do Bodoquena MATO GROSSO DO SUL

142 *Norte North*

- 144 Amazônia PARÁ, AMAZONAS
- 146 Anavilhanas AMAZONAS
- 148 Araguaia TOCANTINS
- 150 Cabo Orange AMAPÁ
- 152 Campos Amazônicos AMAZONAS, RONDÔNIA, MATO GROSSO
- 154 Jamanxim PARÁ
- 156 Jaú AMAZONAS
- 158 Juruena AMAZONAS, MATO GROSSO
- 160 Mapeguari AMAZONAS, RONDÔNIA
- 162 Montanhas do Tumucumaque PARÁ, AMAPÁ
- 164 Monte Roraima RORAIMA
- 168 Nascentes do Lago Jari AMAZONAS
- 170 Nascentes do Rio Parnaíba TOCANTINS, MARANHÃO, BAHIA, PIAUÍ
- 172 Pacaás Novos RONDÔNIA
- 174 Pico da Neblina AMAZONAS
- 176 Rio Novo PARÁ
- 178 Serra da Cutia RONDÔNIA
- 180 Serra da Mocidade RORAIMA
- 182 Serra do Divisor ACRE
- 184 Serra do Pardo PARÁ
- 186 Viruá RORAIMA

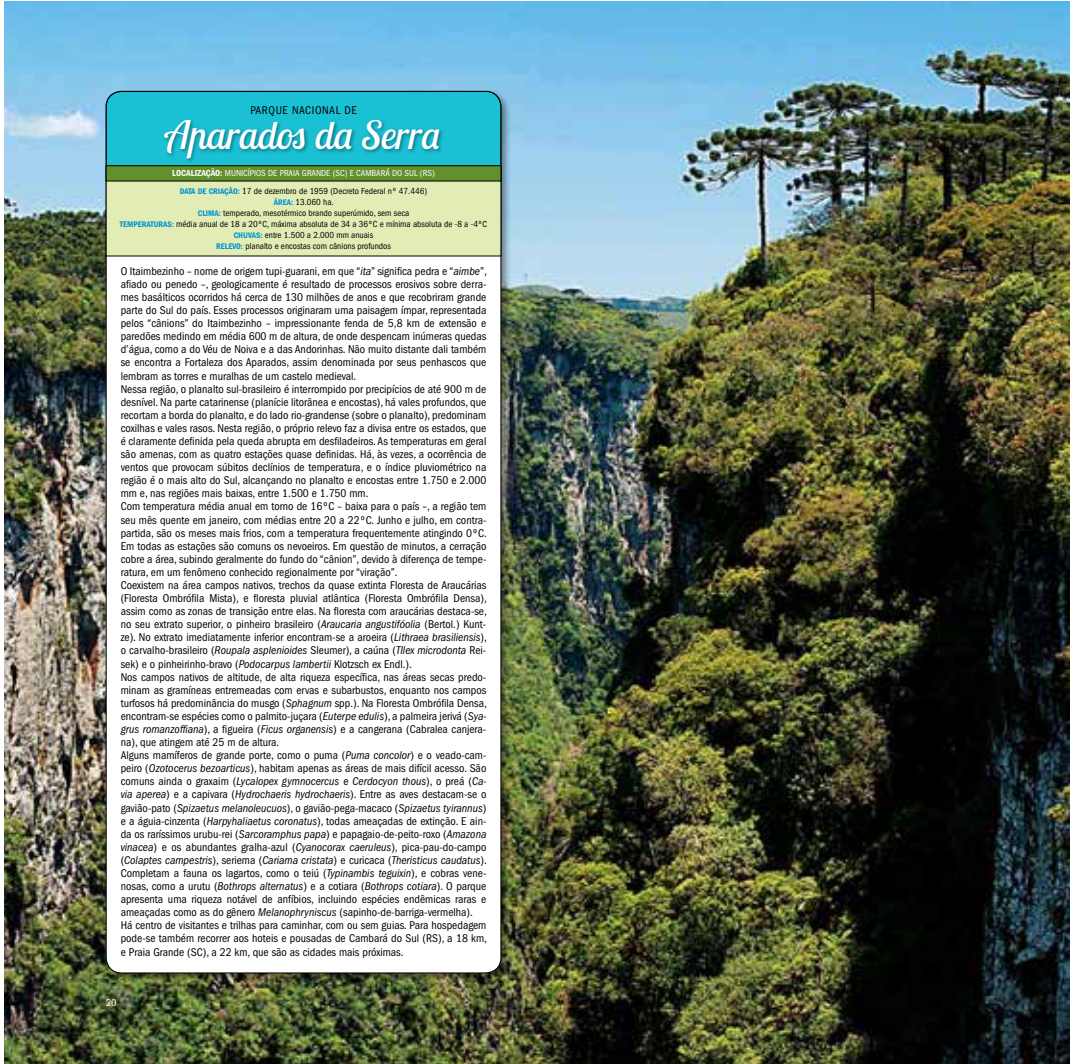
Sumário







Sul
South



PARQUE NACIONAL DE *Aparados da Serra*

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE PRAIA GRANDE (SC) E CAMBARÁ DO SUL (RS)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 17 de dezembro de 1959 (Decreto Federal nº 47.446)

ÁREA: 13.060 ha

CLIMA: temperado, mesotérmico, bastante superúmido, sem seca

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 18 a 20°C, máxima absoluta de 34 a 36°C e mínima absoluta de -8 a -4°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.500 a 2.000 mm anuais

RELEVO: planalto e encostas com cânions profundos

O Itaimbezinho – nome de origem tupi-guarani, em que “ita” significa pedra e “aimbe”, afiado ou penedo –, geologicamente é resultado de processos erosivos sobre derrames basálticos ocorridos há cerca de 130 milhões de anos e que recobriram grande parte do Sul do país. Esses processos originaram uma paisagem ímpar, representada pelos “cânions” do Itaimbezinho – impressionante fenda de 5,8 km de extensão e paredes medindo em média 600 m de altura, de onde despencam inúmeras quedas d’água, como a do Véu de Noiva e a das Andorinhas. Não muito distante dali também se encontra a Fortaleza dos Aparados, assim denominada por seus penhascos que lembram as torres e muralhas de um castelo medieval.

Nessa região, o planalto sul-brasileiro é interrompido por precipícios de até 900 m de desnível. Na parte catarinense (planície litorrânea e encostas), há vales profundos, que recortam a borda do planalto, e do lado rio-grandense (sobre o planalto), predominam coxilhas e vales rasos. Nesta região, o próprio relevo faz a divisa entre os estados, que é claramente definida pela queda abrupta em desfiladeiros. As temperaturas em geral são amenas, com as quatro estações quase definidas. Há, às vezes, a ocorrência de ventos que provocam súbitos declínios de temperatura, e o índice pluviométrico na região é o mais alto do Sul, alcançando no planalto e encostas entre 1.750 e 2.000 mm e, nas regiões mais baixas, entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm.

Com temperatura média anual em torno de 16°C – baixa para o país –, a região tem seu mês quente em janeiro, com médias entre 20 a 22°C. Junho e julho, em contrapartida, são os meses mais frios, com a temperatura frequentemente atingindo 0°C. Em todas as estações são comuns os nevoeiros. Em questão de minutos, a cerração cobre a área, subindo geralmente do fundo do “cânion”, devido à diferença de temperatura, em um fenômeno conhecido regionalmente por “viração”.

Coeexistem na área campos nativos, trechos da quase extinta Floresta de Araucárias (Floresta Ombrófila Mista), e floresta pluvial atlântica (Floresta Ombrófila Densa), assim como as zonas de transição entre elas. Na floresta com araucárias destaca-se, no seu extrato superior, o pinheiro brasileiro (*Araucaria angustifolia* (Bertol.) Kuntze). No extrato imediatamente inferior encontram-se a aroeira (*Litsea brasiliensis*), o carvalho-brasileiro (*Roupaia asplenioides* Sleumer), a caúna (*Tillex microdonta* Reisek) e o pinheirinho-bravo (*Podocarpus lamberti* Klotzsch ex Endl.).

Nos campos nativos de altitude, de alta riqueza específica, nas áreas secas predominam as gramíneas entremeadas com ervas e subarbustos, enquanto nos campos turfosos há predominância do musgo (*Sphagnum* spp.). Na Floresta Ombrófila Densa, encontram-se espécies como o palmito-juçara (*Euterpe edulis*), a palmeira jerivá (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), a figueira (*Ficus organensis*) e a cangerana (Cabralea canjerana), que atingem até 25 m de altura.

Alguns mamíferos de grande porte, como o puma (*Puma concolor*) e o veado-campeiro (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*), habitam apenas as áreas de mais difícil acesso. São comuns ainda o graxaim (*Lycaonpex gymnocercus* e *Cercodon thous*), o preá (*Caïa aperea*) e a capivara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*). Entre as aves destacam-se o gavião-pato (*Spizaetus melanoleucus*), o gavião-pega-macaco (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) e a águia-cinzenta (*Harpiahaliaetus coronatus*), todas ameaçadas de extinção. E ainda os raríssimos urubu-rei (*Sarcocampylus naja*) e piapagaio-de-peito-roxo (Amazilia vinacea) e os abundantes graha-azul (*Cyanocorax caeruleus*), pica-pau-do-campo (*Colaptes campestris*), seriema (*Cariama cristata*) e curicaca (*Theristicus caudatus*). Completam a fauna os lagartos, como o teiú (*Tupinambis teguixin*), e cobras venenosas, como a urutu (*Bothrops alternatus*) e a cotiara (*Bothrops cotiara*). O parque apresenta uma riqueza notável de anfíbios, incluindo espécies endêmicas raras e ameaçadas como as do gênero *Melanophryniscus* (sapinho-de-barriga-vermelha). Há centro de visitantes e trilhas para caminhar, com ou sem guias. Para hospedagem pode-se também recorrer aos hotéis e pousadas de Cambará do Sul (RS), a 18 km, e Praia Grande (SC), a 22 km, que são as cidades mais próximas.





PARQUE NACIONAL DE
Ilha Grande

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE GUARÁ, ALTÔNIA, SÃO JORGE DO PATROCÍNIO, ALTO PARAÍSO E ICARAMA (PR); MUNDO NOVO, EUBRÁSIO, NINIMÍM E ITAQUARA (MS)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 30 de setembro de 1997 (por decreto federal sem número)

ÁREA: 78.875 ha

CLIMA: tropical quente

TEMPERATURAS: média mínima de 18°C e média máxima de 22°C

CHUVAS: 1.200 a 1.300 mm anuais

RELEVO: plano, formado por um arquipélago com centenas de ilhas e ilhotas que se associam a regiões pantanosas, de várzeas e planícies de inundação

Criado em 1997, o parque desde o início visou à proteção das ilhas, várzeas e ecossistemas associados ao rio Paraná. O processo para a sua existência passou pela iniciativa dos municípios paranaenses do entorno da unidade, que criaram APA's municipais as quais posteriormente se integraram. APA (Área de Proteção Ambiental) é a unidade de conservação de uso sustentável onde são resguardadas as condições ecológicas locais, mantidas as paisagens e seus atributos culturais relevantes. Estimulados pelo ICMS ecológico¹, estes municípios desenvolveram modelo exemplar de gestão ambiental compartilhada, através da criação do CORIPA (Consórcio Intermunicipal para a Conservação do Remanescente do Rio Paraná e Áreas de Influência). Aos esforços municipais somaram-se os do Estado do Paraná, através da criação do seu Instituto Ambiental (IAP) que, em 1994, criou a Estação Ecológica Estadual de Ilha Grande. Paralelamente a estes esforços, pesquisadores da Universidade Estadual de Maringá propuseram o reconhecimento pela UNESCO da Reserva da Biosfera, com área núcleo entre a foz dos rios Vinhema e Amambai (MS). Em 1997, o grupo formado pelo IBAMA, IAP e CORIPA, designado para estudar e propor a criação de unidades na região indicou a criação do Parque. Constituído por ilhas, ilhotas fluviais e uma área de aproximadamente 14.000,00 ha de várzea continental no Estado do Paraná, ocupando uma área total de aproximadamente 78.875 ha, o Parque Nacional de Ilha Grande localiza-se na divisa dos Estados do Paraná e Mato Grosso do Sul, numa região caracterizada pela existência de sítios históricos e arqueológicos de excepcional relevância para a compreensão da ocupação humana no sul do continente americano. Estão incluídas as áreas de ocupação dos índios Xetá, considerandos extintos, e reduções e cidades jesuítas (índios Guaraní) que remontam ao século XVII, tribos insuficientemente estudadas e carentes de proteção. O nome da unidade foi escolhido levando-se em consideração o mais significativo acidente geográfico da região, no caso a Ilha Grande, também conhecida por Ilha Sete Quedas.

O parque encontra-se inserido na Área de Proteção Ambiental de Ilha Grande, com 1.003.059 ha, cuja vegetação predominante é a de regiões pantanosas e de campos de inundação, mescladas com florestas estacionais semi-decíduas. São encontradas ali figueiras (*Ficus enornis* (Mart. ex Miq.) Miq. e *Ficus eximia* Schott), jequitibás (*Carrizana estrelensis* (Raddi) Kuntze), embaúbas (*Cecropia pachystachya* Trécul), ingás (*Inga uruguensis* Hook. & Am. e *Inga laurina* (Sw.) Willd.) e pau-d'alhos (*Galetesia integrifolia* (Spreng.) Harms), entre outras árvores. Na fauna terrestre, antas (*Tapirus terrestris*), tamanduás-bandeira (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*), cervos-do-pantanal (*Blastocerus dichotomus*), onças-pintadas (*Panthera onca*) e jacarés-de-papo-amarelo (*Caiman latirostris*). Entre as aves, sobressaem-se o jaburu (*Aburu mycteria*), o colhereiro (*Alania ajaja*), o jaú (*Crypturellus undulatus*), o jacaná (*Jacana jacana*) e o mutum (*Crax fasciolata*).

1. O ICMS Ecológico é um mecanismo de política ambiental, surgido na década de 1990 e específico do Brasil. Ele é uma repartição de recursos financeiros do ICMS diferente da usual, onde a qualidade ambiental torna-se um critério relevante. O ICMS é um imposto pago por nós (embutido no preço) toda vez que consumimos uma mercadoria ou um serviço. Esse imposto vai para os cofres estaduais e parte dele deve ser repassado aos municípios, de acordo com a Constituição Federal. O ICMS é a principal fonte de recursos dos Estados e da grande maioria dos municípios. Depois de arrecadado a maior parte dele é repartida segundo critérios econômicos. Entretanto, a Constituição Federal de 1988 abre uma brecha onde parte destes recursos pode ser repartida entre os municípios de acordo com critérios definidos pela Lei Estadual. Isso significa que qualquer critério pode ser estabelecido pelas Assembleias de cada estado. Foi isso que o Estado do Paraná fez. Em 1992 a Assembleia Legislativa do Paraná aprovou a primeira lei de ICMS Ecológico do Brasil. A lei estabelece o repasse aos municípios de parte dos recursos do ICMS de acordo com o tipo e o tamanho das áreas protegidas de cada município. Desta forma, as unidades de conservação, que antes eram vistas como um entrave ao desenvolvimento econômico do município (já que aquelas áreas não podiam sofrer o mesmo tipo de exploração econômica), passaram a ter a qualidade de geradoras de receita para os municípios. Vários municípios que viviam com problemas financeiros, especialmente os pequenos, passaram a receber recursos com esta lei. São nesses municípios, os quais não apresentam condições de se desenvolverem economicamente, é que se encontra a maior parte das unidades de conservação.

fabio@conheceparaconseparat.org – economista, secretário executivo da Câmara Temática de Impactos Econômicos e Sociais do Fórum Brasileiro de Mudanças Climáticas, in <www.conheceparaconseparat.org/opiniaõ/artigos/ICMSeco.asp>



PARQUE NACIONAL DE São Joaquim

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE URUBICI, BOM JARDIM DA SERRA, GRÃO PARÁ E ORLEANS (SC)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 6 de julho de 1963 (Decreto Federal nº 50.922)
ÁREA: 49.300 ha

CLIMA: temperado, mesotérmico médio superúmido, sem seca
TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 12 a 14°C, máxima absoluta de 34°C e mínima absoluta de 8°C
CHUVAS: entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm anuais (período mais chuvoso de agosto a outubro)

RELEVO: de suave ondulado a montanhoso

Encravado na porção meridional do Estado, numa das poucas regiões do Brasil em que a temperatura média anual não passa dos 14°C e onde muitas vezes há a ocorrência de neve, o Parque Nacional de São Joaquim destaca-se por sua invulgar beleza paisagística. Apresenta formações geológicas incomuns, como a Pedra Furada, um de seus acidentes naturais mais conhecidos, e o morro da Igreja, com 1.822 m de altitude, localizado no centro do parque, ponto habitado mais alto de Santa Catarina. Nas áreas com altitudes superiores a 800 m, existem três tipos de vegetação: a floresta ombrófila mista (mata de araucárias), as matilhas nebulares e os campos de altitude. Destacam-se nos campos o capim-caninha (*Andropogon lateralis* Nees), enquanto entre as espécies arbóreas é marcante a presença do pinheiro-do-brasil (*Araucaria angustifolia* (Bertol.) Kuntze). Nos capões ocorrem ainda a casca-d'anta (*Drimys brasiliensis* Forst.), pinheiro-bravo (*Podocarpus lamberti* Klotzsch), pau-de-bugre (*Lithraea brasiliensis* Marchand) e carne-de-vaca (*Clethra scabra* Pers.).

Entre abril e junho, no alto dos pinheiros, diversas espécies de aves buscam alimento nos pinhões, destacando-se entre essas a galinha-azul (*Cyanocorax caeruleus*), as cutiacas (*Theristicus* spp.) e o colarido surucuí-de-barriga-vermelha (*Trogon curucu*). A lenda diz que como essas aves geralmente não comem os pinhões no próprio local, ao transportá-los acabam deixando cair a semente, promovendo a dispersão desse vegetal, mas, na realidade são os roedores os maiores dispersores das sementes de Araucária. Além dessas, 122 outras aves são encontradas no parque: gavião-tesoura (*Elaeodius forficatus*), gimpeirão (*Leptasthenura setaria*), gimpeiro (*Leptasthenura striolata*), perdiz (*Rhynchotus rufescens*) e diversas espécies de beija-flores.

Entre os mamíferos, catetos (*Tayassu tajacu*), veados-catingueiros (*Mazama gouazoubira*), tamanduás-coleto (*Myrmecophaga tetradactyla*), cachorros-do-mato (*Dusicyon thous*), preás (*Cavia epereia*) e caxinguelés (*Sciurus* sp.). Nos rios podem-se observar ainda lontras (*Lontra longicaudis*), um mustelídeo ameaçado de extinção e, sob a copa dos pinheiros, os porcos-do-mato (*Tayassu* spp.) e pacas (*Agouti* sp.). Saindo de Florianópolis, o acesso se faz pelas rodovias BR-282 até o município de Urubici e deste pela SC-370 chega-se à entrada principal do Parque, este ainda não dispõe de infraestrutura para atendimento aos visitantes, embora seja esta unidade de conservação a quinta mais visitada do país (dados de 2012). O principal local de visitação é o mirante do Morro da Igreja, de onde se vislumbra a Pedra Furada e todas as escarpas da Serra. Também há opções de passeios por trilhas e estradas.



PARQUE NACIONAL DA
Serra do Itajaí

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE APIÚNA, ASCURRA, BLUMENAU, BOTUVERÁ, GASPÁR, GUABIRUBA, INDIAIAL, PRESIDENTE NEREU E VIDAL RAMOS (SC)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 4 de junho de 2004

ÁREA: 57.274 ha

CLIMA: Subtropical úmido

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 21°C

CHUVAS: precipitação média de 2.000 mm anuais, sendo fevereiro o mês mais chuvoso (194,6 mm) e junho o mais seco (104,0 mm)

RELEVO: montanhoso, com altitudes variando entre 60 a 1.039 metros.

O Parque Nacional da Serra do Itajaí encontra-se no Vale do Itajaí (Nordeste de Santa Catarina), abrangendo terras de nove municípios e 16% do total do Estado. De relevo bastante irregular, onde se alternam pequenas planícies, morros ondulados e alongados, o parque engloba a cadeia de montanhas que leva seu nome, ficando entre as bacias dos rios Itajaí-açu e Itajaí-mirim.

Cercada por uma área de ocupação humana densa e de colonização antiga, os ambientes naturais que a Serra do Itajaí guarda não foram destruídos em virtude das dificuldades impostas por seu relevo acidentado.

O mosaico das formações vegetais que cobrem o parque é composto por diversas fisionomias da floresta ombrófila densa, própria do bioma Mata Atlântica. Alternam-se na paisagem desde áreas com formações florestais entre 20 e 35 m de altura - onde podem se aglomerar até cerca de 150 espécies distintas por hectare, com troncos e ramos densamente revestidos por bromélias e outras epífitas - até áreas de vegetação arbustiva e herbácea, especialmente nas encostas íngremes ou nos topos dos morros. Dentre as cerca de 340 espécies arbóreo-arbustivas registradas no Parque Nacional da Serra do Itajaí, várias são consideradas vulneráveis, como a canela preta (*Ocotea catharinensis*), o guarajave (*Buchenavia flammifera*), a imbuia (*Ocotea porosa*), o xaxim (*Dicksonia sellowiana*) e a camélia sassaparíla (*Ocotea odorifera*).

Por sua extensão, por suas boas condições de preservação e por proteger uma considerável porção remanescente do bioma Mata Atlântica, o parque se constitui como uma área essencial para a manutenção de espécies de animais que necessitam de amplas áreas para viver. Especialmente mamíferos. E, entre eles, o parque guarda uma lista de 69 espécies identificadas, das quais seis são endêmicas e seis estão na lista dos animais ameaçados de extinção - o gato-maracajá (*Leopardus wiedii*), o gato-do-mato-pequeno (*Leopardus tigrinus*), a jaguatirica (*Leopardus pardalis*), a suçuarana (*Puma concolor*), o roedor *Rhagomys rufescens* e o veado-bororó (*Mazana nana*) - cuja simples presença já são indicadores de sua qualidade ambiental.

Com relação à exuberante presença da avifauna, abriga mais de 300 espécies de aves de todos os tamanhos e hábitos, sendo 107 endêmicas da Mata Atlântica e 34 pertencentes à lista de ameaçados de extinção. Entre estas últimas, destacam-se o gavião-pombo-grande (*Leucopternis lacerniatus*), o papagaio-de-peito-rosa (*Amazona vinacea*), pichochó (*Sporophila frontalis*), o patinho-gigante (*Platyrinchus leucorhynchus*), o curió (*Sporophila angolensis*) e a araponga (*Procnias nudicollis*).

Foram também registradas na área 45 espécies de anfíbios e 15 espécies de répteis, algumas delas recém-descobertas, além de uma incontável variedade de invertebrados ainda não devidamente descritos.

O acesso ao Parque Nacional da Serra do Itajaí pode ser feito a partir de qualquer um dos municípios que o abrigam: Ascurra, Apiúna, Blumenau, Botuverá, Gaspar, Guabiruba, Indaial, Presidente Nereu e Vidal Ramos.





PARQUE NACIONAL DA *Serra Geral*

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE JACINTO MACHADO E PRAIA GRANDE (SC); CAMBARÁ DO SUL (RS)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 20 de maio de 1.992 (Decreto Federal nº 531)

ÁREA: 17.300 ha.

CLIMA: temperado, mesotérmico úmido superúmido, sem seca

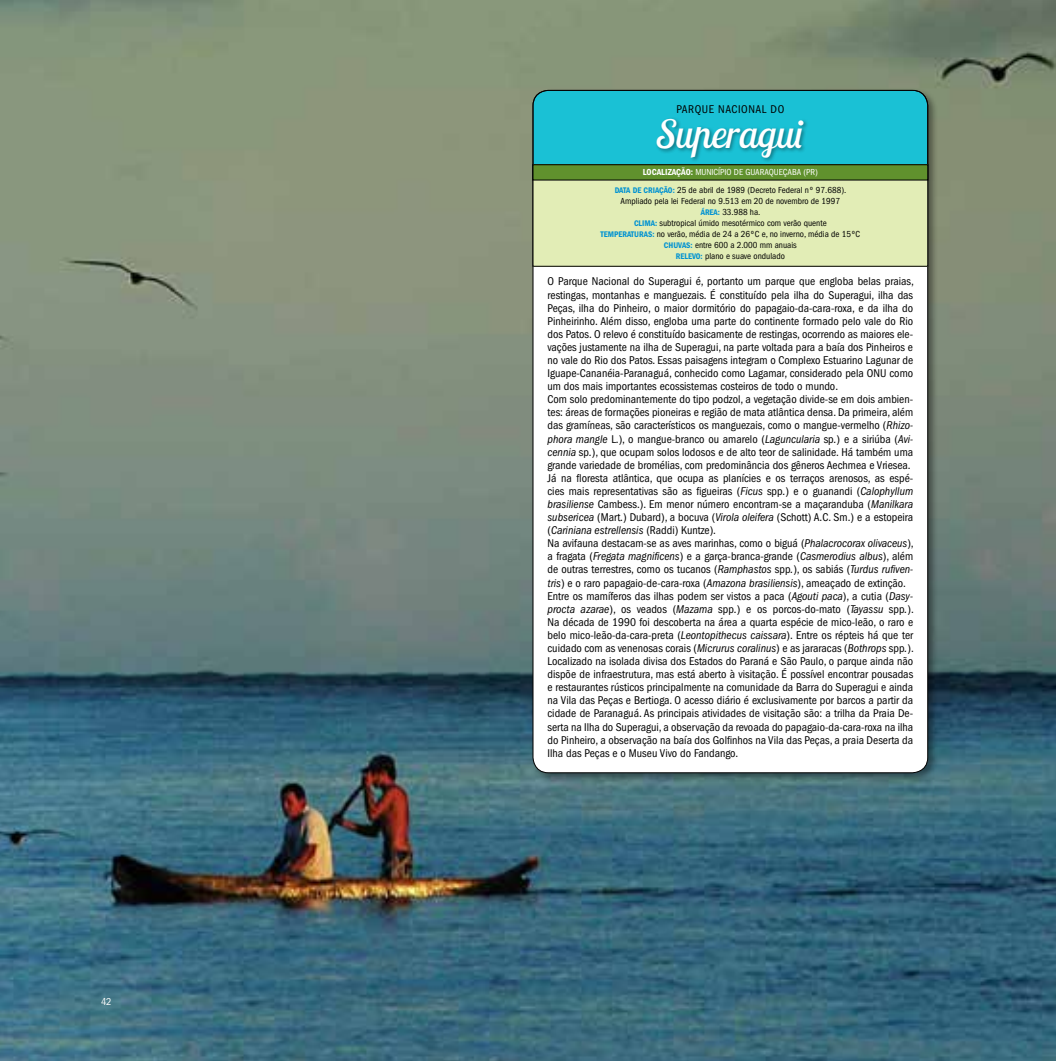
TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 18 a 20°C, máxima absoluta de 34 a 36°C e mínima absoluta de -8 a -4°C

CHUVA: entre 1.500 e 2.000 mm anuais

RELEVO: planalto e encostas de serra, com cânions profundos

O Parque Nacional da Serra Geral é dividido em duas porções - uma de 15 mil ha e outra de 2.300 ha - separadas pelo contíguo Parque Nacional dos Aparados da Serra. Na porção mais ao sul encontra-se uma parte do cânion Faxinalzinho (a outra parte fica no vizinho Parque dos Aparados da Serra). Na porção ao norte encontram-se os cânions de Malacara, Churiado e da Fortaleza, este último o mais visitado, com desníveis que alcançam cerca de 900 m, 1500 m de largura e extensão de 7,5 km. A vegetação do parque preserva uma amostra do bioma Mata Atlântica: campos de altitude, floresta ombrófila mista com araucária e floresta ombrófila densa. Destacam-se o pinheiro brasileiro (*Araucaria angustifolia* (Bertr.) Kuntze), e o pinheirinho-bravo (*Podocarpus lamberti* Klotzsch ex Endl.) na floresta ombrófila mista. A palmeira jucara (*Euterpe edulis*), a canjerana (*Cabralia canjerana*) e figueiras (gênero *Ficus*) predominam na Floresta Ombrófila Densa. O parque protege diversas nascentes de três importantes bacias hidrográficas, com águas de excelente qualidade: Taquari-Antas/RS (Arroio Porteira Velha), Mampituba/RS-SC (Arroios Água Comprida, Molha Coco, Malacara, Faxinalzinho, entre outros) e Araranguá/SC (Arroio Tigre Preto). Entre as espécies mais importantes da fauna podem-se destacar o gaxaim (*Cerdocyon thous* e *Lycalopex gymnocercus*), o puma (*Puma concolor*), e uma rica comunidade de anfíbios, destacando o endêmico e raríssimo sapinho-verde-de-barriga-vermelha (*Melanophryniscus cambarensis*).

O parque possui quatro trilhas abertas à visitação: Pedra do Segredo e Mirante da Fortaleza (borda do planalto, de grau fácil a médio de dificuldade, com entrada por Cambará do Sul/RS) e Tigre Preto e Piscinas do Malacara (no interior dos cânions, maior grau de dificuldade, com entrada por Jacinto Machado/SC e Praia Grande/SC, respectivamente). O ideal é sempre percorrê-las acompanhadas por um guia que conheça bastante a região e as mudanças repentinas no tempo local: dependendo da época, são comuns as formações de pesados nevoeiros que sobem das regiões mais baixas, bem como a mudança brusca de temperatura. Qualquer que seja a época da visita, portanto, é conveniente que ter sempre um agasalho e capa de chuva à mão. O Parque ainda não possui infraestrutura básica, exceto a guarita de entrada, com um banheiro, e o estacionamento. O ingresso não é cobrado. Do mirante da Fortaleza, nos dias claros, avista-se o litoral, distante dezenas de quilômetros.



PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Superagui

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIO DE GUARAQUEÇABA (PR)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 25 de abril de 1989 (Decreto Federal nº 97.688).
Ampliado pela Lei Federal nº 9.513 em 20 de novembro de 1997
ÁREA: 35.998 ha

CLIMA: subtropical úmido mesotérmico com verão quente

TEMPERATURAS: no verão, média de 24 a 26°C e, no inverno, média de 15°C

CHUVAS: entre 600 a 2.000 mm anuais

RELEVO: plano e suave ondulado

O Parque Nacional do Superagui é, portanto um parque que engloba belas praias, restingas, montanhas e manguezais. É constituído pela ilha do Superagui, ilha das Peças, ilha do Pinheiro, o maior dormitório do papagaio-da-cara-roxa, e da ilha do Pinheirinho. Além disso, engloba uma parte do continente formado pelo vale do Rio dos Patos. O relevo é constituído basicamente de restingas, ocorrendo as maiores elevações justamente na ilha de Superagui, na parte voltada para a baía dos Pinheiros e no vale do Rio dos Patos. Essas paisagens integram o Complexo Estuarino Lagunar de Iguaçu-Canandia-Paranaguá, conhecido como Lagamar, considerado pela ONU como um dos mais importantes ecossistemas costeiros de todo o mundo.

Com solo predominantemente do tipo podzol, a vegetação divide-se em dois ambientes: áreas de formações pioneiras e região de mata atlântica densa. Da primeira, além das gramíneas, são característicos os manguezais, como o mangue-vermelho (*Rhizophora mangle* L.), o mangue-branco ou amarelo (*Laguncularia* sp.) e a simúba (*Avicennia* sp.), que ocupam solos lodosos e de alto teor de salinidade. Há também uma grande variedade de bromélias, com predominância dos gêneros *Aechmea* e *Vriesea*. Já na floresta atlântica, que ocupa as planícies e os terraços arenosos, as espécies mais representativas são as figueiras (*Ficus* spp.) e o guanandi (*Calophyllum brasiliense* Cambess.). Em menor número encontram-se a maçaranduba (*Manilkara subserricea* (Mart.) Dubard), a bocuva (*Virelia oleifera* (Schott) A.C. Sm.) e a estopeira (*Casimiana estrellensis* (Redd) Kurtze).

Na avifauna destacam-se as aves marinhas, como o biguá (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*), a fragata (*Fregata magnificens*) e a garça-branca-grande (*Casmerodius albus*), além de outras terrestres, como os tucanos (*Ramphastos* spp.), os sabiás (*Turdus rufigenis*) e o raro papagaio-de-cara-roxa (*Amazona brasiliensis*), ameaçado de extinção.

Entre os mamíferos das ilhas podem ser vistos a paca (*Agouti paca*), a cutia (*Dasyprocta azarae*), os veados (*Mazama* spp.) e os porcos-do-mato (*Byassu* spp.). Na década de 1990 foi descoberta na área a quarta espécie de mico-leão, o raro e belo mico-leão-da-cara-preta (*Leontopithecus caissara*). Entre os répteis há que ter cuidado com as venenosas corais (*Micrurus corallinus*) e as jararacas (*Bothrops* spp.).

Localizado na isolada divisa dos Estados do Paraná e São Paulo, o parque ainda não dispõe de infraestrutura, mas está aberto à visitação. É possível encontrar pousadas e restaurantes rústicos principalmente na comunidade da Barra do Superagui e ainda na Vila das Peças e Bertioça. O acesso diário é exclusivamente por barcos a partir da cidade de Paranaguá. As principais atividades de visitação são: a trilha da Praia Deserta na ilha do Superagui, a observação da revoada do papagaio-da-cara-roxa na ilha do Pinheiro, a observação na baía dos Gofinhos na Vila das Peças, a praia Deserta da ilha das Peças e o Museu Vivo do Fandango.





Sudeste

Southeast

PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Caparaó

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE IBATIBA, DORES DO RIO PRETO, DIVINO SÃO LOURENÇO E IUNA (ES); PRESIDENTE SOARES, ESPERA FELIZ, CORAÇÃO E ALTO ALEGRIA (MG)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 24 de maio de 1961 (Decreto Federal nº 50.646)
Área: 26 mil ha.

CLIMA: tropical, subequente úmido, com um a dois meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 22 a 24°C, máxima absoluta de 34 a 36°C e mínima absoluta de 4 a 0°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.250 e 1.500 mm anuais

RELEVO: fortemente ondulado

Criado em 1961 para proteger o Pico da Bandeira que, então, acreditava-se ser o mais alto do Brasil (na verdade, é o terceiro em altitude, vindo atrás do Pico da Neblina, com 2.014 m, e o Pico 31 de Março, com 2.992 m, ambos localizados no Parque Nacional do Pico da Neblina, no Amazonas), o parque situa-se numa das partes mais altas da região Sudeste e apresenta relevo fortemente ondulado, com altitudes que variam de 997 m, no local denominado Vale Verde, a 2.890 m em seu ponto culminante, exatamente o Pico da Bandeira.

Cercado por matas de árvores finas e compridas e gigantescas samambaias, o vale verde é cortado pelo cristalino rio Caparaó, enquanto na parte alta ainda se destacam os picos do Cruzeiro, 2.861 m, e do Cristal, 2.798 m, a rede de drenagem é caracterizada por numerosos rios perenes, de pequeno e médio portes, cuja forte declividade dá origem a corredeiras e algumas cachoeiras de grande beleza, como a cachoeira Bonita, com uma queda de aproximadamente 80 m. O clima é tropical, com muita nebulosidade nos meses mais chuvosos.

Quase em sua totalidade secundária, a vegetação praticamente não apresenta espécies antes comuns, como por exemplo o pinheiro-do-paraná (*Araucaria angustifolia*). Apenas pequenos trechos de matas nativas ainda sobrevivem, que tem como seus representantes mais típicos as quaresmeiras (*Tibouchina* spp.), embaúbas (*Cecropia* spp.), ipês (*Tecoma* spp. e *Tabebuia* spp.), camelás (*Ocotea* spp. e *nectandra* spp.) e canjifranas (*Cabralea* spp.). Há ainda grande variedade de musgos e orquídeas. Devido à intensa ação humana em toda a serra, a fauna - como a flora - foi bastante afetada, tendo permanecido no local apenas aqueles animais mais resistentes e mais facilmente adaptáveis, como o gambá (*Didelphis* spp.) e o tapeti (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*), alguns roedores, como a paca (*Agouti paca*) e o caxinguelê (*Sciurus aestuans*), além de predadores menos exigentes quanto ao espaço, como o cachorro-do-mato (*Cerdocyon thous*), a irara (*Eira barbara*), o guaxinim (*Procyon cancrivorus*) e pelo menos uma espécie de gato-do-mato (*Leopardus wiedii*). Entre as aves destacam-se os urubus (*Caragyps atratus* e *Cathartes aura*), inhambu-chitã (*Crypturellus tataupa*) e o gavião-carijó (*Buteo magnirostris*), além de seriemas (*Cariama cristata*).

Situado praticamente na divisa de Minas Gerais e Espírito Santo, o acesso ao parque é feito pela rodovia que liga as capitais desses dois estados, Belo Horizonte e Vitória. A infraestrutura para visitação inclui um hotel, próximo à sede, centro de visitantes e trilhas, e a cidade mais próxima é Manhumirim, a 27 km.

PARQUE NACIONAL
Cavernas do Peruaçu

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE JANUÁRIA, TACARAMBI E SÃO JOÃO DAS MISSÕES (MG)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 21 de setembro de 1999 (por decreto federal sem número)

ÁREA: 56.800 ha

CLIMA: tropical semiárido

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 24°C

CHUVAS: entre outubro e abril ocorrem as maiores precipitações

A região onde se encontra o parque, no vale do rio Peruaçu, afluente da margem esquerda do rio São Francisco, faz parte de uma longa extensão de terreno calcário que, durante milhões de anos, foi erodido pelos ventos, pelas chuvas e pelas águas do próprio rio São Francisco e de seus afluentes, formando cânions, grutas e cavernas que ainda hoje continuam sofrendo a influência do meio ambiente. Há na região uma enorme concentração de sítios arqueológicos, onde são encontrados grandes painéis de arte rupestre. E foi para proteger esse valioso patrimônio geológico e arqueológico, bem como amostras representativas da vegetação de cerrado e de floresta estacional ali existente, que o parque foi criado em 21 de Setembro de 1999.

Com uma área de 56.800 ha, o parque localiza-se entre os municípios de Januária, Tacarambi e São João das Missões, no norte de Minas, e guarda registros da presença humana na região de até aproximadamente 11 mil anos, tornando-se, por isso, um dos mais importantes sítios arqueológicos do país e do mundo.

O clima da região é tropical semiárido, e a temperatura média anual é de 24°C. Entre outubro e abril ocorrem as maiores precipitações de chuva.

Por se encontrar numa área de transição entre os biomas Cerrado e a Caatinga (e a vegetação Mata Seca inserida no Bioma Mata Atlântica), a região do parque apresenta características vegetacionais de ambos os biomas.

Destacam-se na vegetação: a aroeira-do-sertão (*Astronium urundeuva* Fr. All.), a braúna (*Melanoxylon braunia* Schott), o pau-santo (*Kielmeyera coriacea* Marc & Zucc.), a cabiuna-do-cerrado (*Dalbergia miscolobium* Benth.), o murici (*Byrsonima* sp.), o jatobá (*Hymenaea courbaril* L. var. *Stilbocarpa* (Hayne) Lee & Lang.), o pequizeiro (*Caryocar brasiliense* Cambes.) e muitas outras.

Na fauna, destaque para as aves – mais de 250 espécies são encontradas na região do parque –, entre elas a maritaca (*Aratinga aurea* e *A. solstitialis auricapilla*), a seriema (*Cariama cristata*), a maria-preta (*Knipolegus* sp.), o arapaçu e o beija-flor-de-asa-de-sabre. Veado-mateiro (*Mazama americana*), jaguatirica (*Panthera [Jaguaris] pardalis*), mocó (*Keodon rupestris*), mico-estrela, tatu, capivara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), lobo-guará (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) e lagarto teiú (*Tupinambis merianae sebastiani*) são outros representantes da fauna local.





PARQUE NACIONAL

Grande Sertão Veredas

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE CHAPADA GAÚCHA, ABRINOS E FORMOSO (MG); E COCOS (BA)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 12 de abril de 1989 (Decreto Federal nº 97.658)

ÁREA: 231 mil ha.

CLIMA: característico do cerrado, em condições semi-áridas. O período seco vai de maio a setembro/outubro

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 23°C, máxima absoluta de 37 a 40°C e a mínima absoluta atinge 0°C

CHUVAS: 1.400 mm anuais. Concentram-se no verão, mais de 80% caem de novembro a março.

RELEVO: suave ondulado.

O parque preserva parte do planalto denominado Chapadão Central, que divide as bacias dos rios São Francisco e Tocantins. Com topos relativamente planos, e altitudes que variam entre 600 e 1.200 m, enquanto os vales, limitados por margens bem definidas, têm áreas sujeitas a inundações. Ele abriga tributários do rio Carinhonha, limite entre os estados de Minas Gerais e Bahia, importante afluente da margem esquerda do médio rio São Francisco. No lado baiano estão as nascentes do rio Itaguari, o principal afluente do Carinhonha. Seu sistema hidrológico é abastecido pelo grande aquífero formado pelo arenito Uruçuaia, com grande capacidade de armazenamento de água.

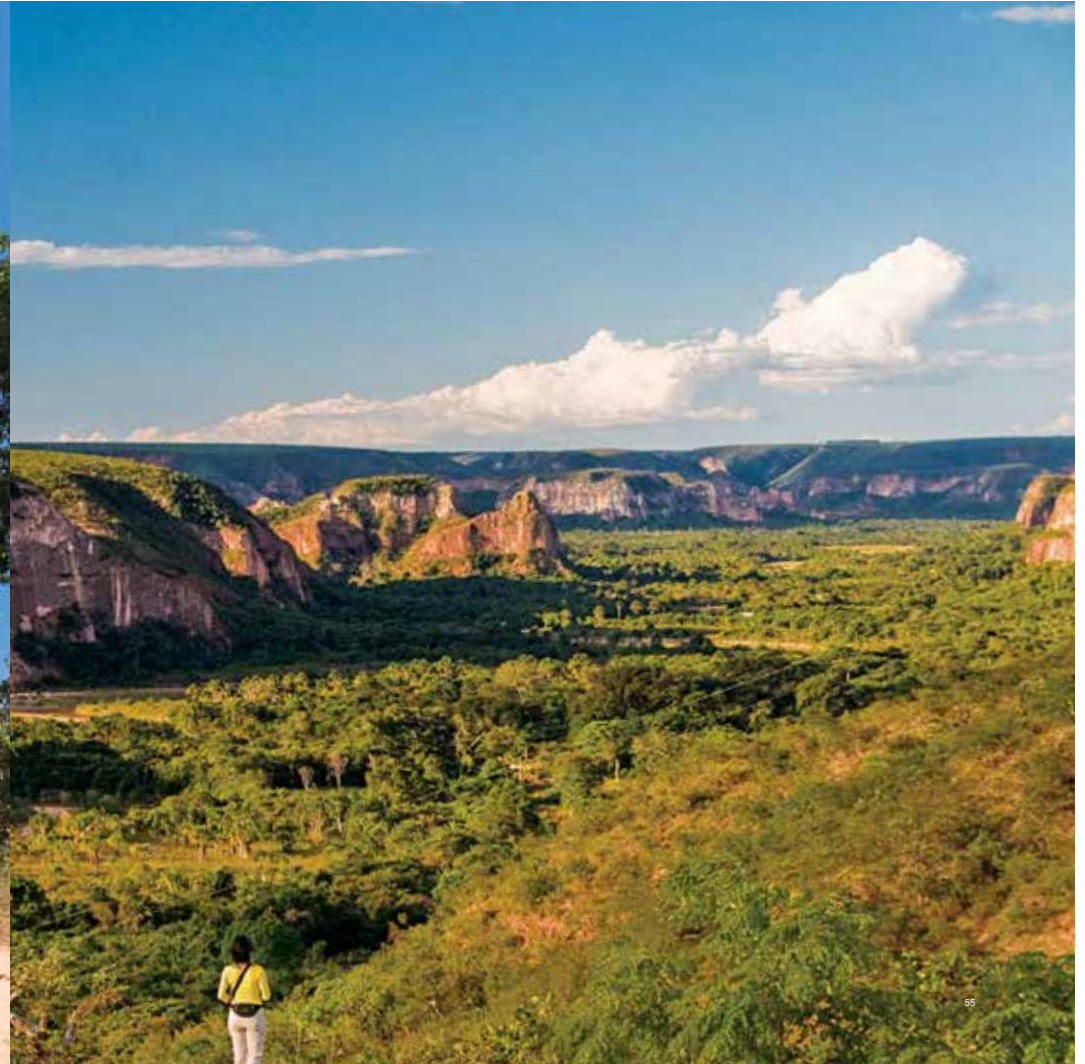
A região integra a unidade geomorfológica regionalmente denominada Planaltos do São Francisco ou Planalto do Divisor São Francisco/Tocantins, constituída por extensas superfícies tabulares com capoeira sedimentar e amplas depressões, onde se alojam drenagens coeíoras. O relevo é caracterizado por chapadas predominantemente areníticas, cobertas por vegetação do tipo cerrado e recortadas por cabeceiras de drenagens pouco profundas, que constituem as veredas.

Os levantamentos do RADAMBRASIL (Brasil, 1982), apontam areia quartzosa como a classe de solo predominante no Parque. Solos hidromórficos ocorrem nas margens dos cursos de água nas altitudes mais baixas. Ocorre também a formação Uruçuaia, caracterizada por depósitos fluviais, de coloração quase sempre avermelhada.

O que distingue essa vasta área típica do Cerrado - de tipologia marcada pelas espécies ressecadas de pequeno e médio porte - são as veredas, amplas áreas com veios perenes de água que correm entre os árvores. Sendo esta uma das características mais marcantes do parque, que apresenta inúmeras e vastas veredas em toda sua extensão. A vegetação é dominada pela savana, ou cerrado, com mata de galeria nas margens dos rios Preto e Carinhonha. São comuns no primeiro caso o pacari (*Lafourensia pacari* A. St.-Hil.) e o ipê-amarelo (*Bibebula ochracea* (Cham.) Standl.), todas de porte reduzido, em torno de 3 m. Já na mata de galeria, que acompanha os rios, formam-se estreitas faixas onde podem ser encontrados o buriti (*Mauritia flexuosa* L. f.) e as buritianas (*Mauritiella armata* (Mart.) Burret).

Os levantamentos botânicos realizados durante estudos para o plano de manejo resultaram na determinação de 623 espécies vegetais em cinco fitofisionomias principais (Cerrado stricto sensu, campo sujo, matas de galeria e ciliares, veredas e carrasco). As espécies do parque representam cerca de 70% das plantas presentes no Chapadão Ocidental da Bahia. As veredas e lagoas formam os ambientes com maior número de plantas raras ou endêmicas.

Entre as aves reina soberana a ema (*Rhea americana*) que, depois da postura, deixa para os machos a tarefa de chocar os ovos, assim como alimentar e proteger a prole. Os levantamentos faunísticos resultaram no registro de 62 espécies de peixes nativos, 22 espécies de anfíbios, 31 espécies de répteis, 244 espécies de aves e 56 espécies de mamíferos. Detectou-se ainda a presença de várias espécies da fauna ameaçadas de extinção como: tatu-canastra (*Protonotus maximus*), gato-palheiro (*Oncifelis colocolo*), suçuarana (*Puma concolor*), onça-pintada (*Panthera onca*) e o cervo-do-pantanal ou suçupara (*Blastocercus dichotomus*). A presença de outras possíveis espécies ameaçadas foram descobertas posteriormente, tais como, o tatu-bola (*Polyptychus trichinctus*) e o pato mergulhão (*Mergus cottoisetaeus*). O parque está aberto à visitação mediante autorização especial, expedida pela gestão da unidade, e com a assinatura de um termo de responsabilidade, pois o Parque ainda não conta com infraestrutura para a visitação. Os acessos e estradas internas são precários e sem sinalização, o que exige o acompanhamento de guias e a utilização de veículos tracionados.



PARQUE NACIONAL DO

Itatiaia

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE RESENDE E ITATIAIA (RJ); ITAMONTE E BOCAINA DE MINAS (MG)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 14 de junho de 1937 (Decreto Federal nº 1.713)

ÁREA: 30 mil ha

CLIMA: mesotérmico com verão quente, com estação seca bem definida na parte alta

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 20 a 22°C, máxima absoluta de 36 a 38°C e mínima absoluta de 0 a -8°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.800 e 2.600 mm anuais

RELEVO: montanhoso

Tudo começou em 1913, com o trabalho do botânico Alberto Löfgren, pesquisador do Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, que solicitou ao então ministro da Agricultura, Cândido Rodrigues, a criação de um parque nacional no maciço de Itatiaia. A mesma ideia foi ardentemente defendida pouco depois, ainda em 1913, pelo naturalista e geógrafo José Hubmayr, numa conferência realizada na Sociedade de Geografia do Rio de Janeiro, obtendo amplo apoio do cartógrafo e historiador Francisco Inácio Marcondes H. de M., o barão Homem de Melo, que conhecia bem a região de Itatiaia.

O parque – cujas terras até então pertenciam ao Jardim Botânico do Rio, que mantinha ali uma estação biológica – foi definido por Hubmayr como “sem igual no mundo”. O naturalista justificou a sua criação alegando que “estava às portas da bela capital do Rio de Janeiro, oferecendo, portanto, aos cientistas e estudiosos, inesgotável potencial para as mais diversas pesquisas”. Já naquela época ele via no parque “um retiro ideal para as pessoas da cidade, excursionistas e amantes da natureza”. Apesar de tão ardorosa defesa da criação do parque, no entanto, ela só ocorreria 24 anos depois, em 14 de junho de 1937.

No ponto culminante do maciço do Itatiaia está o pico Itatiaiaçu, nas Agulhas Negras, com 2.791,55 m de altitude. Destacam-se também a Serra do Maromba, com 2.607 m, a Cabeça do Leão, com 2.408 metros, os Dois Irmãos, com 2.500 m, e as Prateleiras, com 2.540 m.

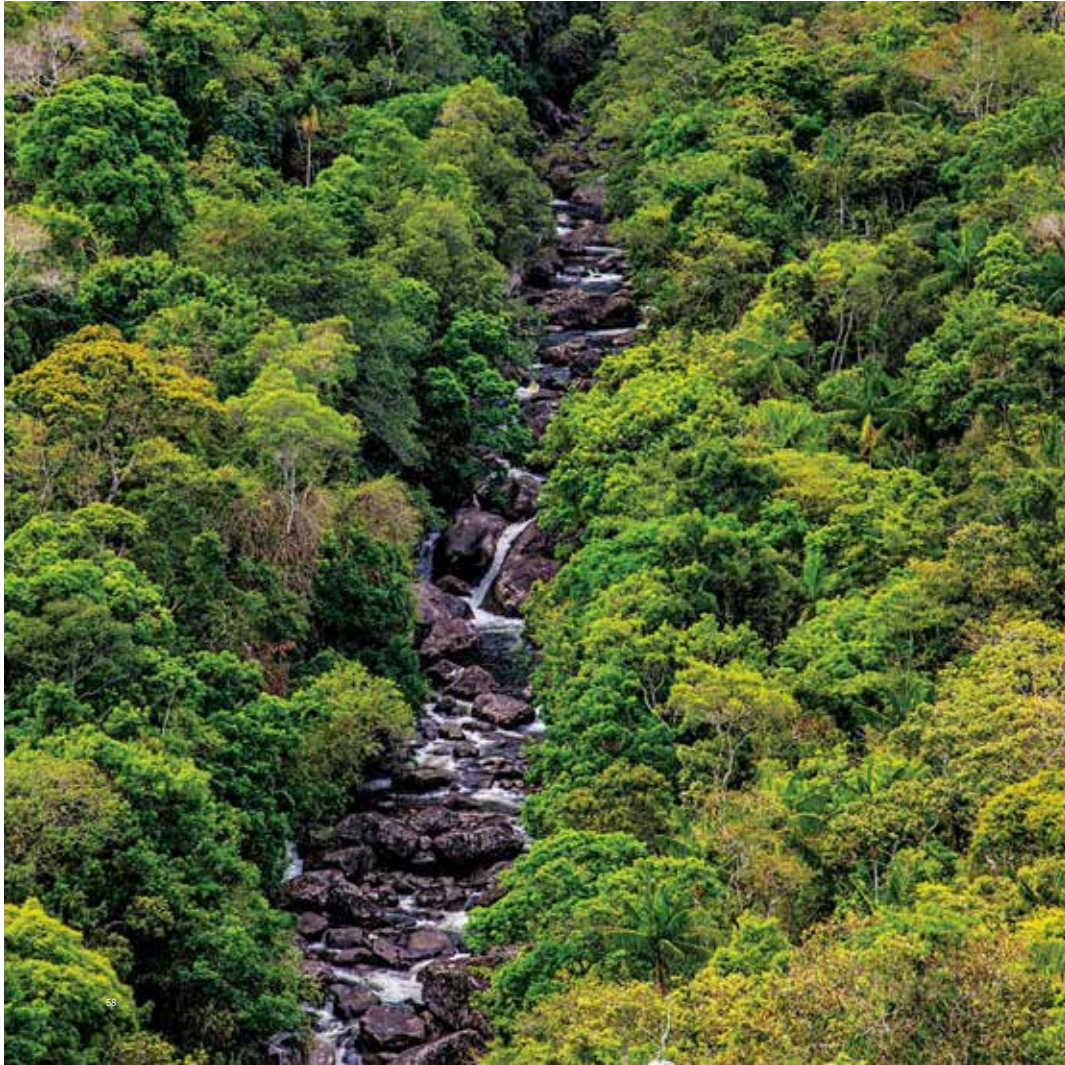
Dois bacias hidrográficas distintas são alimentadas pelos rios que nascem no alto do Itatiaia – a do rio Paraíba do Sul e a do rio Grande –, sendo a rede de drenagem formada principalmente pelos rios Preto, Aiuruoca e Campo Belo. Nestes rios formam-se cachoeiras, como as do Escorrega do Maromba, Veu de Nova e Itaporani. Nas regiões elevadas, acima dos 1.600 m, o clima caracteriza-se por verões brandos e chuvosos e invernos frios e secos, enquanto nas regiões baixas também ocorrem verões brandos, mas sem uma estação seca tão definida. É comum a ocorrência de temperaturas negativas e geadas na parte alta do parque, já as nevascas, como as registradas em 1985 e 1988, são acontecimentos raros.

A vegetação no parque varia, de acordo com a altitude, de Floresta Ombrófila Densa – nas áreas baixas, a partir dos 540 m – aos campos de altitude, a partir dos 2.000 m. À medida que aumenta a altitude, as espécies vão sofrendo redução de tamanho, ou sendo substituídas por espécies de menor porte.

Nas altitudes mais baixas predominam as matas secundárias, onde são frequentes as quaresmeiras (*Distachina granulosa* (Desr.) Cogn.), os fedegãos (*Senna macranthera* (Collard.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby), o pau-jacaré (*Piptadenia gonoacantha* (Mart.) J.F.Macbr.) e as embacubas (*Cecropia* sp.). Essa vegetação secundária ocorre até aproximadamente 1.000 m de altitude, com trechos de mata nativa onde são encontradas espécies de até 30 m de altura, dentre as quais se destacam o jequitibá (*Cariniana* sp.), o cedro (*Cedrela fissilis* Vell.), a peroba (*Aspidosperma* sp.) e o jacarandá-cabiúna (*Dalbergia violacea* (Jacq.) Hoffgg.). Por volta dos 2.000 m, na área acidentada do planalto, a vegetação é campestre nas altitudes mais elevadas. Na encosta atlântica destacam-se o pinheiro-do-brasil (*Araucaria angustifolia* (Berol.) Kuntze) e o pinheiro-bravo (*Podocarpus lambertii* Klotzsch ex Endl.).

A fauna é exuberante, com registro de mais de 350 espécies de aves, 50.000 de artrópodes, 50 de mamíferos e 60 de anuros, sendo muitas dessas espécies endêmicas do parque ou das regiões elevadas da Serra da Mantiqueira. Entre as espécies animais do parque encontram-se o muriqui (*Brachyteles arachnoideus*), o maior primata neotropical, o sagui (*Callithrix jacchus*), a onça (*Panthera onca*), a suçuarana (*Puma concolor*), o lobo-guará (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), e a jacutinga (*Pipile jacutinga*), todos raros e ameaçados de extinção. Há ainda, entre os mamíferos, grande quantidade de primatas, como os já citados sagui e muriqui, além do macaco-prego (*Cebus nigritus nigritus*) e do sauí (*Callicebus nigrifrons*), preguiças (*Bradypus variegatus*) e lontras (*Lontra longicaudis*). Na avifauna, destacam-se o macuco (*Tinamus solitarius*), o inhambu-açu (*Crypturellus obsoletus*), o jacu (*Penelope obscura*), a pomba-amargosa (*Columba plumbea*) e o cuiu-cuiu (*Pipilo sitta plicata*). E entre os répteis, além das cobras venenosas, como a jararaca-da-serra (*Bothrops fonscolombei*), há a ocorrência de jibóia (*Constrictor constrictor*) e teiú (*Tupinambis teguixin*).

Em julho e de dezembro a março, é considerável o fluxo de turistas ao parque, que dispõe de variada infraestrutura para recebê-los: desde abrigos de montanha e áreas de acampamento nos pontos mais distantes, como na parte alta ou nas travessias, até um centro de visitantes com auditório, maquete e exposições interpretativas. A região do entorno do parque dispõe de farta e variada estrutura hoteleira e de alimentação, com destaque para Penedo, Serinha do Alambari e Visconde de Mauá. O acesso é fácil, já que está próximo da via Dutra (BR-116), a meio caminho entre as cidades de São Paulo e Rio de Janeiro. Apenas para chegar às Agulhas Negras deve-se, a partir da via Dutra, tomar a estrada Rio-Caxambu (BR-354) e seguir até a divisa com o Estado de Minas Gerais, no município de Itamonte.





PARQUE NACIONAL DAS
Sempre-vivas

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE OLHOS D'ÁGUA, BOCONÓVA, BUENÓPOLIS E DIAMANTINA (MG)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 13 de dezembro de 2002 (por decreto federal sem número)

ÁREA: 124.000 ha

CLIMA: tropical de altitude

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 20°C

CHUVAS: precipitação média anual variando de 1.250 a 1.500 mm.

RELEVO: formação geográfica do tipo cordilheira

O parque foi criado em 13 de dezembro de 2002, como parte de um esforço para assegurar a preservação da biodiversidade e dos recursos naturais locais. Com área de aproximadamente 124.000 hectares abrange parte dos municípios de Diamantina, Bocoíva, Buenópolis e Olhos d'Água. Inserido na Serra do Espinhaço é o divisor de águas das Bacias do São Francisco e Jequitinhonha, no norte de Minas Gerais.

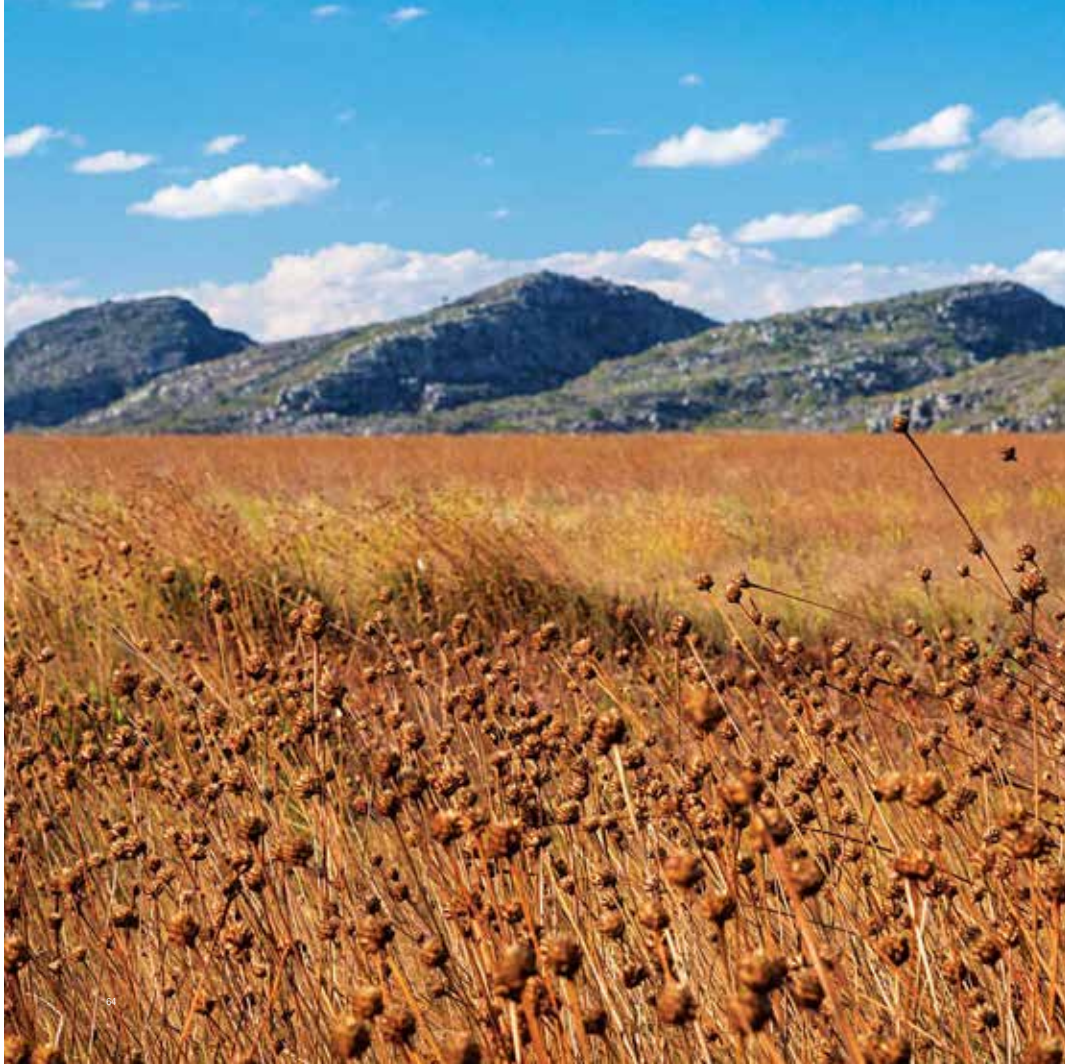
O Parque foi considerado pelo Fundo Mundial para a Natureza - WWF e pela União Internacional para Conservação da Natureza - IUCN, como um dos centros de diversidade de plantas do Brasil, devido ao seu alto grau de endemismo.

A unidade abriga 30% das espécies de anfíbios da Serra do Espinhaço, sendo que 7% delas são endêmicas. O Parque também abriga 24% de todas as aves do Estado de Minas Gerais e 40% dos mamíferos de grande porte do Cerrado, valorizando assim a importância da conservação dessa área para as populações de fauna e flora.

Em Julho de 2005 a UNESCO reconheceu a Serra do Espinhaço como Reserva da Biosfera, que reúne uma série de Unidades de Conservação, entre Federais e Estaduais e Municipais, dentre elas a maior Unidade de Proteção Integral é o Parque das Sempre Vivas. Em 2010 foi criado o Mosaico de Áreas Protegidas do Espinhaço: Alto Jequitinhonha - Serra do Cabral, também incluindo o Parque Nacional das Sempre Vivas.

O Parque localiza-se no Bioma Cerrado, sofrendo influências dos Biomas Mata Atlântica e Catinga, compreendendo paisagens heterogêneas que acompanham as variações de altitude, clima e solo. Tendo como principal componente vegetacional os campos rupestres, característicos de altitudes elevadas, com ocorrência de pequenas flores, em sua maioria da família das Ericaceae, que dão nome ao Parque, as sempre-vivas. Esta região é o maior centro de endemismo das sempre vivas, sendo que 80% das espécies que ocorrem no Brasil são endêmicas do Espinhaço.

O Parque possui uma rica rede de drenagem com cerca de 600 nascentes, destacando-se ainda, a presença de belas cachoeiras que resultam da combinação da rede de drenagem com a declividade do terreno. A unidade também tem como atrativo a ocorrência de pinturas rupestres em seu interior além de diversas trilhas utilizadas desde o século XIX, apresentando grande potencial turístico.



PARQUE NACIONAL DA
Serra da Bocaina

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS AREAS, CUNHA, SÃO JOSÉ DO BARRIEIRO E UBATUBA (SP);
ANGRA DOS REIS (RJ)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 4 de fevereiro de 1971 (Decreto Federal nº 68.172)
ÁREA: 110 mil ha

CLIMA: tropical, subtropical úmido, com três meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 21°C, máxima absoluta de 38°C e mínima absoluta de -8°C

CHUVUA: entre 1.250 e 2.500 mm anuais

RELEVO: montanhoso

Situado na Serra do Mar, o Parque Nacional da Serra da Bocaina apresenta característica peculiar: já que nos seus domínios a serra se debruça abruptamente sobre o oceano Atlântico, formando múltiplos cenários. As altitudes variam desde áreas marinhas até 2.088 m, onde se encontra o ponto culminante, o pico do Tira-Chapéu. Ao sul, o parque abrange praias arenosas, uma enseada e uma ilha oceânica na região de Trindade. Em direção ao norte, no degrau do planalto da Serra da Bocaina, abrange vales profundos e recortados, para então atingir uma vasta área de campos, com altitudes acima de 1.500 m, onde despontam massas graníticas arredondadas. Dominada pela floresta atlântica densa, a vegetação constitui-se na parte mais baixa, de até 500 m de altitude, de árvores de médio porte, que raramente ultrapassam os 20 m. Dentre as espécies encontradas exemplificam-se o pau-de-tucano (*Vochysia tucanorum* Mart.), o bagiaçu (*Balauma ovata* A. St.-Hil.) e canelas (*Nectandra* sp. e *Coccoloba* sp.), além de palmito (*Euterpe edulis* Mart.) e embauba (*Cecropia* sp.). Acima dos 500 m, na floresta atlântica densa montana, ocorrem o pinheiro-bravo (*Podocarpus lamberti* Klotzsch ex Endl.), o óleo-vermelho (*Myroxylon* sp.), o cedro (*Cedrela fissilis* Vell.), o açota-cavalo (*Luehea divaricata* Mart) e o óleo-pardo (*Myrcarpus frondosus* Allemão), entre outras. E, acima dos 1.900 m, os campos nativos com vegetação graminóide, onde se destacam a vassourinha-do-campo (*Microstichia isophylla* DC.) e a sempre-viva-da-serra (*Paspalum polyanthus* (Bonpland) Kunth). A fauna é bem representativa dessa parte da floresta atlântica, destacando-se entre os mamíferos grandes predadores, como a suçuarana (*Puma concolor*), diversas espécies ameaçadas de primatas, desde o pequeno sagui-da-serra-escuro (*Callithrix aurita*), até o miquiqui (*Brachyteles arachnoides*) maior primata das Américas, além de veados (*Mazama* spp.), antas (*Tapirus terrestris*), oníços cacheiros (*Spilogurus* spp.), preguiças (*Bradypus* sp.) e roedores. Encontram abrigo algumas espécies de aves ameaçadas de extinção e que necessitam de grandes extensões, como a harpia (*Harpya harpyja*), o gavião-pega-macaco (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) e o gavião-de-penacho (*Spizaetus ornatus*). Também podem ser vistos a jacutinga (*Pipile jacutinga*), o cuiu-cuiu (*Pionopsitta pileata*) e o macuco (*Tinamus solitarius*), além do colorido tucano-de-bico-preto (*Ramphastos vitellinus*). Em fase de implantação, o parque vem focando seus esforços na consolidação dos seus principais atrativos turísticos. As praias de Trindade, que atualmente recebem uma visitação próxima de 200 mil pessoas por ano, recebem boa parte das atenções, visando resgatar os ambientes naturais impactados por uma visitação de massa altamente sazonal que gera, ainda, impactos sociais à comunidade caiçara local. A estrada Paraty-Cunha passa por licenciamento ambiental para receber pavimentação e estruturas turísticas e de controle de fluxo, em obra do governo estadual. Outras áreas, como o mirante da Pedra da Macela, de onde se tem uma das mais belas vistas do litoral brasileiro, e o Caminho de Mambucaba, longa travessia que liga o município paulista de São José do Barreiro a Angra dos Reis, através de mata primária e algumas das maiores e mais belas cachoeiras do país, também estão sendo consolidados.







PARQUE NACIONAL DA
Serra da Canastra

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE CAPITÓLIO, DELFINÓPOLIS, SACRAMENTO, SÃO JOÃO BATISTA DO GLÓRIA, SÃO ROQUE DE MINAS E MARZENA BONITA (MG)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 3 de abril de 1972 (Decreto Federal nº 70.355)

ÁREA: 197.787 ha.

CLIMA: tropical, subtropical úmido, com quatro a cinco meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 18 a 20°C, máxima absoluta de 34 a 36°C e mínima absoluta de -4°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm anuais

RELEVO: ondulado

O Parque Nacional da Serra da Canastra é um típico divisor de água. No Chapadão da Canastra há a divisão de três bacias hidrográficas, sendo, obviamente uma de suas características marcantes é a presença de nascentes, dentre as quais se destacam: a do rio São Francisco, a do rio Araguaari e a do Rio Santo Antônio, tributário do Rio Grande. Em seus domínios, o rio São Francisco percorre cerca de 14 km a partir de sua nascente histórica até atingir a escarpa da Serra da Canastra, onde forma a cachoeira Casca d'Anta. Com três quedas e cerca de 200 m de altura no total. Essa cachoeira é hoje um dos grandes atrativos do parque.

O relevo da área é caracterizado por chapadões - onde se destaca o da Canastra. O que é chamado de Chapadão da Babilônia, na verdade é uma sequência de chapadas e vales de beleza imensa indo da região das Sete Voltas a oeste, no município de Delfinópolis, até o Fecho da Serra a leste no município de Capitólio. O vale formado entre essas unidades se inicia no que é chamado vale dos Coelhos e depois vale ou vão dos Gândidos. No chapadão da Canastra ocorre o ponto culminante no topo da Serra Brava, com 1.496 m de altitude.

A vegetação é típica de cerrado do Brasil Central, com a ocorrência de várias fitosionomias como campos limpos, campos rupestres, campo sujo, campo de murundus e cerrado stricto sensu. Destacam-se aí as fruta-de-lobo (*Solanum lycocarpum* A. St. Hill.), a lixeira (*Curatella americana* L.), o bequi (*Caryocar brasiliense* Cambess.) e o pau-de-colher (*Salvertia conchalioides* A. St. Hill.), há ainda uma série de plantas menos conhecidas e não por isso menos importantes, sendo muitas endêmicas.

Embora reduzida, a população animal é bastante significativa do Brasil Central. Há espécies oficialmente ameaçadas de extinção, como o tatu-canastra (*Prionotus giganteus*), o tamandú-bandeira (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) e o lobo-guará (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), que encontram no parque abrigo adequado.

Outros mamíferos são o cachorro-do-mato (*Cercopithecus thous*), a lontra (*Lontra* sp.), o veado-catingueiro (*Mazama gouazoubira*), o bugio (*Alouatta fusca*), o macaco-preto (*Cebus apella*) e o guaximim (*Procyon cancrivorus*). Entre as aves sobressaem-se, por sua raridade o pato mergulhão (*Mergus octosetaceus*) e, por seu tamanho a ema (*Rhea americana*). Podem também ser vistos numerosos exemplares de martim-pescador (*Chloroceryle indio*), tucano-secu (*Ramphastus toco*), curió (*Oryzoborus angolensis*), canário-da-terra (*Sicalis flaveola*) e o raro galito (*Alecturus tricolor*). Apesar do fácil acesso por rodovias asfaltadas provenientes de Belo Horizonte e São Paulo, o parque não conta ainda com infraestrutura para a hospedagem de visitantes e as estradas locais, não pavimentadas são pouco adequadas a veículos de passeio, sendo muito adequadas para veículos 4x4.

PARQUE NACIONAL DA

Serra do Cipó

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE JABOTICATUBAS, SANTANA DO RIACHO, MORRO DO PILAR E ITAMBÉ DO MATO DENTRO (MG)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 25 de setembro de 1994 (Decreto Federal nº 90.223)

ÁREA: 33.800 ha

CLIMA: tropical, quente semi-úmido, com quatro a cinco meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 20 a 22°C, máxima absoluta de 36°C e mínima absoluta de 0°C

CHUVUDA: entre 1.500 e 1.700 mm anuais

RELEVO: relevo extremamente diverso, composto por vales encaixados planos, planaltos suavemente ondulados, encostas fortemente acidentadas e variações do fortemente ondulado a montanhoso

A Serra do Cipó está localizada na parte sul do maciço do Espinhaço, uma cadeia montanhosa que se estende de Ouro Preto (MG) até Juazeiro (BA). Essa serra era conhecida como da Vacaria à época dos bandeirantes, que a utilizavam em suas excursões às regiões produtoras de diamantes – a vila do Serro Frio e arraial do Tejuco, atuais cidades do Serro e Diamantina.

Criado em 1994 para proteger a bacia de captação do rio Cipó, o parque ocupa uma área de 33.800 ha dentro da Área de Proteção Ambiental (APA) Morro da Pedreira, criada seis anos mais tarde, em 1990, justamente para proteger parte da Cadeia do Espinhaço, o Morro da Pedreira, os sítios arqueológicos, a cobertura vegetal, a fauna silvestre e os mananciais ali existentes. Abrange áreas dos municípios de Jaboticatubas, Santana do Riacho, Morro do Pilar e Itambé do Mato Dentro.

A história geológica da Serra do Cipó remonta a 1.700 milhões de anos, ainda no período pré-cambriano, quando toda a região encontrava-se no fundo de um oceano e as suas rochas formaram-se pela deposição de material marinho.

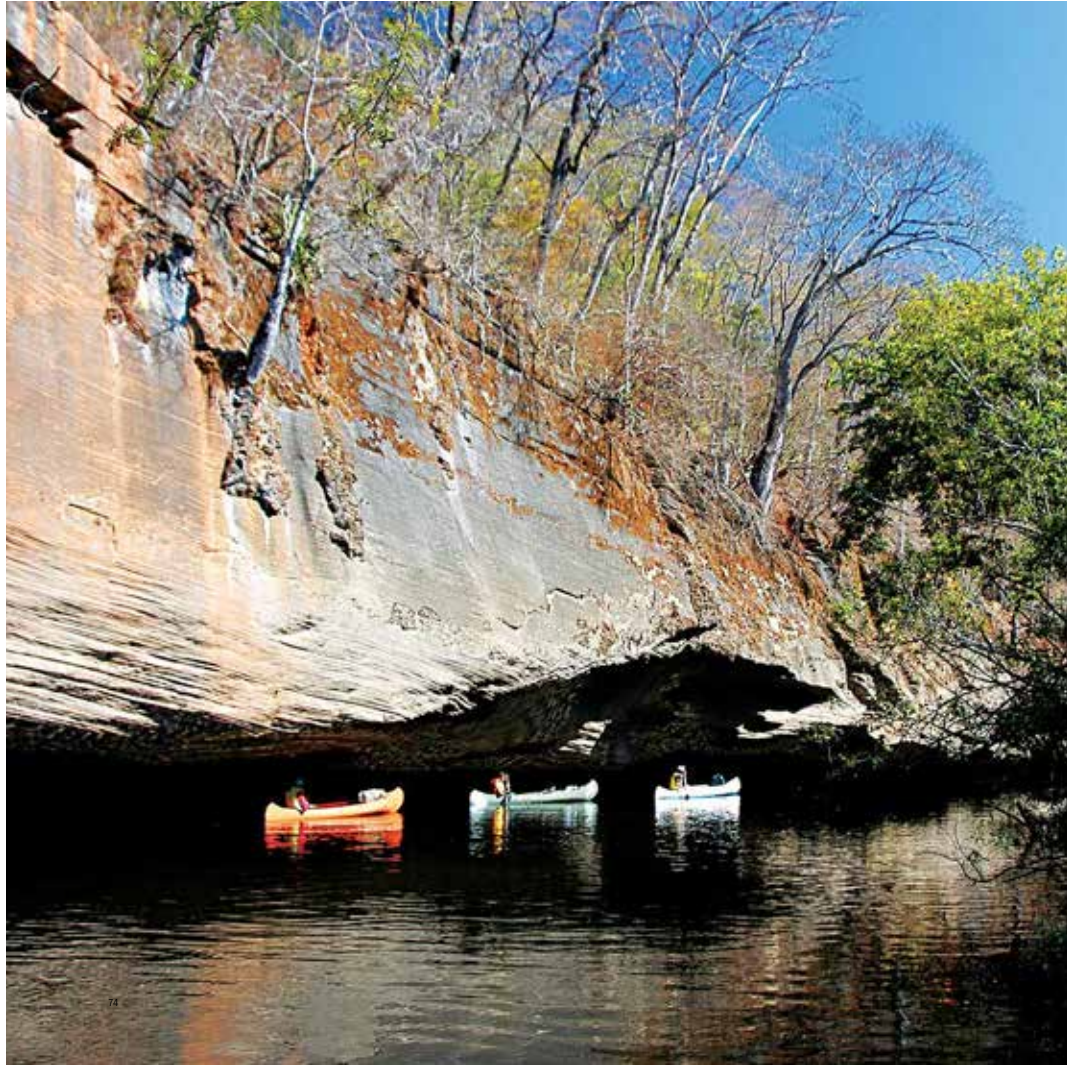
Hoje, a região, cujas altitudes variam entre 700 e 1.700 m, apresenta um clima tropical, quente semiúmido, com verões amenos e estação seca bem definida.

Três diferentes conjuntos de vegetação podem ser ali encontrados: matas de galeria, que predominam nos vales, ao longo do curso dos rios, e apresentam grande quantidade de árvores frondosas; matas de campos cerrados, identificadas pelas árvores baixas e retorcidas, e outras como o muciú (*Byrsonima verbascifolia* (L.) DC.) e o pau-terra (*Qualea grandiflora* Mart.); e os campos rupestres ou de altitude, localizados acima dos 900 m, muito abertos e permanentemente cortados por rios e riachos.

Com a criação do parque tornou-se possível a proteção de uma espécie própria da Serra do Cipó, a canela-de-ema (*Vellozia piresiana* L. B. Sm.), sobre a qual cresce um raro e exótico tipo de orquídea (*Constantia cipoensis* Porto & Brade).

A fauna é variada, e inclui algumas espécies ameaçadas de extinção, como o lobo-guará (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), um esguio canídeo marrom-avermelhado, o cachorro-do-mato-vinagre (*Speothos venaticus*), um pequeno cachorro silvestre, o tamanduá-bandeira (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) e o veado-campeiro (*Mazama gouazoubiri*), a onça-parda (*Puma concolor*) e o gato-maracajá (*Panthera pardalis*). Entre os anfíbios, a curiosa e multicolorida rã diurna (*Phylllobates flavipictus*), popularmente chamada de perereca-de-pijama, devido às suas listras.

A 100 km de Belo Horizonte, pela rodovia MG-010, o parque ainda não dispõe de infraestrutura para a hospedagem de visitantes, o que pode, no entanto, ser conseguido nas cidades próximas, como Lagoa Santa, Vespasiano, Santana do Riacho, Distrito Serra do Cipó e Jaboticatubas.





PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Alto Cariri

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIO DE GUARATINGÁ (BA)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 11 de junho de 2010
ÁREA: 19.238 ha
CLIMA: Tropical

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 24°C

CHUVAS: precipitação de 800 mm anuais

RELEVO: acidentado, com altitudes que ultrapassam 1.000 m

O parque é uma Unidade de Conservação Federal formada por um complexo rochoso de serras separadas por vales profundos, em uma área que abriga o último conjunto de fragmentos de Mata Atlântica de grande porte da sudeste da Bahia e nordeste do Estado de Minas Gerais. Está localizado totalmente na Bahia dentro do município de Guaratingá, divisa com Itagimirim e com os municípios de Minas Gerais (Santa Maria do Salto, Salto da Divisa e Santo Antônio do Jacinto). Os principais objetivos do parque são preservar o complexo de serras do Alto Cariri, formado por significativo remanescente contínuo de Mata Atlântica, manter e recuperar mananciais e cursos d'água, além de garantir a manutenção de populações viáveis de mamíferos e aves ameaçadas de extinção, especialmente o mono carvoeiro ou muriqui-do-norte (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*), símbolo da Mata Atlântica (presente na Lista Nacional das Espécies da Fauna Brasileira Ameaçadas de Extinção, na situação de criticamente ameaçado). Outro objetivo é possibilitar o desenvolvimento de atividades de educação e interpretação ambiental, recreação em contato com a natureza e turismo ecológico, bem como o desenvolvimento de pesquisa científica.

No entanto, no momento o parque não está aberto para visitação, encontra-se em processo de implementação e aguarda a regularização fundiária.

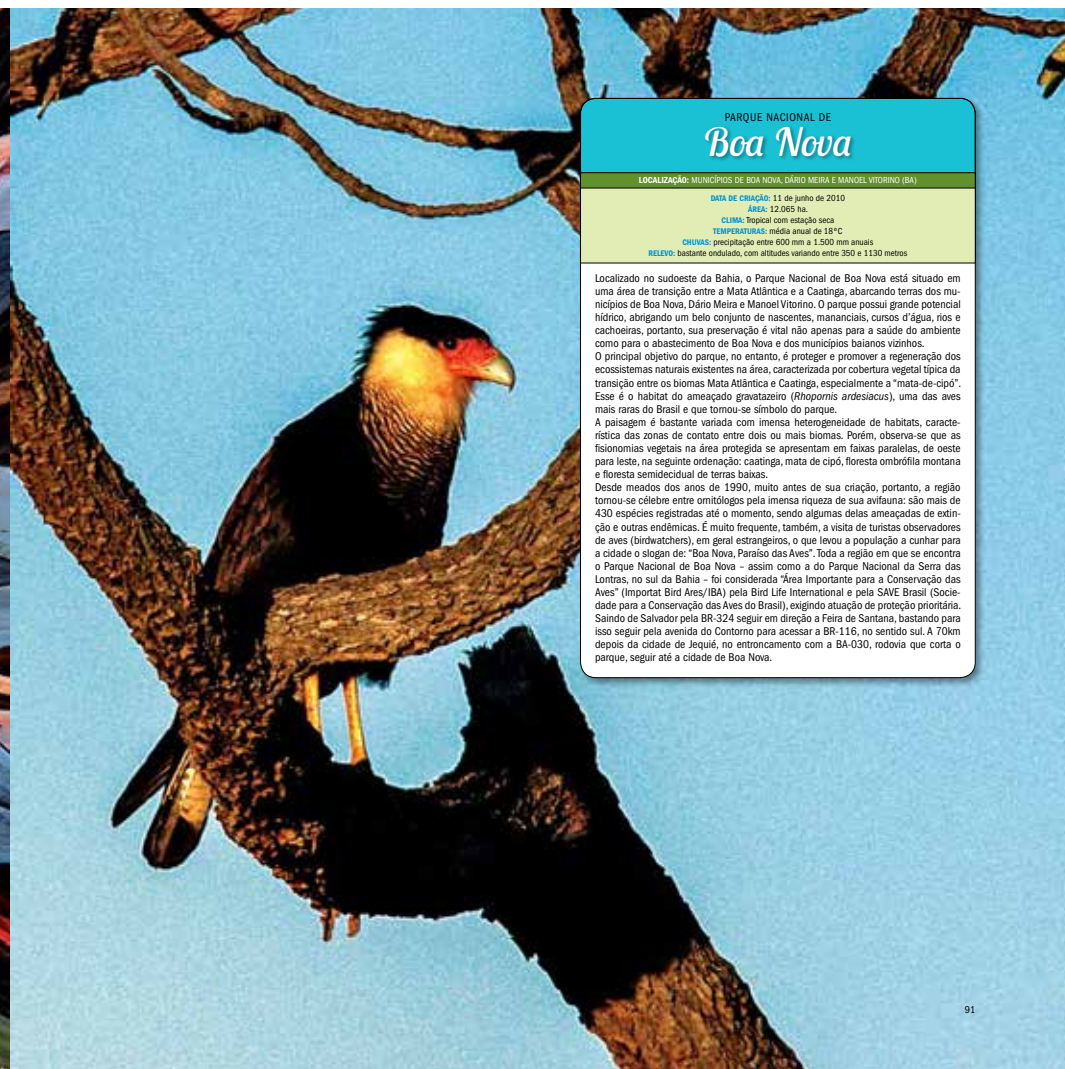
A paisagem do maciço do Alto Cariri no qual o parque se encontra apresenta três fatores geográficos de estruturação: altitude, latitude e influência do mar. A altitude das serras cria uma barreira para as precipitações vindas do mar, fazendo com que a região da UC seja bem mais úmida do que a depressão do Jequitinhonha.

A vegetação do parque protege remanescentes de mata atlântica e ecossistemas associados, localizados na região montanhosa, sendo úmida e dominada pela Floresta Ombrófila densa Montana. Conforme a umidade decresce para oeste passa a dominar paulatinamente a Floresta Estacional Semidecidual. Nos topos dos morros mais altos e íngremes ocorrem campos rupestres, sobre afloramentos de rochas, onde a floresta apresenta enorme riqueza de espécies, em especial dos grupos bromeliáceas, orquídeas, cactáceas e pteridófitos.

Foram encontradas na área do Alto Cariri, espécies de plantas pertencentes a onze gêneros endêmicos da Mata Atlântica: *Alcantarea*, *Canistrum*, *Nidularium* e *Portea* (*Bromeliaceae*), *Nematanthus* (*Gesneriaceae*), *Ornithophora* e *Pogoniopsis* (*Orchidaceae*), *Eremites* (*Podiceae*) e *Athenaea*, *Aureliana* e *Dysochroa* (*Solanaceae*).

Estima-se que o conjunto vegetal do Alto Cariri represente 7,3% do total de 150 gêneros endêmicos da Mata Atlântica. Dados preliminares estimam, também, que mais de 50% da flora local é endêmica da Mata Atlântica, sendo o restante de ampla distribuição em outros biomas ou relacionada diretamente com a flora amazônica.

Saindo de Porto Seguro pela BR-367, seguir pela BR-101 em Eunápolis, sentido Itabela. Em Itabela, seguir por um percurso de 25 km pavimentado pela BA-283 até a cidade de Guaratingá, numa via não pavimentada até Monte Alegre, passando pelo distrito São João do Sul, aproximadamente 30 km até a região sul do parque.



PARQUE NACIONAL DE
Boa Nova

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE BOA NOVA, DÁRIO MEIRA E MANOEL VITORINO (BA)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 11 de junho de 2010
ÁREA: 12.065 ha.
CLIMA: tropical com estação seca
TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 18°C
CHUVAS: precipitação entre 600 mm a 1.500 mm anuais
RELEVO: bastante ondulado, com altitudes variando entre 350 e 1130 metros

Localizado no sudoeste da Bahia, o Parque Nacional de Boa Nova está situado em uma área de transição entre a Mata Atlântica e a Caatinga, abarcando terras dos municípios de Boa Nova, Dário Meira e Manoel Vitorino. O parque possui grande potencial hídrico, abrigando um belo conjunto de nascentes, mananciais, cursos d'água, rios e cachoeiras, portanto, sua preservação é vital não apenas para a saúde do ambiente como para o abastecimento de Boa Nova e dos municípios baianos vizinhos. O principal objetivo do parque, no entanto, é proteger e promover a regeneração dos ecossistemas naturais existentes na área, caracterizada por cobertura vegetal típica da transição entre os biomas Mata Atlântica e Caatinga, especialmente a "mata-de-cipó". Esse é o habitat do ameaçado graxatzeiro (*Rhynchops ardesiacus*), uma das aves mais raras do Brasil e que tornou-se símbolo do parque. A paisagem é bastante variada com imensa heterogeneidade de habitats, característica das zonas de contato entre dois ou mais biomas. Porém, observa-se que as fisionomias vegetais na área protegida se apresentam em faixas paralelas, de oeste para leste, na seguinte ordenação: caatinga, mata de cipó, floresta ombrófila montana e floresta semidecidual de terras baixas. Desde meados dos anos de 1990, muito antes de sua criação, portanto, a região tornou-se célebre entre ornitólogos pela imensa riqueza de sua avifauna: são mais de 430 espécies registradas até o momento, sendo algumas delas ameaçadas de extinção e outras endêmicas. É muito frequente, também, a visita de turistas observadores de aves (birdwatchers), em geral estrangeiros, o que levou a população a cunhar para a cidade o slogan de: "Boa Nova, Paraíso das Aves". Toda a região em que se encontra o Parque Nacional de Boa Nova - assim como a do Parque Nacional da Serra das Lontras, no sul da Bahia - foi considerada "Área Importante para a Conservação das Aves" (Important Bird Area/IBA) pela Bird Life International e pela SAVE Brasil (Sociedade para a Conservação das Aves do Brasil), exigindo atuação de proteção prioritária. Saindo de Salvador pela BR-324 seguir em direção a Feira de Santana, bastando para isso seguir pela avenida do Contorno para acessar a BR-116, no sentido sul. A 70km depois da cidade de Jequié, no entroncamento com a BA-030, rodovia que corta o parque, seguir até a cidade de Boa Nova.



PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Catimbau

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE BUIQUE, IBIMIRIM, ARCOVERDE E TUPANATINGA (PE)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 16 de dezembro de 2002 (por decreto federal sem número de 13 de dezembro de 2002)

ÁREA: 62.300 ha.

CLIMA: tropical semiárido

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 23°C

CHUVAS: entre 650 e 1.050 mm anuais

RELEVO: suave a ondulado com destaque para o início da depressão sertaneja com presença de grandes serras areníticas, com diversas denominações locais

A região do Catimbau, na bacia do rio São Francisco, fica a cerca de 290 km do Recife, na zona de transição entre o agreste e o sertão de Pernambuco. O parque estende-se entre os municípios de Buíque, Ibirimir e Tupanatinga, no sertão do Moxoti, sendo considerada Área de Extrema Importância Biológica por sua biodiversidade no bioma caatinga. Para preservar esse ecossistema, bem como o conjunto geológico das serras ali existentes, ele foi criado em 2002, com área de 62.300 ha.

Na região do Catimbau, entre paredes de arenito e formações rochosas esculpidas pela erosão ao longo dos últimos 150 milhões de anos, já foram identificadas quase trinta sítios arqueológicos com pinturas rupestres, e artefatos de ocupação humana, que datam de mais de 5.000 anos. Entre esses sítios, o de Alcobaça destaca-se pela grandiosidade e riqueza arqueológica e por ser o segundo maior paredão de pinturas rupestres do país. Localizado a cerca de 20 km da sede do município de Buíque o Alcobaça situa-se em um paredão rochoso com aspecto de anfiteatro. Ali, encontram-se as pinturas rupestres feitas por diversos grupos que viveram na região em diferentes épocas (de 4.600 a 880 anos aproximadamente). Tais pinturas ocupam uma área com aproximadamente 60 m de extensão e mede entre dois e três metros de largura.

A região do parque é composta por um relevante acervo paisagístico e cultural. Tem como atrativo principal o Vale do Catimbau, cuja área impressiona por sua grandiosidade, beleza e formações geológicas esculpidas por processos erosivos naturais. Uma das características do Catimbau é o seu misticismo. Para muitos, do local emana uma diferente energia, fator relevante para o turismo que se desenvolve no local. O vale tem muitos atrativos: a presença de cemitérios indígenas, áreas arqueológicas e seu conjunto de serras, como as Serra de Jerusalém, Serra do Alcobaça Serra dos Breus e Serra da Torre, para citar apenas as mais importantes.

A vegetação predominante é típica da caatinga – pequenas árvores retorcidas, geralmente espinhentas, com cascas rugosas, raízes grossas e penetrantes –, que se caracteriza pela perda das folhas na época da estiagem. No entanto, devido às variações de relevo e micro-clima, são também encontradas no parque espécies de cerrado, de campos rupestres, de mata atlântica e de restinga, além da caatinga stricto sensu. Merece destaque a presença, surpreendente, de exemplares arbustivo-arbóreos endêmicos da vegetação dos campos rupestres da Chapada Diamantina (Bahia e Minas Gerais). É comum a ocorrência de bromélias e cactos em toda a sua extensão e esparsas palmeiras babacu e burtis no vale do Catimbau.

São conhecidas mais de 150 espécies de aves, como o pintassilgo (*Carduelis yarrellii*) – endêmica do nordeste brasileiro e ameaçada de extinção –, a maria-macambira e o pica-pauzinho – ambas endêmicas da caatinga – além de aranhas, asa-branca, canários, papagaios e outras aves comuns no sertão. Outros animais endêmicos são o lagarto-das-rochas (*Tropidurus semitaeniatus*) e a lagartixa-de-Kluger (*Lygodactylus klugei*). Também podemos destacar o beija-flor-do-bico-curvo-da-caatinga, o gavião-pegá-pinto ou gavião-ripina (*Buteo magnirostris*), o gavião-peneira (*Elanus leucurus*), e o gavião azul ou pé-de-serra (*Geranoetus melanoleucus*).





PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Descobrimento

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIO DE PRADO (BA)

ÁREA: 22.694 ha.

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 20 de abril de 1999 (por decreto federal sem número)

CLIMA: úmido tropical, clima de floresta quente e úmida

TEMPERATURAS: média mínima de 20°C e média máxima de 30°C

CHUVAS: em média 1.750 mm anuais

RELEVO: Floresta de Tabuleiro, predominantemente plano

Criado em 20 de abril de 1999, o parque está localizado no município de Prado, na chamada Costa das Baleias, se destaca por ser o maior maço florestal de Mata Atlântica do Nordeste Brasileiro e também compor um dos últimos remanescentes do bioma em bom estado de conservação no extremo sul da Bahia, juntamente com o Parque Nacional e Histórico do Monte Pascoal e o Parque Nacional do Pau-Brasil. O Parque é considerado como Zona Núcleo da Reserva da Biosfera da Mata Atlântica e Sítio do Patrimônio Natural Mundial. Abriga animais como a harpia (*Harpia harpyja*), o papagaio-chauá (*Amazona rhodocorytha*) e o gavião-pegá-macaco (*Spizaetus tyrannus*), a anta (*Baptus terrestris*), a onça-parda (*Puma concolor*), o tamandú-mirim (*Myrmecophaga tetradactyla*), sendo que este último já quase não existe mais na Mata Atlântica. O parque detém ainda grande riqueza de flora, com a ocorrência de 71 espécies endêmicas da Mata Atlântica, sendo que destas, cinco são raras e 19 ameaçadas de extinção como o jacarandá-da-baía (*Dalbergia nigra*), o pau-brasil (*Cesalpinia echinata*), a braúna (*Melanoxylon braunii*) e o jequitibá (*Cariniana estrellensis* e *Cariniana legalis*), entre outros. São encontradas ainda variedades de musgos, líquens, trepadeiras, bromélias e orquídeas. Criado inicialmente com 21.129 ha de área, em 06 junho de 2012 o parque foi ampliado por decreto federal para uma área de 22.693,37 ha, tendo sido também definida sua Zona de Amortecimento. Com um relevo típico de "tabuleiro", predominantemente plano, além de proteger inúmeras nascentes como a bacia do Rio Imbassuba, localiza-se nas proximidades do Rio Cayú, em cuja foz, segundo historiadores, Cabral teria fundado pela primeira vez a sua amada por ocasião do descobrimento do Brasil. Aquela época, a região era habitada por etnias indígenas que, mais tarde, deram origem aos índios pataxós. O clima é tropical, de floresta quente e úmida, e o parque, por sua beleza cênica e diversidade biológica, apresenta um enorme potencial para o turismo ecológico.



PARQUE NACIONAL DE *Jericoacoara*

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE JIJOCA DE JERICOACOARA E CRUZ (CE)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 4 de fevereiro de 2002 (por decreto federal sem número), alterado pela Lei 11.486, de 15 de junho de 2007
Área: 8.850 ha.

CLIMA: caracterizado como quente e úmido

TEMPERATURAS: médias oscilando entre 22 e 35 °C e com o período de seca variando de 5 a 6 meses.

CHUVAS: média anual de 1.364 mm.

RELEVO: composto por paisagens distintas: serrote, restinga, dunas, lagoas, matas de tabuleiro, manguezal, gramados halofíticos e praias arenosas

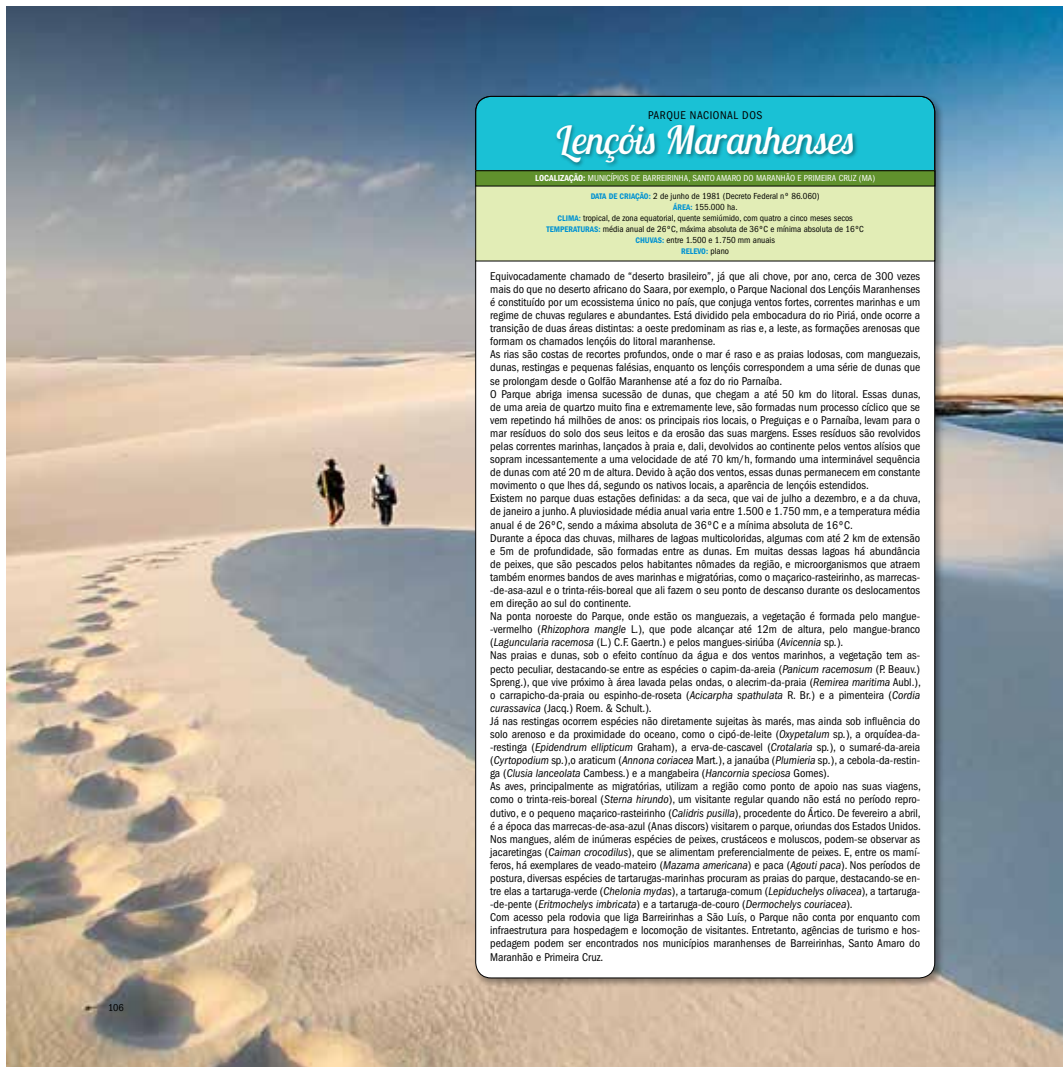
O nome Jericoacoara tem, provavelmente, origem indígena. Deriva do tupi-guarani (*yuruco* = buraco; *cuara* = tartaruga) e significa "buraco das tartarugas", numa referência ao fato de ali ocorrer a desova de tartarugas marinhas. Outra versão para a origem do nome diz que o responsável seria o serrote (pequenas elevações do solo ali existentes) que, visto do mar, teria a aparência de um jacaré secando ao sol. O local abriga um ecossistema variado com dunas fixas e móveis, manguezais, lagoas de águas cristalinas e praias bonitas. A praia de Jericoacoara, diga-se a propósito, foi escolhida pelo jornal *The Washington Post*, em março de 1987, como uma das dez mais belas do mundo.

O parque foi criado pelo decreto de 04 de fevereiro de 2002, a partir da recategorização parcial do território da APA Federal de Jericoacoara, criada em 1984. Assim, a Vila de Jericoacoara continuou sendo uma Área de Proteção Ambiental (APA) até 2007, quando foi publicada a lei 11.486, de 15 de junho de 2007, que extinguiu a APA de Jericoacoara e redefiniu os limites do Parque Nacional. Assim, toda a extensão territorial situada ao redor da Vila de Jericoacoara hoje é pertence ao Parque Nacional, uma Unidade de Conservação da categoria Proteção Integral com área total de 8.850 hectares, englobando parte dos municípios de Jijoca de Jericoacoara e Cruz. O clima é quente e úmido, com chuvas que se estendem do verão ao outono e temperaturas médias oscilando entre 22 e 35 °C. Existem inúmeras paisagens distintas, como de restinga, serrote, dunas, tabuleiro, lagoas, manguezais, gramados e praias. A vegetação é de Cerrado e de Caatinga, com predominância de arbustos, mas existe também na região uma grande quantidade de coqueiros. A fauna da região é representada principalmente pelas aves, peixes e cactáceas.

As dunas, que chegam a atingir 50 metros de altura, constituem uma atração à parte. De areia branca e fina, que adquire intensa coloração amarelada em determinadas horas do dia, são constantemente movimentadas pelo vento e, ao final de cada tarde, escaladas pelos turistas que ali aguardam o espetáculo do pôr do sol.

O mar apresenta tonalidades que variam do azul turquesa ao verde claro e as longas praias abrigam desde formações rochosas - como as pedras Furada e do Frade, arrecifes e a Gruta da Malhada - até manguezais e dunas.

Na Vila de Jericoacoara a rede elétrica que abastece as casas é toda subterrânea para não interferir na paisagem e não quebrar o clima romântico das noites locais.



PARQUE NACIONAL DOS *Lençóis Maranhenses*

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE BARREIRINHA, SANTO AMARO DO MARANHÃO E PRIMEIRA CRUZ (MA)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 2 de junho de 1983 (Decreto Federal nº 86.060)

ÁREA: 155.000 ha

CLIMA: tropical, de zona equatorial, quente e úmido, com quatro a cinco meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 26°C, máxima absoluta de 36°C e mínima absoluta de 16°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm anuais

RELEVO: plano

Equivocadamente chamado de "deserto brasileiro", já que ali chove, por ano, cerca de 300 vezes mais do que no deserto africano do Saara, por exemplo, o Parque Nacional dos Lençóis Maranhenses é constituído por um ecossistema único no país, que conjuga ventos fortes, correntes marinhas e um regime de chuvas regulares e abundantes. Está dividido pela embocadura do rio Pindá, onde ocorre a transição de duas áreas distintas: a oeste predominam as rias e, a leste, as formações arenosas que formam os chamados lençóis do litoral maranhense.

As rias são costas de recortes profundos, onde o mar é raso e as praias lodosas, com manguezais, dunas, restingas e pequenas falésias, enquanto os lençóis correspondem a uma série de dunas que se prolongam desde o Golfo Maranhense até a foz do rio Parnaíba.

O Parque abriga imensa sucessão de dunas, que chegam a até 50 km do litoral. Essas dunas, de uma areia de quartzo muito fina e extremamente leve, são formadas num processo cíclico que se vem repetindo há milhões de anos: os principais rios locais, o Preguiças e o Parnaíba, levam para o mar resíduos do solo dos seus leitos e da erosão das suas margens. Esses resíduos são revolvidos pelas correntes marinhas, lançados à praia e, dali, devolvidos ao continente pelos ventos alísios que sopram incessantemente a uma velocidade de até 70 km/h, formando uma interminável sequência de dunas com até 20 m de altura. Devido à ação dos ventos, essas dunas permanecem em constante movimento e que lhes dá, segundo os nativos locais, a aparência de lençóis estendidos.

Existem no parque duas estações definidas: a da seca, que vai de julho a dezembro, e a da chuva, de janeiro a junho. A pluviosidade média anual varia entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm, e a temperatura média anual é de 26°C, sendo a máxima absoluta de 36°C e a mínima absoluta de 16°C.

Durante a época das chuvas, milhares de lagoas multicoloridas, algumas com até 2 km de extensão e 5 m de profundidade, são formadas entre as dunas. Em muitas dessas lagoas há abundância de peixes, que são pescados pelos habitantes nômades da região, e microorganismos que atraem também enormes bandos de aves marinhas e migratórias, como o maçarico-rasteirinho, as marrecas-de-asa-azul e o trinta-reis-boreal que ali fazem o seu ponto de descanso durante os deslocamentos em direção ao sul do continente.

Na ponta noroeste do Parque, onde estão os manguezais, a vegetação é formada pelo mangue-vermelho (*Rhizophora manglie* L.), que pode alcançar até 12m de altura, pelo mangue-branco (*Laguncularia racemosa* (L.) C.F. Gaertn.) e pelos mangues-siriúba (*Avicennia* sp.).

Nas praias e dunas, sob o efeito contínuo da água e dos ventos marinhos, a vegetação tem aspecto peculiar, destacando-se entre as espécies o capim-da-areia (*Panicum racemosum* (P. Beauv.) Spreng.), que vive próximo à área lavada pelas ondas, o alecrim-da-praia (*Remirea maritima* Aubl.), o carapicho-da-praia ou espinho-de-roseta (*Aiccarpha spathulata* R. Br.) e a pimenteira (*Cordia curassavica* (Jacq.) Roem. & Schult.).

Já nas restingas ocorrem espécies não diretamente sujeitas às marés, mas ainda sob influência do solo arenoso e da proximidade do oceano, como o cipó-de-leite (*Oxypetalum* sp.), a orquídea-da-restinga (*Epidendrum ellipticum* Graham), a erva-de-cascavel (*Crotalaria* sp.), o sumaré-da-areia (*Cyrtopodium* sp.), o araticum (*Amnora coriacea* Mart.), a janáuba (*Pumieria* sp.), a cebola-da-restinga (*Clusia lanceolata* Cambess.) e a mangabeira (*Hancornia speciosa* Gomes).

As aves, principalmente as migratórias, utilizam a região como ponto de apoio nas suas viagens, como o trinta-reis-boreal (*Sterna hirundo*), um visitante regular quando não está no período reprodutivo, e o pequeno maçarico-rasteirinho (*Calidris pusilla*), procedente do Ártico. De fevereiro a abril, é a época das marrecas-de-asa-azul (*Anas discors*) visitarem o parque, oriundas dos Estados Unidos. Nos mangues, além de inúmeras espécies de peixes, crustáceos e moluscos, podem-se observar as jacaratingas (*Caiman crocodilus*), que se alimentam preferencialmente de peixes. E, entre os mamíferos, há exemplares de veado-mateiro (*Mazama americana*) e paca (*Agouti paca*). Nos períodos de postura, diversas espécies de tartarugas-marinhas procuram as praias do parque, destacando-se entre elas a tartaruga-verde (*Chelonia mydas*), a tartaruga-comum (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), a tartaruga-de-pente (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) e a tartaruga-de-couro (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

Com acesso pela rodovia que liga Barreirinhas a São Luís, o Parque não conta por enquanto com infraestrutura para hospedagem e locomoção de visitantes. Entretanto, agências de turismo e hospedagem podem ser encontrados nos municípios maranhenses de Barreirinhas, Santo Amaro do Maranhão e Primeira Cruz.





PARQUE NACIONAL DE *Monte Pascoal*

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIO DE PORTO SEGURO (BA)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 29 de novembro de 1961 (Decreto Federal nº 242)
ÁREA: 22.383 ha.

CLIMA: Tropical do Brasil Central, quente úmido com um a dois meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 22 a 24°C, máxima absoluta de 36 a 38°C e mínima absoluta de 8 a 12°C

CHUVUA: entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm anuais

RELEVO: plano e ondulado

Primeira porção continental avistada pelos portugueses ao descobrirem o Brasil, o Monte Pascoal - que dá nome ao parque - reúne, além da óbvia importância histórica, uma diversidade de ecossistemas, como a floresta ombrofíla densa, regiões alagadiças, restinga, mangue e praia. O relevo é caracterizado pelas belas praias, às vezes com bancos de recifes, extensas planícies costeiras, tabuleiros, colinas e pequenas serras de rochas cristalinas. Em seus limites encontram-se três fases distintas do ciclo que contribuiu decisivamente para a transição entre os ecossistemas do litoral e os da floresta densa dos tabuleiros terciários.

A mais antiga dessas fases tem no Monte Pascoal o seu mais notável afloramento. As outras duas, dos períodos terciário e quaternário, são respectivamente representadas pelas rochas sedimentares do grupo Barreiras, constituintes dos chamados "tabuleiros" e pelos sedimentos aluviais e costeiros.

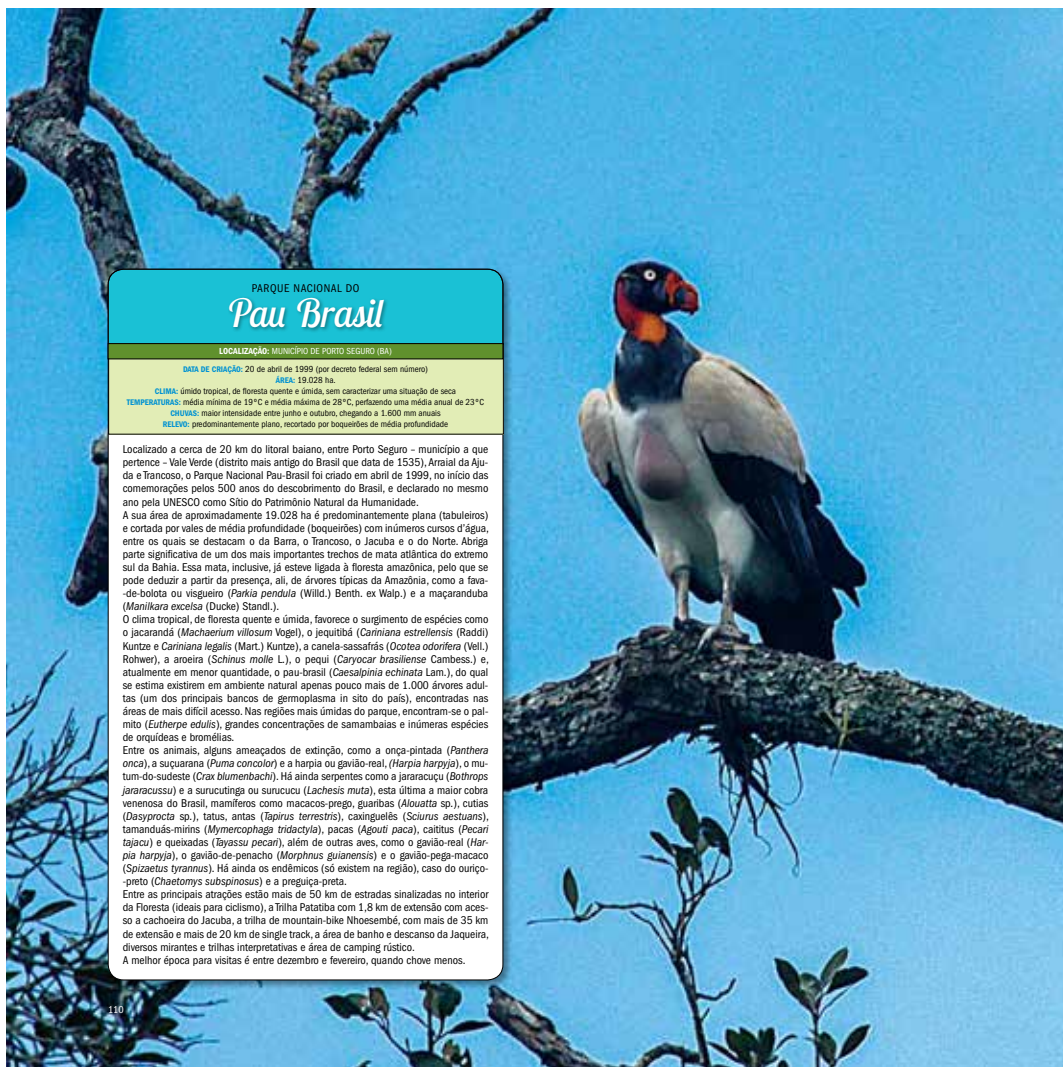
Além da importância histórica, a área abriga um dos últimos remanescentes de mata atlântica do litoral baiano, com uma vegetação predominante de floresta tropical pluvial, densa e exuberante, onde são encontradas árvores de grande porte, como a juarana (*Parkia pendula* (Willd.) Benth. ex Walp.), de origem amazônica, mas que se espalha até o Norte do Espírito Santo, a farinha-seca (*Pterigoa brasiliensis* Fr. All.) e o andá-açu (*Joannesia princeps* Vell.), e de madeira nobre, como jequitibás (*Cariniana estrellensis* (Raddi) Kuntze), jatobás (*Hymenaea courbaril* L. var. *stibocarpa* (Hayne) Lee & Lang.), maçaranubas (*Manilkara elata* (Allemao ex Miq.) Monach.), jacarandás (*Machaerium villosum* Vogl.), canelais-sassifrás (*Ocotea odorifera* (Hell.) Rohrer), araribás (*Centropogon microchaete* (Mart. ex Benth.) Lima ex G. P. Lewis) e outras, totalizando mais de 10 mil espécies de plantas, aí incluídas espécies características de regiões alagadiças, restinga, mangue e praia. Nos trechos mais úmidos da mata, onde são encontrados palmeiros (*Euterpe edulis* Mart.), inúmeras espécies de samambaias (*Pteridium* sp.), musgos, líquens e aráceas, com as suas magníficas espigas de flores, compõem um belo cenário ao lado de raras e coloridas orquídeas, como a rara *Cattleya schilleriana* Rehb. f. Já nas partes mais secas da floresta, há uma grande incidência de piaçaba, utilizada para a extração de fibras.

Na diversificada fauna, os destaques são o guanba (*Alouatta fusca*) e anta (*Tapirus terrestris*), que vivem perto dos leitos dos rios. Há também tamanduás (*Tamandua tetradactyla*), cutias (*Dasyprocta azarae*) e pacas (*Agouti paca*).

Entre os mamíferos ameaçados de extinção, a suçuarana (*Puma concolor*) mantém-se protegida no interior do Parque. E, entre as aves, há exemplares dos também ameaçados gavião-de-penacho (*Spizaetus ornatus*), gavião-pegá-macaco (*Spizaetus tyrannus*), curió (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) e sabiá-da-mata (*Turdus fumigatus*).

Distante apenas 14 km da BR-101, que liga Vitória a Salvador, e a 156 km de Porto Seguro, o parque ainda não dispõe de infraestrutura para a hospedagem de visitantes.

Entre os cenários mais bonitos temos a praia da Aldeia de Barra, o manguezal, as florestas de restinga, as praias pluviais dos rios Caraíva e Corumbau, os campos de Mussumunga, único do extremo sul do Estado. Em Itamaraju, a 30 km do parque, o visitante tem opções de hotéis e pousadas. Outra opção de hospedagem é Caraíva, uma vila indicada para quem quiser frequentar a praia.



PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Pau Brasil

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIO DE PORTO SEGURO (BA)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 20 de abril de 1999 (por decreto federal sem número)

ÁREA: 19.028 ha

CLIMA: úmido tropical, de floresta quente e úmida, sem caracterizar uma situação de seca
TEMPERATURAS: média mínima de 19°C e média máxima de 28°C, perfazendo uma média anual de 23°C
CHUVAS: maior intensidade entre junho e outubro, chegando a 1.500 mm anuais
RELEVO: predominantemente plano, recortado por boqueijões de média profundidade

Localizado a cerca de 20 km do litoral baiano, entre Porto Seguro – município a que pertence – Vale Verde (distrito mais antigo do Brasil que data de 1535), Arraial da Ajuda e Trancoço, o Parque Nacional Pau-Brasil foi criado em abril de 1999, no início das comemorações pelos 500 anos do descobrimento do Brasil, e declarado no mesmo ano pela UNESCO como Sítio do Patrimônio Natural da Humanidade.

A sua área de aproximadamente 19.028 ha é predominantemente plana (tabuleiros) e cortada por vales de média profundidade (boqueijões) com inúmeros cursos d'água, entre os quais se destacam o da Barra, o Trancoço, o Jacuba e o do Norte. Abreiga parte significativa de um dos mais importantes trechos de mata atlântica do extremo sul da Bahia. Essa mata, inclusive, já esteve ligada à floresta amazônica, pelo que se pode deduzir a partir da presença, ali, de árvores típicas da Amazônia, como a fava-de-bolota ou visgueiro (*Parkia pendula* (Willd.) Benth. ex Walp.) e a maçaranduba (*Manilkara eximia* (Ducke) Standl.).

O clima tropical, de floresta quente e úmida, favorece o surgimento de espécies como o jacarandá (*Machaerium villosum* Vogel), o jequitibá (*Carniana estrellensis* (Raddl) Kuntze e *Carniana legalis* (Mart.) Kuntze), a canela-sassafraz (*Ocotea odorifera* (Vell.) Rohrer), a aroeira (*Schinus molle* L.), o pequi (*Caryocar brasiliense* Cambess.) e, atualmente em menor quantidade, o pau-brasil (*Caesalpinia echinata* Lam.), do qual se estima existirem em ambiente natural apenas pouco mais de 1.000 árvores adultas (um dos principais bancos de germoplasma in situ do país), encontradas nas áreas de mais difícil acesso. Nas regiões mais úmidas do parque, encontram-se o palmito (*Eutherpe edulis*), grandes concentrações de samambaias e inúmeras espécies de orquídeas e bromélias.

Entre os animais, alguns ameaçados de extinção, como a onça-pintada (*Panthera onca*), a suçuarana (*Puma concolor*) e a harpia ou gavião-real, (*Harpia harpyja*), o mutum-do-sudeste (*Croax blumenbachi*). Há ainda serpentes como a jaracacuz (*Bothrops jaracacussu*) e a surucutinga ou surucucu (*Lachesis muta*), esta última a maior cobra venenosa do Brasil, mamíferos como macacos-prego, guaribas (*Alouatta* sp.), cutias (*Dasyprocta* sp.), tatus, antas (*Tapirus terrestris*), caxinguelês (*Sciurus aestuans*), tamandú-mirins (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*), pacas (*Agouti paca*), capitis (*Pecari tajacu*) e queimadas (*Tayassu pecari*), além de outras aves, como o gavião-real (*Harpia harpyja*), o gavião-de-penacho (*Morphnus guianensis*) e o gavião-pega-macaco (*Spizaetus tyrannus*). Há ainda os endêmicos (só existem na região), caso do ouriço-preto (*Chaetomys subspinosus*) e a preguiça-preta.

Entre as principais atrações estão mais de 50 km de estradas sinalizadas no interior da Floresta (ideais para ciclismo), a Trilha Patatiba com 1,8 km de extensão com acesso a cachoeira do Jacuba, a trilha de mountain-bike Nhossembê, com mais de 25 km de extensão e mais de 20 km de single track, a área de banho e descanso da Jaqueira, diversos mirantes e trilhas interpretativas e área de camping rústico. A melhor época para visitas é entre dezembro e fevereiro, quando chove menos.





PARQUE NACIONAL DA
Serra das Lontras

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE ARATÁÇA E UNA (BA)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 11 de junho de 2010
ÁREA: 11.336 ha.
CLIMA: tropical úmido
TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 24°C

CHUVA: precipitação entre 1.000 a 2.000 mm anuais

RELEVO: bastante ondulado por colinas e serras, com altitudes variando entre 150 m nos vales até alguns topos com 1.000 m

O parque destaca-se na paisagem por conter um belo conjunto de serras cobertas por vegetação de mata atlântica. Essas serras, apesar de serem conhecidas regionalmente por nomes distintos – das Lontras, do Javi e dos Quatis – constituem um único conjunto considerando-se sua formação geológica. Compoem um maciço contínuo portanto com altitudes elevadas que chegam a mil metros nos topos, o conjunto de serras do Parque Nacional da Serra das Lontras funciona como divisor de águas entre os rios Una e os ribeirões Javi, Pratinhas, Sepultura, Aliança e Santo Antônio. Corre por ali um grande número de riachos, ribeirões e nascentes que abastecem diversas localidades, incluindo as sedes dos municípios de São José da Vitória e Buerarema. O Parque protege a grande maioria das nascentes que originam os afluentes que compõem a bacia do Rio Una, uma das mais importantes da região sul da Bahia. Em consequência da grande declividade existente em alguns trechos da Serra, o lugar é um ambiente rico em quedas-d'água, a maioria de pequeno porte.

Estudos realizados na região identificaram até 2009 cerca de 900 espécies de plantas. Os dados indicam que o local compreende um das mais significativas remanescentes de floresta ombrófila densa montana do sul da Bahia. Com características muito particulares, o Parque abriga uma enorme diversidade biológica composta por inúmeras espécies fortemente ameaçadas. Além disso, a cobertura vegetal apresenta grande variabilidade de fisionomias, especialmente em decorrência das variações de altitude: vão desde matas de dossel alto, com árvores alcançando até 30 metros nas partes baixas, até matas de dossel baixo, árvores com tronco de menor diâmetro e copa mais ramificada nas áreas de maior altitude.

Entre os 400 a 800 m de altitude, por exemplo, predominam as árvores de grande porte das famílias Chrysobalanaceae, Fabaceae, Lauraceae e Sapotaceae. Muitas dessas espécies são importantes economicamente, tais como a amescla (*Protium warmingianum*), o angelim (*Andira fraxinifolia*), o pau-óleo (*Copaifera trapezifolia*), o pau-d'arco-rosa (*Handroanthus heptaphyllus*), o imburuá-branco (*Eriotheca macrophylla*) e o pequi-preto (*Caryocar edule*).

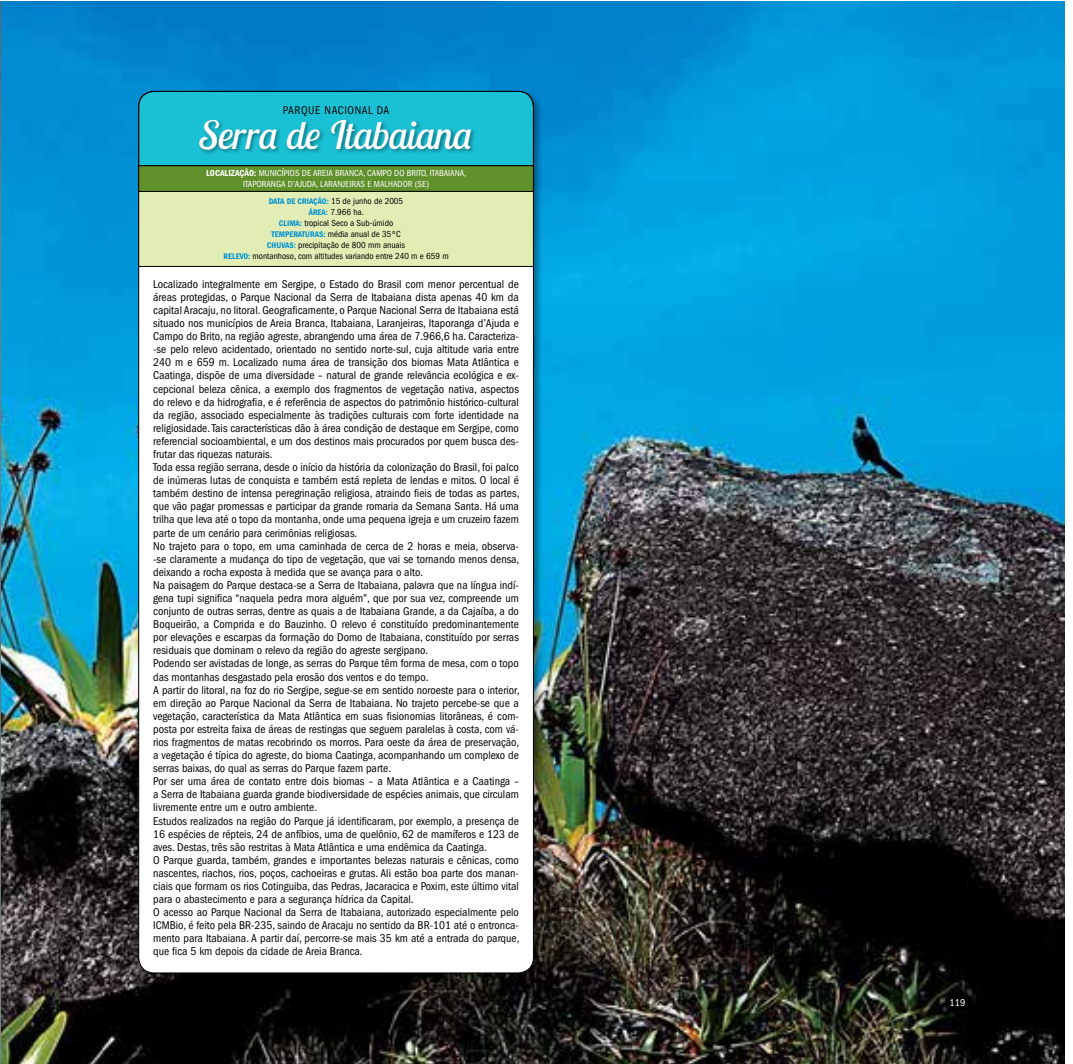
Acima dos 800 m, as áreas florestadas começam a se modificar, dando lugar a uma paisagem característica de floresta ombrófila alto-montana onde ocorrem espécies típicas, como *Schefflera varisiana* (Araliaceae), *Drimys brasiliensis* (Winteraceae) e uma grande riqueza de epífitas, incluindo espécies de Orchidaceae e Bromeliaceae registradas apenas no sul e sudeste do Brasil. De acordo com os critérios globais da Bird Life International, o Parque Nacional da Serra das Lontras, em associação a outras unidades de conservação do sul da Bahia como o Parque Nacional da Boa Nova, pertence a uma Área Importante para a Conservação das Aves (IBA/Important Bird Area). De fato, a região abriga uma avifauna extremamente diversa, incluindo diversas espécies ameaçadas e novos táxons, com espécies descritas recentemente.

Estudos realizados na Serra das Lontras contabilizaram cerca de 330 espécies de aves, sendo que 26 espécies encontram-se ameaçadas de extinção, de acordo com o Livro Vermelho da fauna brasileira ameaçada de extinção. Entre as espécies registradas encontram-se exemplares de macuco (*Tinamus solitarius*), acrobata (*Acrobatormis fonsceai*), gavião-pombo-pequeno (*Leucopternis lacemulatus*), gavião-pombo-grande (*Leucopternis polionotus*), gavião-real (*Harpia harpyja*), jandaia-de-testa-vermelha (*Aratinga auricapillus*), tiriba-grande (*Pyrrhura cruentata*), tiriba-de-orelha-branca (*Pyrrhura leucotis*), apuim-de-costas-pretas (*Touit melanonotus*), apuim-de-cauda-amarela (*Touit surdus*), chajá (*Amazona rhodocorytha*), beija-flor-de-costas-violetas (*Thalurania watertonii*), choquinha-de-peito-pintada (*Dysithamnus strictorhax*), choquinha-pequena (*Myiotherula minor*).

Entre os 40 mamíferos não voadores identificados na região, quatro são espécies de primatas – *Callithrix kuhlii*, *Callicebus melanochir*, *Leontopithecus chrysomelas*, *Cebus xanthosternus*.

Além dos primatas, cinco espécies de felinos – grupo de espécies que também precisam de grandes áreas preservadas para manter suas populações – foram registradas no complexo da Serra das Lontras a suçuarana (*Puma concolor*), a jaguatirica (*Leopardus pardalis*), o gato-maracajá (*Leopardus wiedii*), o gato-palheiro (*Leopardus braccatus*) e o gato-mourisco (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*). Com exceção desse último, as demais espécies constam na lista da fauna brasileira ameaçada de extinção.





PARQUE NACIONAL DA
Serra de Itabaiana

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE AREIA BRANCA, CAMPO DO BRITO, ITABAIANA,
(APORANGA D'A SERRA, LARANJEIRAS E MALHADOR (SE))

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 15 de junho de 2005
ÁREA: 7.966 ha.

CLIMA: tropical seco a sub-úmido

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 35°C

CHUVAS: precipitação de 800 mm anuais

RELEVO: montanhoso, com altitudes variando entre 240 m e 659 m

Localizado integralmente em Sergipe, o Estado do Brasil com menor percentual de áreas protegidas, o Parque Nacional da Serra de Itabaiana dista apenas 40 km da capital Aracaju, no litoral. Geograficamente, o Parque Nacional Serra de Itabaiana está situado nos municípios de Areia Branca, Itabaiana, Laranjeiras, Itaporanga d'Ajuda e Campo do Brito, na região agreste, abrangendo uma área de 7.966,6 ha. Caracteriza-se pelo relevo acidentado, orientado no sentido norte-sul, cuja altitude varia entre 240 m e 659 m. Localizado numa área de transição dos biomas Mata Atlântica e Caatinga, dispõe de uma diversidade natural de grande relevância ecológica e excepcional beleza cênica, a exemplo dos fragmentos de vegetação nativa, aspectos do relevo e da hidrografia, e é referência de aspectos do patrimônio histórico-cultural da região, associado especialmente às tradições culturais com forte identidade na religiosidade. Tais características dão à área condição de destaque em Sergipe, como referencial socioambiental, e um dos destinos mais procurados por quem busca desfrutar dos riquíssimos naturais.

Toda essa região serrana, desde o início da história da colonização do Brasil, foi palco de inúmeras lutas de conquista e também está repleta de lendas e mitos. O local é também destino de intensa peregrinação religiosa, atraindo fiéis de todas as partes, que vão pagar promessas e participar da grande romaria da Semana Santa. Há uma trilha que leva até o topo da montanha, onde uma pequena igreja e um cruzeiro fazem parte de um cenário para cerimônias religiosas.

No trajeto para o topo, em uma caminhada de cerca de 2 horas e meia, observa-se claramente a mudança do tipo de vegetação, que vai se tornando menos densa, deixando a rocha exposta à medida que se avança para o alto.

Na paisagem do Parque destaca-se a Serra de Itabaiana, palavra que na língua indígena tupi significa "naquela pedra mora alguém", que por sua vez, compreende um conjunto de outras serras, dentre as quais a de Itabaiana Grande, a da Cajalbo, a do Boqueirão, a Comprida e do Bauzinho. O relevo é constituído predominantemente por elevações e escarpas da formação do Domo de Itabaiana, constituído por serras residuais que dominam o relevo da região do agreste sergipano.

Podendo ser avistadas de longe, as serras do Parque têm forma de mesa, com o topo das montanhas desgastado pela erosão dos ventos e do tempo.

A partir do litoral, na foz do rio Sergipe, segue-se em sentido noroeste para o interior, em direção ao Parque Nacional da Serra de Itabaiana. No trajeto percebe-se que a vegetação, característica da Mata Atlântica em suas fisionomias litorâneas, é composta por estreita faixa de áreas de restingas que seguem paralelas à costa, com vários fragmentos de matas recobrindo os morros. Para oeste da área de preservação, a vegetação é típica do agreste, do bioma Caatinga, acompanhando um complexo de serras baixas, do qual as serras do Parque fazem parte.

Por ser uma área de contato entre dois biomas - a Mata Atlântica e a Caatinga - a Serra de Itabaiana guarda grande biodiversidade de espécies animais, que circulam livremente entre um e outro ambiente.

Estudos realizados na região do Parque já identificaram, por exemplo, a presença de 16 espécies de répteis, 24 de anfíbios, uma de quelônio, 62 de mamíferos e 123 de aves. Destas, três são restritas à Mata Atlântica e uma endêmica da Caatinga.

O Parque guarda, também, grandes e importantes belezas naturais e cênicas, como nascentes, riachos, rios, poços, cachoeiras e grutas. Ali estão boa parte dos mananciais que formam os rios Cotiguiuba, das Pedras, Jacaracica e Poxim, este último vital para o abastecimento e para a segurança hídrica da Capital.

O acesso ao Parque Nacional da Serra de Itabaiana, autorizado especialmente pelo ICMBio, é feito pela BR-235, saindo de Aracaju no sentido da BR-101 até o entroncamento para Itabaiana. A partir daí, percorre-se mais 35 km até a entrada do parque, que fica 5 km depois da cidade de Areia Branca.



PARQUE NACIONAL DE
Brasília

LOCALIZAÇÃO: BRASÍLIA (DF)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 29 de novembro de 1961 (Decreto Federal nº 241).
Limites redefinidos pela Lei Federal nº 11.285 de 08 de março de 2006
ÁREA: 42 mil ha.
CLIMA: tropical, quente semiúmido, com quatro a cinco meses secos
TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 22 a 24 °C; máxima absoluta de 40 a 42 °C e mínima absoluta de 4 a 8 °C
CHUVUDA: entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm anuais
RELEVO: suave ondulado

Localizado no divisor de águas de três importantes bacias hidrográficas – a Amazônica, a do Prata e a do São Francisco – em pleno Planalto Central, no domínio do cerrado, O parque engloba ainda as bacias dos rios Torto e Bananal que, através da barragem de Santa Maria, ajudam a abastecer de água potável a Capital Federal. O Parque tem como objetivo básico a preservação de ecossistemas naturais de grande relevância ecológica e beleza cênica, possibilitando a realização de pesquisas científicas e o desenvolvimento de atividades de educação e interpretação ambiental. Distante apenas 6 km do centro de Brasília, constitui uma das principais atrações turísticas da cidade. Conta com infraestrutura de recepção e recreação, incluindo fontes e duas piscinas de água natural, recebendo até 3 mil visitantes diariamente. Em sua área, ocorrem afloramentos de quartzitos, de coloração variada, e o relevo é mais ou menos suave, com altitudes entre 1.070 e 1.200 m. A unidade de solo mais representativa é o latossolo de cor avermelhada, ocorrendo também solos aluviais nos brejos e buritizais, além de solos hidromórficos ao longo dos rios e depressões. A vegetação do parque, típica de cerrado, compreende várias tipologias: campo limpo, campo sujo, campo cerrado, cerrado e mata ciliar. Nos campos, há a predominância de gramíneas e ausência de estrato superior. No cerrado predominam árvores e arbustos de porte reduzido, como o pequi (*Caryocar brasiliense* Cambess.), jacarandá-do-mato (*Machaerium upacum* Vogl) e pau-santo (*Kilmeyeria cordata* Mart. & Zucc.). E, ao longo dos rios e riachos, onde as condições de solo e umidade são mais favoráveis, ocorrem as matas ciliares. Ai, desenvolvem-se espécies como o pau-pombo (*Tapirira quianensis* Aubl.), a amesola (*Protium brasiliensis*), a copaíba (*Copaifera langsdorfi* (Desf.) Kuntze), a peroba (*Aspidosperma* sp.) e o majestoso buriti (*Mauritia flexuosa* L. f.), que marca a transição para o campo. Habitam o Parque muitos animais do Cerrado, entre eles alguns mamíferos ameaçados de extinção, como o lobo-guará (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), veado-campeiro (*Ozotocerus bezaarticus*), tatu-canasta e tatu-bola (*Prodonates giganteus* e *Tolypeutes tridactylus*) e tamanduá-bandeira (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*). Entre os não ameaçados de extinção encontram-se o sagui (*Callithrix penicillata*), tapeti (*Syrrhaptes brasiliensis*), cachorro-do-mato (*Dusicyon thous*), quati (*Nasua nasua*) e capivara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*). Na avifauna, pode-se facilmente observar a ema (*Rhea americana*), além de seretema (*Carliama cristata*) e tucano-açu (*Ramphastos toco*).

PARQUE NACIONAL DA
Chapada dos Veadeiros

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE ALTO PARAÍSO DE GOIÁS E CAVALCANTE (GO)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 11 de janeiro de 1961 (Decreto Federal nº 49.875)
ÁREA: 60 mil ha.

CLIMA: tropical, quente semiárido, com quatro a cinco meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 24 a 26°C, máxima absoluta de 40 a 42°C e mínima absoluta de 4 a 8°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm anuais

RELEVO: ondulado

Situado na parte goiana do Planalto Central e com altitudes entre 600 e 1.650 m, o Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros repousa sobre um terreno que abriga formações geológicas antíquíssimas – com mais de 200 milhões de anos – que lhe deram a fisionomia de encostas extremamente abruptas ao norte, e com suave declínio em direção ao sul e sudoeste. Os pontos mais elevados estão na região do Pouso Alto integrante da Chapada dos Veadeiros.

A área é um importante divisor de águas das bacias dos rios Maranhão e Paraná, com a maioria dos cursos d'água escavando vales em forma de "V". Entre esses cursos, o principal é o rio Preto, afluente do Tocantins, que forma no seu trajeto belas cachoeiras, como a da Base do Salto, com 80 m de altura.

O solo do Parque é relativamente pobre e raso, com alguns trechos de maior profundidade às margens dos rios. A vegetação predominante é a savana, ou cerrado, que se apresenta sob várias espécies de gramíneas. Na parte sem floresta-de-galeria destacam-se o pau-terra-vermelho (*Qualea multiflora* Mart.) e a lixeira (*Curatella americana* L.), além de *Mulicobryon* (*Byrsonima* sp.), *caju-do-campo* (*Anacardium* sp.) e *mandioqueiras* (*Qualea* spp.).

Na parte com floresta-de-galeria, as espécies mais encontradas são o pau-d'arco-roxo (*Tabebuia impetiginosa* (Mart. ex DC.) Standl.), a copaiba (*Copaiba langsdorffii* (Desf.) Kuntze), a aroeira (*Myracrodruon urundeuva* Fr. All.) e a tamanqueira (*Stryphnodendron* sp.). Há ainda a ocorrência de jenivá (*Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Cham.) Glassman) e *vivipina* (*Saccharum brasiliana* (Lam.) Pers.) e, nos baixios, de buriti (*Mauritia* sp.) e babaçu (*Attalea speciosa* Mart. ex Spreng).

Na fauna há a presença de três mamíferos em extinção: o cervo-do-pantanal (*Blastocercus dichotomus*), que habita as regiões próximas dos rios, de vegetação mais densa, o veado-campeiro (*Ozotocercus bezaoticus*), que impera nos descampados, bem como seu predador, a onça-pintada (*Panthera onca*).

Outro animal também ameaçado de extinção pode ser encontrado no parque, o lobo-guará (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), o maior canídeo americano, de coloração marrom avermelhada, porte esguio e longas pernas negras. Ele se alimenta de frutas silvestres e roedores, e suas populações têm-se reduzido drasticamente.

Habitam ainda a área o gracioso tapeti (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*), o tatu-canastra (*Pholidonectes giganteus*), o tamarundi-bandeira (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*), a capivara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) e a anta (*Tapirus terrestris*).

Na avifauna, a espécie mais exuberante é o tucano-de-bico-verde (*Ramphastos dicolorus*), seguida pelas ágeis emas (*Rhea americana*). Há ainda os urubus-reis (*Sarcoramphas papa*) e os urubus-pretos (*Coragyps atratus*). Como destaque, o parque abriga o pato mergulhão (*Mergus octocetaceus*), uma das espécies de aves aquáticas mais raras do mundo (estima-se que no mundo todo existam apenas 250 espécimes).

Distante aproximadamente 250 km de Brasília e 500 km de Goiânia, o parque dispõe de centro de visitantes e alojamento para pesquisadores. Pode-se também recorrer aos serviços das cidades mais próximas, Alto Paraíso de Goiás e Cavalcante, além do povoado de São Jorge, que fica vizinho à entrada.





PARQUE NACIONAL DAS
Emas

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE MINEIROS, SERRANÓPOLIS E CHARADÁ DO CÉU (GO); COSTA RICA (MS)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 11 de janeiro de 1961 (Decreto Federal nº 49.874) **ÁREA:** 131.864 ha.

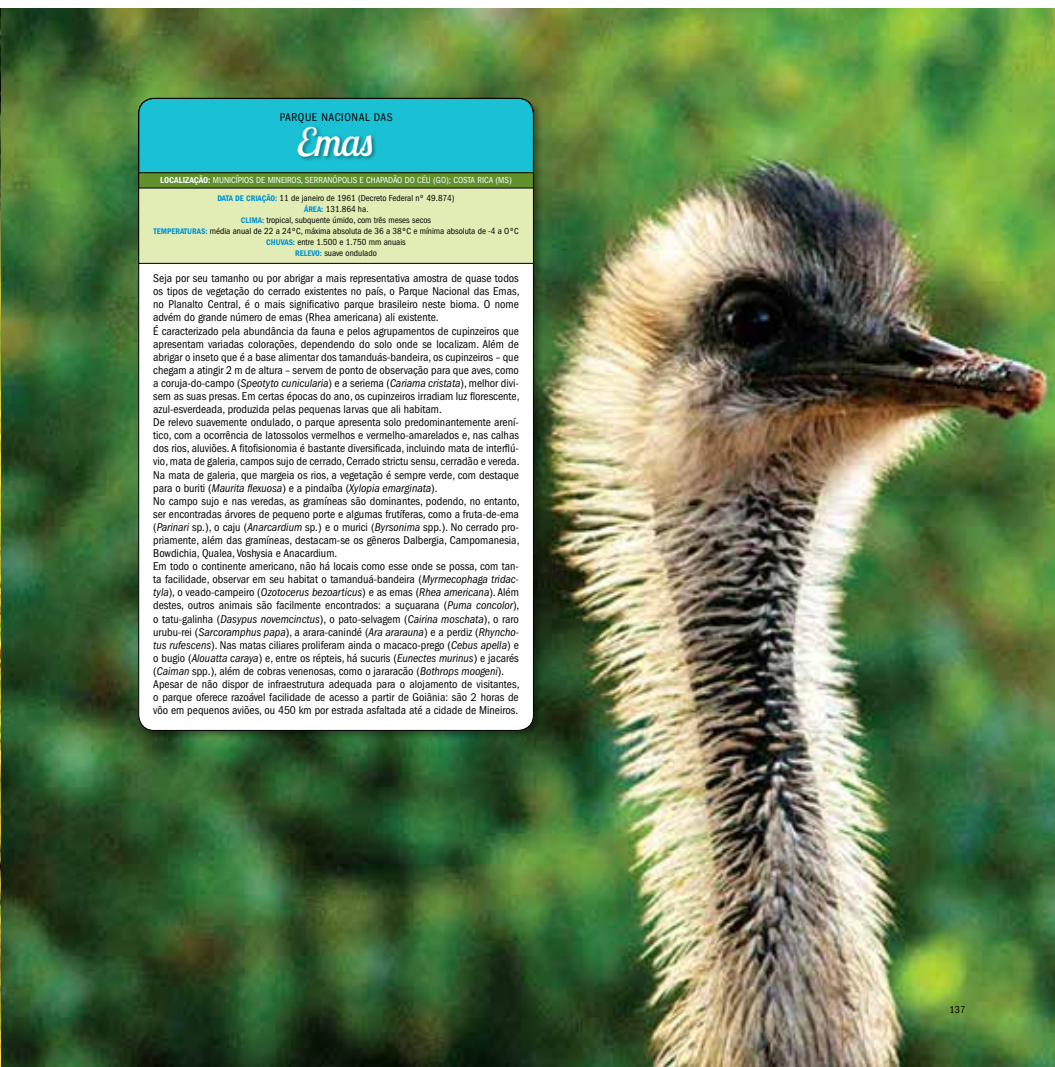
CLIMA: tropical, subtropical úmido, com três meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 22 a 24°C, máxima absoluta de 36 a 38°C e mínima absoluta de -4 a 0°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm anuais

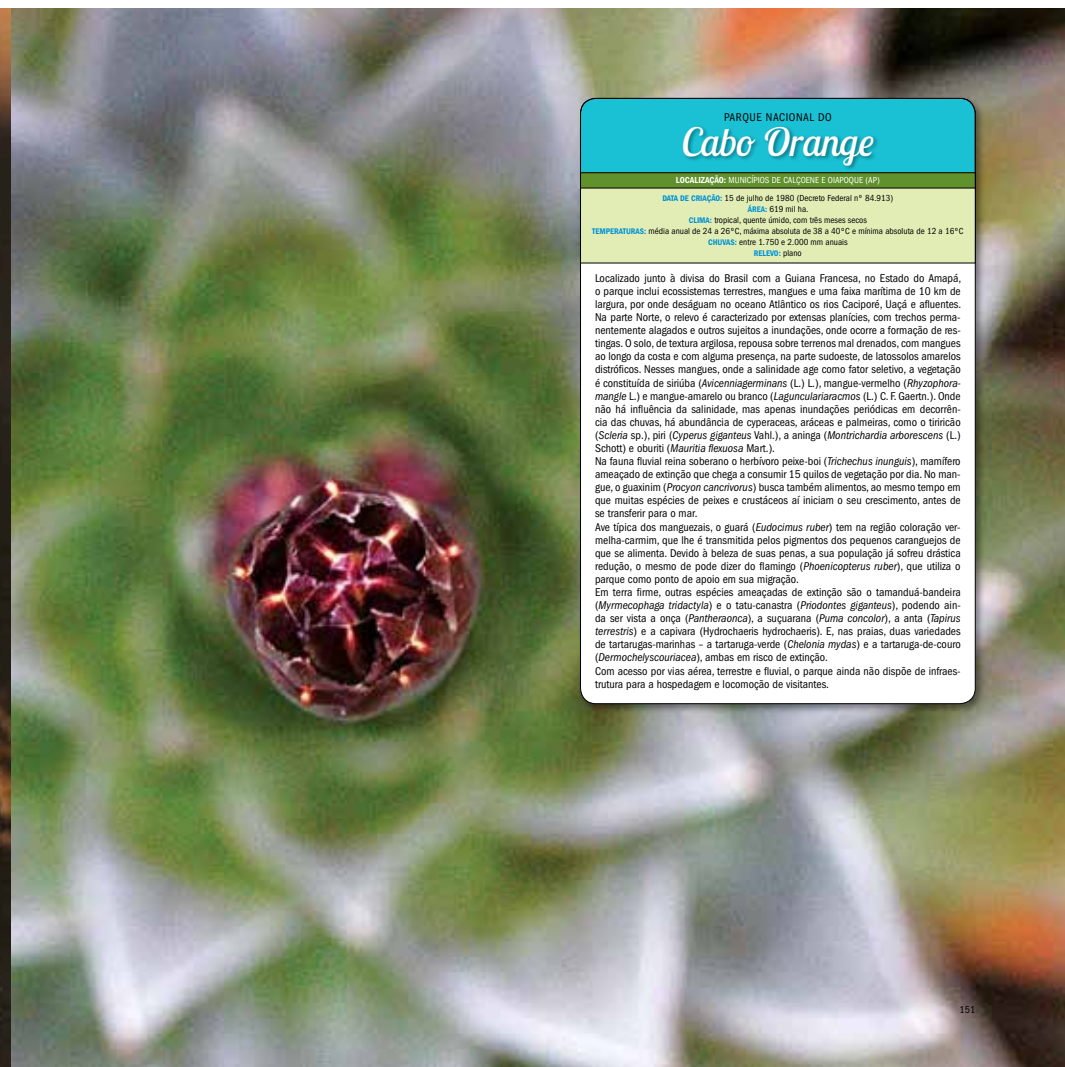
RELEVO: suave ondulado

Seja por seu tamanho ou por abrigar a mais representativa amostra de quase todos os tipos de vegetação do cerrado existentes no país, o Parque Nacional das Emas, no Planalto Central, é o mais significativo parque brasileiro neste bioma. O nome advém do grande número de emas (*Rhea americana*) ali existente. É caracterizado pela abundância da fauna e pelos agrupamentos de cupinzeiros que apresentam variadas colorações, dependendo do solo onde se localizam. Além de abrigar o inseto que é a base alimentar dos tamanduás-bandeira, os cupinzeiros – que chegam a atingir 2 m de altura – servem de ponto de observação para que aves, como a coruja-do-campo (*Speotyto cucinularia*) e a seriema (*Cariama cristata*), melhor divissem as suas presas. Em certas épocas do ano, os cupinzeiros irradiam luz fluorescente, azul-esverdeada, produzida pelas pequenas larvas que ali habitam. De relevo suavemente ondulado, o parque apresenta solo predominantemente arenítico, com a ocorrência de latossolos vermelhos e vermelho-amarelados e, nas calhas dos rios, aluviões. A fitofisionomia é bastante diversificada, incluindo mata de interflúvio, mata de galeria, campos sujo de cerrado, Cerrado strictu sensu, cerrado e vereda. Na mata de galeria, que margina os rios, a vegetação é sempre verde, com destaque para o buriti (*Mauritia flexuosa*) e a pindaba (*Xylopia emarginata*). No campo sujo e nas veredas, as gramíneas são dominantes, podendo, no entanto, ser encontradas árvores de pequeno porte e algumas frutíferas, como a fruta-de-ema (*Parmairi* sp.), o caju (*Anacardium* sp.) e o murici (*Byrsonima* spp.). No cerrado propriamente, além das gramíneas, destacam-se os gêneros Dalbergia, Campomanesia, Bowdichia, Qualea, Vochysia e Anacardium. Em todo o continente americano, não há locais como esse onde se possa, com tanta facilidade, observar em seu habitat o tamanduá-bandeira (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*), o veado-campeiro (*Ozotocerus bezoarticus*) e as emas (*Rhea americana*). Além destes, outros animais são facilmente encontrados: a suçuarana (*Puma concolor*), o tatu-galinha (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), o pato-selvagem (*Cairina moschata*), o raro urubu-rei (*Sarcoramphus papa*), a arara-canindé (*Ara ararauna*) e a perdiz (*Rhychochus rufescens*). Nas matas ciliares proliferam ainda o macaco-prego (*Cebus apella*) e o bugio (*Alouatta caraya*) e, entre os répteis, há sucuris (*Eunectes murinus*) e jacarés (*Caiman* spp.), além de cobras venenosas, como o jararacão (*Bothrops moogeni*). Apesar de não dispor de infraestrutura adequada para o alojamento de visitantes, o parque oferece razoável facilidade de acesso a partir de Goiânia: são 2 horas de voo em pequenos aviões, ou 450 km por estrada asfaltada até a cidade de Mineiros.





Norte
North



PARQUE NACIONAL DO *Cabo Orange*

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE CALÇADENE E DIAPROQUE (AP)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 15 de julho de 1980 (Decreto Federal nº 84.913)

ÁREA: 619 mil ha.

CLIMA: tropical, quente úmido, com três meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 24 a 26°C, máxima absoluta de 38 a 40°C e mínima absoluta de 12 a 16°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.750 e 2.000 mm anuais

RELEVO: plano

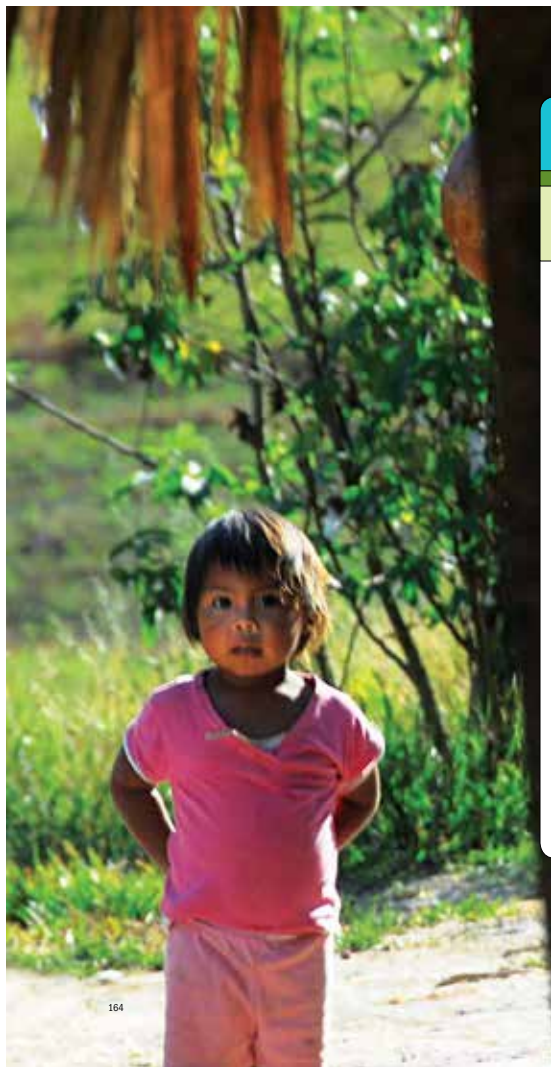
Localizado junto à divisa do Brasil com a Guiana Francesa, no Estado do Amapá, o parque inclui ecossistemas terrestres, mangues e uma faixa marítima de 10 km de largura, por onde deságuam no oceano Atlântico os rios Caciporé, Uaçá e afluentes. Na parte Norte, o relevo é caracterizado por extensas planícies, com trechos permanentemente alagados e outros sujeitos a inundações, onde ocorre a formação de restingas. O solo, de textura argilosa, repousa sobre terrenos mal drenados, com mangues ao longo da costa e com alguma presença, na parte sudoeste, de latossolos amarelos distróficos. Nesses mangues, onde a salinidade age como fator seletivo, a vegetação é constituída de sirúba (*Avicennia germinans* (L.) L.), mangue-vermelho (*Rhizophora mangle* L.) e mangue-amarelo ou branco (*Laguncularia racemosa* (L.) C. F. Gaertn.). Onde não há influência da salinidade, mas apenas inundações periódicas em decorrência das chuvas, há abundância de ciperáceas, aráceas e palmeiras, como o tiriricá (*Scleria* sp.), piri (*Cyperus giganteus* Vahl.), a aninga (*Montrichardia arborescens* (L.) Schott) e oburiti (*Mauritia flexuosa* Mart.).

Na fauna fluvial reina soberano o herbívoro peixe-boi (*Trichechus inunguis*), mamífero ameaçado de extinção que chega a consumir 15 quilos de vegetação por dia. No mangue, o guaxinim (*Procyon cancrivorus*) busca também alimentos, ao mesmo tempo em que muitas espécies de peixes e crustáceos aí iniciam o seu crescimento, antes de se transferir para o mar.

Ave típica dos manguezais, o guará (*Eudocimus ruber*) tem na região coloração vermelha-carmin, que lhe é transmitida pelos pigmentos dos pequenos caranguejos de que se alimenta. Devido à beleza de suas penas, a sua população já sofreu drástica redução, o mesmo de pode dizer do flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), que utiliza o parque como ponto de apoio em sua migração.

Em terra firme, outras espécies ameaçadas de extinção são o tamanduá-bandeira (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) e o tatu-canastra (*Priodontes giganteus*), podendo ainda ser vista a onça (*Panthera onca*), a suçuarana (*Puma concolor*), a anta (*Iapirus terrestris*) e a capivara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*). E, nas praias, duas variedades de tartarugas-marinhas - a tartaruga-verde (*Chelonia mydas*) e a tartaruga-de-couro (*Dermochelys scouria*), ambas em risco de extinção.

Com acesso por vias aérea, terrestre e fluvial, o parque ainda não dispõe de infraestrutura para a hospedagem e locomoção de visitantes.



PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Monte Roraima

LOCALIZAÇÃO: NORTE DO ESTADO DE RORAIMA

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 28 de junho de 1989 (Decreto Federal nº 97.887)
ÁREA: 116 mil ha.

CLIMA: tropical, quente úmido, com três meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 24 a 26°C, máxima absoluta de 38°C e mínima absoluta de 12 a 16°C

CHUVAS: entre 1.500 e 1.750 mm anuais

RELEVO: montanhoso e escarpado

O Parque Nacional do Monte Roraima localiza-se ao norte do Estado de Roraima, com área de 116.000 hectares, ocupando parte dos 160 km de fronteira entre a Venezuela e a República Cooperativista da Guiana. Dentre os atrativos que compõem o parque é possível citar o Monte Roraima – uma grande mesa contornada por escarpas abruptas e, em parte, desnudas, além de um dos pontos culminantes do país, com 2.734 m de altitude, segundo a revisão protagonizada pelo Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) e Instituto Militar de Engenharia (IME), publicado em julho de 2005 – e o Monte Caburai, com 1.456 m, onde fica o ponto mais setentrional do território brasileiro. Em seus arredores está também a Serra do Sol, com 2.400 m.

O topo do Monte Roraima além de abrigar o marco da tríplice fronteira, comporta as nascentes dos rios Orinoco e Essequibo, tributáveis das bacias hidrográficas do Amazonas. A hidrografia do parque constitui-se primordialmente das nascentes e cabeceiras dos rios Cotingo e Uaiã. Cursos d'água de montanha rápidos e acidentados, formando belíssimas e corredeiras e cachoeiras. Ao sul do Parque, o Cotingo segue pela Savana Estéptica de Altitude, predominando as matas cilíneas em suas margens. Em meio a belos cenários naturais, a biodiversidade do parque, em função do isolamento, encontra-se praticamente intacta. As diferenças de altitudes, o tipo de solo e a intensa unidade, entre outros fatores, possibilitaram o surgimento de forte endemismo animal e vegetal em grande parte desconhecido pela ciência. Alguns exemplos de endemismo já registrado no platô do Monte Roraima são: as rãs: *Oreophrynella quelchii* e *macconelli*; as plantas insetívoras: *Heliamphorum* sp., *Utricularia* sp. e *humboldtii* e *Drosera* sp.; a orquídea *Epidendrum secundatum*; as bromélias *Brocchinia reducta* e *tatei*, *Tillandsia turneri*; e o arbusto *Bonnetiaroraimae*.

A vegetação é basicamente de dois tipos: floresta amazônica densa montana e refúgios ecológicos. Na primeira, em altitudes acima de 1.000 m, as espécies mais comuns são: *Pouteria surinamensis*, *Ocotea roraimae*, *Ditymopanax* sp., *Jacaratiã* sp. e *Qualea* sp. Além de contar com uma enorme diversidade de epífitas (bromélias e orquídeas), pteridófitas, lianas, musgos, líquens e uma densa litera povoada por uma infinidade de espécies de fungos e microartrópodes.

Entre 600 e 1.500 m de altitude repetem-se as mesmas espécies, porém com menor porte e distribuição mais agrupada, como é o caso da quauaba (*Vochysiagrandsis* var. *uapensis* (C. Martius) Warm.). Já na parte alta, em torno de 2.500 m, ocorrem os refúgios ecológicos. As plantas ali se entrelaçam, formando geralmente um emaranhado denso e de difícil penetração. As espécies mais comuns são as pertencentes às famílias das Orchidaceae, Melastomataceae, Asteraceae e Rubiaceae.

No entanto, os parques conhecimentos científicos da região restringem-se aos montes Roraima e Caburai. Os vales dos rios Cotingo e Uaiã, além de muitas serras com altitudes superiores a 1.500 metros ainda permanecem como incógnitas para os pesquisadores. Entretanto, raras e rápidas expedições de reconhecimento em regiões do Parque Nacional detectaram a existência de espécies animais e vegetais ainda não registradas. Na região do Caburai foram encontrados insetos, orquídeas e bromélias que enriqueceram em dezenas de novos registros a fauna e a flora brasileira. A família Orquidácea foi acrescida de 25 novos registros. Entre as bromélias, cinco novos registros e uma nova espécie.







PARQUE NACIONAL DAS
Nascentes do Rio Parnaíba

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS LIZARDIA, MATEROS, SÃO FELIX (TO), ALTO PARNAÍBA (MA), FORMOSA DO RIO PRETO (BA), DE BARRERAS DO PAU, GONINENTE, GUEBES E SÃO GONÇALO DO GURGUÊA (PI)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 16 de julho de 2002 (por decreto federal sem número)
ÁREA: 729.814 ha.

CLIMA: tropical semiúmido
TEMPERATURAS: média de 23°C
CHUVAS: entre 750 a 1.750 mm

RELEVO: marcado por chapadas de arenito (domínio dos Chapadões Tropicais)

Localizado na divisa dos Estados do Piauí, Maranhão, Bahia e Tocantins, abarcando parte da Chapada das Mangabeiras, o parque divide as bacias hidrográficas dos rios São Francisco, Tocantins e Parnaíba. Com área de 729.814 hectares, possui relevo que se enquadra dentro do Domínio dos Chapadões Tropicais, composto por vastas superfícies de aplainamento. A região apresenta porções típicas do relevo da Chapada Sedimentar do São Francisco, da Depressão Sedimentar do Meio-Norte e dos Patamares do São Francisco-Tocantins, revelando uma alta fragilidade ambiental, onde o relevo é marcado por chapadas de arenito sensíveis às intempéries. Os solos nas chapadas são profundos e de baixa fertilidade, e nos declives das vertentes apresentam-se arenosos, rasos e pobres, com a presença de afloramentos rochosos e com alta permeabilidade. Devido a esta permeabilidade, a chapada é formadora de um grande número de nascentes que irão alimentar aqueles três importantes rios brasileiros. O rio Parnaíba, assim, tem suas origens na Serra da Tabatinga, a partir de ressurgências das quais nascem os rios Curúlo e Água Quente, seus formadores. O parque abriga uma das maiores extensões de vegetação do bioma Cerrado, ainda em excelente estado de conservação na região. São extensas áreas, da savana florestada (cerradão) ao campo-limpo de cerrado, passando pelo Cerrado propriamente dito, com savanas arborizadas (campo cerrado), campos-sujos-de-cerrado e matas de galerias e ciliares. Seu clima é tropical semiúmido, com temperatura média de 23°C e precipitação anual variando de 750 a 1.750 mm. Na flora, predominam árvores e arbustos do Cerrado, como o pequi (*Caroycar brasiliense* Cambess.), jacarandá-do-mato (*Machaenium opacum* Vogel), sucupira-preta (*Bowdichia virgilioides* Kunth), faveiro (*Dimorphandra mollis* Benth) e pau-santo (*Kielmeyera coriácea* Mart. & Zucc.). A fauna é diversificada, com mais de 60 espécies de mamíferos e cerca de 211 espécies de aves. Apresenta espécies raras e/ou ameaçadas de extinção, dentre as quais se destacam o veado-campeiro (*Ozotoceros bezaoticus*), a jaguatirica (*Panthera jaguaris* pardalis), a onça-pintada (*Panthera jaguaris*) onca), a lontra (*Lutra paranaensis*), o tatu-bola (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*), o tatu-canastra (*Prodonates giganteus*) e o tamarandá-bandeira (*Myrmecophaga judaica* ou *M. tridactyla*). Dentre os representantes da avifauna, ressalta-se a presença do gavião-real ou harpia (*Harpia harpyja*), da arara-azul-grande (*Anodorhynchus leari*), da jacuaca (*Penelope superciliosa* jacucaca), do colhereiro (*Ajaia ajaia*) e diferentes espécies de beija-flores como o beija-flor-de-rabo-branco (*Phaetornis prete*).

PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Pico da Neblina

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE SÃO GABRIEL DA CACHEIRA E SANTA ISABEL DO RIO NEGRO (AM)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 5 de junho de 1979 (Decreto Federal nº 83.550)

ÁREA: 2.260.000 ha.

CLIMA: tropical do Brasil Central, quente úmido, com um a dois meses secos

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 24 a 26°C, máxima absoluta de 38 a 40°C e mínima absoluta de 12 a 16°C

CHUVAS: entre 2.750 e 3.000 mm anuais

RELEVO: ondulado e montanhoso (Estado das Guianas)

Localizado na divisa do Estado do Amazonas com a Venezuela, o Parque Nacional do Pico da Neblina, com mais de 2 milhões e duzentos mil hectares, apresenta alta sociobiodiversidade além de extraordinária e diversificada beleza paisagística. Em seu conjunto de montanhas situa-se o ponto culminante do Brasil, o Pico da Neblina, com aproximadamente 2.994 m de altitude. Também se encontra nos limites do Parque a segunda maior elevação do país, o Pico 31 de Março, com 2.972 m. A alta diversidade biológica decorre dos diferentes e raros tipos de habitats e ecossistemas, como o altimontano. Um imenso mosaico de formações de vegetação com plantas endêmicas e raras. Acima dos mil metros, notam-se os refúgios ecológicos montanos e altimontanos, florestas de terra-firme e matas inundadas.

Habitam essa região tribos de 12 etnias distintas, espalhados pelas terras indígenas Balaio, Médio Rio Negro II, Cué/Cué/Marabitanas e Yanomami. Esses grupos encerram em si grande conhecimento tradicional e ricas culturas, representando as etnias: Baniwa, Baré, Carapanã, Dessano, Kobewa, Kuripaco, Piratapua Tariano, Tukano, Tuyuca, Werekena e Yanomami.

A topografia da região é representada por três níveis distintos: planalto sedimentar Roraima, planalto Amazonas-Orenoco e pediplano Rio Branco-Rio Negro. No primeiro, do tipo tabular esculpido em rochas, as altitudes variam de 1.200 a 2.994 m, localizando-se aí o ponto culminante do país.

Posicionado entre as bacias dos rios Orenoco e Amazonas, o planalto do Amazonas-Orenoco é uma extensa área montanhosa, que tem como principais representantes as serras do Padre, Marié Mirim e Imeri. Com dois patamares distintos, as altitudes vão de 600 a 2.000 m, e a constituição do solo praticamente não difere da encontrada na parte mais alta do Parque.

Finalmente, o pediplano Rio Branco-Rio Negro é uma extensa superfície de aplainamento, com origem em rochas pré-cambrianas do complexo guianense. Corresponde ao nível mais baixo da área, com altitudes variando de 80 a 160 m. Os solos aí são variados, com predominância de podzol, areias quartzosas e latossolos vermelho-amarelos e amarelos.

O Parque Nacional do Pico da Neblina abriga uma vegetação diversificada, apresentando importantes formações de camprianas, também conhecidas como caatingas do Rio Negro, caracterizadas pela presença do caraná (*Mauritia carana* Wallace), pelo pau-amarelo (*Euryphora parensis* Huber), pelo tamararé (*Carajá grandifolia* Mart.) e pela casca-doce (*Pouteria* sp.), entre outras. Na área de floresta densa montana, que ocorre acima de 1.000 m, encontram-se a itaúba (*Mezilaurus itauba* (Meisn.) Taub. ex Mez), a mandioqueira-azul (*Qualea cyanea* Ducke), a bacabinha-quina (*Ferdinandusa parensis* Ducke), o tamararé (*Carajá grandifolia* Mart.), o quaruba-cedro (*Vochysia inundata* Ducke) e o jutal-pororoca (*Dialium guianense* (Aubl.) Sandwith). Na floresta densa submontana, situada entre os 600 e os 1.000 m, crescem principalmente o lacano (*Eperua leucantha* Benth.), o macuco-roxo (*Licania heteromorpha* Benth.) e o japurá (*Erisma japura* Spruce ex Warm.).

Encontra-se ali uma das faunas mais ricas do país, com diversas espécies ameaçadas de extinção. Embora ainda abundante na área, o primata uacari-preto (*Cacajao melanocephalus*), por exemplo, tem sofrido em outras regiões a redução das suas áreas nativas, o mesmo acontecendo com o galo-da-campina (*Rupicola rupicola*), pequena ave que habita as áreas rochosas envolta por florestas. Outras espécies preservadas são o cachorro-do-mato (*Cerdocyon thous*), a onça-pintada (*Panthera onca*), o gavião-pegá-macaco (*Spizaetus tyrannus*), o gavião-de-penacho (*Spizaetus ornatus*) e o gavião real (*Harpia harpyja*). Podem-se observar ainda a anta (*Tapirus terrestris*), os zogue-zogues (*Callicebus* spp.), o tucano-açu (*Ramphastos toco*), o mutumporanga (*Crax allector*) e o jacamim-de-costas-cinzentas (*Psopha crepitans*).

A UC não possui plano de manejo e tem como principal ferramenta de gestão o conselho gestor. A implementação desse conselho favorecerá a gestão participativa da UC e a construção conjunta das demais ferramentas de gestão. Atualmente a UC não está fechada para visitação pública e vem discutindo com os moradores e instituições parceiras a possibilidade de reabertura através do ordenamento da atividade do ecoturismo.

O acesso é por via fluvial e aérea até a cidade de São Gabriel da Cacheira (mais próxima), partindo da sede do município por via vicinal não asfaltada e, na sequência, seguindo por via fluvial através de rios e igarapés menores. Para atingir o Pico da Neblina é necessário ainda quatro dias de difícil caminhada pela selva.



PARQUE NACIONAL DO
Rio Novo

LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE ITAITUBA E NOVO PROGRESSO (PA)

DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: Decreto sem número de 13 de fevereiro de 2006

ÁREA: 537.757 ha.

CLIMA: quente e úmido, com estação chuvosa entre os meses de dezembro a abril, alcançando o pico em março (superior a 300 mm)

TEMPERATURAS: média anual de 26,7°C, sendo a máxima de 32,1°C e a mínima de 22,4°C

CHUVAS: precipitação média anual de 2.189 mm

RELEVO: domínios de colinas extensas e suaves

Localizado no Sudoeste do Estado do Pará, o Parque Nacional do Rio Novo encontra-se inteiramente dentro da Amazônia, entre os municípios de Itaituba e Novo Progresso. A unidade de conservação foi criada com o objetivo básico de preservar os ecossistemas naturais de grande relevância ecológica e beleza cênica desta região do Pará, possibilitando a realização de pesquisas científicas e o desenvolvimento de atividades de educação e interpretação ambiental, de recreação em contato com a natureza e de turismo ecológico.

A vegetação encontrada na região do Rio Novo é em sua maior parte constituída pela Floresta Ombrófila Densa, com espécies típicas da Amazônia, como a seringueira (*Hevea brasiliensis* Müll. Arg.), a castanheira (*Bertholletia excelsa* H.B.K.) e samambaia (*Ceiba pentandra* (L.) Gaertn.).

A região é rica em espécies endêmicas e ameaçadas, tanto da fauna como da flora, muitas delas ainda pouco conhecidas ou estudadas. Entre as aves, por exemplo, podemos destacar o jacarim-de-costas-verdes (*Psophia viridis*) e a mãe-de-taoca (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*). Além disso, há uma abundância de espécies de mamíferos (principalmente primatas) e peixes de água doce, com as mais variadas formas, preferências de ambientes e hábitos migratórios e reprodutivos.

O acesso ao parque é feito por Itaituba (PA) ou por Novo Progresso (PA), sendo necessária uma autorização especial conseguida junto ao ICMBio para visitação e turismo.

Brazil National Parks

South

Aparados da Serra National Park

Location: between Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina states, comprising the municipalities of Cambará do Sul (RS) and Poila Grande (SC)

Foundation Date: December 17th, 1959, by Federal Decree Nº 47446

Area: 13,680 ha

Climate: temperate, very humid mild mesothermal, without drought

Temperatures: annual average from 18 to 20°C, absolute maximum from 34 to 36°C and absolute minimum from -9 to 4°C

Rain: between 1,500 to 2,000 mm annually

Land Relief: plateaus and hillsides with deep canyons

Itaimbezinho – name from Tupi-Guarani origin, in which "ita" means rock and "aimbe", sharp or boulders – is geologically resulted from erosive processes over flood basalts occurred around 130 million years ago and which recovered a great part of South region of the country. These processes originated an unique landscape, represented by "canyons" of itaimbezinho – impressive crevasse of 5.8 km of length and walls with a measure of 600 m height, from where descends many waterfalls, as Vêu de Nôiva and Andorinhas. There is also Fortaleza dos Aparados, having this name because of its cliffs which are similar to towers and walls of a medieval castle. In this region, the Southern Brazilian plateau is interrupted by cliffs up to 900 m elevation. At the Santa Catarina (coastal plains and slopes), there are deep valleys that cut the edge of the plateau, and the Rio Grande side (on the plateau) predominate coxilhas and shallow valleys. In this region, the relief itself forms the boundary between the states, which is clearly defined by the sharp drops in canyons. Temperatures are generally mild, with almost defined four seasons. There is sometimes the occurrence of winds that cause sudden decline in temperature and rainfall in the region is the highest in the South, reaching the plateau and slopes between 1,750 and 2,000 mm, and in the lower regions, between 1,500 and 1,750 mm.

With an average annual temperature of around 16°C – low for the Country – the region has its hot month in January, with averages between 20-22°C. June and July, however, are the coldest months with temperatures often reaching 0°C. In all seasons the fogs are common. Within minutes, the mist covers the area, usually rising from the bottom of the "canyon", due to the temperature difference, in a phenomenon known regionally as "shihwinid". Stretches of almost extinct Araucaria Forest Araucaria (mixed rain forest) and Atlantic rainforest (dense rain forest) coexist in the grasslands, as well as the transition zones between them. In the forest with Araucárias stands out in its upper portion the Brazilian pine (Araucaria angustifolia (Bertol.) Kuntze). In the extract immediately below are the mastic (*Litsea brasiliensis*), Brazilian oak (*Roupaia asplenoides* Sleumer), Camara (flor microrrhiza) and Podocarpus lambertii Klotzsch ex Endl.

In high grasslands, of high species richness, in dry areas dominated by grasses interspersed the herbs and subshrubs, while in the peaty fields there is predominance of moss *Sphagnum* spp. In dense rain forest, there are species such as *Euterpe edulis*, the Jerniv palm

(*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), the fig tree (*Ficus organensis*) and *Cabralea carieriana*, reaching up to 25 m tall. In fauna, among the mammalian, the park protects examples of species cougar (Puma concolor), pampas deer (*Odocoileus bezarcticus*), fox or grassain (Lycalopex gymnocerus and Cerdocyon thous), Brazilian guinea pig (*Cavia aperea*) and capybara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*). Among the birds, stand out the black and white hawk eagle (*Sparazetus melanoleucus*), the black hawk eagle (*Spizocetus tyrannus*) and the Harpyhaliaetus coronatus, all endangered. And the rare king vulture (Sarcoramphus papa) and vinaceous-breasted Amazon (*Amazona vinacea*) and abundant blue jackdaw (*Cyanocaxus caeruleus*), field woodpecker (*Colaptes campestris*), seriema (*Cariama cristata*) and curucaca (*Theristicus caudatus*). Rounding out the fauna, the lizard, as tegu (*Tupinambis teguixin*), and poisonous snakes, as *Bothrops alternatus* and *Bothrops cotiara*. The park has a remarkable wealth of amphibians, including rare and endangered endemic species such as the genus Melanophryniscus.

There are visitors' centers, restaurants and walking trails, with or without guides. For accommodation the hotels of Cambará do Sul, 33 km, and São Francisco de Paula, 66 km, which are the closest cities with the best infrastructures are some options.

Araucárias National Park

Location: Santa Catarina, municipalities of Picosos Maia and Ponte Serada

Area: 12,841 ha

Climate: rainy temperate of humid environment

Temperatures: annual average inferior to 18 °C, monthly average higher

between 18°C and 22°C

Rains: average rainfall between 1,992 mm to 2,315 mm

Land Relief: wavy, with altitudes ranging from 780 to 1,300 m

Araucárias National Park is totally located in Atlantic Forest, preserving remaining patches of the Forest with Araucarias and fields of altitude, typologies of vegetation extremely threatened by human action. It comprises the lands of the municipalities of Picosos Maia and Ponte Serada, both in the West region of Santa Catarina. The landscape of Araucarias National Park is unique and extraordinary. There we can see forestry formations beyond the transition area with natural fields. In the most part, however, what is seen is green canopy where it is highlighted, the exuberant canopy of aarucaria trees and where there are other species also threatened with extinction, as Brazilian walnut (*Ocotea porosa*) and xaxim (*Dicksonia sellowiana*).

Another species of great regional economic interest is the yerba mate (flor. paraguariensis), which is protected in the park from human collecting, being an important gene bank. Regarding water availability, the landscape is dominated by the presence of important rivers forming the Chapeão watershed, Mato river, Chapeçonoro river, Chapeão river and various headwaters and forces which supply them. These rivers are quite impacted by dams for enterprises of electric power production, they have their stretches that cross the park preserved for the maintenance of natural ecological processes, survival of native species and ensuring scenic beauty. Protects many species of fauna and flora with an extreme conservationist interest, i.e., the species which are threatened or almost threatened of extinction and which are endemic of Atlantic Forest.

Studies accomplished at Araucarias National Park, identified the existence of 174 forestry species, which belong to 132 genus and 54 families. Among the woody and frutty species, considering the different formations and stages of conservation, we can highlight: cobbler's figs (*Bidens pilosa*), vassouras (*Baccharis dracunculifolia* and *B. Elaeagnoides*), mimosa scabrella (*Mimosa scabrella*), mulberry tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), ingá (inga sp.), leitero (*Sapum glandulosum*), açota-covoilo-midão (*Lufkea divaricata*), canela-amara (*Nectandra lanceolata*), canela-guaicá (*Ocotea puberula*), *guaivoeira* (Campomanesia xanthocarpa), sarandi (Calliandra sp.), leiterinho (Sebastiania sp.), *miguel-pintado* (Cupania vernalis), *cabralea* (*Mycruncarpus frondosus*), *angico* (*Parapiipadenia rigida*), *cariaciana* (*Catalpa* sp.), *cereia-fedida* (*Nectandra megapotamica*), *cedar* (*Cedrela fissilis*), *guaivirava* (*Patagonula americana*), *maria-preta* (*Diatenopteryx sorbifolia*), *xaxim* (*Dicksonia sellowiana*).

In fauna, among the mammalian, the Park houses and protects examples of species as howler monkey (*Alouatta guariba clamitans*), capuchin monkey (*Cebus nigritus*), little spotted cat (*Leopardus guttatus*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), puma (*Puma concolor*), tiger (*Lontra longicauda*), little spotted cat (Mazama nana), collared peccary (*Tayassu tatianicus*) and white lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*). The bird fauna of the region of Araucarias Park deserves reference for its great diversity and for the existence of various endemic species and of great interest for conservation. There it was identified more than 230 diverse species of birds, highlighting the species threatened with extinction, such as, cinamom woodpecker (*Dryocopus galeatus*), registered in the inner side of the Park, and black and white monija (*Xolmis dominicensis*). In addition to these, around the park other ten species almost threatened (in global level) according to IUCN (The World Conservation Union): solitary tinamou (*Tinamus sollaris*), mottled hawk (*Leucopternis polionotus*), rusty barred owl (*Bubo hylophila*), picumnus (*Picumnus nebulosus*), yellow-browed woodpecker (*Picusus aurulentus*), gimpeito (*Leptasthenura setaria*), canebrake ground creeper (*Cibananus dendrocolaptoides*), azure jay (*Cyanocaxus caeruleus*), blackish-blue seedeater (*Cyanotoxos moyst*) and green-chinned euphonia (*Euphonia chrysola*). The Park is still in the initial phase of exploitation of areas inside, so it is not scheduled to open for public use yet, although there is environmental education and scientific research.

Important scientific research has been developed. One is an environmental project for the reintroduction of a species of endangered parrot, the vinaceous-breasted Amazon (*Amazona vinacea*). It is a bird that originally occurred in the region, but was extinguished and can now repopulate this protected forest. Other important research involving native species, such as bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), are also being carried out. Economic and social projects should be removed from the area. From the city of Porto Alegre, the access is by BR-282 and BR-470.

Campos Gerais National Park

Location: Paraná, municipalities of Carambel, Castro and Ponta Grossa

Foundation Date: March 23th, 2006

Area: 21,288 ha

Climate: Humid Subtropical

Temperatures: winter with an annual average of 13°C and occurrence of frosts,

hotter summer with an annual average of 21.4°C

Rains: rainfall of 1,500 mm annually

Land Relief: wavy, with an altitude ranging between 300 and 1,200 m

Campos Gerais National Park is located in east-center region of the State of Paraná, in the municipalities of Carambel, Castro and Ponta Grossa. Certainly the geological composition and land relief of Campos Gerais National Park were fundamental conditioning factors for its foundation: its presence and scenic beauty of the existent escarpms in the Furnas Formation, which cross the Park towards the northwest to southeast, is its trademark. The whole region where the Park is located, by the way, presents a land relief deeply cut, with slopes, frequently abrupt and verticalised, with the presence of canyons or stretches of rivers put in rocks, with irregularities, cracks, crevices, caves, in addition to numerous waterfalls and streams over the bedrock.

The area in which Campos Gerais is located integrates two great Watersheds: Itibaigi river (which flows into Paranapanema river, which in turn, is one of the main tributaries of Paraná river) and Ribeira river (which, goes eastbound, directly flows into Atlantic Ocean). In addition to it, various important headwaters and brooks, of both sheds, are protected inside the Park.

Among the waterfalls, one of the main attractions of the Park, we have the Buraco do Padre, a gorgeous waterfall which has a small sandy beach, and Maripúquis whose access trail pass through a pleasant landscape which mix field and forest areas. Landscapes mosaic of the region is composed by an association between an expressive area of the Floresta com Araucárias (Forest with Araucarias) and the last remnants of open fields – grasslands and cerrados (South America savannah) – located in Planalto Paranáense (Paraná from Paraná). These forestal entities are shown, many

times, as spots of forests or isolated woods, as gallery forests or as mixed woods.

This peculiarity of its natural vegetation makes Campos Gerais National Park an area probably unique considering the South-American subtropical flora, comprising environments with a high biodiversity. In isolated woods and forests with aarucarias, dry rocks, fields rocky and marshy depressions, were identified plants belonging to over than 140 distinct species, and 45% of the total of tree species.

Among many other animals, Campos Gerais National Park is a safety refuge for a bit variety of mammals, a list which reaches about 120 species based on studies conducted nearby. Some of them, are the capuchin monkey (*Cebus nigritus*), crab-eating raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*), crab-eating fox (*Cerdocyon thous*), capybara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*), species of skunk (*Didelphis* sp.), the threatened otter (*Lontra longicauda*), southern muriqui (*Brachyteles arachnoides*) and brown howler (*Alouatta guariba*), the last two animals are restricted to areas with larger forest patches. From 30 species of land mammals threatened with extinction in the State of Paraná, and of the 23 presumably threatened, it was reported the existence, in the region of the Park, of 23 and 13, respectively.

It was also identified the presence of, at least, four rare animals – the maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), cougar (*Puma concolor*) and onçilla (*Leopardus sp.*) – and the major incidences of vestiges of these species happened in riparian forest areas and nearby watercourse.

Among the birds, with a presumably existence in the Park, also considering the studies conducted in areas nearby of a national list with up to 400 species, some species of birds included in the national list of species threatened with extinctions are highlighted, these are the helmeted woodpecker (*Dryocopus galeatus*), crowned solitary eagle (*Harpagolanius coronatus*), chestnut seedeater (*Sporophila cinerea*), black-bellied seedeater (*Sporophila melanogaster*), vinaceous parrot (*Tinamus sollaris*), sharp-tailed grass tyrant (*Culicivora caudacuta*) and dwarf tinamou (*Tinamous nanus*). The striped tit-spiritual (*Leptasthenura setaria*) is one of the local species which may be considered as an exclusive species of the forest with aarucarias, among many other that are also dependent of this formations, the plain-brow woodcreepers (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*), white throated woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*), canebrake ground creeper (*Cibananus dendrocolaptoides*), Rufous-breasted flycatcher (*Scolecus sanzaei*), drab-beateded bamboo tyrant (*Henricus diops*) and bare-throated bellbird (*Procnis nudiflora*). From the city of Ponta Grossa, the access is by PR-513, state highway which crosses the Park.

Iguaçu National Park

Location: Paraná, municipalities of Foz do Iguaçu, Medianeira, Matelândia, Cú

André and São Miguel do Iguaçu

Foundation Date: January 10th, 1939, by Federal Decree Nº 1035

Area: 185,262 ha

Climate: mild mesothermal and very humid, without drought

Temperatures: annual average of 18 to 20°C, absolute maximum of 34 to 36°C

and absolute minimum of -8 to -4°C

Rains: between 1,500 and 1,750 mm annually

Land Relief: slightly wavy

The term "iguazu", in Guarani language, means "water" (i) "big" (guapu), in a direct reference to the spectacular show of the cataracts formed by the water of the river which nominates the park. The grandiosity and beauty of cataracts have induced UNESCO to insert them, during the general conference of November 1986, in the "World Heritage List", and this was the first Brazilian natural property to receive such an honor. Formed in not very old geological ages – probably between the upper Jurassic and lower cretaceous (between 145 thousand and 120 thousand years ago) – the area stays over the flow of basic volcanic lava occurred in lands which today constitute the State of Paraná. These volcanic activities were not explosive, but they used to occur through fluid distention cracks which generally were extended through several kilometers on the surface. Slightly wavy, the land relief goes down towards the valley of Iguaçu river, with altitudes between 300 and 600 m, and it is recovered by a fertile reddish purple soil, from volcanic origin.

Classified as warm temperate, the Climate of the park is rainy, without a dry season which, even though, is the best time to visit, between May and August.

Vegetation is composed, basically, by two vegetal formations: semi-deciduous seasonal forest and aarucaria forest. The first one is rich in legumes, pteridophytes, bromeliads, orchids, araceae, epiphytes and liana, and also with grouping of laurava (*Morostachys* sp.) and lauravassu (*Bambusa* sp.).

In the superior stratum of the semi-deciduous seasonal forest, the cedar (*Cedrela fissilis* Vell.), rosemary (*Holcayob balansa* Mich.), *angico* (*Parapiipadenia rigida* (Benth.) Brenan), *Lufkea divaricata* Mart and *penaba* (*Asprosternis* sp.), and, in the inferior stratum, queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Cham.) Glassman) and jurara (heart of palm) (*Euterpe edulis* Mart.) are predominated.

Araucaria forest is a mixed forest, dominated in the superior stratum by aarucarias (*Araucaria angustifolia* (Bertol.) Kuntze) and is 60 years old, in the maximum. There are also mate giant (flor paraguariensis A. St.-Hill.), queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Cham.) Glassman), *guaivirava* (*Patagonula americana* L) and eugenia uvulha (*Eugenia pyriformis* Camb.). In the inferior stratum, under the presence of young pines – from one to two years – the vegetation is constituted by *cacaçá-anta* (*Drymis winteri* Forst.), *guamirim* (*Myrcia bombycina* (O. Berg) Koenig), and Brazilian walnut (*Ocotea porosa* (Nees & C. Mart.), *Diversiflora*, among others.

Barnessed and expressive, the fauna of the Park is composed by more than two hundred species. The black hawk-eagle (*Spizocetus tyrannus*) and solitary tinamou (*Tinamus sollaris*) are in highlight. There are also toucans, hawks, hummingbirds, and goldfinch. Among the mammals there is the presence of predators as the cougar (*Puma concolor*) and jaguar (*Panthera onca*), which need big areas, in addition to the tapir (*Baptia terrestris*), red brocket (*Mazama americana*), capybara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*), lowland paca (*Agouti paca*) and nasua (*Nasua nasua*). The broad-nosed caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), among the reptiles, is the most important species and is threatened with extinction in Brazil. There we also find poisonous snakes, as coral (*Morus carolinus*) and jaracaca (*Bothrops jaracaca*), and the rivers offer a great variety of fishes.

Far away from Curitiba (670km), Iguaçu National Park can be visited going through BR-277 road or by air, since the city of Foz do Iguaçu has an international airport with daily flights. For accommodation, there is an international category hotel inside the park. And, around the park, there is one of the greatest concentrations of hotels, which are serving during the whole year the huge demand for one of the biggest natural attractions of Brazil: Iguaçu Falls.

Iha Grande National Park

Location: Paraná and Mato Grosso do Sul States, municipalities of Guaia, Aldina, São Jorge do Patrocínio, Alto Paraná and Iguatu, in Paraná; and Mundo Novo, Eldorado, Naval and Baupuri, in Mato Grosso do Sul

Foundation Date: September 30th, 1997, by Federal Decree without number

Area: 78,875 ha

Climate: warm tropical

Temperatures: minimum average of 18°C and maximum average of 22°C

Rains: 1,200 to 1,300 mm annually

Land Relief: flat, formed by an archipelago with thousands of islands and islets

which are associated to marshy regions, of flood plains

Created in 1997, the park since its beginning has aimed the protection of islands, flood plains and ecosystems associated to Paraná river. The process for its existence passed through the initiative of the municipalities of Paraná of the surrounding area of the unit, which created municipal APAs which were subsequently integrated. APA: Environmental Protection Area, i.e., unit of preservation of sustainable use where local ecological conditions are protected, maintaining the landscapes and their relevant cultural attributes. Motivated by ecological ICMS, these municipalities have developed an exemplar model of shared environmental management, with the foundation Coripa (Inter-municipal Consortium for Conservation of Paraná River Remainder and Influence Areas). To the municipal efforts were added the efforts of the State of Paraná, through the foundation of its Environmental Institute (IAP) which, in 1994, created the Ecological Station of Iha Grande.

In parallel to these efforts, researches of Universidade Estadual de Maringá proposed the recognition by Unesco of the Biosphere Reserve, with core area between the mouth of Inhémens and Amambai rivers (MS). In 1997, the group formed by Ithana, IAP and Coripa, designated to study and propose the foundation of units in the region, indicated the islands of the park.

Constituted by fountains and fluvial islets and occupying an area of about 78.875 ha, Iha Grande National Park is located on the border of Paraná and Mato Grosso do Sul States, in a region favored by the existence of archeological and historical sites of exceptional relevance for the comprehension of human occupation in the south of American continent. The area of occupation of Xetá Indians, considered as extinct, and reductions and Jesuit cities (Guarani Indians) which date back to XVI century, tribes insufficiently studied and with no protection are included. The name of the unit was chosen considering the most significant geographical accident in the region, the Iha Grande, or Sete Quedas. The park is located in the Environmental Protection Area of Iha Grande, with 1,003,059 ha, whose predominant vegetation is swampy regions and flooding fields, merged with semi-deciduous seasonal forest. There we find fig trees (*Ficus ennius* Mart., *Ficus* sp.) and *Ficus cocinea* Schott.), *Aguaiá-branço* (*Carlinaa ephremlena* (Raddl.) Kuntze), *Cecropia* (*Cecropia pachystachya* Neel.) , ingá (*Inga uirguensis* Hook. & A. N. Engla Laurins (Sw.) Winkl.) and pau-d'Alhos (*Galeaia integrifolia* (Sprong.) Harms), among other trees. In the terra-firma, tapins (*Tapirus terrestris*), giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*), marsh deer (*Blastocerus dichotomus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and broad-nosed caiman (*Caiman latirostris*). Among the birds, Jabiru (*Jabiru myadriata*), spoonbills (*Ajaja ajaja*), undulated tinamou (*Crypturellus undulatus*), wattleed jacana (*Jacana jacana*) and curassows (*Crasx fasciatus*) are pointed.

1. The Ecological ICMS (Ite on Crudation of Goods and Services) is a mechanism of environmental policy, created in 1990 and special of Brazil. It is an allocation of financial resources of ICMS different from the usual one, where the environmental quality becomes a relevant criterion. ICSM is a tax paid for us (out-in to the price) every time we consume a good or service. This tax goes to State vaults and part of it must be passed to the municipalities, according to the Federal Constitution. The ICSM is the main source of resources of the States and major part of it is shared among the municipalities of each of the amount is shared according to economic criteria. However, Federal Constitution of 1996 opens a breach where part of these resources may be shared among the municipalities according to criteria defined by the State Law. It means that any criterion may be invented by the Assembly of each State. And this was what Paraná did.

In 1992, Legislative Assembly of Paraná approved the first law of Ecological ICMS of Brazil. The law started passing to the municipalities, part of the resources of ICMS according to the type and size of the protected areas of each municipality. This way, the preservation units in the past were seen as a brake on economic development of the municipality (since those areas could not pass through the same economic exploitation) have become revenue-generating for the municipalities. Various municipalities which used to have financial problems started receiving unbelievable resources before this law. This is especially true for those small municipalities where, have not developed economically and for this reason, are the major part of units of conservation, because the remaining native ecosystems are there". http://www.contehoeparanaconser.org/economic_executive_secretary_of_Thematic_Council_of_Economic_and_Social_Impacts_of_Brazilian_Forum_of_Climate_Changes_in_

Lagoa do Peixe National Park

Location: Rio Grande do Sul, municipalities of Mostardas and Tanares

Create Date: November 6th, 1986, by Federal Decree Nº 93546

Area: 34,400 ha

Climate: temperate, mild and very humid isothermal, without drought

Temperatures: annual average from 18 to 20°C, absolute maximum

temperature

from 38 to 40°C and absolute minimum temperature from -4 to 0°C

Rains: Less than 1,250 mm annual

Lagoa do Peixe National Park is located in an area which, four centuries ago, was inhabited by Tupi-Guarani Indians and, most recently, colonized by Arazeans.

The area of the park comprise a wide sandy plain with various sandbanks which block about ten coastal lagoons existent there and which are connected by narrow channels. In parallel to the water line there are dunes with up to 25 m height.

With about 40 km length and width which does not exceed one thousand meters, Lagoa do Peixe reaches the maximum depth, of only 80 centimetres, in the flood season, during winter. Only joined to bar communication with the sea depth reaches 2 meters.

Located around 60 cm above sea level, during the most part of the year it is a saltwater lagoon. When there are great rainfalls, the lagoon stays brackish and, due to the increase of water volume, the fragile natural barrier which separates it from the sea - distant only some dozens of meters - is broken allowing the connection between them. During the high tide and when south wind blows, the lagoon is taken again by the saltwater retained there. When it evaporates, the water leaves in the lagoon a high quantity of salt and the cycle restarts. And it is the repetition of this cycle which makes Lagoa do Peixe unique in Brazil with these characteristics. What happens is that with the seawater, also comes thousands of planktons, crustaceans and fishes, in addition to mollusks and algae which, during the Spring and the beginning of the Summer, when water is low, they are deposited in its mud-bottom. It is when birds which stop there celebrate.

There are thousands of birds of over 273 species, 35 of which are migratory, occuring 26 in the northern hemisphere and 9 in the southern hemisphere. From Chile and Argentina the flamingos arive (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), the *Charadrius falklandicus*, the *Zonotrichia modestus*and the *Oreopholus ruficollis*. From North America migrate over ten species of sandpipers, case of the *Calidris canutus rufa*, *Sterna hirundo*. It is also possible to sigh birds like black-necked stern (*Ogrynus melanochloropus*), caporoca (*Coscoroba coscoroba*), *Basilornis culicivorus*, among others. In spring and summer, arrive species of the northern hemisphere feeling the harsh Arctic winter. At the beginning of autumn other southern hemisphere species arrive, avoiding the harsh cold of the south of the continent, migrating to regions of mild temperatures.

North hemisphere birds going to Lagoa do Peixe fly 15 to 20 mil km without stopping, during consecutive days and nights. Therefore, when they arrive they are starving and weakened. For this reason, during the permanence, they continuously eat mollusks, algae and small fishes from the lagoon until they get strong again to fly to Argentina, where they will remain by the beginning of autumn when, then, they return to north hemisphere after stopping, again, at Lagoa do Peixe to rest, feed and get some weight.

Among the "visitors", the ones who call more attention are the *flamingos* (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), and their lovely reddish-pink feathering. They arrive in the middle of May and remain there, preferentially near to the barrier of the lagoon, by the end of July, coming from cold regions of south of Argentina and nearby Andes, including Chile. Their diet is composed by mollusks and crustaceans. There are also seagulls (*Larus dominicanus*), and brown-hooded Gull (*Larus maculipennis*) and frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*).

In addition to birds, there are, in the park, mammalian as capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) and myrmecophagidae, rodents, as the capyri and jacu-tuco, and reptiles as the broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), this last is threatened with extinction.

Also during the Winter, at the coast we can see southern right whales going to the coastline of Santa Catarina, nearby Rosa beach, in their annual excursion to give birth and nurse their calves. The vegetation of the park is basically composed by species from sandy soils, as the daisy of the dunes (*Senecio crassiflorus* (Poir.) DC.), a whitish herb which emanates a pleasant scent, *resine* (resine portulacoides (A. St.-Hil.) Moq.), cordgrass (*Spartina ciliata* Brongt.) and seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum* Sw.). There are also in sandbanks some species from Atlantic forest adapted, as fig trees surrounded by orchids, and cinéagas, small yellow annual daisy, which cover the dunes creating huge carpets.

As this vegetation goes to the countryside it starts growing in mobile dunes, which offer reduced conditions of fixing to plants. After, join to the slopes of fixed and semi-mobile dunes and near to humid areas, there are small and medium shrubby isolated woods, generally forming lines parallel to the seacoast. In these areas we found

myrsine - (*Myrsine umbellata* Mart.), guapira tree (*Guapira opposita* (Vell.) Reitz), anuera (*Litorea brasiliensis* Marchand) and embra tree (*Daphnopsis brasiliensis* Mart. & Zucc.). In swamp areas a little extensive, to the lagoon margins, there are also reeds (*Juncus* spp.), white-grass (*Panicum reptans* L.), *rainha-dos-lagos* (*Pontederia lanceolata* Nutt.) and pontederia ovals, art. (*Tyrpha dominguenis* Pers.). With access to the road from Rio Grande and Porto Alegre, the park does not provide infrastructure for accommodation and transport of visitors.

In areas with elevations above 800 m, there are three types of vegetation: mixed rain forest (Araucaria Forest), the Nebular "Matinhas" and the Attitus Fields. Stands out in the fields the Andropogon lateralis Nees, while among the tree species is the striking presence of the Brazilian pine (Araucaria angustifolia (Bertol.) Kuntze).

In clumps occur still the Drimys brasiliensis Forst., Podocarpus lamberti Klotzsch, Litorea brasiliensis Marchand and Cletiria scabra Pers. Between April and June, high in the pine trees, several species of birds look for food in the seeds, foremost among these, the black jckdaw (*Chonocercus caeruleus*), the Theristicus sp., and the colorful *Trogon curucui*. The legend says that as these birds usually do not eat the pine nuts on the spot, on transporting them they end up dropping the seed, promoting the spread of this plant, but in reality are the rodents the largest dispersers of seeds of Araucaria. Besides these, 122 other birds are found in the park: *Elaenoides forficatus*, *Leptasthenura serena*, *Leptasthenura striolata*, partridge (*Rhynchotus rufescens*) and several species of hummingbirds.

Among animals, *Byassu tajacu cataglinques* deers (*Mazama gouazoubira*), *Myrmecophaga tetradactyla*, *Dasycton thous*, *Cavia orepura* and *Sciurus* sp.. In the rivers that cross the park can be seen otters (*Lontra longicaudus*), an endangered mammal and under the canopy of pine trees, wild pigs (*Dasyxus* spp.) and *Agouti* paca.

Leaving the state capital, Florianópolis, access is made by BR-282 highway to the municipality of Urubici and from this by SC-370 nrh-ways at the main entrance of the Park, this still does not have infrastructure to serve the visitors, although this Conservation Unit is the fifth most visited in the country (data from 2012). The principal place of visitation is the Morro da Igreja viewpoint, where one sees the Pedra Furada and all the tops of the Serra. There are also options for walks on trails and roads.

In areas with elevations above 800 m, there are three types of vegetation: mixed rain forest (Araucaria Forest), the Nebular "Matinhas" and the Attitus Fields. Stands out in the fields the Andropogon lateralis Nees, while among the tree species is the striking presence of the Brazilian pine (Araucaria angustifolia (Bertol.) Kuntze). In clumps occur still the Drimys brasiliensis Forst., Podocarpus lamberti Klotzsch, Litorea brasiliensis Marchand and Cletiria scabra Pers. Between April and June, high in the pine trees, several species of birds look for food in the seeds, foremost among these, the black jckdaw (*Chonocercus caeruleus*), the Theristicus sp., and the colorful *Trogon curucui*. The legend says that as these birds usually do not eat the pine nuts on the spot, on transporting them they end up dropping the seed, promoting the spread of this plant, but in reality are the rodents the largest dispersers of seeds of Araucaria. Besides these, 122 other birds are found in the park: *Elaenoides forficatus*, *Leptasthenura serena*, *Leptasthenura striolata*, partridge (*Rhynchotus rufescens*) and several species of hummingbirds.

Among animals, *Byassu tajacu cataglinques* deers (*Mazama gouazoubira*), *Myrmecophaga tetradactyla*, *Dasycton thous*, *Cavia orepura* and *Sciurus* sp.. In the rivers that cross the park can be seen otters (*Lontra longicaudus*), an endangered mammal and under the canopy of pine trees, wild pigs (*Dasyxus* spp.) and *Agouti* paca. Leaving the state capital, Florianópolis, access is made by BR-282 highway to the municipality of Urubici and from this by SC-370 nrh-ways at the main entrance of the Park, this still does not have infrastructure to serve the visitors, although this Conservation Unit is the fifth most visited in the country (data from 2012). The principal place of visitation is the Morro da Igreja viewpoint, where one sees the Pedra Furada and all the tops of the Serra. There are also options for walks on trails and roads.

Serra do Itajaí National Park

Location: Santa Catarina, municipalities of Ascurra, Apúlna, Blumenau, Botuverá, Gaspar, Guarubira, Itaipava, Presidente Nereu and Vidal Ramos Foundation Date: June 4th, 2004 Area: 57,374 ha

Climate: humid subtropical Temperatures: annual average of 21°C Rains: average rainfall of 2,000 mm annually, February is the rainiest month (184.6 mm) and June the driest month (104.0 mm) Relief: mountains, with altitudes ranging between 60 and 1,039 meters

Serra do Itajaí National Park is located in the Vale do Itajaí (Northeast Santa Catarina), comprising lands of 9 municipalities and about 16% of the total of State. With a very irregular land relief, where small plains are alternated, wavy and extended hills, the Park comprises the mountain range which takes its name, wand which is between the basins of Itajaí-açu and Itajaí-novi rivers. Surrounded by an area of a dense human occupation and old colonization, the natural environments which Serra do Itajaí (Itajaí Mountain) keep were not destroyed due to the difficulties imposed by its land formation

The vegetal formation mosaic which covers the Park, is composed by diverse physiognomies of the dense ombrophilous forest of the Atlantic Forest biome.

It alternates in the landscape from wet forest formations between 20 and 35 m height - where up to 150 distinct species per hectare can be agglomerated, with trunks and branches densely covered by bromeliads and epiphytes - to a shrubby and herbaceous vegetation areas, especially on steep slopes, or on the top of hills.

Among the 340 arboreal-shrubby species registered at Serra do Itajaí National Park, many of them are considered as vulnerable, as *Canela preta* (*Ocotea catharinensis*), *guarujauva* (*Buchanania killeimii*), Brazilian walnut (*Ocotea porosa*), *saxim* (*Dicksonia sellowiana*) and Brazilian sassaparil (*Ocotea odorifera*). Because of its extension, good conditions of preservation and protection of a considerable remain area of the Atlantic Forest biome, Serra do Itajaí National Park is constituted as an essential area for the maintenance of the animals' species which need large areas to live. Specially the mammals. And, among them, the Park has a list of 69 species identified, of which are endemic and 6 are in

the list of animals threatened with extinction - margay (*Leopardus wiedii*) - onçilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), cougar (*Puma concolor*), rodent (*Rhagomys rufescens*) and little red brocket (*Mazama nanus*) - whose just the presence are indicators of its environment. Regarding the exuberant presence of the bird fauna, park of Serra do Itajaí hosts more than 300 species of birds of all sizes and habits, being 107 endemic birds of Atlantic Forest and 34 belong to the list of animals threatened with extinction. Among these last ones, we can highlight the mantled hawk (*Leucotisernis lacernulatis*), vineaceous-breasted Amazon (*Amazona vinacea*), buffy-fronted seedeater (*Sporophila frontalis*), rose-twinged spadebill (*Piayaichnus leucorhynchos*), chestnut-bellied seed-finch (*Sporophila anglicaens*) and bare-throated bellbird (*Pipraeus nudiollis*). Fifty-five species of Procnias and 15 species of reptiles, some of them recently discovered, in addition to an uncountable variety of invertebrates not described yet, were also registered in the area of the Park. The access to Serra do Itajaí National Park can be made through any of the following municipalities: Ascurra, Apúlna, Blumenau, Botuverá, Gaspar, Guarubira, Itaipava, Presidente Nereu and Vidal Ramos.

Serra Geral National Park

Location: Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, municipalities of Cambaó do Sul and São José do Rio Preto Foundation Date: May 20th, 1992, by Federal Decree N° 531 Area: 17,300 ha Climate: temperate, very humid mild mesothermal, without drought Temperatures: annual average from 18 to 20°C, absolute maximum temperature from 34 to 36°C and absolute minimum temperature of -8 to -4°C Rains: between 1,500 and 2,000 mm annually Land Relief: tabular, with deep canyons

The Serra Geral National Park is divided into two parts - one of 15,000 ha and 2,300 ha another - separated by contiguous Aparados da Serra National Park. In the southern portion is a part of the canyon Faxinalzinho (the other part is in nearby Aparados da Serra Park). In the northern portion are the canyons Malacra, Churiado and Fortaleza, the latter the most visited, with gaps that reach about 900 m, 1,500 m width and length of 7,5 km.

The vegetation of the park preserves a sample of the Atlantic Forest biome: high fields, mixed rain forest wit Araucaria dense rain forest. Stands out the Brazilian pine (*Araucaria angustifolia* (Bertol.) Kuntze) and *Podocarpus lamberti* Klotzsch as Endl. in the mixed rain forest. *Euterpe edulis*, the *Cabralea canjerana* and fig trees (*Ficus sp.*) in the dense rain forest. The Park protects several springs of three major watersheds with water of excellent quality: Taquari-Antas/RS (Arcois Porteira Velha), Mampubura/RS-SC (Arcois Águas Campêda, Molta Coco, Malacra), Faxinalzinho, among others and Araranguá/SC (Arcois Tigre Preto).

Among the most important species of fauna, we can highlight the Cerdoon thous and *Liatolopes gymnocorus*, puma (*Puma concolor*), and a rich community of amphibians, highlighting the endemic and rare *Melanophryniscus cambarensis*. The Park has four trails open to visitors: Pedra do Segredo and Mirante de Fortaleza (edge of the plateau, also easy to medium difficulty, with input by Cambaó do Sul/RS) and Tigre Preto and Piscinas do Malacra (inside the canyon, difficulty heavier, with entrance by Jacinto Machado/SC and Praia Grande/SC, respectively). The ideal is always stroll through them with a guide who knows well the region and sudden changes in local weather.

Depending on the season, are common formations of heavy mists that rise from the lower regions, as well as the sudden temperature change. Whatever the time of the visit, so it is convenient to always have a handy sweater and raincoat.

As this Park has not any gatehouse - there is only control with guards on highways which connect canyons of Fortaleza to Cambaó do Sul -, the access is free and camping is allowed. From Fortaleza canyon gazerib, in lighter days, we can see the seacoast, which is away dozens of kilometers.

Supergui National Park

Location: Paraná, in Guaçuaguapé City Creation date: April 23th, 1989, by federal decree N° 97658. Expansion on November 20th, 1997, by federal decree N° 9.513 Area: 33.988 ha Climate: sub-tropical humid mesothermal with hot summer Temperatures: in summer, average from 24 to 26°C and, in winter, average from 15°C Rains: between 600 to 2,000 mm annually Land Relief: flat and slightly wavy

The Supergui National Park is a coastal-marine park encompassing beautiful beaches, salt marshes, mountains and mangroves. It comprises the Supergui Island, the largest and part of the park, Peças Island, Pinheiro Island, the largest dom of the papagaio-da-car-roca, and the Pinheirinho Island. Also, includes a part of the continent formed by the Rio dos Patos valley. The relief consists mainly of salt marshes, occurring precisely the highest elevations on the Supergui Island, the part facing the Pinheiros Bay and in the Tio Dos Patos valley. These landscapes are a part of the Lagunae de Iguape-Canaúvia-Paranaguá Estuary Complex, known as Lagamar, regarded by UN as one of the most important coastal ecosystems worldwide.

With a predominant podsol soil, the vegetation is divided in two environments: pioneer formations areas and dense Atlantic forest region. The first, the area presents mangroves, as red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle* L.), white or yellow mangrove (*Laguncularia sp.*) and *avicennia schaueriana* (Avicennia spp.), which are part of the muddy soil and with high tenor of salinity. There is also a variety of bromeliads, with predominance of *Aechmea* and *Viçesea* generous. In the Atlantic forest, which goes through the plains and sandy lands, the species which are more representative are the fig trees (*Ficus spp.*) and catophyllum bewickense (*Catophyllum brasiliense* Cambess.), in a lowest number we find *massaranduba* (*Manikara subserrica* (M. & M.) Dubard), *ocouca* (*Virola oleifera* (Schott) A.C. Sm.) and *estorêla* (*Cariniana estrellensis* (Radlk) Kuntze).

In bird fauna the seabirds, as neotropic cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*), frigate (*Fregata magnificens*) and great egret (*Casmerodius albus*), in addition to other land birds, as toucans (*Ramphastos spp.*), thrush (*Turdus rufigentris*) and specially the rare red tailed Amazon (*Amazona brasiliensis*), threatened with extinction.

Among the mammalian of island we can see the lowland paca (*Agouti paca*), *agouti* (*Dasyprocta azarae*), *venison* (*Mazama spp.*) and collared peccary (*Tayassu spp.*). In 1980 it was discovered in the area the fourth species of lion-monkey (*Leontopithecus caissara*). Among the reptiles we have to be careful regarding poisonous coral snakes (*Micurus corallinus*) and *Jiratroca* (*Bolitrochs spp.*).

Located close to the isolated border of the states of Paraná and São Paulo, the park still lacks infrastructure, but is open for accommodation and transport of visitors. It is possible to find hotels and rustic restaurants mainly in the Barra do Supergui Community and still in Vila das Peças and Bettogo. Access is only shipped through the city of Paranaguá, with lines that operate once a day. The main activities of visitation are: Praia Deserta trail in the Supergui Island, observation of the flock of the red tailed Amazon in the Pinheiro Island, watching in the Golfinos bay in the Vila das Peças, Deserta beach on the Peças Island and the Fandangos Museu Vivo.



Caparaó National Park

Location: Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais, municipalities of BaíaDa, Dores do Rio Preto, Divina São Lourenço and Vila (ES) and Presidente Soares, Espírito Feliz, Caparaó and Alto Jequitibá (MG) Foundation Date: May, 24th, 1961, by Federal Decree N° 50646 Area: 26,000 ha Climate: tropical, humid under-hat, with one or two dry months Temperatures: annual average from 22 to 24°C, absolute maximum temperature from 24 to 36°C and absolute minimum average from 4 to 0°C Rains: between 1,250 and 1,500 mm annually Land Relief: strongly wavy

Created in 1961 to protect the Pico da Bandeira which, then, was believed to be the highest peak in Brazil (In fact, it is the third altitude, coming after the Pico da Neblina with 2,014 m and Pico 31 de Março with 2,092 m, both located in Pico da Neblina National Park, in Amazonas), the park is located in one of the highest parts of the Southeast region and has strongly wavy relief, with altitudes ranging from 997 m in the place called Vale Verde, at 2,890 m at its peak, exactly the Pico da Bandeira.

Surrounded by forests of long, thin trees and giant ferns, Vale Verde is cut by the crystalline river Caparaó, while on the high peaks still stand out from the Cruzeiro peaks, 2,861 m, and Cristal, 2,798 m. Drainage network is characterized by numerous, small and medium, perennial rivers whose strong slope gives rise to some rapids and waterfalls of great beauty, as Bonita waterfall with a drop of approximately 80 m. The climate is tropical, with a lot of fog in the rainiest months. Almost entirely secondary, the vegetation of the park has barely more plant species once common, such as the Paraná pine (*Araucaria angustifolia*). Only small patches of native forests still survive in the region, which is the most typical representatives, the dwarf *boucinha* (*Tibouchina* spp.), *Cecropia* (*Cecropia* spp.), *Acacia* spp. and *Tabebuia* spp., *Ocoteia* spp. and *ncetranda* spp. and *Cabralea* spp.. There is still great variety of mosses and orchids. Due to intense human activity across the mountains, fauna - as fora - was greatly affected and remained in place only those animals more resistant and more easily adaptable, as the opossum (*Didelphis spp.*) and tapeti (*Gyldenstia brasiliensis*), some rodents such as paca (*Agouti paca*) and Brazilian squirrel (*Sciurus aestuans*), in addition to predators less demanding of space, as the crab-eating frog (*Cerodonyx thous*), the tayra (*Eira barbara*), the racoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*) and at least one species of margay (*Leopardus wiedii*). Among the birds, stand out the vulture (*Cathartes atratus* and *Cathartes aura*), *Tatapuá* Tinamou (*Cryptulius tatapuá*) and *roadside hawk* (*Buteo magnirostris*), plus red-legged seriema (*Carania castra*). Located almost on the border of Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo, the access to the park is made by the highway that connects the capital cities of these two states, Belo Horizonte and Vitória. The visitation infrastructure includes a hotel, near the headquarters, visitor center and trails, and the nearest town is Manhumirim, from 27 km.

Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park

Location: Minas Gerais, municipality of Januária, Itacambira and São João das Missões Foundation Date: September 21th, 1999, by Federal Decree without number Area: 56,800 ha Climate: semi-arid tropical Temperatures: annual average of 24°C Rains: between October and April there are higher rainfalls

The region where the park is located, in Peruaçu river valley, tributary of the left side of São Francisco river, is part of a long extension of chalky soil which, during millions of years, was eroded by winds, rains and water of São Francisco river and its tributaries, forming canyons, grottes and caves which still continue suffering the influence of the environment. There is in the region a great concentration of archaeological sites, where big rock art panels are found. And to protect this valuable archaeological and geological heritage, as well as representative samples of the Cerrado and seasonal forest vegetation, that the park was founded in September 21st 1999. With an area of 56,800 ha, Caves do Peruaçu National Park is located in the municipality of Januária, Itacambira and São João das Missões, North of Minas Gerais State, and keeps registers of human presence in the region about 11 thousand years ago, becoming, for this, one of the most important archaeological sites of the country and world. The Climate of the region is semi-arid tropical, and annual average temperature is 24°C. Between October and April there are the greatest precipitations of rain.

For being in a transition area between Cerrado, Caatinga biomes, the region of the park presents vegetat of both biomes. We can highlight in vegetation: *anoreia-do-serião* (*Astronium urundeuva* F. Alil.), *branca* (*Melanolyma brauina* Schott.), *pau-santo* (*Kielmeyera coriacea* Marc & Zucc.), *cabina-do-cerrado* (*Diaberlea*

micolobium Benth.), *bysonomia crassifolia* (Bysonomia sp.), jatobá (Hymenaea couratiba L. var. *Silbocarpa* (Hayne) Lee & Lang), souari nut (Cayocar brasiliense Cambess.) and many others. In fauna, we highlight these birds – more than 250 species are found in the region of the park – among them the pionus (Aratinga aurea and *A. solistifans* auctupialia), *serifera* (Cariama cristata), crested black-tyrant (Xiphiopsis sp.), woodcreeper and sabrewings. Red brocket deer (Mazama americana), ocelot (Panthera (Jaguaris) pardalis), rock cavy (Kerodon rupestris), black-tufted marmoset, armadillos, capybara (Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris), maned wolf (Cryptoprocta brachyurus) and tapagús (Lepitambis merianae sebastiani) are other representative of local fauna.

Iatulia National Park

Location: between the State of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, municipalities of Presidente Tanilândia, Itamonte, and Bocaina de Minas.
Foundation Date: June 14th, 1937, by Federal Decree N° 1713
Area: 30 thousand ha
Climate: mesothermal with mild summer, with well-defined dry season in the high end
Temperatures: annual average from 20 to 22°C, absolute maximum from 36 to 38°C and absolute minimum from 0 to 4°C
Rains: between 1.800 and 2.500 mm annually
Land Relief: mountainous

Everything began in 1913, with the job of the botanic Alberto Löfgren, researcher of Jardim Botânico of Rio de Janeiro, who requested to the Agricultural Ministry at that time, Cândido Rodrigues, the foundation of a national park in Iatulia. The same idea was devoutly defended later, still in 1913, by the naturalist and geographer José Hubmayner, in a conference held at Sociedade de Geografia (Geography Society) of Rio de Janeiro, obtaining a wide support of the cartographer and historian Francisco Indio Marcondes H. de M., Homem de Melo baron, who knew very well the region of Iatulia.

The park– whose lands until that time belonged to Jardim Botânico of Rio de Janeiro, which maintained there a biological station – was defined by Hubmayner as “matchless in the world”. The naturalist justified his creation alleging that “it was about to take place in the beauty capital city of Rio de Janeiro, offering, thereby, to the scientists and scholars, an immeasurable source for the most diverse researches”. Already at that time he saw in the park “an ideal retreat for people of the city, visitors and nature lovers”. Regardless of the ardent defense of the foundation of the park, however, it would happen 24 years later, in 14th June 1937.

At the culminant peak of the Iatulia massif is the Iatulagu peak, in Agulhas Negras, with 2.791 m altitude. Also highlighting Serra do Maramba (mountain), with 2.607 m, Cabeça do Leão (mountain), with 2.408 meters, Dois Irmãos (mountain), with 2.500 m, and Prateiras, with 2.540 m.

Two distinct hydrographic basins are nurtured by rivers which flows in the top of Iatulia – of Paraíba do Sul and Grande Rio (Rio Grande) –, and the drainage network mainly formed by Preto, Aluana, and Campo Belo rivers. In these rivers there are eye-catching waterfalls, as Escuro do Maramba, Vão do Nova and Taporani.

In the high regions, above 1.800 m, the Climate is characterized by mild and rainy summers and cold winters, while in low regions summers are also mild, but without a defined dry season.

It is common the occurrence of freezing temperatures and frost in the upper part of the park since the snowstorms, as those recorded in 1985 and 1988, are rare events.
In the vegetation, in the park varies, according to the altitude, of dense ombrophilous forest – in low areas, with about 540 m – to fields of altitude, from 2.000 m. As the altitude increases, the species suffers the reduction of size or are substituted by smaller species.
In the lower altitudes the secondary forests predominate, among the *quaresmeiras* (Tibouchina granulosa (Desr.) Cogn.), *fedegãos* (Senna macranthera (Collard) H.S. Inwin & Barneby), *pau-jacaré* (Piptadenia gonacantha (Mart.) LF&Macbr.) and *ocropias* (Cecropia sp.) are very common. This secondary vegetation occurs about 1.000 m of altitude, with stretches of native forest where species of up to 30 m height are found, and among them we can highlight caribinha (Cariniana sp.),

cedrus (Cedrela fissilis Vell.), paroba (Aspidosperma sp.) and Bahia rosewood (Dalbergia violacea (Jacq.) Hoffegg).

Around 2.000 m, in the accidental areas of the plateau, the vegetation is rural in the highest altitudes. In the Atlantic hillside we can highlight the Paraná pine (Araucaria angustifolia (Bertol.) Kuntze) and maritime pine (Podocarpus lamberti Klotzsch ex Endl).

The fauna is lush, with a record of more than 350 species of birds, 50.000 of arthropods, 50 mammals and 60 frogs, and many of these species are endemic to this park or the highlands of the Serra da Mantiqueira. Among the animal species of the park there are southern muriqui (Brachyletes arachnoides), the largest neotropical primate, marmosets (Callithrix aurita), jaguar (Panthera onca), cougar (Puma concolor), maned wolf (Cryptoprocta brachyurus) and black-fronted piping gnat (Pipile jactingia), all rare animals and threatened with extinction. There is also, among the mammalian, a large quantity of sloths (Bradypus variegatus), black capuchins (Cebus nigritus nigritus), black-fronted tit monkeys (Callicebus nigritus) and others (Lontra longicaudis). In the bird fauna, we can highlight the solitary tinamou (Tinamus solitarius), great tinamou (Crypturellus obsoletus), guans (Penelope obscura), plumbeous pigeon (Columba plumbea) and red-capped Parrot (Pteropitatis platana). Among the reptiles, in addition to the poisonous snakes, *Forsyeca's lancehead* (Bothrops fonscolombei), there is the occurrence of boa constrictor (Constrictor constrictor) and gold tegu (Tupinambis teguina).

In July and from December to March, there is a considerable influx of tourists to the park, which offers varied infrastructure to receive them: from mountain huts and campsites in the most distant points, as in the upper part or in the crossings, until a visitor center with an auditorium, maquette and interpretive exhibits. The area surrounding the park has abundant and varied hotel and food infrastructure, highlighting the resorts, *Serra da Mantiqueira* and *Alto do Mauá*. The access is easy, because they are already near to Dutra highway (BR-116), in the middle way between the cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Only to arrive at Agulhas Negras, you must take the Rio-Camãibi highway (BR-354) from Dutra highway and go straight to Itamonte (MG).

Restinga de Jurubatuba National Park

Location: Rio de Janeiro, municipalities of Macaé, Carapebus and Quissamã
Foundation Date: April 29th, 1998, by Federal Decree without any number
Area: 14.922 ha
Climate: predominance of sub-humid-dry with a great excess of water in Summer; megathermal, with a heat well distributed during the whole world
Temperatures: minimum average of 20,7°C and maximum average of 26,2°C, comprising the average annually of 23,5°C
Rains: lower intensity in June (average of 53,9 mm) and greater intensity in December (181,6 mm), with a year of 1.177 mm
Land Relief: fluvial and marine plains

Founded on April 1998, the park occupies an area of 14.922 ha of lands in a region previously habitated by Goytacazes Indians, of known warlike tradition. It is located between the municipalities of Macaé, Carapebus and Quissamã, northeast of the State of Rio de Janeiro, and it is simultaneously extended to the beach for 44 km. Its maximum length is 4,8 km in the east side (channel of Utubatubá/ Lagoa Feia), and 2 km in the west side, beside the Lagoa Cubárias, comprising a circumference of 123 km.

It comprises in its totality 18 ponds, in addition to lagoons and brackish and freshwater swamps, comprising Brazilian ecosystems which are not very known, with ten types of physiognomic formations: graminoid beach formation - halophytic and psammophila reptant; post-beach formation - post-beach close shrubby; open clusia shrub formation; open ericaeous shrubs formation of Ericaecae; cardbank forest formation, periodically flooded; paludosa forest formation; forest permanently flooded; sandy cord formation; open shrubby formation of Areaceae; graminoid formation, with marshy shrubs: herbaceous and aquatic formation. Thus, we are find from common plants to plants from northeast hinterland and other ones which are common to Amazonian forest. Among trees as *herberdenia excelsa* (Ermottum nitens (Benth.) Miers), *cacajeta* (Tabebuia cassianoides (Lam.) DC.), the yellow and among

others, orchids and bromeliads, Brazilian cherry trees (Eugenia uniflora L.) and cashew tree grow in this ecological paradise, we can see many animal species, as the broad-snouted caiman (Caiman latirostris), otocel (Leopardus pardalis), southern tamandua (Myrmecophaga tridactyla), bush dogs (Cerdocyon thous), caybara (Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris), otter (Lontra longicaudis), red brown Amazon (Amazona flobrocytoris) (already extinct in other sandbanks), white-faced whistling-duck (Dendrocygna viduata), white-cheeked pintail, comb duck (Sarkidiomys sylvicola), tropical mockingbird (Mimus gilvus annectans) (probably endemic), and over than 60 species of fishes, in addition to micro-crustaceans. There are also, there, endemic species of butterflies as the Menander felina and the beautiful fluminense swallowtail (Parides ascanius), resident and migratory aquatic birds, as the massifs of various species, and small free populations, maguari stork (Ardea coccyz), limpkins (Aramus guarauna), common gallinule (Porphyrio martinica), wattled jacanas (Jacana jacana), hawks, and Brazilian stork (Esemura magara).

In 1844, it was initiated, in the region, the construction of an artificial channel which connects Campos dos Goytacazes to Macaé, with the purpose to low the goal the agricultural production in that important city of North of Rio de Janeiro State by train, in a distance of 104 km. This construction took 27 years to be concluded, with the use of slave labor, but the construction of the railroad in the region caused an abandonment of the channel after four years of use. Still today, this is the second largest artificial canal of the world in extension is used only in irrigation for farms along the way and inside the park for ecotourism.

Sempre Vivas National Park

Location: Minas Gerais, municipalities of Ohos d'Água, Bocaina, Buenópolis and Diamantina
Foundation Date: December 13th, 2002, by a federal decree without number
Area: 124.000 ha
Climate: altitude tropical
Temperatures: annual average of 20°C
Rainfall: average annual rainfall ranging from 1.250 to 1.500 mm
Relief: mountain range geographical formation

The Sempre-Vivas National Park was created on December 13th, 2002, an effort to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and natural resources. With an area of approximately 124,000 hectares it covers the municipalities of Diamantina, Bocaina, Buenópolis and Ohos d'água. Inserted in the Espinhaço Serra, it is the watershed of the São Francisco and Jequitinhonha basins in northern Minas Gerais.

The Park was considered by the World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF and the International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN as one of the centers of plant diversity of Brazil, due to its high degree of endemism. The conservation area is home to 30% of amphibian species from the Serra do Espinhaço, of which 7% are endemic. The Park is also home to 24% of all birds of the State of Minas Gerais and 40% of the large mammals of the Cerrado, thus, emphasizing the importance for the conservation of this area for flora and fauna populations.

In July 2005, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) recognized the Serra do Espinhaço as a Biosphere Reserve, which includes a series of protected areas between Federal, State and Municipal areas, among them the largest Integral Protection Unit is the Sempre Vivas National Park. In 2010 it was created the Mosaic of Espinhaço Protected Areas: Alto Jequitinhonha – Serra do Cabral, also including the Sempre Vivas National Park. The park is located in the Cerrado Biome, suffering influences of the Atlantic Forest and Caatinga biomes, comprising heterogeneous landscapes that accompany the variations in altitude, climate and soil. With the major vegetation component being the rocky fields, characteristic of high altitudes, with the occurrence of small flowers, mostly family of Ericoalúcea, which give name to the Park, the evergreens (Sempre-Vivas).This region is the largest center of endemism of evergreens, as 80% of the species occurring in Brazil are endemic of Espinhaço.

The Park has a rich drainage network with about 600 springs, we also highlight the presence of beautiful waterfalls that result from the combination of the drainage network with the terrain slope. The

unit also has the attractive occurrence of cave paintings in its interior L1 and several trails used since the nineteenth century, with great tourism potential.

Serra da Bocaina National Park

Location: Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, municipalities of Angra dos Reis, Paraty (RJ), and São José do Barrois, Araruama, Cordeia and Utubatubá (SP)
Foundation Date: February 4th, 1971, enlarged by Federal Decree N° 68.172
Area: 110.000 ha
Climate: tropical humid under-warm, with three dry months
Temperatures: annual average of 21°C, absolute maximum of 38°C and minimum absolute of 6°C negative
Rains: between 1.250 and 2.500 mm annually
Land Relief: mountainous

Located in Serra do Mar, Serra da Bocaina National Park presents peculiar characteristics, because around the Park the mountain lies on Atlantic ocean, forming multiples landscapes. The altitudes ranges from the sea level (marine area) up to 2,088 m, where the high point of the peak is located, Tira-Chapéu peak. To the south, the park comprises sandy beaches, a bay and an ocean island in the region of Trindade. In the direction of north region, in the level of the plateau of Bocaina Mountain, it comprises deep and outlined valleys vales, to reach a wide area of fields, with altitudes higher than 1.800 m, where grand rounded masses appear.

Dominated by the dense Atlantic forest, the vegetation is constituted in the lowest part, up to 500 m of altitude, from medium trees, which rarely surpass 20 m. Among the species found we can cita *pau-de-tucano* (Nochya tinamou Mart.), *baguacu* (Talauma ovata A. St.-Hil.) and *Cinnamom* (Nectandra sp. and *Ocotea* sp.), in addition to heart of palm (Euterpe edulis Mart.) and cocopia (Cecropia sp.). Above 500 m, in montane dense Atlantic forest, there are the maritime pine (Podocarpus lamberti Klotzsch ex Endl.), red oil (Myrciylon sp.), cedrus (Cedrela fissalis Vell.), *açotia-cavalo* (Luehea divaricata Mart.) and *birá-Payé* (Myrcarpus frondosus Allman), among other species. And, above 1.900 m, the native fields with characteristic graminoid vegetation, *vassourinha-do-campo* (Mircolicia isophylla DC.) and *sempre-viva* da Serra (Paspalanthus polyanthus (Bongard) Kunth).

The fauna is representative of this part of the Atlantic forest, especially among the large mammal predators such as cougar (*Puma concolor*), several species of endangered primates, from buffy-tufted marmoset (*Callithrix aurita*) to the woolly spider monkey (*Brachyletes arachoides*) largest primate in the Americas and deer (*Mazama ssp.*), South American tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), caebriões hedgehogs (*Sphignus spp.*), sloths (*Bradypus spp.*) and rodents. Some species of birds threatened with extinction and which need large extensions find shelter in the park, as harpy eagle (Harpya harpyja), black hawk-eagle (Spizaetus tyrannus) and ornate hawk-eagle (Spizaetus ornatus). We can also see black-fronted piping gnat (Pipile jactingia), red-capped parrot (Pteropitatis platana) and solitary tinamou (Tinamus solitarius), in addition to the colored channel-billed toucan (Ramphastos vitellinus).

In the implementation phase, the park has been focusing its efforts on consolidating its main tourist attractions. The beaches in Trindade, which currently receive a visitation close to 200,000 people each year, receive much of the attention, aiming to recover natural environments impacted by a highly seasonal mass visitation that generates so social impacts to the local calcium community.

The road Paraty-Cunha goes through environmental licensing to receive paving, tourist structures and food control in the work of state government. Other areas, such as the Fed da Macela viewpoint, where you have one of the most beautiful views of the Brazilian coast, and Mambucaba Path, long crossing linking the city of São Paulo, São José do Barrois, Angra dos Reis, through primary forest and some of the largest and most beautiful waterfalls in the country, also receive consolidation efforts.

Serra da Canastra National Park

Location: Minas Gerais, comprising the municipalities of São Roque de Minas, Sacramento, Delфинópolis, Varginha Bonta, Capitólio and S. J. Batista do Glória.

Foundation Date: April 3rd, 1972, by Federal Decree N° 70355
Area: 197.787 ha
Climate: tropical, humid under-warm, with four to five dry months
Temperatures: annual average from 18 to 20°C, absolute maximum from 34 to 35°C and absolute minimum of 4°C negative
Rains: between 1.500 and 1.750 mm annually
Land Relief: wavy

The Serra da Canastra National Park is a typical watershed. In Canastra Chapadão there is the division of three watersheds, and obviously one of its striking features is the presence of springs, among which stand out: São Francisco River’s, the Araguani River’s and Santo Antônio River’s, tributary of the Rio Grande. In their fields, São Francisco River runs about 14 km from its historical source to reach the Serra da Canastra Cliff, where it forms the Casca d’Água waterfall. With three falls and about 200 m tall in total, this waterfall is today one of the major attractions of the park.

The relief of the area is characterized by plateaus – where Canastra highlights. What is called Chapadão da Babóinha is actually a series of plateaus and valleys of immense beauty from the region of Sete Voltas to west, the municipality of Delфинópolis, to Fecho da Serra, at east of the municipality of Capitólio. The valley formed between these units begins in what is called the Coelhos Valley and then Cândido’s Valley or Gap. At the Chapadão da Canastra there is the culmination point at the top of Serra Brava, with 1,496 m of altitude.

The vegetation of the park is typical of cerrado of Center Brazil, with the occurrence of grasslands in the highest parts. And there we can highlight the wolf apple (Solanum lycocarpum A. St.-Hil.), leirera (Curatella americana L.), souari nut (Cayocac brasiliense Cambess.) and *pau-de-cofer* (Salvetaria conwallieroides A. St.-Hil.). Although the pollution of animals is reduced, it is very significant in Central Brazil. There species officially threatened with extinction, as giant armadillo (Priodontes giganteus), giant anteater (Myrmecophaga tridactyla) and maned wolf (Cryptoprocta brachyurus), which find in the park the appropriate shelter.

Other mammals which habit the area are crab-eating frog (Cercodon thous), otter (Lontra sp.), gray brocket deer (Mazama gouazoubira), howler monkeys (Alouatta fusca), robust capuchin monkey (Cebus apella) and raccoon (Procyon cancrivorus). Among the birds, the greater reea (Rhea americana) stands out because of its size, we can also see numerous specimen of green-and-rufous kingfisher (Chloroceryle inda), lucano-tytu (Ramphastos toco), chestnut bellied seed finch (Oryzoborus angolensis) and saffron finch (Sicalia flaveola). Regardless of the easy access through paved roads from Belo Horizonte and São Paulo, the park does not have an infrastructure to accommodate the visitors yet.

Serra do Cipó National Park

Location: Minas Gerais, municipalities of Jabotocabas, Santana do Riacho, Morro do Pilar and Itambé do Mato Dentro
Foundation Date: September 25th, 1984, by Federal Decree N° 90223
Area: 33.300 ha
Climate: tropical, under-humid warm, with four to five dry months
Temperatures: annual average of 20°C to 22°C, absolute maximum of 38°C and absolute minimum of 0°C
Rains: between 1.900 and 1.750 mm annually
Relief: Relief extremely diverse, consisting of fat valleys, softly undulating plateaus, highly hilly slopes and strongly wavy to hilly variations

Serra do Cipó is located in the south part of the Espinhaço massif, a mountain range which extends from Ouro Preto (MG) to Juazeiro (BA). This mountain was known from Vazcára at the time of the Bandeirantes, which used to pass through the mountain in their excursions to go to the regions producing diamonds – the village of Serro Frio and Jequitucum, current cities of Serro and Diamantina.

Founded in 1984 to protect the catchment of Cipó, Serra do Cipó National Park occupies an area of 33.800 ha inside APA – Area of Environmental Protection Moro da Pedreira, founded six years later, in 1990, to protect part of Cadorna do Espinhaço, Morro da Pedreira, archeological sites, vegetal coverage, wild fauna and springs existent there. It comprises areas of the municipalities of Jabotocabas,

Santana do Stream, Morro do Pilar and Itambé do Mato Dentro. The geological history of Serra do Cipó date back to 1,700 millions of years, still in the Precambrian period when the whole region were in the deep of an ocean and its rocks were formed by the deposition of marine origin material.

Nowadays, the region, whose altitudes ranges between 700 and 1,700 m, has a tropical climate, semi-humid warm, with mild summers and well defined dry season.

Three different vegetation sets can be found there: gallery forests, which are predominant in the valleys, along rivers courses, and have a large quantity of leafy trees; forests of cerrado fields, identified by low and twisted trees, and others as rance (Bysonomia verticillifolia (L.) DC.) and *pau-terra* (Qualea grandiflora Mart.); and rupestrian fields or altitude fields, located above 900 m, well protected and permanently crossed by rivers and streams.

With the foundation of the park, the protection of an own species of Serra do Cipó, the canela-de-ema (Nictaca presiana L.B. Sin.) became possible, over which grows a rare and exotic type of orchid (Constantia cipoensis Porto & Brade).

The fauna is varied, and includes some species threatened with extinction, as maned wolf (Cryptoprocta brachyurus), a slender reddish-brown caracim, the bush dog (Speothos venustus), a small wild animal, giant anteater (Myrmecophaga tridactyla) pampas deer (Mazama gouazoubira), cougar (Puma concolor) and margay (Panthera pardalis). Entre the amphibians, the curious and multicolored dufon frog (Phylllobates flaviventris) and the curious and greenish-gray frog (Eleutherodactylus) are also present. At 100 km of Belo Horizonte, through MG-010 highway, the park still does not provide an infrastructure, which can, however, be used in the nearest proximities, as Lagoa Santa and Vespasiano.

Serra dos Órgãos National Park

Location: Rio de Janeiro, municipalities of Petrópolis, Petrópolis, Guapimirim and Miraflores
Foundation date: November 30th, 1939, by Federal Decree N° 1822
Area: 20,024 ha
Climate: humid warm, tropical, with two or more dry months
Temperatures: annual average of 16°C, absolute maximum from 36 to 38°C and absolute minimum from 5 to 0°C
Rains: higher than 2.000 mm annually
Land Relief: mountainous

Located in Serra do Mar, in the highest part and with steep slopes, Serra dos Órgãos is characterized by accidental topography and huge different levels, dominated by peaks, walls and slopes dated from superior Proterozoic age (420 to 500 millions of years). The local altitudes range from 80 to 2,263 m, where we can find the high point, the Pedra do Sino.

It was formed in ecological in very old geological areas, the rocks of Serra do Mar suffered in the region current movements, which resulted in the huge wall which pass through the coast plains towards the city of Rio de Janeiro. In the top of this wall, the unmistakable Dedo de Deus is located, a rocky bloc of 1,692 m with the shape of a closed hand with index finger raised and from where, in dry days, the city of Rio de Janeiro can be sighted. Others of its important geological monuments are the Garrafão, with 1,980 m, Pedra do Cruz, with 2,130 m, São Pedro, with 2,234 m, São João, with 2,100 m and Cara de Cão with 2,180 m.

The park has the soil crosses by a notable hydrographic network, represented by the Paquetae, Bela-Flo, Soborão and Icocha rivers, and it includes a dense forest, with various environments. Among the secondary vegetation, the palm trees dominate, and in attitudes up to 500 m, there is the occurrence of heart of palm (Euterpe edulis Mart.), pindobombas (Geonoma spp.), axim (Dicksonia sellowiana Hook.) and cocopia (Cecropia sp.).

In the called montane forest, between altitudes of 500 and 1,500 m, the vegetation reaches about 25 m, and then species as babassu palm (Talauma ovata A. St.-Hil.), jequitóbia (Caniãnia excelsa), cinnamon (Ocotea sp. and Nectandra sp.) and canela-santa (Nochya biflata Wurm.). This last one admired by its yellow flowering, are found. And above 2.000 m, the vegetation is mainly represented by tree grasses and species which grow about rocks.

It constitutes one of the last shelters of the region and has a rich and diversified fauna. We can observe the group of nassaus (*Nasua nasua*) and southern tamanduas (*Mylodonphaga tridactyla*) and agoutis (*Dasyprocta azarae*). There are also large carnivore predators, as the cougar (*Puma concolor*), threatened with extinction. Among the birds threatened with extinction are the buffy-fronted seedeater (*Sporophila frontalis*), grey-winged colaptes (*Tijupa condita*), black-fronted piping guan (*Aburiria jacquinxi*). And also may be seen the saffron toucanet (*Pteroglossus ballouii*), creating a beautiful contrast with the vegetation. At 90 km of Rio de Janeiro, or less than two hours by highway, the headquarters of the park in Teresópolis receives every year a great number of visitors. The main access is by the road which connects Teresópolis to Guapimirim. In Teresópolis, Guapimirim and, even, in the neighbor city Petrópolis, there is a complete infrastructure to receive the visitor.

Tijuca National Park

Location: city of Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
Foundation Date: July 6th, 1951, by Federal Decree N° 50923
Area: 3,953 ha
Climate: tropical, humid warm, with one to two dry months
Temperatures: annual average from 22 to 24°C, absolute maximum from 38 to 40°C and absolute minimum from 4 to 8°C
Rains: between 1,250 and 1,500 mm annually
Land relief: mountainous

Nowadays, who contemplates the beauty and exuberance of Tijuca forest – the largest urban forest of the world, located in the center of the city of Rio de Janeiro – does not imagine that place already was entirely devastated; the forest was cut down to extract noble woods and to plant sugar cane and coffee.

It was during the nineteenth century, in the Empire, and resulted in a huge ecological disaster. The city, then, starts to suffer with the lack of drinking water, because the springs started to dry after the loss of vegetal protection.

In 1862, at the height of the problem, D. Pedro II – who has an acute ecological perception for his time – ordered the reforestation of the whole region. Thousands of trees of hundreds of species were planted, including trees which were brought from other countries. With the increasing of the vegetation and the advance of the forest above the old farms existent there, many of them became ruins that still today can be found joint to streams and waterfalls.

Tijuca National Park, in its 3,953 ha, has a dense sample of Atlantic forest, with more than 1,800 different vegetal species distributed in the formation of valleys and mountains. We can found there Jacarandás (*Machaerium villosum* Vogt), common walnut (*Juglans regia* L.), ceceopias (*Cecropia* spp.), peps (*Tabebuia* spp.), *ibira-pavé* (*Mycoporus fontosus* Allemão), *iber* herbatum minor (*Erythroyllum pulchrum* A.S.Hil.), and even an introduced species, not native in the region – eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.), jacifruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) and paraná pine (*Arcautia angustifolia* (Bertol.) Kuntze). There are still the *quearesmeias* (*Tibouchina granulosa* (Desr.) Cogn.) of purple flowering, *aleluis-ámaraviva* (*Senna multijuga* (Rich.) H.S. Gwinn & Barnsby) and *ipês-amaraviva-do-brço* (*Tabebuia umbellata* (Sond.) Sandwith), in addition to numerous and rare species of orchids, as *Renalmelia chrysothrix*a Petersen, harvested only twice in the last century.

Inside the park, there are also more than 230 species of animals and birds, as robust capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*), agouti (*Dasyprocta azarae*), nassa (*Nasua nasua*), tayra (Eira barbara), raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*), crab-eating fox (*Cercopithecus* tatus) and the night owl Brazilian rabbit (*Syllagagus brasiliensis*). In general, the small birds are represented, among others, by hummingbirds (*Melanerhynchus fusces*) and the small reddish Hermit (*Phaethon rubricauda*). From April, it can be heard the singing of seven-colored tanager (*Chlorophixa caudata*) and, in august, from various robins-bellied thrush (*Turdus* spp.). We can also find the Plain Parakeet (*Brotogeris tirica*), the really rare brown-backed parrotlet (*Forst. melanocentra*) and motmots (*Baryphengus ruficapillus*), which build the nest on the ravines. Other animal species, as cougar (*Puma concolor*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*),

tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), collared peccary (*Tayassu pecan*) and deer, to cite the main, were extinct in the region.

With a mountainous land relief, comprising the mountains of Têe Rio, da Caricoca and Pedra da Góveia, the altitudes range from 80 m, in the background of Jardim Botânico, up to 1,021 m on Tijuca peak. There are in Tijuca more than 200 trails, which take to streams and waterfalls, grottos, rocky formations and observatories – as Dona Marta, Bela Vista and Vista Chinesa – from where there are stunning panoramic views. The most known attractions of the Tijuca National Park are Cascatinha, Mesa do Imperador, Gávea rock and Corcovado, where the statue of Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) is located, the postal card of the city.

For people who like strong emotions, Bonita rock, with 696 m height, offers a great natural ramp to practice free flights. And the climbers may reach the Gávea rock (842 m), Tijuca peak (1,021 m) or even the Corcovado (704 m) by many ways.

Northeast

Abrolhos Marine National Park

Location: south coast of Bahia State, near the municipalities of Alcobaca and Caravelas
Foundation Date: April 6th, 1983, by Federal decree N° 88218
Area: 88,249 ha
Climate: tropical, warm humid.
Temperatures: annual average from 22 to 24°C, absolute maximum from 36 to 38°C and absolute minimum from 8 to 12°C
Rains: between 1,750 and 2,000 mm annually
Land relief: rugged

Founded in 1983, Abrolhos Marine National Park – the first marine park of Brazil – is located in the south of the State of Bahia, around 70 km from the coast, and is constituted by the extension of the continental shelf, which extends for more than 200 km beyond the coast. This shelf presents extensive underwater plateaus with an average depth of 200 m, but which emerge on the surface in numerous points, due to its formations of numerous coral reefs, turning the navigation in the region extremely dangerous. And derived from this fact, comes the name of the archipelago, since in old navigational charts its presence was pointed out by the observation "abra os olhos" (open the eyes). The access to the archipelago may be done by crendentialized motorboat (3h average journey), from Caravelas, a city located 950 km from the capital city Salvador in the coast of Bahia State. When the strong wind blows, departures may be postponed.

The archipelago is constituted by five island of volcanic formation: Santa Bárbara, Siriba, Redonda, Sueste and Guarita, resulting from activities which occurred 50 million years ago. Of these, only four – Siriba, with an area of 3 ha; Redonda, with a diameter of 400 m and 36 m of altitude; Guarita, with an extension of 100 m and 13 m of altitude; and Sueste, with 10 ha. and 15 m of altitude – are inside the limits of the park, which occupies an area of about 266 square nautical miles, divided in distinct portions and among them the channel of Abrolhos is located, a corridor for the boats. The largest area, with 233.60 square nautical miles, comprises four of the islands of the archipelago; the smaller one, with 32.35 square nautical miles, comprises the reefs of Timbebas.

The unique island in which the tourist can land, Siriba, with about 300 m length per 100 de width and reaches 16 m of altitude. The visitation is guided and limited to restrict spaces, to not affect the vegetation of huge of masked boobies of the archipelago, which live there.

The huge quantity of birds in the area of the park, by the way, attracted the attention of the British naturalist Charles Darwin, who had been there in 1830 to study. These birds used the park as a point of support in their migrations or even to procreate, since there were a great number of fishes there. By the abrupt cliff walls, grottos or open field, the most frequent species are the black noddy (*Anous stolidus*), masked booby (*Sula dactylatra*), brown booby (*Sula leucogaster*), red-billed tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*), magnificent frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) and sooty tern (*Sterna fuscata*).

With its plumage of dark soot and white forehead, the black noddy hides the eggs and babies in small grottos of Guata Island. The masked booby, with white, prefers Siriba island, while magnificent frigatebird is limited to Redonda island.

The five islands, disposed in semi-circle, are, probably, remainder of the crater of a very old Vulcan and shelter one of the biggest and most spectacular complexes of coral reefs of South Atlantic. With more than twenty species, and of which seven only exist in Brazil. The most surprising species is known as "cheapeiro", a formation with appearance of a mushroom or brain (*Massinilla brasiliensis*), and which reaches up to 20 m height, where it is hidden a great variety of fishes – barracudas, whitng pring, parrot fishes, French angelfishes, jawfishes, eels, morays, snappers, sharks and an infinity of others, small and colored fishes. Actually, almost all kind of fishes which inhabit the South Atlantic can be found there, since the region became an immense nursery. Beyond these ones, it is common the presence in the region of turtles – three of the five marine species existent in Brazil, hawksbill sea turtle, leatherback turtle, and green sea turtle, are found there – and dolphins, not to mention whales – humpback whale which, between July and November, arrive there and remain to reproduce and feed their babies, away from the severe Antarctic Winter. They came in big quantity – between 1,500 to 1,800 per season – mainly, in the months of August and September.

The green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), go to the beach for the spawn. Aquatic mammals, as humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) – great attraction for visitors – appear from June to December to procreate. There are also several varieties of molluscs and crustaceans in the proximities. Beyond the islands, the National Park also includes the Parcel dos Abrolhos and Recife dos Timbebas. In their transparent waters and with mild temperature (oscillating between 22 and 24°C), the diversity of the fauna and the presence of shipwrecks make the region one of the best locales of the world to diving practice, both free and autonomous. The best points to dive are the wags of Santa Bárbara Island, the caves of Siribas and between the wrecks of Rosalina freighter.

The park provides a center of visitors, with a greater flow of tourists in Summer, and the access to it is from the cities of Caravelas.

Alto Cariri National Park

Location: Bahia, municipality of Guatambu
Foundation Date: June 11th, 2010
Area: 39,264 ha
Climate: Tropical
Temperatures: annual average of 24°C
Rains: rainfall of 800 mm annually
Land relief: rugged, with altitudes higher than 1,000 meters

The Alto Cariri National Park is a Federal Unit of Conservation formed by a complex of rocky mountains separated by deep valleys, in an area that is home to the last set of large fragments of Atlantic Forest of the eastern region of southern and northeastern Bahia. The main objectives of the park are to preserve the complex of mountain of Alto Cariri, formed by continuous significant remnant of the Atlantic Forest, maintain and restore watersheds and waterways. Ensure the maintenance of viable populations of species of mammals and endangered birds, especially the northern muriqui (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*), animal symbol of the Atlantic Forest, present on the National List of Species of the Endangered Brazilian Fauna, in the situation of critically endangered.

Another objective is to enable the development of activities of environmental education and interpretation, recreation in touch with nature and eco-tourism, and the development of scientific research.

The landscape of the massif of the Alto Cariri, where the park is, has three structuring geographical factors: altitude, latitude and influence of the sea. The altitude of the mountains creates a barrier to precipitation from the sea, making the CU region be much more humid compared to Jequiinhonha Valley.

The vegetation of the Park protects remnants of Atlantic Forest and associated ecosystems, located in the mountainous region, being moist and dominated by dense mountain rain forest. As the humidity decreases westward, the semi-deciduous forest gradually comes to

dominate. On the tops of the highest and steep hills occur rocky fields, on rocky outcrops, where the forest has enormous diversity of species, especially of bromeliads, orchids, ferns and casti groups.

Species of plants belonging to eleven endemic genus of Atlantic forest were found, and they are: Alcantarea, Canistrum, Nidularium and Portea (Bromeliáceas), Nematanthus (Gesneriáceas), Ornithophora and Pognonopsis (Orchidaceae), Eremitea (Poáceas) and Atheneaa, Aureliana and Dysochroa (Colombiáceas).

It is estimated the vegetal group of Alto Cariri represents around 7.3% of the total of 150 endemic genus of Atlantic Forest. Preliminary data also estimate that more than 50% of local flora is endemic of Atlantic forest and rest of wide distribution in other biomes or directly related to the Amazon flora.

Leaving Porto Seguro by BR-367, take the BR-101 in Euapólis towards Itabela. In Itabela, follow a route of 25 km paved by the BA-283 to the town of Guatambu, an unpaved road to Monte Alegre, passing by São João do Saí District, approximately 30 km to the south of the park.

Boa Nova National Park

Location: grotto, municipalities of Boa Nova, Dário Meira and Manoel Vitorino
Foundation Date: June 11th, 2010
Area: 12,065 ha
Climate: tropical with a dry season
Temperatures: annual average of 18°C
Rains: rainfall between 600 mm and 1,500 mm annually
Land relief: strongly wavy, with altitudes ranging between 350 and 1,130 m

Located in the southeast of the state of Bahia is located in an area of transition between Atlantic Forest and Caatinga, comprising the lands of the municipalities of Boa Nova, Dário Meira and Manoel Vitorino. The Park has a great water potential. Comprising a beautiful group of springs, water courses, rivers and waterfalls, its preservation is essential not only for the health of the environment but also for the supply of Boa Nova and the neighbor municipalities.

The main objective of Boa Nova, however, is to protect and promote the regeneration of the natural ecosystems existent in the area, characterized by typical vegetal coverage of transition between the Atlantic Forest and Caatinga biomes, specially the "liana forest". This is the habitat of the endangered slender antbird (*Rhopomis ardesiacus*), one of the rarest birds of Brazil and which can be seen in Boa Nova. For this reason, it became the symbol of the Park. The landscape of park is really varied with an immense heterogeneity of habitats, characteristic of zone of contact among two or more biomes. But it is observed that the vegetal physiognomies in the protected area are presented in parallel strips, from west to east, in the following ordination: caatinga, liana forest, montane ombrophilous forest and semideciduous forest of low lands.

Since the mid-1990s, a long time before the foundation of the Park, thus, the region became famous among ornithologists because of the huge richness of its bird fauna: there are more than 430 species registered by the moment, and some of them are threatened with extinction and others are endemic.

It is also very often the visitation of bird watchers tourists, which took the population to create the slogan for the city: "Boa Nova, Paradise of Birds". The whole region in which Boa Nova National Park is located – as well as the region of Serra das Lontras, in the south of Bahia – was considered an "Important Bird Area" (IBA) by Bird Life International and by SAVE Brazil (Sociedade para a Conservação das Aves do Brasil – Society for Birds Conservation of Brazil), requiring an operation of primary protection.

Leaving from Salvador by BR-324, follow towards the city of Feira de Santana. Then, along Av. do Contorno to have access to BR-116 highway, going towards south. In the junction with BA-030 highway, which crosses the Park, goes until arriving in the city of Boa Nova.

Area: 62,300 ha
Climate: tropical semi-arid
Temperatures: annual average of 23°C
Rains: 650 a 1,050 mm annually
Land relief: soft to wavy highlighting the onset of hinterland depression with presence of large sandstone mountains, with several local denominations

The region of Catimbuá, located in the São Francisco River Basin, around 290 km of Recife, in the transition area between agreste and hinterland of Pernambuco State, is extended between the municipalities of Buíque, Ibirimir and Tupanatinga, hinterland of Matoá, and is considered as "An Area of Extreme Biological Importance" because of its biodiversity in the caatinga biome. To preserve this ecosystem, as well as the geological complex of mountain existent there, the park was founded in 2002, with an area of 62.300 ha.

In Catimbu area, between walls of sandstone and rock formations sculptured by the erosion during the last 150 million years, were already identified almost thirty archeological sites with rupestrian paintings, in the Agreste and Nordeste tradition and artifacts of human occupation, which date more than 5,000 years. Among these sites, the Alcobaca stands out because of its grandeur and archeological wealth. Located around 20 km from the head office of the municipality of Buíque, the Alcobaca site is located in a rock wall with an aspect of embankment. There, we can find rupestrian paintings made with diverse techniques by several ethnic groups, which lived in the region in different ages. These paintings occupy and area with about 60 m of extension and from two to three meters width.

The park region comprises a significant landscape and cultural heritage. Its main attraction is the Catimbuá Valley, whose area impresses by its grandeur, beauty and geological formations carved by erosion.

One of the features of park is its mysticism. For many, the place exudes a different energy, a factor relevant to the tourism activities at the site. The valley has many attractions: the presence of indigenous communities, archeological areas, together with hills as Serra de Jerusalém, Serra do Alcobaca (second largest wall of rock art in the country), Serra dos Breus and Serra da Torre, to name only the most important.

The climate, in the park, is semi-arid tropical, with an annual average temperature of 23°C and the average rainfall is from 650 to 1,100 mm annually. The predominant vegetation is typical of caatinga, which is characterized by the loss of leaves in the periods of drought. However, due to variations of land relief and microclimate, are also found in the park species of cerrado, rupestrian fields and Atlantic forest, besides caatinga *stricto sensu*. What deserves attention is the presence, impressive, of endemic shrubby-arboreal specimen of the vegetation of rupestrian fields of Chapada Diamantina (Bahia and Minas Gerais states). It is common the occurrence of bromeliad and cactus in the whole area, as well as babassu palm and morche palm in the Catimbuá Valley.

In Catimbuá, more than 150 species of birds are known, as the godfinch-endemic bird threatened with extinction of Brazilian northeast -, red-shouldered sparrowtail and woodpecker - both endemic of caatinga - in addition to tittle macaws, picatura pigmão (Patagonias picatura), canaries, parrots and other birds which are common in the hinterland.

Other endemic animals: striped-lava lizard (*Tropidurus semitaeniatus*) and Kluge's owl gecko (*Lygodactylus klugei*). Among the endemic species, there can be highlighted the yellow-faced siskin (*Cantusela yarelli*), the roadside hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), and the slate-colored hawk (*Leucopetetes schistaceus*). We can also highlight the white-tailed golden thrush, the roadside hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*), the white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), and the black-chested buzzard eagle (*Geranoastur melanoleucus*).

Chapada das Mesas National Park

Location: Maranhão, municipalities of Carolina, Riachão and Estreito
Foundation Date: January 12th, 2005
Area: 160,046 ha
Climate: Tropical with two well defined seasons: a dry (from June to October) and a rainy (from November to May) season
Temperatures: Between 26 and 28°C, with a lower temperature in the month of July of about 20°C

Rains: annual average is about 1,600 mm, concentrated in the months from November to April
Land relief: sandstone hills in shapes of tables and numerous grotto, vesedas and streams

Chapada das Mesas National Park protects an untouched area of Cerrado and extremely threatened with the big pressure of the expansion of the agricultural and metalwork frontier which has been recently happening in the lands of Maranhão.

Located in the south of the state of Maranhão, the Park shelters more than 400 water springs, which are important for the supply of North-Northeast of Brazil, specially the basins of Tocantins and Paraíba. The main water courses of Chapada das Mesas are Fariña river, located in the North portion, and Itapecuru river, in south portion. The whole region of Chapada das Mesas is internationally recognized by its touristic potential, being famous for its numerous waterfalls of limpid Waters and with an agreeable temperature during the whole year. The touristic attractions are many, even out of the limits of the Park, such as Pedra Caida Waterfall, Encanto Anil, Santa Bárbara Waterfall, Portal da Chapada, among 20 others.

Although the visitation is not officially opened, the Chapada das Mesas National Park has attractions explored for tourism for many years; the waterfalls of São Rômulo and Prata, both in Farinha River.

The characteristic vegetation of park is typical of Cerrado. There we find the diverse and varied phyto-physionomies of the biome, such as: campo sujo (grasslands with the presence of some shrubs), grasslands, cerrado (Brazilian savannah), cerrado ("high savannah"), formation that more resembles a forest and veredas (vegetal formation of cerrado) on the sides of the rivers, with the presence of extensive monche palmains (groups of monche palm *Mauritia flexuosa*).

The "mesas" are hills of high altitude which became flat on top because of the action of the time and erosion, forming high tablelands covered by an exotic vegetation of Cerrado and where there are the waterfalls. Chapada das Mesas is constituted by a range of rock formations such as: Chapéu Hill, Dedo Hill, Gavião Hill, Portal da Chapada, Macoço Hill and many others, composing scenery of great beauty. For being a region not very studied there is not a proof of animals species which circulate there yet. But, the fact the Chapada das Mesas is placed in a large zone of contact and transition among three biomes - Caatinga, Cerrado and Amazon - with numerous protected areas, is a strong indicative of occurrence of endemic species and large biodiversity.

Some species, however, used to be seen in the region, such as the pampic deer (*Odocoileus bezeliani*), gray brocket (*Mazama gouazoubira*), Rusty-margined Guan (*Penelope superciliosa*), greater reia (Rea americana), itata-peba(*Euphrasichus sexcinctus*), seriema (*Caracara cristata*), howler monkeys (*Alouatta fusca cilimbans*), undulated tinamou (*Cryptopellus undulatus*), carlinu (*Tayassu tacacarez*), spotted nuthra (*Nothua maculosa*), iguana (iguana iguana), gold tegu (*Tupinambis teguixin teguixin*), sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*), among others. Some species are threatened with extinction, such as: jaguar (*Panthera onca*), agouti (*Puma concolor*), giant antater (*Mylodonphaga tridactyla*), crowned solitary eagle (*Harpahyalietus coronatus*), hacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hincinthus*), maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), onçilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*), margay (*Leopardus wiedii*) and bush dog (*Speothos venustus*).

The city of Carolina (MA) is the entrance for the Park and for the attractions surrounding it, counting on a great structure of access via by land, sea and air. It is possible to go to the city by plane, in regular regional flights from Imperatriz (MA) or Araguaína (TO), and by road, from Imperatriz (220 km) or Araguaína (98 km), in shuttle service or particular vehicles. The movement in the city is intense in the months of the local summer (between July and September).

Chapada Diamantina National Park

Location: Bahia, municipalities of Andaraí, Itacoba, Raí, Lençóis, Mucózi and Palmeiras
Foundation Date: September 17th, 1985, by Federal Decree N° 91655
Area: 152,000 ha
Climate: tropical, under-warm semi-arid mild, with six dry months

Temperatures: annual average from 22 to 24°C, absolute maximum from 36 to 38°C and absolute minimum from 4 to 8°C
Rain: between 1700 and 1,000 mm annually
Land relief: tabular, with abrupt scaps

In the heart of Bahia, tabuleiros, grottos, caves, canyons, rivers of stony riverbeds, waterfalls and deep plays take place in a vertiginous sequence, composing a grandeur and stunning landscape, in an unending succession of post-cards. It is the Chapada Diamantina, a region of mountainous land relief which comprises the Serra do Sincora (Sincora Mountain). Part of the ana was once the bottom of a sea, a desert and crossed by large rivers, in a story that began more than 1.2 billion years ago, during the Precambrian period, when the first signs of life appeared on Earth.

The variation of altitude between 330 and 1,700 m is one reason for the great diversity of the region – both biological and landscapes – where there is even a swamp in the Bahia's semiard region, locally called Marimbun. The vegetation of the Park also reflects such diversity: there is a predominance of rocky fields in altitudes above 800 m, on the abundant rock outcroppings; another large part of the area is occupied by the so-called general fields – one of the features of the Brazilian Cerrado, in valleys, on canyons and on the banks of rivers and streams there are shaded forests and rainforests; portions of seasonal forest also participate in this incredible green meeting (one of the types of the Atlantic Forest) and small amounts of vegetation typical from wetlands.

The most found species are cow par (Bahinia sp.), *graviola*-de-cacho (Eibergia portanera), lucas (Astrorycium aculeat Mart.), philodendron, cactus, sempre-vivo (Heliconia sp. bracteatum (Vahl) Haw.), canelão-de-ema (Vochysia sp.), begônias, orquídeas and bromélias. Among the animals, there are capybaras (Hydrochoerus hidrochoerus), tapirs (Tapirus terrestris), jaguars (Panthera onca) and cougars (Puma concolor), deers (Mazama gouazoubira), nasucas (Nasua nasua), agoutis (Dasprocta sp.), armadillos, anteaters, reptiles as boa constrictor (Boa constrictor) and anacarda (Eumeces murinus), fishes and numerous birds, chestnut belied seed finches (Oryzoborus angolensis), parakeets (Brotogeris tilingi and Aratinga canorum) and the realy rare hooded visorbeater (Augastes lumachella), endemic of Chapada Diamantina.

The Park is known for the abundance of trails, some extensive and difficult, offered by prospectors during the Diamond cycle. The most visited attraction is the Fumaça Falls, 380 m crossing which gets its name (smoke) because the water sprays before it reaches the ground. Another highlight is the Vale do Capão waterfall – Andaraí, passing through the Pati Valley, considered by the Ministry of Tourism in 2010 as the main script of Ecotourism in Brazil. Many other trails provide visitors with different and magnificent experiences, which are safer when accompanied by an experienced driver

Descobrimento National Park

Location: Bahia, municipality of Paulo
Foundation Date: April 20th, 1959, by Federal Decree without number
Area: 22,694 ha
Climate: humid tropical, climate of a warm and humid forest
Temperatures: minimum average of 20°C and maximum average of 30°C
Rain: in an average 1,750 mm annually
Land relief: tableland forest, predominantly flat

Created on April 20th, 1959, the Discovery National Park is located in the municipality of Prado, in the so-called Baías Cast., stands out as the most massive Atlantic Forest in the Brazilian Northeast region, and also composes one of the last remnants of the biome in good state of conservation in southern Bahia, along with the Monte Pascoal National and Historical Park and Pau Brasil National Park. The DNP is considered as a core zone of the Biosphere Reserve of the Atlantic Forest and found a World Natural Heritage Site and part of the Central Corridor of the Atlantic Forest. There are animals like the happy eagle (Harporia harryja), the Red-Browed Amazon (Amanoa rhodocorytha), and the Black Hawk-Eagle (Spizaetus tyrannus), the South American tapir (Tapirus

terrestris), the cougar (Puma concolor), the Southern tamandua (Myrmecophaga tetradactyla), which is barely found in the Atlantic Forest (BROWNESTAS, 2011). Regarding the flora, the DNP still holds a huge abundance of botanical species, with the occurrence of 71 endemic species of the Atlantic Forest, which out of these, 05 are rare, 19 are endangered such as the Bahia Rosewood (*Dalbergia nigra*) the *Cesalpinia echinata*, the *Melanorrhya braunii* and the *Carriziana estrelensis* and *Carriziana legalis*. Among the shrubs, varieties of mosses, lichens, vines, bromeliads and orchids. Created initially with 21,129 ha area, on June 6th, 2012, the DNP was extended by federal decree to an area of 22,694 ha, having been also defined its Buffer Zone. With the typical relief of tableland, predominantly flat, Parque do Descobrimento protects many rivers springs, such as imbaussaba river, and is located near Cahy River, whose mouth, according to historians; Cabral would have anchored for the first time its navy on the occasion of the discovery of Brazil. At that time, the region was habited by ethnicsies which gave origin to pataxés Indians. The climate is tropical, with warm and humid forest, and the park, for its scenic beauty and biological diversity, presents a huge potential for ecological tourism.

Fernando de Noronha National Marine Park

Location: Pernambuco, in Brazilian territorial sea
Foundation Date: September 14th, 1988, by Federal Decree Nº 96693
Area: 11,270 ha
Climate: tropical, warm
Temperatures: annual average of 26°C, absolute maximum of 32°C and absolute minimum of 28°C
Rain: between 1,250 and 1,500 mm annually
Land relief: rugged

It is formed by six greater islands - Fernando de Noronha, Rasa, Meio, São José, Lucélia Góes and Rasa - in addition to fourteen rocks practically inaccessible, the archipelago of Fernando de Noronha is the visible part of a mountain whose basis is 4,000 m below sea level, 345 km from the coast of the State of Rio Grande do Norte. Originated from relatively current volcanic processes, this island constitutes and important peak of Mid-Atlantic Ridge, an underwater mountains range which divides in the middle the Atlantic Ocean and extends to Actic, in an extension of more than 15,000 km.

In the archipelago, the scenario is dominated by lush volcanic rocks, which rise up from the water in elevated hillsides, forming steep walls. The highest point is Morro do Pico, with 321 m. The only inhabited island is Fernando de Noronha, the largest of all, but, even there, there are not perennial water courses – only streams, as Bolró, Macaé and Morungu, which dry every year during the drought. Soil, stony and shallow conditions, and long droughts contribute to the determination of two well-defined seasons, the drought which features cast and shrubs with thorns, but also resembles the Atlantic Forest, according to their species and the rainy season, when the island is all green with thick grass on small plains.

The main attractions and wealth of the park, however, are not in land but in the sea. Under some crystalline and deep waters of the Atlantic Ocean, a true undense paradise is presented in the form of extensive reefs of calcareous algae – there are 15 species –, where lobsters find protection to spawn and where about 230 species of fishes and five species of sharks live and reproduce.

The abundance of crustaceans is followed by groups of dolphins (Stenella longirostris), under permanently and happy evolution, and of sharks, jawfishes and other big fishes. With them groups of colored little fishes live in harmony, the cocoyacas (Haemulon plumieri), sargenhirhos (Felicthys baigi) and *frades-reais* (Holocentrus ciliatus). From January to May, the sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) spawns on some beaches of Fernando de Noronha, while in the bay of Golfinho these cetaceans may be seen in the most part of the day, during the whole year. There, they mate, raise their turtle babies and perform their aquatic dance.

The bird fauna is represented by white tern (*Cygis alba*), entirely white with the exception of the eyes, legs and beak, which are black, brown ruddy (Anous stolidus), magnificent frigatebird (Fregata magnificens) and the elegant white-tailed tropicbird (Phaethon lepturus). Other spectacle is the flight of the small Noronha vireo (Vireo gracilirostris),

which only inhabits arboreal areas of the island and none other place of the world. The access is by plane from the city of Recife or Natal. It may be also rent a fishing boat in these cities, for a journey which lasts from 12 to 36 hours, depending on sea conditions. The accommodation is in guesthouses and the driest season is from August to January.

Jericoacoara National Park

Location: Ceará, municipalities of Jipoca de Jericoacoara and Cruz
Foundation Date: February 4th, 2002, by Federal Decree without number, amended by law 11.468 of June 19^o 2007
Area: 8,850 ha
Climate: characterized as warm and humid
Temperatures: energies oscillating between 35°C and 22°C and with the dry season ranging from 5 to 6 months.
Rain: rainfall annual average of 1,364 mm
Land relief: composed of distinct landscapes: semete, sandbank, dunes, lagoons, tablelands forests, mangroves, halophytic turfs and sandy beaches

The name Jericoacoara has, probably, indigenous origin. Derived from tupi-guarani *yuruco* = hole; *cuara* = turtle) and means "hole of turtles", in a reference to the occurrence of sea turtles spawn, there. One other theory for the origin of the name says that the responsible would be the semete (light soil elevations) which, from the view of the sea, would be the appearance of an alligator bleaching in the surf. The local shelters a varied ecology ranging from mobile dunes, mangroves, lagoons of crystalline water and beautiful beaches. The beach of Jericoacoara, by the way, was chosen by the newspaper 'The Washington Post', on March 1987, as one of the ten most beautiful beaches of the world.

The Jericoacoara National Park was created by the decree of February 4th, 2002, from partial reorganization of the territory of Jericoacoara Federal APA (Area of Environmental Protection), established in 1984. Thus, Jericoacoara Village remained an Area of Environmental Protection (APA) unit 2007, when it was published the law 11.466, of June 15th 2007, which abolished the Jericoacoara APA and redefined the boundaries of the National Park. Thus, the entire land area located around the Jericoacoara village now belongs to the National Park, a unit of conservation of the Full Protection category with total area of 8,850 hectares, encompassing the municipalities of Jipoca de Jericoacoara and Cruz.

The climate in the Park is warm and humid, with rains which extend from summer to fall and average temperatures oscillating between 22 and 35°C. There, there are innumerable distinct landscapes, as sandbank, semete, dunes, tablelands, lagoons, mangroves, turfs and beaches. The vegetation is Cerrado and Caatinga, with the predominance of shrubs, but there is also a quantity of cocunut trees in the region. The fauna of the region is mainly presented by birds, fishes and cotaceans. The dunes, which reach 50 m height, constitute a part attraction. They are made of fine and white sand, which get an intense yellowish coloring in certain hours of the day, constantly moved by the wind, in the end of each day, escalated by tourists who are waiting for the spectacle of sunrise.

The dunes have tonalities which vary from turquoise blue to light green and long beaches comprise from rock formations – as Furada and Frades rocks, reefs and Gruta da Malhada (grotto) – to mangroves and dunes. In the village the electrical grid which supplies the houses is entirely subterranean to not interfere in the landscape and to keep the romantic mood of the local ruins.

Lencóis Maranhenses National Park

Location: Maranhão, comprising the municipalities of Barreirinhas, Santo Amaro do Maranhão and Primeira Cruz
Foundation Date: June 2nd, 1981, by Federal Decree Nº 80600
Area: 155,000 hectares
Climate: tropical, of equatorial zone, warm semi-humid, with four to five dry months
Temperatures: annual average of 26°C, absolute maximum of 36°C and absolute minimum of 16°C
Rain: between 1,500 and 1,750 mm annually
Land relief: flat

Mistakenly called of "Brazilian desert", since it rains, per year, around 3000 times more than in Saara African desert, for example, Lencóis Maranhenses National Park is constituted by an unique ecosystem in the country, and which associates strong winds, sea currents, and a regular and abundant rainfall regime. It is divided by the mouth of Piaú river, where there is a transition of two distinct areas: in the west there is the predomination of ras and, in the east, the sandy formations which form what we call of lençóis do litoral maranhense (water tables of the coast of Maranhão state).

Rias are deep coastlines, where the sea is shallow and the beaches are muddy, with mangroves, dunes, sandbanks and small cliffs, while the water tables correspond to a series of dunes which extend from Colôma Maranhense to the mouth of Parnaíba river. Founded on June 1981, the Park shelters an immense succession of dunes, which reaches 50 km of the coast. These dunes, made of very fine and extremely light quartz sand, are formed in a cyclic process which has been repeated for a million years: the main local river, Preguiças and Parnaíba, take to the sea residues of soil of their beds and erosion of their banks. These residues are moved by sea currents, thrown to the beach and, in turn, sent back to the continent by trade winds which continuously blow at a speed up to 70 km/h, forming an unending sequence of dunes with up to 20 m height.

Due to the action of the winds, these dunes remain in a constant movement giving them the appearance of a spread sheet, according to local native people.

In the park, there are defined seasons: the dry season, from July to December, and the rainy season, from January to June. The annual average rainfall ranges between 1,500 and 1,750 mm, and the annual average temperature is 26°C, and the absolute maximum is 36°C and the absolute minimum is 16°C.

During the period of rains, thousands of multicolored lagoons, some of them reaching 2 km of extension and 5m of depth, are formed among the dunes. In many of these lagoons there is an abundance of fishes, which are visited by nomadic habitants of the region, and microorganisms which attract huge flocks of sea and migratory birds, as semipalmated sandpiper, blue-winged teal and common tern which use the place as a resting point during the flights towards the south of the continent.

In the northwest side of the park where we find the mangroves, the vegetation is formed by red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle* L.), which may reach up to 12 m height, by white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa* (L.) C.F. Gaertn.) and *sitôba mangrove* (*Avicennia* sp.). In the beaches and dunes, under the continuous effects of water and sea winds, the vegetation has a peculiar aspect, highlighting among the species the dune building grass (*Panicum racemosum* (P. Beauv.) Spreng), which is near the area, washed by the waves, the beach star (*Remirea maritima* Aub.), *carapicho-da-praia* or *espinho-de-rosata* (*Acicapha spathulata* R. Br.) and *pimenta* (*Cordia curassavica* (Lica.) Roem. & Schubl.). In sandbanks there are some species which are not directly subject to the tides, but are under influence of the sandy soil and proximity of the ocean. There we can find the calli fly (*Oxyptelopus* sp.), *orquídea-da-restinga* (*Epidendrum ellipticum* Graham) *erva-de-cascavel* (*Crotalaria* sp.), *samará-da-areia* (*Cyrtopodium* sp.), *Juraticum* (*Amona coriacea* Mart.), *frangipani* (*Plumeria* sp.), *balsam apple* (*Clusia lanceolata* Cambess.) and *mangaíba* (*Hancornia speciosa* Gomes). Birds, mainly the migratory ones, use the region as a support point in their journeys, we can include in this category the common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), a regular visitor when it is not in the breeding period, and the small semipalmated sandpiper (*Calidris pelagicus*) from the Arctic. From February to April is the period of the blue-winged teal (*Anas diaconis*) visit the Park, from United States.

In mangroves, in addition to the numerous species of fishes, crustaceans and molluscs, we can observe the spectacled caiman (Caiman crocodilus), which preferentially feed on fishes. And among the mammals, there are specimens of red brocket (Mazama americana) and lowland paca (Agouti paca). In laying periods, several species of sea turtles go for the beaches of the park, highlighting among them the green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), hognosead sea turtle (Lepiduchelys olivacea), hawksbill sea turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) and leatherback turtle (Demochelys couroaiea).

With the access through the highway which connects the city of Barreirinhas to city of São Luís, the Park does not provide an infrastructure for accommodation and transport of visitors yet. However, travel agencies and lodging can be found in the Maranhão municipalities of Barreirinhas, Santo Amaro do Maranhão and Primeira Cruz.

Monte Pascoal National Park

Location: Bahia, municipality of Porto Seguro
Foundation Date: November 29th, 1961, by Federal Decree Nº 242
Area: 22,385 ha
Climate: Tropical of central Brazil, warm humid, with one to two dry months
Temperatures: annual average from 22 to 24°C, absolute maximum from 36 to 38°C and absolute minimum from 8 to 12°C
Rain: between 1,500 and 1,750 mm annually
Land relief: flat and wavy

First continental portion seen by Portuguese people when discovering Brazil, Monte Pascoal – which gives the name to the park – reunites, beyond the obvious historical importance, a diversity of ecosystems, as dense ombrophylous forest, flooded regions, sandbank, mangroves and beach. The land relief is characterized by beautiful beaches, sometimes with banks of reefs, extensive coastal plains, tablelands, hills and small mountains of crystalline rocks. In its limits we find three distinct phases of the cycle which contributes to the transition between the ecosystems of the coastline and dense forest from the tertiary tableland stage.

The oldest phase of these has in Monte Pascoal its its most notable outcrop. The other two, of tertiary, and quaternary, are respectively represented by sedimentary rocks of the group of Barreiras, constitubnt from "tablelands" and aluvial and coastal sediments.

In addition to the historical importance, the area shelters one of the last remainders of the Atlantic forest of the coastline of Bahia state, with a predominant vegetation of pluvial tropical forest, dense and exuberant, when big trees are found, as visgueiro (*Parkia pendula* (Willd.) Benth. ex Walp.), from Amazon, but which seeds through the North of the State of Espírito Santo, *farinha-seca* (*Pterogaia brasiliensis* Fr. All.) and arara nut-tree (*Joazeiria princeps* Vell.), and trees with high-quality woods, as *jequitibás* (*Cariniana estrelensis* (Raddi) Kurtze), *jatobás* (*Hymenaea couratibi* L. var. *silibocarpa* (Hayne) Lee & Lang.), *marikara* trees (*Manilkara elata* (Albemaex ex Mez.) Monach.), *jacarandás* (*Machamerium villosum* Vogel), *canelas-sassaifás* (*Coccola odorifera* (Vell.) Rohrer), *araribás* (*Centroleium microchaeta* (Mart. ex Benth.) Lima ex G. P. Lewis) and others, totaling more than 10 thousand species of plants, including the species from flooded regions, sandbank, mangroves and beach. In the most humid stretches of the forest, where we find palm heart trees (*Euterpe edulis* Mart.), numerous species of ferns (*Pleridium* sp.), moss, lichens and aroids, with its magnificent spire of flowers, compose a beautiful scenery beside the rare and colored orchids, as the rare *Cattleya schilleriana* Robb. f.. Regarding the drier parts of the forest, there is a great incidence of piassava, used for the extraction of fibers.

In the diversified fauna, the highlights are the howler monkeys (*Alouatta fusca*) and tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), which inhabit near the riverbeds. There are also anteaters (*Tamandua tetradactyla*), agoutis (*Dasprocta azarae*) and lowland pacas (*Agouti paca*). Among the mammals threatened with extinction the cougars (*Puma concolor*) are protected inside the Park. And, among the birds, there are specimens of other endangered animals as oramate hawk eagle (*Spizaetus ornatu*), black hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*), chestnut bellied seed finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) and sabá-da-mata (*Turdus fumigatus*).

With a distance of only 14 km from BR-101 highway, which connects the city of Vitória to Salvador, and 156 km from Porto Seguro, the DNP does not provide infrastructure for accommodation of visitors yet. Among the most beautiful scenery we have the Aldeia da Barra beach, the mangrove, sandbank forests, river beach of Caraiá beach and Corumbau beach, Missunguranga fields, one of a kind in the extreme south of the state. In Itamarajó, 30 km from the park, visitors have options of hotels and inns. Another site hosting is Caraiá, a friendly fishing village with god inns and recommended for those who want to visit beaches around that area.

Pau Brasil National Park

Location: Bahia, municipality of Porto Seguro
Foundation Date: April 20th, 1959, by Federal Decree without number
Area: 19,028 ha
Climate: humid tropical, or warm and humid forest, without characteristic dry situation
Temperatures: minimum average of 19°C and maximum average of 28°C, with an annual average of 23°C
Rain: greater intensity between June and October, reaching 1,800 mm annually
Land relief: predominantly flat, crossed by estuaries of medium depth

Located around 20 km from the coastline of Bahia State, between Porto Seguro – municipality which it belongs to – Vale Verde (the oldest district in Brazil), Arraiá da Ajuda and Francisco, Pau Brasil National Park was founded on April 1959, in the beginning of the commemorations for the 500 years of the discovery of Brazil, and declared as the Site of World Natural Heritage by Unesco in the same year. Its area of about 19,028 ha is predominantly flat and crosses by valleys of medium depth with numerous watercourses, highlighting the rivers of Barra, Frasnoso, the typical jagunas and Norte. It shelters a significant part of one of the most important stretches of the Atlantic forest in extreme southern Bahia. This forest, inclusive, already have been connected to Amazonian forest, which may indicate from the presence, there, of typical trees of Amazon, as *lava-de-bolota* or visgueiro (*Parkia pendula* (Willd.) Benth. ex Walp.), *amã* and mangau trees (*Manilkara excelsa* (Ducke) Standl.).

The tropical climate of a humid and warm forest, helps the appearance of species as *jacarandás* (*Machamerium villosum* Vogel), jequitibás (*Cariniana estrelensis* (Raddi) Kurtze) and *Cariniana legalis* (Mart.) Kuntze), *canelas-sassaifás* (*Coccola odorifera* (Vell.) Rohrer), Brazilian paper (*Schinus molle* L.), sassaú rain (*Carycar brasiliense* Cambess.) and, currently in a smaller quantity, Brazilwood (*Caesalpinia echinata* Lam.), of which it is estimated the existence in natural environments a few more than 1,000 mature trees, found in areas of difficult access. In more humid regions of the park, we find the heart of palm (*Euterpe edulis*), big concentrations of ferns and numerous species of orchids and bromeliads.

Among the animals, some of them threatened with extinction, as jaguar (*Panthera onca*), cougar (*Puma concolor*), hairy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) and red-billed curassow (*Craia blumenbackii*), there are also serpents as *jaracussás* (*Bolitoglossa jaracussu*) and South American bushmaster (*Lachesis muta*), list last is the largest poisonous snake of Brazil, roter capuchin monkeys, howler monkeys (*Alouatta* sp.), agoutis (*Dasprocta* sp.), armadillos, tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), brazilian squirrel (*Sciurus aestuans*), giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*), lowland pacas (*Agouti paca*), collared peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*) and white-tipped peccaries (*Tayassu pecari*), beyond other birds, as hairy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), oramate hawk-eagle (*Morphnus gymnaeus*) and black hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*). There are also the endemic ones (which exist only in the region) bedside-spined rat (*Chaetomys subspinosus*) and maned sloth.

Among the main attractions, there are over 50 km of signposted roads inside the forest (ideal for cycling), the Patatabá Trail with a 1.8 km long with access to Jacoba waterfall, the Nhoesembé mountain bike trail over 35 km long and over 20 km of single track, the Jequiaia bath and next area, different viewpoints and interpretive trails, and rustic camping area.

The best time to visit the Park is between December and February, when the rainfall is low.

Serra da Capivara National Park

Location: Piauí, municipalities of São Raimundo Nonato, São João do Piauí, Coronel José Dias and Centro do Rio
Foundation Date: June 5th, 1979, by Federal Decree Nº 83548
Area: 97,933 ha
Climate: Tropical of equatorial zone, warm semi-ard, with six dry months
Temperatures: annual average from 24 to 26°C, absolute maximum from 40 to 42°C and absolute minimum from 8 to 12°C
Rain: between 1,500 and 1,750 mm annually
Land relief: tabular, with abrupt scaps

According to the orthodox archeology, the arrival of the first inhabitants of the Americas would have been 12 thousand years ago, through Bering Strait, in Alaska, during the last glaciations. This history, however, suffered a serious blow and started changing in 1973, when the teacher from São Paulo State Nélio Guidon, archeologist of Museu Paulista – the Archaeological Museum do Ipiranga (Ipiranga Museum) – discovered the first archeological sites of the state of Piauí, near the city of Raimundo Nonato, southeast region of the State.

In these forty years of studies in the region, Niáde found vestiges of human presence in the total of 48.700 years ago! It means, more than 30 thousand years before the date generally accepted by scholars. So, the question is how these human beings arrived in the continent. The answer: by the sea. And in these groups, probably from Africa, who gave origin to the varied indigenous groups which initially populated the whole American continent.

Until 2013, have been registered 1.343 archeological sites (730 with rupestrian paintings, 89 with rock engravings, 206 with rupestrian paintings and rock engravings and 302 camp sites) – the biggest concentration currently known in the Americas - , 173 are opened to visitation. Equipped with ramps, protection grids and special lighting, these sites present more than 25 thousand rupestrian paintings with scenes of hunt, dance, animals, war and sex. There are still traces of bonfires and food, tools made of chipped stone and many sculpted rocks.

And to protect all these rich archeological heritage and environment when it is located – in an area of caatingas, semi-aid, bordering between two large geological formations – that was founded, in 1979, Serra da Capivara National Park, unit of conservation included in the list of historical heritage of world cultural heritage by Unesco - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The land relief - with altitudes which range from 400 and 600 m - is slightly wavy in the top of the chapada, with abrupt scarps. On the plain, below, a great quantity of fossils belonging to pre-historical animals, which lived there were found. The soil is constituted of sandstones layers, under which thick formation of yellowish-red latossols are based on, while in the valleys of Piauí and Bom Jesus de Gurguéia rivers, the sandy terrains predominate.

In the most elevated regions, there is the predomination of angios and anoreais (Mycarradrum urundeva Fr. All.); in the lower strata, jurema (Mimosa tenuiflora (Willd.) Poac), facheiro (Leocereus sp.), Brazil plum (Spondias tuberosa Arnolds) and jazeiro (Zizophya jazeiro Mart.) - which does not lose the leaves -, beyond the several species of cactus. In small groups, the white-naped jaw (Cyanocera cyanopogon) are the highlight among the birds. There are also the rapiniro birds, as Black-chested Buzard-Eagle (Geranoastur melanoceus), laughing falcon (Herpethoresa carcharias) and owls. Often, we can observe iguanas sunbathing, but when they here any kind of noise they get back to inside the vegetation. And, among the reptiles, the attention goes to the jararaca (Bothrops spp.) and cascabela (Crotalus terrificus).

Among the mammals we can highlight the jaguar (Panthera onca), coati (Leopardus pardalis), armadillo (Tolpoutes tricinctus), and aguti (Dasprocta prymnolopha). Similar to the aguti, there is also in the region a small rodent called rock cavy (Kerodon rupestris), which lives in the rocks and feeds of sprouts of vegetables.

The Park provides a surprising infrastructure, including a self-guided visitation through the trails which take to cave paintings. The head office of Fundação Museu do Homem Americano (FUMDHAM), which has the support of the French Government, is located in the municipalities of São Raimundo Nonato. The closest cities are São Raimundo Nonato and Coronel José Dias and the latestest access id through the city of Petrolina in the State of Pernambuco, whose distance is 300 km. There is also in São Raimundo Nonato a landing field authorized to receive small planes. The scarce rainfalls are from November to March, a period called winter, and the more intense warmth is from September to November.

Serra das Confusões National Park

Location: Piauí, municipalities of Caracol, Tamboril do Piauí, Canto do Buri, Alvorada do Gurguéia, Guarnibas, Cristiano Castro, Santa Luz, Bom Jesus, Redenção do Gurguéia and Guimardes.

Foundation Date: October 2nd, 1998, by Federal Decree without number Area: 626,000 ha Climate: tropical mesothermal and semi-aid Temperatures: ranges during the year between the extremes 12°C and 35°C Rains: greater intensity between October and April, totalling in the year between 600 and 1.600 mm Land relief: very rugged, with rocky walls

With an area of 502.411 ha in the region known as semi-aid hinterland, in the interface zone of Paraíba and São Francisco watershed, the park is in the lands of the municipalities Caracol, Jurema do Piauí, Tamboril do Piauí, Canto do Buri, Alvorada do Gurgúlia, Guarnibas, Cristiano Castro and Bom Jesus. Extended in 30/12/2010 to approximately 626.00 ha, including 3 others municipalities: Santa Luz, Redenção do Gurgúlia and Guimardes.

Serra das Confusões National Park was founded to preserve the environment of one of the most important typically Brazilian ecosystems: the caatinga, whose vegetation is characterized by the loss of leaves in periods of drought – which may last from 7 to 10 months per year - , and by the presence of cactus and other pimply plants. The trees are sparse and twisted, and the land is dry. In Serra das Confusões, however, what distinguish the area are the steep rocky walls, forming an agreste landscape of great beauty.

The largest National Park of the Brazilian Northeast, with an area of 826.000 ha, and the largest reserve of caatinga of the country, Serra das Confusões received this name because of its shape and the colors of its rocks - white and red - which, under different luminosities throughout the day, may change their forms.

For dividing the basin of Paraíba and São Francisco rivers, the area of the park has numerous springs, among them the springs of tauerais and Piauí rivers, in addition to numerous streams, forming an important water spring for the aid and region of the State.

In studies conducted by Itama for the implementation of the park, 87 vegetal species in the region were detected. *Jatobá* (Hymenaea courbaril L. var. *stibocarpa* (Hayne) Lee & Lang.), *cipó-branco*, *fejão-bravo* (*Erythrina fusca* Lour.), *cangaiheira* (*Lamsonia temata* Vell.), *Jurema* (*Platycóclium tortum* Mart.), *Brazil plum* (*Spondias tuberosa Arnolds*), *areiaira* (*Schinus molle* L.), *angico* (*Piptadenia* sp.), *careleiro* (*Manihotum zeylanicum* Blume) and *sourai nutá* (*Caryocar villosum* (Aubl.) Pers.). Among the cactus, the greatest occurrences are *mandacaru* (*Cereus jamacaru* DC.), *facheiro* (*Facheira pubiflora* Britton & Rose), *cabeça-de-frade* (*Phyllocactus paccagnianus* Mart. ex DC.) and *aqueiqueque* (*Pilosocereus gounellei* (F.A.C. Weber) Byes & G.D. Rowley).

The same survey detected the presence of 14 species of amphibious, 32 reptiles and 46 of mammals, in addition to numerous species of birds. Some of these animals are threatened with extinction, as jaguar (*Panthera onca*), cougars (*Puma concolor*), buffy-headed marmoset (*Callithrix flaviceps*), black howler monkeys (*Alouatta* sp.), Brazilian three-banded armadillos (*Tolpoutes tricinctus*), giant armadillos (*Prodonates giganteus*), giant anteaters (*Mymecophaga tridactyla*), pangas-de-lé (*Oryzomys borearticus*), black-fronted piping-guans (*Pipile black-fronted piping-guan*) and zabelits (*Crypturellus undulatus*).

The rocky walls existent in the park contain grottos and caves, and present cave paintings of relevant archeological value, as well as its neighbor, the Serra da Capivara National Park, which provides a good infrastructure to host the visitors.

Serra das Lontras National Park

Location: Bahia, municipalities of Arataca and Una Foundation Date: June 11th, 2010 Area: 11,336 ha Climate: Tropical humid Temperatures: annual average of 24°C Rains: rainfall between 1,000 to 2,000 mm annually Land relief: strongly wavy, by hills and mountains, with altitudes ranging between 150 m in the valley up to some tops with 1,000 m

Located between the municipalities of Una and Arataca, in the south of Bahia, the Serra das Lontras highlights in the landscape for having a

beauty range of mountain covered by Atlantic forest vegetation. These mountains, despite of being regionally known as by distinct names – das Lontras, do Javi and dos Quatis – constitute a unique range, considering its geologic formation.

Composing a continuous massif with high altitudes up to 1,000 meters, the range of mountains in Serra das Lontras National Park wets as watershed among the rivers Una and Javi brooks, Pratilha, Sepultura, Alança and Santo Antônio. Over there, flow a huge number of streams, brooks and springs which supply several localities in special the municipalities of São José da Vitória and Buarerama.

The Park protects the major part of the springs which originate the tributaries which compose the basin of Una river, one of the most important river of the south region of Bahia. In consequence of the high diversity existent in some stretches of the mountain, the place is an abundant environment of waterfalls, the most part of small size. Studies conducted in the region identified, until 2009, around 900 species of plants. The data indicate that the local comprises one of the most significant remainders of the montane dense ombrophilous forest of the south of Bahia.

With particular characteristics, the Park shelters a huge biological diversity composed by numerous species strongly threatened with extinction.

In addition, the vegetal coverage of Serra das Lontras National Park presents a high variability of physiognoms, especially due to variations of altitude: it goes from high canopy forests, with trees reaching 30 meters in the low parts, to low canopy forests, trees with trunks of shorter diameter and a treetop with more ramifications in the area of higher altitude.

Between 400 and 800 m of altitude, for example, the big trees of *Chrysoobalanaceae*, *Fabaceae*, *Lauraceae* and *Sapotaceae* families predominate. Many of these species are economically important such as mescla (*Protium warmingianum*), *angelim* (*Andira fraxinifolia*), pau-deó (*Copaifera trapezoidal*), *pau-d'arco-rosa* (*Handroanthus heptaphyllus*), *imbirú-branco* (*Eriotheca macrophylla*) and *sourai tree* (*Caryocar edule*). Above 800 m, the forested areas begin to change, giving rise to a characteristic landscape of upper mountain rain forest, where there are typical species as *Schefflera variegata* (Araliaceae), *Ormyrs brasiliensis* (Winteraceae) and a diversity of epiphyte, including species of *Ochidaceae* and *Bomelialeaceae* hitherto found only in southern and southeastern Brazil.

According to global criteria of Bird Life International, Serra das Lontras National Park, in association with other units of conservation of the south of the Bahia as the Boa Nova National Park, belongs to an important area for the Important Bird Area – IB). In fact, the region shelters an extremely diverse bird fauna, with endangered species and others recently described.

Studies accomplished in the Complex of Serra das Lontras accounted around 330 species of birds, being 26 species threatened with extinction according to the Red Book of Brazilian fauna of endangered species. Among them, we find specimens of solitary tinamou (*Tinamus solitarius*), white-necked hawk (*Leucopternis lacunulatus*), mantled hawk (*Leucopernis polioptilus*), hairy eagle (Hairy eagle *harpiza*), golden-capped parakeet (*Araitinga auricapillus*), blue-throated parakeet (*Pyrrhura carolinæ*), maroon-faced parakeet (*Pyrrhura leucotis*), brown-backed parrotlet (*Touti melanotus*), blue-throated parrotlet (*Touti rustri*), red browed Amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*), long-tailed woodcymph (*Thalaitania waterstoni*), spot-breasted antbird (*Dryothamnusleucotoxus jansaldoni*), antwren (*Mymotheralamory*).

Among the 40 not flying mammals identified in the region, 4 are species of primates - *Callithrix kuhli*, *Calliaces melanocheir*, *Notohippotherus chrysemelas*, and *Cebus xanthostomus* - being the golden-bellied capuchine (*Cebus xanthostomus*) one of the primates most threatened with extinction.

In addition to the primates, five species of felino - group of species which also need high preserved areas to keep viable populations - were registered in the Serra das Lontras complex: the cougar (*Puma concolor*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), margay (*Leopardus wiedii*), pantanal cat (*Leopardus braccatus*) and jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*). With the exception of this last specie, the further ones are in the list of the Brazilian fauna threatened with extinction.

Serra de Itabaiana National Park

Location: Sergipe, municipalities of Arica, Campa do Brito, Itabaiana, Itaporanga d'Ajuda, Laranjeiras and Malhadae Foundation Date: June 5th, 2005 Area: 2.966 ha

Climate: dry tropical to under-humid Temperatures: annual average of 35°C Rains: rainfall of 800 mm annually Land relief: mountainous, with altitudes ranging between 240 m and 659 m

Located integrally in Sergipe, the State of Brazil with lowest percentage of protected area, Serra de Itabaiana National Park is just 40 km away from the capital city of Aracaju, on the coast.

Geographically, the Serra Itabaiana National Park is situated in the municipalities of Arica, Itabaiana, Laranjeiras, Itaporanga d'Ajuda and Campa do Brito, in the wild region of the state of Sergipe, northeastern Brazil, covering an area of 2.966,6 ha. Characterized by rugged terrain, oriented from north to south, whose altitude varies between 240 m and 659 m. Located in a transition area of the Atlantic Forest and Caatinga biomes, has a diversity of natural attributes of great ecological importance and exceptional scenic beauty, like the fragments of native vegetation, aspects of relief and hydrography, and is a reference to aspects of cultural and historical heritage of the region, especially related to the cultural traditions with strong religious identity. These characteristics provide the area with a highlight condition in Sergipe, as environmental benchmark, and one of the most popular destinations for those seeking to enjoy the natural diversity.

This whole mountainous region since the beginning of colonization history of Brazil, was the place of numerous fights and conquests and is full of folktales and myths. The local is also destiny of intense religious peregrination, attracting believers from everywhere, who go to pay their promises and participate of the big pilgrimage of Holy Week. There is trail which takes up to the top of the mountain, where a small church and a cross are sceneries for religious ceremonies.

During the way to the top of the mountain, in a walk of about two and a half hours, it is clearly seen the change of vegetation, which becomes less dense, exposing the rock, as they go to the top. In the landscape of the Park, we can highlight the Serra de Itabaiana, the real mountain, which comprises a range of mountains including Itabaiana or Itabaiana Grande, Cajabá, Boqueirão, Compidá and Bauzinho, all of them located inside the Park. But the main mountain is Itabaiana, whose name in the indigenous language Tupi means "in that rock, lies someone". In the landscape of the Park, Serra de Itabaiana is a highlight, Itabaiana is Tupi for "stone that someone lives in", which in turn comprises a number of other mountains, among which the Itabaiana Grande, Cajabá, Boqueirão, Compidá and Bauzinho.

The relief is composed mainly of hills and cliffs of the formation of the Domo de Itabaiana, consisting of residual mountains that dominate the topography of the Sergipe wild region.

The mountains of the Park can be seen from far away, they have the shape of "balls" (mesa), where the top of the mountains was eoded by the erosion of winds and time.

From the coast, in the mouth of Sergipe river, the journey is towards northwest to the inner part, to the park. During the journey, it is observed that the vegetation, characteristic of the Atlantic forest in its caastine physiognomies, is composed by a narrow strip of sandbank areas which goes in parallel with the coast, with various disarticulated fragments of the forests recovering the hills. For west region the area of preservation, the vegetation is typical of agreste, of Caatinga biome, accompanied of a complex of low mountains, of which the mountains of the Park are part of.

For being an area of contact between two biomes - the Atlantic Forest and Caatinga - Serra de Itabaiana maintains a big biodiversity of animals' species, which circulate in a free way between one and other environments. Studies conducted in the region of the Park already identified, for example, the presence of 16 reptiles, 24 amphibious, one of turtle, 62 of mammals and 123 of birds. Of these, three are restricted to Atlantic Forest and one is endemic of Caatinga.

The Park also has big and important natural and scenic beauty. The major part of springs are there, which form Cotiriguita, Pedras, Jacaracra and Poim rivers, this last one is essential for the supply and water security of the capital city.

The access to Serra de Itabaiana National Park, with special authorization of ICMBio, is through BR-235 highway, from Aracaju towards BR-101 highway, up to the junction for Itabaiana. From then, you should drive more 35 km up to the entrance of the Park, which is 5 km after the city of Arica Branca.

Cete Cidades National Park

Location: Piauí, municipalities of Piracurica and Brasileira Foundation Date: June 5th, 1961, by Federal Decree Nº 50744 Area: 6.222 ha

Climate: tropical of equatorial warm zone, warm semi-aid, with six dry months Temperatures: annual average from 24 to 26°C, absolute maximum from 38 to 40°C and absolute minimum from 12 to 16°C Rains: between 1.000 and 1.250 mm annually

Land relief: slighty wavy

Sete Cidades de Pedra is actually constituted by a group of rocks formed during the Paleozoic period and sculptured by the action of winds and rains, throughout 190 million of years. With a significant importance, Sete Cidades National Park protects this interesting geological formation, in addition to conserve the perennial springs of water in an area of resourse need. The land relief is typical of sedimentary basins, of mild lines, with the prevalence of altitudes between 100 and 300 m.

The Park is known worldwide by many and valuable cave paintings, found in more than 70 localis, mainly in the second, fourth and fifth "cities", as the geological formations are known. Some of these paintings are exceptionally well conserved, and these were not interpreted yet, and it is only known that they represent daily situations of people who lived in the region.

In addition to the millennial paintings, the own day of rock fascivales because of its characteristics and curious shapes. The ones which call more attention of the visitors are "A Biblioteca", "Os Canibões", "Os três Reis Magos", e "A Pedra da Tartaruga". Almost the whole area can be visited by car, viewing the formations, but the best of all this is to explore the trails on foot, despite of the sweating heat. Only the seventh city has its visitation restricted, for being an area of preservation of animal species, and it is only accessible for researchers with an express consent of ICMBio. Natural pools and waterfalls existent in the area of the park can be enjoyed by the visitors, who come in the most part of the time between the months of December to June, the months with a less incidence temperature. Due to these geological characteristics of the terrain, predominantly constituted by quartz sands, there is the formation of water holes which, in some cases, even in period of dry, remain with a constant draining, providing the spring of some river of the region. The Park is located in an area of transition between the cerrado and caatinga, with the predominance of the first type of vegetation. There we find, among other vegetable species, the bacuri (*Platonia insignis* Mart.), *lavinia* (*Carattalia americana* L.), *murici* (*Byrsomira* sp.), *pau-terra* (*Qualea glandiflora* Mart.), *macambira* (*Bornelia laciniosa* Mart. ex Schult. f.), o moriche *pau* (*Mauritia flexuosa* L f.), *carnauba* *pau* (*Copernicia prunifera* (Mill.) H.E. Moore) and *tocum* (*Bacitis setosa* Mart.), beyond the jurema (*Platycóclium tortum* Mart.), *aque-ique* (*Pilosocereus gounellei* (F.A.C. Weber) Byes & G.D. Rowley) and *pau-d'arco* (*Tabeaia* spp.). In flooded fields, we can also find the exuberant insectivore (*Drosera* sp.), beyond the true grasses (*Aristida* and *Eragrostis*).

Despite of the fact that the park is inside the biogeograpy province Baibacuais, in its current area there are not specimens of this palm tree. On the other hand, the moriche *pau* (*Mauritia flexuosa* L. f.), *carnauba* *pau* (*Copernicia prunifera* (Mill.) H.E. Moore) and *tocum* (*Bacitis setosa* Mart.) are common.

The fauna is distributed the same manner between cerrado and caatinga, and we may be find the red brocket (*Mazama americana*) and the rodent rock cavy (*Kerodon rupestris*), typical animals of caatinga, and iguana (*Iguana iguana*), also common in the Amazon. The remainder animals of the region are represented by the cougar (*Puma concolor*), crab-eating foxes (*Cerdocyon thous*), fox (*Cycalopex vetulus*), lowland paca (*Agouti paca*) and oncidias (*Leopardus* sp.). Among the birds, the campo oriole (*Icterus icterus*) and yellow-rumped

cacique (*Cacicus ovej*) highlights because of their beauty, beyond the rare orange-breasted falcon (*Falco deileoleucos*). Early in the morning, the blue-fronted parrot (Amazona aestiva) promotes a usual clatter, while in most dense forests, the tatapuina tinamou (*Crypturellus taitapu*), typical guans (*Penelope obscura*) and a variety of toucan (*Ramphosus* sp.) inhabit.

Interspersed by signalized trails, the park does not offer difficulty to transport the visitors. It provides an accommodation, guides and, before the entrance, a hotel with reasonable facilities. Away from Teresina around 100 km per paved road, Pripri, 26 km, is the main city for support.

Ubuajara National Park

Location: Ceará, municipality of Ubuajara Foundation Date: April, 30th, 1959, by Federal Decree Nº 45954 Area: 6.288 ha

Climate: tropical equatorial, warm, semi-aid, hinterland with six to eight dry months, mountain from four to five dry months Temperatures: annual average from 24 to 26°C, absolute maximum from 34 to 38°C and absolute minimum from 12 to 16°C Rains: hinterland between 500 and 750 mm annually, mountain between 1.000 and 1.500 mm annually Land relief: cut in abrupt slope

The park was created on April 30th, 1959, by Federal Decree 45.954, with an area of 4,000 hectares. On April 26th, 1973, the Park had its limits amended to 593 hectares, through the Federal Decree Nº. 72. 144. In December 2002, the Park undergoes new changes to its limits, rising to 6.288 hectares, through Decree without number.

They grottos, highlighting the Ubuajira, which gives the name to the park, attract structural geologic aspects and processes of erosion. It deeply outlined, with exposures of limestone - where the grottos are - the abrupt scarps, where we commonly observe water holes.

It is located in Serra da Iapabuá, one of the most notable topographic shapes of Brazilian Northeast. With mild temperatures and a certain abundance of water, the region is very sought-after by citizens of Ceará and Piauí States, for both contemplative tourism and climate aspect, to run away of the heat in dry seasons.

The vegetation of the park is basically composed by two ecosystems: open ombrophilous forest and caatinga, beyond a formation of transition between both. In the open ombrophilous forest, really change by men action, we find the *jibá* (*Guarea macrophylla* subsp. tuberculata (Vell.) T.Penn.), *o* *babassu* *pau* (*Attalea speciosa* Mart. ex Spreng), *cedro* (*Cedrela fissilis* Vell.) and *pau-d'arco-amarelinho* (*Babauia serratifolia* (Habl.) G. Nicholson), among other species. In the zone of transition - a climata more humid than caatinga, but not enough to maintain the forest -, the species which predominate are from caatinga, but higher species and with straighter arms. In addition, in the most humid slopes, there are species of the subcaducifolios seasonal forest, as *sabáá* (*Mimosa caesalpinifolia* Benth.), *barbiguda* (*Cavanillesia arborea* (Willdenow K. Schum), *pitá* (*Aspidosperma ulai* Markq.) and *inga* tree (*Inga ingoides* (Rich.) Wäld.).

In the slope there is the Caatinga, with typical species as the *angico* (*Adenodendron bicolor*) (*Benth*.), *branca*, *jurema* (*Mimosa tenuiflora* (Willd.) Poac.), *pau-branca* (*Mimosa artemisiaria* Herterig & Paula), *o* *jazeiro* (*Zizophya jazeiro* Mart.), *quince* (*Combretum* sp.), *jatobás* (*Hymenaea* spp.) and *pau-terra* (*Qualea* sp.), beyond the small plants as *carolá* (*Neoglauciva variegata* (Arnuda) Mez). With a little diversification, the fauna comprises, however, some important species, as common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*), rock cavy (*Kerodon rupestris*), skunks (*Delphaps vespertalis*), robust capuchin monkey (*Cebus axellus*), fox (*Cycalopex vetulus*), six-banded armadillo (*Euphratus sexcinctus*), nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) and many species of bats. The bats are in its majority represented by the saffron finch (*Sciotis favoleta*), southern caracara (*Polybura plancus*), savanna hawk (*Herpetozia meridionalis*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), laughing falcon (*Herpethoresa cacthiniana*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) and King vulture (*Sarcorhamphus papa*). Among the reptiles, we highlight the *iguana* (*Iguana iguana*), gold tegu (*Tupinambis teguina*) and coral scane (*Micurus corallinus*), beyond amphibious, as the cane toad (*Bufo* sp.).

Accessible by cable car, the groto of Ubajara is a great attraction of the park, with nine rooms and 420 m of illuminated trails, in a total extension of 1,120 m. There are other recommended tours on foot and the simple accommodation in hotels of the nearest cities - Ubajara, 3.5 km, and Ihuçuá, 32 km. The best period to visit is in the months of July to December.

Middle-west

Brasília National Park

Location: Distrito Federal, Brasilia
Foundation Date: November 29th 1961, by Federal Decree N° 241.
Enlarged by Federal Decree N° 11286 in March 08th, 2006
Area: 42,000 ha
Climate: tropical, warm semi-humid, with four to five dry months
Temperatures: annual average from 22 to 24°C, absolute maximum from 40 to 42°C and absolute minimum from 4 to 8°C
Rains: between 1,500 and 1,750 mm annually
Land relief: slightly wavy

Located in the watershed of three important water basins - Amazonian, Prata and São Francisco - in the Brazilian Central Plateau, in the domain of the cerrado. The Park sill comprise the basins of the rivers Toró and Bananal which, through the basin of Santa Maria, help to supply the drinking water to the federal capital city, the main reason for its foundation.

The Park's primary objective is the preservation of natural ecosystems of great ecological significance and scenic beauty, allowing the development of scientific research and development of activities of environmental education and interpretation. And, yet, only 6 km away from the center of Brasilia, the Park is a major tourist attraction in the city. It has reception and recreation infrastructure, including sources and two natural water pools, getting to 3,000 visitors daily.

In its area, there are outcrops of quartz, of different colors and the land relief is a kind of mild, with altitudes between 1,070 and 1,200 m. The most representative unit of the soil is the lato soil of reddish color, also in alluvial soils in the swamps and moriche palm, beyond the hydromorphic soil along the rivers and depressions.

The vegetation of the park, typical of the cerrado, comprises many typologies: grasslands, *campo sujo* (grasslands with the presence of some shrubs), cerrado field (an open savannah), cerrado and riparian forest. In the fields, there is the predominance of true grasses and the absence of superior strata.

In the cerrado, small trees and shrubs predominate as the souari nut (Caryocar brasiliense Cambess.), *jacarandá-do-mato* (Machaerium opacum Vogel) and *pau-santo* (Kilimeyera confusa Mart. & Zucc.). And, along the rivers and streams, where the conditions of soil and humidity are more favorable, there are riparian forests. Then, species as *pau-pombo* (Piptaria guianensis Aubl.), *amezola* (Protium brasiliensis), copaba (Copaifera langsdorfi (Desf.) Kuntze), *peroba* (Aspidosperma sp.) and moriche palm (Mauritia flexuosa L. f.), are developed, and distinguish the transition for the field.

Many animals of Cerrado inhabit the Park, among them some mammals threatened with extinction, as maned wolf (Chrysocyon brachyurus), pampas deer (Ozotoceros bezaoticus), giant armadillo (Protonotus giganteus) and tapreutes trictatus) and giant anteater (Mymecophaga tridactyla). Among the animals which are not threatened with extinction, there are the marmoset (Callithrix penicillata), Brazilian rabbit (Sylvilagus brasiliensis), crab-eating fox (Dasypus tatusu), nasua (Nasua nasua) and caybara (Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris).

In the bird fauna, we can easily observe the greater ree (Rhea americana), beyond the crested caracara (Carania cristata) and tooo toucan (Ramphastus toco).

Chapada dos Guimarães National Park

Location: Mato Grosso, municipality of Chapada dos Guimarães
Founded Date: April 12th, 1989, by Federal Decree N° 97656

Area: 32,620 mil ha
Climate: tropical, warm, semi-humid, with four to five dry months
Temperatures: annual average of 24°C, absolute maximum of 33°C and absolute minimum of 0°C
Rains: between 1,250 and 1,500 mm annually
Land relief: tabular, with the occurrence of abrupt scarp

The Chapada dos Guimarães National Park is an immense plateau full of grottos, caves, water courses with beautiful waterfalls, canyons and intriguing rock formation. From land relief planned on the top and craggy on the borders and with altitudes from 600 to 800 m, has a surface shaped in sandstones of the *Bauru* formation, where quartz sands were originated and, mainly, in the sediments of tertiary-quaternary, which originated the yellowish-red lato soils.

In the borders of the plateau, steep scarp sculptures by the wind and by the rain – some of them with up to 350 m height – create similar forms to the figures, named of Jacaré (alligator), Coçumelo (mushroom), Pedra Furada (holed stone) and Mesa dos Sacrificios (sacrifice table), among others.

Significant part of this wealth is protected by Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, which shelters many ecosystems, archeological sites and headwaters of numerous rivers which compose the basin of Alto Paranaí and Amazons.

The predominant ecosystem in the region is the savannah or cerrado, with forest of gallery and, in a minor extent, submontane forest, which covers the scarp and hills. The numerous environments comprise since riparian forest - where we can find the peroba (Aspidosperma sp.), guanambi (Calophyllum brasiliense Cambess.) and jatobá (Hymenaea courbaril L. var. stibocana (Hayne) Lee & Tang.) - the cerrado-bio, with *justa-cortas* (Sclerobolium paniculatum Vogel), ohe-do-bio (Dioecia sp.), pombiros (Tapiria sp.), and in the cerrado the *emburucu* (Pseudobombax sp.), *scucupiras*, *pau-santo* (Kilimeyera confusa Mart. & Zucc.), by *campo sujo*, with *pau-terra* (Qualea cordata Mart.) Spreng, *murici* (Bysonima vertecillata (L.) DC.), cambará (Gochnatha polymorpha (Less.) Cabr.), by cerrado field, with true grasses and cyperaceae, and by cerrado, with the rupestrian orchids and bromelad.

The fauna is very diversified. In the stony streams we can observe the chelidae (Phrynos vanderhaeghe) and smooth-fronted caiman (Palaocuchus palpebrosus). Among the mammals there are the giant anteater (Mymecophaga tridactyla) and giant armadillo (Protonotus giganteus), both threatened with extinction. The greatest predator of the area, the maned wolf (Chrysocyon brachyurus) controls populations of rodents, birds, reptiles and insects, and also are frequent the pampas deer (Ozotoceros bezaoticus), pampas cat (Onfelis colocolo) and bush dog (Speothos venaticus). Some birds of prey threatened with extinction find shelter in the park, as the golden eagle (Hairy eagle harpyja), crested eagle (Morpihus guianensis) and ornate Hawk-eagle (Spizaetus ornatus).

Whether by singing or the variety of coloring, these also attention: helmeted manakin (Pipra fasciicauda and Antipholia prolata), swallow tanager (Cyanoerpes cyaneus and fereina viridis) and large-billed seed-finch (Oryzoborus cassinotis), beyond the tooo toucan (Ramphastus toco) and macaw (Ara chloroptera), which inhabit the rock walls. Inside the park, numerous attractions deserve a long visit, as Cachoera Wu de Nova (Wu de Nova Waterfall), with 86 m trefail, and waterfalls of Independência river, a group of six waterfalls; Cadeia de Pedra, a series of strange sculptures produced on the rock by erosion. The park uses the infrastructure of the city of Chapada dos Guimarães, around 10 km, where the visitor finds accommodations and transport services.

Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park

Location: Goiás, municipalities of Alto Paranaé de Goiás and Cavalcante
Foundation Date: January 11th, 1961, by Federal Decree N° 49875

Area: 60,000 ha
Climate: tropical, warm semi-humid, with four to five dry months
Temperatures: annual average from 24 to 26°C, absolute maximum from 40 to 42°C and absolute minimum from 4 to 8°C
Rains: between 1,500 and 1,750 mm annually
Land relief: wavy

Located in the part of the Goiás state of the Central Plateau and with altitudes between 600 and 1,650 m, Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park is over a terrain which shelter very old geological formations - with more than 200 million of years - which gave them the physiognomy of hills extremely abrupt to the north, and with a slight decline towards south and southwest. The highest points are in Pouso Alto regions, integrant of Chapada dos Veadeiros.

The area is an important watershed of the basin of the Maranhão and Parani rivers, with the most part of water courses excavating valleys in a “V” form. Among these courses, the main is the Preto river, tributary of Tocantins, which forms in its way beautiful waterfalls, as the Base do Salto, with 80 m height.

The soil of the Park is relatively poor and rare, with some very deep stretches to the sides of the rivers. The predominant vegetation is the savannah, or cerrado, which is presented under the form of true grasses.

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Area: 75,481 ha

Climate: tropical humid

Temperatures: average of 23°C

Rains: rainfall from 1,250 to 1,500 mm

Land relief: plateau. In the east portion there are mild slopes and some hills of carbonate rocks, while in the west portion the slopes are declivity and rocky

Founded on September 2000, Serra da Bodoquena National Park has an area divided in two segments: one in the north, with an area of 27,193 ha, and other in the south, with 48,686 ha. Located in the southeast region of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, it comprises the lands of the municipalities of Bodoquena, Bonito, Jardim and Porto Murtinho. The climate is characterized as tropical semi-humid, with an average temperature of 23°C and the annual rainfall ranges between 1,250 and 1,500 mm.

Serra da Bodoquena – which surpasses the limitations of the park – extends to about 200 km towards north-south, bypassing the part of the pantanal region. It is about, actually, of a plateau with scarps back to pantanal. It has altitudes which range between 400 and 650 m and is constituted by limestone rocks. These rocks allow the waters to infiltrate in the most elevated terrains and form numerous underground rivers which help the occurrence of grotos, caves, chasms and sinks (while the channel river suddenly deftined disappears inside the land, and starts flowing underground). The same water comes by means of numerous holes spread along the region; and, for occurring substrata by the region; and, for occurring over limestone substrate, these waters become incredibly clean, being considered the most transparent waters of the world.

The Mountain, colonized for more than century, is well kept and well-conserved and shelters some of the untouchable portions inside the cerrado and remains of Atlantic of Mato Grosso do Sul. The area of the park has a vegetation of cerrado and subtmontane decidual seasonal forest, beyond the area of ecological contact and tension between these two genus. It also shelters the springs of important regional rivers, as Salobra, which flows towards north and is one of the tributaries of Miranda river, and Peridido, which drains in Apa river, in the south. In addition to these, there are also in this place the springs of Prata, Formosa and Sucuri rivers, all with crystalline water.

The slopes sharply differ, according to the region in which they are situated. In the east side, they are mild; in the west side, steep and scarped. Inside the Park, the fauna is exuberant. Among the felinae, there are the ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), cougar (*Puma concolor*) and jaguar (*Panthera onca*); among the canine, red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), crab-eating fox and maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*); and, among the birds, the hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*), scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*), blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara macawana*) and hairy eagle (Hairy eagle harpyja). We also find the lowland paca (*Agouti paca*), capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), agouti (*Dasyprocta agouti*), tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pacari*), collared peccary (*Tayassu tatypati* guans) and many other invertebrate animals.

North

Amazonia National Park

Location: Park, municipality of Itaituba and Aveiro, Amazonas, Maés

Foundation date: February 19th, 1974, by Federal Decree Nº 73683

Area: 1.070,736 ha

Climate: tropical, humid warm, with one to two dry months

Temperatures: annual average minimum from 20°C and maximum from 34°C

Rains: 1,750 mm annually

Land relief: slightly wavy

Founded by Federal Decree of 1974 – and subsequently amended by other decrees, in 1985 – Amazonia National Park aims to preserve the various natural ecosystems of the region, guaranteeing and protecting the scientific research and enabling the educational and recreation exploration.

It occupies an area of 1,070,736 ha and with a perimeter of 701 km, the park is located in the left side of Tapajós river, in the municipality of Itaituba and Aveiro in the State of Pará, comprising a small portion of the municipality of Maés in the Amazon. A large extension of its area is flooded once a year, due to the flooding of Tapajós river and further rivers of the region.

With a slightly wavy land relief, Amazonia National Park is located in a transition zone, among very old consolidated terrains and others which are still new. There, the humid tropical forest predominates, with a wide diversity of species and forms, where some trees reach up to 50 m height.

With a density of its vegetation and the consequent low lighting on inferior strata, the environment benefits the appearance of lianas, moss, lichens and ferns, plenty in the whole region.

Among the most common vegetal species, we can highlight the Pará rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis* and *Hevea benthamiana*), Brazilian nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*), fraxin (*Cordia goldiana*), angelim-najado (*Pithecolobium racemosum*), manikara trees (*Manilkara* spp.), *acapu* (*Vouacoupa americana*) and Amazon rosewood (*Dalbergia sprucei*). We can still find, in the alluvial forests located along the rivers and in the islands, the açai palm tree (*Euterpe oleracea*), moriche palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*), bacaba (*Oenocarpus bacaba*) and *patiuá* (*Oenocarpus batuaia*).

The fauna is very rich in species, but the population is not large. We can find there the giant armadillo (*Prionotetes giganteus*), giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga jubata* or *M. tridactyla*), bush-dog (*Speothos venosus*) and short-eared dog (*Atelocynus microtis*), all threatened with extinction. In addition to these, there are the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), sea cow (*Tichechus inunguis*), otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) and two species of river dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*). The bird faunas, also rich, counts on more than 250 species, and many of them are threatened with extinction, as golden eagle (*Hary harpyja*) and king vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) and mutuns (*castanha/pitama*). There are common animals as capped heron (*Phalacrocorax pileatus*), roseate spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*), maguari Stork (*Aredea coccyz*), parakeets, macaws and parrots.

Among the reptiles, there are three species of turtles, the most numerous one is the South American river turtle (*Pseudemys expansa*). Further common animals are black caiman (*Melanosuchus nigri*), spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*), *axarapaná* (*Boa canina*), *surucuringá* (*Lacheis muta*), and 5 species of frogs. In the river of the region, we can find the largest fish breeds of Brazil, *pirarucu* (*Arapaima gigas*), in addition to *tambaqui* (*Colossoma bidens*) and butterfly peacock bass and speckled panac (*Cichla ocellaris* and *Cichla temensis*).

Distant 370 km from Santarém, the park practically does not provide visitation and accommodation structures, it offers 2 bases (Liuá and Taocó). You get there, usually, by boat, by Tapajós river, leaving from Santarém (PA) and landing on Itaituba (PA).

Anavilhanas National Park

Location: Anavilhanas, municipalities of Manaus and Novo Airão

Foundation Date: June 2th, 1981 (Decree Nº 86061) – creation of ESEC Anavilhanas; October 29th, 2008 (Law 11799) – recategorization to Pama Anavilhanas

Area: 350,018 ha

Climate: Equatorial humid or rainy tropical

Temperatures: annual average of 27°C

Rains: rainfall of 2,075 mm annually

Land relief: flat, with altitudes ranging between 40 and 75 m

Located in lands and waters belonging to municipalities of Manaus and Novo Airão (AM), and the most part in this last one, Anavilhanas National Park was founded to protect one of the greatest groups of islands in fresh water of the planet: Anavilhanas Archipelago.

Not so far from the capital city of the State, in its eastern side, in addition to the huge archipelago – which occupies around 60% of the total of the Park – the area protected is totally inserted inside the complex of Negro river and includes an extensive stretch of land in its left side.

Protecting typical landscapes of Amazon Forest, the Park shelters forestal, fluvial and lacustrian ecosystems of various types. Around 40% of the Conservation Unit is covered by dense forests of dry land, and the rest is comprised by areas with numerous igapó (flood forest), which are flooded, temporarily, in the flood season, and caatinga-pépo and chavascal vegetation.

The limits of Anavilhanas Park are no so far from Jari National Park (also located, partially, in lands of the municipality of Novo Airão), which is one of the largest reserve forest of South America. In Anavilhanas the dark-colored waters of Negro river highlight on the landscape. It is the main local fluvial course, dismembering in thousands of ramifications: igarapés, panajás, channels, sandbanks and beaches, extensive plains with around 70 lagoons and swamp areas which meander through over than 400 islands with all sizes, covered with woods.

In the lower Negro river, the level of the water may range between 8 and 12 m throughout the year, with the maximum level of flood between May and July and the minimum between October and December. In the period of floods, the islands are covered by the water of the complex: the terrestrial animals shelter in the dry land and it is possible to navigate among the flooded forest. When the water lowers, there are beautiful beaches with clear sands all around the archipelago. The annual cycle of the water flow and the fact of part of the lands of the region are submersed for almost half year, turn the environment especially important for the occurrence of a large diversification of the aquatic fauna. It is common the presence of species as tiger showhorse catfish (*Pseudoplatystoma* sp.), *pirabiá* (*Brachyplatystoma filamentosum*), *pacu* (*Myiurus* sp.), *piranha* (*Serrasalpinx nattereri*) and *pirarucu* (*Arapaima gigas*). Among the main aquatic mammals, in Anavilhanas may be observed varieties of river dolphins – *tucuzi* (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) and Amazon river dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*) – in addition to specimen of sea cow (*Tichechus inunguis*), otters (*Lontra longicaudis*) and giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*).

Specially in dry lands of the islands, we can see many species of terrestrial mammals, some threatened with extinction, such as jaguars (*Panthera onca*), cougars (*Puma concolor*), *guaribas* (*Alouatta seniculus*), *tayras* (*Eira barbara*), red-faced spider monkey (*Ateles paniscus paniscus*), in addition to common squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus sciureus*), night monkeys (*Motis trivirgatus*) and *capybaras* (*Hydrochoerus hidrochaeris*). The fauna of birds is also very rich, with a varied and disperse distribution due to existent habitats – islands, floodable vegetation and dry land. Regardless there is not a complete survey, only 45 families and 177 species of poultrys and birds were registered, including some migratory species. Around there varied species of massifs (family of Scopoliaceae) and swallows (*Hirundinidae*) are very common, in addition to birds of the large families of Tyrannidae, Formicariade and Thraupidae.

The Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) established rules and procedures for visitation in the Anavilhanas National Park, according to Ordinance Nº. 47 of April 9th, 2012, ordering tourist activity in the park. An permissible land and water trails, access to the beaches located on the edge of the city of Novo Airão and Anavilhanas archipelago (emerging during the dry season, from September to February), landing on the islands, the observation of flora and fauna, scenic flights and water sports.

It is worth highlighting the national and international recognition of the Anavilhanas National Park, due to its unique geographical features, its scenic beauty and its ecological attributes: Site is Natural Heritage of Humanity (UNESCO) and Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO), is inserted in the Central Amazon Corridor (Ecological Corridors Project PPG7), it is part of the mosaic of Protected Areas of the Lower Rio Negro (MMA Nº. 458, of 12/14/2010) and is one of the protected areas included in the Cup Parks.

The access to the Park may be done by car or by boat, from Manaus. By car, in Manaus, it is necessary to cross the Ponte Rio Negro (Negro River Bridge), following towards Maracapan by Rodovia Manoel Urbano (AM-070) for about 86 km. Then, the top goes on by Rodovia Samuel Benchimo (AM-352), in a road junction on the right, going to Novo Airão, for 98 km. Roads are paved and the conditions are

reasonable good the whole year. In an average, the traveling takes 2h30, in the maximum.

By boat, the way can be done with several options of regular boats or fast motorboats in the region, that take from 9 to 3 hours, respectively, by Novo Airão.

Araguaia National Park

Location: Tocantins, municipalities of Pium and Lagoa do Corujaço

Foundation Date: December 31th, 1999, by Federal Decree Nº 47570

Area: 557,714 ha

Climate: tropical, semi-humid warm, with four to five dry months

Temperatures: annual average from 24 to 26°C, absolute maximum of 42°C and absolute minimum from 5 to 12°C

Rains: between 1,750 and 2,000 mm annually

Land relief: flat

Located in the middle of Araguaia, far north of Ilha do Bananal – confluence of Araguaia river with its small arm, Javari river – Araguaia National Park has the main characteristic: the wide drainage network, formed by medium and large rivers, in addition to more 30 lakes and lagoons, and of these, almost all surrounded by an amazing riparian forest. In this area there is the formation of *buçus*, it means, holes in igapó (flooded forest), that, at time of flooding are the connection between rivers and streams.

Formed by the deposition of sediments brought by rivers, the land relief of Ilha do Bananal, the largest fluvial island of the world, is low and flat, with altitudes below 171 and 239 m. The rivers are permanent and they generally provide rare beauty panoramic view, as the beaches of Merés river, clean, with de clear sands and practically without vegetation. During the flooding, the area is covered with water, with the exception of the part known as *Torrão*, where the head office the Park is located.

On the soil the predominance is hydromorphic soils, characteristics of acid and very acid soils, with low natural fertility. There are also in the sides of the rivers yellowish-red latossols, with forest and cerrado typical vegetation. In general, however, the vegetation of the region is composed by *várzea* (floodplain). In north, in the transition zone between Cerrado and Amazonia, there are large foreste areas. Overall, however, the vegetation of the region consists of floodable lowland fields. And also two large forest areas occur: Mata do Mamão, with its 60,000 hectares in the southern portion of the Park, and riparian forests formed by the confluence of the Javarié, Araguaia and Riozinho rivers, at the north end of the park.

Among the most common species in the region there are the manikara trees (*Manilkara* sp.), *axaytá-cavalo* (*Luehea* sp.), diesel tree (*Copallera* sp.), *carijeraras* (*Vochysia* sp.), *pau-lima* (*Qualea* sp.), *souari* nut (*Caryocar brasiliense* Cambess.) and *piassava* (*Attalea lunifera* Mart.). In addition to various species of palm trees and orchids.

There is also infinity of species of birds, among them the *hycinth macaw* (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*), *hairy eagle* (Hairy eagle harpyja), *toco Toucan* (*Ramphastos toco*), crimson-headed manakin (*Pipra aureola*), bare-faced curassow (*Cra fasciolata*), greater *hea* (*Rhea americana*), blue-necked heron (*Ardea spp.*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaeetus*). The aquatic fauna is abundant in lagoons and river of the park. Big fishes, as *pirarucu* (*Arapaima gigas*), *cichla* (*Cichla* sp.), *piratão* (*Pseudopia bystana*) and *surubim* (*Pseudoplatystoma corussicans*) are highlighted, in addition to many types of piranha. The reptiles are mainly represented by South American river turtle (*Pseudemys expansa*), by black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*) and by snakes, as *surucuru* (*Lacheis muta*), *boa constrictor* (*Constrictor constrictor*), *corali snake* (*Micurus corallinus*) and *anacondas* (*Eumeces murinus*). With no infrastructure for visitors, the park has temporary headquarters in the city of Pium – 120,120 km from the capital Palmas, where there is airstrip for airplanes. Due to the double allocation of 100% of the

park area with Karajá and Javai Indigenous Lands, the indigenous should be contacted before conducting the visitation, which can be done through the ICMBio itself.

Cabo Orange National Park

Location: Amapá, municipalities of Calçoene and Oiapoque

Foundation Date: July 15th, 1980, by Federal Decree Nº 84913

Area: 619,000 ha

Climate: tropical, humid warm, with three dry months

Temperatures: annual average from 24 to 26°C, absolute maximum from 38 to 40°C and absolute minimum from 12 to 16°C

Rains: between 1,750 and 2,000 mm annually

Land relief: flat

Located near the border of Brazil with French Guiana, in the State of Amapá, Cabo Orange National Park includes terrestrial ecosystems, mangroves and a maritime coast of 10 km, where Capçopi, Uaçá rivers and tributaries flow into Atlantic Ocean. In the north side, the land relief is characterized by long plains, with stretches permanently flooded and other ones subject to flood, where there is the formation of sandbanks. The clayey soil rests on poorly drained land, with mangroves along the coast, with some presence in the southwest part of yellow dystrophic latossols.

The mangroves, where salinity acts as selective fact, the vegetation consists of black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans* (L.) L.), red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle* L.) and yellow or white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa* (L.) G. Gaertn.) Where there is no influence of salinity, but only periodic flooding due to rain, there are plenty of cyperaceas, aroids and palms, as *Scleria* sp., *Ocyperus giganteus* Vahl., (*Monchordia arborescens* (L.) Schott) and moriche palm (*Mauritia flexuosa* Mart.).

In the fluvial fauna, the herbivorous sea cow (*Tichechus inunguis*), mammalian threatened with extinction which consumes up to 15 kilograms of vegetation per day, dominates. In the mangrove, the raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*) also seeks for food, while many species of fishes and crustacean starts growing up, before being transferred to the sea. Typical bird from mangroves, the scarlet ibis (*Eudicmus ruber*) has in the region a red-carmine coloring, which is transmitted to it through pigments of small crabs eaten for the bird. Due to the beauty of its feathers, its population suffered a drastic reduction, having as an example the flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), which uses the park as point for its migration.

On land, other species threatened with extinction of the park are the giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) and giant armadillo (*Prionotetes giganteus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), cougar (*Puma concolor*), tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), and capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*). And, at the beaches, two varieties of sea turtles – the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coucunea*), both in process of extinction – look for shelter for the spawning.

With the access by air, earth and sea/rair, the park still does not provide any infrastructure for accommodation and transport of visitors.

Camps Amazonicos National Park

Location: municipalities of Maitocoé and Novo Aquepauá (AM), Colônia (MT) and Machadoleite d’Oeste (RO)

Foundation Date: June 21th, 2006, with its limits rededfined in 25/06/2012

Area: 961,320 ha

Climate: Equatorial warm and humid, with two seasons during the year, a rainy season (October to April) and a drought season (May to September)

Temperatures: annual average ranging between 24°C and 28°C

Rains: in the rainy period, the rainfall is between 1,500 and 2,600 mm annually

Land relief: flat, with some stretches slightly wavy as half-orange shaped and meandricks in isolated stretches, with altitudes ranging between

In its area there is part of the largest enclave of Cerrado, located in the southern part of the tropical forest, besides others small enclave of Campanianras. Thus, as the appearance of species of animals and plants of Cerrado inside the Amazon biome, these enclaves are an evidence that, in a recent biological past (around 10 thousand years

ago), a large portion of Amazon was still made of Cerrado. Although these conclusive positions do not exist, everything indicated that the study of these occurrences is essential for the comprehension of the evolutionary dynamic of the Amazon biome. The Park presents a hydrography very dense with the predominance of perennial water courses (with the exception of some intermittent igarapés), comprising stretches of Machado, Roosevelt, Branco, Madeirinha and Guaribas rivers and protecting the headwaters of Marmelos and Manicoré rivers.

Como Amazonicos National Park was founded to protect the main group of enclaves of Cerrado in Amazon, avoid the advance of the agriculture frontier, the illegal harvesting and burnings. The pressure mainly comes from the Transamazônica Highway, Estanho road and the north of Mato Grosso.

In almost 70% of its area, the Park features a vegetation cover of dense and open forest formations, characteristics of the central Amazon. In the remaining portions, enclaves of cerrado and campanianras and pioneer and mixed formation forest alternate. The Cerrado areas have almost every type of vegetation that characterize it, such as dirty fields, grasslands and cerrado, in areas with forest and gallery forests with occurrence of beautiful buritizais (clusters of elegant moriche palm, *Mauritia, Mauritia flexuosa*), wetlands in the vicinity of rivers.

Although the studies are not enough yet, three current discoveries of a species, and the most important of them is the identification of a new species of mico, the *Callithrix manicorensis*.

The fauna of the region is composed of a profusion of small and big animals among the mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes and many insects. The natural fields found there, shelter a huge biodiversity including endemic species and typical species from Cerrado, such as pampas deer (*Ozotoceros bezaoticus*) and marsh deer (*Blastocercus dichotomus*).

In forests near Roosevelt river, uncommon phenomena were seen in Amazon, with the appearance of mixed groups of brown woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix cana*) and white-noosed skunk (*Chiropotes albinus*), two endemic species threatened with extinction.

Among the mammals of the terrestrial fauna, forests and clay pits of the region shelter and attract specimen of jaguar (*Panthera onca*), and dwarf leopard (*Leopardus pardalis*), a wide variety of monkeys (*Cebus* sp.), agoutis (*Dasyprocta* sp.), lowland paca (*Agouti paca*), tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), deers (*Mazama* sp.), anteatrs (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla* sp.), *Tamania tetradactyla* sp.), Brazilian guinea pigs (*Cavia apereia*), collared-peccaries (*Tayassu tacaja*, *Tayassu pacari*), armadillos (*Dasyurus* sp., *Euphractus* sp.) compound a group of great ecological importance.

The diversity of birds is really big, according around 330 diverse species. There, there is also a big quantity and variety of birds of all sizes and habits, producing essential fornications for the balance of the environment. These are hawk (Elaonides torquatus), *Gambusyx* sp., *Buteogallius* sp.), macaws (*Ara* sp.), hairy-eagle (Hairy eagle harpyja), parakeets and parrots (*Myiopsitta* sp., *Fopus* sp.), parrots (Amazona sp.), vultures (*Cathartes* sp.), hummingbirds (Phaethornis sp., *Helimastar* sp.), typical guans (*Penelope* sp.), curassows (*Mitu* sp.), tanagers (*Tangara* sp.), Brazilian tanagers (*Ramphocelus* sp.), doves (*Streptopelia* sp.) and dozens of other birds, which are also seen near the city.

The fauna of reptiles and amphibious (40 and 51 species already identified, respectively) is very rich as in the whole Amazon region having as the most common representatives snakes, alligators, frogs, lizards, caçangas (type of lizard) and others. In water courses, there are more than 180 species of fishes, some of them of important local commercial purpose, such as (*Astyanax* spp.), *pacu* (*Colossoma* sp.), *piranha* (*Pogonotus* sp.), red-tail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemilioptentus*), *pleco* (*Hypostomus* sp.), *catfishes* (*Genidens* sp., *Bagropsis* sp., *Baige* sp.), among other species.

The group of arthropods, however, among the whole local fauna is the most diversified, highlighting the several species of beetles, ants, soil termites, arboreal termites, dragonflies, locusts, moths, bees, thumckabts, mosquitos and other, found in the most diverse habitats. Of Camps Amazonicos National Park was already born receiving visitors, Brazilians and foreigners. Despite the natural difficulties of logistics and movement inside the Amazon forest, the region already

has private companies performing this activity. Visitation is mainly due to activity accomplishment of sport fishing in the Roosevelt River, which does not include the boundaries of the Park, but its buffer zone, where this activity is permitted. The existence of inns also allows contemplative visitation and wildlife watching, including bird watching. Campos Amazônicos National Park already approved receiving the visit of regional, Brazilian and foreign visitors. Despite of natural, logistic and dislocation difficulties in the interior of Amazon, the region already has private companies conducting this activity. Access to the Park can be made by BR-319 from Porto Velho/RO to Humaitá/AM, and then followed by the BR-230 (Trans-Amazon Highway) towards the district of Santo Antonio do Matupá it is possible to access the northern Park, including the Roosevelt River. By the Estanho road it is possible to access the cerrado enclave located in the central portion of the Park. From Machadoim do Oeste/RO, following the RO-133 it is possible to access the area of Machado River that connects Porto Velho (RO) to Manaus (AM).

Jamanxim National Park

Location: *Paraná, municipalities of Manaus, Tabatinga and Trairão*
Foundation Date: February 13th, 2006
Area: 859,797 ha
Climate: Warm and humid
Temperatures: annual average of 26°C
Rains: annual average rainfall of 2,000 mm
Land relief: flat, with small waves and average altitudes of 300 m

Jamanxim National Park is entirely located inside Amazon, in the heart of the State of Pará between the municipalities of Trairão and Tabatinga, and around 70% of the preserved area belonging to this last one.

This conservation unit of the full protection category plays a very important ecological role, because it borders with 06 other federal conservation units, serving as a true corridor, linking protected areas of the amapá-doce (Paraharcomia amapa (Huber) Ducke), mangarana (Microphos guyanensis (A. DC.) Pierre), service tree (Couma utilis (Mart.) Mill. Arg.) and jarana (Leogythia lundia (Miers) S.A. Mori). Groups of palm trees, as walking palms (Socratea spp.), açai tree (Euterpe oleracea Mart.) jaucaris (type of palm) (Astrocaryum spp.) can be seen along the alluvial land flows of Carabinani and Jauí rivers, periodically flooded. And in alluvial areas which are old, rarely reached by inundations, there is the alluvial open park, also with a huge predominance of palm trees; there is also the moriche palm and carandá (Mauritia spp.).

Mammals of twilight and nocturnal habits, typical from an equatorial fauna, are easily found in the park as the rare and threatened in extinction as thro colot (Leopardus pardalis), jaguarrunã (Herpalius yaguaruandú) and the crab eating fox (Leopardus tigrinus). There are also the sea cow (Frischetus inguatus), giant otter (Pteronura brasiliensis), dolphin river (Inia sp., Sotalia sp.), guariba-vermelho (Alouatta seniculus), howler monkeys (Aotus trivirgatus), common squirrel monkey (Saimiri sciureus) and tapir (Tapirus terrestris). And, among the fishes, we highlight pirarucu (Arapaima gigas) and cicilia (Cichla sp.).

Finalizing the local fauna large variety of reptiles - red-footed tortoises (Geochelone spp.), black caiman (Melanosuchus niger), anacondas (Eunectes murinus) and turtles -, in addition to expressive species of tree, macaws, parrots and pauraqu, among trees.

By now, the park does not provide an infrastructure accommodation for visitors. The city is very small. The nearest city is Novo Airão, with boat access.

There, we can also see many noisy groups of monkeys, jumping from branch to branch never going down to the ground, as spider-monkey (Ateles belzebuth magnifatus) with its long arms and the white-nosed saki (Chiropotes albifrons). Among the surface of water and deep of rivers, there are the giant otter (Pteronura brasiliensis) and the pacific otters (Lontra longicauda). Going for food on the soil covered by leaves, there are many families of tapirs (Tapirus terrestris) and capybaras (Hydrochoerus hydrochoerus), in addition to a variety of frogs (Alibates sp.) and lizards (Coleodactylus amazonicus). Finally, there are the sloths (Bradypus variegatus), jaguars (Panthera onca) and cougars (Puma concolor).

The highway access is through BR-163, which crosses the Park. Leaving

the city of Santarém, go through this highway to the city of Rurópolis, where you take a stretch of BR-230 to the junction that takes to the city of Itaituba, to return to BR-163, through the left, driving more 190 km.

Jauí National Park

Location: *Amazônia, municipalities of Novo Airão and Bantoso*
Foundation Date: September 24th, 1980, by Federal Decree Nº 89200
Area: 2.272,000 ha
Climate: equatorial, super humid warm, without drought
Temperatures: annual average from 24°C to 26°C, absolute maximum from 38°C to 40°C and absolute minimum from 12°C to 16°C
Rains: between 2,000 and 2,250 mm annually
Land relief: flat.

Occupying an area almost so wide like, for example, the State of Israel, Jauí National Park is located in the lowered plateau of Amazônia Ocidental (Occidental Amazon). With a planned land relief and altitudes around 100 m, its area lies on tubular interfluvies, generally separated by valleys periodically or permanently flooded. With the origin in the formation of Solimões, the soil of the area is constituted by argillites, siltstone and sandstones. Following the riverbeds there are alluvial of quartzites, formed by sands, silts and clays.

Considering one of the parks with the richest biodiversity, the vegetation suffers the predominance of the dense forest, where the groups of Brazil nut tree (Bertholletia excelsa H.B.K.), angelim-rajada (Pithecolobium incultae (Vell.) Benth.), quarana (Vochysia maxima Ducke), succupiti (Xylopiaea spp.), acouba (Virola spp.), breu (Pretium spp.) and manikara trees (Manilkara hubertii (Ducke) Chevalier) are frequent. It is also frequent in the area a cipó (Dolicoarpus rotundif. J.F. Gmel.) which provides water of excellent quality.

In higher plain, northeast from the park, there is a lot of subtropical dense forest, where the most representative bushes are the amapá-doce (Paraharcomia amapa (Huber) Ducke), mangarana (Microphos guyanensis (A. DC.) Pierre), service tree (Couma utilis (Mart.) Mill. Arg.) and jarana (Leogythia lundia (Miers) S.A. Mori). Groups of palm trees, as walking palms (Socratea spp.), açai tree (Euterpe oleracea Mart.) jaucaris (type of palm) (Astrocaryum spp.) can be seen along the alluvial land flows of Carabinani and Jauí rivers, periodically flooded. And in alluvial areas which are old, rarely reached by inundations, there is the alluvial open park, also with a huge predominance of palm trees; there is also the moriche palm and carandá (Mauritia spp.).

Mammals of twilight and nocturnal habits, typical from an equatorial fauna, are easily found in the park as the rare and threatened in extinction as thro colot (Leopardus pardalis), jaguarrunã (Herpalius yaguaruandú) and the crab eating fox (Leopardus tigrinus).

There are also the sea cow (Frischetus inguatus), giant otter (Pteronura brasiliensis), dolphin river (Inia sp., Sotalia sp.), guariba-vermelho (Alouatta seniculus), howler monkeys (Aotus trivirgatus), common squirrel monkey (Saimiri sciureus) and tapir (Tapirus terrestris). And, among the fishes, we highlight pirarucu (Arapaima gigas) and cicilia (Cichla sp.).

Finalizing the local fauna large variety of reptiles - red-footed tortoises (Geochelone spp.), black caiman (Melanosuchus niger), anacondas (Eunectes murinus) and turtles -, in addition to expressive species of tree, macaws, parrots and pauraqu, among trees.

By now, the park does not provide an infrastructure accommodation for visitors. The city is very small. The nearest city is Novo Airão, with boat access.

Juruena National Park

Location: *municipalities of Afã and Maués (AM); Apiacás, Cohiza, Cotiguanu and Nova Bandeirantes (MT)*
Foundation Date: June 5th, 2006
Area: 1.957,526 ha

Climate: Equatorial warm and humid, with two seasons in the year, a rainy one (October to April) and the other one of drought (May to September)
Temperatures: annual average ranging between 24°C and 28°C
Rains: in the rainy period, the rainfall ranges between 1,500 and 2,600 mm annually
Land relief: slightly wavy topography with short areas which are strongly wavy

Located between the North of Mato Grosso State (Apiacás, Coliza, Cotiguanu and Nova Bandeirantes) and Southeast of Amazonas States (Afuã and Maués), Juruena International Park is the third largest park of Brazil and is characterized for its abundance and biological diversity. The objective of its foundation was the protection of low Juruena, comprising the basins of Teles Pires and upper Tapajós, as well as its natural landscapes and associated abiotic values. In the landscape of park the vegetal coverage is not homogeneous. It is composed by a mosaic of environments, where dense forestry areas and open forestry areas alternate among each other (more than a half of the total), transitions areas (around 36%), savannah and campinarana (woodland or park), in a big area of contact between the humid forest of Amazon and the typical formators of the Cerrado biome. With a land relief very irregular, alternating between flat and wavy areas, slightly or strongly, and even a short mountainous area, the Park is crossed by numerous clear water rivers. In this context, we can highlight the natural ecosystems of great relevance and unique scenic beauty in the Amazonian environment, with beautiful waterfalls of Juruena river (Augusto and São Simão).

For the category of mammals it was registered the occurrence of 101 species, distributed in 10 orders, and a big profusion of skunks and opossums, anteaters and sloths, white-tipped peccaries, tapirs, lowland pacas, armadillos and agoutis, saains and monkeys, rotators, bats, deers and collared peccaries.

In primates we can highlight, for example, the zogue-zogue, primate of Callicebus genus, and other monkeys whose presence and size call the attention, as the spider monkey (Ateles chamek), white-nosed saki (Chiropotes albifrons), howler monkey (Alouatta seniculus), red-handled howler (A. belzebuth) and brown woolly monkey (Lagothrix cana).

Among the mammals threatened with extinction and which are vulnerable are registered the giant anteater (Mirmecophaga tridactyla), giant armadillo (Priodontes magnus), crab-eating fox (Speothos venaticus) coloti (Leopardus pardalis), jaguar (Leopardus wiedii), jaguar (Panthera onca) and giant otter (Pteronura brasiliensis). In the bird fauna, always in a big protection and variety, among the 412 known species, around 40 are endemic of Southern Amazon. Many of them were registered in Juruena, among them the bald parrot (Gypopsitta aurantiocephala), bare-eyed antbird (Rhegmatorhina gymmys), tooth-billed wren (Odontornhis cinereus), snow-capped manakin (Lepidothrix nattereri), guild's toucanet (Selenidera guildi), green-winged tanager (Piphoia vitidis) and peary parakeet (Pyrrhura peralta). In addition, the large extension of vegetal continuum of the Park and the protected areas associated to it represents a factor of extreme importance in the maintenance of big species, as the hairy eagle (Hairy eagle harpy), ornate hawk-eagle (Spizaetus ornatus), nocturnal curassow (Nothofaux urumutum) and Kawai's parrot (Amazona kawai).

Regarding fishes' species, the studies already accomplished registered the existence of more than 120 species of fishes, and the fresh water ones were the predominant, with the most varied forms, preferences of environments and migratory and reproductive habits. The most important species for regional fishing (both for consumption and sport fishing) are: matrãna (Brycon), pacas and pauraqu (Myleis and Metynis), pavaa (Hydrolycus scomberoides), bicuda (Boulengerella), black wolf fish (Hoplias sp.), jau (Pauloea lutrenis), pintado (Pseudoplatystoma corussicans), surubim (Pseudoplatystoma sp.), pirimacaw (Pharicocephalus hemiopleurotis), piralza (Brachyplatystoma filamentosum), caparari (Pseudoplatystoma tigrinum), pralza (Brachyplatystoma filamentosum), electric eel (Electrophorus electricus) and rays (Potamorhynchidae).

Regarding herpetology, 87 species were registered, of these 47 were amphibious and 40 reptiles, and the most part were endemic species in Amazon and some of them with wide distribution, as cane toad (Rhinella marina), sapo-canorro (Rhyobas boeri), cornet tree frog (H. Calcaratus), common lancehead (Bothrops atrox), Brazilian rainbow boa (Epicrates cenchrina), beyond to many lizards found for the first time in the State of Mato Grosso.

For its location in the middle of many other protected areas, the access to Juruena National Park is difficult and it may be done by plane (with access through landing strips on farms and local companies, by land (through roads MT – 206, 208, 160 and 170) and Ruvial.

Mapiquari National Park

Location: *municipalities of Canutama and Librea (AM) and Porto Velho (RO)*
Foundation Date: June 05th, 2008, amended by law 12249 of June 14th 2010
Area: 1.776,918 ha
Climate: Equatorial warm and humid
Temperatures: annual average of 25°C
Rains: rainfall between 1,500 and 2,000mm annually
Land relief: slightly rugged, without great elevations or depressions, with altitudes ranging between 70 and 600 m

Around 90% of the area of Mapiquari is located in lands of the State of Amazonas, in the municipalities of Canutama and Librea (AM), and 10% is in Porto Velho (RO), where is also the administrative office of the Park. This is about a group of natural ecosystems of great ecological relevance and scenic beauty, highlighting important enclaves of Cerrado in the region of the upper interfluvio Purus-Madeira.

The environmental singularity of the area that Mapiquari National Park comprises is benefited by the presence of unique geological formations. Three isolated massifs are highlighted in the landscape in the middle of the Amazon plains recovered by green carpet of the forest: they are the mountains of Candombá, Curuetimé and Três Irmãos, where important tributaries forming the basin of Ituxiém river in its middle course are flowing.

Although it is inserted in the heart of Brazilian Amazon, the region of Mapiquari presents a different formation in the interior of the biome and presents a great environmental heterogeneity. In addition to stretches of open ombrophilous forest (around 30% of the protected area), the Park shelters several isolated and unique ecosystems in Amazon, containing a big variety of phyto-physicsomes of contact and transition with the Cerrado (more than half of the total area). Large patches of savannah and natural fields were identified in lands and aerial view. It is known that the whole eco-region of Purus-Madeira, due to the abundance of the quantity of endemic species it holds, presents a high level of priority for the conservation of the fauna and flora, specially. Accurate scientific results about endemism of this specific environment have been waited, since the researchers of INPA are conducting studies about the areas of natural field in the Amazonian south including the region of PARNA Mapiquari. Studies of large mammals have reported so far 27 species, among them the presence of Pampas deer (Ozotoceros bernardus), which is a species with occurrence associated with the cerrado.

Preliminary environmental surveys for the foundation of the Park, however, already pointed out the occurrence of the primate Callicebus stephenshahi (zogue-zogue). Currently, it was also discovered new species of endemic bird (jay family) habituating the environments of transition between the natural fields and the forest.

The Mapiquari National Park is inserted into an area of extreme importance for biodiversity conservation, its area covers 08 (eight) polygons of priority areas for biodiversity conservation.

Besides the description of new species, there are records of some species that are associated with the Cerrado that are registered in the areas of natural grasslands within the Park. Among the species, it is included the Sharp-tailed Tyrant (*Culicivora caudata*), which is one of the few Amazonian localities with occurrence of this endangered bird. Important populations of Black-masked Finch (*Coryphaspiza melanotis*) are also found in the fields.

The park is surrounded by some of the main roads of the northern region as federal highways BR-319, BR-364 and BR-230, which originate from a number of secondary branches that access the Park boundaries. Apart from land access, there are important inland river accesses where we highlight the Mucumim and Afã-Juá waterways. The main access to PARNA is through BR-319, coming from Porto Velho (RO) for Humaitá (AM), which at km 86 we should enter to the left side-line that accesses the location where the Park's base on field is being built. Mapiquari presents a big potential for visitation and tourism, both recreational and scientific. But, a diagnostic which evaluates the potential of its public use is still necessary.

Montanhas do Tumucumaque National Park

Location: *Amapá and Pará, municipalities of Almeirim, In the State of Pará; and Laranjal do Rio Ari, Peda Branca do Amapari, Serra do Navio, Calçoene and*

Olápoque, in the State of Amapá
Foundation Date: August 22th, 2002, by Federal Decree without number
Area: 3.867,000 ha
Climate: classified as humid warm tropical
Temperatures: average of 25°C
Rains: rainfall ranging from 2,000 to 3,250 mm annually
Land relief: located in the land relief unit of depressions of North Amazon, with portions of the residual plateau of North of Amazon

The largest park of tropical forest of the world, Montanhas do Tumucumaque National Park, with its 3,867 thousand ha, has a size equivalent to Belgium territory and almost the extension of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Twenty eight percent of the territory of Amapá is part of this park, plus 4,400 thousand ha that the State already give to preservation purposes - Indian areas, parks and biological reserves, and ecological stations - totaling 58% the whole territory of the State of Amapá.

The park is extended along the border of Brazil with French Guiana and with Suriname, comprising inclusive lands of the State of Pará. It covers the springs of all main rivers of Amapá, with an emphasis for Olápoque, Jari and Araguari.

Due to its isolation, it is considered one of the best preserved areas of Amazônia, with untractable primary forests. The Amazon forest of the region is classified as submontane dense ombrophilous forests. It has a high size and uniform coverage, with numerous emergent trees. Also observing the rocky outcrop with vegetation of bushes and tree grasses (caracaro). On hills like "pão-de-açúcar", the vegetation is sparse, with the predominance of bromeliad and cactus. The main families of plants found in the region are Bignoniaceae, Bombacaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Moraceae, Sterculiaceae, Lauraceae, Vochysiaceae, Sapotaceae, Lecythidaceae, Leguminosae, Combretaceae, Anacardiaceae, Rubiaceae, Meliaceae, Sapindaceae, Annonaceae and Anacardi. The most common trees include: Calophyllum brasiliense Cambes, Carapa guianensis Aubl., Cedrela fessilis Vell., Ceiba pentandra (L.) Gaertn., Couroupita guianensis Aubl., Eschweilera coriacea (DC.) Mori, Guarea guidonia (L.) Sleumer, Luehea sp., Dipteryx punctata (S.F. Blake) Amshuf, Parika pendula (Willd.) Benth. ex Walp., Pentastelma macroleba (Willd.) Kuntze, Protium sp., Schwartzia sp., Fricillia sp., and Warszewitzia coccinea (Vahl) Klötzsch.

Tumucumaque has an exuberant fauna, from large carnivores, as the jaguar (Panthera onca) and cougar(Puma concolor), to multicolored hummingbirds, as crimson topar (Topsay pella). Important species and highly threatened with extinction for the Guianas in general, also may be found in the area of the park, as Coturnicops notatus (known from a register in the Guiana), hoary throated spinetail (Synallaxis kaffari), known only from one locality, and rufous-sided pigmy tyrant (Euscarthmus rufomarginatus), known from an area of the south of Suriname and Ampá, a species which has never been seen that much since its appearance in the Guianas in the 60's. The primates which were

registered in the region are: common squirrel monkey (Saimiri sciureus), robust capuchin monkeys (Cebus apella), bearded sakis (Chiropotes satanas), monkey saki (Pithecia chryscephala), howler monkeys (Alouatta seniculus) and red-faced spider monkey (Ateles paniscus).

Monte Roraima National Park

Location: *Roraima*
Foundation Date: June 28th, 1989, by Federal Decree Nº 97887
Area: 116,000 ha
Climate: tropical, hot and humid, with three dry months
Temperatures: average annual 24-26°C, absolute maximum temperature of 38°C and minimum of 12-18°C
Rainfall: between 1,500 and 1,750 mm per year
Relief: hilly and steep

The Monte Roraima National Park (MRNP) is located north of the State of Roraima, with an area of 116,000 hectares, occupying part of the 100 km border between Venezuela and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Among the attractions that make up the MRNP it becomes possible to visit Monte Roraima – a large table bordered by abrupts and partly denuded steeps, and one of the highlights of the country, with 2,734.1 m altitude, according to the review carried by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the Military Institute of

Engineering (IME), published in July 2005 – and Mount Caburá with 1,456 m, which is the northernmost point of Brazil. In its surroundings is also Serra do Sol, with 2,400 m.

The top of Mount Roraima besides housing the landmark triple border (BVG-O), also contains the headwaters of the Orinoco and Essequibo rivers, tributaries of the Amazon and Yuru basin. The hydrography of the park is made up primarily of springs and headwaters of the Coirógu and Uaiál rivers. Fast and rugged mountain watercourses, forming beautiful rapids and waterfalls. To the south of the park, the Coirógu river follows the Atafete Stepe. Savanna, predominantly riparian forests along its banks.

Set in beautiful natural surroundings, the biodiversity of the Monte Roraima National Park, because of isolation, is almost intact. The differences in altitude, soil type and the intense moist, among other factors, gave rise to a strong plant and animal endemism largely unknown to science. Some examples of endemism er recorded on the plateau of Mount Roraima are: toxic frogs *Oreophrynella quelchii* and *macconnelli*; insectivorous plants *Heliophorantius*, *Utriculariaquechii* and *humboldtii*, and *Droseraauramae*, orchid *Epidendrumsecundum*; bromeliads *Brockhiniaerudacta*, *Tillandsiatum*, and bush *Bomareaauramae*.

The vegetation is basically of two types: dense montane rainforest and ecological refuges. At first, at altitudes above 1,000 m, the most common species are: *Pouteria surinamensis*, *Coccolobaauramae*, *Didymopanax* sp., *Jacaratia* sp. and *Qualeaeschom* *Cuecariana*, besides having a huge diversity of epiphytes (bromeliads and orchids), ferns, vines, mosses, lichens and a dense litter populated by a multitude of species of fungi and microarthropods.

Between 600 and 1,500 meters altitude, the same species are repeated, but with smaller size and a more clustered distribution, as in the case of quarana (*Vochysia grandis* *ex saundersii* (C. Martius) Wern.). Already at the high end, around 2,500 m, ecological refuges occur. The plants then intertieve, forming a dense tangle and difficult to penetrate. The most common species are those belonging to the families of Orchidaceae, Melastomataceae, Asteraceae and Rubiaceae.

However, the paucity of scientific knowledge of the region is restricted to the hills and mounds of Caburá and Roraima. The valleys of the Coirógu and Uaiál rivers, plus many mountains with altitudes above 1,500 meters still remain as unknowns for researchers. However, rare and fast reconnaissance expeditions in areas of the National Park detected the existence of animal and plant species never yet recorded. In the region of Caburái insects, orchids and bromeliads were found that had enriched texts of new records of Brazilian fauna and flora. The family Orchidaceae was given 25 new records. Among Bromeliads, five new records and a new species were added.

Nascentes do Lago Jari National Park

Location: *Amazonas, municipalities of Brun and Buraçá*
Foundation Date: May 8th, 2008
Area: 612,745 ha
Climate: Equatorial humid
Temperatures: annual averages ranging from 24°C to 30°C
Rains: rainfalls between 1,500 and 2,500 mm annually
Land relief: flat

Integant of one of the most important ecological corridors of Amazon, Nascentes do Lago Jari National Park was founded to protect part of the basin of the Jari river, important tributary of the right side of Purus river in its middle course. The area comprised by the Park is connected to a wide mosaic in connection with many other protected lands (regarding not only in federal level but also state level), located along the intertinue of Purus and Madeira rivers: Apuriná Indigenous Land of Iganapé Itauaimim, Biological Reservo of Afulan and Sustainable Development Reserve of Piaçaguá, along the Purus River; and the Extrativist Reserve of Capanã Grão, the Sustainable Development Reservo of Ampáa River and Matupiri State Park, connected to the fluvial system of Madeira river.

More than 70% of the area of the park presents a landscape and vegetation with characteristics of the dense ombrophilous forest, i.e., it has a typical coverage of Amazon humid tropical forests of dry trees. The physiognomy is exuberant, with great abundance of high trees,

above 30 m height, regarding quality and variety. The sub-woodland, relatively open, is dominated by the presence of palm trees and lianas. In the first surveys conducted for monitoring the species of the existent fauna in the Park, the focus was on the study of the group composed by amphibious and reptiles, the herpetofauna, recognized as an important environmental bioindicator. There 86 species belonging to this group were found, and of these 43 were among (frogs, etc.), 18 lizards, 20 serpents, two alligators and three turtles. Some of them – the turtle known as *cabeçudo* (*Pelteophthalmus dumeriliani*), yellow-spotted Amazon river Turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*), smooth-fronted caiman (*Pelteochus trigratus*), spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*), anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*), yacúa (*Boa constrictor*), Amazon tree boa (*Corallus hortulanus*), *símibu*, green iguana or lizard (*Iguana iguana*), jacarana (*Crocodilus amazonicus*) and a species of a black frog with white stripes (*Alibates amazzonis*) – they are in international lists of species threatened with extinction or with risks of extinction.

All NUNP east side is limited by BR-319, which is off since the 1980s, but has its reopening scheduled. Aiming biodiversity monitoring across the reactivation of the highway, several surveys are conducted in the region. The non-governmental organization Wildlife Conservation Society-WCS and Research Program in Biodiversity – PPBio have research modules within the Park.

By its surveys indicate that even the areas with human interference and occupation are well conserved, sheltering rare species and with perspectives of appearance of new species not identified by scientists yet. To assist in their management, the NUNP has its Advisory Board constituted since 2012, with representation from government and civil society and people from its surroundings.

The Management Plan is being prepared, and being done in conjunction with eight other federal conservation units in the region to the integrated management of the ecological corridor of the Madeira Purus Interfluv.

Although the Park is not yet open to visitors, it has access for BR-319, only in the dry season (June to November), being managed by Manaus (AM) and followed by 355 km towards south or Humaitá (AM) around 190 km to north.

Nascentes do Rio Paranaíba National Park

Location: border of the States of Piauí, Maranhão, Bahia and Ceará, comprising the municipalities of Caracaras-PI, Baraméis do Piauí-PI, São Gonçalo do Gurguéia-PI, Gibulés-PI, Alto Paranaíba-MA, Formosa do Rio Preto-SE, São Félix do Maranhão-TO and Lizardia-TO

Foundation Date: July 18th, 2002, by Federal Decree number **729,814** ha
Climate: tropical semi-humid
Temperatures: Average of 23°C
Rain: Annual rainfall ranging from 750 to 1,750 mm
Land relief: Outlined by chapadas of sandstones

Located on the border of the States of Piauí, Maranhão, Bahia and Tocantins, comprising part of the Chapada das Mangabeiras, Nascentes do Rio Paranaíba National Park shares the hydrographic basins of São Francisco, Tocantins and Paranaíba rivers. With an area of 729,814 hectares, it has a land relief which is part of the Domain of Chapadas' complex, composed by extensive plains of planning. The region presents typical portions of land relief of Sedimentary Chapada (Brazilian Plateau) of São Francisco, Sedimentary Depression of Meio-Norte and Patamares do São Francisco-Tocantins, showing a high environmental fragility, where the land relief is outlined by chapadas (Brazilian plateau) of sandstone sensibile to the weathers. The soils on the chapadas are deeper and with low natural fertility, on the slopes of the hillsides they are sandy, shallow and poor, with the presence of rocky outcrops and with high permeability. Due to this great permeability, the chapada is formed of a great number of springs which will feed those three important Brazilian rivers. Paranaíba river, thus, has its origins in Serra da Tabatinga, from the resurgence of which spring, Curuílo and Água Quente rivers, and their formers.

The Park covers one of the major extensions of vegetation of the Cerrado biome, still in an excellent state of conservation in the region. There are extensive areas, from forested savannah to sand savannah, arboreous savannah, rough savannah and gallery and ciliary wood and

the seasonal fields are penetrated by seasonal and riparian forests. Its climate is semi-humid tropical, with an average temperature of 23°C and annual rainfall ranging from 750 to 1,750 mm. In flora, trees and bushes from Cerrado, as sossai nut (Canopycar brasiliense Cambess.), *Jacarandá-do-mato* (*Machaerium opacum Vogelii*), sucupira-preta (*Bowdichia virgilioides* kunth), faveiro (*Dimorpha mollis* benth) and pau-santo (*Keimweyeria coccoea* Mart. & Zucc.) predominate.

The wild fauna is abundant, with more than 60 species of mammals and about 211 species of birds. It presents rare species and/or species threatened with extinction, among them we can highlight the pampas deer (*Ootoceros bocourti*), ocotillo (*Parthera jaguaralis* pardalis), jaguar (*Parthera jaguaralis* onca), otter (*Lontra longicauda*), three banded armadillo (*Tolypeutes trictatus*), giant armadillo (*Priodontes giganteus*) and giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga judata* or *M. tridactyla*). Among the representatives of the bird faunas, we can mention the presence of hairy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*), white-browed guan (*Penelope superciliosis* typical guassanca), Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaia*) and different species of hummingbirds as well as the hermit plateau (*Phaenotris peters*).

Pacaás Novos National Park

Location: Rondônia, municipalities of Guajará-Mirim, Presidente Médici, Costa Marques and Duro Preto do Oeste. The headquarters of the park is in the municipality of Campo Novo de Rondônia.
Foundation Date: September 21st 1979, by Federal Decree N° 84019
Area: 765,801 ha
Climate: tropical warm humid, with three dry months
Temperatures: annual average from 24 to 26°C, absolute maximum from 36 to 38°C and absolute minimum from 0 to 4°C
Rain: between 2,000 and 2,250 mm annually
Land relief: tabular and mountainous

In the mountains covered by Pacaás Novos National Park, among them the Upiãnes, Pacaás Novos and Moreira Cabral, spring the main rivers (studies indicates that there are more than 2,500 news springs) of the State of Rondônia – Madeira, Mamoré, Guaporé, Jamaná, Machado and Jaci-Paraná. The region covers dozens of waterfalls, some with more than 50 m of fall. Extension of the Chapada dos Parecis, Serra dos Pacaás Novos (where is Alto do Tacaré, which altitudes up to 1,150 m) is a great residual massif, composed by tabular land relieves carved on Precambrian sediments. In the Serra dos Upiãnes – also with a tabular land relief, but lower – represents a slight trim of surface towards Cadiário River.

The climate of the park is tropical warm humid and frequently with polar anticyclones, which may cause a sudden drop in temperature. The annual average, however, is around 26°C, with the period of major rainfall in the months of November to March.

One of the most preserved region of the country, the park presents a dense Amazonic forest, which is characterized by the presence of species of the Amazonia (palm tree from Amazon) (*Encocarpus batavau* Mart.), Pará rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis* Müll. Arg.) and yellow ype (*Tabeuia serratifolia* (Vahl) G. Nicholson). In the open Amazonic forest, there is the predominance of Brazilian nut tree (*Bertholletia excelsa* H.B.K.), babassu palm (*Attalea speciosa* Mart. ex Spreng) and amarelo (*Apuleya molaris* (Spruce ex Benth.) Gleason), And, from the contacts between the savannah and the forest, *mandiocaeira-do-campo* (*Qualea reclusa* Spruce ex Warm.), *faveira* (*Parkia* spp.) and *lavínia* (*Salvertia* spp.) are representatives. There are also wide areas of Cerrado, in their diverse forms, where the most found bushes are *quarubá-do-campo* (*Vochysya* spp.), *periquiteira* (*Laetia* sp.), *sucupira-do-campo* (*Bowdichia* sp.) and ype (*Tabeuia* spp.), beyond the ferns (*Paridium* sp.) on the grassy carpet. Very diversified, the fauna of the park conserves fine specimen of cursoraw, hairy eagles, parrots, toucans, aracaris and diverse varieties of macaws, among them the hyacinth macaw (*Anadorhynchus hyacinthinus*), threatened with extinction. From mammals, we can highlight the gibbon-backed sakati (*Ocajao melanocepalus*), for example, the other regions have suffered the reduction of their native areas, even being with red-cowled cardinal (*Rupicola rupicola*, small orangebird which habitates rocky areas surrounded by forests.

The area of the park, which overlaps an Indian territory, shelters the tribes of *uru-e-wau-wau* – “those who tap tobacco” – and *uru-pá-in* – “those who are painted”.

Pico da Neblina National Park

Location: Amazonas, municipalities of São Gabriel da Cachoeira and Santa Isabel do Rio Negro. Pico da Neblina is situated in the latter.
Foundation Date: June 5th, 1979, by Federal Decree N° 83550
Area: 2,260,000 ha
Climate: tropical of Central Brazil, warm humid, with one to two dry months
Temperatures: annual average from 24 to 29°C, absolute maximum from 38 to 40°C and absolute minimum from 12 to 16°C
Rain: between 2,750 and 3,000 mm annually
Land relief: wavy and mountainous

Located on the border of the State of Amazonas in Venezuela, Pico da Neblina National Park, with over 2 million and two hundred thousand hectares, features high socio-biodiversity beyond extraordinary and diverse scenic beauty. In his set of mountains lies the culmination point of Brazil, Pico da Neblina, with approximately 2,994 meters. Also located on the boundaries of the Park the second highest elevation of the country, Pico 31 de Março, with 2,972 m.

The high biological diversity is due the different and rare types of habitat, and ecosystems, as altimontano, an immense mosaic of endemic and rare vegetation formations. Over one thousand meters, there is the ecological mountain and anti-mountain refuges, upland forests and flooded forests.

This region is inhabited by 12 distinct ethnic groups occupying indigenous lands: Baláio, Médio Rio Negro II, Cuié Cuié/Marabitanas and Yanomama. These groups carry with them great traditional knowledges and rich cultures, representing ethnic groups: Banwa, Baré, Carapaná, Dessano, Kobewa, Kuripao, Piratupia, Tariano, Tukano, Tuyuca, Werekna and Yanomama.

The topography of region is basically presented by three distinct levels: *Roraima sedimentary plateau*, *Amazonas-Orenoco plateau* and *pediplano Rio Branco-Rio Negro*. In the first one, first, of tabular type carved on rocks, the altitudes range from 1,000 to 2,994 m, with the high point of the country located in it. Positioned between the basins of Orenoco and Amazonas rivers, the *Amazonas-Orenoco plateau* is an extensive mountainous area, which has as main representatives the mountains of Padre, Marié Mirim and Imeri. With two distinct levels, the altitudes are from 600 to 2,000 m, and the constitution of the soil practically does not differ from the altitude found in the highest part of the Park. Finally, the Branco River- Negro River pediplan is an extensive surface of planning, with origin in Precambrian rocks and rocks of the Guiana complex, it corresponds to the lowest level of the area, with altitudes ranging from 80 to 100 m. The soils in this area are different, with a predominance of podzol, quartzite sands and red-yellow and yellow tals.

Pico da Neblina National Park has a diversified vegetation, presenting important formations of campinaranas, also known as caatingas of Negro River (Rio Negro), characterized by the presence of carana (*Mauritia* carana Wallace), yellowheart (*Erythrophora parensis* Hub.) (*taupira*) (*Carapa grandifolia* Mart.) and *casca-do-copo* (*Pouteria* sp.), among others. In the area of the montane dense forest, which are above of 1,000 m, there are the *Jaúba* (*Melzaurus bauba* (Meisn.) Tulp. ex Meisn.), *mandiocaeira-azul* (*Qualea cynnes* Ducke), and *bacabinha-quina* (*Ferdinandusa parensis* Ducke), *tamaquaré* (*Carapa grandifolia* Mart.), *quarubá-do-campo* (*Vochysia inunatda* Ducke) and *juatá-porocora* (*Dialium guianensis* (Aubl.) Sandwith). In the submontane dense forest, located between 600 and 1,000 m, there are mainly the lacano (*Eriana lucumbana* Benth.), *mucuro-oro* (*Licania heteromorpha* Benth.) and *japurá* (*Erisma japura* Spruce ex Warm.). We can find there one of the richest faunas of the country, with diverse species threatened with extinction. Even being abundant in the area, the primate gibbon-backed sakati (*Ocajao melanocepalus*), for example, the other regions have suffered the reduction of their native areas, even being with red-cowled cardinal (*Rupicola rupicola*, small orangebird which habitates rocky areas surrounded by forests.

Other species preserved as crab-eating frog (Cercodryon thouai), jaguar (*Parthera onca*), black hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*), ornate hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus ornatus*). We can also observe the tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), zogue-zogue (*Callithrix* sp.), tucano-açu (*Ramphastos toco*), black curassow (*Crax alectro*) and *gray-winged trumpeter* (*Psophia crepitans*).

The Park does not have a management plan and its main tool for managing is the management council. The implementation of this council promotes participative management and the joint construction of other management tools. Currently, CU is not closed for public viewing and is discussing with residents and partner institutions the possibility of reopening by the development of ecotourism activity. Access: By water and air to the city of São Gabriel da Cachoeira (nearest), starting from the town via river unpaired way and in sequence, following by water through rivers and smaller streams. To achieve the Pico da Neblina is still needed four days of tough hiking in the jungle.

Rio Novo National Park

Location: Park, in the municipalities of Itaituba and Novo Progresso
Foundation Date: February 13th, 2005, by Federal Decree number **537,757** ha
Climate: humid warm, between December to April there are the greatest precipitations of rain
Temperatures: annual average 26,7°C, maximum from 32,1 and minimum of 22,4°C
Rain: rainfall of 2,189 mm annually
Land relief: dominated by ample flats

The conservation area was created with the primary objective of preserving natural ecosystems of great ecological significance and scenic beauty of this region of Park, enabling the realization of scientific researches and the development of activities of environmental education and interpretation of recreation in touch with nature and ecotourism.

The vegetation found in the Rio Novo region is mostly constituted by Ombróphorous Dense Forest with typical species of the Amazon, such as the rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis* Müll. Arg.), chestnut tree (*Bertholletia excelsa* H.B.K.) and samaiama (*Caba pentandra* (L.) Gaertn). The region is rich in endemic and endangered species of both flora and fauna, many of them still little known or studied. Among birds, for example, we highlight the dark-winged Trumpeter (*Psophia viridis*) and Black-spotted Bare-eye (*Phlegopsis nigromaculata*). In addition, there are plenty of species of mammals (especially primates) and freshwater fish, with the most varied forms, preferences of environments and migratory and reproductive habits. It is required a special permit, obtained with ICMBio for visitation and tourism to access the Park through Itaituba (PA) or through Novo Progresso (PA).

Serra da Cutia National Park

Location: Rondônia, municipality of Guajará-Mirim
Foundation Date: Auguste 19th, 2001, by Federal Decree without number federal **Area: 283,611** ha
Climate: equatorial humid
Temperatures: average of 25°C
Rain: rainfall from 1,750 to 2,250 mm annually
Land relief: the park presents in its east portion the unit of land relief of the depression of Guaporé and fluvial and lacustrian surfaces of Guaporé, and in the east portion the depression of Amazonas Southern

The Serra da Cutia National Park is located in the municipality of Guajará-Mirim (RO), southwest of the state of Rondônia, bordering Bolivia, with a total area of 283.611 ha. It borders to the north with the Pacaás Novos River State Extractive Reserve and Barmeo das Antas Federal Extractive Reserve, to the south with the Cadiário River Federal Extractive Reserve, to the east with the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous Land and Sarigapá Perseverança (in dispute), and to the west with the Tropical Biological Reserve, Guaporé and Sagarana Indigenous Lands and also with the Surpresa District. Accessible only by boat or plane, lies approximately 130 km straight

from the city of Guajará-Mirim and 60 km, also straight, from the city of Costa Marques. Finally you can get to the western part of the SCNP by the Surpresa District by Mamoré River, starting from Guajará Mirim, and this route is complete in about 4 hours on speedboat. On Surpresa District we arrive at the Park by land in a 2-hour journey up the Sotério river on the western boundary of the Park. In this District, the Park has a base of support, with accommodation, kitchen, library, and cars and boat. The park forms a large black linking protected areas of different categories (integral and sustainable use) and under different jurisdictions (state and federal). Besides various indigenous lands under federal jurisdiction. This block consists of 17 protected areas, 5 units of integral protection, 5 sustainable use units 5 and 7 Indigenous Lands, totaling about 4 million hectares in good condition.

In the west portion of the park, the surface shows the unit of land relief of the depression of Guaporé and fluvial and lacustrian surfaces of Guaporé; and, in the east portion, the depression of Amazon Southern. The soils of lato soil type (clay, with high productive capacity) and deep sandy, quartzite predominiate.

The Climate is humid equatorial, with an average temperature of 25°C and rainfall of 1,750 to 2,250 mm annually. The vegetation of the region is classified as open ombróphorous forest with low lands and sub-montane. It also presents area of cerrado, areas of pioneer formation, with vegetation of fluvial lacustrian, and areas of contact and ecological tension between the ombróphorous and cerrado. Therefore, the vegetation of the unit is really heterogeneous, composed by areas entirely opened with a predominance of herbaceous vegetation (pioneer and lacustrian formation) up to high and complex ombróphorous forests.

One of the main peculiarities of the SCNP to preserve the richness and composition of species of fauna and flora are open cerrado vegetation encloses, campinaranas, tabocais (bamboo forests) and submontane vegetation on the tops of the Serra da Cutia. Another area of extreme singularity at SCNP is a "barreiro" named locally "chupador" (one that sucks something), where during the flooding of rivers and streams in the region, mines brackish water, which attracts a large number of vertebrate and invertebrate animals. The fauna and flora in the national park are exuberant, since the unit is inserted between Madeira and Tapajós rivers, region considered as one of the region with a great number of endemism of animal and vegetal species in the Amazon. The area is highlighted because of the great diversity of primates (*Alouatta* sp. and *Cebus* sp.). Besides, the fauna inventories accomplished in the territory also indicated a rich diversity of birds, being registered, due to the appearance of 459 species, many of them being endemic in the region. Parrots, macaws, black-fronted piping-guans and typical guans are some the birds found there among animals, the tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), plain paca (*Agouti paca*), deers (*Mazama gouazoubira*) and white-lipped peccary (*Tiassus pecari*).

Serra da Mocidade National Park

Location: Roraima, municipality of Caracaraí
Foundation Date: April 29th 1998, by Federal Decree without number **Area: 350,960** ha
Climate: constantly humid, may present a short dry season, with great rainfall drops in the autumn
Temperatures: minimum average of 25°C and maximum average of 32°C
Rain: intense rains during the whole year, not measured yet
Land relief: delat surface, areas of floodable accumulation and insabaras

Founded pursuant to international convention, of which Brazil is signatory, the Rio 92 – Convention about Biological Diversity, which provides the destination of 10% of the existent ecosystems for the Conservation Units, Serra da Mocidade National Park comprises one of the regions with the greatest biological diversity of Amazon, be being a transition zone between two distinct biomes, formed by floodable seasoned terrais of the basin of Branco River (Rio Branco) and stretches of dry land over the Precambrian rocks. The scenic beauty of the mountain existent in the place named the park, which occupies a contiguous area of a reserve of Yanomami Indians. The 290.960 ha were donated to Itaima by the Brazilian Army. The unit is located in the State of Roraima, municipality of Caracaraí, and is only accessible by boat or small planes.

The climate in the Park is constantly humid, but it may also present a small dry season. The greatest rains occur in May, June and July, but both temperatures and rainfall index suffer a small range throughout the year, generally being elevated.

The land relief has flat surfaces. Areas of floodable accumulation and insabergs – or monadnock, i.e., the tough parts of the rocks which have not suffered, throughout the millions of years, the action of biological and atmosphere agents, which cause the physical destruction and chemical decomposition of rocks. These flat surfaces are located over Precambrian lithologies and Cenozoic, and the floodable areas of accumulation are planning areas with sandy coverage, periodically and/or permanently flooded, with close drainage or a drainage precariously incorporated to the fluvial network. Are found in the park four types of vegetation: campinara or campina (area in which, for the best quality of the land, there are grass-woody more trees), forested campinara, sub-montane open rainforest and sub-montane tropical rain forest. There are still mosaic areas between one and other type of vegetation.

Regarding the fauna, the few studies indicate a high diversity of species, including the endangered manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), the arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*), the giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and many species of birds, including migratory species of long distance. The mountain which gives its name to the park is a massive rises up to about 1,900 meters altitude and, according to the researchers, there should be a high endemism due to its isolation.

Serra do Divisor National Park

Location: Acre, municipalities of Mâncio Lima, Cruzeiro do Sul, Rodrigues Alves, Manoel Francisco and Pedro Bonfim
Foundation Date: June 16th, 1989, by Federal Decree N° 97839
Area: 605,000 ha
Climate: tropical, warm humid, with one to two dry months
Temperatures: annual average of 24°C, absolute maximum from 36 to 38°C and absolute minimum from 4 to 8°C
Rain: between 1,750 and 2,000 mm annually
Land relief: slightly wavy and mountainous

Located in the northeast side of the Country, Serra do Divisor National Park shelters a mountain range which receives this name for sharing the water of the hydrographic basins of the valley of middle Uçayali river (Puru) and upper Juruá river, in the State of Acre, direct tributary of Solimões which works as the most important transport route of the region. The park is constituted by four blocks of distinct land reliefs, also nominated of mountains – Jaquirana (where there are the greatest altitudes), Mao, Juruá-Mirim and Rio Branco. The four blocks are originated from erosive process of the formation of Solimões, which has as a result a plateau and a wide area of depression. Transition zone of old terrans consolidated and terrains from recent formation, the soil of the Park is covered in its major part by humid forest, dry land, with numerous and various species of trees, with the highest trees reaching 50 m. For its low luminosity, the inferior part are rich in liana, moss, liqueurs, orchids and ferns.

The predominant vegetation formations in the Conservation Unit are: Open Tropical Rain Forest of the Lowlands, Dense Rain Forest of the Lowlands, Alluvial Rain Forest and Dense Submontane Rain Forest. Among these four formations, the latter occurs only in SDNP.

The region is located where the SDNP has been considered by specialists in palm trees, one of the regions of greatest diversity of the group. As CU Management Plan (2002), there are about 51 species of palm trees for SDNP representing nearly 70% of the total species (74) referred to the Western portion of the Amazon Basin. The most common are the *Euterpe* pectinata, mariche palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*), the walking palm (*Socratea exorrhiza*), *Maximiliana regia*, the *Astrocaryum murummu*, the *Attalea wallisii*, the *Denocarpus batavaa* and the *Phytelephas macrocarpa*.

There are forest species of commercial value, for example, fiber palm (*Aphandra natalia*), cedar (*Cedrela* sp.), cherry tree (*Amburana cearensis*), agapano or mahogany (*Gwieberia macrophylla*), copal (*Copaifera* spp.), *Mexilaurus* sp., *Ceiba* spp., among others. From research and surveys conducted for the management plan of the park, it was found among the animals of the local fauna the presence of 30 endangered species, of which 17 are mammals, four are reptiles and nine are birds. The dense forests are home for rare primates such as Cacajao sp.. The most notable is that in a short time, the researchers were able to record 485 different species of birds, some of them new to science, as the recently described Kawaii's Amazon (Amazona kawaii).

We have found 102 mammal species, 45 terrestrial, and 2 aquatic and 55 types of bats. Some species found were: *Lagothrix lagotricha*, *Ateles chamek*, black oaim (*Callimico goeldii*), *Cacajao calvus rubicundus*, which is endemic to the region, (*Dinomys branicki*), Giant anteater (*Mymecophaga tridactyla*), South American tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), (*Spoothos venaticus*), Amazon weasel (*Mustela africana*), giant Brazilian otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), Amazon river dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*), otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) and *Sotalia fluviatilis*.

A total of approximately 485 species of birds have been recorded for SBNP. The inventory in the northern sector recorded about 425 species of birds in 18 days. In the south, approximately 400 species in 16 days of observation.

The access to the area is very complicated. From the capital city Rio Branco to Coqueiros do Sul, the route is mostly unpaved, usually covered by plane, since around 650 km of BR-364 highway, which crosses the State of Acre are partially passable. From Cruzeiro do Sul to the park you must tour up the Moa river in motorboats (5h of route) or by canoe (1,5 day).

Serra do Pardo National Park

Location: Pará, municipalities of Altamira and São Félix do Xingu
Foundation Date: February 17th, 2005
Area: 445,392 ha
Climate: Equatorial humid
Temperatures: annual average ranging between 24 and 26°C
Rainfall: rainfall between 1,500 and 2,000 mm annually
Land relief: wavy

Serra do Pardo National Park is located in the region of Terra do Meio, in the state of Pará, divided in the middle between the municipalities of Altamira and São Félix do Xingu. The protected area has a big diversity of landscapes, mainly in the southeast of Terra do Meio, and has environmental characteristics very unique because of the presence of the lovely Serra do Pardo. Slightly elevating in the middle of the forest, the Mountain, which gives its name to the Park, is extended along the Pardo river providing a single scenic beauty in a region. The maintenance of the characteristics of the landscape and vegetal coverage of this complex is essential for the environmental integrity and for the conservation of the biodiversity of Amazonian biome, as well as its connections. The Park, whose territory is at the frontier between two municipalities of old occupation, considering the Amazon as a whole, is almost entirely covered by forestry, dense and open landscapes, being only a small part composed by areas of contact with the Cerrado biome. Sheltering a natural abundance of extreme importance, with high biological diversity, the area protected by Serra do Pardo National Park was seriously endangered for decades of man-made action. Its history before the foundation of the Park, is a marking portrait of the several phases of occupation of the Amazon, during the 20th century: by 50's decade was the area of exploration of rubber, in its wide rubber plantations; with the rubber crisis it started being the interest of squatters which overthrew the forest to provide high-quality woods; from 1980/1990, the focus was the agribusiness for cattle breeding and, in a low scale, grain production. The Park has a very particular biodiversity, with the presence of several endemic species. Around there, we can also see mammals of wide dispersion for the whole Amazonian region, as well as in other biomes, as crab-eating foxes (*Speothos venaticus*), lowland pacas (Aguati paca), agoutis (*Dasyprocta* sp.), collared peccaries (*Tayassu tatypical*

guans), white-tipped peccaries (*Tayassu pecari*), tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), capybaras (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*), howler monkeys (*Alouatta seniculus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), spider-monkeys (*Ateles belzebuth marginatus*), zoguzogme monkeys (*Callithecus stephennashi*), among many others. Among the specimen of the bird fauna we use to see in Serra do Pardo the ochre-cheeked spinetail (*Synallaxis scutata*), pale-bellied tyrant-manakin (*Neopelma pallescens*), peach-fronted parakeet (*Aratinga aurea*), Rufous-winged antshrike (*Thamnoplius torquatus*), Pearly-necked Tody-tyrant (*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*), Black Manakin (*Xenopopo atronitens*), Red-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus phoenicius*) and Black-necked Red-Cotingi (*Phoenicurus nigricollis*), a small red bird of the bellbirds family along its distribution. We also highlight the red-necked Araçari (*Pteroglossus bitroquatus*), a species which is in the Brazilian list of endangered species, and the ornate hawk-eagle (*Spizatus ornatus*), a big species, from the top of the food chain, an indicator of high quality of the environment in integral forests. The calm waters of the Xingu River, which runs through the interior of the Serra do Pardo National Park, allow access to the unit: usually two days by boat from the city of Altamira/PA are required, where is located the headquarters of the CU. Land access is by dirt roads in the south and southeast of the unit from the Municipality of São Félix do Xingu/PA. As the operational base of the unit, located in the municipality of São Félix do Xingu, has airstrip, it is also possible to arrive by plane. The city of São Félix do Xingu is south of the Park and is served by the partially paved PA-279 highway (still has stretch that is not all paved), it has several sections in poor condition.

Virú National Park

Location: Roraima, municipality of Cascajal
Foundation Date: April 29th, 1998, by Federal Decree without number
Area: 227,011 ha
Climate: Constantly humid
Temperatures: minimum average of 28°C and maximum average of 38°C
Rainfall: greater rainfalls between May and September, not measured yet
Land relief: Surface practically flat. In the north region, there are residual mountains with modest altitudes. In the west region, there are alluvial plains

As the neighbor, Serra da Mocidade National Park, this is another park which was founded pursuant to international convention of which Brazil is signatory and which provides the destination of 10% of the ecotant ecosystems for Conservation Units. As it already had political and social articulation for the foundation of the unit, the area was formally transferred to Ibama by Inbra - National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform, due to the unsustainability of the soil of the region for the implementation of the project of rural settlement. With the foundation of the park on April 1998, the unit received the name of Igarapé whose spring is located inside the limits established for its implementation. Virú National Park has an area of 227,011 ha, and is located in the State of Roraima, in the municipality of Cascajal, covering a mosaic of forest humid ecosystems and non-forest humid ecosystem, representative of a single Amazon geoeological system. The climate, almost always very humid, shows, however, a short dry season. The greatest rainfalls occur in fall and not only temperatures but also rainfall indexes suffer small ranges throughout the year, generally being elevated. In its major part, the area comprises a wide surface practically flat, with predominance of sandy and poorly drained soils, with a large quantity of lagoons. The Campinaranas (open vegetation on sandy, soaked soils) and Ombrophilous Dense Forest represent 45% and 47%, respectively of the area vegetation cover, observing the abrupt contact with Pioneer Formations (burtizais, marshy fields) and Open Ombrophilous Forest from lowlands. The floristic richness includes over 1200 species recorded. In the north region, there are residual hills with modest altitudes. Along the wide extension, delimited by Branco river, there is the occurrence of floodable alluvial plains, situation also observed in the south portion, along the Anaúá river. Under the floristic aspect, the park has a high environmental heterogeneity, with the presence of fields and cerrados, dense and open forests, and isolated mountains, with a reasonable diversity and endemism. However, there is not enough floristic survey yet.

Regarding fauna, there is a diversity of species registered in the park. The Virú NP since 2009, has the largest number of species of freshwater fish ever recorded in Brazilian conservation unit (500 species), as well as one of the highest diversity indexes of birds recorded in CU in the country and in the world (> 530 species). It keeps habitats relevant to 21 vertebrate species endangered at different levels, according to IUCN criteria, exerting a prominent role for the conservation of global biological diversity and sustainable use of wetlands in the Brazilian Amazon. Migratory birds, as the *jabiru* (*Jabiru mycteria*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*); birds related to soaked environments, as the snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), rufescent tiger-heron (*Tigrisoma fasciatum*) and wattleed jacana (*Jacana jacana*); and animals threatened with extinction, as tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and cougar (*Puma concolor*).

Agradecimentos Acknowledgments

Adriana Cilene Rozan Prestes, Alto Cariri
 Aristides Salgado Guimarães Neto, Descobrimento
 Beatriz de Aquino Ribeiro Lisboa e Antônio Lisboa, Virú
 Beatriz Nascimento Gomes, Saint-Hilaire/Lange
 Bruno Cascardo Pereira, Serra das Lontas
 Bruno Soares Lintomem, Chapada Diamantina
 Caio Marcio Paim Pamplona, ICMBio Brasília
 Carla Cristina De Castro Guaitanelli, Chapada dos Veadeiros
 Carlos Augusto de Alencar Pinheiro, Jamanxim
 Carlos Rangel da Silva, Pacadã Novos
 Cezar Neubert Gonçalves, Chapada Diamantina
 Christoph Jaster, Montanhas do Tumucumaque
 Cintia Maria Santos da Câmara Brazão,
 Chapada dos Guimarães
 Cleidson Ribeiro de Souza, Serra do Divisor
 Dorian Alcântara de Pádua, Serra da Canastra
 Deonir Geovane Zimmermann, Aparados da Serra e Serra Geral
 Diogo Mitsuru Koga, Serra do Divisor
 Erica Tieko Fujisaki, Serra da Mocidade
 Ernesto Bastos Viveiros de Castro, Tijuca
 Evandro Pereira da Silva, Cavernas do Penaçu
 Fábio André Faraço, Pau Brasil
 Fábio Veloz, Serra do Cipó
 Fernando Augusto Tambellini Tiziani, Serra da Capivara
 Fernando dos Santos Weber, Lago do Peixe
 Flavio Bocarde, Pico da Neblina
 Francisco De Assis Araújo, Catimbu
 Francisco Fernando Livino de Carvalho, Serra da Bocaina
 Francisco Humberto Sousa Bezerra, Ubajara
 Gustavo Wanderley Tomzhinski, Itatiaia
 Inara Auziladora Rocha Santos, Serra da Mocidade
 Ivanna Costa Brito, Divisão de Comunicação do ICMBio
 Janell Luísa de Oliveira, Nascentes do Rio Parnaíba
 Jorge Luiz Pegoraro, Iguaçu
 José Augusto Ferraz de Lima, Pantanal/Matogrossense
 José Ponciano Dias Filho, Monte Roraima
 José Wilmington Paes Landim Ribeiro, Serra das Confusões
 Juliana de Barros Alves, Brasília
 Juliano Rodrigues Oliveira, Araucárias
 Karla Celma Batista Lima Gomes, Sete Cidades
 Larissa Cristina Dias Limino, Serra da Cutia
 Leandro do Nascimento Goulart, Serra dos Órgãos
 Lourdes Iarema, Juazeira
 Luciano de Petribu Faria, ICMBio Brasília
 Luiz Henrique Condrati, Nascentes do Lago Jari
 Luiz Sérgio Ferreira Martins, Grande Sertão Veredas
 Marcelo Braga Pessanha, Restinga de Jurubatiba
 Marcelo Chassot Bressolin, Supragaiú
 Marcelo Henrique de Carvalho, Nascentes do Lago Jari
 Michel Lucca, Sempre-Vivas
 Marcio Ricardo Ferla, Campos Gerais
 Marcos da Silva Cunha, Emas
 Mariana Macedo Leitão, Jari
 Marlene Costa, Serra de Itabarana
 Michel Omena, São Joaquim
 Michele Monteiro Ferreira, Serra do Pardo
 Nathália Portero da Silva, Sempre-Vivas

Niède Guidon, Serra da Capivara
 Nilton Junior Lopes Rascon, Jamanxim
 Osmar Barreto Borges, Boa Nova
 Pablo Lacaze de Camargo Casella, Chapada Diamantina
 Paulo Adriano Dias, Chapada das Mesas
 Paulo Oliveira de Sousa, Serra do Divisor
 Priscila Maria da Costa Santos, Anavilhanas
 Raoni Japlassu Merisse, Araguaia
 Raquel Mendes Miguel, Monte Pascoal
 Renato Diniz Dumont, Campos Amazônicos
 Ricardo Araújo, Fernando de Noronha
 Ricardo Jerazolinski, Abrolhos
 Ricardo Motta Pires, Cabo Orange
 Rogério José Florenziano Júnior, Saint-Hilaire/Lange
 Romano Pulzatto Neto, Ilha Grande
 Romério Briglia Ferreira, Serra da Mocidade
 Sandro Roberto da Silva Pereira, Serra da Bodoqueana
 Sheila de Oliveira Rancura, Serra das Lontas
 Sheila Farias Rodrigues, Capará
 Viviane Daufenback, Serra do Itajaí
 Wagner Cardoso, Jericoacoara
 Wilhan Rocha Cândido Assunção, Mapiungari
 Yuri Teixeira Amaral, Lençóis Maranhenses
 Zilma Pereira Silva de Oliveira, Pantanal Matogrossense

Apolo:



Novos Parques New Parks

PARQUE NACIONAL DA Furna Feia	
LOCALIZAÇÃO: MUNICÍPIOS DE BARAUNA E MOSSORÓ (RN)	
DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: Decreto sem número de 5 de junho de 2012	ÁREA: 8.494 ha
CLIMA: quente semiúmido com estação chuvosa no verão e início do outono	
TEMPERATURAS: temperatura média anual de 27,5°C sendo a máxima de 33,3°C e a mínima de 22,5°C	
CHUVAS: precipitação média anual é de 673,9 mm	
RELEVO: predominantemente plano com altitude média de 18 metros	
Furna Feia National Park	
CREATION DATE: Decree without number of June 5, 2012	
LOCATION: Caatinga Biome - covers areas of municipalities of Barauna and Mossoró in Rio Grande do Norte	
CLIMATE: hot semiarid with rainy season in the summer and early fall	
TEMPERATURES: average annual temperature of 27.5°C, maximum of 33.3°C and minimum of 22.5°C	
RAINFALL: average annual rainfall is 673.9 mm	
RELIEF: mostly flat with an average elevation of 18 meters	

PARQUE NACIONAL MARINHO DA Ilha dos Currais	
LOCALIZAÇÃO: ARRIANGUÁS, DUAAS LHAS E SEUS ENTORRONS, NAS PRAÇONHAS DO MUNICÍPIO DE PIRATUBA DO PARANÁ (PR)	
DATA DE CRIAÇÃO: 20 de junho de 2013 por meio da Lei nº 12.829	ÁREA: aproximada de 1.359 ha
CLIMA: subtropical	
TEMPERATURAS: temperatura média nos meses mais quentes de 22°C e nos meses mais frios de 18°C	
CHUVAS: o período mais chuvoso é o verão, sendo a precipitação média anual em torno de 2.000 mm	
RELEVO: ondulado	
Marinho da Ilha dos Currais National Park	
CREATION DATE: June 20, 2013 by Law N.º 12.829	
LOCATION: Marinho-Costeira Biome, covers two islands and their surroundings, nearby the municipality of Piratuba do Paraná (PR)	
AREA: approximately 1,359 ha	
CLIMATE: subtropical	
TEMPERATURES: average temperatures in the hottest months of 22°C, and in the colder months of 18°C	
RAINFALL: the rainier season is the summer, with average annual rainfall of around 2,000 mm	
RELIEF: wavy	

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Editora Editora Ltda.

Dados Internacionais de Catalogação na Publicação (CIP)
(Câmara Brasileira do Livro, SP, Brasil)

Parques Nacional - Brasil [National Parks - Brazil]. São Paulo: Empresa das Artes, 2013. 212 páginas.

Vários fotógrafos
Edição bilingue: português/inglês
ISBN 978-85-7910-126-7

1. Áreas de conservação de recursos naturais - Brasil 2. Ecossistemas - Brasil 3. Ecoturismo - Brasil 4. Parques e reservas nacionais - Brasil - Livro 5. Proteção ambiental - Brasil 6. Reservas ecológicas - Brasil

13-08588 CDD-333.783130981

Índices para catálogo sistemático:
1. Brasil: Parques nacionais: Livro 333.783130981
2. Parques Nacionais - Brasil: Livro 333.783130981

1ª Edição
Impresso no Brasil

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PHOTOS

Divulgação ICMBio: p. 168, 169
Divulgação ICMBio/Leonardo Milano: p. 96/97
Divulgação ICMBio/Nelson Yoneda: p. 102, 112, 113, 114, 115, 122/123, 124, 125

André Dib: p. 2/3, 4/5, 6/7, 8/9, 10/11, 12/13, 14/15, 16/17, 18/19, 21, 29, 34/35, 36/37, 38/39, 40/41, 42, 43, 44/45, 46/47, 48/49, 50, 51, 52/53, 54, 55, 56/57, 58, 59, 62/63, 64, 65, 66/67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72/73, 74, 75, 88/89, 91, 92/93, 94, 95, 100, 101, 104/105, 106, 107, 108/109, 110, 111, 116, 118, 129, 132/133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 142/143, 151, 164, 165, 166/167, 170, 171, 174/175, 176, 177, 210/211; capa

Diego Gazola: p. 186

Fabio Loureiro Knoll: p. 22/23, 26/27, 78/79, 80/81

Marcello Lourenço: p. 25, 28, 30/31, 32/33, 60/61, 76/77, 82/83, 84/85, 86, 87, 103, 120, 121, 128, 140/141, 144/145, 146/147, 148/149, 150, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162/163, 172/173, 178/179, 180/181, 184, 185, 187, 212

Renato Soares: p. 1, 20, 24, 90, 98/99, 117, 119, 126/127, 130/131, 182, 183

Stepan Norair Chahinian: p. 138, 139

PRODUÇÃO EXECUTIVA
PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE

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Lucca Comunicação e Cultura Ltda.
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cep 34000-000, Nova Lima, MG, Brasil
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EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

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PROJETO E CONCEPÇÃO GRÁFICA
GRAPHIC CONCEPT AND CREATION

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www.marcellodeoliveira.com.br

EDIÇÃO DE FOTOGRAFIAS
PHOTOS EDITING

Marcello de Oliveira

PESQUISA E TEXTOS
RESEARCH AND TEXTS

Helena Tassara
Reinaldo de Andrade

TRADUÇÃO
TRANSLATION

Opportunity Translations

ASSISTENTE DE PRODUÇÃO
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Renan Wenceslau Cyrillo

PRÉ-IMPRESSÃO, IMPRESSÃO E ACABAMENTO
PRE-PRINTING, PRINTING AND FINISHING

Gráfica e Editora Stampato



