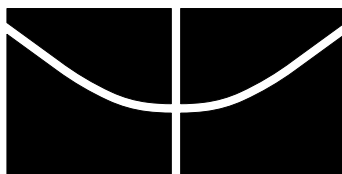

19th Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Universidade de Brasília

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177. RECONCILING THE NEEDS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. CHO'C, GREGORIO. P.O. Box 127; Jose Maria Nunez Street; Punta Gorda Town; Toledo District; Belize Central America Tel: (501) 722-0103; Fax: (501) 722-0124.

The Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) is a community based indigenous environmental organization working in the far south of Belize, in a region in the Toledo District that lies between the Sarstoon and Temash Rivers. SATIIM co-manages, with the Belizean Forestry Department, the 42,000 acre Sarstoon Temash National Park (STNP). The national park was declared by government in 1994 on lands traditionally used by the Garifuna and Maya communities who live in the area. There was no community consultation process before the creation of the park. What is now SATIIM began in 1997 as the Sarstoon Temash National Park Steering Committee, which was formed after the communities around the park came together to stake a claim in the management of the land and natural resources in and around the park. Many villagers opposed the declaration of the park and viewed it as confiscation of their lands, but others saw the creation of the park as an opportunity for the indigenous communities to continue to safeguard and manage the area. Residents who saw this opportunity formed the steering committee and began a long process of discussion with their neighbours, slowly persuading people that the communities could benefit directly and indirectly from the national park if they organized and controlled its management.

178. DEVELOPING CONSERVATION GIS CAPACITY FOR LATIN AMERICA: VIEWING THE WORLD AT DIFFERENT SCALES. CHRISTEN, CATHERINE; Leimgruber, Peter. Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, Conservation and Research Center, 1500 Remount Road, Front Royal, VA 22630, USA, christenc@si.edu.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and remote sensing provide powerful conservation tools. Using these technologies effectively, conservation biologists can collect spatial data to quantify landscape patterns, predict outcomes of landscape changes, model habitat suitability, and analyze animal movements and home ranges. In Latin America, training in these technologies' conservation applications is scarce, but demand is high. Our Conservation GIS Laboratory's hands-on curriculum focuses on geospatial technologies' practical applications for conservation, with lab and field exercises based on real-world research. Our 2004 course for Latin Americans and U. S. Latinos trained fifteen fellows (from 650 applicants). All trainees completed a post-course evaluation. However, true training impact must be measured through longer-term developments in research and conservation projects, so our tracking includes periodic research updates from all 2004 trainees. The 2005 fellowship course, a collaboration with University of Puerto Rico, integrates 3- and 6-month on-site follow-ups, both to measure progress and to provide essential project-based support. To expand the capacity building, we are planning to collaborate with Latin American institutions to initiate a regional network of training nodes offering low-cost applied conservation GIS training and follow-up to conservation groups, wildlife managers, and university students.

179. LARGE TREES AND THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WETLAND BIRDS IN THE PANTANAL OF BRAZIL. CHRISTIANINI, ALEXANDER V.; Cestari, César. Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biologia,

Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, SP, C.P. 6109, 13.083-970, Brazil, avc@unicamp.br (AVC). Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Estadual Paulista, C.P. 199, 13.506-000, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil (CC).

The Pantanal harbors a rich fauna with numerous threatened species. The abundance of birds is especially attractive for thousands of ecotourists that visit the Pantanal every year. However, landscape change is increasing in the area. The need for higher cattle production in smaller areas has been achieved by deforestation and selective logging. We investigated whether the diameter and height of trees determine the selection of nest sites by wetland birds. We monitored the reproduction of a large mixed species colony of wetland birds along the Rio Negro basin, south Pantanal, during one year. We compared the traits of trees used as nest sites by herons, cormorants, and anhingas with the general tree community that runs along the river. Sampling of trees was done in six 50 x 50 m plots located at random in the riverine forests. Wetland birds showed a marked preference for large trees that occur just along non-disturbed portions of the riverine forests. The conservation of non-disturbed patches of riverine forests should be a priority in bird conservation programmes, what will also contribute to keep the appealing of wetland birds for ecotourism in the Pantanal.

180. CONSERVATION STRATEGIES OF ENDANGERED TREE SPECIES IN CENTRAL BRAZIL. CIAMPI, ANA Y.; Vieira, Daniel L. M.; Nakasu, Erich T.; Machado, Flavia R. B.; Salomão, Antonieta N.; Sevilha, Anderson C.; Scariot, Aldcir. Laboratório de Genética Vegetal, aciampi@cenargen.embrapa.br (AYC, ETM, FRBM). Laboratório de Ecologia e Conservação (DLMV, ACS, AS). Laboratório de Fisiologia de Sementes (ANS). Embrapa Recursos Genéticos e Biotecnologia, Parque Estação Biológica Final Av. W/5 Norte, Brasília, DF, 70.770-900, Caixa Postal 02372, Brazil.

Amburana cearensis "umburana" and *Cedrella fissilis* "cedro" are endangered species because of their valuable timber. Although they are widespread in South America, they have naturally low-density populations. In Central Brazil cedro and umburana occur in paths of rich soils that are almost entirely deforested to cattle farms. We implemented a conservation plan *in situ* and *ex situ* for these species to maximize the genetic diversity. The area was the Paranã River basin (60,000 km²), a great concentration of rich limestone derived soils region, consequently with high potential density of cedro and umburana and high deforestation rates. We collected seeds and leaves from 96 umburana and 137 cedro trees, at a maximum distance of 190 Km among trees. The adults showed high genetic diversity (0.79 umburana and 0.82 cedro) and were useful to form a bank of germoplasma. Seeds are conserved in cold chambers in EMBRAPA Recursos Genéticos e Biotecnologia; seedlings were planted for a permanent stock in Embrapa experimental station, and in three areas designated to restore the tropical deciduous forest of the Paranã, gently ceded by farm owners. Cedro and umburana are being extinct with their habitats in Central Brazil and only the creation of Reserves can preserve them.

181. SEASONAL VARIATION OF A HYPERSEASONAL CERRADO IN EMAS NATIONAL PARK, CENTRAL BRAZIL. CIANCIARUSO, MARCUS V.; Batalha, Marco A.; Silva, Igor A. Department of Botany, Federal University of São Carlos, São Carlos, SP, P.O. Box 676, 13565-905, Brazil, mcianciaruso@email.com.