

BIODIVERSITY AND SOCIOENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN THE BRAGANTINA REGION

Theme: Impacts of Local and Global Changes on the Atlantic Rain Forest

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The biodiversity crisis has become a topic of global concern and several data show that anthropic changes are generating some significant damage to the natural ecosystems. A recent study done by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) on endangered plant species revealed that about 380.000 species worldwide fall into some category of threat, and that one in five is at risk of extinction. The study showed that the most vulnerable habitats are the tropical forests, and for Brazil 385 species were studied, of which 32.62% are endemic and of the total analyzed, 10.96% were considered at risk. In this context is located the area of the present study, corresponding to three conservation areas located in the Bragantina Region: the Serra do Itapetinga State Park/SP, the Cantareira System Environmental Protected Area/SP and the Fernão Dias Environmental Protected Area/MG - Brazil, that pass through an intense process of urbanization and socioenvironmental changes. This protected areas present significant remnants of Atlantic Forest and a relevant rural population with some aspects of their social identity preserved, which can be expressed, among other characteristics, by the knowledge of the regional biodiversity, such as the use native medicinal plants. However, the increase in collection and use of medicinal plants may represent a risk to the maintenance of these species in their natural habitat. Thus the objective of this work, part of the Research Project FAPESP 2008/10631-0 *Pharmácia do Mato - Socioenvironmental Transformations and Use of Medicinal Plants*, is to identify the species richness of these conservation areas and the procedures that are being used involve literature reviews, secondary data collection, interviews and field work. Thus, for the study region were listed 2094 species of fauna and flora, of which 120 have some kind of national or state threat, beyond that 55 species are endemic to the Atlantic Forest. Therefore it is confirmed in the area a wealth of species, but the natural resources are being polluted and degraded, as a result of various anthropic activities in the region. However, the maintenance of these spaces is essential to the conservation of the species studied, but this is only possible through the adequacy of socioeconomic activities to the natural environment, using tools such as environmental zoning and land use practices that respect the dynamic and diverse socioenvironmental aspects of these protected areas.

Keywords: Biodiversity, Conservation Areas, Bragantina Region, Socio-environmental Changes, Atlantic Forest, Natural Resources.