

How BIAZA Members Can Get Involved

The World Land Trust is working with BIAZA on an initiative bringing zoos and aquariums together to raise funds to acquire an area of 3,500 acres (1500 ha) to help expand the Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu. This parcel of land is adjacent to the Rio de Janeiro Primatology Centre and REGUA's goal is to create a protected corridor linking to land owned by the Primatology Centre, which will particularly benefit species with larger ranges. BIAZA Members are encouraged to use this project as one of their conservation initiatives, or for smaller collections, their main conservation initiative. Supporting this project will help BIAZA Members fulfil their conservation goals and will contribute greatly to preserving the amazing Atlantic forests.



Above: An area of pasture that has been restored to form a wetland at REGUA

The Wild Spaces programme - Working together for Conservation

The BIAZA Reserve is a project of WLT's Wild Spaces programme. BIAZA is hoping to raise at least £260,000 towards the project. By working together, WLT and BIAZA Members will be helping to secure the future of one of the most threatened eco-regions in the world.

Benefits for BIAZA Members

- There is a strong conservation message and many species in BIAZA Member collections are native to the Atlantic Forest.
- Photos and other materials can be provided to promote support.
- BIAZA Members are able to visit the Reserve and get first-hand experience of the conservation work taking place.
- The project will help to promote the conservation work of BIAZA.

For more information about how you can support the BIAZA Reserve, please contact:



British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums (BIAZA)
Regent's Park, London
NW1 4RY, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7449 6351
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7449 6359
Email: conservation@biaza.org.uk
Web: www.biaza.org.uk
Registered charity: 248553



World Land Trust
Blyth House, Bridge Street
Halesworth
Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1986 874 422
Fax: +44 (0) 1986 874 425
Email: info@worldlandtrust.org
Web: www.worldlandtrust.org
Registered charity: 1001291

Designed by www.wearredrab.net 05/07



BIAZA Reserve

Working with the World Land Trust
to save Atlantic Forests in Brazil

Background to the Project

The British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums (BIAZA) is working with the World Land Trust and its partner organisation, REGUA, to create a BIAZA Reserve. BIAZA Members are working together to raise funds to expand the Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu. In addition to protecting the land, other activities include habitat restoration, species reintroduction, biodiversity monitoring and local education programmes. By raising funds to ensure the permanent protection of one of the last areas of Atlantic Forest of Brazil, BIAZA Members are making a significant contribution towards the survival of biodiversity in the region

The Reserve—Haven for Wildlife



Above: *Brazilian Ruby (male)*, one of the typical hummingbirds found at higher elevations in the Atlantic Forest.

The Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Assu is located in one of the largest remaining patches of Atlantic Forest or *Mata Atlantica*, which is considered to be one of the world's top biodiversity hotspots. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most critically endangered ecosystems in the world following severe habitat destruction.

The Reserve is approximately 80km north-east of Rio de Janeiro and is situated within the boundaries of the Três Picos State Park. However, much of the park is privately owned which means that development is uncontrolled. REGUA is constantly looking at strategic pieces of forest to purchase in order to extend and connect fragmented areas and in order to store natural habitats.

REGUA's underlying aim is to conserve the Atlantic Forest of the upper Guapi Assu river basin, located within the watersheds of Serra do Mar. The Reserve currently protects more than 15,000 acres (6,000 ha) which includes a range of habitats from highland rainforest to lowland wetlands.

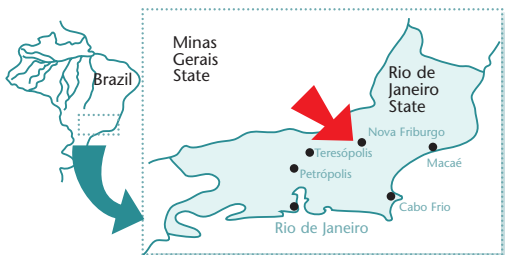
Species Diversity on REGUA

MAMMALS: 55 species, including ocelot, puma, Tufted-eared Marmoset, Woolly Spider Monkey & Tamandua

BIRDS: 440+ species of birds, one third of which are endemic to the Atlantic Forest, including the Solitary Tinamou

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES & FISH:

Little is known of these taxa. Species include the Broad-nosed Caiman and the Gold Frog. REGUA are keen to develop a fish inventory of local rivers.



The red arrow indicates the location of the REGUA Reserve

www.worldlandtrust.org

Plans for the Future



Above: A panoramic view of the Guapi Assu Reserve

Activities at REGUA

While REGUA's key goal is to expand the Reserve, they are actively involved in a wide range of land management and community outreach programmes. Much of the habitat has been damaged by poor land management and the mountain forests of the region have been selectively logged, but these habitats still contain a wide variety of species. However, other habitats have been cleared to make way for agriculture, particularly the lowland wetlands, river gallery forest and highland wetlands. Part of the Reserve was originally lowland wetland, with a variety of exotic trees, orchids and bromeliads, but this was cut, drained and turned into pasture more than 30 years ago. REGUA is now working to recreate these wetlands to their former vegetation type. They are also carrying out a reforestation programme to restore areas of forest that have previously been cleared. But conservation is not just about habitats and species. REGUA is also working with local communities, including school children and landowners, to foster awareness of the importance of the Atlantic Forest, and promote a sense of pride and ownership in the work at the Reserve.



Above: Red-billed Curassows in the captive facilities

Below: Radio-tracking collar being fitted to a Red-Billed Curassow before release



Wildlife Reintroductions

In addition to protecting the Reserve, REGUA are working on wildlife reintroductions to re-establish species that have suffered severely from habitat loss. A current programme is working with CRAX-Brazil to reintroduce the Red-billed Curassow to the Reserve. Reintroduction of the Black-fronted Piping Guan is also being planned and there is also the potential for the reintroduction of mammal species, including Lowland Tapir, once a large enough area has been protected.

"The World Land Trust has filled a vitally important niche in the conservation world by purchasing and protecting threatened rainforest habitats, and I am heartened by the contribution they are making to preserve the Atlantic Rainforests. I urge everyone to support this important endeavour"

Sir Ghillean Prance, FRS

Former Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
and a trustee of the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest Trust (BART)