



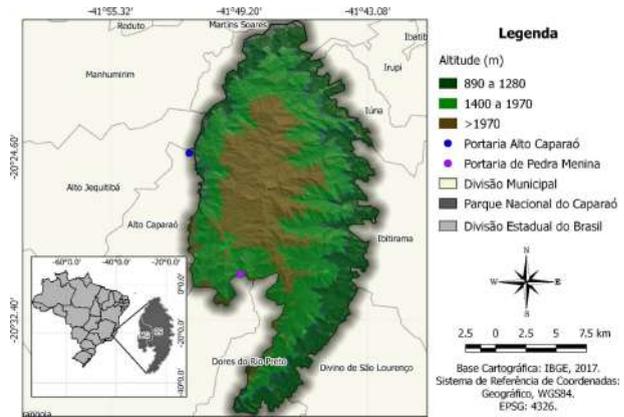
CAPARAÓ WILD CATS CONSERVATION PROJECT (CWCCP)

PROTECTING CAPARAÓ WILDLIFE THROUGH
EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND THREAT MITIGATION



CAPARAÓ NATIONAL PARK (CNP)

- Conservation unity with 31.853ha;
- Part of the Mantiqueira Mountains;
- Complex diversity of habitats;
 - Altimontana Dense Rainforest
 - Semi Deciduous Forest
 - High Elevation Grasslands
- One of the most important remnants of Atlantic Forest;
- Extreme biological importance for mammals (ICMBio);
- Refugee to several species of wild felids;



WILD CATS OF SERRA DO CAPARAÓ

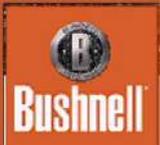
During our fieldwork we had the pleasure to capture camera trap images of important and endangered species occupying areas inside CNP



44°F 6°C

07-30-2020

02:02:39



PNC-CCT-05

66°F 18°C

12-21-2020

17:15:55

Leopardus guttulus (Southern tiger cat)



Leopardus pardalis (ocelot)



Puma concolor (cougar)



Leopardus wiedii (margay)



Herpailurus yagouaroundi (jaguarundi)

Besides wild cats, other carnivorous mammals have been registered inside the park, like tayra (*Eira barbara*), coatis (*Nasua nasua*), crab-eating-fox (*Cerdocyon thous*), crab-eating-raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*) and several other animals, like the endangered northern-muriqui (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*).

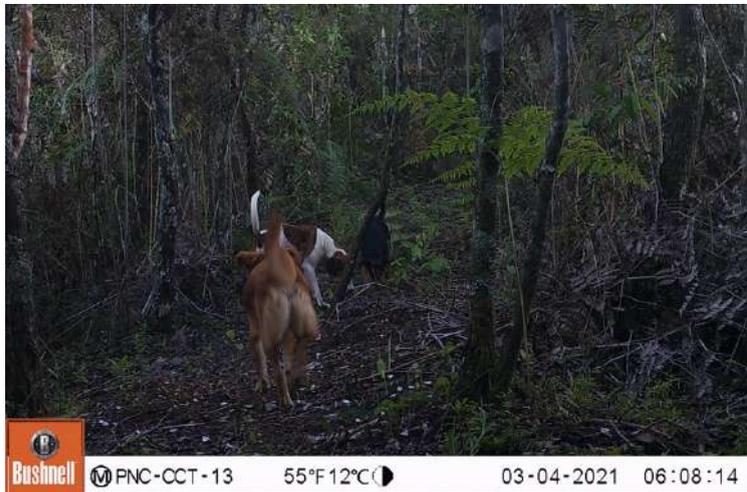
MAJOR THREATS

Although Serra do Caparaó represents an important remnant of Atlantic Forest, and habitat to a whole set of animal species, its biodiversity is constantly being threatened by several anthropogenic causes.

The major and growing invisible threat to wild carnivores inside Caparaó National Park is the risk of disease transmission by domestic dogs.



Domestic dogs can be responsible for host and transmit pathogens relevant both to wildlife conservation and public health, and are constantly registered by all camera-traps inside CNP walking in the same trails as wild carnivores.



This scenario can pose a big threat to wildlife, since wild animals aren't evolutionarily adapted to provide an efficient immune response to these pathogens. Some endemic infectious diseases, like leishmaniasis, canine distemper virus, canine parvovirus, and mange are constantly notified at the Serra do Caparaó region, and have already been described in neotropical carnivores.



Domestic dog inside the Caparaó National Park showing characteristics clinical signs of mange (Mariane Kaizer - NGO Eco-Diverso).



Roadkill is one of the major threats to the southern tiger cat in the southeast and southern Brazil. Several animals die by collisions in highways and vicinal roads around the park.

Hunting is also a problem at CNP and its surrounding areas. Several camera trap images of hunters were captured by the Muriquis do Caparaó project's team. Apart from the damage caused by these hunters to camera traps.



It's important to state that threats are increasing because of habitat fragmentation mostly due to unsustainable agricultural practices and lack of investment of the public sector in environmental works. Animals from the area are also exposed to high levels of heavy metals and agricultural inputs used in coffee plantations, although studies are necessary to evaluate the exposition and the risks to these animals' survival.

CAPARAÓ WILD CATS CONSERVATION PROJECT

In this context, was created the **Caparaó Wild Cats Conservation Project (CWCCP)**, an initiative of the NGO Rede Eco-Diversa, associated with [Wild Cats Americas](#), [Tiger Cats Conservation Initiative](#), [Instituto Pró-Carnívoros](#), [Caparaó National Park](#) and [ICMBio](#).

CWCCP is a project dedicated to the conservation of wild felids of Caparaó National Park and its surroundings. The project works on research, education, communities involvement on conservation and threat mitigation actions towards problems that can affect wild cats' survival and CNP biodiversity.

The goal of this project is to mitigate the invisible threat of disease transmission from domestic dogs into wild carnivores through the implementation of vaccination, vermifugation, and population control campaigns to reduce the presence of domestic dogs inside the national park limits and other regional protected areas. Along with these activities, this project aims to evaluate the extension of the area used by domestic dogs, since camera trap images have shown that they're constantly occupying wild carnivore areas, and determine the distribution of *Leopardus guttulus* in a way that we can monitor its population and evaluate the superposition of occupation between wild cats and domestic dogs.





Some of our fieldwork that includes feces collection* (images 1-4), and camera-trap installation for wild cats and domestic dogs monitoring. *feces collected during this campaign were sent to studies on alimentation.



Rede
ecodiversa
para a conservação da biodiversidade

REDE ECO-DIVERSA, an NGO dedicated to the environment, and responsible for the execution of many projects in biodiversity conservation, provided the start of the activities involving wild cats at Caparaó National Park.

The NGO was created to develop and create innovative methods of biodiversity conservation by science, education, conservation actions and socio-environmental development.

Below, we present to you some other Rede Eco-Diversa ongoing projects.

PROJETO MURIQUIS DO CAPARAÓ (PMC)

Created in 2014, this project is focused on the conservation of the rare and extremely endangered northern-muriqui (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*). Since its creation, the project has been responsible for monitoring and conserving the population of northern-muriqui present in the CNP, which is, so far, the second biggest population of the species. Till now, the project promoted environmental education activities in local schools, created a bond with the local communities, who are now helping to find unknown muriqui's groups around the park, and established partnerships with local stakeholders. Besides that, there's a huge effort on ecological, health, and conservation genetics research, which has provided a lot of new data about the species.

This project was funded by Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (Project 162512917)





CORREDOR ECOLÓGICO BRIGADEIRO-CAPARAÓ

In 2021, Rede Eco-Diversa started to implement a strategic plan for the creation of an ecological corridor between Serra do Brigadeiro State Park and Caparaó National Park, both located in Minas Gerais. These areas are home to the two biggest populations of the northern-muriqui, which now faces extinction mostly due to habitat fragmentation.

Eco-Diversa organized the International Workshop Ecological Corridor Brigadeiro Caparaó, which was contemplated with lectures from several professionals that discussed strategies for an long-term project focused on the recovery of degraded areas for the creation of the corridor, and its impacts and perspectives for both parks biodiversity.

CAPARAÓ SAÚDE-ÚNICA

This project is dedicated to promote an *One Health* approach to conservation works executed at Serra do Caparaó, while executing epidemic vigilance actions towards wildlife, humans, domestic animals and environment.

The project's actions initially are focused on evaluating the impacts of the yellow fever vírus outbreak that caused the death of several primates populations inside the CNP. Besides that, continuous monitoring of wildlife and domestic animals' health is being implemented to promote strategic actions towards species conservation. We aim to characterize the threats of heavy metals and agricultural inputs to animals, humans and the environment, since the CNP is surrounded by coffee plantations.



FARO PARA CONSERVAÇÃO

Led by the team of the Projeto Muriquis do Caparaó and coordinated by the biologist and current president of Eco-Diversa, Daniel Ferraz, this project aims to train and work with sniffer dogs for biodetection. Currently, Nash, the star dog of the project, and two other dogs are being trained to sniff out feces of wild mammals present in the Caparaó National Park. The use of dogs for wildlife detection is widespread in the world. Sniffer dogs assist teams of conservation researchers in locating illegal products (fur and ivory, for example), weapons, invasive species and wild animal feces, which allow for genetic, health, physiology, food studies, among others. In this way, Faro para Conservação starts to add to the methodologies of the Eco-Diversa network projects.



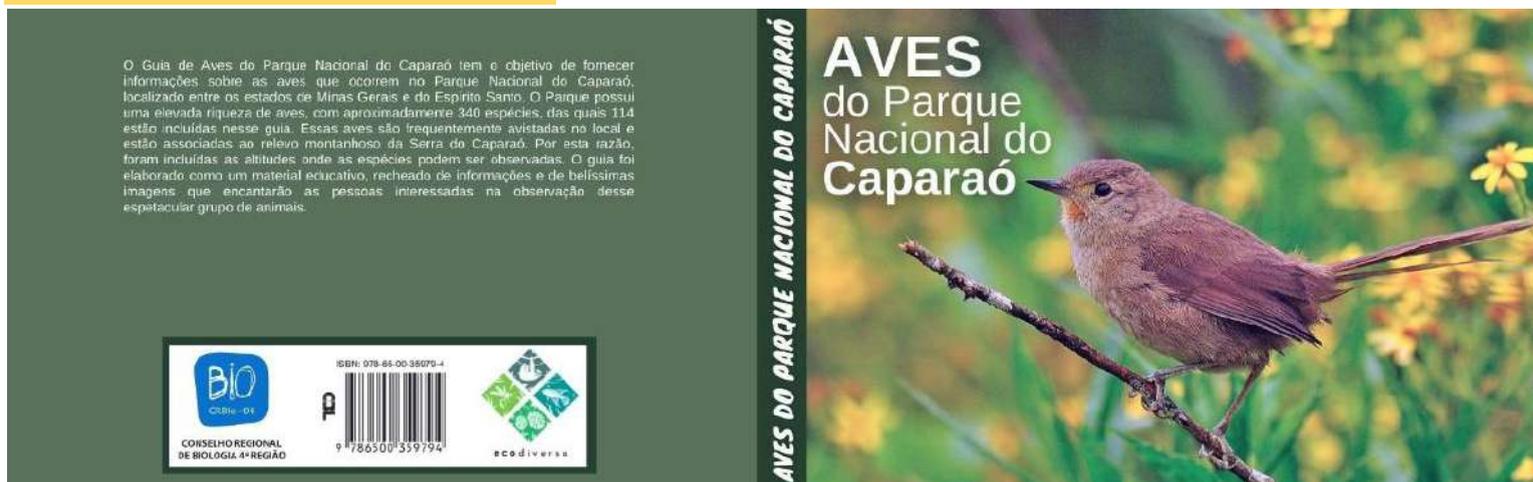
SOME OTHER ACTIONS

EVENTS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS



Dr^o Mariane Kaizer, Eco-Diversa biologist and coordinator of Projeto Muriquis do Caparaó talking about primate watching in conservation units in a course about trail management organized by the Caparaó National Park to the whole community.

GUIDE TO BIRDS OF CAPARAÓ NATIONAL PARK



Rede Eco-Diversa is releasing a guide book to the birds of CNP. The author, Dr^o Luciana Barçante, is a member of the organization and an ornithology specialist.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Caparaó Wild Cats Conservation Project
Rede Eco-Diversa

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