



BOLETIM CHAUÁ

The task of conserving threatened species of the araucaria forest in Paraná

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The araucaria forest is a unique ecosystem of the Brazilian Atlantic forest, found in southern Brazil. It is scientifically classified as mixed ombrophilous forest, with araucaria pines (*Araucaria angustifolia*) as its distinctive elements. Originally distributed over 7 million hectares in Paraná state, nowadays this ecosystem is highly fragmented, with less than 1% remaining. Its drastic reduction directly affects the conservation of populations of many forest species, including those with a naturally restricted number of individuals, usually defined as “rare species”, such as the critically endangered trees. *Araucaria angustifolia* (candelabra tree), *Ocotea odorifera* (sassafrás), *Ocotea porosa* (imbuia) and *Ocotea puberula* (canela sebo). In total, 28 tree and shrub species are in the red list of threatened plants in Paraná (SEMA, 1995). The fragmented areas left to natural regeneration do not include the full range of species that naturally occur in the araucaria forest, and feed the need for a selective regeneration program with high adaptability to local requirements.

Although several programs for araucaria forest restoration exist, only few of them address the full range of endangered native plants, largely due to the difficulty of obtaining seeds and seedlings of these plants. Of all the threatened species of araucaria forest, only 17% were produced in state nurseries in 2004 (Martins et al. 2004) as well as today, and private nurseries do not cover large numbers of endangered or rare species without economic interest.

SOURCES:

MARTINS, S.S; SILVA, I.C.; BORTOLO, L.; NEPOMUCENO, A.N. **Produção de mudas de espécies florestais nos viveiros do Instituto Ambiental do Paraná.** Maringá: Clichetec. 2004. 192 p.

SEMA. **Lista vermelha de plantas ameaçadas de extinção no estado do Paraná.** Curitiba: SEMA/GTZ, 1995. 139p.