

RESERVAS VOTORANTIM POSITIONING CARBON AND BIODIVERSITY

Forested areas worldwide sequester about a third of carbon emissions from human activities with tree growth. The success of actions to mitigate climate change involves sustainable management and conservation of forests and their biodiversity.

Reservas Votorantim and its areas, Legado das Águas and Legado Verdes do Cerrado, are committed to the dynamics between carbon and biodiversity in carrying out its activities, research, and actions focused on forest conservation. The areas located in the Atlantic Forest and the Cerrado add to 63 thousand hectares of preserved native forest, sequestering 20 million tons of carbon. In a balanced ecosystem, each species, be it flora or fauna, contributes to the long-term existence of the forest. In that sense, the species biodiversity is one of the main factors for the provision of essential ecosystem services such as pollination and seed dispersal.

Working in forest restoration and landscape projects, the Biodiversity Centers of the Legados produce plants native to the Atlantic Forest and the Cerrado, of which many are not widely known by the general public. With a total production capacity of 400 thousand seedlings per year and approximately 200 different species, the Biodiversity Centers offer the beauty and functionality of the Brazilian flora for various uses, whether on a small or large scale, in the city or in the countryside. The objective is to promote the application of plants in initiatives for the reconstruction of woods, forests, and ecological corridors, mainly in their biomes, with benefits that, in addition to capturing carbon from the atmosphere, stimulate the return of birds, small animals and the gradual increase in the territory's biodiversity. In cities, vegetation in squares and corridors improve thermal comfort and scenic beauty and create more sustainable urban areas.

Discussing actions that contribute to the mitigation of climate change is an authentic global need based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and requires the understanding of biodiversity as a wealth offered to all living beings. To connect and understand the link between carbon (SDG 13) and biodiversity (SDG 15) is to value the forest and its various possibilities for generating businesses in the new economy, guaranteeing the maintenance of native areas, development of public scientific knowledge and the promotion of new production chains that contribute to territorial development.

Reservas Votorantim believes it is possible to promote the planting of native forests in any context, whether in houses, neighborhoods, cities, or the countryside. Brazil is one of the most biodiverse countries and there is much to understand about this potential. Taking plants back to their places of origin reconnects people to nature in more pleasant and healthier environments, helping mitigate climate change and reduce the risks of biodiversity loss. Yes, the answer lies in nature!