



WG 1 – Trees

CASE STUDY 5 **Brazilwood (*Caesalpinia echinata*)** **in Brazil**

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Caesalpinia echinata - Fabaceae



Exploited since XVI century
Redish Dye (red resin - aniline dyes)
Source of bows for violins, violas and cellos

Pau –Brasil (national tree)
Ibira pitanga (red wood)
Pernambuco
Pau de tinta, pau ferro
Pau rosado
Palo Brasil
Brazilwood



Biological data

- Late secondary canopy medium sized tree (12m, 70cmdbh), heliophytic
- Habitat: semi-deciduous seasonal forests on sandy marine soil of Brazil's coastal Atlantic forests (Mata Atlântica), patchy distribution
- The growth rate of Pau-Brazil (low) depends on several factors such as the composition of the soil (dry), climate (arid) or geographical location.
- Limited data available on distribution, species variation and population size (1,669 in Bahia) - decreasing
- Composition and structure of plant communities poorly understood



Distribution – harvest impact

Mata Atlântica – The Atlantic Forest

IPCI-2008

*Cover less than
100,000 km² or
7.3% of its original
extent*

*(IUCN, TRAFFIC 2007,
WCMC 2008)*

*“ Its exploitation
caused the
destruction
of Mata
Atlantica “*



Distribution – Brazil States



An aerial photograph of a dense tropical forest. The canopy is a mosaic of various shades of green, from deep forest green to bright lime green. A large, prominent tree with a very dense, rounded crown is the central focus, standing out above the surrounding forest. The text "Rare tree in the brazilian flora" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Rare tree in the brazilian flora

Conservation Status

- In danger of extinction (IBAMA-Resolution No 37 04/1992)
- IUCN Red List (2004) EN based on criteria A1a,c,d)1
- World List of Threatened Trees – Endangered
- CITES (PC14 09/2007) qualifies for CITES Appendix II
- In danger of extinction (IBAMA-Resolution No. 06/09/2008)

Main threats

- Habitat loss/degradation: deforestation, accelerated by urban sprawl, agriculture and timber harvesting
- Illegal logging for exports
- Tourism development (recent years)

Pau Brazil & CITES

- Inclusion on Appendix II in 2007 (does not include violin bows)
- NDF – not required according current legislation:
 - Species protected under Law for Bioma – Mata Atlântica (2006) – harvest prohibited in natural forests.
 - Resolution No. 278/2001 previous concessions authorized for felling and harvesting species threatened with extinction suspended except for no direct commercial purposes.

Therefore No management plan, quotas, permits in place

- Timber available for export is pre-convention (only permitted for declared material), current control system cannot adequately track timber volume in transformation process that is then exported without registration.
- Illegal exports have declined since Appendix II listing, but still illegal logging and trade occurs.

Management measures conservation initiatives

Pau Brasil Program (coordinated by CEPLAC, together with NGOs and research institutions, financed by IPCI – International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative):

- Undertook a series of inventories in 2005 through a consultation process including government agencies, NGOs, rural unions, private sector, experts).
- Purpose: identify locations where the species prospers under natural and cultivated conditions. 1754 individuals were recorded on over 130 rural properties in the cocoa growing region of southern Bahia.
- Results: identified three different varieties, establishment of plantation (140,000 plants) under different canopy and soil conditions.
- New phase: seedbanks, legal reserves, move off Endangered species list, data on trade, strategic alliances with private sector to extend the program.

Management measures conservation initiatives

- As part of the Global Trees Campaign, FFI supports education and public awareness about the conservation of this flagship species working with the [Rio Botanical Gardens and the Margaret Mee Foundation](#) to carry out a more detailed study into the distribution and conservation requirements of this species.

Recommendations

- Complete a range-wide inventory and other studies required for management of the species and trade monitoring
- Review the IUCN Checklist and other tools
- Review legislation
- Promote partnership for sustainable management

Thank you



Photos http://www.globaltrees.org/reso_tree.asp

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