
T11-P09 - Forest restoration initiative driven by the need to reduce the damage caused by a primate species to exotic pine plantations in Brazil

SANDRA BOS MIKICH; DIETER LIEBSCH

Embrapa Florestas, Estrada da Ribeira, km111, Jardim Cristina, 83411-000, Colombo, Paraná, Brazil. sandra.mikich@embrapa.br

Primates are important seed dispersers and the species that can occupy modified habitats contribute significantly to ecological restoration. Black-horned Capuchins, *Sapajus nigritus*, fall into this group, dispersing over 50 plant species in South Brazilian Araucaria Forest alone. Nevertheless, they are accused of being forestry pests, since during seasonal periods of fruit scarcity they feed on exotic pine (*Pinus* spp.) sap, hindering tree growth and survival. In order to reconcile production and conservation we have proposed the enrichment of native forests situated nearby pine stands with zoochoric species as a tool to reduce damages. The selection of plant species was based on the frugivorous diet of *S. nigritus*, favoring those that produce fruit during periods of food shortage. The list includes 25 native species with variable ecological traits. In October/2016 we have started the enrichment (1,000 seedlings/ha) of impoverished Araucaria Forest remnants found within three properties in Southern Brazil and our expectation is to plant 132,000 seedlings. In the meantime, we are monitoring seedling survival/growth, pine bark-stripping by capuchins, and habitat use by vertebrates both within restored and control areas. We expect the increase in fruit availability not only to reduce capuchins' demand for pine sap but also to improve local and regional biodiversity indicators. So, even though restoration actions can be species-oriented or driven by specific situations, the outreach is still expected to be wider. Besides, the reconciliation of interests constitute a great opportunity to effectively restore large expanses of private land.