

IMPACT REPORT

2024

SAVING FORESTS, CHANGING LIVES





IRACAMBI 25 YEARS

Dear friends and colleagues,

As I write, the world is experiencing a period of rapid change and uncertainty, which affects us all, wherever we may be. But, here at Iracambi, this uncertainty serves to remind us that our work is more important than ever.

So we'd like to thank all of you, our wonderful staff, students, supporters, and friends, who have joined with us over the past twenty-five years in Saving Forests and Changing Lives.

Together we've planted hundreds of thousands of trees, protected thousands of hectares of forest, and directly impacted hundreds of thousands of lives, both here in the mountains of southeastern Brazil, and around the world.

We couldn't have done it without you, THANK YOU!

WE WERE BORN FOR THIS TIME



In these difficult times we choose hope over despair. We choose to survive and thrive. We choose to restore the magnificent forests that sustain the biodiversity which underpins all life. We choose the painstaking work of collecting seeds, nurturing saplings, planting, and caring for the young forests that are bringing new life to the weary land.

We choose to provide a safe and welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds to devote their talents and passion to solving the challenges of living together on a fragile and finite planet.

We choose to inspire and encourage children and young people to find new ways to thrive, protect and transform their communities, using all their creativity, imagination, and energy.

Sometimes the sheer scale of the problems can feel overwhelming. But we are stronger together. Like the hummingbird, we invite you to join us for the next twenty-five years as we play our part in leaving the planet a little better than we found it. **We were born for this time.**

Binka and Robin Le Breton



OUR PROGRAMS



Iracambi's programs are all closely integrated with one another, and each one is aligned with our mission of **Saving Forests and Changing Lives.**

Forest Restoration

Our flagship program is **Forests4Water**: working with the local community to restore the Atlantic Rainforest as a water source, one hectare at a time



Environmental Education

Our **Young EcoLeaders** Program engages local students in immersive rainforest experiences, training young environmental leaders and fostering a new generation of rainforest champions

Volunteer Program

Volunteers bring us their skills, passion and energy, stay with us for periods ranging from two weeks to one year, and leave to apply their learnings in their life journeys wherever they may lead



Research

Smart Forest is focused on monitoring and measuring forest ecosystem's components. By studying forest cover, water, soil and fauna species we aim to understand how to restore forests in the most efficient and cost-effective way



OUR NUMBERS

Iracambi's programs are all closely integrated with one another, and each one is aligned with our mission of Saving Forests and Changing Lives.

197.35 kg Seeds collected

26,952 Seedlings produced

12.55 ha Area reforested

50.65 ha Reforested areas under maintenance

24,442 Trees planted

967 Schoolchildren hosted

32 School visits

50 EcoLeaders graduated

120 Teachers participating in training days

661 Fauna sightings on camera traps

21 Species registered

11 Communities reached

59 Volunteers and researchers hosted from 22 countries



PARTNERS

Iracambi is active in public policy at local, state and regional level.

We are founder members of the **Advisory Board of the Serra do Brigadeiro State Park**

We are members of the **Rio Pomba/Muriaé River Basin Committee**

We manage two registered **Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPN)**

We are regional coordinators of the **State Environmental Education Council**

We are a regional hub for the **TriNational Pact for the Restoration of the Atlantic Forest** – one of the **UN Global Flagship Restoration Programs**

We are the **only Brazilian member of the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS)**, and affiliated with the Organization of Tropical Studies

We are **accredited to the UN Conference of the Parties for Biodiversity and Climate Change**



FORESTS FOR WATER

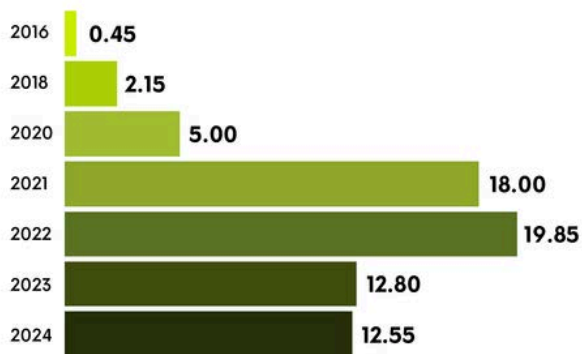
2024 was a challenging year at Iracambi from many points of view. Unpredictable and extreme weather conditions, a difficult global economic situation and the loss of one of our major funders meant that we had to work extra hard. Labor costs increased, our gallant Land Rover is beginning to show her age (requiring a lot of maintenance) but, with your support we hit our targets.

In order to be more efficient and cost effective, we opted to focus our efforts in contiguous areas, expanding our forest corridor and linking restored areas to existing forest patches. We work on two fronts. First, restoring forest cover on degraded areas in local farms, with the objective of protecting and restoring valuable water resources. And second, installing areas of agroforestry with native trees planted alongside economically productive species, coffee, bananas and avocado.





Number of hectares under restoration*



*Source: Iracambi

The Iracambi Forest Nursery is a vital partner in our forestry efforts, serving as an outdoor classroom for the hundreds of schoolchildren who visit us every year, as well as one of the favorite places on campus for our volunteers, researchers and interns. In 2024 we produced 26,952 seedlings at a cost of approximately US\$0.55 each. As we like to say, "Every forest starts with a seed."

So a special thank you to those of you who supported our program. We couldn't have done it without you!

197.35 kg

COLLECTED SEEDS

26,952

SEEDLINGS PRODUCED

12.55

AREA REFORESTED

50.65 ha

RESTORED ÁREA

24,442

TREES PLANTED

11

COMMUNITIES SERVED

YOUNG ECOLEADERS



Last year was full of connections, learning and transformations. We celebrate every step, every person and every experience.

A major part of our program is when we welcome students from local schools for our highly popular Rainforest Immersion Days. In 2024 we hosted 967 students from 32 schools from a radius of 150 kilometers from the Research Center. Each visit is carefully planned to give the students an authentic project-based experience, covering subjects such as biodiversity conservation, forest restoration and sustainability. Students walk our forest trails, interact with our researchers, and are involved in practical hands-on activities of ecosystem restoration.

Our EcoLeaders program focuses on self-selected students from the local middle school, who join us for an intensive semester-long course of environmental leadership, combining scientific theory with practical activities. Students are challenged to explore the ecosystem and their place in it, and encouraged to value local culture and traditional knowledge while learning about global best practice ways of caring for the planet.



967

SCHOOLCHILDREN HOSTED

50

YOUNG ECOLEADERS GRADUATED

32

SCHOOLS INVOLVED

1,187

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED

120

EDUCATORS TRAINED

2

CULTURAL EXCHANGES



Our goal is to equip them with qualities of leadership that enable them to become active defenders of the forest landscape in which they live. For the first time, we decided to create two groups, one for girls and one for boys. Although there is a large demand among girls to study and work in the biological and earth sciences, their participation drops off sharply when it comes to leadership. It's early for us to be able to evaluate the success of this strategy, but we look forward to reporting back to you as the program continues.

One of the most gratifying indicators of success was an initiative organized by the students themselves to raise money for a field trip at the end of the course. EcoLeaders mounted a stall at the weekly market, sold home-made snacks and donated the proceeds as a surprise gift to the field trip fund.

The last words comes from two of our EcoLeaders who send us the following messages.

"I think that Iracambi's work is really important for all of us, it was one of the best experiences of my life", says Isadora.

"I'm so happy I had the chance to participate and learn about the environment, check the camera traps and see which animals we had managed to film. I learned a lot and I'll never forget this very special project in sixth grade", says Mariana.

VOLUNTEERS



Iracambi is a community of people from around the world. It's exactly how we feel about each person who comes here. Every volunteer, visitor, intern or researcher leaves a mark at Iracambi and takes a part of Iracambi and our mission with them when they leave. In this way, our network of Iracambistas stretches across the world, all doing great things wherever they happen to live.

In 2024 we welcomed **56 volunteers, students and researchers, from 22 countries:** Brazil, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, India, Israel, Latvia, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela. We want to thank each one of you who shared our lives at Iracambi in 2024 and left a part of yourselves here with us. You are all in our hearts!

We also want to thank all our partners, friends, supporters and mentors: **Università di Bologna, EMST Berlin, Wesleyan University, University of São Paulo, Federal University of Viçosa, Natucate, Weltwaerts, VolunteerWorld, Omprakash, Verein Niedersächsischer Bildungsinitiativen e.V. (VNB), OutSpoken Narrative, Regen Studio, SYNTRE, Penn International Impact Consulting (PIIC) Partners of the Americas.**



SMART FOREST



Our exciting new program Smart Forest (still in development) was created from our need to better understand the health of our forests, and follow more closely the process of restoration. We collect data on vegetation cover and species composition, soils, water, weather and fauna, and are able to take more strategic decisions through identifying strong and weak points and develop guidelines for effective restoration practices.

In 2024 we had a return visit from graduate student Paola Merelli from the University of Bologna, who had set up our fauna monitoring project in 2023. She brought with her a couple of her colleagues, Ester and Gaia who helped in data collection and also set up the project of bioacoustics.

This monitoring takes place in five trial plots, each one representing a different ecosystem: old growth forest, succession forest, mixed species eucalyptus plantation, reforested areas and pasture. We use camera traps and sound recorders to monitor the presence of mammals and the complexity of the soundscape. In this way we are learning how different land uses influence biodiversity and the interactions between species.



WE'RE ALL PART OF ONE WORLD



JANUARY

Staff members from JAS visit Iracambi

FEBRUARY

Binka Le Breton spends two weeks on Peace Boat as Guest Educator and speaks on Climate Change and Biodiversity to an audience of 2000 young people from China, Japan and Korea



MARCH

Iracambi hosts four students from ESMT Berlin who have been mentoring us across the year

APRIL

Binka speaks at the Universities of Northern Colorado, Johns Hopkins and Wesleyan



JUNE

Harvard student Eshan Vishwakarma visits Iracambi to make a film



AUGUST

A wild dog rescued from the highway is released into the Iracambi forest by EcoRioMinas and a local veterinarian

MAY

Iracambi hosts Anita Deeg Carlin Global Programs Expert from our partner university Wesleyan



JULY

Iracambi hosts Professor Karen Barton and family from the University of Northern Colorado on a State Department exchange visit





OCTOBER

Robin and Binka Le Breton attend COP in Cali Colombia



DECEMBER

Iracambi takes part in Call to Earth for CNN

SEPTEMBER

EcoLeaders coordinator Dayana attends the National Youth Conference for the Environment in Brasilia



NOVEMBER

Knowledge exchange in Iracambi brings community together for World Food Day celebration





FINANCES

In 2024 we raised a total of R\$1.136.487,68 from various sources (\$198,294 at the exchange rate 23/02/2025).

Individual donations and fundraising platforms contributed R\$747.553,47 (\$130,433). Corporate donations and other sources amounted \$67,861.

Our expenses encompassed the four programs of Iracambi as well as administrative costs, resulting in an expenditure of R\$978,627,34 (\$170.915,39). We ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$27,418.

Once again, we express our sincere thanks to all our supporters and funders. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and continue to make a lasting positive impact. Thank you - **BrazilFoundation, Milkywire, ServiceNow, The Nature Conservancy, Datadog, GlobalGiving, JAS – Bruni Foundation, SWM, iFruit, PlantforthePlanet, US Embassy in Brazil** - for walking alongside us on this journey.

REVENUE

\$198,294

EXPENSES

\$170.876

BALANCE

\$27,418



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We appreciate your continued support for our reforestation efforts.

We also extend our gratitude to our team. Furthermore, we thank the organizations that provided us with the opportunity to participate in mentoring programs, which have propelled our organization to do more and better!

We look forward to seeing you in 2025!



Contact

Stay up-to-date with what's happening



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