



INICIATIVA VERDE

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ATLANTIC FOREST

ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CRISIS AND
SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THROUGH RESTORATION

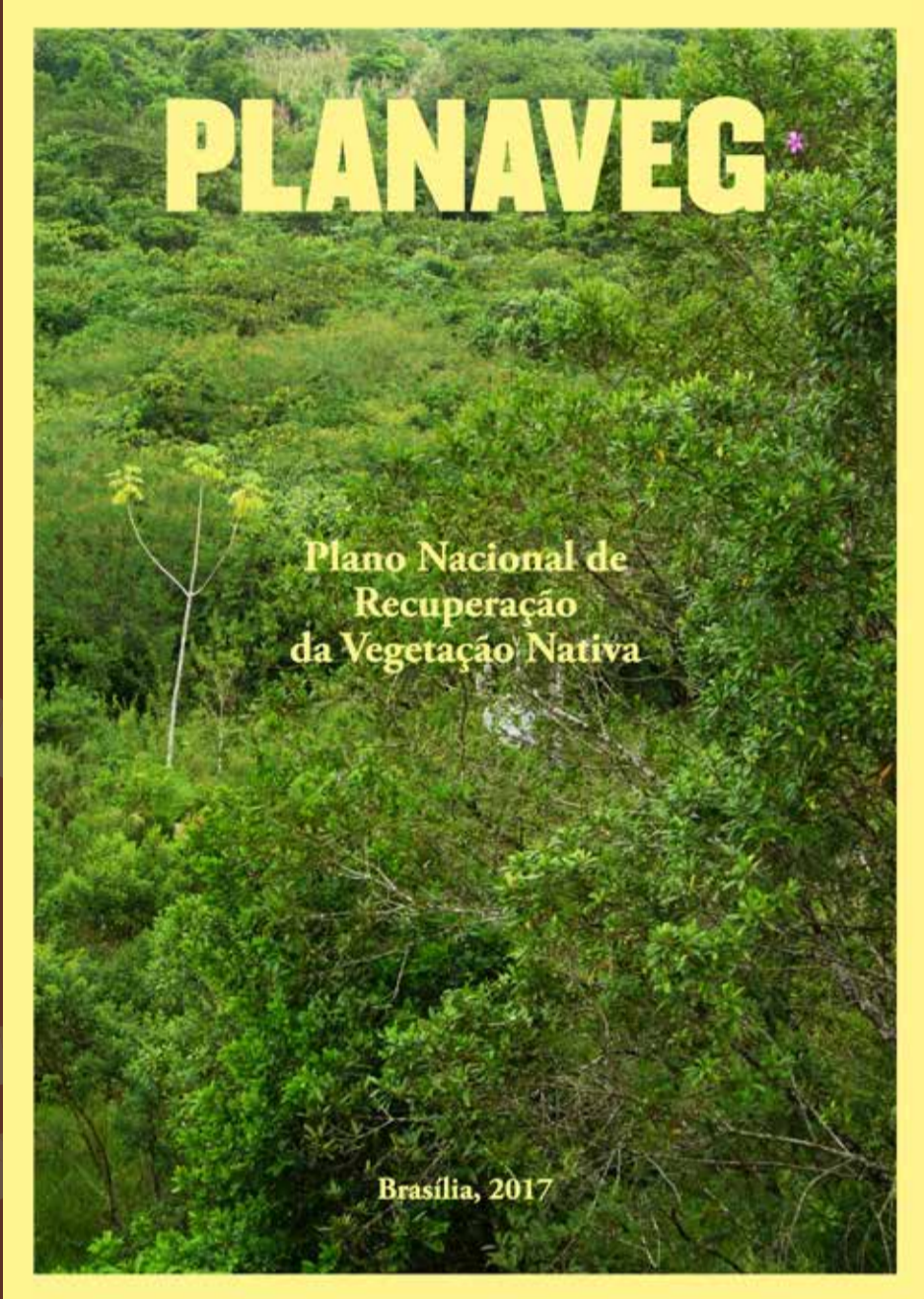
Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference - November 2022

THE BIOME

The Atlantic Forest is represented for the most part by a Tropical Forest of high biodiversity and related physiognomies such as mangroves, low forests and high altitude grasslands.

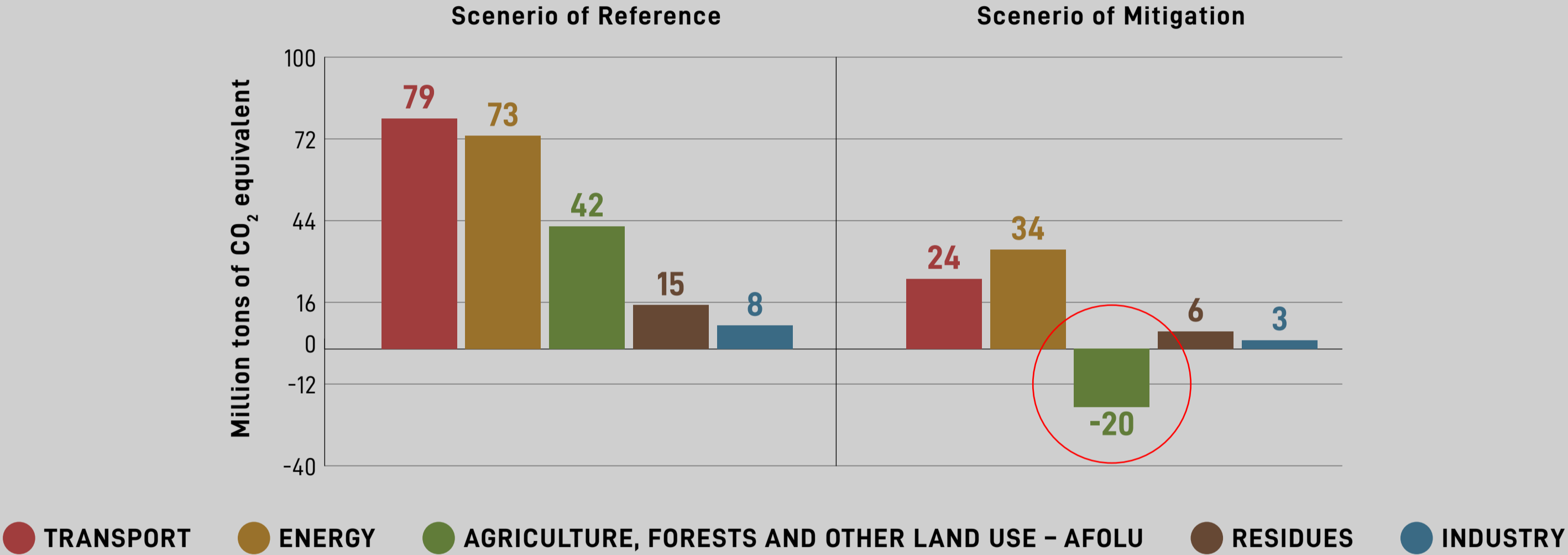


In November 2017, The National Native Vegetation Recovery Plan (Planaveg) was launched. It seeks to recover at least 12 million hectares until 2030, mainly in Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) and Legal Reserves (RL), and also in degraded areas with low agricultural suitability. In addition, there is the possibility of productive restoration such as Agroforestry Systems, Planting of native forests aiming at generating carbon credits, wood or both.



According to the Climate Action Plan for 2050 of the state of São Paulo, in a climate crisis mitigation scenario, AFOLU, which includes ecological restoration, has the potential to go beyond neutralizing emissions in São Paulo, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

EMISSIONS PROJECTED BY SECTOR IN 2050

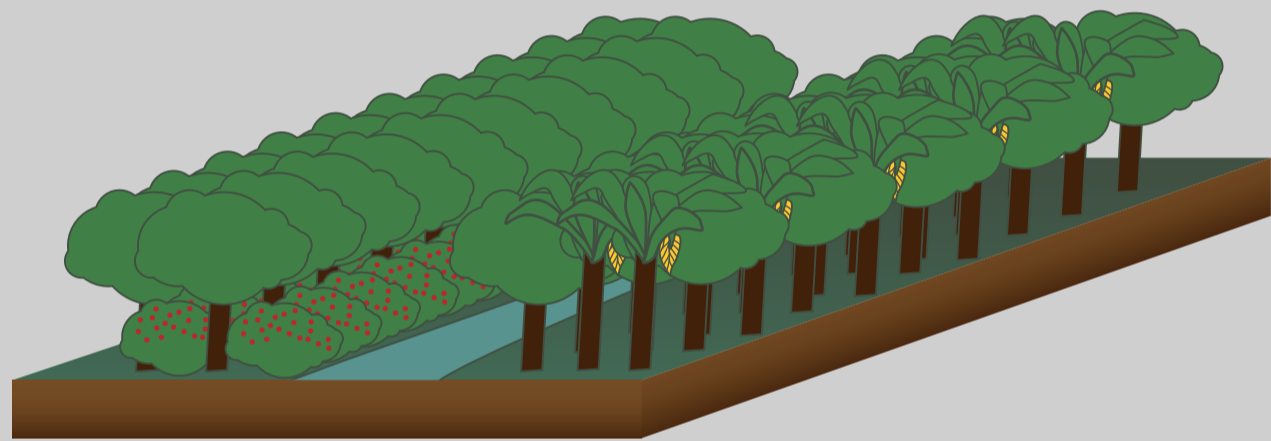


Secretary of Infrastructure and Environment of the State of São Paulo - Climate Action Plan 2050

Besides, research indicates that the Atlantic Forest is part of a group of ecosystems on the planet in which the restoration of 15% of its area would prevent 60% of predicted species extinctions and would sequester 30% of the CO₂ released into the atmosphere since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution (Strassburg et al., 2020).



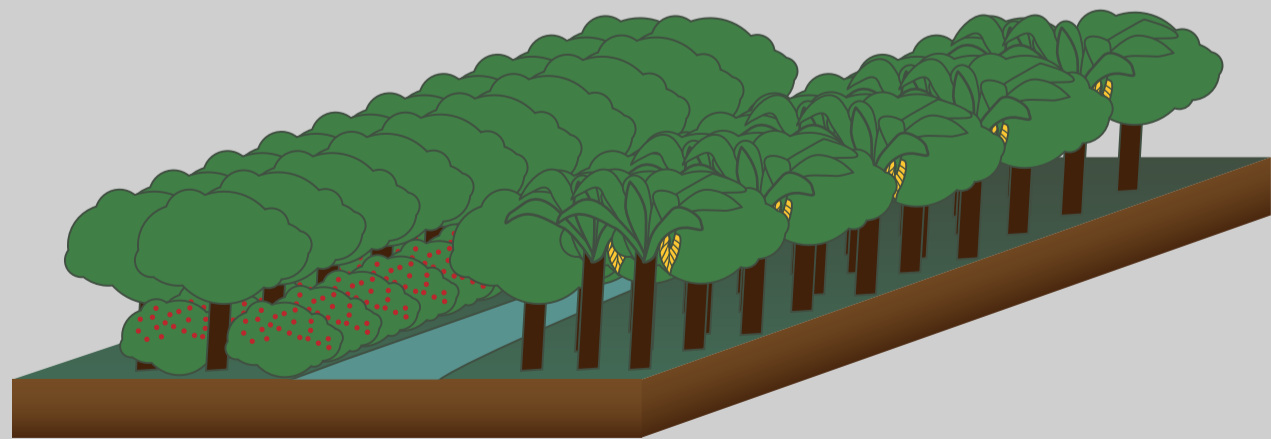
According to Imaflora and SOS Mata Atlântica, the recovery of 15 million hectares would result in the removal of 2.35 gigatons of CO₂e by 2050 and could be responsible for a 63% reduction in GHG emissions in the biome due to Land Use Change.



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15 MILLION HECTARES OF ATLANTIC RAINFOREST



Ecological restoration, in addition to the climate agenda, is also related to other urgent and priority issues established by the UN in its conventions, such as the Protection of Biological Diversity and the Combat of Desertification.



ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE



In the Atlantic Forest, resides **70% of the population** of Brazil, and it accounts for approximately 80% of the national economy. The biome also connects the two largest Brazilian metropolises (São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro), which, together, add up to **30% of the Brazilian GDP**. Therefore, it's a biome of great importance for the provision of ecosystem services that are essential for the well-being of humanity and the economy, such as the supply of water, energy and food.

In this context, the Atlantic Forest was considered one of the priority ecosystems for restoration in the world, considering the benefits for the conservation of biodiversity, the mitigation of climate change and the costs and opportunities for its recovery (SOS Mata Atlântica Imaflora 2021).

Land Use changes, such as Agroforestry Systems and modular rural basic sanitation projects can also support the adaptation of local communities against climate extremes.



Due to this historical exploration - it was the first ecosystem exploited by Portuguese colonizers - the Atlantic Forest is considered one of the most important hotspots for the conservation of Biodiversity on the planet, and also the most degraded and threatened biome in Brazil.

Taking into account the well-preserved forest remnants larger than 3 hectares (ha), only 12.4% of its original forest cover remained (SOS Mata Atlântica INPE, 2021).

**ORIGINALLY
OCCUPIED
15%
OF THE COUNTRY'S
TERRITORY**



Recent studies (Bracalion et al. 2022) indicate that for every 2.4 hectares re-stored in Brazil, 1 direct job is created.



From the point of view of agriculture in 2018, the Atlantic Forest accounted for 41% of agricultural production in Brazil and 22% of the Brazilian cattle herd, being responsible for the production of numerous agricultural commodities, which demonstrates the need to work with low carbon agriculture combined with the ecological restoration of agricultural units.



41% OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN BRAZIL



22% OF THE BRAZILIAN CATTLE HERD



ATLANTIC FOREST'S VOCAATION

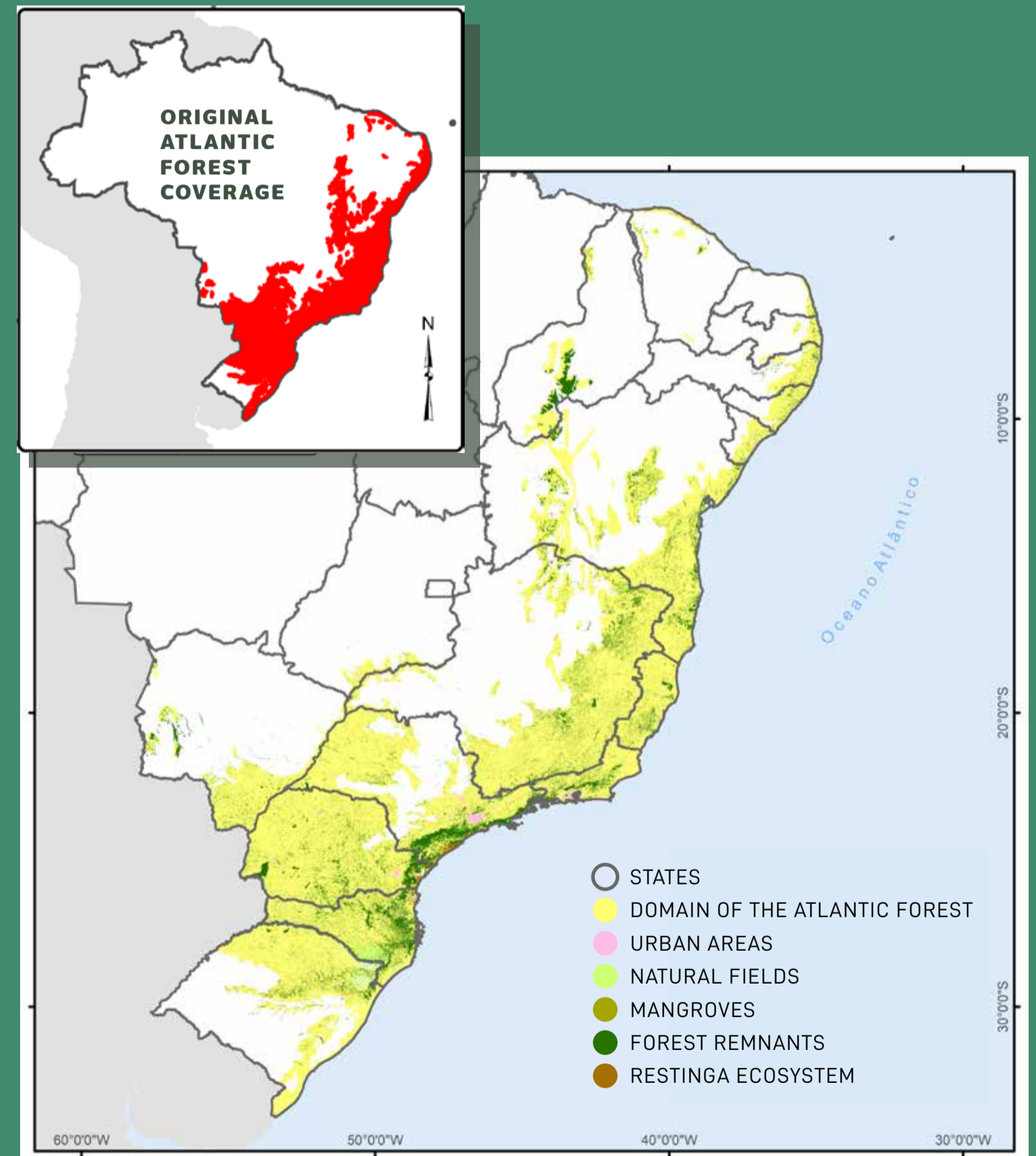
The percentage of remnants is poorly distributed and rather fragmented, with most of them concentrated in protected areas, in extremely steep regions and with low agricultural aptitude.

These remnants are protected by specific laws such as the National System of Nature Conservation Units (SNUC), the Atlantic Forest Law and the New Forest Code.

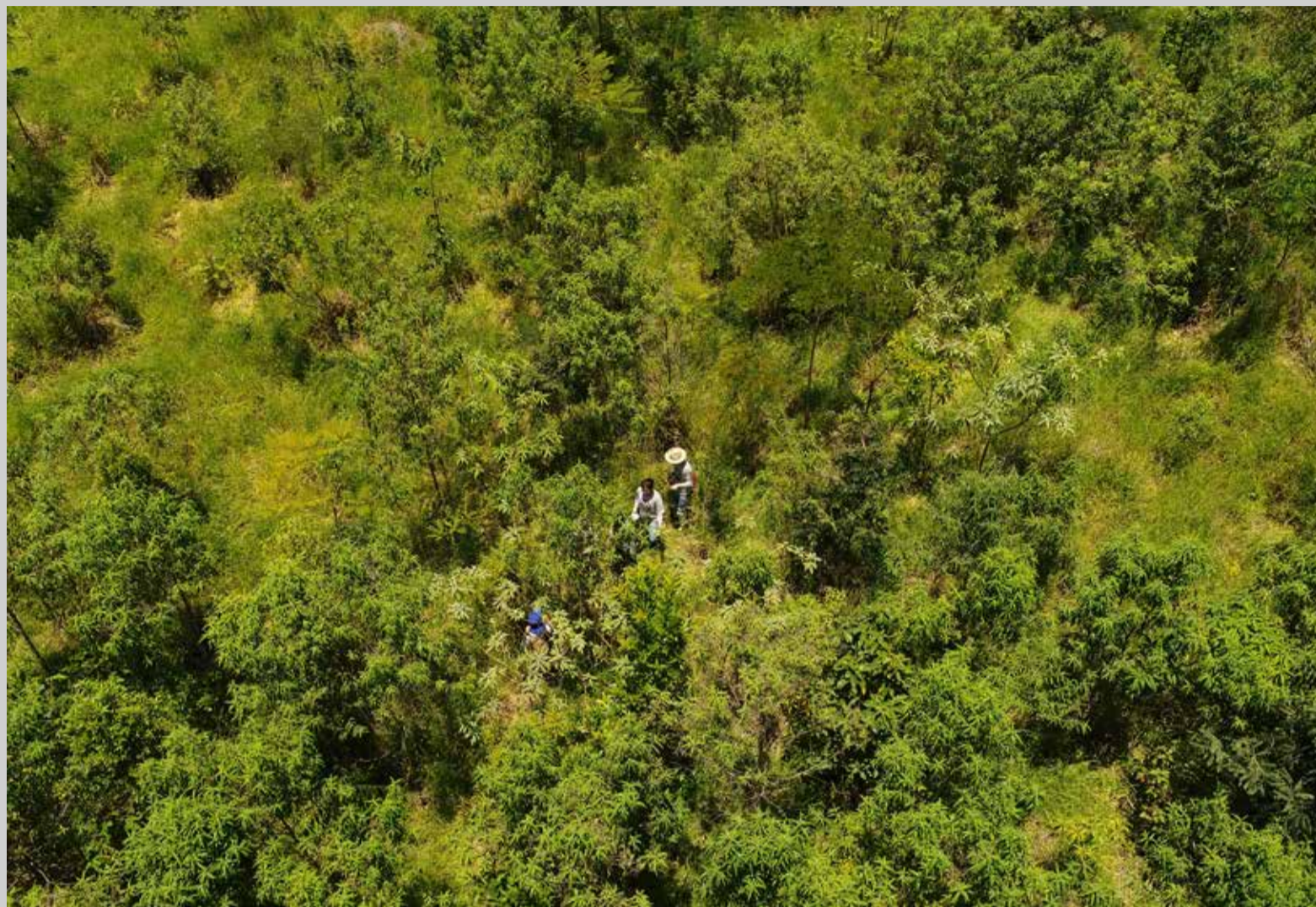
Despite this protection there is still deforestation, which has intensified in recent years. Despite the need to conserve these fragments, Atlantic Forest's greatest vocation is restoration.

FOREST REMNANTS

SOS MATA ATLÂNTICA, 2016



ABOUT US



The Green Initiative (Iniciativa Verde) is a third sector organization, based in São Paulo, Brazil, that since 2005 seeks to contribute to the improvement of environmental services such as biodiversity, water and air quality. In that sense, it assists in the **mitigation and adapta-**

tion to climate changes caused by human activities, through its own forest restoration projects and in partnership with other institutions.

The Green Initiative recognizes in the importance of scientific consistency and updating, directing its work to the generation and dissemination of knowledge and also to support the formulation, implementation and promotion of public policies that can guarantee the conservation of natural ecosystems, the well-being and improvement of conditions in rural communities.

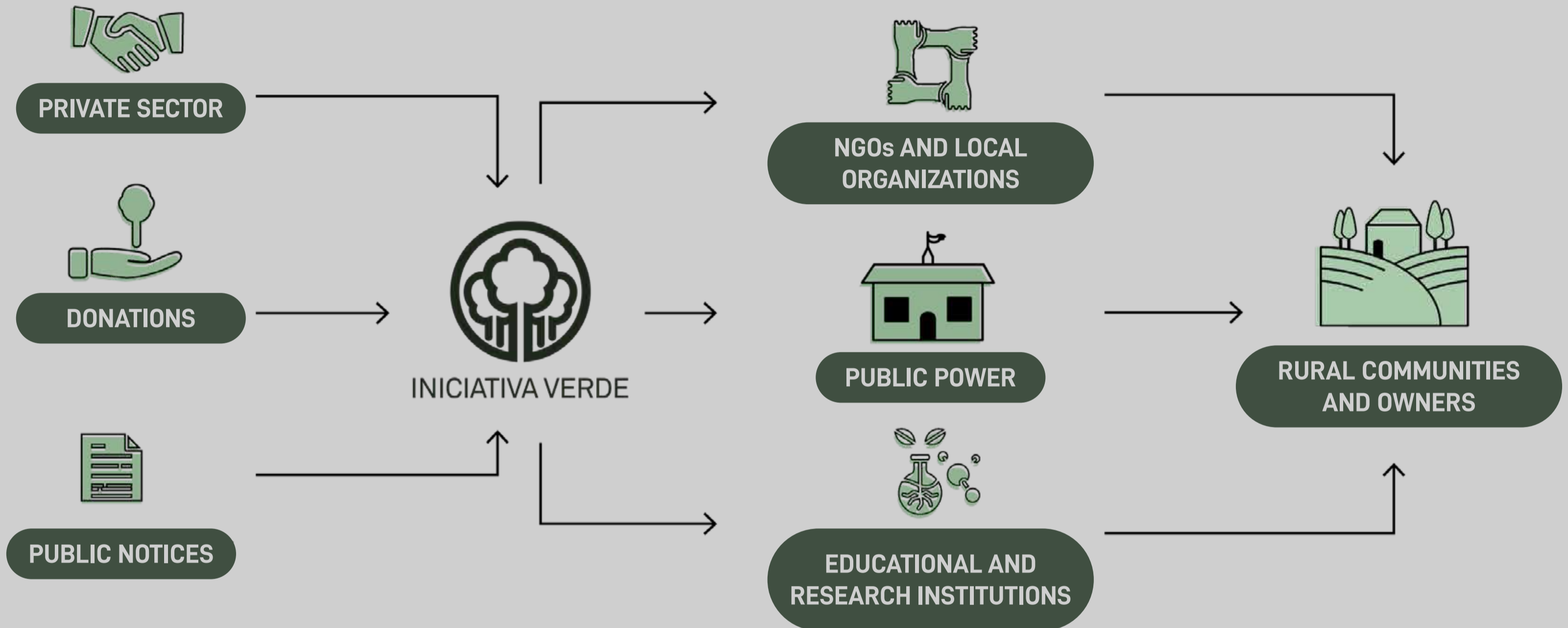
Furthermore, the NGO's projects are all developed in partnership with other third sector institutions, teaching and research institutions, local governments and companies, in order to strengthen the sustainability and continuity of actions.



**SUSTAINABLE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION
TO CLIMATE CHANGES**

**IMPROVEMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**700 HECTARES OF FOREST RESTORED OR
273.000 TONS OF CO₂ EQUIVALENT NEUTRALIZED**



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INICIATIVA VERDE

WWW.INICIATIVAVERDE.ORG.BR
CONTATO@INICIATIVAVERDE.ORG.BR
INSTAGRAM: @INICIATIVAVERDE
+55 11 3647-9293
SÃO PAULO/SP, BRAZIL

Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference - November 2022