



BRAZIL: FUNDING CRISIS THREATENS FUTURE OF A FORGOTTEN FOREST

*"The efforts on conservation are essential and the most important key to facing the challenges that all society is facing. **We need nature, protected and functional, to thrive as a society. Investments in nature - not just at a global and strategic level, but in local initiatives that respect and celebrate the peculiarities and richness of every piece of nature around the world could give nature the force to recover.** This can be clearly confirmed when it comes to Brazilian reality, where governments, companies and even society seems not to see the importance of nature conservation. This background is vilifying the non governmental institutions especially those related to conservation. Chauá's work is only possible so far due to the support of partner institutions and sponsors. We are now under the threat of ending the great achievements that we reached in terms of Araucaria Forest plant species conservation since there's a risk of a lack of resources within the next few years. With more funding we could achieve much more planting activities to try to save species from extinction as well as helping people to understand the importance of nature and plant species conservation to maintain the ecosystem services and consequently ensure human survival."*



Pablo Hoffmann, Sociedade Chauá, Brazil

Brazil's Atlantic Forest supports incredibly diverse and unique biodiversity – 450 different tree species have been recorded in a single hectare and the forest is home to many animals and plants found nowhere else on the planet.

The Atlantic Forest is, however, even more threatened than the Amazon. Following large-scale conversion of forest to farmland, less than 1% of the original primary forest remains, and at least 70 species of tree are now highly threatened. Although many tree planting initiatives are under way, ironically the rare and threatened species – those in greatest need of restoration – are seldom grown and planted, partly because these species are the most difficult ones to find and grow from seed.

Through the Global Trees Campaign, Fauna & Flora International's local partner Sociedade Chauá is working to ensure that the most threatened species are planted back out into the forests. Chauá's team is working with local farmers to plant out more than 30 threatened species across the landscape. This includes *imbuia* – a beautiful timber tree – and extremely rare palm trees from the genus *Butia*. Chauá is also helping tree nurseries and other planting initiatives in the area to learn how to grow and plant these species, so that these highly threatened trees can be returned to the Araucaria forest in larger numbers.