

E3TALK

September 12

14h00

Room 2.2.15, Ciências ULisboa & Online

Ecological restoration of the Araucaria Mixed Forest in Brazil: challenges in recovering a critically endangered ecosystem

The Araucaria Mixed Forest (AMF) is a critically endangered ecosystem within the Atlantic Forest hotspot, with most of its range in southern Brazil. Over a century, timber overexploitation and land-use conversion have reduced the AMF to just 4.3% of its original extent. Most fragments are very small, and most landscapes lack sources of propagules, which underscores the need for active restoration throughout the range of the AMF.

However, a literature review shows that passive restoration (76% of studies) predominates in the AMF. In active restoration, only 108 out of the 1208 tree species of the AMF are used. Other biases include the underrepresentation of typically dominant families of the AMF and the lower proportion (62%) of animal-dispersed species than is typical of AMF (~90%). Increasing the number of native tree species in nurseries and trait-based restoration planning are potential ways to reverse the decline of this unique forest.



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