



## Outcome Story

### Protected Areas in PARATY Bay, Brazil: Two Caiçara communities contribute to fisheries and terrestrial biodiversity conservation

#### Background

Paraty is a coastal municipality located in the Southeastern Brazil. The current economy of the municipality is based on tourism, services and fishing. The rural population is distributed among several communities, including those of Caiçara people along the coastline. Caiçara people are of mixed origin (Portuguese colonists, Amerindians and African descendants), undertaking subsistence activities directly related to the exploitation of natural resources, such as fishing, small-scale agriculture<sup>2,3</sup>, and tourism.

Paraty encompasses two of the best preserved areas: fragments of the Atlantic Forest, and the Ilha Grande Bay, making it an important area for biodiversity conservation. In fact, there are five protected areas (PAs) in Paraty, imposing different degrees of restriction to resource users.

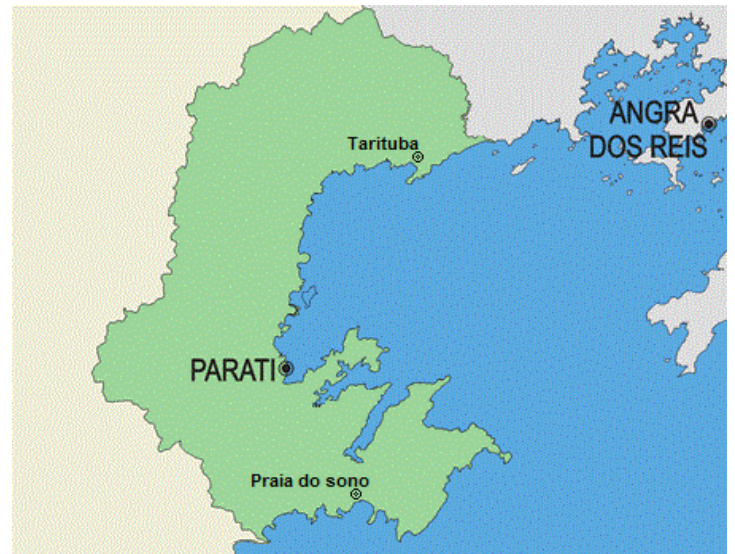
Partners of the Community Conservation Research Network from the Environmental Studies and Research Center (NEPAM) at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) are working with two Caiçara communities: Tarituba and Praia do Sono to contribute to community conservation of both fisheries and terrestrial resources. In both communities, their research aims to support community rights to access resources within protected areas.

In Tarituba, CCRN partners are developing a participatory monitoring program of the local fisheries which contributes to improved decision-making in protected area management and seeks to ensure local fisheries rights, food security and traditional livelihoods are protected.

In Praia do Sono, local ecological knowledge about Atlantic Forest Resources and the use of non-timber products for tourism or aesthetic services is contributing to a protected area reclassification and management plan. In addition, the CCRN Partners' approach seeks to empower the local community to better negotiate their rights to access resources and practices important to their traditional livelihoods with the no-take protected area manager.

#### Key Messages

- The Paraty area is important for biodiversity conservation in Brazil
- The CCRN Brazilian study site includes two Caiçara communities
- In Tarituba, participatory monitoring of the fisheries is being developed to strengthen agreements and interactions between fishers and the protected area manager and to improve decision-making
- In Praia do Sono, local ecological knowledge is being recorded to improve terrestrial resource management and contribute to protected area reclassification



**Municipality:** Paraty

**Population:** 37,000 (74% urban)<sup>1</sup>

**Area:** Coastal area, Southeastern Brazil

**Economy:** tourism, services, fishing

**Pilot Communities:** Caiçara people (Tarituba and Praia do Sono)

**Origin:** Mixed (Portuguese colonists, Amerindians and African descendants)

**Subsistence Activities:** Fisheries, tourism and small-scale agriculture (shifting cultivation)<sup>2,3</sup>

**Key Biodiversity Conservation Areas:** Fragments of Atlantic Forest, and Ilha Grande Bay



Photo: Tarituba Community - Photographer: Camila Islas

### Tarituba Community

Tarituba is a community of approximately 900 people located 32 km north of Paraty City. Livelihood activities are based on local resources (mainly fish), tourism, and the private sector. Tarituba fisheries take place inside the Ilha Grande Bay, mainly inside a no-take Protected Area (PA) named Tamoios Ecological Station. This tropical marine ecosystem has experienced several changes over the last half century including declining fish stocks, invasion of exotic species, increased water pollution due to land development as well as the development of an offshore oil and gas industry.

Local fishers include spear fishers, gillnet fishers, small-scale shrimp trawlers, among others<sup>4,5</sup> and the main catches are shrimp, shark (*Carcharhinus porosus*), mackerel (*Scomberomorus* sp), snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*), mullet (*Mugiliza*), and snapper (*Lutjanus synagris*)<sup>6</sup>.

The protected area at the Tamoios Ecological Station was established in 1990 but only implemented in 2008 as a compensatory measure for a nuclear power plant. The PA has generated serious conflicts between fishers and the PA managers, because Tamoios Ecological station was created in a top-down manner. Over the last two years an agreement has been developed between the two parties in order to allow certain fishing gear and vessels inside the PA.

The activities organized by the team in Tarituba and other communities in the region, are stimulating more interaction and dialogue between PA managers and local communities facilitated by a third party. These workshops have proven to be beneficial to both parties, giving PA managers the opportunity to learn about community concerns and demands, while also sharing their own concerns and agenda



Photo: Praia do Sono Community - Photographer: Camila Islas

### Praia do Sono Community

Praia do Sono is located on the southern coast of Paraty municipality, 25 km from downtown area. The community of 320 inhabitants is accessed by boat or foot (1 hour walking trail from the nearest road access). Fishing, tourism-related activities, and small-scale agriculture account for most of the local livelihoods<sup>5</sup>.

Praia do Sono is located inside the Juatinga Ecological Reserve (REJ), created in 1992 to protect the Atlantic Forest and Caiçara culture. The “Ecological Reserve” is not a category currently recognized within Brazil’s National System of Protected Areas established by law in 2000 (SNUC), hence REJ is currently under a reclassification process. This reclassification has possible ramifications for the Praia do Sono community, as it will either fall under a more restrictive management system or lead to an arrangement that allows for sustainable resource use.



Photo: Praia do Sono Community - Photographer: Camila Islas

## Praia do Sono Community (continued)

Our research focuses on Atlantic Forest resources. In particular, we are interested in local ecological knowledge about wildlife and its potential in provisioning aesthetic or tourism services, as well as the use of non-timber forest products. UNICAMP, in partnership with the University of Manitoba (Canada) and Praia do Sono community, is generating information that can be used to improve terrestrial resources management, and to contribute to the debate on PA reclassification.

The data on wildlife has been collected through interviews with locals (24 males and 23 females) and the PA staff (9 males and 1 female), wildlife photo identification by 8 key informants, direct observation and secondary data. A workshop is being planned to discuss the research findings with community members and PA staff. We have noticed, so far, that since the research regarding local knowledge on wildlife and its management has started, it has triggered a lot of discussion among locals themselves and the PA staff themselves.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that a Praia do Sono leader present in a regional workshop organized by our team as a conclusion of another project has congratulated our efforts and highlighted the importance of the university as a partner of communities to negotiate with government the rights of traditional communities to their land.



Photo: Community workshops in Tarituba  
Photographer: Paola Bulhões



Photo: Community workshops in Tarituba  
Photographer: Ana Carolina E. Dias

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