

ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP AND DESIRABLE SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS: LESSONS FROM SÃO LUIZ DO PARAITINGA, SOUTHEAST BRAZIL

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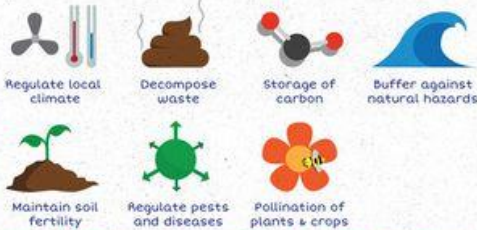
A DANGEROUS GAME



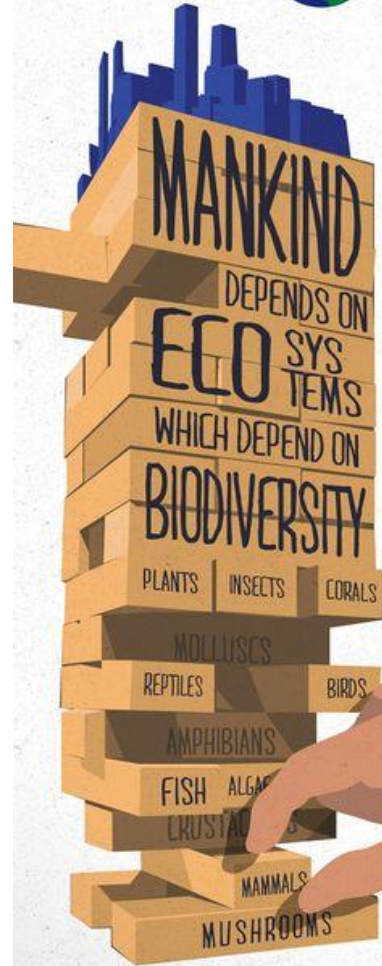
There are 1,7 million different species on earth together, they form our ecosystems



ECOSYSTEMS POSSES QUALITIES ESSENTIAL TO MANKIND



THE BUILDING BRICKS OF ECOSYSTEMS ARE BEING THREATENED



THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY WILL BE THE DOWNFALL OF MANKIND

How do we sustain the capacity of ecosystems to provide benefits to people in spite of disturbances?

Communities around the world have much to teach us about it

The case of São Luiz do Paraitinga, southeast Brazil

- Distinguished natural and cultural heritage
- Intermediate-level



A snapshot: the case of São Luiz do Paraitinga



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Figura 3. "Vista de um Mato Virgem que está se reduzindo a Carvão" (1843) - Félix-Émile Taunay.

A snapshot: the case of São Luiz do Paraitinga

- The great flood of 2010



From land degradation and disaster to community conservation

The great flood of 2010 = **window of opportunity** for systematical reconstruction efforts

Formation of a multidisciplinary working group targeting the rural portion of the territory



From land degradation and disaster to community conservation

REDE SUAPA - The Upper Paraíba River Sustainable Development Network



- Individuals from state agencies + NGOs + universities + municipal government

environment
agriculture

local
regional

environment
agriculture

Ecosystem stewardship initiatives flourishing in the territory

#1 - REDE SUAPA

Goals

- Conservation of the rural areas and income generation for small-scale farmers.
- To promote sustainable management practices of the soil in rural areas and to influence public policies for rural development.

Guiding vision

Agricultural production, ecosystem health and valuing rural livelihoods cannot be considered separately

Ecosystem stewardship initiatives flourishing in the territory

#1 - REDE SUAPA

Ecosystem stewardship goals (Chapin et al 2015)

SUSTAIN THE CAPACITY OF ECOSYSTEMS TO PROVIDE BENEFITS TO PEOPLE	IMPROVE HUMAN WELL-BEING	INTEGRATE SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES	ACTIONS THAT SHAPE THE FUTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects aim at conservation and improvement of the quality of soil, water, forests, and food production systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• income generation for smallholders;• increase in their participation and empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• projects address both ecological and social processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• projects foster the adoption of more sustainable farming practices, contributing to conservation of natural resources• working to influence public policies regarding rural development

Ecosystem stewardship initiatives flourishing in the territory

#2 – Village street market

- Local level, community-based initiative, organized by a group of inhabitants from Catuçaba district

Goals

- To stimulate local agricultural production and generate income for local smallholders
- To value and strengthen local production and knowledge (rural livelihood)



MutirãoBão

Ecosystem stewardship initiatives flourishing in the territory

#2 – Village street market

Ecosystem stewardship goals (Chapin et al 2015)

SUSTAIN THE CAPACITY OF ECOSYSTEMS TO PROVIDE BENEFITS TO PEOPLE

- Provide incentive to organic production

IMPROVE HUMAN WELL-BEING

- Provide access to organic food and add value to local produce
- Strengthen cultural identity
- Strengthen local relationships among community members

INTEGRATE SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES

- Value agricultural production as part of the rural livelihood;
- Local-level initiative attracting outside buyers

ACTIONS THAT SHAPE THE FUTURE

- New livelihood option

Both initiatives

- emerged at the local level
- address social-environmental concerns in the territory
- still have scattered local impacts: low (but growing) number of smallholders engaged
 - REDE SUAPA, however, created a regional amplifying feedback loop of environmental projects that have the potential to expand current actions



Opportunities

Combining efforts could strengthen both initiatives...



- Farmers at Village street market could be technically advised on how to adopt sustainable farming practices
- REDE SUAPA may involve a greater number of smallholders in its actions
- Other local initiatives may flourish from spill over effects
- Strategies for valuing local production and rural livelihoods linked to sustainable farming practices may gain scale

Akarui



... and boost social-ecological transformation



Thank you 😊

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Community Conservation
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