

# Meaning and motivations for conservation in Southeastern Brazil

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## The word "conservação"

# Context

Until early 1990's, when "*biodiversidade*" reached the media through the Rio 92 Summit, the word "*conservação*" was commonly used by local communities.

The concept of *conservation* in the sense of sustainably using natural resources , on other hand, was behind many traditional management practices.

Only in recent decades, it has been incorporated in local people's discourses.



# What are the meaning and motivation for conservation in southeast Brazil?

Key  
question



São Luis do  
Paraitinga  
(SLP) e  
Paraty





# Paraty

## Caiçara people

### Traditional livelihoods

shifting small-scale agriculture,  
small-scale fishery and hunt

### More recent livelihoods

Tourism and small-scale fisheries



# São Luis do Paraitinga

## Caipira people

Traditional livelihoods:

Small-scale farming  
(cattle raising and crops)

More recente livelihoods:

SS farming, SS business, rural  
tourism



# Methods

## Research methods:

- ✓ structured interviews
- ✓ semi-structured interviews (individuals and small groups)
- ✓ focus groups





Who uses the word  
"conservação"?

different social actors

Where?

different environmental  
governance arenas

What do they mean by it?

varies according to the  
background of each actor.





# The word “*conservação*”

- multiple meanings and used in different contexts
  - strict preservation of biodiversity
  - conservation through use of natural resources
  - maintenance of cultures
  - also a technical word used in environmental legislation



The National System of Conservation Units (SNUC) encompasses 12 categories of biodiversity protected areas (PA)

- no-take PA
- sustainable use PA

(Federal Law 9985/2000)

# Fragmented or Integrated concept?

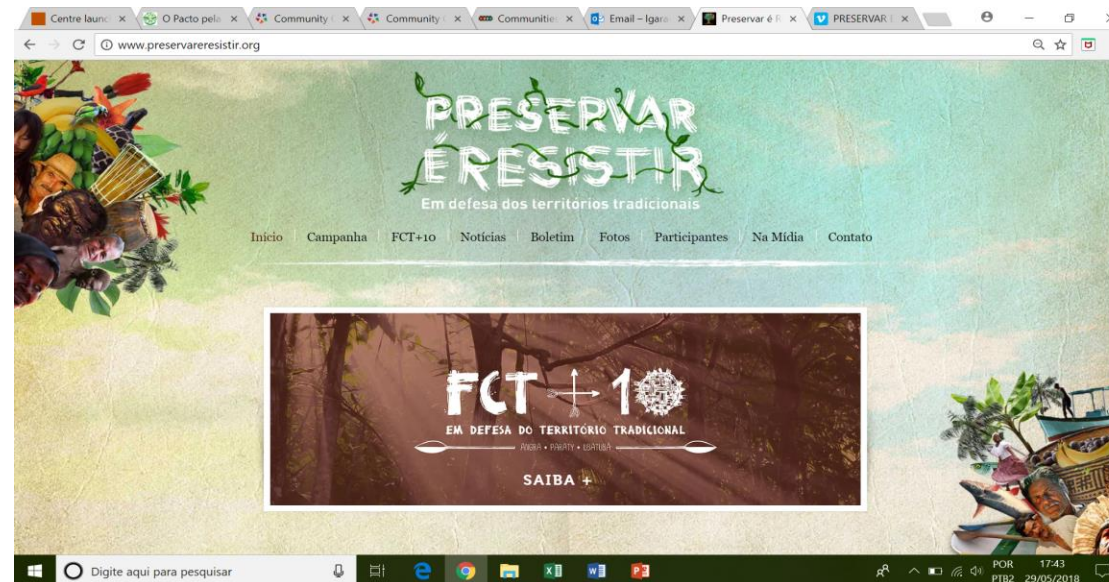
## ➤ preservation, 'untouchable nature'

- Communities under restrictions due to PAs efforts

## ➤ 'static' culture

- Communities' claim concerning access rights over traditional lands ("*to preserve is to resist*")

## ➤ an integrated one ('human-in-nature'):



# PA Managers

## Preservationists

(‘untouchable nature’ paradigm)

## Social-environmentalist

(‘human-in-nature’ paradigm).





Community leaders  
interacting in different  
arenas with outsiders →

'conservation through  
use'

integrating community  
development &  
conservation



# Motivation

Conserving biodiversity

and/or

conserving  
communities'  
livelihoods.



Thank you!  
Merci!  
Obrigada!



Community Conservation  
Research Network

SSHRC  CRSH

