

Pontal, Brazil

Mid-Year Update 2022

Our monitoring assessments last year showed survival rates ranging from 40% to 70% (with our target being 80%) for the newly planted seedlings, due to the worst dry spell in 91 years being followed by unprecedented frosts. The adjustments we've made in planting and maintenance are already showing a much better result. Though we haven't got the data analyzed yet, it's clear to the naked eye that the seedlings are coming up faster and stronger. Invasive grass control is also taking place so that replanting can start once the rains arrive, hopefully in October.

Survival data for the 2022 planting season will be assessed in 2023.



The main picture shows an area approximately six months after planting where the new technique of irrigating at the same time as planting was carried out (see inset). During the last field visit, Brazil Project Manager Cris Yuri was impressed by the high survival estimates – around 90% in some areas, like this one. Early in 2023 a vegetation assessment will take place to measure survival and development of planted trees as well as spontaneous regeneration.



This is Estrela Farm area 5, the next area to be restored, shown here in May before planting started. It was mainly pastureland, but now it has been planted with roughly 2000 seedlings per hectare, with 80 or 90 species planted. The restoration of this plot completes a solid, wide restoration corridor between two large fragments of forest. Look out for 'after' photos of this site in the next report.



Here Cris and Chiquinho are having a look at the progress in another Estrela Farm area that was planted at the end of 2021, and it's doing well! The trees and shrubs are coming up nicely.



This area was planted in February 2021, and is shown in May 2022 in the second picture. It was showing natural regeneration before our restoration began, suggesting that seed dispersal animals will be cruising around, bringing more seeds to germinate and grow with the planted trees. However, that's not enough for the forest to develop on its own, at least not in a couple of years. That's why we still plant seedlings in most of the area, making sure the forest structure will develop in a more homogeneous way.

February 2021



May 2022



Field assistant Felipe is almost lost in this 1.5-year old Mamoninha do campo (*Mabea fistulifera*) in this picture taken in May. Because of its abundant pollen, by day the tree is visited by birds, bees and other insects, and at night its nectar is attractive to bats, skunks, ants and wasps.



Left: Viveiro Floresta (IPÊ) is helping the community nurseries improve their facilities, making sure there will be enough seedlings to fulfill the increasing restoration demand at Pontal. Right: Following a workshop organized by WeForest and IPÊ in October 2021, the nursery staff are now using the reference books and incorporating best practices in species identification into their daily routine. Year after year the identification of the best performing species will be tailored to concentrate on the most likely to survive and develop in the field.



How do we know our restored forests are growing and making an impact?

Every hectare under restoration is mapped with GPS points to generate polygons (areas on a map) that are assigned to sponsors. Permanent monitoring plots are established in our sites and our forestry and science teams conduct surveys to monitor progress of biomass growth, tree density, survival rate and species diversity, among other indicators. Where social impacts are also critical, we measure socio-economic indicators such as the number of individuals or families directly benefiting, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

Please visit our [Why and How](#) webpage for more information.



You'll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive [Pontal map](#), and check out the [photos](#) on Flickr.

Also, don't miss our latest Pontal videos: [forest sounds](#) and [animal footage](#)!