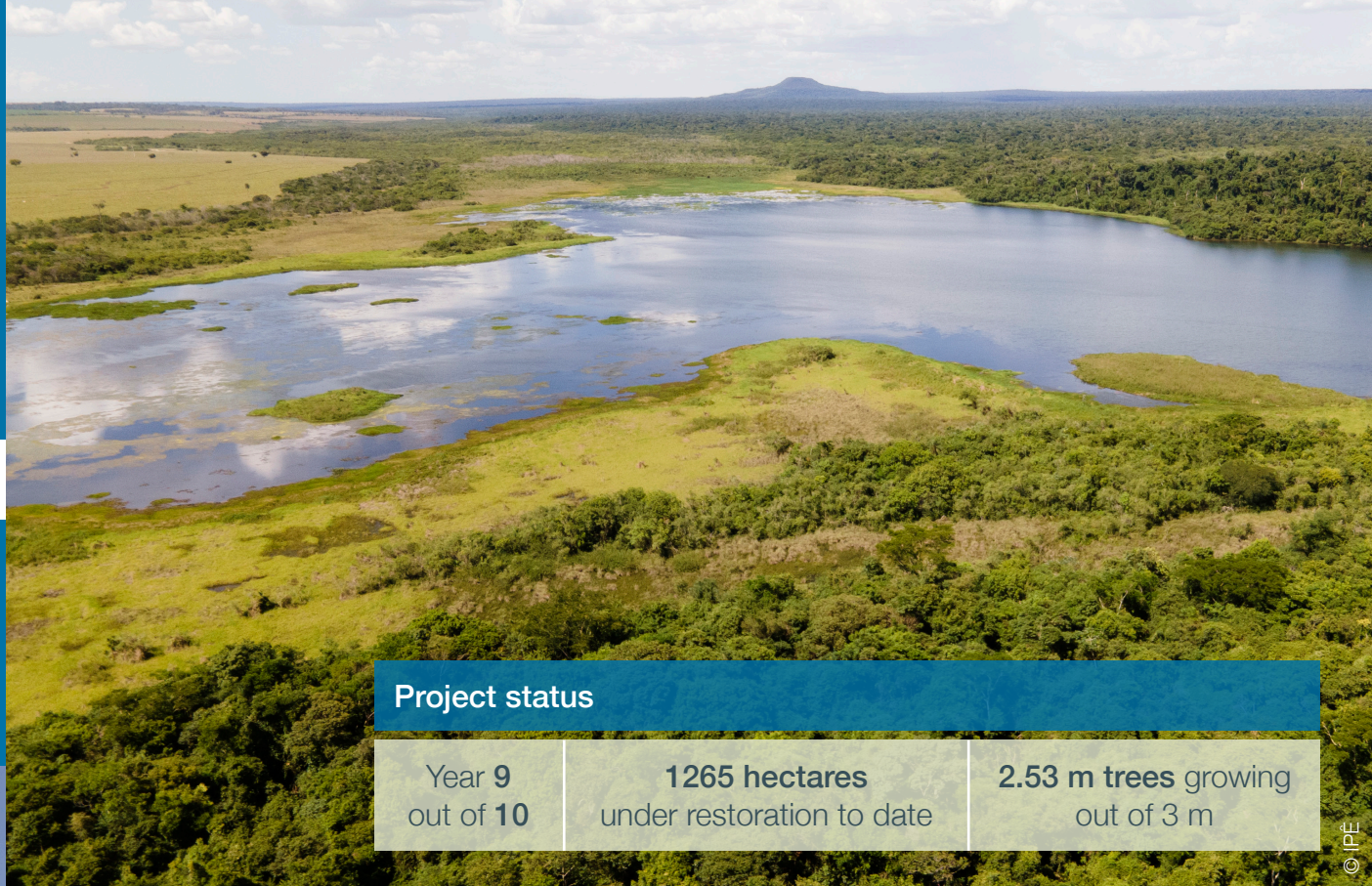


# Pontal Brazil

Mid-Year Update 2023



## Project status

Year **9**  
out of **10**

**1265 hectares**  
under restoration to date

**2.53 m trees** growing  
out of 3 m



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During the first six months of 2023, the next restoration areas for 2023-2024's planting season were defined with IPÊ, our project partner. 38 hectares of full tree planting will take place at Categeró Farm in the east corridor, to continue to stretch this area towards the Morro do Diabo State Park. WeForest's Brazil country manager Natalia visited the already restored sites to review seedling growth and advise on the maintenance activities during 2023's first quarter.

The teams and stakeholders from both our Atlantic Forest projects in Brazil – Pontal and Tietê – got together in June for a multi-day capacity building workshop, during which they visited one another's project locations and exchanged experiences and good practices, with both sides presenting their project highlights.

Read on to find out more about what's been happening in the Pontal project!



All is looking well at our already restored sites, as can be seen in these photos.



This picture shows Estrela farm in the North Corridor, where full planting took place over 138 hectares. The land on the left side of the track was planted about 4 months before the picture was taken – the trees and shrubs are shooting up beautifully! On the right side of the track there's an area that was planted just a few days before the picture was taken. See the tiny green seedlings?



This is Categró Farm in our newest area of restoration, the East Corridor on the eastern side of the Morro do Diabo State Park. In this area, full planting took place about a year before the photo was taken.





This photo, also at Categeró, shows an area where only enrichment planting took place about a year before the photo was taken, not full planting. Enrichment planting is an approach where seedlings are planted to increase the density of existing tree species, or to re-introduce species that have gone missing in the ecosystem. You can see that with some naturally regenerating large trees and shrubs around, this area is already starting to look like a dense forest!



This area in Sao Paulo farm in the West Corridor – our oldest area of restoration – was fully planted around two years ago. In areas of this age, the trees are big enough to survive on their own which means that maintenance activities can be reduced, because although there are a lot of invasive grasses in between the planted trees, they're not competing for light anymore. On the contrary: as the trees grow, the invasive grasses will naturally be eliminated, as they can only survive under full sun exposure.



The teams and partners from both our Atlantic Forest projects in Brazil, Pontal and Tietê, got together in June for a multi-day capacity building workshop, during which they visited one another's project locations and exchanged experiences and good practices, with both sides presenting their project highlights. There was a lot of rain, but it didn't dampen the visitors' enjoyment! Far right: the visitors exploring the Mata Nativa community plant nursery, which is supported by IPÊ and run by Marcela.



Below: Bad weather – or good? It's just perfect for these seedlings! Under these conditions, the soil will be wet enough to provide the best chances of survival in the first few days after planting. If the weather changes, irrigation may be needed later.

Above: This 20-year-old agroforestry system with coffee established by IPÊ provides essential shade for the coffee – as well as some protection from the rain! The smaller trees are coffee and the tall trees are native. It's fascinating to see the results of previous agroforestry programmes, which show how our plots in our neighboring Tietê Forests project should look in the future and give valuable tips and information about how to adapt our activities to ensure the success of our programme there.





This is Agua Limpa farm in the North Corridor, one of the areas that were severely affected by the unprecedented frosts back in 2021. We're starting to see a canopy forming 18 months later, with beneficial herbs and plants naturally regenerating and providing ground cover among the replanted seedlings, and the invasive grasses that are coming up are on the edges of the area only and well under control. The big trees you can see here are ipê roxo trees (*Handroanthus impetiginosus*).



## 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 [What We Do](#) 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.

[Here](#) you'll find all information about how to communicate about this project and your partnership with WeForest.