



Brazil Wildlife Corridors

Mid-year report 2020

Restoring the Atlantic Forest to bring back wildlife

Unsustainable agriculture has reduced Brazil's Atlantic Forest to green fragments. It used to be six times the size of the United Kingdom, but over 20 years, over 80% of its original forest cover has been lost.

No other large tropical forest has suffered this much loss. This has affected the rich biodiversity in the area, which includes more than 40 amphibian species, 100 mammal species and 350 bird species.

WeForest's project, in partnership with Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPE), aims to grow tree corridors that connect remaining patches of the Atlantic Forest and bring back wildlife.

We work with eight community nurseries, most of which are run by local women entrepreneurs developing financial independence. Transplanting seedlings to the planting sites is another income opportunity.



Our Wildlife Corridors project

Our goals for the Wildlife Corridors project:

So far in 2020:

We completed the restoration of more than **87 ha**
(2019-2020 planting season)

and began the restoration of over **114 ha**
(2020-Feb 2021 planting season)

By 2030:

Protect and restore
5,200 ha
10,400,000 trees
using Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) and framework planting

What's new in Brazil?

Recent highlights from the field

Four **local associations and four family-based operations** are involved in the project, from seed collecting to final seedling production. Running a tree nursery is a great economic activity. These planting organizations and nurseries earned nearly US\$84,000 during the first six months of 2020, which was very appreciated by the 39 people working there. The monthly minimum wage in Brazil is currently about US\$200.

Women manage four of the nurseries that provide seedlings for the Wildlife Corridors project. Iraci started her first nursery with her husband in 2001. By 2017, they were raising 130,000 seedlings per year, but then the couple divorced and sold the nursery. Iraci's passion for forest restoration remained unshaken, so she and Marcela, a former employee, bought land and established a new nursery. Today the two friends hire their family members to help when needed.



Iraci (left) and Marcela have established a new nursery together

January

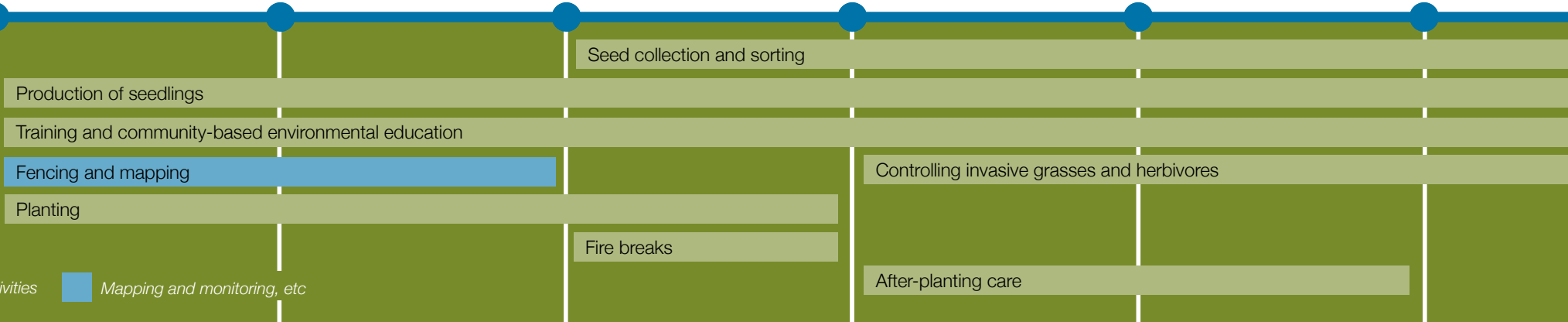
February

March

April

May

June



Key

Restoration activities

Mapping and monitoring, etc

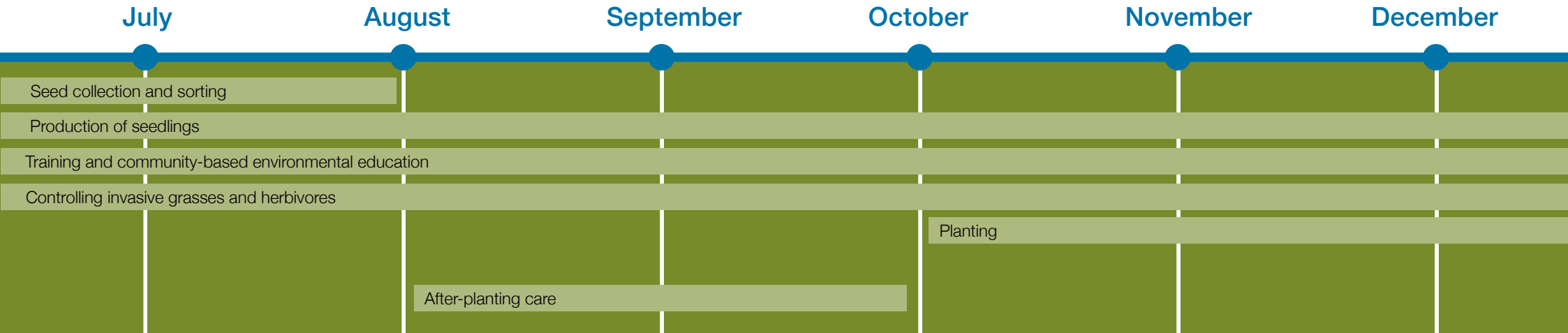
Though the nursery is still smaller than the one Iraci and her husband had in 2017, she and Marcela are looking forward to expanding it to meet restoration demands.

With the support of the São Paulo Forest Foundation, WeForest and IPE are pursuing a new opportunity to establish **private reserves** in the project landscape. In March 2020, owners of large forest remnants were contacted to find out their interest in establishing these as private reserves, which would maintain native species and increase connectivity in the landscape. Despite the **COVID-19** pandemic, landowners are willing to carry on discussing and preparing conservation initiatives, but now using videoconferencing tools to ensure that safety comes first.

Elsewhere, the field crew kept planting trees, following safety protocols such as using masks, disinfecting vehicles and equipment, supplying disinfectants to staff and respecting social distancing.



Planting at the north corridor in January 2020. In areas with natural regeneration, seedlings are planted in spaces between established undergrowth.



What's next?

- Between November to the end of February, we'll finish the remaining 114 ha from last season's planting plan and start planting a further 120 ha.

We'll restart the activities that were delayed due to COVID-19:

- Making a recovery plan for the area burned in 2019 by establishing silvicultural pastures with the support of the São Paulo Land Institute and engagement with the local community.
- Engaging with private landowners to establish private reserves in the project landscape.
- Following up with 50 farmers who are interested in establishing a new agroforestry opportunity.
- Beginning the 2020 project monitoring in partnership with the University of São Paulo and the NewFor initiative, including at least 40 new permanent plots in the different forest types.



A progress report covering the project's full year is published every February.

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 beneficiaries, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

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

Stay up-to-date with our interactive [Wildlife Corridors](#) map.

Check out our [Wildlife Corridors](#) album on Flickr!

