

Project documents wildlife biodiversity in reforested areas of São Martinho

Wildlife monitoring and recording activities identify different animal species in reforested areas of the Company's units

Since 2000, São Martinho has been running the Viva Natureza Project, aimed at restoring riparian forests through the planting of native trees and promoting various environmental conservation initiatives. More than 2,580 hectares of vegetation have already been restored across its areas, with over 4.3 million seedlings planted. The initiative contributes to a more balanced and biodiverse ecosystem, preserving forests and ecological corridors, and providing ideal conditions for the development of various species. A key example of this work is reflected in the company's wildlife monitoring project, which identified 578 animals from 67 species in the reforested areas of São Martinho's four units during the 2024/2025 harvest.

By recovering riparian forests and protecting ecological corridors, the company contributes to the preservation of local wildlife. The restored areas offer shelter, food, and the ideal conditions for the survival of several animal species—mammals, birds, and reptiles—including species considered vulnerable, such as the giant otter and the lowland tapir, and those classified as near threatened, such as the red-and-green macaw.

Of the total animals sighted, 59.34% were mammals, 26.64% birds, and 14.01% reptiles. São Martinho uses the IUCN Red List (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as a reference to assess the threat levels of monitored species. The majority (49.83%) are classified as Least Concern (such as the burrowing owl). Meanwhile, 18.51% fall under the Vulnerable category (including the tapir and maned wolf), 1.9% are Near Threatened (such as the red-and-green macaw and the cougar), 26.82% are unclassified, and 2.94% are not yet evaluated.

André Tebaldi, Environmental Advisor at São Martinho, highlights that the wildlife monitoring project has implemented a structured procedure for the observation and recording of fauna in and around the company's operational areas. "This initiative aims to continuously monitor local biodiversity, protect native species, and identify potential environmental impacts from the company's activities. Moreover, the procedure serves as a foundation for developing conservation actions aligned with sustainability and social-environmental responsibility practices, contributing to a balanced coexistence between our agricultural operations and environmental preservation," says Tebaldi.

Photographer captures images of wildlife at São Martinho Unit in Pradópolis (SP)

The wildlife diversity in São Martinho's restored areas can now be appreciated by visitors to the São Martinho Unit in Pradópolis (SP), as well as audiences beyond the company. São Martinho hired photographer Miguel Biasoli—a biology undergraduate at Unesp Jaboticabal—to document the various species inhabiting one of the unit's forested areas. Walter Maccheroni, Innovation Advisor at São Martinho, explains that the project's goal was

to capture and preserve the visual beauty of wildlife encounters that surprise and delight both employees and visitors.

“We commissioned the photographer to document the fauna around the São Martinho Unit. He visited forests near the Prainha and Innovation Center reservoirs and the surrounding streams that feed into them, covering an area of approximately 2,400 hectares. Since these are restoration forests, they do not exhibit characteristics of a single biome, but rather contain species from both biomes present in our region (Cerrado and Atlantic Forest), forming a mixed phytophysiognomy. Some areas are more forested with taller trees, while others are more open, including wetland environments,” Maccheroni explains.

The fieldwork, carried out in 2024, resulted in the documentation of 160 animals at the São Martinho Unit, mostly bird species, along with reptiles, mammals, amphibians, and others. The photographer captured birds such as the seriema, savanna hawk, red-and-green macaw, sunbittern, and barred piculet; mammals like the capuchin monkey, crab-eating fox, deer, and peccary; and rare sightings of species like the cougar, giant anteater, maned wolf, ocelot, and gray brocket deer, as well as snakes such as the anaconda and boa constrictor.

Photographer Miguel Biasoli shared that the experience was both challenging and rewarding. “Image captures were made between March 2024 and January 2025, three days a week, from 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. during my immersion in the forest. I also used trap cameras for nighttime recordings. It’s a demanding job, but one that brings important and surprising results—we captured iconic images like the cougar and the boat-billed heron,” he explains.

Photographic records showcasing the success of São Martinho’s environmental preservation efforts will be featured at the São Martinho Unit and compiled into a commemorative book. The publication will include photos and detailed information on the company’s biodiversity preservation projects. It will be bilingual (Portuguese and English), available both digitally (for broad accessibility) and in a special printed edition with limited copies that will not be sold. Additionally, the wildlife photographs will be displayed on the walls of the São Martinho Innovation Center.

Maccheroni emphasizes that, in addition to reinforcing the value of environmental care and biodiversity preservation, the species survey provides valuable insights into the animals inhabiting the company’s areas, highlighting the significance of biological diversity. “Using these images in visual displays and in a book allows the company to share the ecological and cultural importance of these species with a broader audience, while also raising awareness among our employees about the importance of protecting these environments. This initiative not only underscores our commitment to sustainability but also promotes environmental education and encourages the conservation of local ecosystems, strengthening the connection between our business activities and environmental stewardship,” concludes Maccheroni.