

## **Stresemann's Bristlefront Reserve 3- Nelson Leal Tract 2**

**Project Title and Location:** Protecting Brazil's Atlantic Forest: Expanding the Stresemann's Bristlefront Reserve

**Date:** 9/1/2015

**Amount:** \$20,000

**Country:** Brazil

**Partner Organization:** American Bird Conservancy



### **Summary**

The Atlantic Forest stretches along the Brazilian coastline from the state of Rio Grande do Norte south to Rio Grande do Sul, reaching inland as far as Paraguay in the south. Coinciding with dense human development, the Atlantic Forest has been reduced to less than 8% of its former extent, in fragmented patches, and in some places has almost disappeared completely.

Amazingly, the Atlantic Forest is still a place where one can see and hear thousands of unusual plants and animals—species uniquely adapted to this ecosystem and found nowhere else on Earth. Should the remaining forest be destroyed, there is no place to retreat to for birds like Stresemann's Bristlefront, or mammals such as the Maned Three-toed Sloth. We will lose these species, if no action is taken. We will also lose the critical environmental services—watershed and erosion protection and carbon sequestration—that this special forest provides.

GCBO's grant of \$20,000 in September of 2015 helped the American Bird Conservancy expand this critical habitat, adding to our previous two grants for land purchases in the region in 2012 and 2014. These acquisitions will protect critical habitat for dozens of endangered species and endemics. The site is an "**Alliance for Zero Extinction**" site

(zeroextinction.org) for the rarity of the ecosystem (Atlantic Forest) and for having one of the highest concentrations of threatened vertebrate fauna in the world. It is the only place left in the world where the **Critically Endangered Stresemann's Bristlefront** is known to occur, and is also home to twelve Vulnerable bird species and sixteen globally threatened species.



**Project Site Background: Stresemann's Bristlefront Reserve  
(15°47'24,4''S; 40°31'23,8''W)**

The Stresemann's Bristlefront Reserve (1,581 acres) was created in 2007 by the Brazilian conservation group Fundação Biodiversitas with support from American Bird Conservancy. Identified as an Alliance for Zero Extinction site, the Reserve sits at the southernmost point of a unique Atlantic Forest complex on the border between the southeast and northeast Brazil states of Bahia and Minas Gerais. The Reserve is at the heart of the Atlantic Forest Hotspot and spans two municipalities: Bandeira Municipality, Minas Gerais, and Macarani Municipality, Bahia.

The Stresemann's Bristlefront Reserve is the only known site for the **Critically Endangered Stresemann's Bristlefront**, where fewer than ten individuals have been found. In the last bird survey of the area, the bird was observed on an adjacent property owned by Nelson Leal. If not bought for conservation, there was a very good chance it would have been sold to a cattle rancher and the forest converted into pastureland, as is the custom in the region.

Surveys of the Reserve revealed one of **the highest concentrations of threatened vertebrate fauna in the world**. Among seven globally threatened mammals is the Critically Endangered Yellow-breasted Capuchin (CR), Spiny Rat (EN), Maned Three-toed Sloth (EN), Giant Armadillo (EN), and Thin-spined Porcupine (VU).

In addition to Stresemann's Bristlefront, the site also protects **twelve Vulnerable bird species and sixteen globally threatened species**, such as Brown-backed Parrotlet (EN), Red-browed Parrot (EN), Hook-billed Hermit (EN) and Bahia Tyrannulet (EN). This area

also contains the remaining population of the Banded Cotinga (EN). The Reserve is protected and managed by local partner Fundação Biodiversitas with support from American Bird Conservancy.

**Regional Threats to Biodiversity:**

The reserve protects one of the last patches of forests in northern Minas Gerais and southern Bahia states; **the whole system is constantly threatened by illegal deforestation, agricultural expansion and forest fires.**

The principal driver of the deforestation is the expansion of pastureland for cattle. The primary method for clearing forested land is through the use of fire, which is often uncontrolled. Timber extraction from the forest for fuel and cooking is also a threat. Due to the high level of threat to this ecosystem, the Minas Gerais state identified the Stresemann’s Bristlefront forest area as a priority for urgent conservation. Purchasing land and securing it as a private reserve will prevent illegal timber harvesting and cattle production. Biodiversitas will mark boundaries, improve fencing, and erect signs around the reserve in the first year of ownership.

**Organizational Background:**

American Bird Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1994 with the mission of conserving native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. ABC is the only organization in the United States that focuses solely on the conservation of birds and their habitats throughout the entire Western Hemisphere. ABC works with more than 20 in-country partner organizations on more than 60 projects throughout the Americas, including a network of protected areas totaling more than 850,000 acres.

ABC raises the profile of bird conservation at the global scale through its leadership of the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) initiative. AZE is an alliance of more than 90 organizations world-wide working at the national policy level to prevent the extinction of species that are classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered under IUCN-World Conservation Union criteria and are restricted to single remaining sites.

ABC brings more than two decades of international conservation experience throughout Latin America to our in-country partners, providing technical expertise in conservation planning, protected area management, and sustainable finance mechanisms for this work. ABC has also provided substantial technical and financial support to our partners for land acquisition and the formal protection of critical habitat for highly endangered birds. In the past five years, ABC has supported partners in 121 land acquisition deals that resulted in 63,382 acres protected at 25 reserves in eight countries. See chart below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Land Acquisition Deals</b>	<b>Number of Reserves Benefited</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>
2010	40	9	16167
2011	42	6	8929
2012	16	11	10186

2013	15	8	19358
2014	8	3	8742
2015	1	1	145

**Institutional Partners:**

Fundação Biodiversitas is a Brazilian non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve the biodiversity of Brazil by obtaining and applying scientific information to conservation. Biodiversitas has ample experience in land acquisition projects and protected area management. The organization manages three private reserves, each one created to conserve a specific species. The presence on the reserves is intense, with manager, park guards, along with employees, researchers, birdwatchers, and local community members, among others.

Below is a list of land acquisition projects that were executed by the same Biodiversitas staff associated with this current project and American Bird Conservancy.

Tract Name	Reserve	Ha	Budget (USD)	Year
Sossego do Arrebol	Mata do Passarinho	345.79	\$ 170,000.00	2007
Carlos Robério	Mata do Passarinho	194	\$ 212,000.00	2009
Edinaldo Lima da Silva	Mata do Passarinho	19.5253		2013
Clemente Silva Lima	Mata do Passarinho	15.4		2013
Osorino Jose Xavier	Mata do Passarinho	21.6691	\$ 140,000.00	2013
Jose Macedo Alves I	Canudos	11.62	\$ 4,616.00	2007
Jose Macedo Alves II	Canudos	2.73	\$ 2,364.00	2007
Jose Maroto Ameida Ribeiro	Canudos	198.11	\$ 3,333.00	2007
Maria de Lourdes Cardoso	Canudos	48.96	\$ 9,773.00	2007
Jose Cardoso de Macedo	Canudos	39.79	\$ 12,869.00	2007
Eurivaldo Macedo Alves A	Canudos	5.6	\$ 513.00	2007
Eurivaldo Macedo Alves B	Canudos	11.11	\$ 3,079.00	2007
Eurivaldo Macedo Alves C & D (700 ha + 291 ha)	Canudos	991	\$ 15,000.00	2007
Hermogenes	Canudos	16.78	\$ 11,718.00	2008