

Biosphere Reserves are terrestrial or coastal ecosystems areas that are internationally recognized by the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme – MaB. They have three basic purposes as follows: **conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development and logistic and scientific support.** In Brazil, this programme is managed by the Brazilian Commission of the MaB Programme – COBRAMAB, which is presided over by the Ministry of the Environment.

Their role is to permanently search for solutions concerning the conservation of biodiversity and also to enable the sustainable use of natural resources found in their respective biomes. They formulate patterns of sustainable development such as those that are economically feasible, socially fair and environmentally and culturally-friendly. Their purpose is to show that balanced relations between mankind and nature are possible, desirable and strategic.

Biosphere Reserves establish soil occupation according to specific zonings: **Core, Buffer and Transition Zones.** By means of such zoning, they provide an important support for a permanent delving into the scientific knowledge on the biological diversity of the ecosystems they comprise.

They stimulate the exchanging of information related to conservation and sustainable development at the local, state and national levels – even worldwide.

Transition Zones are estimates and hence flexible and mutable regarding the advance towards the knowledge of local realities.

The MaB Programme maintains a **World Network of Biosphere Reserves**, which is backed up by Regional Networks, in order to support worldwide exchanging and cooperation among the Biosphere Reserves.

With a participative management system, comprised of both the government and the civil society, the Biosphere Reserves constitute a **flexible tool for regional planning.** There are about 400 Biosphere Reserves worldwide.

Each Biosphere Reserve shall have a Management System comprised of a Director Council, whose task is to define the macro-guidelines towards its implementation. It is supported by State Committees – which are entitled for supporting and following-up the above-mentioned guidelines. Intimately involved in regional issues, these Committees present proposals aiming at improving the works performed by the Council.

These collegiates shall have equitable composition, being 50% represented by the civil society and the other 50% by the several deciding spheres of the Federal, State and Municipal governments encompassed by the Reserve.

The Brazilian Biosphere Reserves are nationally recognized through the Law number 9985, June 18th, 2000, that created the National System of Protected Areas.

Brazilian Biosphere Reserves

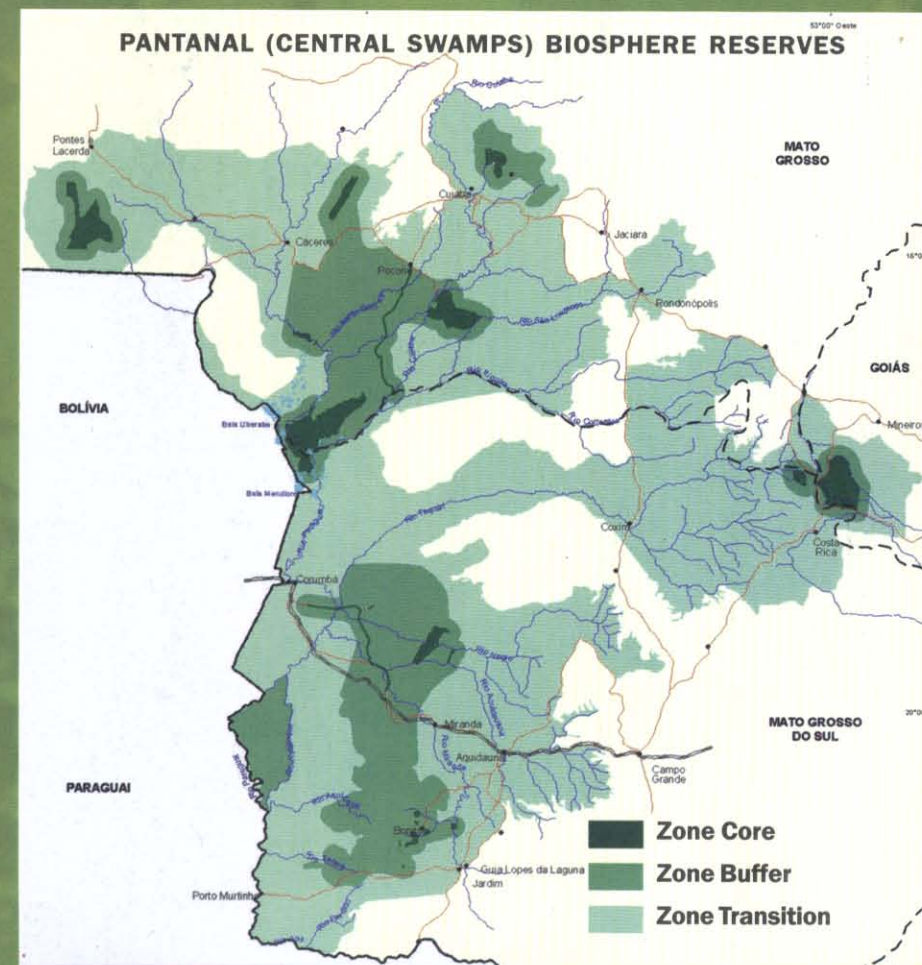
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The Ministry of the Environment's policy is to implement a comprehensive Biosphere Reserve for each one of the Brazilian biomes. To us, the Biosphere Reserves are strategic laboratories of public policy, with the purpose of guaranteeing the conservation of the biodiversity through biological corridors, as well as the implementation of consistent examples of sustainable development in all regions of the Country.

MAB
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 BRAZILIAN COMMISSION FOR THE
 "MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE" PROGRAMME
 SECRETARIAT OF BIODIVERSITY AND FORESTS



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



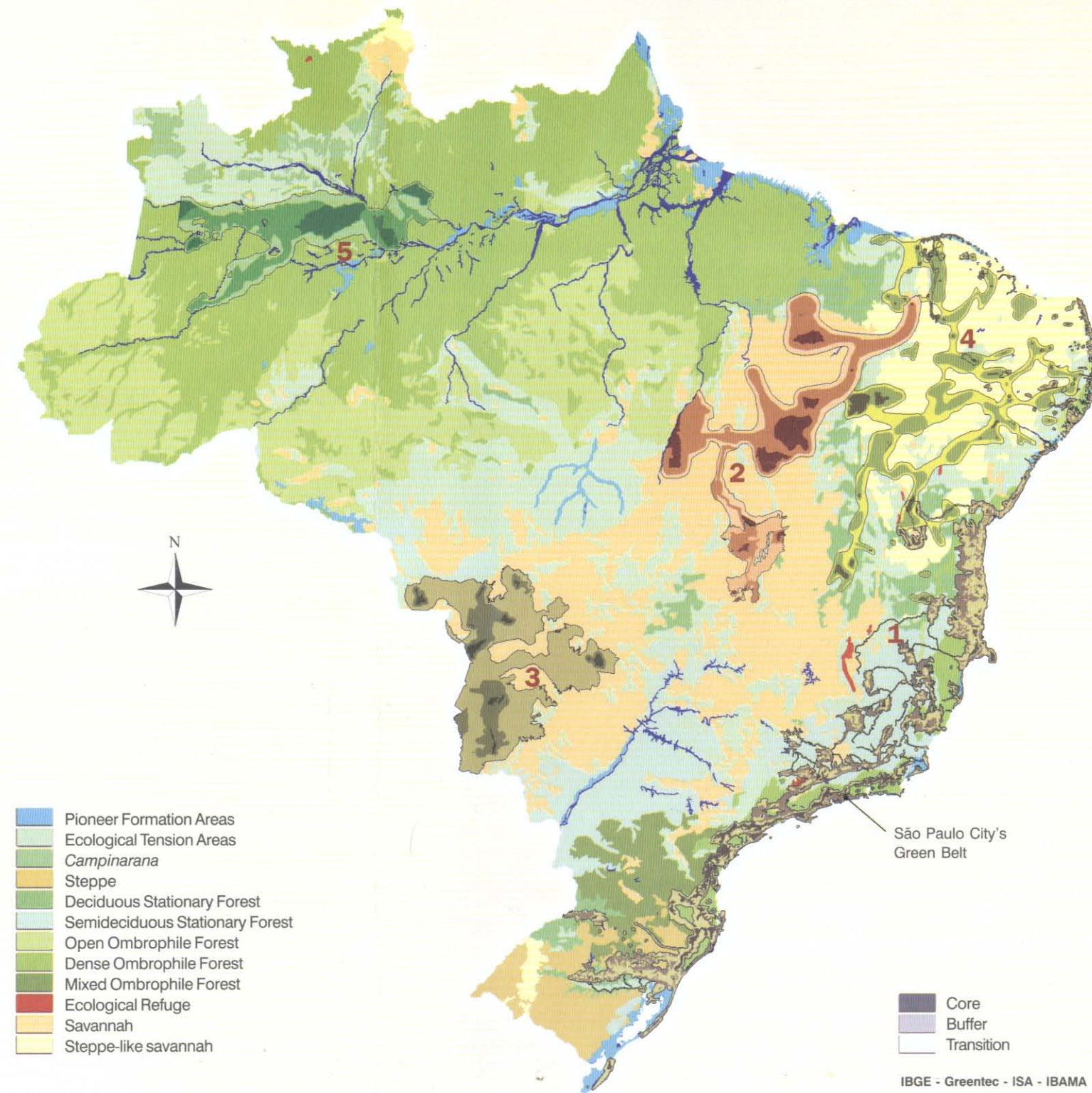
The ten-year-old Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve is the pioneer of the Brazilian Reserves. It covers important portions of the Atlantic Forest of 14 states – being 13 coastal states (from Ceará State to Rio Grande do Sul State) and Minas Gerais State. Its main purpose is the conservation and recovering of ecological corridors as well as significant portions of the Atlantic Forest. These are considered as strategic remainders for the conservation of the Atlantic Forest's biological diversity – among the richest worldwide.

The Atlantic Forest is one of the most devastated natural formations worldwide. Almost all States participating in this Biosphere Reserve already have State Committees. US\$ 60 million in resources for the financing of the activities have already been raised, among other sources.

In 1993, the MaB Programme recognized the **São Paulo City's Green Belt Biosphere Reserve** as an integrating part of the Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve, covering 72 municipalities. Among its activities we shall highlight the "Youngster Programme" with its ecoprofessionalizing courses.

2 – Cerrado – Central Brazilian Savannahs

So far, three phases of the Cerrado Biosphere Reserve have been defined as follows: the first one, presented in 1993, in the Federal District; the second one, presented in 2000, in the State of Goiás; and the third one, in 2001, in the States of Tocantins, Maranhão and Piauí. In



addition to being harmful to the environment, the agricultural and cattle-raising exploitation in these areas present low employment and income generation. The Cerrado biome already presents great losses of its extremely rich biological diversity along with precious ecosystems that must be protected.

Sustainable development implementation in the region encompassed by this Biosphere Reserve is the broadest scope of the activities. The conservation of Cerrado's still-untouched remainders, the recovering of altered areas as well as the conservation of ecological corridors are also focused. Many areas of the region

have already been strongly devastated, with important losses of soil and rich water springs, whose perennality is endangered in some regions.

3 – Pantanal – Central Swamps

The Pantanal Biosphere Reserve

comprises the States of Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and a small portion of Goiás State. Presented in the year 2000, it covers the Pantanal Mato-Grossense region and the headwaters of the rivers that make up the Pantaneira Plan's water system.

The purpose of this Biosphere Reserve is to make way for the sustainability of cattle-raising activities that are carried out in the region since the 18th century and is considered an important factor for the conservation of the Pantanal's biodiversity. Nonindustrial fishing, Ecotourism (landscape, sport-fishing, adventure, and rural) and the Technological Tourism are economic initiatives that the Reserve intends to use as a leverage for the sustainable development of the region. The development of ecobusiness in the domain area of the Pantanal Mato-Grossense is also a strategic factor for the supporting of the region's sustainable development. The Pantanal has an immense potentiality for its extremely rich biodiversity as well as for the presence of expressive contingents of traditional populations.

4 – Caatinga – Semiarid Northeast

Presented in 2001, one of the Caatinga Biosphere Reserve's primary purposes is to support the efforts towards the environmental recovering of the strategic São Francisco River Basin. It also aims at strengthening the fight against the desertification of the regions under the semi-arid domain as well as establishing environmental parameters for irrigation projects in the Caatinga domain. This

Reserve is also important as regards the sustainability of the economic activities that are traditionally practiced in the region, as well as for the improvement of beekeeping and cattle-raising (bovine, ovine and caprine) activities. The purpose is to protect the biodiversity – through ecological corridors – and to change regional expectation regarding the continuous lower and hopeless levels of human development.

5 – Central Amazon

Presented in the year 2001, the Central Amazon Biosphere Reserve is located in the Central Ecological Corridor Project of the Amazon, in the Amazonas State. This Reserve's territory structural element are the continuous Protected Areas consisted of the Jaú National Park, Anavilhanas Ecological Station, Negro River, Javari-Solimões and Juami-Japurá Ecological Reserves, Uatumã Biological Reserve, Tefé National Forest, and Mamirauá and Amanã Sustainable Development Reserves, among other ones with less extensive territory.

Its primary purpose is the conservation of these strategic portions of forest covering and its immense biodiversity. The acknowledgement – on the part of the traditional populations – of the importance of local biodiversity's therapeutic use is another important step. Besides promoting the economic exploitation of its forest products (through sustainable management), it also supports the activities towards biodiversity conservation as well as the strengthening of bioprospection, biotechnology and ecobusiness.