

Cagarras Islands and surrounding waters

Cagarras Islands, located 5km from Ipanema beach, make up the 1st no-take Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Rio de Janeiro/ Brazil, known as Cagarras Islands Natural Monument (MoNa Cagarras). It encompasses terrestrial and marine environments of the islands Cagarra, Filhote da Cagarra, Palmas, Comprida, Redonda and Filhote da Redonda, amounting to an area of 91.20ha under the management of the federal agency ICMBio since 2010. This haven for biodiversity houses hundreds of species, even some rare, endemic (only found there), as well as new species that have not been described by science. Despite its local importance, unfortunately, litter is often seen on the islands, which are still subjected to the pollution of its waters due to the proximity to Ipanema Submarine Sewage Outfall and Guanabara Bay mouth. In MoNa Cagarras surrounding areas, there are other relevant insular formations, such as Rasa, Tijuca, and Maricás islands.

Cagarras Islands` Highlights

- Economically important and threatened benthic organisms;
- Target fish species, ornamental fish and apex predators;
- Feeding grounds for marine turtles;
- Migratory corridor and nursery areas for whales and dolphins;
- One of the largest nesting grounds of the South Atlantic for frigatebirds and brown boobies;
- True forest on Palmas Island and presence of ornamental plants;
- Tupiguarani archeological site of pre-colonial times on Redonda Island;
- Opportunities for sustainable tourism activities.

ILHAS DO RIO AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECT

Ilhas do Rio Project

Ilhas do Rio Project was conceived when the main islands of the Cagarras Archipelago became MoNa Cagarras. There was a lack of scientific data and information about the local biodiversity. Thus, the work started listing all the fauna and flora, terrestrial and marine, of this new MPA. Since 2011, the project has grown and has encompassed other insular ecosystems. It counts on a highly technical scientific team of experts associated with renowned research-educational institutions, alongside several institutional partners and supporters. Our mission is to provide decision-making agencies with research and long-term monitoring data, towards the protection of the islands in Rio de Janeiro, as well as to raise society's awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable use of resources, especially MoNa Cagarras.

Main achievements of the Ilhas do Rio Project

+600 
 identified species of plants and animals, terrestrial and marine

+5.000 
 individuals being monitored on the frigatebird nesting ground


 Monitoring of six species of whales and dolphins


 Implementation of pioneer experiments in ecological restoration on islands


 Discovery of the Tupiguarani archeological site

+5.000
 people trained by courses and free lectures

+40.000
 people visited the exhibitions

+1ton
 of litter removed in clean-up task forces on the islands and at beaches


 Published books, documentaries, scientific articles and didactic materials

Where we are and where we want to be - Ilhas do Rio Phase 4

The new phase of the Ilhas do Rio Project started in July 2020 for a cycle of three years' work. It is full of new research actions and environmental education efforts, always in line with the MPA managing agency. Our target is to provide technical-scientific data aligned with the Action Plans for Research, Exotic Species, and Public Use, fixed by MoNa Cagarras Management Plan. Moreover, the project aims to raise society's awareness about the importance of environmental conservation, the sustainable use of resources and the impact of ocean pollution on marine life.

Researches include: monitoring of reef fish, marine turtles, whales and dolphins; the study and control the exotic species of plants and terrestrial mammals on the islands; and the analysis of public use and ways to stimulate sustainable tourism in the MPA.

Themes related to environmental conservation of the Cagarras Islands are addressed in interactive exhibitions and activities inside and outside school classrooms. On the other hand, marine pollution is approached by actions of society's awareness and engagement on beach clean-up activities, sport events, communication campaigns, and educational theatrical plays. We aim to reach a public of 21 thousand people, including children, youngsters, and adults.

This new chapter of the Ilhas do Rio history counts on the technical curation of WWF-Brazil, the sponsorship of IEP Association and JGP, besides the institutional partnership of ICMBio, National Museum-UFRJ and Copacabana Fishing Colony Z-13.

JOIN US AND BE PART OF ILHAS DO RIO'S SUCESS STORY

We believe that everyone can get involved, contribute, and invest in environmentally and socially responsible practices. It is increasingly urgent the need to build a better world. Do your part and contribute too with Ilhas do Rio Project! With your help, we can expand the research lines on MoNa Cagarras, as well as raise awareness of over 18 thousand youngsters and students about the importance of environmental conservation.

WE COUNT ON YOU!

About Mar Adentro Institute

Mar Adentro Institute is a non-profit organization, founded in 2005. Our mission is to promote, participate and stimulate actions to generate and improve knowledge about aquatic ecosystems, aiming to ensure the integrity of natural processes, environmental balance, and benefits for today's citizens and future generations. We have conducted several initiatives towards sustainability, including Ilhas do Rio Project since 2011.

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