

Community Understanding and Activism

The Atlantic Rainforest, where Iracambi is located, is one of the world's top biodiversity hotspots. It has been reduced to eight percent of its original size, and the destruction continues.



The decisions that need to be made to reverse this destruction must come from those who will be most impacted by them - the people who live around the forest. For the past 10 years, Iracambi has been working with the residents of the local communities, promoting the idea that they can develop the knowledge and power to improve their environment and their livelihoods.

Iracambi works with other local NGOs, the state agricultural extension agency and the Federal University of Vicosa to increase farmers' knowledge so that they can better solve problems such as poor soil, insufficient water and erosion. Local residents have organized to ensure that they will be represented on the planning committee for the development of a state park recently created in their county. Since 2000, over 3000 local children have attended environmental education programs at Iracambi.

With its current research, Iracambi seeks to gain a better understanding of how change can be brought about - to understand the social, political, cultural, and economic factors which influence decision-making within the community - and to identify appropriate opportunities for Iracambi to assist in bringing about such change. Specifically, research is needed to:

- Identify critical factors and key players in decision making
- Assess cultural factors and attitudes
- Explore constraints and opportunities for change
- Develop collaborative learning methods



WHY the conservation
of biodiversity
is important
www.Iracambi.com

