

CONSERVATION OF THE NORTHERN MURIQUI, BRAZIL

F. R. Melo^{1,2,3}

¹Goiás Federal University (UFG); Br364, km 192, Parque Industrial, Jataí, Goiás, Brazil, 75801615, ²Research Center and Environmental Education (CECO), Rua Caparaó, 122, Centro, Carangola, Minas Gerais, Brazil, 36800000, ³Brazilian Primatological Society (SBPr), Estrada do Paraíso, s/n – Paraíso, Guapimirim, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25940-000

Presenter's Email: frmelo@carangola.br

The northern muriqui (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*) is one of the most threatened Neotropical primates, with less than a thousand individuals surviving in the wild. Therefore, clear conservation measures for this species and the southern muriqui (*B. arachnoides*) were established only in 2008, through an action plan drawn up by the federal government, and various committed researchers, research institutions and NGOs. Prior to this, however, we have been engaged *in situ* and *ex situ* projects in Brazil on behalf of the northern muriqui. With a number of partners we have been able to create three protected areas specifically for newly discovered muriqui populations in the Atlantic forest of the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia. We translocated a solitary female isolated in forest patch; the introduction to a wild group nearby was successful, and the female bred—a first for muriqui conservation management. An isolated lone male was captured and taken into captivity and will become an important founder for an *ex situ* breeding program under development. The majority of the known northern muriqui populations are small and further captures and translocations are contemplated in the action plan to consolidate the *ex situ* population. The management measures we are adopting and propose here are possible due to the active and agile participation of a number of partners, which bodes well for the future conservation of this, one of the most threatened of South America's primates. Funding has been provided by MMX-Anglo Ferrous, IBAMA, UFV, CI-Brazil, CECO and UEMG.

Keywords: northern muriqui, *Brachyteles hypoxanthus*, conservation plan, Atlantic Forest