

## Research Proposal

# Local ecological knowledge as a tool for community-based management and biodiversity conservation in Paraty

Débora Peterson (PhD candidate)

Fikret Berkes (Advisor)

Natalia Hanazaki (Co-advisor)

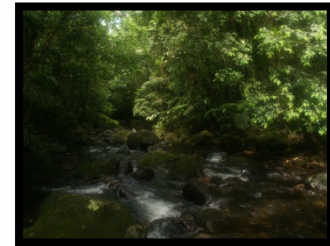
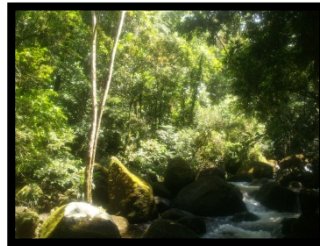
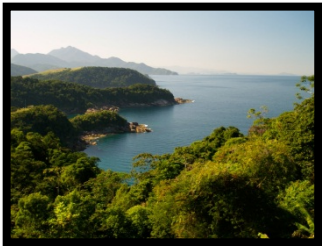
Workshop IDRC Project  
UNICAMP/University of Manitoba  
May 2<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2012

# Background

## Reclassification of two protected areas in Paraty

I developed the basic concept for my PhD project based on the results of previous work that examined local people's concerns regarding enforcement or reclassification of *Reserva Ecológica da Juatinga* (REJ) and *Área Especial de Lazer do Paraty Mirim* (AELPM).

Local communities are concerned with how such reclassification will affect local land use and management of important species in these areas. Given these reasons, it is necessary to understand how local people use forest resources, and how they understand forest ecosystem processes.



# Background

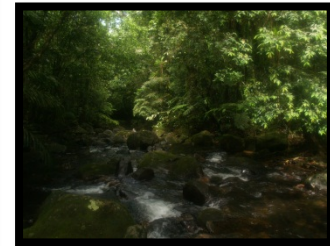
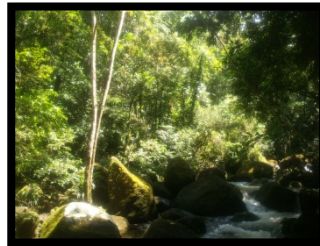
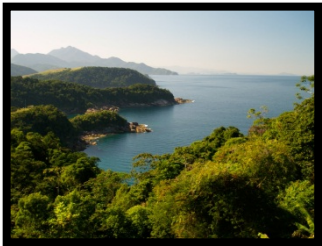
## Reclassification of two protected areas in Paraty

**Scenario 1 - RDS where it is REJ, high elevated areas of AELPM and connecting areas between REJ and AELPM, and APA on the rest**

**Scenario 2 - Park on high elevated areas and on certain regions connecting with the coastal zone, no-continuous RDS on the coastal zone, and APA on the rest**

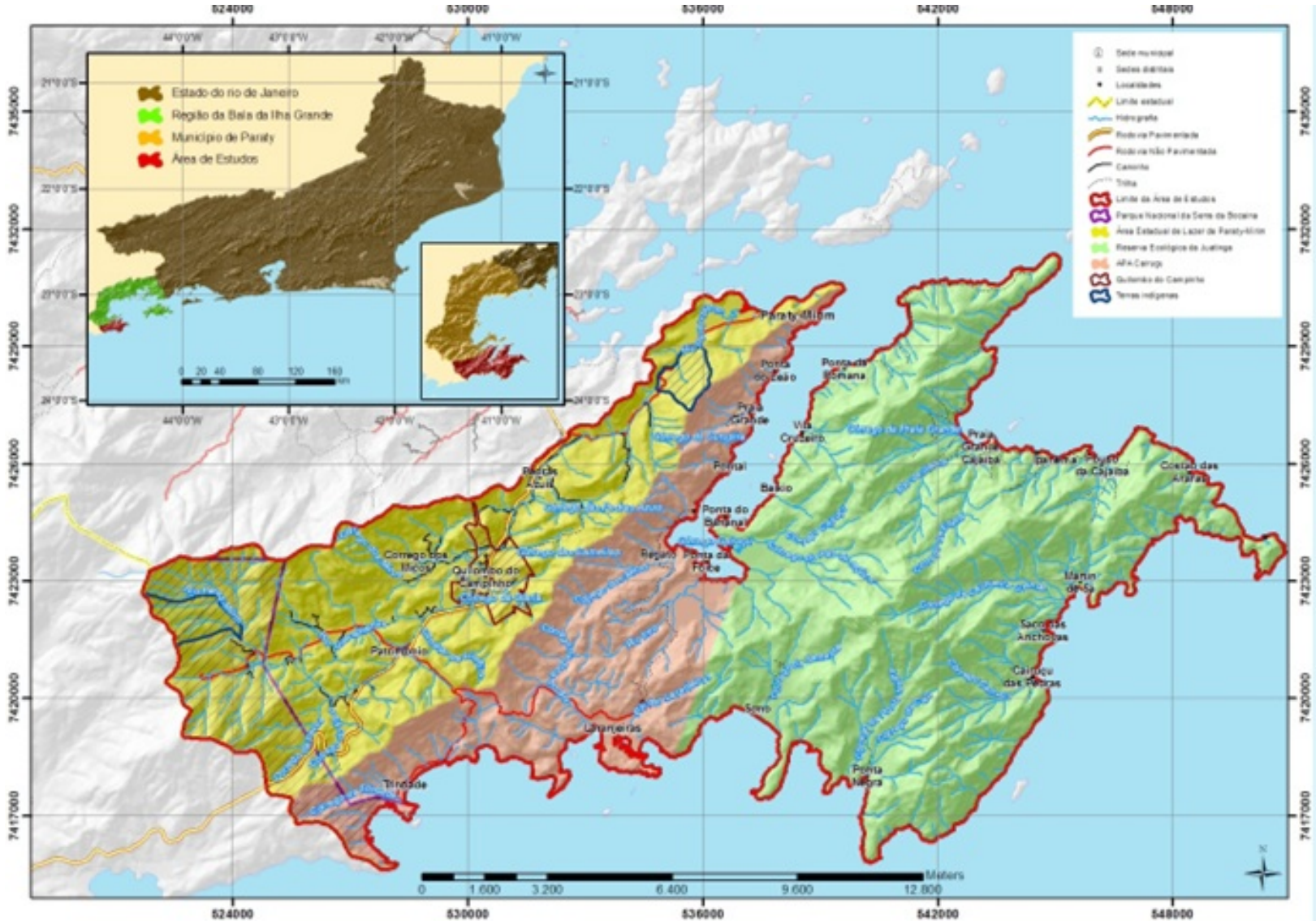
**Scenario 3 - Park on the high elevated areas of REJ and AELPM, and on certain regions connecting with the coastal zone. The rest of the area (REJ and AELPM) remains APA Cairuçu**

Source: Igara Consultoria, 2011





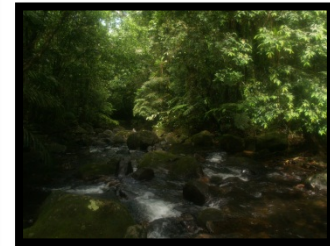
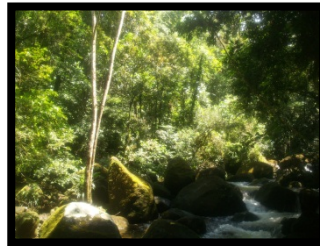
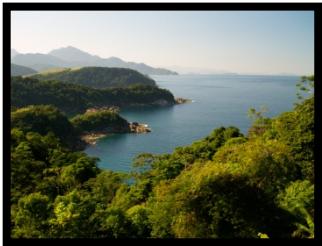
# Background



Source: Igara Consultoria, 2011

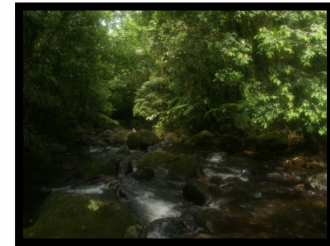
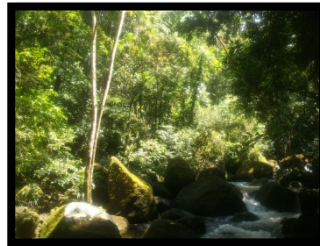
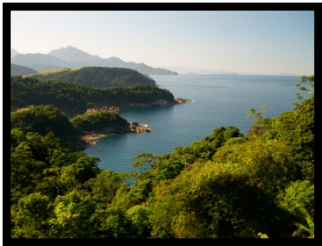
# Purpose

The main purpose of my PhD research is to identify the crucial geographic areas and forest resources of the Atlantic Forest for *Caiçara* communities of *Reserva Ecológica da Juatinga* and *Área Especial de Lazer do Paraty Mirim*, and to understand how local ecological knowledge can be incorporated into formal management schemes for biodiversity conservation.



# Objectives

- To identify the **ethnoecological classification** used by local people, and to identify the **spatial distribution** of these units in the *Reserva Ecológica da Juatinga* and *Área Especial de Lazer do Paraty Mirim*
- To identify how *Caiçara* people from *Reserva Ecológica da Juatinga* and *Área Especial de Lazer do Paraty Mirim* understand ecological processes in the Atlantic Forest
- To evaluate **how local ecological knowledge** and **local management** of species and plant communities can be **incorporated** in formal management systems of **protected areas**





# Methods

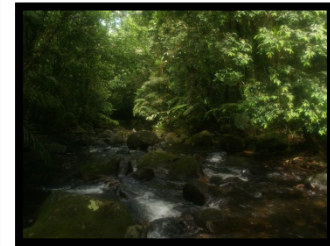
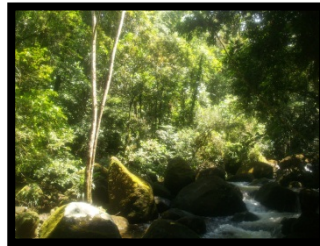
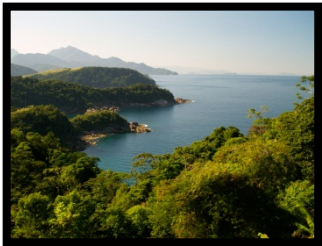
## Qualitative approach

Participant and community selection

Participant observation

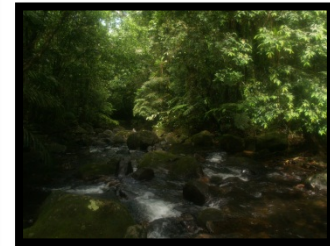
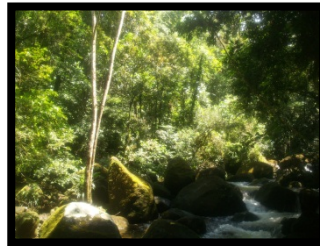
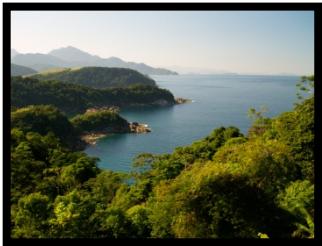
Semi-structured interviews

Participatory mapping



# Relevance of the research for Phase 2

- I expect that my results will generate important information regarding *Caiçara* knowledge of use and importance of resources, management of species, relevant landscape for agricultural patches, and local ecological knowledge and ethnoecological classification of landscapes
- The results of this research can help local communities and the government to engage in dialogue regarding the reclassification of protected areas aforementioned
- This understanding can foster better and more equal management plans, where decision-making regarding natural resources is made by all stakeholders, including local communities





# Acknowledgements

**Photos:** Carlos Julián Idrobo

**Funding:** International Research Chairs Initiative



**Local support:**

