The financial and bureaucratic obstacles to the Venezuelan zoos in acquiring primate representatives from other continents have increased in recent years and such importation is now a rare event. Thus the indications are that these zoos will from necessity concentrate on New World species, particularly those indigenous to Venezuela. Lacking sufficient breeding, and without assistance to import new animals, the stocks of Old World primates appear set to die out. Based on so few years data, crude estimates of natality and mortality rates covering all age classes for these captive primates (calculated from births and deaths each divided by living animals) are respectively 0.185 and 0.13 (0.19 and 0.17 only for New World species).

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References


Alouatta fusca as vulnerable (Groombridge, 1993). The forest at São Francisco is theoretically protected by two legal measures. On 4 April 1979, the entire basin of the Rio Paraíba do Sul was decreed an Area of Environmental Protection (APA) (Decree No.87651). In 1992, the municipal administration passed law No.102/92, giving the status of APA to the forest at São Francisco Xavier. The municipal administration also launched an environmental education campaign in 1990, in order to instruct and gain support from the local population. Despite past measures, the area is still subject to illegal hunting and deforestation. One of the main problems is that the forest covers an area that belongs to several private properties, and the owners’ attitudes towards conservation range from support to total indifference. The conservation of São Francisco’s biodiversity may therefore depend on further legal interference. One possibility is the transformation of the area from an APA into an officially protected state reserve. The local administration of São José dos Campos has just endorsed a letter to the State Environmental Agency (SEMA), requesting the creation of a park in the region. The involvement of field researchers and outside conservationists is also important. A detailed census of the primate population is currently needed. Comparative ecological and behavioral data may also provide relevant information for the development of management plans for endangered species (i.e., muriqui; Mendes, 1994). Some of of the large properties in São Francisco Xavier are protected by the landowners, and may prove suitable for immediate research. In one of them, with approximately 800 ha of forest, the owner is favorable to the establishment of a field station on his land. The continuous presence of scientists has been instrumental in the protection of other Atlantic forest reserves (see Strier, 1992), and would undoubtedly reinforce other actions to protect the entire forest of São Francisco Xavier.

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References


LEVANTAMENTO DE PRIMATAS E ZONEAMENTO DAS MATAS NA REGIÃO DO PARQUE ESTADUAL DO IBITIPOCA, MINAS GERAIS, BRASIL

O Parque Estadual do Ibitipoca (1,488 ha) fica situado no município de Lima Duarte, Minas Gerais, entre 21º42'S e 43º53'W (Fig.1). Quanto à topografia, o Parque possui variações de altitude.