

# The scientific co-operation between Germany and Brazil towards the conservation of the Biodiversity: from Von Martius to the actual Mata Atlântica program.

## Friederich von Martius

According to Guimarães<sup>1</sup>, when one thinks about the construction of the Brazilian history in the past XIX century, one needs to reserve a special role to Friederich von Martius, a German botanist explorer. Von Martius undertook between 1817 and 1820 in the company of Von Spix, a big exploring travel through the whole Brazilian territory from which the scientific work *Reise in Brasilien* was born.

Beyond the foreign policy aspects of the trip, these botanists have aimed to know other peoples of the world without the so common exploiting objective. The gathered scientific knowledge was based on well prepared methodological procedures that took care of the typical physical-geographical characteristics encountered in the visited areas as well as the social costumes and politics of the people living in the region. The work of these botanists was in these way the starting point to know "...what, at the first glance, looked bizarre and diverse."

## The Mata Atlântica<sup>2</sup>

The Mata Atlântica is considered one of the most important eco-systems of the world do to the great biological diversity and a great number of endemic species. Originally the Mata Atlântica covered 17 Brazilian states along the Atlantic coast and was also present in Argentinean and Paraguay. The Mata Atlântica covered according to IBGE (*Mapa da Vegetação do Brasil*, 1993), about to 15% of Brazilians territory. The original area of the Mata Atlântica has been diminishing ever since the arrival of the first colonisers with the arbitrary animal and vegetal exploration. Nowadays about 60% of Brazilians population live in Mata Atlântica's former area (*Censo Populacional*, IBGE 2000).

Although the world greatest botanical diversity (trees), has been registered in the Mata Atlântica, it is considered one of the most threaten ecosystems of the world because of the high endemic level and the alarming rate of destruction observed. Several pieces of the remaining Mata Atlântica are now considered national patrimony according to the constitution of 1988 and world patrimony according to the ONU.

---

<sup>1</sup> This text is a brief summary from:  
Guimarães, M., L., S. 2000. *History and Nature in Von Martius: Scanning Brazil to Build a Nation*. Hist. Cienc. Saude-Manguinhos, vol.7 no.2, pp. 391-413

<sup>2</sup> SOS Mata Atlântica. 1995-2000. *Atlas dos Remanescentes Florestais da Mata Atlântica*.

# The national Park Serra dos Órgãos and the Museum Von Martius

## Workshop objectives

Over the years, various cooperation projects between Brazil and Germany have been established with the objective of studying and preserving the Brazilian biodiversity. Recently, the Mata Atlântica Program has been established by CNPq/MCT and DLR/BMBF to especially support projects in the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest.

In 2001, seven projects were developed in different Brazilian states (Pernambuco, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, and Santa Catarina) that are coordinated by researchers from various Brazilian and German Institutions.

At the beginning of December 2003, a conference was held in Berlin about sustainable use and biodiversity conservation. Within this framework, the projects developing in the Mata Atlântica were presented and results were discussed among the different parties involved in this cooperation program.

The objective of the workshop that will be held here in Brazil, in Serra dos Órgãos National Park (Teresópolis, RJ), at the end of November, will be to unite the events related to the Atlantic Rainforest that involve the collaboration between Brazil and Germany:

1. To initiate the restoration program for the von Martius Museum in Serra dos Órgãos National Park, that shall be realized through a Brazilian-German cooperation.
2. To commemorate the 65th anniversary of Serra dos Órgãos National Park together with the IBAMA and other Brazilian and German authorities.
3. To continue the discussions initiated in Berlin by evaluating research methods, results and their possible application for the conservation of the Atlantic Rainforest in an integrated way between the Brazilian and German partners of the Mata Atlântica Program.

## Workshop Program

<b>Date, time, location</b>	<b>Event</b>
29. November 10:00 a.m. Von Martius Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Formal workshop opening</li> <li>▪ Bestowal of votive medals</li> <li>▪ Launch of the Von Martius Museum Restoration Program</li> <li>▪ Snack</li> </ul>
29. November 14:00 p.m. IBAMA/SO Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commemorative opening of the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of Serra dos Órgãos National Park (lectures, videos, photo exhibition and more)</li> <li>▪ General presentation of the cooperation projects between Brazil and Germany for the Mata Atlântica</li> </ul>
30. November 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 13:30 p.m. – 18:00 a.m. IBAMA/SO Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation of the sub-projects within the Mata Atlântica Program</li> <li>▪ Lunch break</li> <li>▪ Presentation of the sub-projects within the Mata Atlântica Program - continued</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> December 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 13:30 p.m. – 18:00 a.m. IBAMA/SO Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation of the sub-projects within the Mata Atlântica Program - continued</li> <li>▪ Lunch break</li> <li>▪ Presentation of the sub-projects within the Mata Atlântica Program - continued</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 13:30 p.m. – 18:00 a.m. IBAMA/SO Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Internal meeting of the coordinators of the projects involved in the Mata Atlântica Program</li> <li>▪ Lunch break</li> <li>▪ Meeting of the thematic groups within the Mata Atlântica Program</li> </ul>

3 <sup>rd</sup> December 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 13:30 p.m. – 18:00 a.m. IBAMA/SO Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Meeting of the project coordinators of the Mata Atlântica Program</li><li>▪ Lunch break</li><li>▪ Closing session with all participants of the Mata Atlântica Program</li></ul>