

### PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

#### Araripe Manakin *Antilophia bokermanni*



Araripe Manakin (© [Ciro Albano/www.nebrazilbirding.com](http://www.nebrazilbirding.com))



#### Background

Araripe Manakin was described in 1998 and has now been recorded from three municipalities (Crato, Barbalha and Missao Velha), all on the north-eastern slope of the Chapada do Araripe, south Ceará, Brazil. Surveys in 2005-2006 have led to a population estimate of c.800 individuals, which is higher than previously thought, within a remaining area of suitable habitat estimated at 28 km<sup>2</sup>.

Lowlands adjacent to the Chapada have been largely cleared for agriculture, cattle raising and the construction of holiday homes. There are several recreational facilities along the slopes, which have contributed to deforestation, and a large water-park was built at the type locality in 2000. Fires in 2004-2005 largely destroyed an area of forest known to contain seven active nests of the species, and the springs that supply the streams which support the moist forest habitat of the Araripe Manakin have shown an average reduction of three quarters in their outflow over the past hundred years, possibly due to deforestation on the slopes and plateau of the Chapada, posing a long-term threat to the remaining habitat.

#### Actions being implemented

1. AQUASIS are **participating in forums** to ensure that Araripe Manakin is considered in discussions on natural resource use and planning. These include the Araripe Protected Area Council, the Araripe Desertification Prevention Forum and the Crato Municipality Environmental Council.
2. Creation of a protected area, the **Araripe Plateau Conservation Unit**, is underway. Delegates from Brasilia have visited the site, and a proposal is being submitted to the House of Representatives.
3. The **involvement of local stakeholders** is being promoted. Businesspeople, university students and Crato residents have been engaged through workshops, exhibitions, excursions and other activities.
4. Researchers have conducted the most **thorough census** yet of the species's range; analysis suggests a population of 779 birds, indicating stable trends since 2005. Predictions generated by evaluating other suitable habitat in the area imply that historical population decline has been c.36%.
5. An **awareness campaign** is planned for the communities of Guaribas, Riacho do Meio and Gamaleira de São Sebastião, each of which is located in the immediate vicinity of Araripe Manakin's range.

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