

### PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

#### Restinga Antwren *Formicivora littoralis*



Pingo d'Agua



The only place for Restinga Antwren in the world is the new Costa do Sol State Park (© Luiz Freire).

#### Background

Restinga Antwren has an extremely small and highly fragmented range around Cabo Frio in Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil. The species inhabits coastal scrub vegetation, notably restinga – a beach-scrub habitat dominated by cacti and bromeliads that develops on sand-dunes. Although found at high densities within its favoured habitat, the species is likely to have undergone a dramatic decline. Today the population numbers only 250-1,000 individuals. Its range occurs within an area of major tourism development, and suitable habitat is under considerable pressure from clearance for beachfront housing and holiday resorts. The species is also threatened by the salt industry and the increasing presence of squatters.

#### Actions being implemented

1. The **Costa do Sol State Park** has been created as a direct result of the project, covering over 9,800ha. and encompassing almost the entire range of the species. An associated Species Action Plan has also been completed, with 900 copies going to government agencies for further distribution.
2. Teams have begun the **trapping and removal of marmosets**, identified as a significant predator of Restinga Antwren nests. Video cameras are being used to monitor the effect of this and to study the reproductive biology of the species.
3. There have been several recent **local communications** efforts, conveying the importance of the restinga habitat to residents of the area. A notable success came from the exhibition Costa do Sol Restinga: A View Beyond the Dunes, presented at a state school adjacent to the protected area.



The restinga habitat protected by the new state park (© Pedro Develey, SAVE Brasil).

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