

Manaus, July 15th 2013

To the Editor-in-Chief **Diogo Loretto**,

Oecologia Australis

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “**Species’ potential distribution modeling in practice: flagship species and regional conservation planning**” which we submit for consideration to the **Oecologia Australis**. The study proposes an innovative approach to modeling the distribution of species at local scale and disentangling patterns of habitat use for breeding and foraging activities. Moreover, it proposes priority areas for conservation of the species in the region, with the aim of preventing further animal trafficking threats.

My coauthors and I agreed to the submission of this manuscript in its current form. All the material is original to my coauthors and me, and has not been submitted elsewhere for publication. The authors agrees that, in case of having the article accepted, its copyright will be the sole property of the *Oecologia Australis*, provided that its reproduction, partial or total, in any media, printed or electronic, without previous and expressed authorization is forbidden.

We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your consideration of our manuscript.

Sincerely,

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The researcher acts in Ecology and has knowledge in Geostatistics and Spatial Analysis. Currently his interests are mainly focused on the area of conservation and management of tropical environments. In recent years has focused on studying the effect of forest fragmentation on populations of invertebrates, and most recently has been working with the development of criteria for selecting areas for conservation. Has knowledge of the region studied in the proposed article.

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Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center and Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology the University of Kansas

Works with biodiversity geography. Has training in tropical ornithology. Works with the basic geography of the distribution of birds, and the composition of the local avifauna. Works with geographical and ecological distribution of species, including conservation biology and planning. He co-developed software of environmental modeling (SpeciesLink and DesktopGarp). Has several publications in the field of environmental modeling (predictive modeling).

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Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi

Ecologist with experience in public policies related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including zoning and selection of priority areas for conservation. Works with environmental modeling, investigates factors affecting the distribution of species of fauna and prediction of species distribution under scenarios of climatic and environmental changes. Evaluates the efficiency of information substitutes ("surrogates") in planning for conservation and techniques for systematic conservation and studies to support public policies related to biodiversity conservation and the creation of the Amazon Conservation Unit. Member of Project GEOMA that aims the development of models of three types: (1) population dynamics of species with economic interest, (2) distribution of Amazonian species' and (3) support decision for area selection for conservation of several Amazonian species' and environments.

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Has experience in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, with emphasis on Geographic Ecology and Macroecology. Currently his interest are: macroecology, comparative and quantitative methods in conservation biology, including techniques for complementary selection of priority areas for conservation, development and application of methods of multidimensional analysis and spatial statistics (such as time series and geographical distribution) with emphasis on Neotropical organisms using analysis of spatial patterns of diversity at different scales, based on models for spatial analysis, and deployment of ecological and evolutionary processes underlying these patterns.

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Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Coordenação de Zoologia

Senior researcher and curator of the ornithological collection of the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, professor of graduate studies in Zoology at the Universidade Federal do Pará, Affiliate Member of the Academia Brasileira de Ciências (ABC), Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and editor Revista Brasileira de Ornitologia. Has experience in Zoology with emphasis in ornithology, working in the areas: biogeography, conservation, community ecology, wildlife inventories, molecular systematics and taxonomy of Neotropical birds