



August 20th, 2013

Dr Diogo Loretto
Editor-in-Chief,
Oecologia Australis

Dear Dr. Diogo Loretto,

Enclosed please find the manuscript "Roads, native vegetation and reserves in Atlantic Forest and Savannah of southeastern Brazil", which Cláudia O. M. Sousa, Danilo Boscolo, Jean Paul Metzger and I would like to submit for publication in *Oecologia Australis* as an "original article". It is an original work, that it is not being submitted elsewhere. All authors agree with the contents and to the submission, and where necessary all appropriate ethics and other approvals were obtained for the research. No figure used in this manuscript have been used in an article published elsewhere.

This study is, as far as we know, the first one to evaluate the extent to which native vegetation and nature reserves are affected by roads in a neotropical landscape. Because roads may change the connectivity between animal and plant populations, directly affecting species persistence in the landscape, there is a pungent need of understanding the relationships between roads and native vegetation cover. We found that there was more native vegetation cover farther from larger roads than near it, which was most noticeable for the Southern Coastline subregion and São Paulo city metropolitan area. In addition, about 6% of the remaining native vegetation and more than 10% of the reserves was ecologically affected by roads, mainly due to two lanes paved roads. Thus, we propose that roads should be considered in conservation strategies.

We suggest the following possible reviewers: Phillip M. Fearnside, INPA, pmfearn@inpa.gov.br; Carlos Eduardo de Viveiros Grelle, UFRJ, grellece@biologia.ufrj.br; Maria Alice dos Santos Alves, UERJ, masaal@globo.com; Rozely Ferreira dos Santos, UNICAMP, rozefs@uol.com.br; Sidnei Dornelles, Universidade da Região de Joinville (UNIVILLE), psidnei@gmail.com

We believe that this manuscript could be highly cited in the future due to its originality and relevance.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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