

THE ALTAMIRO DE MOURA PACHECO STATE PARK – PEAMP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OCCUPATION OF MATO GROSSO GOIANO

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Introduction

The Cerrado occupies about 25% of Brazilian territory (CBC/ICMBio, 2022). It is the second largest biome in the country, surpassed in area only by the Amazon. It is home to important natural resources, as well as global economic interests, given the scale of agribusiness, an economic activity responsible for a large part of the economic development of the Brazilian Midwest, generating improvements in the infrastructure of the States and producing food on a large scale, even though the variety of products is limited. It is in this duality that the concern for the conservation of the Cerrado has been growing, both in the academic community and in society at large.

In the context of natural resource conservation, the development of public policies for this purpose is essential, as well as the enforcement of current environmental legislation. In this sense, among the public policy mechanisms related to the area of environmental conservation, we have Conservation Units – CUs, especially those with full protection.

This work (dissertation in progress at the PPGSTMA of UNIEVANGÉLICA) aims primarily to research the creation of the Altamiro de Moura Pacheco State Park - PEAMP, a Full Protection Conservation Unit managed by the State of Goiás, located along the BR-153, near the state capital, as well as to analyze its current landscape and discuss its importance for the environmental conservation of the Cerrado,

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especially in the context of the Environmental History of Goiás and the region of Mato Grosso de Goiás – MGG.

The PEAMP was created by State Law No. 11,878 on December 30, 1992. It is located in the watershed of the Ribeirão João Leite, adjacent to the Environmental Protection Area – APA, as well as the João Leite State Park.

It is an important remnant of the native vegetation of the MGG region, an extension of forest phytophysiology located in the central-southern part of Goiás (Barbosa et al. 2020) that includes, among other municipalities, parts of Goiânia and parts of Anápolis (Giustina et al. 2020).

Materials and Methods

The methodological procedures of this work consist of research in the legal framework on the history of the creation of PEAMP; bibliographic review and research in books and scientific articles on concepts such as Sustainable Development and Environmental History; characterization of the physical aspects of the PEAMP area based on existing bibliography; analysis through maps and bibliographic research regarding the land use of the Park, and simultaneous textual elaboration.

Results

According to Maganhotto et al. (2014), although the first implementation of protected areas in Brazil occurred in 1937, it was only from the 1980s onwards that there was a considerable increase in the creation of protected areas in the country, especially after the establishment of the National System of Conservation Units – SNUC, in the year 2000. They highlight the increasing process of deforestation on the planet, as well as in Brazil, especially in the Cerrado and Atlantic Forest, Brazilian biodiversity hotspots, pressing the need for the creation of mechanisms that ensure environmental conservation.

By preserving (to a greater or lesser extent) elements of natural ecosystems, the UC's contribute to the understanding of the environmental history of a region and can serve as a parameter in the construction of a more sustainable socioeconomic development.

According to Giustina et al. (2020), environmental history is the connection between the history of nature and the history of societies; the physical environment is related to the occupation/formation of territory.

Starting from the 1940s, the vegetation of the MGG was profoundly altered, with colonization policies and later, and mainly, with the use of mechanized agriculture and monoculture of sugarcane (Barbosa et al., 2020).

Besides the geographical location, the natural characteristics of the MGG, especially the soil, justify the intense economic occupation of this area. Due to its remnants of vegetation from the MGG, its proximity to the Metropolitan Region of Goiânia, its location along the BR-153, its adjacency to the João Leite APA, as well as the João Leite water supply system dam, the PEAMP is of great relevance from environmental, social, and economic perspectives. Its management and preservation are fundamental for the environment in general, and especially for the region in which it is located.

The PEAMP, in addition to being an important fragment of the Cerrado Biome, a representative of the forest physiognomy of this Biome, depicts part of the landscape and history of the region. It is a landscape that depicts a mix of natural characteristics and historical processes, particularly those related to the settlement fronts that began in the 1930s.

Conclusion

The conservation of forest fragments in the Cerrado is of great importance from the perspective of research and the use of natural resources in economic, medicinal, and potential tourism contexts, the rich existing flora and fauna, soil conservation/prevention of erosion, conservation of water resources, as well as depicting the regional geoclimatic history (PEREIRA et al., 2011).

According to Foli and Faria (2020), in Brazil, the creation of a Conservation Unit (UC) is considered the main state strategy for biodiversity conservation and reducing the pace of landscape modification. According to Maganhotto et al. (2014), the most difficult part is not creating a protected area, but effectively implementing it.

Batista et al. (2020) conducted, among other things, the mapping and analysis of land use conflicts in the Permanent Preservation Areas (PPAs) of the Ribeirão João Leite Watershed. The study highlighted that of the total area designated for APPs, in 2002, 75.28% was occupied by pastures; however, in 2018, the areas of vegetation became more significant than those of pastures, occupying 42.07% of the APPs, while the areas of pastures reduced to 39.49%. The authors also highlight that despite the identification of conflicts, one of the most important points of the research was the finding of an increase in the area occupied by vegetation, which reinforces the importance of conservation units in environmental preservation.

Regarding the land use of PEAMP, according to SEMAD and STCP (2021), the park has 1,886.79 ha of native vegetation, which is the most representative use in the UC (88.534%), followed by pasture area (11.33%).

From the cited studies, it can be inferred that PEAMP, for the most part, has fulfilled its role as a Strict Nature Reserve, protecting part of what remains of the forested areas of the Cerrado.

The analysis of the current landscape of the Park, considering the landscape as the result of the dynamic relationship between physical, biological, and anthropic elements (Maximiano, 2004), that is, as a portrait of the set of soil, vegetation, relief, and climate characteristics, as well as the history of land use and occupation, can contribute to the understanding of the natural conditions of the Cerrado and the survival of native species, both fauna and flora, in addition to contributing to the conservation of nature as a whole and therefore to the maintenance of water resources, fundamental for human survival and of great value for the current economic model.

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