



EL YERBAL

UTOPIA DEL SUR

A CO - HABITABLE RESERVE

Learning to coexist with nature

This project seeks to protect the native forests, woods and grasslands that inhabit the 3,000 hectares of El Yerbal.

We want to conserve and restore ecosystems as a community, creating a refuge for native wildlife and promoting new ways of inhabiting the territory.

A co-habitable reserve where we can coexist in balance with other forms of life, with a planned, low-impact project that coexists with the nature of the territory.







URUGUAY ONLY HAS 1% OF ITS LAND PROTECTED

93% of the territory is used
for agricultural production.

Habitat loss and the lack of connectivity
between ecosystems highlight the
importance of conserving this area and
creating biological corridors.

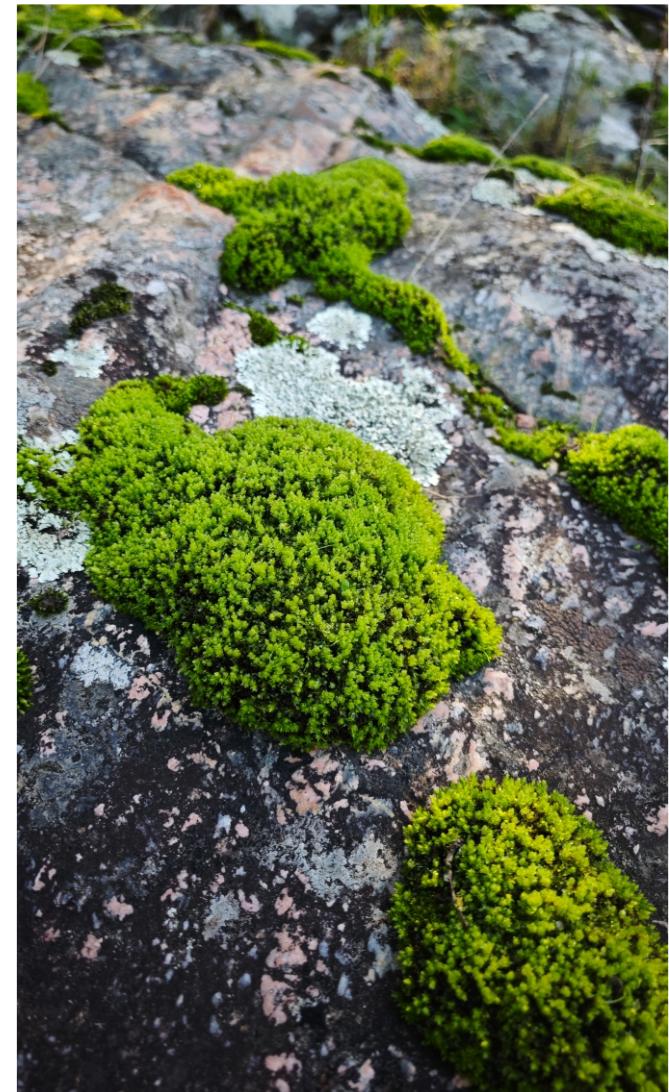
EL YERBAL

El Yerbal is located in the Sierra de Carapé, Aiguá, in the Serranías del Este of Uruguay.

It is an area of great beauty and natural wealth, important for protecting critical habitats for species of great conservation interest.

PROTECTING EL YERBAL MEANS
ENSURING THE CONTINUITY OF
VALUABLE ECOSYSTEMS where wildlife
finds a home, and actively contributing to
conserving the country's biodiversity.





THE VALUES OF THE RESERVE

3006

hectares of native forests,
woods and grasslands

124

registered
wildlife species

439

botanical species listed
in the reserve

Species of interest

for the conservation
of their populations

Ecosystem services

water and air quality,
carbon sequestration, etc.

Cultural heritage

archaeological and
historical sites of interest



/ ENVIRONMENTS & VALUES



/ Bosque serrano

Along with matorral serrano these are the predominant environments in El Yerbal. This type of forest grows on the slopes of mountains and hills and is composed of species such as: **Coronilla** (*Scutia buxifolia*), **Aruera** (*Lithraea brasiliensis*), **Murta** (*Myrceugenia glaucescens*), **Canelón** (*Rapanea* spp), **Tarumán** (*Citharexylon montevidense*), etc.

The bird species typical of this environment are: **sharp-tailed streamcreeper** (*Lochmias nematura*), **diademed tanager** (*Stephanophorus diadematus*), **creamy-bellied thrush** (*Turdus amaurochalinus*) y **white-rimmed warbler** (*Myiothlypis leucoblephara*), among others.

The most notable features are the presence of the **yerba mate tree** (*Ilex paraguariensis*), due to its symbolism and the fact that these are the last southern populations of the species, terrestrial orchids, and, among the animals, el **South American coati** (*Nasua nasua*), the **margay** (*Leopardus wiedii*), and the **gray brocket** (*Subulo gouazoubira*).





/ Matorral serrano

As you climb higher up the mountain range, you will see this type of vegetation, which is more stunted than the bosque serrano, consisting mainly of species such as **Envira** (*Daphnopsis racemosa*), **Chirca de Monte** (*Dodonea viscosa*), **Espina de Cruz** (*Coeltia paradoxa*), and **Croton** (*Croton* spp.).

The characteristic birds that can be observed in this environment are the **Spix's spinetail** (*Synallaxis spixii*), the **long-tailed reed finch** (*Donacospiza albifrons*) and the **Calandria Común** (*Minus saturninus*).



/ Sabana esteparia serrana

It occupies the highest areas of the mountains, sometimes right up to the edge of small creeks, with shallow, stony soils that retain little water. It may be of anthropogenic origin, and its original form may have been grassland limited to the highest areas of the mountains with shallower soil.





/ Species of interest

Occupying diverse environments, there are species present in these ecosystems that we have not yet recorded in the surveys in El Yerbal, such as:

- **White-eyed parakeet** (*Psittacara leucophthalmus*)
- **Greater naked-tailed armadillo** (*Cabassous tatouay*)
- **Cougar** (*Puma concolor*)
- **Uruguayan pampas cat** (*Leopardus munoai*), a species found almost exclusively in Uruguay.

Historically, according to oral and press records, the area was notable for its abundance of **jaguars**, suggesting the presence of large herds of herbivores such as **pampas deer, capybaras, and rheas** (still present in the area but with much smaller populations).

According to oral accounts, the **maned wolf** (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) was also relatively abundant, a species that in recent decades has been seen only sporadically in the area.



WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON



CONSERVATION

- Reintroduction of native wildlife species of special conservation interest, such as the pampas deer, the giant anteater, and the collared peccary.
- Control of exotic fauna and flora.
- Ecosystem restoration and climate mitigation.
- Scientific research and environmental monitoring.

EDUCATION

- Environmental education programs aimed at local residents and schools of different levels.
- Sustainable tourism activities.

COMMUNITY

- Inclusion programs with local communities.
- Creation of a community of “Guardians of El Yerbal.”





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