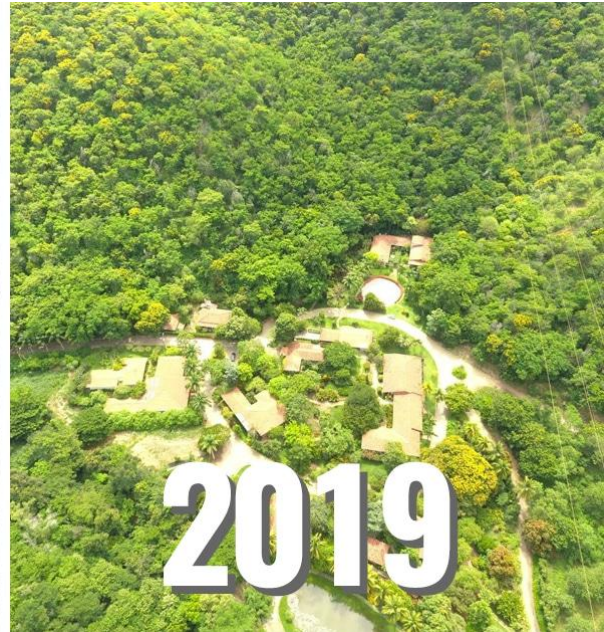
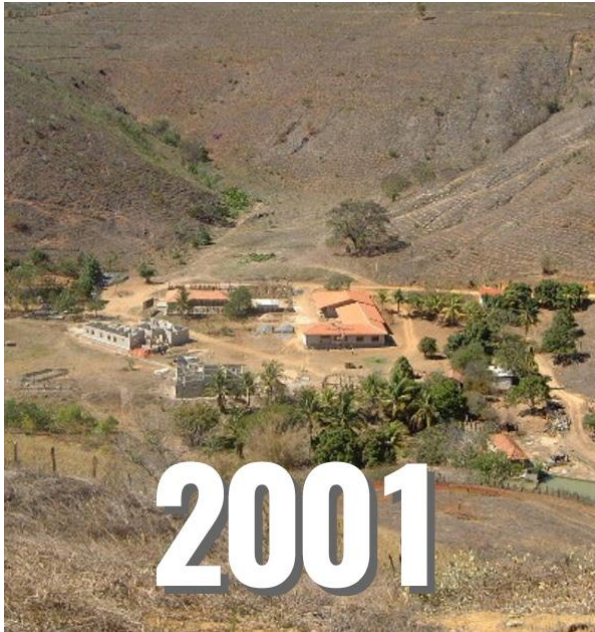


Two decades after a forest in Brazil was replanted, hundreds of species of flora and fauna are thriving

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About twenty years ago, when photojournalist Sebastião Ribeiro Salgado returned to Brazil to take over his family's cattle ranch in Minas Gerais, a region that had been a lush rainforest, he found that the area had changed drastically. Only about 0.5 percent was still covered in trees and all the wildlife had disappeared.

His wife Lélia suggested they replant the forest. In order to support this daunting undertaking, they set up the Instituto Terra in 1998 as an environmental organization dedicated to the sustainable development of the Valley of the River Doce. Over the next decades, the Salgados and the Instituto Terra team slowly but surely rebuilt the 1 754 acre forest, transforming it from a barren plot of land into a tropical paradise.

Now a Private Natural Heritage Reserve, hundreds of species of flora and fauna have found a home on the former cattle ranch. In addition to 293 species of trees, the land now teems with 172 species of birds, 33 species of mammals and 15 species of amphibians and reptiles – many of which are endangered.

The rejuvenation has also had a huge impact on the ecosystem and climate. In addition to reintroducing plants and animals to the area, the project has rejuvenated several once dried-up springs in the drought-prone area, and has even positively affected local temperatures.

Source: <https://northcoastcourier.co.za/146626/two-decades-forest-brazil-replanted-hundreds-species-flora-fauna-thriving/>