

# Brazilian geological diversity: initiatives and potential for geoconservation

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GEO DIVERSITY  
WORKSHOP 4 celebrating  
THE INTERNATIONAL GEO DIVERSITY DAY

ProGEO

IUCN WCPA  
WORLD COMMISSION  
ON PROTECTION  
OF NATURAL  
CULTURAL HERITAGE

AGeoBR

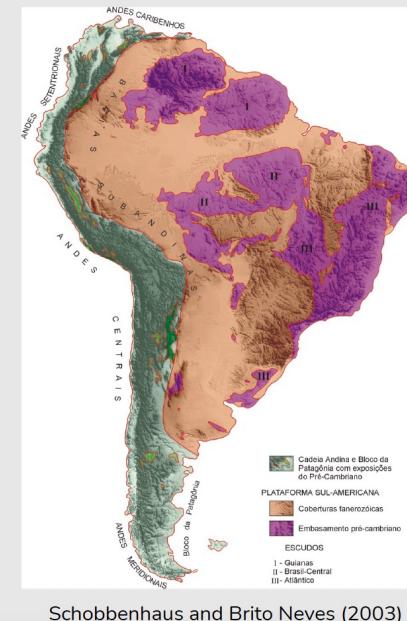
GEOCIÊNCIAS  
USP

GEO HEREDITAS  
USP

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## Brazilian territory

Totally inserted in the South-American Platform, established in the Ordovician



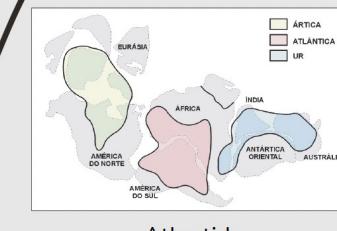
Schobbenhaus and Brito Neves (2003)

## Geological and tectonic bases of Brazilian geodiversity

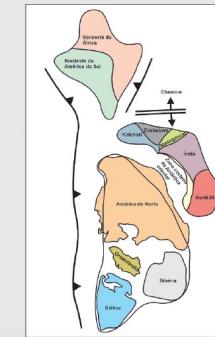
The sequences of events that gave origin to the geological diversity we see nowadays

Basement of the platform made up of rocks from 3.5 to 0.58 Ga

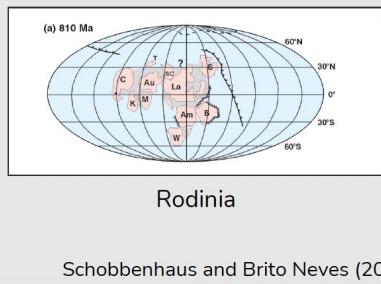
(fragments of older Paleo- to Mesoproterozoic supercontinents)



Atlantida



Columbia

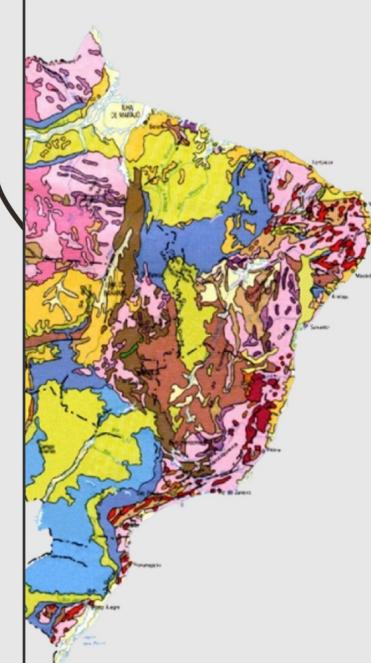
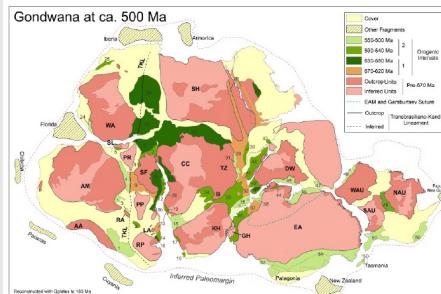


Rodinia  
Schobbenhaus and Brito Neves (2003)

## Neoproterozoic / Ordovician

Amalgamation of Gondwana

- Neoproterozoic orogenic belts
  - Syn- to Late orogenic magmatism
- Subduction, continental collision, metamorphism
  - Marine to continental sedimentary basins developed over Gondwana

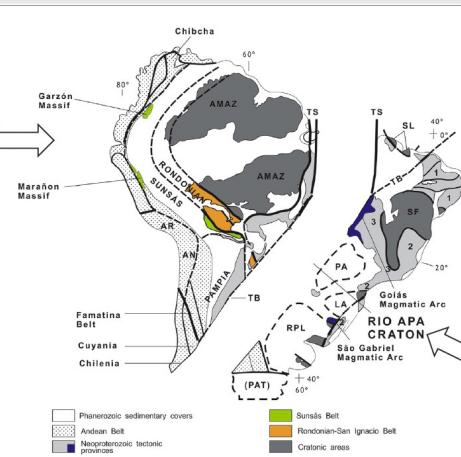


The establishment of Gondwana marks a great contrast in the Brazilian geological evolution

## Amazonian Domain

Associated to the North-American Laurentia. No structures related to West Gondwana orogeny

Domains separated by the Transbrasiliiano Lineament



Brito Neves and Fuck (2013)

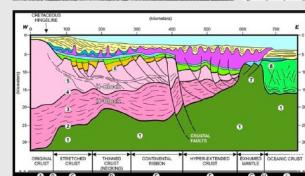
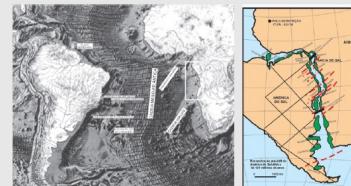
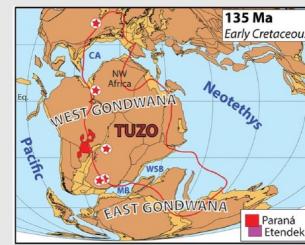
## Brasiliano Domain

Related to the Brasiliano-Pan African Orogeny, which gave origin to West Gondwana

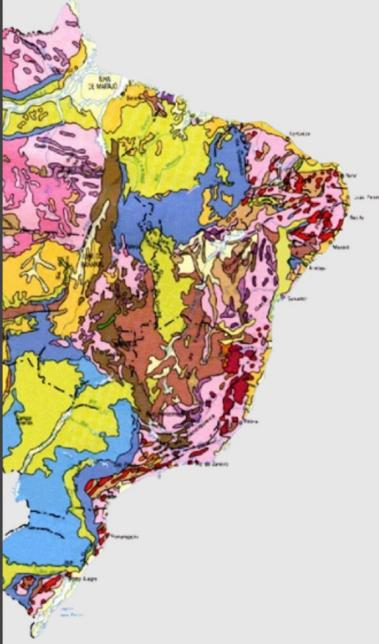
## Jurassic / Cretaceous

Gondwana breakup

- Marked by extensive basaltic volcanism
- Opening of South Atlantic ocean
- Passive margin basins



Mohriak (2003), Svensen et al. (2017), Zalán (2015)



All this geological history  
gave origin to the  
geodiversity of Brazil



Mairi Gneiss Complex, formed by mafic and felsic banded gneisses (3.6 Ga), the oldest rocks in South America.

Itabirite, a banded metasedimentary rock deposited at 2,4 Ga, formed by quartz and iron oxides. Important iron ore.



The Iguazu Falls, in the homonymous national park, example of the ~ 1,35 Ma volcanic rocks of the Paraná-Etendeka Province, which record the breakup of West Gondwana.



Active sand dunes and freshwater lagoons from the Lençóis Maranhenses, the largest record of Quaternary sedimentation of South America.

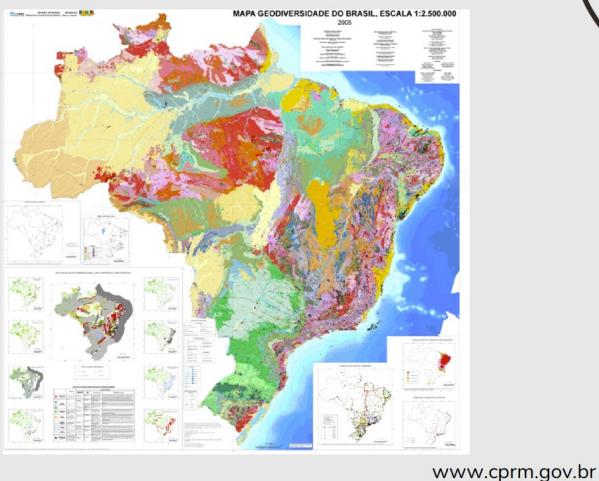
Studies on geodiversity

# Project geodiversity Geological Survey of Brazil

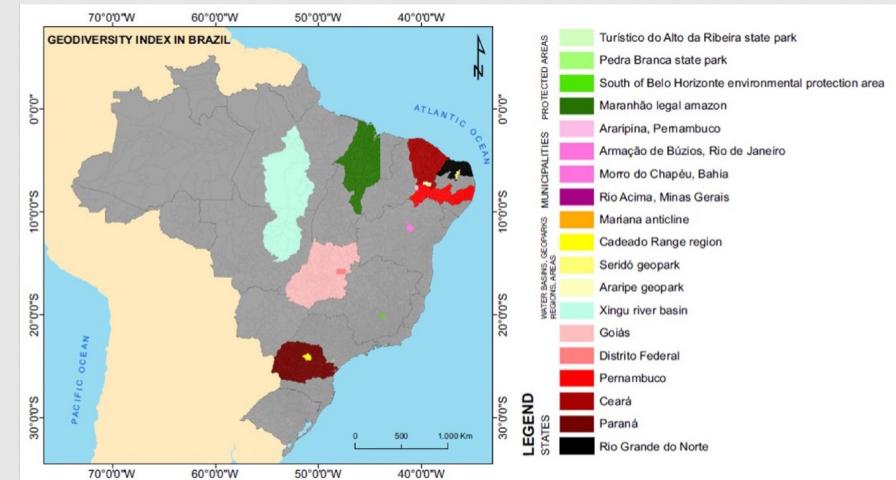
National and State maps

Geoenvironmental approach

Support for land use and occupation plans

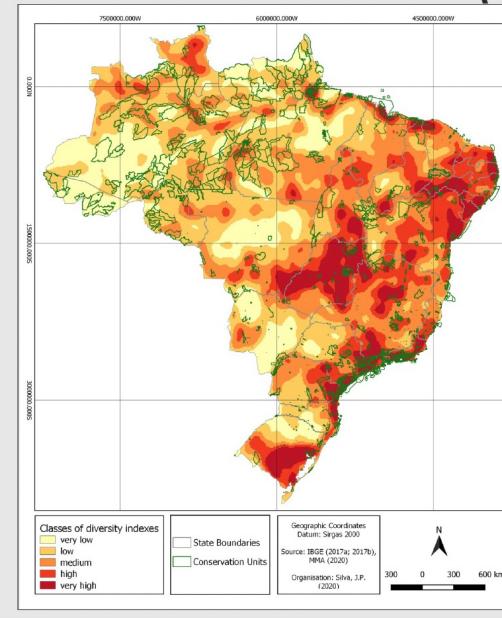


## Initiatives on maps of geodiversity indexes in Brazil



## Geodiversity indexes and protected areas

- Analysis based on subindexes
- Causes of the distribution of the abiotic elements in the Brazilian territory
- Correlations between abiotic aspects and elements related to current and past climates and environments

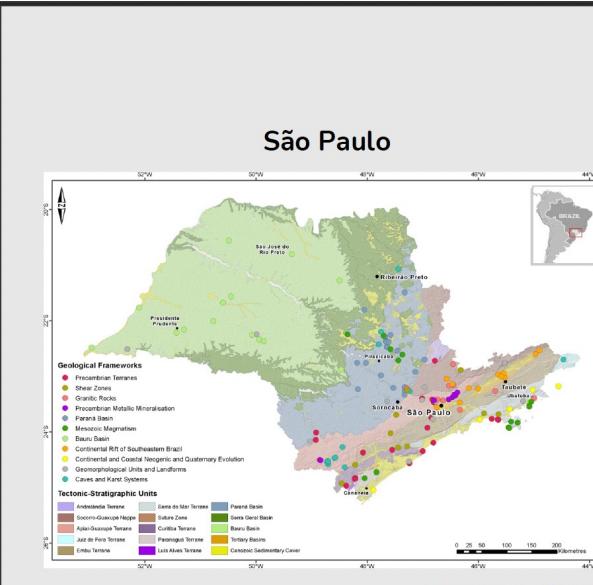
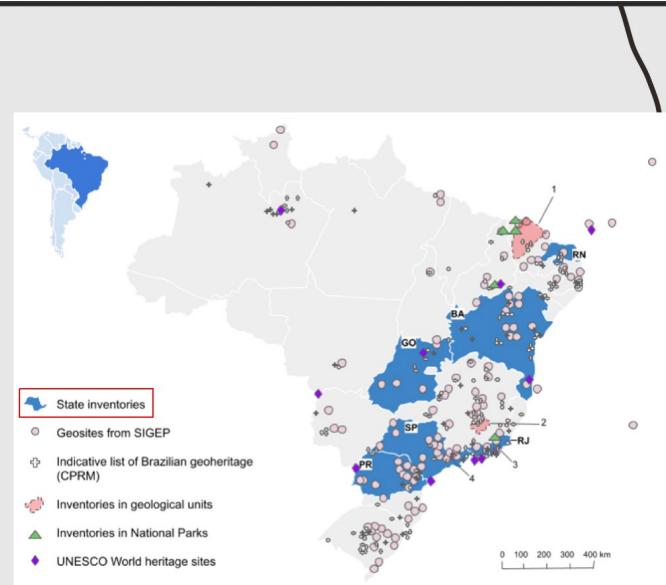


## Inventories and other surveys

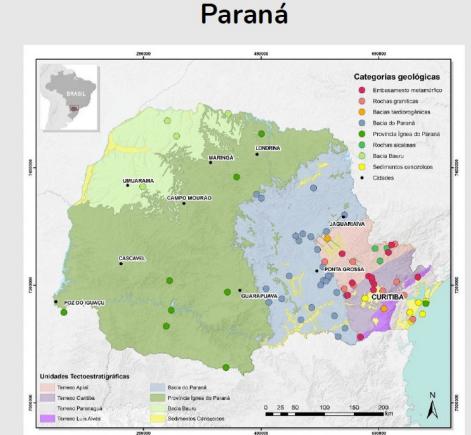
# State inventories

States of Rio Grande do Norte, Bahia, Goiás, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Paraná

São Paulo: the first on a systematic basis



Garcia et al. (2018)



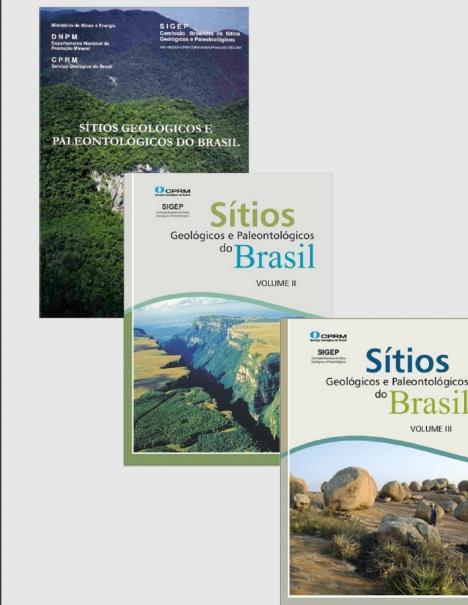
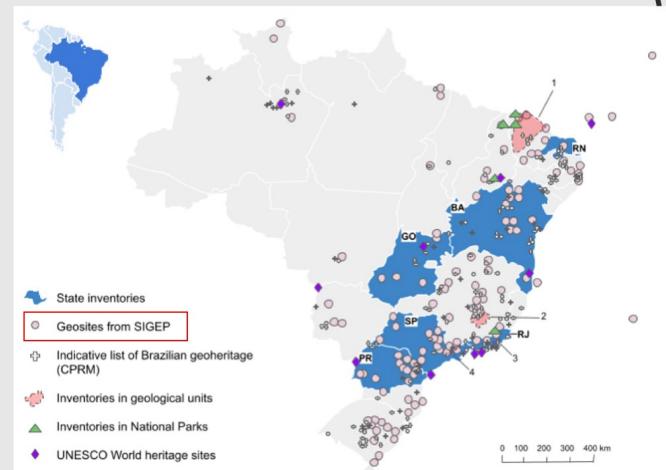
Xavier (2022)

# SIGEP geosites

Brazilian Commission on Geological and Paleobiological Heritage

116 geosites published

66 geosites approved but not published



Araguainha Dome - the largest known astrobleme in South America



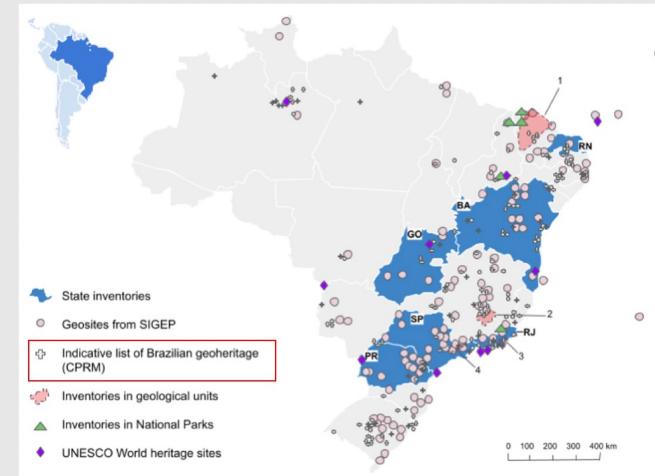
Crósta (2002)

## Indicative list of the Brazilian geoheritage

461 geosites

21 themes

Classified on high,  
moderate and low values



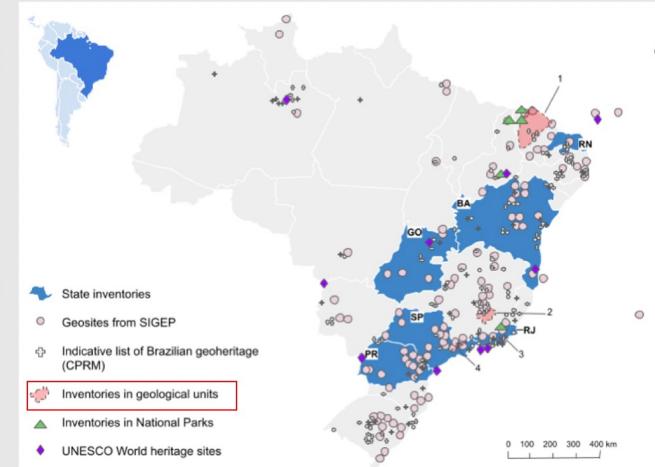
## Inventories in geological units

Ceará Central Tectonic Domain

Iron Quadrangle  
(Quadrilátero Ferrífero)

Cabo Frio Tectonic Domain

Taubaté Sedimentary Basin



Sites inscribed in GEOSSIT, the online platform developed by the Geological Survey of Brazil

Quantitative assessment of scientific value, potential for education and tourism use and degradation risk

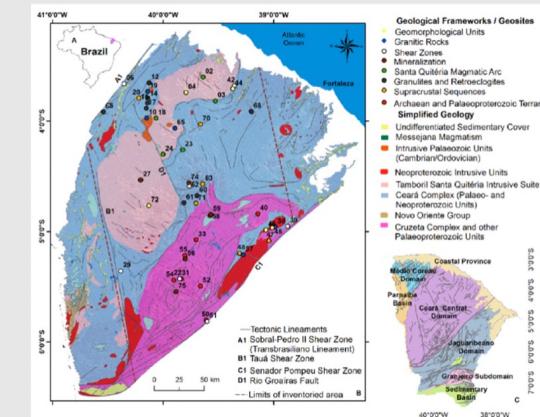


## Arrecife Ranch - Neoproterozoic stromatolites



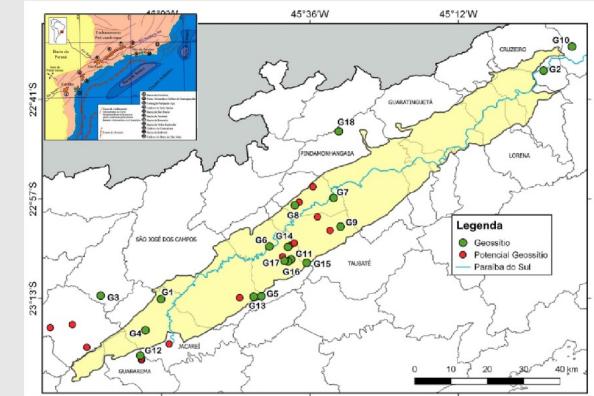
Srivastava and Rocha (2002); data from GEOSSIT

## Ceará Central Domain



Moura et al. (2017)

## Taubaté Basin



Reverte et al. (2018)

# Inventories in National parks

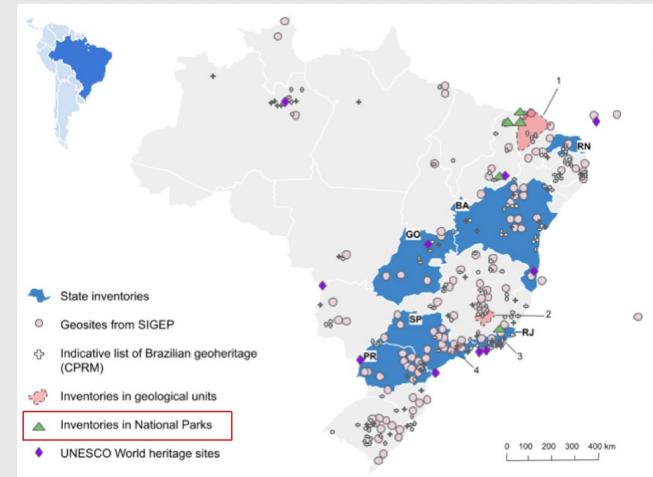
Itatiaia National Park

Sete Cidades National Park

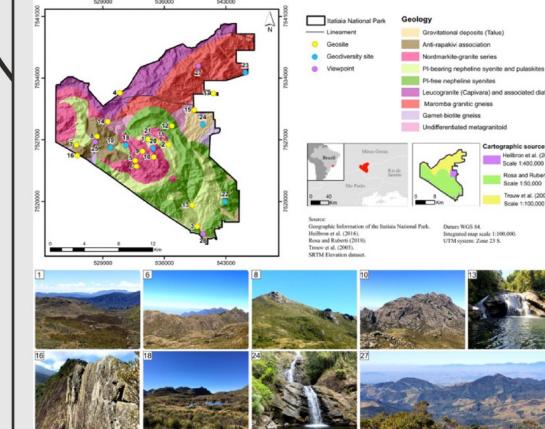
Ubajara National Park

Serra da Capivara National Park

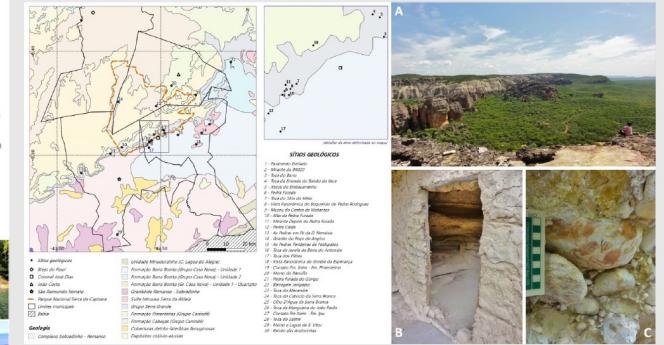
Jericoacoara National Park



## Itatiaia National Park



## Serra da Capivara National Park

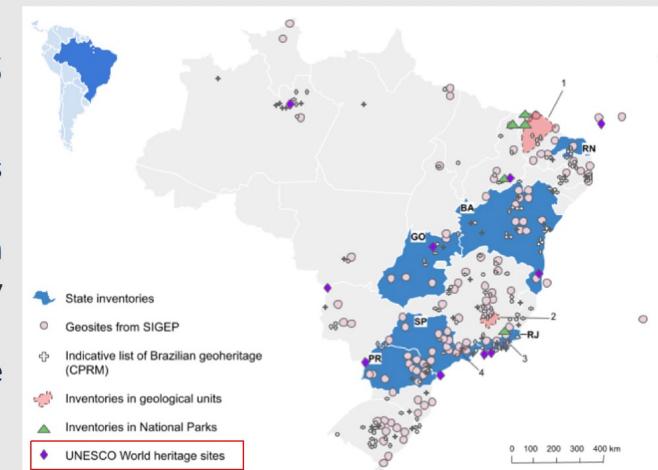


# UNESCO World Heritage sites

6 natural sites

2 cultural sites related with geodiversity

1 mixed site



## Natural

- Iguazu National Park
- Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves
- **Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves**
- Central Amazon Conservation Complex
- Pantanal Conservation Area
- Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves
- **Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks**



## Cultural

- Rio de Janeiro: Carioca Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea
- Serra da Capivara National Park



## Mixed

- Paraty and Ilha Grande – Culture and Biodiversity

# Project geoparks Geological Survey of Brazil

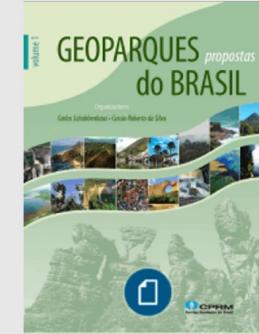
## Geotourism and geoparks

Started in 2006

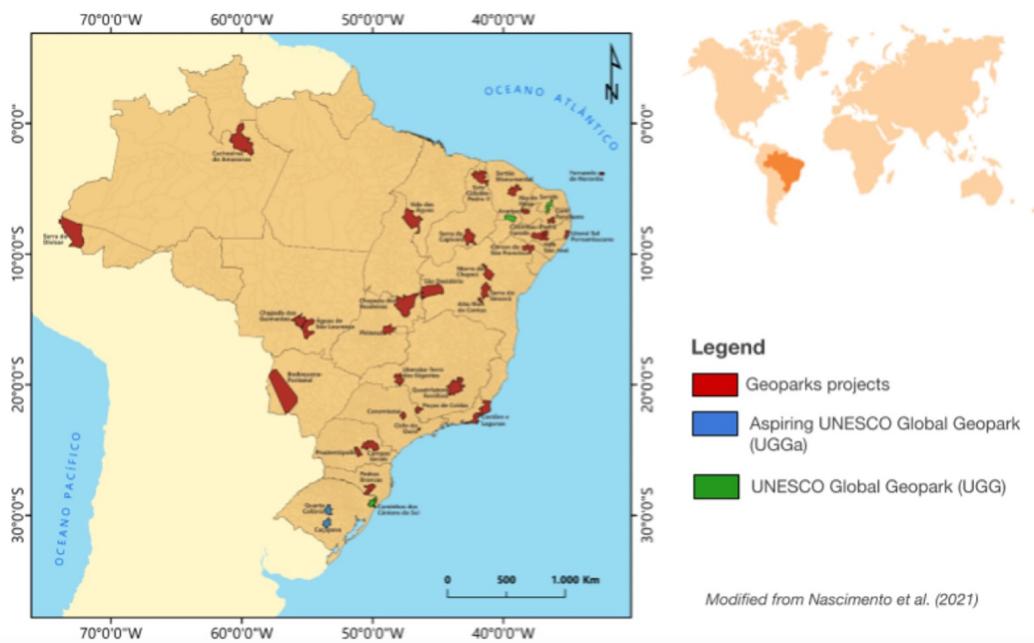
Part of the territorial management section

Foster initiatives on the development of geoparks projects

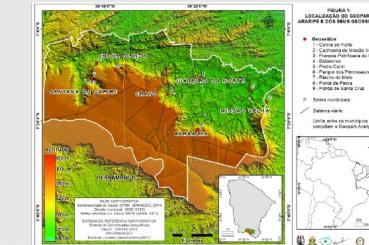
Two volumes



[www.cprm.gov.br](http://www.cprm.gov.br)



- 2006
- 6 municipalities
- 3,789 km<sup>2</sup>
- Cretaceous (150 - 90 Ma) geological records
- Highly preserved fossils



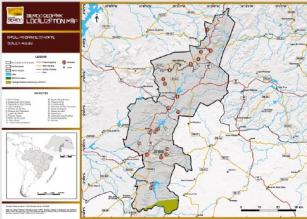
## Araripe Geopark



Carvalho-Neta et al. (2018); <http://geoparkararipe.urca.br/>

# Seridó Geopark

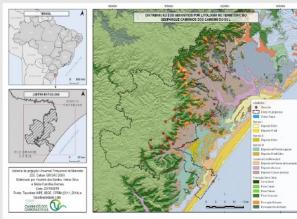
- 2022
- 6 municipalities
- 2,802 km<sup>2</sup>
- Geosites represent regional geological history from Mesoproterozoic to recent



<http://geoparqueserido.com.br/>

# Caminhos dos Cânions do Sul Geopark

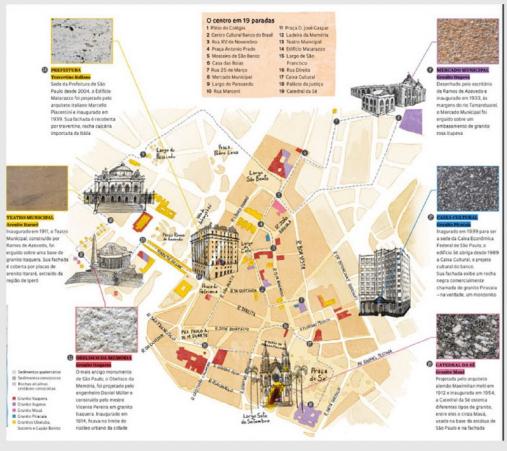
- 2022
- 7 municipalities
- 2 states
- 2,830 km<sup>2</sup>
- Final stages of sedimentation of Paraná Basin and West Gondwana breakup



<https://canionsdosul.org/>

# Urban geotourism

## Old Centre of São Paulo City



Del Lama et al. (2015)

## Historic Centre of Natal City



Nascimento et al. (2018)

# Outreach

## Interpretative panels

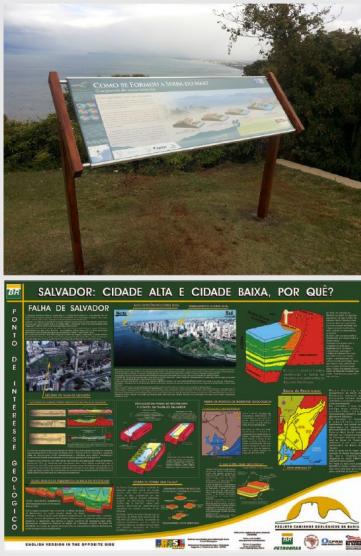


Geological Paths Project, State of Rio de Janeiro

Started in 2000, main objective was to popularise geology.  
Influenced the development of other geoconservationist initiatives



Other examples of initiatives, in the states of Paraná, São Paulo and Bahia



## Books

Themes related to geodiversity, geoheritage, dinosaurs, and general geosciences for kids.

## Virtual products

360° panoramic virtual tour - North coast of São Paulo

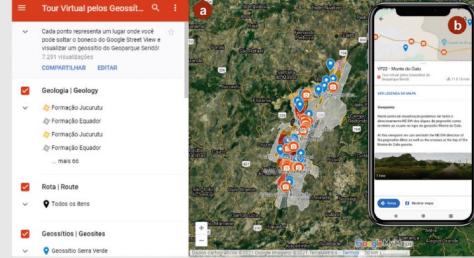


Geotour - Jaraguá State Park



<https://geohereditas.igc.usp.br/>

Virtual tour - Geosites of Seridó Geopark



Costa et al. (2022)



<http://www.museu.igeo.ufrj.br/>

Virtual tour to the exhibition "Earth Memories"

Brazilian Symposium on Geological Heritage - 6<sup>th</sup> edition (<https://www.ageobr.org/>)



Museum of Geodiversity (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)

## Places and events

National (AGeoBR)

GEO.DIA



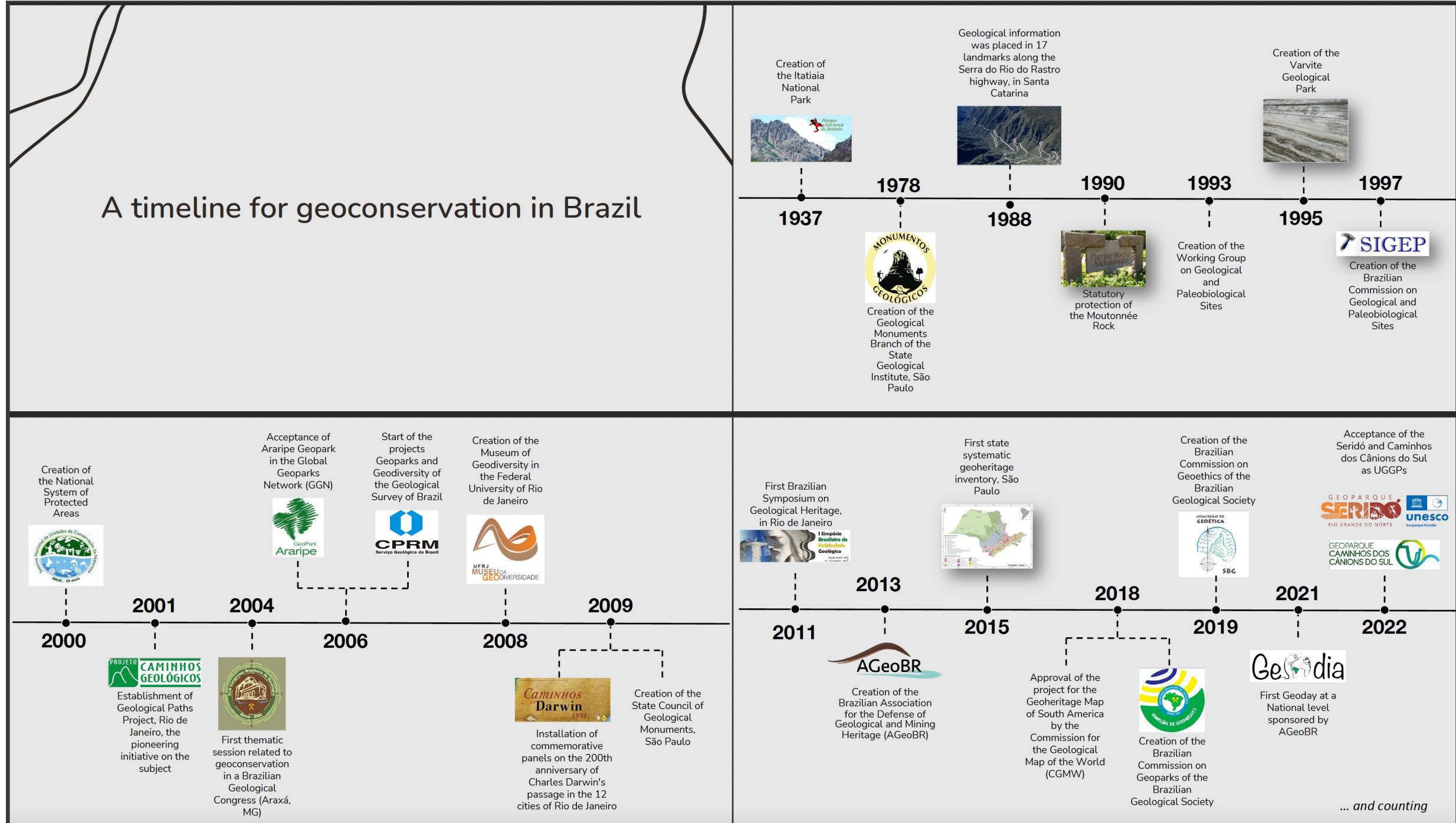
Local

Caçapava Aspiring Geopark



Costões e Lagunas Geopark Project

## A timeline for geoconservation in Brazil



# Geodiversity and modern ecosystems in Brazil

*Areas biologically diverse are commonly associated with diverse substrates*

Pantanal Basin, Nhecolândia region  
(Central-Western Brazil)



Fault-controlled modern sedimentary basin with permanently flooded areas. One of the most important tropical wetlands in the world, hosting impressive aquatic ecosystems with rich biodiversity.

Amazon region, Anavilhas National Park  
(Northern Brazil)



A series of fluvial islands along Negro River, inserted in the intracratonic Amazonas Basin. Great ecological relevance for studies regarding the sedimentary dynamics and the response of biodiversity to geomorphological changes in the islands.

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