



PELAG headquarters landscaping project including restoration of the restinga

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Northern Rio de Janeiro State region has experienced strong industrialization and increased real estate activities; as a result, restinga environments have been quite affected. Conversely, concern about nature conservation has grown significantly. In such context, functional landscaping has gained importance once it involves restoration of degraded areas and fosters the use of native plants. Following this direction, the landscaping project proposed for the Lagoa do Açú State Park (PELAG) headquarters helps minimize environmental impacts by offering a test to recover degraded areas. The project applied the nucleation technique that makes up micro habitats and can be used for restoring native ecosystems. Basic methodology was performed upon a schematic drawing of hexagonal rings, each one containing 31 individuals; in the center of each ring, one restinga pioneer vegetable species surrounded by secondary species. Ten pioneer and ten secondary species were suggested to be used. Plants seedlings were designed to be placed 1.5m distant from one another throughout a total area of 47.39 m². The proposition of rings and integrative arrangements was planned to exclusively use vegetable species from different restinga phytophysionomies and from the four different types of mangroves from the São Tomé eco-region: this was intended not only for environmental recovery, but also to establish a strong functional landscaping initiative besides eliminating any risks of biological contamination in case those species scape their cultivation areas. For integration of the four rings types, the opening of a so called “Trilha da Praia” [“Beach Trail”] was also proposed in order to work as a medium for both environmental education and integration between this landscaping design and a restinga remnant located adjacent to the project area. We hope it will exert direct influence over the area of intervention.

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