



MATE e.V. - Germany  
Associação Mate -  
Brazil



## WORKING WITH NATURE

### INTRODUCTION

The southernmost state of Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, covers only 3% of the Brazilian Nation, but has many different ecosystems. Among them, the native erva-mate forests, that sadly is almost extinct. The industrial agriculture (soybean<sup>1</sup>, corn<sup>1</sup>, wheat,...) plus the meat industry and the pulp plantations (eucalyptus, pine, and acacia) now covers ancient erva-mate ecosystems (see below).



Photos: At left – soybean plantation and at right – eucalyptus plantation.

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<sup>1</sup>transgenic organisms

Much of the erva-mate “gaucho” industry, producing 300,000 Tons/year, receives dry leaves from erva-mate plantations to a growing tea marked rooted in old traditions from the Guarany Indians communities (around 1554). The erva-mate (*Ilex paraguarienses*) is the state symbol tree of Rio Grande do Sul.

The economic growth planning to this southern Brazilian state continues to impinge the native erva-mate forests due to fragile environmental laws and disregard to historic and culture values.

The small native erva-mate areas still alive should be protected and multiplied before is too late.

## **GOALS**

To utilize abandoned agricultural areas to plant native erva-mate in consortium with native species (trees and herbs) forming a forest ecosystem;

To maintain the ancient Indian tradition of erva-mate production respecting nature’s cycle, artisanal processes and the social niches;

To store carbon (from growing emissions due to agribusiness, industrial and urban systems) into the native forests and soil;

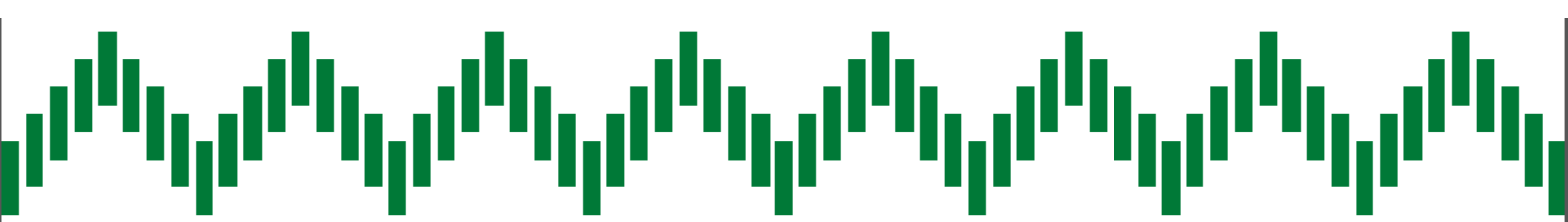
To diminished the Regional Ecological Footprint<sup>2</sup> by replanting native forest species in impacted non vegetated areas and introducing alternative energy (e.g.: biogas) to end fossil-fuel use.

To promote sustainable, small-scale decentralized production of erva mate dried with native aromatic woods to create an alternative to the usage of Eucalyptus wood from monocultures.

To inspire other companies to help reduce their Global Ecological Footprint by investing in alternative transport technologies for our mate deliveries such as wind-powered sailing boats for overseas transportation and man- powered or electric vehicles for urban transport.

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<sup>2</sup>A measure of how much biologically productive land and water an individual, population or activity requires to produce all the resources it consumes, and to absorb the waste it generates, using prevailing technology and resource management practices.





Old native erva-mate tree Brazil 2015



CO2 Free Delivery to Mate Editathon Berlin 2014

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