Vale Natural Reserve (VNR)

The Vale Natural Reserve is an important sustainability and relationship asset for Vale, located in the northern region of Espírito Santo (ES), encompassing an area of approximately 23,000 hectares (88.803 square miles) of Atlantic Forest, one of the most threatened biomes in the world. Along with the Sooretama Biological Reserve they form the Linhares–Sooretama Forest Complex, the largest forest block in the state of Espírito Santo (ES), with over 50,000 hectares (193.049 square miles), representing 11% of the remaining Atlantic Forest, in ES.

It is located on the Green and Water Circuit, one of the state's main tourist routes. It offers a large green area for leisure, with ecological trails, a nature observation tower, living botanical collections, including palmettos, arboretums and orchards, as well as a herbarium, dry collections of wood, fruit and seeds, and an insect collection.

It offers environmental education activities for the community and is an ideal place for scientific development, with great potential for discoveries and learning. It also has research plots focused on forestry, agroforestry systems and bioeconomy.
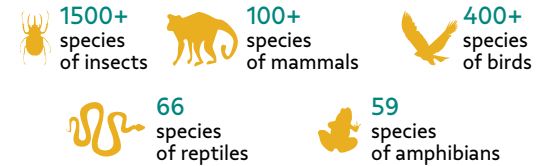
It has a tree nursery with an annual capacity to produce 2.5 million native Atlantic Forest seedlings for forest restoration actions.

Brazilian tapir
Tapirus terrestris
Expedição to Fotografia e Natureza

Harpy eagle
Harpia harpyja
Gustavo Magnaro

Red-billed curassow
Crax blumenbachii
Thiago Bonato

Linhares whiptail
Ameivula nativo
Gabriel Bonfa

Jueirana-facão
Dinizia jueirana-facao
Geovane Siqueira

Turk's cap cactus
Melocactus violaceus
Geovane Siqueira

Yellow lapacho
Handroanthus serratifolius
Geovane Siqueira

tree nursery
VNR photo library

Animals in the spotlight

The regional fauna is impressive for its beauty and diversity, but it also raises alarm bells for the degree to which many of the animals are threatened with extinction.

The Reserve is home to considerable populations of increasingly rare animals in the Atlantic Forest, such as the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), the harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), the red-billed curassow (*Crax blumenbachii*) and the Brazilian tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*).

1500+ species of insects

100+ species of mammals

400+ species of birds

66 species of reptiles

59 species of amphibians

Sanctuary of species

The Reserve is part of the "tabuleiro forest", a vegetal formation that is typical of the coastal regions of the Atlantic Rainforest, characterized by flat terrain, sandy soils and a warm, humid climate.

The VNR is one of the richest areas for plant diversity in the world, with over 2,300 species recorded to date. More than 100 of them only became known to science after being discovered there. Species such as the gigantic *Dinizia jueirana-facao*, locally known as "jueirana-facão", are endangered and endemic to the region.

Why is VNR so important?

The Reserve is a biodiversity hotspot, an area of extreme importance for conservation due to its rich and numerous diversity of threatened and endemic species. It has been recognized by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MaB) as an Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve (AFBR) since 2008 and as a Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserve in 1999.

It promotes research by supporting projects and institutes, for the conservation of endangered species such as the cherry–throated tanager (*Nemosia rourei*).

For over 20 years it has had a cooperation agreement with the Chico Mendes Biodiversity Conservation Institute (ICMBio) to protect Sooretama Biological Reserve, a partnership that inspires other company initiatives.

More than 115,000 hectares of forest are being protected by partnerships signed through the "Forestry Goal", a voluntary forestry commitment by Vale that is coordinated via Vale Nature Reserve, through cooperation agreements with the ICMBio, the State Environment and Water Resources Institute (Iema–ES) and the State Environment Institute (Inea–RJ).

It operates in the construction, planning, and structuring of the large–scale Inclusive Restoration process in Federal Conservation Units of ICMBio.

In the state of Minas Gerais, along with the State Forestry Institute (IEF) and the State Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development (SEMAD), it is responsible for the implementation of the Environmental Regularization Program (PRA) on small rural properties.

It is a member of the Brazilian Coalition, supporting the development of initiatives aimed at boosting the forestry of native species, food security, bioeconomy and carbon markets, which contribute to the national environmental agenda.

VALE NATURAL RESERVE

Where are we?

Location
BR 101 highway, KM 122
Linhares, Espírito Santo, Brazil

Distance from the main capital cities
162,3 km from Vitória (ES)
686 km from Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
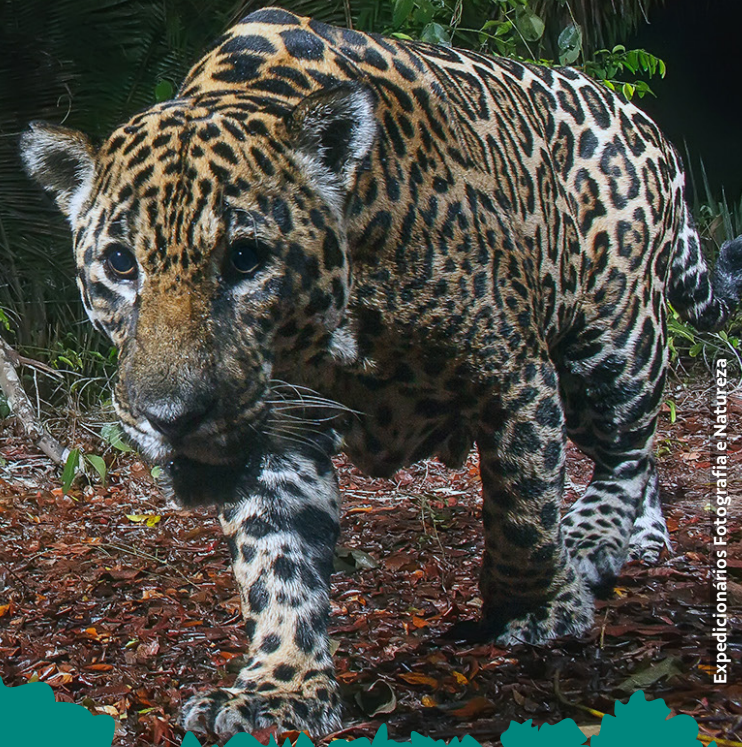632 km from Belo Horizonte (MG)

Opening hours
Tuesday to sunday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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VALE

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