



2020 Annual Report





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2020 Annual Report

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 SUPPORTERS!

Our Strategic Plan to Save Golden Lion Tamarins (GLTs) from Extinction

This tiny red-gold monkey once lived throughout coastal Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil. Centuries of deforestation reduced GLT habitat (lowland Atlantic coastal forest) by 98%. Now, the remaining GLT habitat is located in just two river basins in Rio de Janeiro State, about 80km from the Rio de Janeiro metropolitan area. Deforestation no longer occurs, but the remaining forest is fragmented into 13 isolated islands separated by towns and cattle pasture. None of these fragments is large enough to support a viable population of GLTs. In the 1970s, only 200 GLTs were thought to exist in the wild.

Today, new threats that thwart efforts to reconnect forest fragments include the conversion of forest and pasture to weekend homes and commercial

development, as well as construction of highways and other infrastructure. In 2018, yellow fever reduced the GLT population by 32%. Yellow fever continues to be a threat, now compounded by COVID-19.

Our Strategic Plan 2016-2025

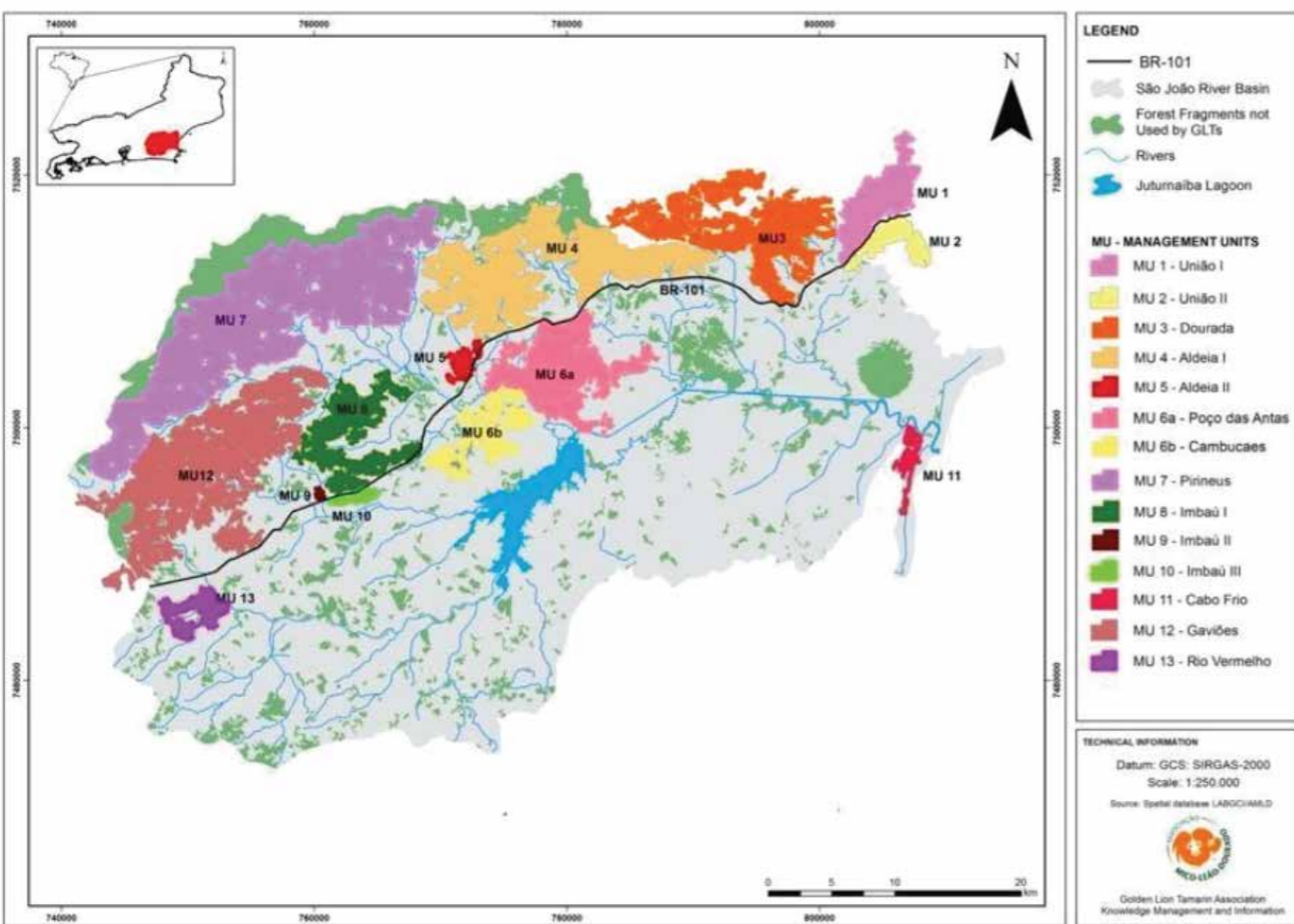
In 2015, AMLD and partners detailed a 10-year strategic plan to guarantee at least one viable population of GLTs. We express that science-based goal as 2,000 GLTs in 25,000 hectares of connected and protected forest. The geographic scope of our work includes the 13 largest remaining habitat fragments, which we call Management Units (MUs).

An Overview of progress in achieving our goal: 2,000 GLTs in 25,000HA of connected and protected atlantic forest

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, yellow fever and the political situation in Brazil, 2020 was a productive year for AMLD. Following are a few highlights:

- ✓ Completed construction of 16 wildlife passageways over/under BR101 highway. AMLD is monitoring their use through wildlife cameras.
- ✓ 94 GLTs safely vaccinated against yellow fever.
- ✓ All major construction projects completed at AMLD's new headquarters.
- ✓ New high-speed internet at AMLD headquarters made possible online strategic planning and collaboration among our staff and partners around the world.
- ✓ 90ha of cattle pasture at AMLD's headquarters planted with native-tree seedlings.

In contrast with state and federal agencies and many Brazilian NGOs, AMLD retained all its staff during the COVID pandemic and we are working full-time to achieve our conservation goals.



The geographic distribution of golden lion tamarins, 13 forest fragments (MUs) located in the São João and Macaé river basins, Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil.

COVID-19's impact in 2020:

COVID-19 is rampant in Brazil including the region where AMLD works to keep GLTs from extinction. As a consequence, AMLD adapted its activities to reduce this threat to its staff, partners and perhaps to GLTs. Activities that are done in groups, such as education and extension, were changed to on-line formats, done safely one-on-one or postponed. Three AMLD employees contracted COVID-19 and recovered in their homes. We don't know if GLTs can get COVID-19 so we take every precaution to protect them from the disease.



2020 Progress by the numbers

455

Local people engaged in GLT conservation through community outreach efforts.

46

Local people employed in GLT conservation.

156

Local people engaged in economic development opportunities.

427

Hectares planted or enriched to increase or connect GLT habitat (cumulative since 1997).

30,109

Trees planted. (80 different tree species).

149

Hectares planted in protected areas that have now grown to forest structure (serve for GLTs).

94

GLTs safely vaccinated against yellow fever.

1158

GLTs in the largest block of connected forest.

Monitoring progress in achieving our conservation goals

Our strategy to create a viable population of GLTs is to connect and permanently protect sufficient forest fragments in our geographic scope, while scientifically managing the isolated GLT populations in the interim. Here's where we are in achieving those goals:

Available forest: 49,159ha

Largest block of connected forest: 15,240ha (desired status > 25,000ha)

Number of GLTs: 2,516 (desired status > 3,706 - the carrying capacity of the existing forest)

Number of GLTs in the largest connected forest block: 1,158 (desired status > 2,000)

Number of GLTs in the protected portion of the largest connected forest block: 284 (desired status > 2000)

The following sections summarize 2020 progress in the 12 strategies designed to achieve our 10-year goals.



STRATEGIES TO RESTORE GLT POPULATIONS TO VIABILITY

Strategy 1: Monitoring GLTs

Continuous monitoring detects changes in sizes of GLT populations in each of the 13 habitat fragments (MUs) as well as new threats. Results help us measure progress and adjust strategies to achieve our goal. The team stopped field work in March due to COVID restrictions, and resumed work in August using COVID-safe techniques.

AMLD continues to rebuild its GLT monitoring program following heavy losses of monitored groups to yellow fever in 2018. In 2020, AMLD increased the number of monitored groups from 5 in 2 MUs to 9 in 3 MUs. The team also collected data on presence/absence of GLT groups whose territories are known but that are not monitored by telemetry. Using camera trap photos, direct observations, and reports from local people, AMLD increased the number of known groups from 1 in 1 MU to 29 in 7 MUs.

Strategy 12: Emergency Plan to Reduce Effects of Yellow Fever on GLTs

During the first quarter of 2018, 10 GLT groups monitored by AMLD disappeared. Laboratory analysis determined that yellow fever was the cause. AMLD documented a 32% reduction in the GLT population—down from 3800 to 2600. Two forest fragments lost over 90% of their GLTs. The GLT population in Poço das Antas Reserve, then estimated at 32 individuals, is in immediate danger of inbreeding and local extinction.

In October, after necessary permits were granted and field work was reinitiated, AMLD began vaccinating GLTs against yellow fever, including groups that will be translocated into Poço das Antas Reserve early in 2021. In three months' time, 94 GLTs were safely vaccinated.

The goal for 2021 is to complete vaccination of 150 GLTs and to analyze their post-vaccination blood samples. If analysis indicates immunity to yellow fever, as we predict, then additional blood samples will not be necessary and we can increase the rate of vaccinations.



Tecnologia inédita no mundo e criada no Brasil busca salvar mico-leão-dourado da febre amarela



Um mico-leão-dourado em um dos fragmentos de floresta monitorados pela AMLD. Foto: Arquivo AMLD.

Uma técnica inédita no mundo para salvar o mico-leão-dourado da febre amarela foi desenvolvida no Brasil. A tecnologia, criada em 2017, consiste em aplicar uma vacina desenvolvida no Brasil em um único ponto de aplicação. A técnica é segura e eficaz, e já foi usada para salvar milhares de micos-leão-dourados em Poço das Antas, no Rio de Janeiro. A técnica é considerada uma das maiores inovações em conservação de espécies ameaçadas no mundo.



FOLHA DE S.PAULO

Vacinação inédita no mundo busca salvar mico-leão-dourado da febre amarela

Desenvolvida pela Bio-Manguinhos, técnica começou a ser posta em prática no mês passado

23.nov.2020 às 9h00

EDIÇÃO IMPRESSA (<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/fsp/tsc-simha/2021/10/19/>)

SÃO PAULO No final do mês passado, a Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado (<https://www.micoleao.org.br/>) (AMLD) começou a pôr em prática uma estratégia inédita no mundo, resultado de uma ideia surgida em 2017. Fundada em 1992, a ONG fluminense desenvolve estratégias para a preservação da espécie.



Strategy 11. Integrate Management of the Ex Situ and In Situ GLT Populations

This strategy aims to improve the flow of information and support among the 156 zoos holding GLTs worldwide, four regional zoo associations, Brazilian federal authorities (ICMBio) and AMLD.

Planning for this strategy, scheduled for April in Brazil, was cancelled due to COVID, as were all our in-person presentations at zoos and zoo congresses. ICMBio reps, ex-situ lion-tamarin reps and AMLD met virtually. GLT holder zoos worldwide were closed to visitors

beginning in March, with sporadic openings and closings thereafter. With no entrance fees or events, most zoos suffered financially, even to maintain their animals. Despite hardships, the 156 holder zoos continued to maintain an adequate ex-situ GLT population and AMLD received support from 13 zoos, including all its major zoo partners: Copenhagen Zoo, Disney Conservation Fund, Philadelphia Zoo, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Zoo Atlanta.



STRATEGIES TO CONNECT FOREST FRAGMENTS AND PERMANENTLY MAINTAIN FOREST COVER

Strategy 7: Public policy

This strategy aims to influence the development and implementation of municipal, state and national public policies that support the restoration and permanent protection of forests and GLT populations in our scope. All meetings were conducted virtually due to COVID restrictions. AMLD was an active participant in Brazil's Action Plan for Endangered Atlantic Forest Primates. On August 2, GLT Day, AMLD hosted a virtual inauguration of Brazil's first wildlife bridge over a major highway, an event that had national and international impact.

AMLD also promoted the establishment of an ad hoc yellow fever work group including representatives from Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, ICMBio, Rio de Janeiro Primate Center, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and SGLT. Frequent virtual meetings enabled unprecedented communication among decision makers and researchers involved in human health, animal health, and conservation of endangered species.

This interaction resulted in AMLD receiving permits to vaccinate GLTs against yellow fever and set a precedent for the process to get permits to vaccinate other species.



Strategy 6: Linear Infrastructure

This strategy, which initially addressed GLT connectivity problems created by the widening of interstate highway BR101, was expanded to include breaks in forest connectivity caused by state and local highways, gas and oil pipelines and high-tension electric lines. In July, the toll-road concession holder, Autopista Fluminense (AF), completed construction of the wildlife bridge over BR101. A contractor planted trees on the overpass with poor success and the ramp adjacent to the bridge was not planted. AMLD took AF to court and was granted permission to replant the overpass and plant the ramp to the bridge in 2021 using AMLD resources. AMLD completed reforestation of degraded areas on both ends of the overpass. AF completed 5 passageways beneath the highway and fencing was installed to funnel wildlife to their openings. Ten canopy-to-canopy bridges over BR101

were completed but adjacent forest restoration has not been done. This stretch of highway has more wildlife passageways than any other in Brazil.

As required by its permit, AF contracted a company to monitor wildlife use of all 16 passageways. Because the forested overpass was Brazil's first, it is seen as experimental. If wildlife use it, then it may serve as legal precedent for construction of similar passageways. In order to avoid a perceived failure due to inefficient monitoring by the consultant, AMLD deployed 25 camera traps to systematically monitor wildlife use of the overpass and connecting forest corridors. AMLD also began use of camera traps to monitor wildlife crossing secondary roads, power-line and pipeline rights-of-way, and to identify points needing passageways.



Strategy 2: Forest Protection

AMLD works to increase the area, forest cover, and effectiveness of conservation in legally protected land in our scope: two federal biological reserves, one state park, three municipal parks, 43 permanent private reserves, and areas on privately owned land where permanent forest cover is required under Brazil's Forest Code.

AMLD defines “protected forest” as areas that meet three criteria:

- 1. have permanent legal protection;**
- 2. are covered with mature-stature forest or are in the process of restoration;**
- 3. have an effective conservation program.**

AMLD is a member of the advisory councils of the two federal biological reserves and the Environmental Protection Area but meetings were cancelled due to COVID. The federal government proposed to integrate administration of these three lowland forest conservation units with that of two coastal-fishing conservation units, thus removing each unit's current on-site administrator and weakening its conservation program. AMLD led NGO social media posts against this integration. The proposal is now on hold.



Strategy 4: Forest restoration

All restoration initiated in 2020, 23ha total, took place in the GLT Ecopark including planting 6ha using 31,109 seedlings of 80 native-tree species. Routine monitoring and maintenance were also carried out in areas planted previously. Of the 427ha of land where AMLD initiated forest restoration since 1997, 325ha are now mature enough to be used by GLTs, including 149ha in public conservation units. AMLD reforestation involved 34 landowner families and created 19

local jobs. Because it's done outside, this work was not impeded by COVID restrictions.

Planting the last 4ha of pasture in the GLT Ecopark began in December in what we call a "Bosque da Memoria" (Remembrance Forest), part of a reforestation initiative of the Atlantic Forest Biosphere Reserve Program and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Families are invited to plant trees in honor of loved ones lost to COVID 19.



STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE LOCAL PEOPLE

Strategy 9: Regional sustainable tourism

In 2020, COVID caused a significant reduction in ecotourism for AMLD and in the region. During the first trimester, AMLD received 13 groups totalling 68 ecotourists, including 20 students from Germany who came to see GLTs in the wild and to learn about AMLD's conservation work. COVID forced the cancellation of subsequent reservations to see GLTs. AMLD continued to promote sustainable tourism and natural attractions in the region, including new activities such as hiking and bicycling. We held two virtual meetings to develop ecotourism and business plans for the GLT Ecopark.

This process brought together specialists from diverse institutions to aid in elaboration of the plans. Planning began for an Education Center exhibit and to identify potential tourist activities in the Ecopark.



Strategy 3. Strengthen sustainable agriculture on family farms

This strategy aims to empower farm families to earn “forest friendly” income and thus not sell their land to developers. AMLD accomplishes this by providing technical support to family-run tree nurseries that raise and sell native tree seedlings for use in reforestation as well as to local agroforestry initiatives (fruit & vegetable crops planted under forest canopy).



Due to COVID, AMLD's Extension Team was unable to do many in-person events planned for 2020, including a seminar on environmental legislation for agriculturalists, and a modular 8-month course in sustainable agroforestry practices. This year the team revised methods so that most group activities were done one-on-one or individually on their own properties.

The Extension Team did a detailed survey of agroecosystems implemented by landowner partners they have worked with in the past, a total of 50 individuals on 38 family-owned properties including five tree nurseries. Most participants were agriculturalists on small properties in agrarian reform settlements. Results of this diagnostic provided valuable information on program results and how to improve future activities. For example, there was consensus that AMLD's extension activities in sustainable agriculture increased the income of participants and improved their self-esteem.

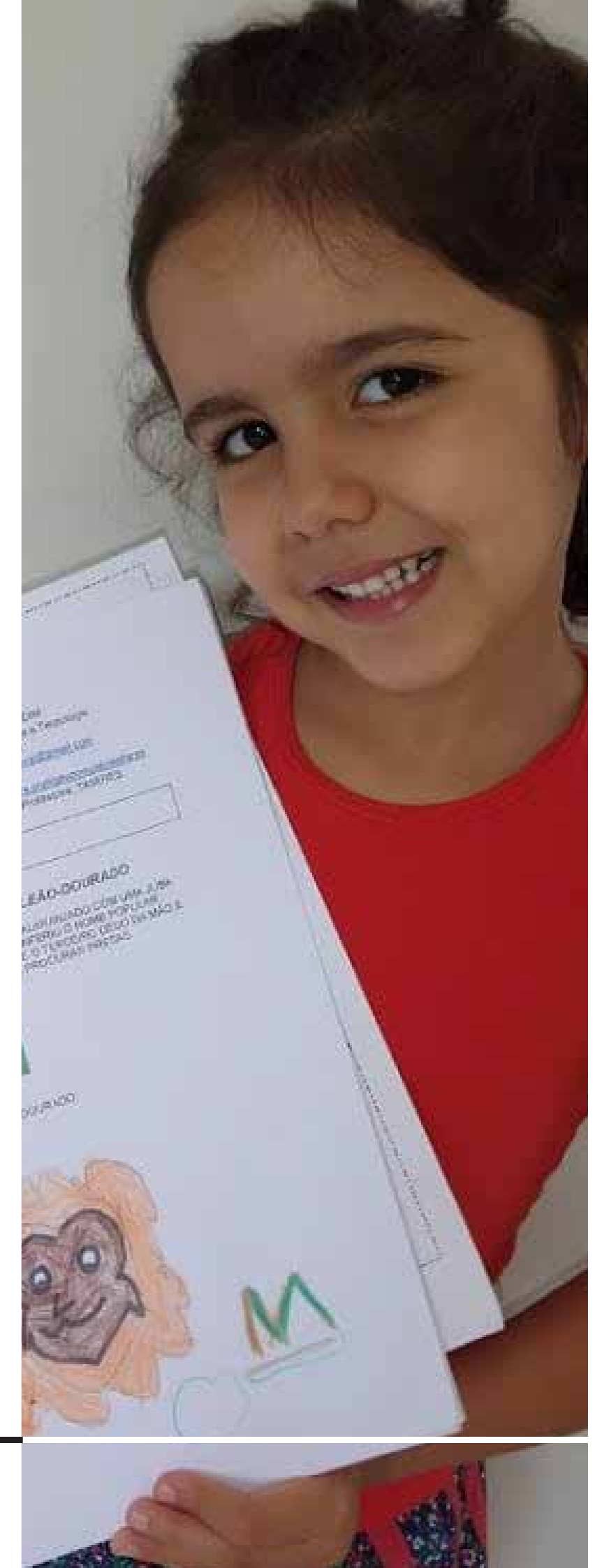
Thirty local farms are selling their produce, 11 were recertified for production of organic produce, and 4 others are in process.

Strategy 5: Environmental education—building awareness and citizenship

This long-term strategy is designed to reduce unplanned urban expansion in priority areas for GLTs, reduce fragmentation of GLT habitat, and increase local public engagement in the restoration and long-term protection of a connected forest landscape. AMLD's Education Team engages and informs people in rural communities where forest conservation and connectivity are priorities for GLT survival. In March, AMLD hosted an event for the Secretary of Civil Defense of Silva Jardim municipality (60 youths). COVID restrictions began later in March and most face-to-face education activities were postponed.

Celebrations on Golden Lion Tamarin Day, August 2, were done virtually via a Facebook Live event, including inauguration of the forested wildlife overpass and planting trees to celebrate winners of an international contest in which kids and adults submitted their drawings of GLTs. The winning art was posted on SGLT's website and AMLD's social media.

The online event drew local attention to the international importance of GLTs and conservation of forest in the region.



STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

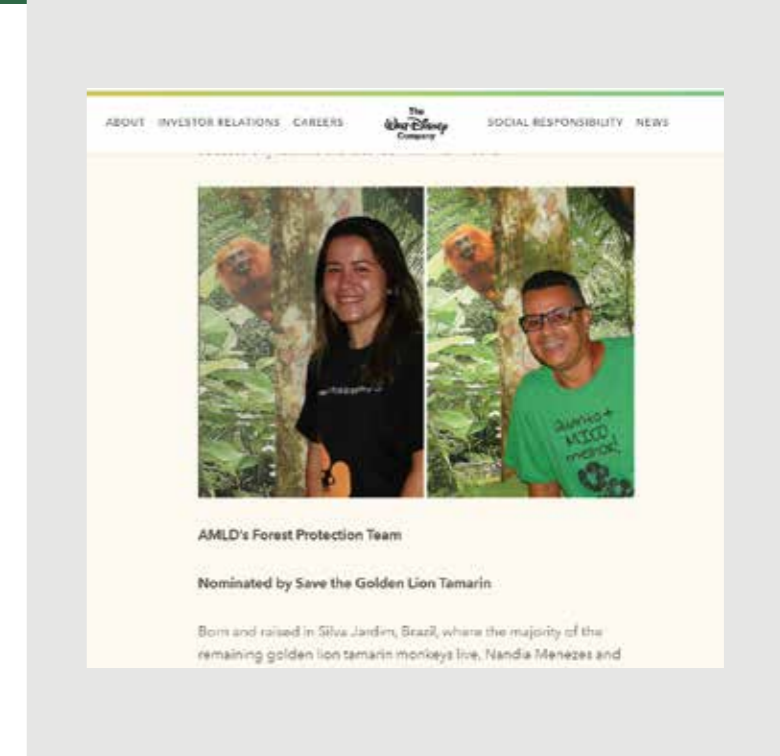
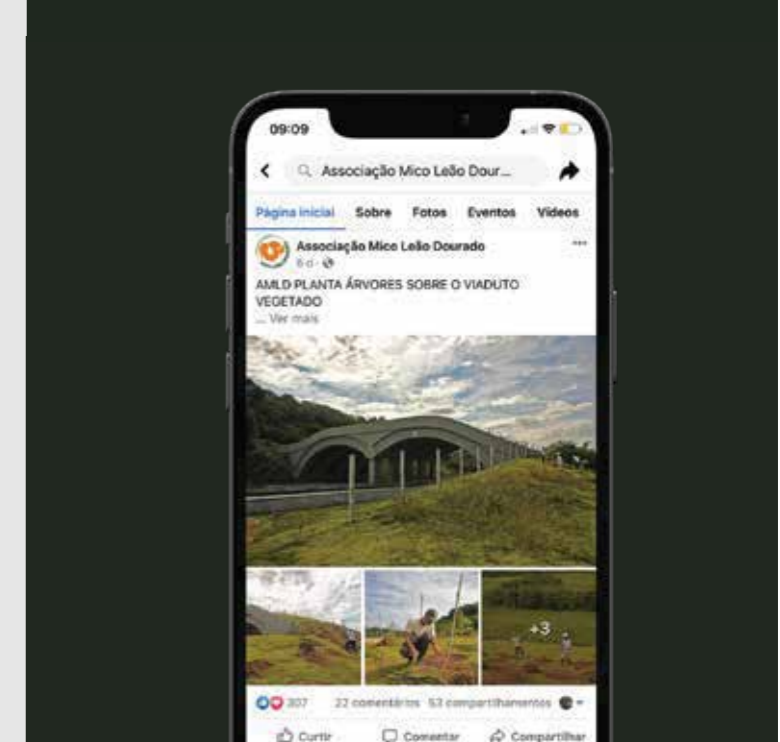
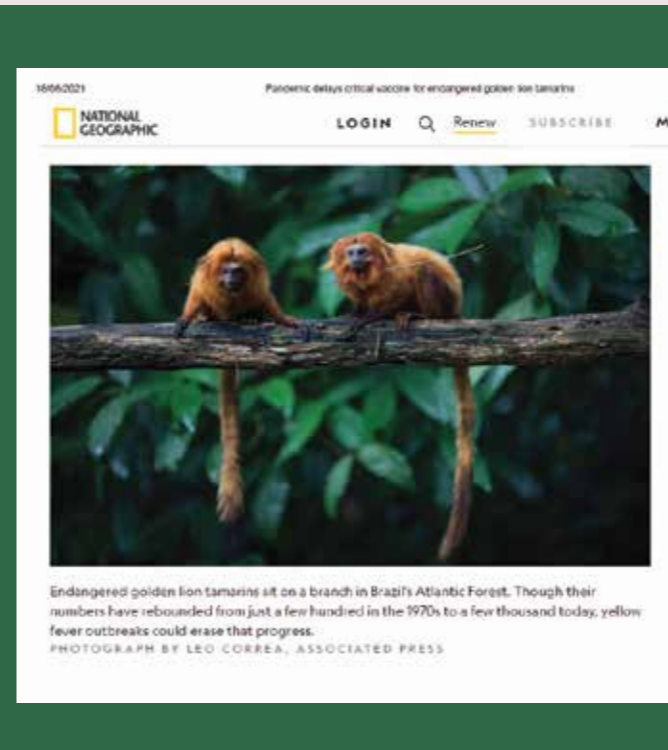
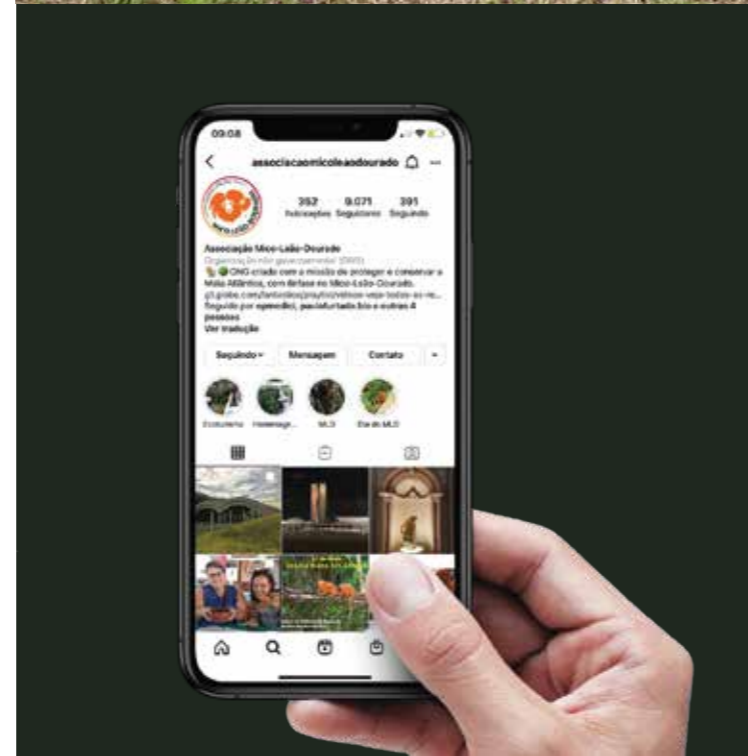
Strategy 8: Communications and marketing

This strategy uses mass media, websites, electronic newsletters, social media, technical publications, conferences, promotional materials, and face-to-face events to reach local, national, and international publics with messages designed to help achieve our strategy objectives and overall goal. AMLD's activities target the Brazilian audience while SGLT targets the English-speaking audience. Although the global pandemic forced cancellation of most in-person events, the rapid growth in online communications and collaboration technology, and AMLD's access to high-speed internet made it possible to reach wide audiences in Brazil and internationally.

AMLD's Facebook had 180 posts, over 25,000 followers and 200,000 views. AMLD produced four videos about the overpass and "Remembrance Forest", and a Facebook Live on Golden Lion Tamarin Day. Reports on AMLD activities were aired on 17 Brazilian websites, eight Brazilian TV shows, and over 100 international reports including a New York Times article and National Geographic documentary film about the BR101 bridge, Associated Press article on reforestation, and a National Geographic Kid's Earth Day edition that starred GLTs. National Geographic also produced a film on GLTs which was featured online at the DC Environmental Film Festival. AMLD planned a monthly event, "GLTs and Art", to invite the local community to enjoy music, art, lectures, plays etc. at the GLT Ecopark. This was cancelled due to COVID.

Reports

Reports on AMLD activities were aired on 17 Brazilian websites, eight Brazilian TV shows, and over 100 international reports including a New York Times article and National Geographic documentary film about the BR101 bridge, Associated Press article on reforestation, and a National Geographic Kid's Earth Day edition that starred GLTs.



Strategy 10: Strengthen AMLD's institutional sustainability

Because GLT habitat is small, fragmented and under pressure for development, the monitoring and protection of the species and its habitat will be necessary for the foreseeable future. With a dedicated and competent local staff and a large number of respected

collaborators, AMLD is the only organization with the necessary commitment and capacity to coordinate the development, implementation, monitoring, and adaptation of a strategic plan to save (and maintain) GLTs from extinction.

The Institutional Sustainability Strategy focuses on building and maintaining AMLD's capacity to coordinate all steps of the adaptive management of this plan.

AMLD took advantage of "COVID down time" to meet virtually to update plans for all strategies. In 2020, AMLD completed renovation of its headquarters: we built a small guard house at the front gate, installed security cameras and contracted full-time guards; renovated headquarters' electric installation and installed solar panels to reduce electric bills; installed high-speed internet via fiber-optic cable; installed air conditioning in all offices; and renovated the homes occupied by headquarters caretakers.



Thank You to Our 2020 Supporters!

Our achievements are a direct result of your support – your generous donations, fundraising and awareness raising, and technical collaboration. We couldn't do it without you!

Major Partners who have made long-term financial and technical contributions:

Copenhagen Zoo
Disney Conservation Fund
DOB Ecology
Brazilian Biodiversity Fund/ ExxonMobil Brasil
EDF Norte Fluminense
Philadelphia Zoo
Smithsonian National Zoo/Friends of the National Zoo
Zoo Atlanta

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Contributors through Save the Golden Lion Tamarin

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Honolulu Zoological Society
Jeremy Mallinson
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GLT Golden Friends (US\$250-\$999)

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Milwaukee County Zoo

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Donors of Photography Equipment and Photos:

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Volunteers who generously donated their service to SGLT in 2020

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SGLT Advisors: Daniel de Moraes, Christine Engels, Kirstin Hill, Sarah Hankerson

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