

About Dourados (Mato Grosso do Sul) and Chapada Diamantina (Bahia)

Dourados is a medium-sized city, with approximately 230,000 inhabitants, in the south of Mato Grosso do Sul, a state in the center-west of Brazil. The city offers a good structure of services, having been considered one of the most wooded cities in Brazil a few years ago. The city has wide streets, with low population density, being an excellent city for those looking for more health, quality of life and tranquility.

Dourados is located about 1 hour by car (110km) from Ponta Porã, on the border with Paraguay (a shopping tourism center), about 3 and a half hours from the capital (230km), Campo Grande (whose metropolitan region has nearly 1 million inhabitants).

And it is still close to the Bonito region and the Pantanal.

Dourados is also considered a university city, with a Federal University (the Federal University of Grande Dourados, <https://www.ufgd.edu.br/>), a State University (the State University of Mato Grosso do Sul), a Federal Institute of Scientific and Technological Education (IFMS) and several private higher education institutions.



Location of Dourados in Brazil



Dourados



View of Campo Grande, capital of Mato Grosso do Sul State

Currently, the Dourados airport is undergoing a renovation and expansion, so that it will be able to receive a greater number of domestic flights (and should reopen in September 2022). For now, the closest airports are the international airports of Ponta Porã and Campo Grande. There is a good supply of buses and vans between Dourados and these cities.



Federal University of Grande Dourados (UFGD)



Bonito



Pantanal

From an environmental point of view, Dourados is located in the ecotone (overlapping or border zone) between two biomes: Cerrado and Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest. And it is close to the Pantanal biome. In this way, it is a region with exuberant nature. At the same time, it is a place where the great agribusiness in Brazil was established and developed. However, it is also a center for the development of Agroecology in Brazil, with relevant initiatives in Agroecology and Agroforestry Systems.



Images from the Ecoagris – a project in environmental Education, urban agroecology and food production in Dourados.

Chapada Diamantina. One of the research fields of the Templeton project is located in the central-north region of Bahia, more precisely in the region of Jacobina, a city of about 80.000 inhabitants, about 330 km from the capital Salvador and about 220 km from Feira de Santana (the second largest city in the state of Bahia). It is a region of great natural beauty, with about 25 waterfalls, located in the Caatinga biome (which in Tupi means White Forest). At the Água Clara Farm, a study point of the Templeton project, Agroforestry Systems are being established and developed, implemented according to the principles of Syntropic Agriculture, developed by Ernst Götsch.



View of Jacobina (Chapada Diamantina, Bahia)



Agroforestry systems in Água Clara Farm (Chapada Diamantina, Bahia)

About the INCT IN-TREE

The acronym INCT IN-TREE refers to the National Institute of Science and Technology in Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies in Ecology and Evolution. It is a research network with 47 laboratories distributed in 31 Brazilian universities, bringing together 240 researchers throughout the country. Abroad, there are 42 members in 35 institutions. The institute aggregates 14 Thematic Projects (PTs) and 5 Integrating Projects (IPs) and its central object is the relationship between science, technology and society, as well as the development of research projects in ecology and evolution. Thematic Project 1 (PT1), Function and Constraint in Ecology and Evolution and the Integrating Project 2 (PI2), Epistemology and Ethics applied to Ecology and Evolution are more directly associated with the present Templeton project, so that the fellow researcher will develop his/her activities in interaction with researchers from these projects and from the INCT as a whole.



The fundamental characteristic of the institute is to carry out investigations from an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach. In the interdisciplinary dimension, the thematic projects integrate, with biology, the areas of physics, computer Science, geology, philosophy of science, history of science, Science education, economics, communication, agricultural sciences, environmental and rural sociology.

On the other hand, studies from a transdisciplinary perspective, in addition to articulating different academic knowledge, also promote the incorporation of other social agents, such as members of traditional, fishing, indigenous, rural and other communities. In this way, the projects enter into interaction and communication with society, which involves collaborative work with non-academic institutions and also basic education schools.

About the project

The project **Toward a Science of Intrinsic Purposiveness: an Organizational Theory of Ecological Functions and its Implications for Ecological Research and Environmental Ethics** has three goals:

- (1) To investigate the individuation of systems with fuzzy and porous boundaries, such as ecological systems, as a requisite for successfully applying the organizational account of ecological functions, for understanding intrinsic purposiveness as generated by closure of constraints, and for providing non-arbitrary criteria for identifying functional groups and traits.
- (2) To investigate whether, from an organizational perspective accounting for the intrinsic purposiveness of ecological systems, a distinction between normal and pathological functioning in organisms can support the ideas of ecosystem health and distress, used to make diagnoses and establish goals in environmental management.
- (3) To investigate whether the organizational account of ecological function can support the ascription of intrinsic value to ecological systems, in accordance with ecocentric ethics and from the perspective of the intrinsic purposiveness of such systems.

The activities of the postdoctoral researcher will be linked to goal 3.