



# **Playing in Nature - the experience of Tupinambá children**

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# Presenter information

- Environmental Psychologist
- Research in children-nature experience
- Professor and researcher in Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz/UESC – Ilhéus/BAHIA – Brazil
- Master and Doctoral supervisor in the Environmental and Development Graduate Program/PRODEMA

# Children-Nature

Biophilia (Wilson, 1985) – attachment to natural world

Psychological development and wellbeing

Place attachment (Chawla, 2006) – sense of belonging to a place

Part of the nature

Childhood – very sensitive period

Urban/Indoors/Sedentary lifestyle – interruption of biophilia – health problems– obesity, cognitive disorders, videophilia

Environmental concern – place attachment to natural environments

# Research

- Tupinambá children's feelings and knowledge about nature – **drawings and interviews**
- Tupinambá children's experience in nature – **observation of school activities (2013-2015)** – 10 schools

137 children age 6 to 14 49,5% Girls/50,5% Boys

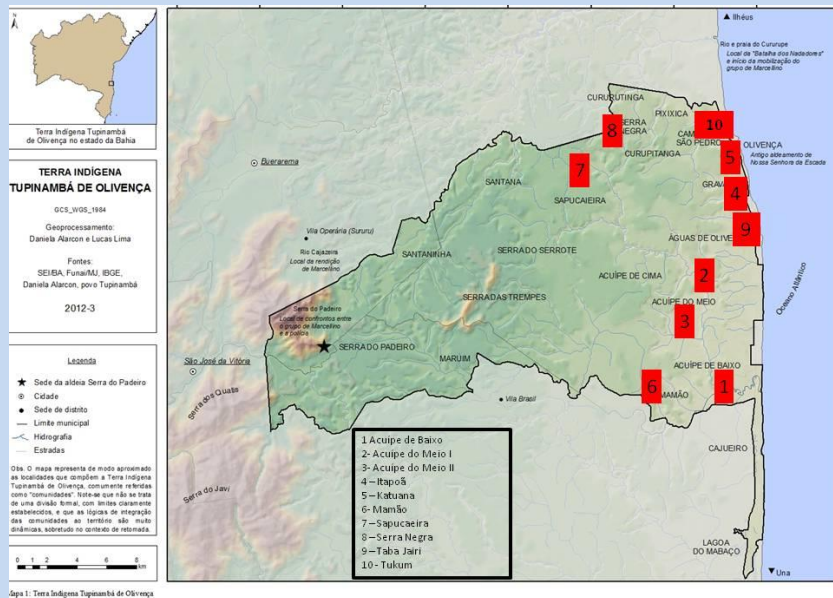
Staff: Supervisor, 05 undergraduate students, 01 master student.

# TUPINAMBÁ LAND

In contact with nos-indians  
from 1500

5000 Tupinambá (2014)

Atlantic Forest Biome





# Tupinambá Schools



# Tupinambá Schools





# Tupinambá Schools





# Tupinambá Schools





# Tupinambá Schools





# Tupinambá Schools/Surroundings





# Tupinambá Schools/Surroundings





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# Tupinambá Schools/Surroundings





# Tupinambá Schools/Surroundings





# Drawings sessions



# Drawings sessions





# Interviews

WHAT'S YOUR FEELING ABOUT NATURE?



# Drawings analysis

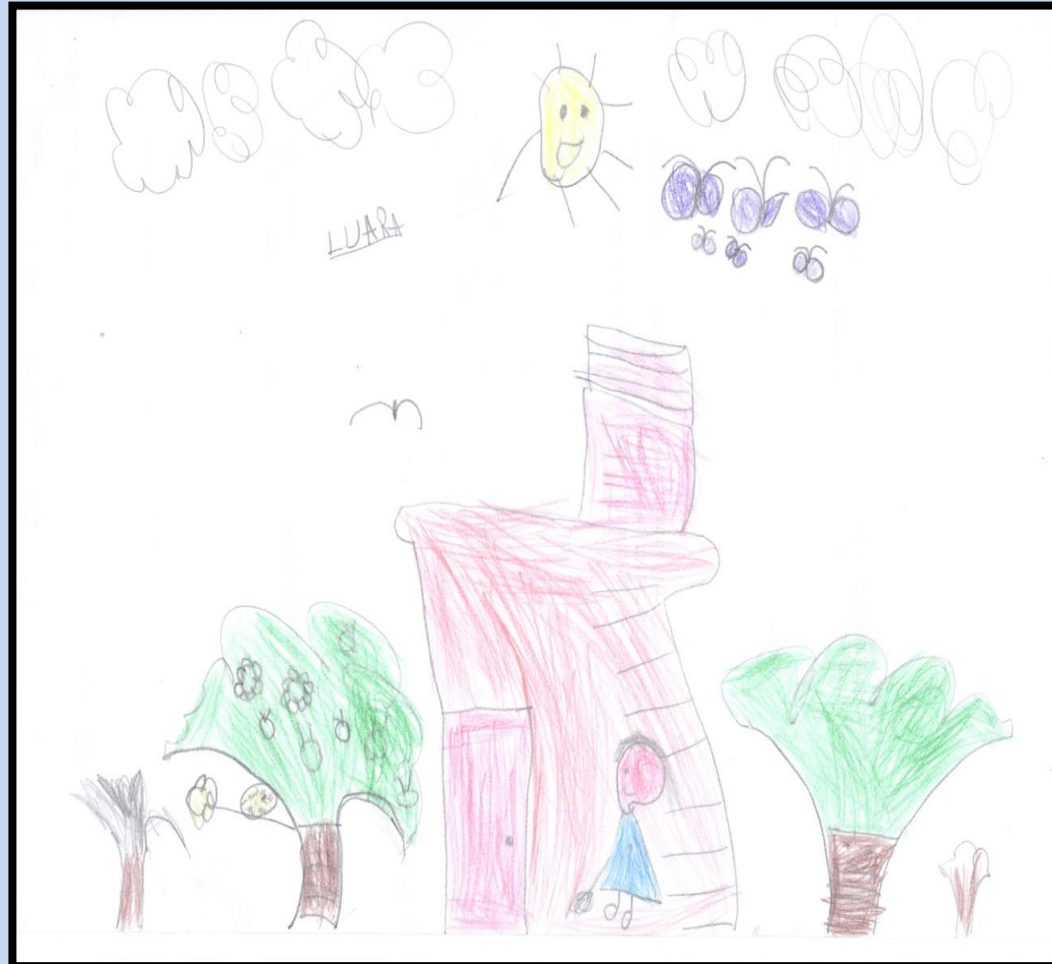
- Not a lot of humans in nature – 24%
- Easy task
- High level of biodiversity
- Ecological and landscape knowledge



## What's your feeling about nature?

*A lot of stuff I don't remember, I like it because it is good to play.*

(Luara. Girl, age 6).



**What's your feeling about nature?**

*I like it because it's cool to play with.*

(Maria Luiza. Girl, age 9).



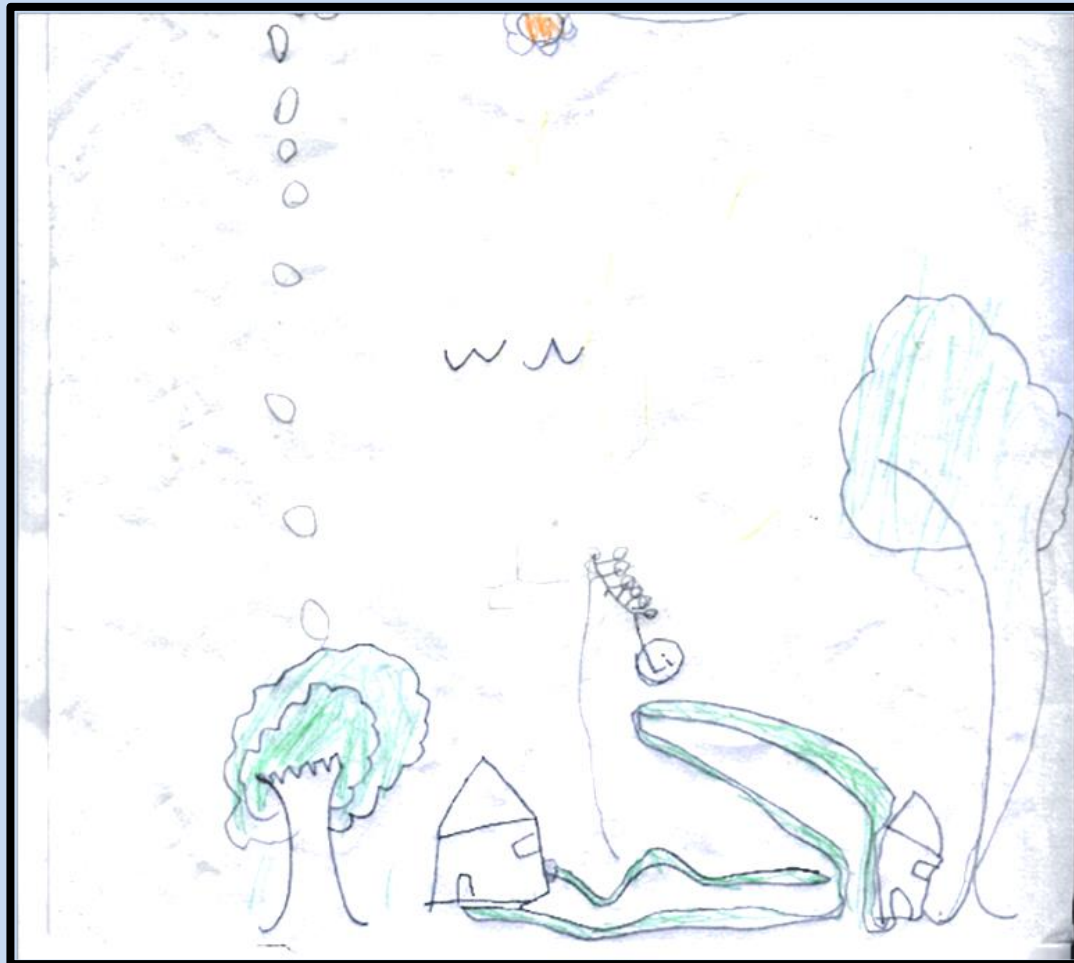


**What is the usefulness of nature?**

*To play, to play ball and to run.*

**How do you think it should be the relationship between humans and nature?**

*Playing, playing ball. (William Max. Boy, age 7).*



## What's your feeling about nature?

There is all for us to do, for us to play, to make all things. I feel good, I like.

## What's good in nature?

Play, study, work, do everything.

(Marco Antonio. Boy, age 11).





## What's good in nature?

*A house, a river, the sun that able us to play, the rain, I like also to fill the tanks, that's it.*

(Rilary. Girl, age 8).



## What's your feeling about nature?

*I feel very happy, because when I'm in town the air is polluted and there is a lot of dirt.*

(Saulo. Boy, age 10).





# FINAL REMARKS

- Tupinambá children have a strong bond with nature and a sense of belonging to the natural world – environmental concern
- Absence of industrial toys which - children need to create their own toys.
- Play in natural spaces is a cultural heritage transmitted between generations as reported by teachers in schools.
- The importance of natural areas for the full child development – improvement of biophilia in nature
- Need to promote **wall less** style of life in urban contexts

# Thank you!



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