
Traditional knowledge matters



The *Araucaria* tree (*Araucaria angustifolia*), a conifer with candelabra shapes, is typical to southern Brazil's landscape. It is critical to ecosystem functioning and the livelihoods of smallholder communities, who hold traditional knowledge of maintaining the forest and preserving cultural and social dynamics. Climate change affects the resilience of the socioecological system, yet little is known about potential losses.

Mario Tagliari from the Municipal College of Education and Environment and colleagues from Brazil measured the socioeconomic impact of the trade of *Araucaria* nut-like seeds and the ethnoecological knowledge about climate change and generated an ecosystem services network. Combining these data with projected forest loss due to climate change quantified the risks of disruption of the socioecological system. The study finds that smallholders contribute to the provisioning of ecosystem services and cultural aspects. While climate change may reduce the *Araucaria* tree's habitat, valuing traditional knowledge, safeguarding the socioecological interactions and promoting conservation measures may protect the Araucaria Forest system.

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