



## **The REGUA Scientific Committee**

### **1. Motivation:**

The motivation for creating a Scientific Committee is to provide cohesion to the scientific research carried out at REGUA on an ongoing basis. The Strategic Research Plan is a starting point for directing research at REGUA in the coming years. However, for this document to be truly useful and for the actions proposed therein to have a chance of becoming effective, the action of a Scientific Committee made up of researchers who are experts in the lines of research carried out at REGUA is essential.

For the members of the scientific committee, researchers from universities and institutes in the state of Rio de Janeiro, the motivation is the potential to expand the scope of their research through collaborations and partnerships. As a result, it is expected that both research centers and projects can become progressively more integrated and collaborative, optimizing the capture and use of resources, as well as obtaining more transdisciplinary results.

### **2. Formation of the Scientific Committee:**

The Scientific Committee was proposed during the REGUA strategic research planning workshop, when members of the working groups were invited to join this committee. Those who volunteered to join the group met online from October 9 to 11, 2024, to discuss and define assignments and work dynamics. These meetings resulted in the rules proposed here, which can be constantly reviewed and updated, just like the strategic plan.

### **3. On the organizational structure of the Scientific Committee:**

#### **3.1. Coordination:**

The Scientific Committee must have at least one coordinator responsible for the following duties:

- i. articulation between REGUA research management and the Scientific Committee;
- ii. internal coordination of the Scientific Committee;
- iii. management of demands raised by both REGUA research management and committee members or interested researchers, with regard to the Scientific Committee's attributions;
- iv. management of the Scientific Committee meetings;

### 3.2. Working Groups:

The Scientific Committee will be organized into three working groups according to the thematic axes of the current strategic planning, which are:

- i. environment and biodiversity;
- ii. environmental restoration;
- iii. socio-biodiversity.

For each working group, a minimum of two members is expected, with no maximum number. Each member of the Scientific Committee may serve on more than one working group.

### **3.3. Members:**

The current formation of the Scientific Committee was formed as a result of the aforementioned meetings and may be periodically reorganized according to the needs and interests of researchers. Thus, the members of the current Scientific Committee are:

Coordination: Luciana Ardenghi Fusinatto (REGUA)

Environment and Biodiversity WG: André Scarambone Zaú (UNIRIO); Erica Maria Pellegrini Caramaschi (UFRJ); Jose Ricardo Miras Mermudes (UFRJ); Julian Nicholas Garcia Willmer (University of Birmingham); Luciano Gomes Fischer (UFRJ); Patricia Luciano Mancini (UFRJ); Pedro Paulo da Silva Ferreira (UFRJ); Timothy Peter Moulton (UERJ)

Environmental Restoration WG: Guilherme Montandon Chaer (Embrapa); and Paulo Sergio dos Santos Leles (UFRRJ)

Sociobiodiversity WG: Iby Montenegro de Silva (PUC-Rio); Jefferson Pereira Caldas dos Santos (FIOCRUZ and UVA); and Nildimar Honorio Rocha (FIOCRUZ)

Other REGUA researchers are openly invited to join the committee whenever they are interested and available. Both the departure and entry of new members may occur on an ongoing basis, depending on the interest of the researchers.

### **4. Forms of Collaboration:**

The REGUA Scientific Committee has an advisory role and can collaborate with the management of scientific research on the following topics:

a) Evaluation of research projects: Issuing opinions on research projects with regard to: recording of information and collection of biological material; compliance with ethical conduct and authorizations from competent bodies; suitability with REGUA's activities; adherence to the goals of the strategic research plan.

- b) Monitoring of projects and research: Collaboration with research data management. Updating and monitoring of data transfer terms, research data spreadsheets, deadlines for data provision, and data use requests. Committee members can evaluate the progress of research at REGUA annually through reports or scientific meetings.
- c) Articulation of collaborations and partnerships between researchers and/or institutions (e.g. Technical Cooperation Agreements). Encouragement of research within the goals of the strategic plan.
- d) Collaboration with REGUA in projects to raise funds, both in the form of direct partnerships for scientific research and technical assistance for projects involving other types of actions such as environmental restoration, infrastructure, environmental education, scientific tourism, citizen science, among others.
- e) Proposal of new research projects, which may attract financial resources and promote integrated data analyses.
- f) Promotion of integration between research and extension activities, using, among other means, dialogue with the REGUA environmental education team.
- g) Monitoring of goals and updating of the strategic research plan, which must be reviewed every five years.

## **5. Work Dynamics:**

Communication between research management and the scientific committee will take place mostly online, on an ongoing basis, according to demand.

The committee coordination will manage the agendas and facilitate communication between members and management.

At least one annual meeting of the scientific committee must be scheduled online or in person, depending on the group's availability and resources.

## **6. Final Provisions:**

The participation of members of the scientific committee is voluntary and must respect their personal needs and time availability. REGUA encourages the participation of researchers because it believes that this partnership can bring better returns both for science and for its actions to conserve the Atlantic Forest. REGUA also makes itself available as a partner to researchers to facilitate the execution of projects and raise funds for scientific research.