



UFMS researchers visit India for future partnerships in conservation projects

Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS) in India

In March 2020, teachers from the Post-Graduation in Ecology (PPGEC) from UFMS were in Tamil Nadu, state in South India, to strengthen research relationships with Indian colleagues. Since 2018, Professor Fabio Roque, from Graduate Program in Ecology develops research in partnership with Dr. Sundar Shunmuga Velayutham, researcher at S.S. Research Foundation - non-profit organization that focuses on multidisciplinary research activities and education to engage and influence strategies and practices in the conservation and management of natural resources, sustainable development in a social way.

Recently, an article on conservation biodiversity of water macroinvertebrates sweet in tropical regions was published in *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, international magazine dedicated to publishing of original documents that relate specifically with freshwater, brackish or marine habitats. “The relationship with Dr. Sundar was so fruitful that we decided to expand our work in the context of the Capes-PrInt Program” reports Fabio Roque. Accordingly, Professor Rudi Laps adds that “India and Brazil have many challenges in terms of development and conservation of biodiversity. Certainly our international relationship can be useful for solving practical problems”, he concludes.

This invader from Brazil is a major problem in India's parks, due to the high production of flammable dry matter. According to teachers Roque and Laps, the control of this species is one of the possible themes of future partnership. Together with Indian researchers, UFMS professors visited different ecosystems and protected areas to mature new projects. “We are very interested in interactions with UFMS. These meetings were the first steps of long-term agreements”, explains the senior researcher at the S.S. Research Foundation, Dr. Gunasekaran Mariappan, who works with traditional Indian communities. Dr. Sundar Shunmuga Velayutham further reinforces that “exchanges of experiences involve more than research, they involve cultural and knowledge, enriching for all of us”, concludes.



Biodiversity Study Center in India (Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu)