

Conservation Mission

The government of Conservation Island has decided to set aside some of its land for conservation. There are a number of species on the island, including the Gatundi, the Macamarelo, and the Ursolito, that are seriously threatened by habitat loss and hunting. In order to protect these animals and the ecosystems they live in, the government has hired you to design a conservation plan.

Here are the rules....

- 1) You can protect up to 800 square kilometers of land from human alteration. You can protect one large parcel of land or multiple smaller parcels.
- 2) Your first priority is to provide safe lands for these three animals. To do this, you must consider...
 - diet
 - range
 - habitat
 - threats
- 3) You must also prioritize the needs of the people of Conservation Island. To do this, you must consider...
 - cities
 - tribal lands
 - agriculture areas

Conservation Island History

Conservation Island is an island nation in the Atlantic Ocean off the northeastern coast of Brazil. It is home to three endangered species of animals, the Macamarelo, Ursolito, and Gatundi.

GEOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

Approximately 10 million years ago, Conservation Island broke away from the mainland of South America. At 5900 square miles, Conservation Island is slightly larger than Jamaica (4411 square miles). Along the northeast coast, the mountains lead down from primary rainforest to secondary rainforest along the river system. On the west coast of the island there is another river that runs down a steep slope from the mountains in the north. This area is also primary forest, although the southern edge has been turned into secondary rainforest.

The highest mountain on the island is 3200 ft tall and is located at the northern end of the island. This mountain provides a natural barrier between the northwestern and northeastern sides of the island.

Although Conservation Island is in the tropics, there are two distinct seasons: a hot, rainy season from November to April, and a cooler, dry season from May to October. The island occasionally experiences hurricanes.

HUMAN HISTORY

The island was first inhabited by native South American Indians. These tribal people used the forest and ocean resources for food, house building materials, and other survival needs. When Portuguese colonists arrived from Brazil they brought modern agriculture and industry. Chief crops are rice, coffee, sugar, cashews, and livestock. Chief industry includes textiles, paper, and furniture making. The farming and industrial activity quickly grew to overtake some of the forest on the island. Primary forest, the original forest that has never been cut down, has been impacted by logging for paper and furniture making. It is being changed to secondary forest by regrowing or turned into farmland. The current population is 1.5 million people. As the population increases, the resources on the island are becoming more limited.

Today the Indian tribes have been forced from some of their traditional lands but continue to use the forest resources. Their traditional way of life is being threatened due to farmland and industrial expansion. There are frequent conflicts between loggers, farmers, and Indians due to trespassing on tribal lands.