JNT FACIT BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL
ISSN: 2526-4281 - ANO 2026 - MÊS DE MAIO
Ed. 74. Vol. 1 - Págs. 424-433
DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.20215732

CAPES

CNPq
Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico

QUALIS A2

ASSESSMENT OF THE RESCUE AND RELEASE OF WILD ANIMALS AT THE CETAS DE MONTES CLAROS[1]

Stefany Soares PEREIRA
Faculdades Unidas do Norte de Minas (FUNORTE)
E-mail: stefany.pereira@soufunorte.com.br
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0000-7536-7243

Gabriela Oliveira NASCIMENTO
Faculdades Unidas do Norte de Minas (FUNORTE)
E-mail: vet.gabrielaoliveira@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0005-5783-270X

Daniel Ananias de Assis PIRES
Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros (UNIMONTES)
E-mail: piresda@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0000-0001-8154-6774

Renê Ferreira COSTA
Programa de Pós-graduação em Zootecnia Unificado
E-mail: renecostave@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0008-3134-905X

Otaviano de Souza PIRES-NETO
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)
Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros (UNIMONTES)
E-mail: otaviano.net@funorte.edu.br
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1159-4559

Maria Dulcineia da COSTA
Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros (UNIMONTES)
E-mail: maria.costa@unimontes.br
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6773-5982

Pedro Henrique Alves de OLIVEIRA
Programa de Pós-graduação em Zootecnia Unificado
E-mail: p213109@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1711-3779

Hávilla Lopes PEREIRA
Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros (UNIMONTES)
E-mail: havillalp@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0000-5813-2215

Max Farias NOGUEIRA
Faculdades Unidas do Norte de Minas (FUNORTE)

[1] COMO CITAR: (ABNT): PEREIRA, S. F.; NASCIMENTO, G. O.; PIRES, D. A. A.; COSTA, R.F.; PIRES-NETO, O. S.; COSTA, M. D.; OLIVEIRA, P. H. A.; PEREIRA, H. L.; NOGUEIRA, M. F.; TÓFANI, G. L.; GUSMÃO, E. M.; LIMA, M. F. M.; COSTA, A. S.; OLIVEIRA, S. P.; DURÃES, M. F.; SILVA, M. P.; MOURA, M. M. A.. Assessment of The Rescue and Release of Wild Animals at The Cetas de Montes Claros. **JNT Facit Business and Technology Journal.** Qualis A2. ISSN: 2526-4281, Mês de Maio de 2026 - Ed. 74. VOL. 01. Págs. 424-433. Disponível: http://revistas.faculdadefacit.edu.br. Acesso em: ___/___/___.

E-mail: maxfarias201@yahoo.com.br
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0008-6240-1914

Geovanna Leão TÓFANI
Faculdades Unidas do Norte de Minas (FUNORTE)
E-mail: geovannaa.tofaniii1@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0003-0585-6289

Emerson Márcio GUSMÃO
Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros (UNIMONTES)
E-mail: Emerson.gusma@unimontes.br
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0009-8918-2974

Maria Fernanda da Mota LIMA
Faculdades Unidas do Norte de Minas (FUNORTE)
E-mail: motamariafernanda8@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/ 0009-0005-3830-352X

Andreza Silva COSTA
Faculdades Unidas do Norte de Minas (FUNORTE)
E-mail: Silvacostaandreza067@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0009-7568-2919

Stephanie Pedrosa de OLIVEIRA
Programa de Pós-graduação em Zootecnia Unificado
E-mail: stephanie_pedrosa_92@hotmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6763-8496

Milene Faustino DURÃES
Faculdades Unidas do Norte de Minas (FUNORTE)
E-mail: mileneduraes@hotmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/ 0009-0002-9309-4845

Matheus Pereira da SILVA
Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros (UNIMONTES)
E-mail: matheuspereiragrohorse@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0009-0000-8158-210X

Marielly Maria Almeida MOURA
Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros (UNIMONTES)
E-mail: maryszootecnia@gmail.com
ORCID: http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8241-9918

ABSTRACT

Conservation biology is a field of knowledge developed in response to the current biodiversity crisis. This science is based on strategies and actions aimed at preserving species, with the goal of preventing their extinction and promoting their reintegration into natural ecosystems. In this context, institutions dedicated to sheltering wild animals removed from their natural habitats have emerged, whether due to illegal activities such as trafficking, trade, and hunting, or as a result of accidents. This study

aimed to evaluate the methods of rescuing and releasing wild animals. To this end, data regarding the number of species rescued, as well as the animals' condition (healthy or injured), sex, age, and species diversity were analyzed. The different ways these animals entered the system were also considered, including seizures by authorities, institutional referrals, and voluntary surrenders, as well as their final destination, especially their return to the wild through release processes conducted by the institution. The results show that, despite the high number of animals received, a significant portion managed to return to their natural environment. Therefore, it can be concluded that the rehabilitation and release methods employed proved to be efficient. However, it is important to highlight the need for greater encouragement of research that further evaluates these processes, contributing to the improvement of species management and conservation techniques, as well as to the expansion of the dissemination of updated data.

Keywords: Wildlife. Species. Capture. Rehabilitation. Return.

INTRODUCTION

According to the Ministry of the Environment (2023), Brazil holds the largest biodiversity heritage in the world. In this sense, according to the Government of Minas Gerais, there are records of 780 species of birds, 190 species of non-aquatic mammals, 200 species of amphibians, and 120 reptiles belonging to our state.

According to Article 225, §1, item VII of the Federal Constitution: "It is the responsibility of the Public Authorities to protect the fauna and flora, prohibiting, as provided by law, practices that endanger their ecological function, cause the extinction of species, or subject animals to cruelty." This provision reinforces the collective and public nature of Brazilian fauna and establishes the legal basis for conservation and rehabilitation actions carried out by the State and associated institutions.Moreira (2021) considers the creation of institutions, such as Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers (CRAS), Wildlife Screening and Rehabilitation Centers (CETRAS), and Wildlife Screening Centers (CETAS), as a response to the destination of animals seized from trafficking, continuing the protection process.

These units are responsible for receiving wild animals that have been referred through seizure, rescue, or surrender. The rescue of wild animals consists of the specialized action of capture or collection by competent authorities. Once inside the centers, these individuals will receive identification and marking. During the screening process, they will undergo evaluation, recovery, and rehabilitation, if

necessary, and finally, destination. This last step may involve returning to nature, referral to keepers, and even euthanasia, as a last resort (Souza, 2022; Amaral et al, 2015).

According to (Vilela, 2023), the screening and rehabilitation process for release is based on a five-step process: identification, clinical assessment, physical assessment, behavioral assessment, and rehabilitation. Specimen identification must be done immediately upon arrival, as it is necessary for returning the animal to its original habitat. The animal's clinical assessment consists of analyses and health exams that seek to evaluate the animal's well-being in captivity and as a form of protection for where the animal will possibly be placed.

In the physical assessment, it is determined whether the animal will return to the wild, evaluating anatomical integrity, functional capacity, and training programs if the animal needs them. Behavioral assessment is done through observation, which will evaluate whether the animal is showing signs of self-mutilation or stereotypies, which are seen as signs of stress. The last step is the reintroduction of animals that have passed the previous stages of the program and are already seen as fit to return to the environment, requiring only physical and/or behavioral improvement (Vilela, 2023). Considering the challenges faced by wildlife in the region, this study aims to critically evaluate the results achieved by CETAS in Montes Claros.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted with the purpose of evaluating the methods of rescuing and releasing wild animals, of a retrospective and descriptive nature, in which data relating to the release of wild animals carried out by the Wildlife Screening Center (Cetas) located in Montes Claros – Minas Gerais were analyzed. This body is part of the jurisdiction of IBAMA, responsible for wild specimens in the state, working together with other bodies, such as the environmental police, which also participate in the seizure of animals.

These data made it possible to describe the rescue and release of wild animals recorded in the period from 2020 to 2025, through monthly and annual data computerized by the SISEMA indicator panel website (State System of Environment and Water Resources), which is a tool of SEMAD (State Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development) used to monitor statistical data on the environment. These data were organized into tables and graphs, containing information from the last 5 years. Among the data evaluated are the numbers of rescued species, as well as healthy and injured animals, males and females, of varying ages and species, seized

by the authorities and the institution or through voluntary surrender, as well as their destination, whether released into the wild by the institution or sent to institutions that promote conservation and environmental education.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Decree No. 47,383, of March 2, 2018, Article 97 establishes criteria for the destination of wild animals that are seized. Summary release into a natural habitat will occur after evaluation and certification by a specialized technician present at the institution. Also according to the decree, when the following are observed in these specimens: I. evidence of recent capture; II. local species; III. species free from problems that hinder adaptation or survival; IV. species free from alterations in morphology or diseases that impede adaptation to life in the wild, this release will occur after a rehabilitation process.

Normative Instruction No. 5, of May 13, 2021, clarifies the destination processes, with rapid destination being the action carried out after evaluation by technicians, and which, from then on, does not require the intervention and maintenance of the Cetas, and must be carried out within 72 hours after seizure. Subsequent relocation is determined through actions planned and implemented after rehabilitation strategies have been carried out, such as experimental releases and population revitalization in locations where individuals of the same species are present, following experiments and research.

According to data expressed in the graph with the data on animal arrivals from 2020 to 2021, there was a significant increase of 36.67% in the number of animals that arrived at the institution (Graph 1).

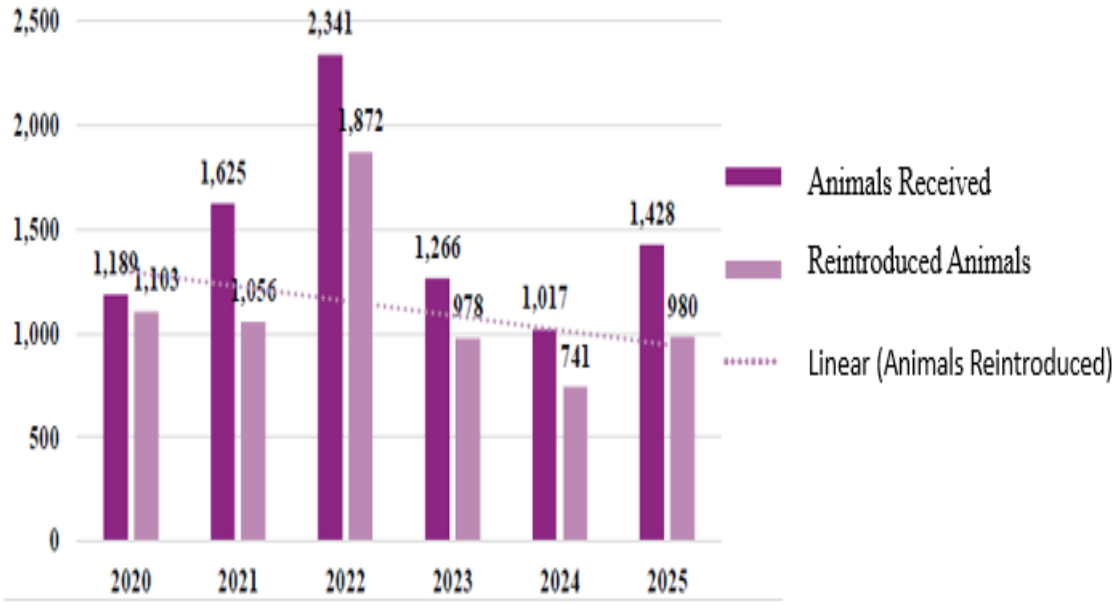
Chart 1. Chart showing the number of animals received in 2020 and 2025.

As for releases, the number of reintroduced animals was approximately 4.26% lower in 2021. The numbers for the years 2022 indicate that approximately 2,341 animals arrived at the institution, compared to 2023, when the number was 1,266. Thus, a decrease of 45.9% in these numbers is observed.

Regarding the reintroduction process, the data reveals a 47.7% reduction in the values related to the release of animals. As the graph shows, from 2024 to 2025, there was an abrupt increase of approximately 40.5% in the number of specimens that arrived at the institution. Regarding the number of releases, there was an increase of approximately 32.3%.

The sum of the total data related to the activity of Cetas - Montes Claros, according to SISEMA, shows that, of the animals that entered the institution, approximately 75% of the animals were released back into nature, and 24% of them remained at the institution.

Chart 1: Receiptsx Releases of wild animals per year by Cetas Montes Claros.

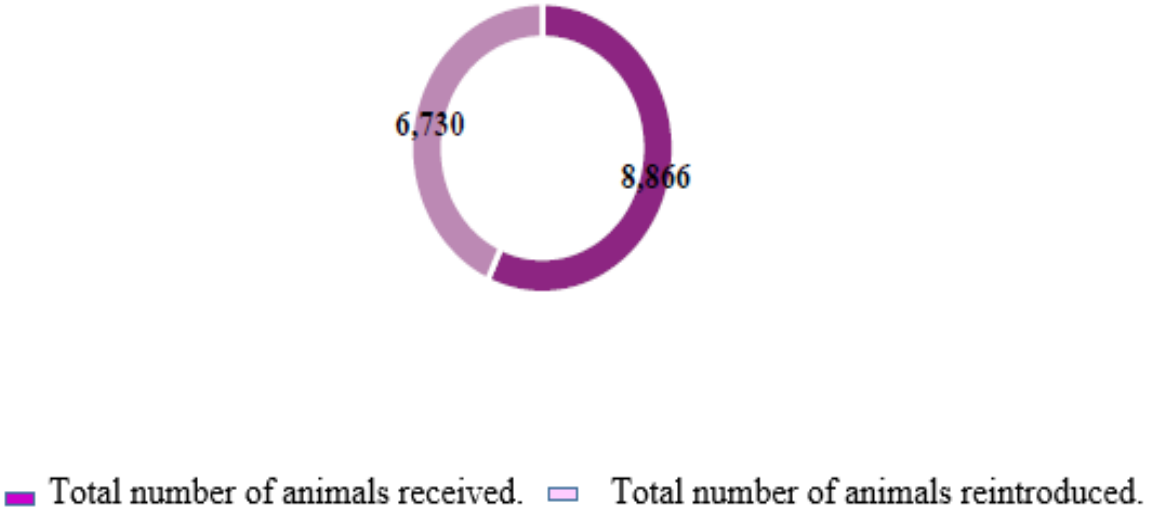


Source: Cetas/Cetras-Montes Claros database. Sisema indicator panel.

According to data shown in the graph comparing animal arrivals from 2020 to 2021, there was a significant increase of 36.67% in the number of animals arriving at the institution. Regarding releases, the number of reintroduced animals was approximately 4.26% lower in 2021. The figures for 2022 indicate that approximately 2,341 animals arrived at the institution, compared to 1,266 in 2023. Thus, a decrease of 45.9% is observed in these numbers.

Regarding the reintroduction process, the data reveals a 47.7% reduction in the number of animals released. As the graph shows, from 2024 to 2025, there was an abrupt increase of approximately 40.5% in the number of specimens that arrived at the institution. As for the number of releases, there was an increase of approximately 32.3%.The sum of the total data related to the activity of Cetas - Montes Claros, according to SISEMA, shows that, of the animals that entered the institution, approximately 75% of the animals were released back into the wild, and 24% of them remained at the institution.

Graph 2: Sum of data from the last 5 years (2020-2025) relating to Montes Claros.



Source: Cetas/Cetras-Montes Claros database. Sisema indicator panel.

The Minas Gerais State Forestry Institute (IEF) in 2020 presented data on the entry of animals into the Cetas located in Belo Horizonte, Juiz de Fora, Montes Claros and Patos de Minas for the months of January to July, which already had 1,915 specimens, with an average of 9 receipts per day due to seizures from improper custody.

The findings are in agreement with (Oliveira, 2025; Kamino; Carmo; Costa, 2020) which states that, in 2020, Minas Gerais was listed with the highest rates of wildlife trafficking in the country, mainly in relation to birds, which lead 98% of these rates, in relation to other species, such as mammals which constitute 0.9%, and reptiles 1.2%. In addition, the fact that the state borders Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo leads to its inclusion in the main existing trafficking routes in the country.

According to research conducted by IBAMA, from 2020 to June 2025, approximately 3 out of every 4 animals were returned to nature. The numbers were collected from the 25 CETAS units spread across the country, with 75% of the animals being reintroduced, 5% destined for breeding facilities, 3% still undergoing rehabilitation, 1% returned to their guardians by court order, and 16% dying during the rehabilitation process, not reaching the release phase.

According to these IBAMA data, in the months of January to June of this year alone, more than 13,000 specimens were released, representing 46% of the number of animals that entered the institution. Regarding the origin of these animals, 48% are from seizures related to trafficking.

In turn, in October 2025, the operation entitled Libertas was carried out, which had as its main objective the trafficking of animals in 84 hotspots across the country. In Minas Gerais, the municipalities of Montes Claros, Almenara, Betim, Divinópolis, Juiz de Fora, São Miguel da Anta, Rio Pomba, Cataguases, and Desterro de Melo accounted for 39 of these targets. According to the Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Minas Gerais (MPMG), this operation was carried out in conjunction with the coordination of state inspection agencies and environmental police, resulting in the rescue of 337 animals: 313 birds, 16 reptiles, and 8 mammals.

Given these data, reintegration into the natural habitat brings several advantages, in addition to being necessary for both the animals and the Brazilian fauna. In this sense, Vilela; Lopes (2023), Lo (2014), (Ribon et al, 2003) already highlighted some important points that are still taken into account in Currently, this includes population reinforcement for those most affected by illegal trade, contributing to the permanence and recovery of these specimens in the area. Another important point concerns the animals that contribute to ecological processes, such as species that control pests, seed dispersers, and pollinators. Therefore, the removal of these individuals can compromise the balance of the ecosystem.

Furthermore, attention is drawn to public and private institutions and bodies regarding debates about the problems related to trafficking and its consequences. When addressing issues related to trafficking, the report from the National Network to Combat Wildlife Trafficking (RENCTAS) is still the main database, but the absence of current data may generate discrepancies regarding the increase in the number of animals removed from Brazilian territory, since the report was published in 2001. (Oliveira, 2025). Vilela and Lopes (2023) further state that it is necessary to encourage the development of projects and research to improve future reintroductions to nature, as well as the monitoring of local fauna and flora, aiming at the conservation of biodiversity through the recovery and enrichment of habitats. The synergistic effect of these factors provides higher release rates, as well as experiences and data that can be improved by future programs.

CONCLUSION

It is essential to increase investments in scientific research, as well as to strengthen and consolidate public policies aimed at environmental conservation and monitoring, in order to improve the protection of biodiversity and optimize strategies for the management and preservation of species.

REFERENCES

AMARAL, A.; MALTA, D.; LIBÓRIO, F. **Curso de manejo imediato de animais silvestres em atividades fiscalizatórias**. Salvador, jul. 2015. Disponível em: https://www.mpba.mp.br/sites/default/files/biblioteca/meio-ambiente/eventos/eventos-realizados/2015/curso_de_manejo_de_fauna/apostila_fpi_-_final.pdf. Acesso em: mar. 2025.

BRASIL. [Constituição (1988)]. **Constituição da República Federativa do Brasil de 1988**. Art. 225, § 1º, inciso VII. Disponível em: https://www.jusbrasil.com.br/topicos/10645357/inciso-vii-do-paragrafo-1-do-artigo-225-da-constituicao-federal-de-1988. Acesso em: 5 maio 2026.

BRASIL. Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (IBAMA). **Instrução Normativa nº 5, de 13 de maio de 2021**. Disponível em: https://www.ibama.gov.br/component/legislacao/?view=legislacao&legislacao=139089. Acesso em: 30 mar. 2025.

INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DO MEIO AMBIENTE E DOS RECURSOS NATURAIS RENOVÁVEIS (IBAMA). **3 em cada 4 animais silvestres voltaram à natureza após reabilitação no Ibama**. 2025. Disponível em: https://www.gov.br/ibama/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2025/3-em-cada-4-animais-silvestres-voltaram-a-natureza-apos-reabilitacao-no-ibama. Acesso em: 6 nov. 2025.

INSTITUTO ESTADUAL DE FLORESTAS (MG). **IEF alerta para riscos do tráfico de animais silvestres em Minas**. Belo Horizonte, 2020. Disponível em: http://www.ief.mg.gov.br/noticias/3143%20ief-alerta-para-riscos-do-trafico-de-animais-silvestres-em-minas. Acesso em: out. 2025.

KAMINO, Luciana; CARMO, Flávio; COSTA, Lilian. **O comércio ilegal de fauna em Minas Gerais**: as 15 espécies de aves mais traficadas no estado – conhecer para preservar. 2020. Disponível em: https://institutopristino.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/O-com%C3%A9rcio-ilegal-de-fauna-WEB.pdf. Acesso em: out. 2025.

LO, Vincent. Desafios e perspectivas para a soltura de aves pelos CETAS no Brasil. **Veterinária e Zootecnia**, 2014, p. 56–66. Disponível em: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373320895_Desafios_e_perspectivas_para_a_soltura_de_aves_pelos_CETAS_no_Brasil. Acesso em: 28 set. 2025.

MINISTÉRIO DO MEIO AMBIENTE (BRASIL). **Biodiversidade e biomas**. Disponível em: https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/biodiversidade-e-biomas. Acesso em: 6 abr. 2025.

OLIVEIRA, Nathan Gonçalves de; HAYASHI, Carmino; IMPERADOR, Adriana Maria; PELLI, Afonso. **Tráfico de animais silvestres no estado de Minas Gerais**: legislação e impactos socioambientais. Alfenas: Universidade Federal de Alfenas, 2025. Disponível em: https://repositorio.unifal-mg.edu.br/items/0b47632b-77c1-4737-a85d-6b6f9ab91452. Acesso em: 7 nov. 2025.

RENCTAS (Rede Nacional de Combate ao Tráfico de Animais Silvestres). **1º Relatório Nacional sobre o Tráfico de Fauna Silvestre**. 2001. Disponível em:

https://renctas.org.br/1-relatorio-nacional-sobre-o-trafico-da-fauna-silvestre/. Acesso em: 7 nov. 2025.

RIBON, R.; SIMON, J. E.; THEODORO DE MATTOS, G. Extinções de aves em fragmentos de Mata Atlântica da região de Viçosa, sudeste do Brasil. **Conservation Biology**, v. 17, p. 1827-1839, 2003. Disponível em: https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1523-1739.2003.00377.x. Acesso em: 7 nov. 2025.

SOUZA, Priscila Ellen da Silva. **Avaliação dos testudines que chegam ao CETRAS 237 Tangara em Pernambuco**. 2022. Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso (Graduação) – Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco, Recife, 2022. Disponível em: https://repository.ufrpe.br/handle/123456789/4797. Acesso em: 5 maio 2026.

VILELA, Daniel; LOPES, Alice. **Destinação de animais silvestres**: a reintrodução como melhor alternativa. 2023. p. 68–84. Disponível em: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373292563_Destinacao_de_animais_silvestres_a_reintroducao_como_melhor_alternativa. Acesso em: 5 maio 2026.