



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STATE PARTY

Brazil

STATE, PROVINCE, OR REGION

State of Minas Gerais

NAME OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park

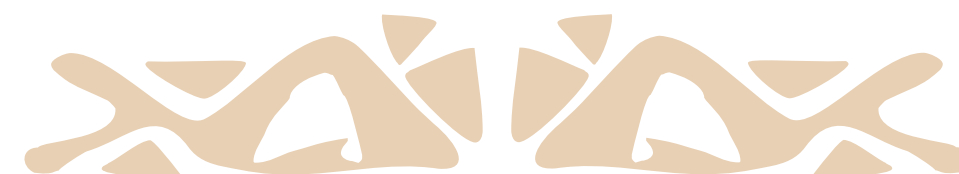
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES TO THE NEAREST SECOND

14°54' and 15°15' S

44°03' and 44°22' W

TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARY OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY

The Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park, a proposed site for World Heritage, has the following boundaries described based on orthophotoplanimetric maps at a scale of 1:10,000 numbers 213385, 213396, 213387, 213388, 213395, 213396, 213397, 213398, 217804, 217805, 217806, 217807, 217813, 217914, 217815, 217816, 217817, 217824, 217825, 217826, 217835, 217836, 217837, 217838, 217846, 217847, 217856, and 217857, produced in 1991 by Geonex for the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform - INCRA and the Rural Mineira Foundation for Colonization and Agrarian Development - RURALMINAS, and on the topographic maps of the São Francisco Valley, at a scale of 1:50,000, produced by Cruzeiro do Sul Aerophotogrammetric Services for SUVALE, in 1968, numbers SD.23-Z-C-II-1 (MI 2178-1), SD.23-Z-C-II-2 (MI 2178-2), SD.23-Z-C-II-3 (MI 2178-3), and SD.23-Z-C-II-4 (MI 2178-4): it begins on the bank of the São Francisco River, at the point of approximate plane coordinates (a.p.c.) 592046 E and 8312660 N (point 1); from this point, it proceeds in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 591929 E and 8312756 N (point 2), 591931 E and 8313897 N (point 3), 592017 E and 8315143 N (point 4), 591966 E and 8315365 N (point 5), 591062 E and 8314835 N (point 6), 590404 E and 8315046 N (point 7), 590338 E and 8314265 N (point 8), 587911 E and 8312789 N (point 9), 586001 E and 8313038 N (point 10), 584763 E and 8314416 N (point 11), 584735 E and 8315410 N (point 12), and reaching the point of a.p.c. 583985 E and 8315552 N, situated on the thalweg of a small tributary on the left bank of the Mocambo stream (point 13); from there, it continues contouring the base of the Serra da Mãe Joana, in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 584020 E and 8315062 N (point 14), 583763 E and 8314993 N (point 15), 583780 E and 8314248 N (point 16), 583308 E and 8313916 N (point 17), 583506 E and 8313573 N (point 18), 583405 E and 8312871 N (point 19), 583150 E and 8312631 N (point 20), 582755 E and 8312385 N (point 21), 582317 E and 8312726 N (point 22), 581825 E and 8312981 N (point 23), 581491 E and 8313433 N (point 24), 581301 E and 8313481 N (point 25), 581052 E and 8313856 N (point 26), 580855 E and 8313857 N (point 27), 580814 E and 8313616 N (point 28), 580305 E and 8313777 N (point 29), 579977 E and 8313675 N (point 30), 580043 E and 8313272 N (point 31), 579456 E and 8313234 N (point 32), 578603 E and 8313102 N (point 33), and reaching the point of a.p.c. 578265 E and 8312855 N, situated on the thalweg of a small tributary on the left bank of the Mocambo stream (point 34); it follows the thalweg of this tributary until the point of a.p.c. 577801 E and 8314130 N, situated at the confluence with another small tributary (point 35); it continues upstream, in a northeast direction, along the thalweg of the watercourse, until the point of a.p.c. 578710 E and 8314927 N (point 36); from this point, it proceeds in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 578567 E and 8315264 N (point 37), 578819 E and 8315656 N (point 38), 578048 E and 8315863 N (point 39), 577555 E and 8315683 N (point 40), 577193 E and 8315945 N (point 41), 577289 E and 8316782 N (point 42), 576896 E and 8316945 N (point 43), 576681 E and 8317182 N (point 44), 576104 E and 8317206 N (point 45), 576023 E and 8317546 N (point 46), 576346 E and 8317666 N (point 47), 575911 E and 8317888 N (point 48), 575860 E and 8318253 N (point 49), 575613 E and 8318203 N (point 50), 575163 E and 8318582 N (point 51), 574870 E and 8319041 N (point 52), 574526 E and 8319292 N (point 53), 573581 E and 8319884 N (point 54), 573240 E and 8319932 N (point 55), 572988 E and 8320307 N (point 56), 572680 E and 8320446 N (point 57), 572916 E and 8320853 N (point 58), 573300 E and 8321184 N (point 59), 573917 E and 8321221 N (point 60), 574267 E and 8321310 N (point 61), 574442 E and 8321592 N (point 62), 574201 E and 8321649 N (point 63), 574504 E and 8322340 N (point 64), 574715 E and 8322392 N (point 65), and reaching the point of a.p.c. 574719 E and 8322772 N, situated at the head of a small watercourse (point 66); it follows downstream along the thalweg of this watercourse until its confluence with a tributary of the Mocambo stream on the left bank, point of a.p.c. 573255 E and 8322860 N (point 67); from there, it proceeds in straight lines, connecting



the points of a.p.c. 572349 E and 8322168 N (point 68), 571854 E and 8322219 N (point 69), 571720 E and 8322443 N (point 70), 571356 E and 8322486 N (point 71), 571161 E and 8322664 N (point 72), and reaching the point of a.p.c. 570531 E and 8322716 N, situated on the left bank of the Mocambo stream (point 73); it follows upstream along the left bank of the Mocambo stream until reaching its headwaters, point of a.p.c. 568701 E and 8327567 N (point 74); from there, it proceeds in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 567852 E and 8328459 N (point 75), 567779 E and 8328971 N (point 76), 567017 E and 8329113 N (point 77), 567182 E and 8329980 N (point 78), 566936 E and 8330521 N (point 79), 567524 E and 8332257 N (point 80), 568399 E and 8334053 N (point 81), 569999 E and 8333993 N (point 82), 570682 E and 8334889 N (point 83), 571339 E and 9334417 N (point 84), 570599 E and 8333391 N (point 85), 571535 E and 8332698 N (point 86), 571047 E and 8332184 N (point 87), 573092 E and 8330957 N (point 88), 573970 E and 8331075 N (point 89), 574963 E and 8331503 N (point 90), 575569 E and 9332351 N (point 91), 574877 E and 9332956 N (point 92), 54763 E and 8333729 N (point 93), 575104 E and 8333741 N (point 94), 575233 E and 8334323 N (point 95), 574428 E and 8334125 N (point 96), 574061 E and 8334521 N (point 97), 574935 E and 8334765 N (point 98), 575670 E and 8334800 N (point 99), 576752 E and 8335607 N (point 100), 577367 E and 8335706 N (point 101), 577356 E and 8336495 N (point 102), 577398 E and 8337242 N (point 103), 577427 E and 8337522 N (point 104), 577382 E and 8338071 N (point 105), 577301 E and 8339087 N (point 106), 578044 E and 8339066 N (point 107), 578828 E and 8339409 N (point 108), 579748 E and 8338477 N (point 109), 579080 E and 8338298 N (point 110), 580782 E and 8338271 N (point 111), 581594 E and 8338048 N (point 112), 582820 E and 8338227 N (point 113), 582459 E and 8339204 N (point 114), 582278 E and 8341470 N (point 115), 582191 E and 9341987 N (point 116), 582685 E and 8342700 N (point 117), 582553 E and 8343618 N (point 118), 582210 E and 8344213 N (point 119), 583650 E and 8348352 N (point 120), and reaching the point of a.p.c. 586189 E and 8350905 N, situated on the boundary line of the Xakriabá Indigenous Area (point 121); it proceeds in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 587584 E and 8351038 N (point 122), 589174 E and 8349477 N (point 123) and reaching the point of a.p.c. 591867 E and 8347290 N (point 124); from this point, it deflects to the south-southeast, following a straight line to the point of a.p.c. 592733 E and 8345239 N (point 125); from there, it follows a straight line to the point of a.p.c. 592852 E and 8345209 N, situated at the head of a gully (point 126); from there, it follows downstream along the thalweg of this gully, until reaching the point of a.p.c. 594123 E and 8344518 N (point 127); from this point, it proceeds in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 594313 E and 8344521 N (point 128), 594679 E and 8344446 N (point 129), 594797 E and 8344506 N (point 130), 594931 E and 8344487 N (point 131), 595139 E and 8344420 N (point 132), 595277 E and 8344319 N (point 133), 595504 E and 8344226 N (point 134), 595661 E and 8344308 N (point 135), 595853 E and 8344346 N (point 136), 595984 E and 8344325 N (point 137), 596194 E and 8344361 N (point 138), 596379 E and 8344545 N (point 139), 596947 E and 8344825 N (point 140), 597319 E and 8344786 N (point 141), and 597609 E and 8344758 N, situated on the top of a local elevation of approximately 613 meters (point 142). It continues in straight lines, joining the points of a.p.c. 598028 E and 8344448 N (point 143), 598973 E and 8344681 N (point 144), and reaching the point of a.p.c. 599451 E and 8344825 N, located at the base of a rocky elevation (point 145); from there, it continues in straight lines, joining the points of a.p.c. 599446 E and 8344700 N (point 146), 599317 E and 8344527 N (point 147), 599315 E and 8344299 N (point 148), 599239 E and 8344169 N (point 149), 599242 E and 8344008 N (point 150), 599493 E and 8343651 N (point 151), 599835 E and 8343444 N (point 152), 599785 E and 8343128 N (point 153), 599912 E and 8342935 N (point 154), 599749 E and 8342688 N (point 155), 598774 E and 8342471 N (point 156), 598430 E and 8342780 N (point 157), 596705 E and 8343016 N (point 158), 595953 E and 8340702 N (point 159), 596460 E and 8338540 N (point 160), 595947 E and 8338348 N (point 161), 595984 E and 8337892 N (point 162), 594934 E and 8337298 N (point 163), 594775 E and 8337682 N (point 164), 594239 E and 8337750 N (point 165), 594283 E and 8338143 N (point 166), 594054 E and 8338140 N (point 167), 593859 E and 8338569 N (point 168), 594532 E and 8338773 N (point 169), 594405 E and 8339327 N (point 170), 594886 E and 8339824 N (point 171), 594710 E and 8340234 N (point 172), 594051 E and 8339915 N (point 173), 593957 E and 8339972 N (point 174), 593956 E and 8340140 N (point 175), 593707 E and 8340335 N (point 176), 593406 E and 8340438 N (point 177), 593031 E and 8340088 N (point 178), 593290 E and 8339843 N (point 179), 592920 E and 8339501 N (point 180), 592871 E and 8339332 N (point 181), 592748 E and 8339230 N (point 192), 592695 E and 8338788 N (point 183), 591800 E and 8339052 N (point 184), 591977 E and 8338621 N (point 185), 592315 E and 8338297 N (point 186), 592581 E and 8338222 N (point 187), 592686 E and 8337646 N (point 188), 592908 E and 8337629 N (point 189), 593198 E and 8337746 N (point 190), 593340 E and 8337825 N (point 191), 593478 E and 8337840 N (point 192), 593523 E and 8337874 N (point 193), 593677 E and 8337881 N (point 194), 593769 E and 8337822 N (point 195), 593804 E and 8337670 N (point 196), 593690 E and 8337503 N (point 197), 593601 E and 8337467 N (point 198), 593629 E and 8337295 N (point 199), 593548 E and 8337143 N (point 200), 593550 E and 8336998 N (point 201), 593446 E and 8336821 N (point 202), 593576 E and 8336624 N (point 203), 593504 E and 8336367 N (point 204), 593390 E and 8336341 N (point 205), 593246 E and 8336169 N (point 206), 593223 E and 8336115 N (point 207), 593042 E and 8336076 N (point 208), 592829 E and 8335899 N (point 209), 592625 E and 8335885 N (point 210), 592289 E and 8335708 N (point 211), 592042 E and 8335823 N (point 212), 592057 E and 8336337 N (point 213), 591775 E and 8336408 N (point 214), 591197 E and 8336385 N (point 215), 591243 E and 8336181 N (point 216), 591477 E and 8335944 N (point 217), 591657 E and 8335425 N (point 218), 591631 E and 8335079 N (point 219), 591073 E and 8334272 N (point 220), 590175 E and 8334208 N (point 221), 590012 E and 8334584 N (point 222), 589673 E and 8334732 N (point 223), 599360 E and 8335196 N (point 224), 589296 E and 8335405 N (point 225), and reaching the point of a.p.c. 589314 E and 8335539 N, situated over the thalweg of a gully (point 226); it continues upstream along the thalweg of this gully to its headwaters, at the point of a.p.c. 587775 E and 8336641 N (point 227); from there, it proceeds in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 587521 E and 8336624 N (point 228), 587655 E and 8336304 N (point 229), 588064 E and 8335786 N (point 230), 588301 E and 8335225 N (point 231), 588652 E and 8335057 N (point 232), and reaching the point of a.p.c. 589134 E and 8334981 N, situated at the base of a slope (point 233); from there, it continues approximately along the base of the slope, in straight lines, connecting the

points of a.p.c. 589258 E and 8334849 N (point 234), 589220 E and 8334643 N (point 235), 588975 E and 8334503 N (point 236), 588532 E and 8334201 N (point 237), 588980 E and 8333945 N (point 238), 589246 E and 8333618 N (point 239), 589138 E and 8333402 N (point 240), 589005 E and 8333330 N (point 241), 589075 E and 8333217 N (point 242), 588940 E and 8332900 N (point 243), 588789 E and 8332643 N (point 244), 588866 E and 8332453 N (point 245), 588781 E and 8332374 N (point 246), 588781 E and 8332225 N (point 247), 589037 E and 8332061 N (point 248), 589089 E and 8332198 N (point 249), 589009 E and 8332322 N (point 250), 589014 E and 8332382 N (point 251), 589147 E and 8332417 N (point 252), 589327 E and 8332365 N (point 253), 589355 E and 8332038 N (point 254), 589416 E and 8331911 N (point 255), 589590 E and 8331915 N (point 256), 589750 E and 8331973 N (point 257), 589940 E and 8332100 N (point 258), 590095 E and 8332323 N (point 259), 590402 E and 8332266 N (point 260), 590648 E and 8332259 N (point 261), 590671 E and 8331957 N (point 262), 590663 E and 8331681 N (point 263), 590745 E and 8331525 N (point 264), 590735 E and 8331383 N (point 265), 590299 E and 8330316 N (point 266), 590299 E and 8329944 N (point 267), 590078 E and 8329794 N (point 268), 589980 E and 8329806 N (point 269), 589724 E and 8330084 N (point 270), 589702 E and 8330334 N (point 271), 589617 E and 8330466 N (point 272), 589643 E and 8330621 N (point 273), 589605 E and 8330677 N (point 274), 589391 E and 8330594 N (point 275), 589267 E and 8330462 N (point 276), 589298 E and 8330397 N (point 277), 589287 E and 8330140 N (point 278), 589331 E and 8329911 N (point 279), 589307 E and 8329639 N (point 280), 589187 E and 8329420 N (point 281), 589223 E and 8329117 N (point 282), 589381 E and 8328801 N (point 283), 589359 E and 8328767 N (point 284), 589489 E and 8328582 N (point 285), 589541 E and 8328365 N (point 286), 589638 E and 8328212 N (point 287), 589638 E and 8327866 N (point 288), 589712 E and 8327742 N (point 289), 589702 E and 8327059 N (point 290), 588264 E and 8326175 N (point 291), 588076 E and 8326394 N (point 292), 587910 E and 8326476 N (point 293), 587843 E and 8326552 N (point 294), 587822 E and 8326619 N (point 295), 587650 E and 8326680 N (point 296), 587483 E and 8326546 N (point 297), 587267 E and 8326460 N (point 298), 587151 E and 8326328 N (point 299), 587071 E and 8326111 N (point 300), 596984 E and 8326011 N (point 301), 586909 E and 8325791 N (point 302), 586727 E and 8325541 N (point 303), 586756 E and 8325388 N (point 304), 586825 E and 8325360 N (point 305), 586834 E and 8325222 N (point 306), 586765 E and 8324980 N (point 307), 586913 E and 8324819 N (point 308), 587051 E and 8324523 N (point 309), 586895 E and 8324178 N (point 310), 586569 E and 8324165 N (point 311), 596517 E and 8324044 N (point 312), 586419 E and 8324021 N (point 313), 586322 E and 8324049 N (point 314), 586276 E and 8324003 N (point 315), 586265 E and 8323835 N (point 316), 586119 E and 8323750 N (point 317), 586111 E and 8323682 N (point 318), 585894 E and 8323504 N (point 319), 585817 E and 8323490 N (point 320), 585789 E and 8323441 N (point 321), 585717 E and 8323400 N (point 322), 585644 E and 8323232 N (point 323), 585330 E and 8323126 N (point 324), 585064 E and 8323324 N (point 325), 585014 E and 8323231 N (point 326), 584810 E and 8323172 N (point 327), 584740 E and 8323068 N (point 328), 584466 E and 8323080 N (point 329), 584404 E and 8322988 N (point 330), 584394 E and 8322899 N (point 331), 584280 E and 8322771 N (point 332), 584152 E and 8322659 N (point 333), 584015 E and 8322711 N (point 334), 583823 E and 8322712 N (point 335), 583563 E and 8322636 N (point 336), and 583307 E and 8322774 N, situated over the thalweg of the Peruaçu River (point 337); it proceeds upstream along the river's thalweg to the point of a.p.c. 583135 E and 8323313 N (point 338); from this point, it goes in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 583023 E and 8323240 N (point 339), 583063 E and 8323217 N (point 340), 583088 E and 8323172 N (point 341), 583088 E and 8323053 N (point 342), 582873 E and 8323057 N (point 343), 582580 E and 8322883 N (point 344), 582542 E and 8322572 N (point 345), 582672 E and 8322591 N (point 346), 582749 E and 8322627 N (point 347), 582937 E and 8322435 N (point 348), 583169 E and 8322378 N (point 349), 583317 E and 8322271 N (point 350), 583415 E and 8322013 N (point 351), 583430 E and 8321780 N (point 352), 583346 E and 8321762 N (point 353), 583246 E and 8321814 N (point 354), 583175 E and 8321815 N (point 355), 583136 E and 8321765 N (point 356), 582988 E and 8321716 N (point 357), 583188 E and 8321567 N (point 358), 583166 E and 8321192 N (point 359), 583387 E and 8321058 N (point 360), 583474 E and 8320913 N (point 361), 583738 E and 8320662 N (point 362), 583884 E and 8320557 N (point 363), 583952 E and 8320415 N (point 364), 583905 E and 8320176 N (point 365), 584031 E and 8319813 N (point 366), 584163 E and 8319874 N (point 367), 584377 E and 8319902 N (point 368), 584506 E and 8319745 N (point 369), 584787 E and 8319914 N (point 370), 585127 E and 8319865 N (point 371), 585273 E and 8319797 N (point 372), 585347 E and 8319614 N (point 373), 585287 E and 8319497 N (point 374), 585345 E and 8319402 N (point 375), 586242 E and 8319303 N (point 376), 587020 E and 8318891 N (point 377), 588078 E and 8318613 N (point 378), 588099 E and 8317868 N (point 379), 589127 E and 8317835 N (point 380), 590055 E and 8318036 N (point 381), 592320 E and 8318383 N (point 382), 592541 E and 8318734 N (point 383), 592549 E and 8318876 N (point 384), 592488 E and 8319132 N (point 385), 592305 E and 8319366 N (point 386), 591693 E and 9319801 N (point 387), 591646 E and 8319805 N (point 388), 591567 E and 8319733 N (point 389), 591415 E and 8319724 N (point 390), 591174 E and 8320078 N (point 391), 591094 E and 8320345 N (point 392), 590436 E and 8320674 N (point 393), 590345 E and 8321332 N (point 394), and reaching the left bank of the Peruaçu River at the point of a.p.c. 590917 E and 8321338 N (point 395); from there it continues in straight lines, connecting the points of a.p.c. 591033 E and 8321407 N (point 396), 591123 E and 8321368 N (point 397), 591325 E and 8321458 N (point 398), 591367 E and 8321403 N (point 399), 591518 E and 8321384 N (point 400), 591613 E and 8321140 N (point 401), 591854 E and 8320880 N (point 402), 592063 E and 8320883 N (point 403), 592189 E and 8320737 N (point 404), 592457 E and 8320724 N (point 405), 593315 E and 8320733 N (point 406), 593683 E and 8320729 N (point 407), 594073 E and 8321207 N (point 408), 594196 E and 8321515 N (point 409), 595041 E and 8323389 N (point 410), and reaching the bank of the São Francisco River at the point of a.p.c. 596075 E and 8324636 N (point 411); from that point, it crosses perpendicularly to the bank of the São Francisco River to its thalweg and continues upstream along the thalweg to the point of a.p.c. 592168 E and 8312547 N (point 412); from there, it proceeds in a straight line to the point of a.p.c. 592046 E and 8312660 N, the starting point of this description, closing the perimeter of the National Park and totaling an approximate area of 56,800 hectares (fifty-six thousand and eight hundred hectares).

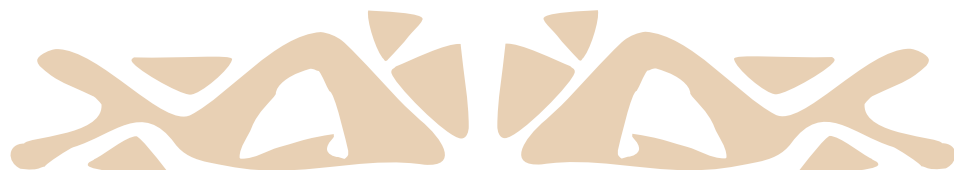




Figure 1: Janelão Cave, Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park. Photographer: Ataliba Coelho

MAP 1: MAP OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY

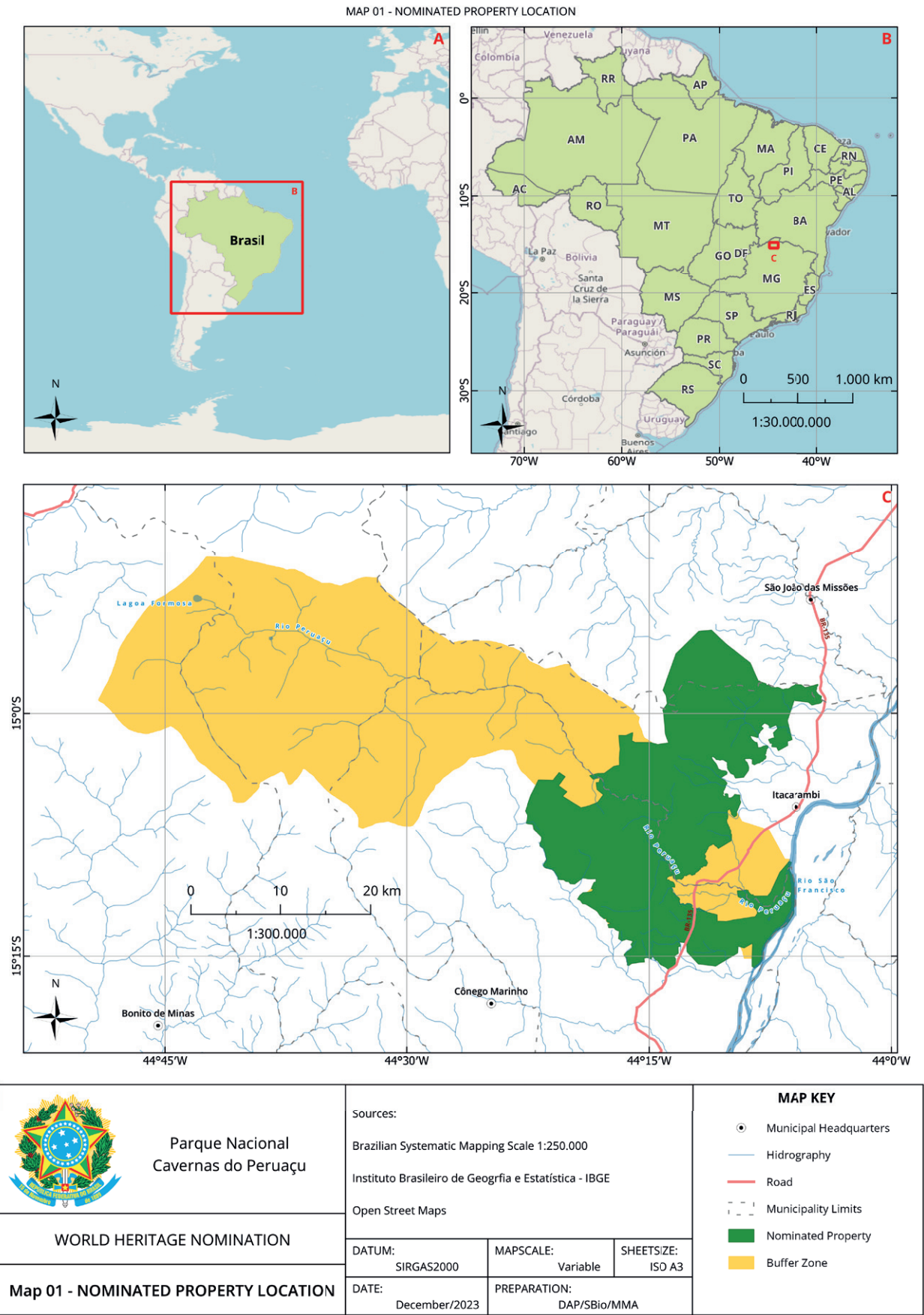


Figure 2: Location map of the named property

CRITERIA UNDER WHICH PROPERTY IS NOMINATED (ITEMIZE CRITERIA)

(VII) - to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;

(VIII) - to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

NOT APPLICABLE

DRAFT STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

A) BRIEF SYNTHESIS

The Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park, located in the northern part of the state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil, covers an area of 56,800 hectares. The property encompasses a large canyon, caves, archaeological sites, and rich biodiversity, forming a collection of rare beauty.

Almost 500 cavities have already been cataloged in the National Park, including enormous caves adorned with diverse and rich speleothem decorations. The Janelão Cave features galleries with parabolic sections and passages with widths and heights exceeding 100 meters. The cave preserves the world's largest stalactite: the Perna da Bailarina, which is about 28 meters long.

The Peruaçu River Canyon, 17 km long, is one of the largest in the world within a karstic valley, resulting from the collapse of ancient galleries. It has a vertical drop of over 200 meters and successive collapse dolines, witnesses to the canyon's unique evolutionary process. The designated area grants representation to karstic sites under carbonate rocks in a semi-arid climate in the tropics.

Investigations into the 114 archaeological sites cataloged in the park present evidence of human occupations developed in different phases dating back to the Pleistocene, as early as to 12,000 B.P. These ancestral peoples left a lasting legacy that to this day continues to influence the ambience of the park, marked by extraordinarily well-preserved rock art.

Predominantly composed of deciduous xerophytic forests, the park is located in an ecological transition zone between the Cerrado and Caatinga biomes, with enclaves of the Atlantic Forest, providing rich and unique biodiversity to the site.

The attributes which justify the site's nomination present a high degree of conservation, as the entire property is fully integrated into a formally established protected area by the Brazilian government since 1999, managed by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, an agency linked to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Access and tourist visitation are controlled, and management is carried out in a participative manner in collaboration with the community and other government entities.

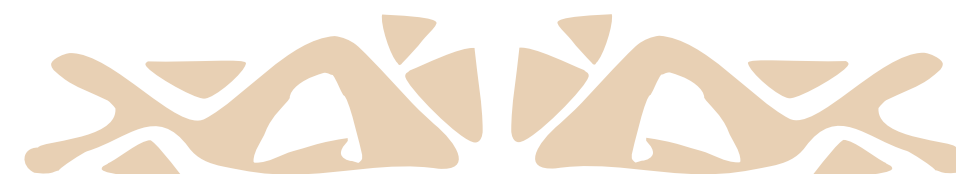
B) JUSTIFICATION FOR CRITERIA

CRITERION (VII): to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

The Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park comprises a vast canyon, caves, archaeological sites, and rich biodiversity that together form the ambience of the area, resulting in a landscape of exceptional beauty.

The Janelão Cave features impressive passages, with widths and heights exceeding 100 meters. Within it, immense skylights allow the entry of sunlight, enabling vegetation to flourish in the vast chambers, contrasting with the striking and quasi-gothic appearance of the rock formations. On the edge of the Macacos doline, lies the world's largest stalactite: the Perna da Bailarina, which is about 28 meters long.

There is a set of nearly 500 cataloged cavities and over 114 archaeological sites that record cycles of human occupation dating back to up to 12,000 B.P. Many of these sites display spectacular and extraordinarily well-preserved rock art. Situated in the Brazilian semiarid region, with a predominance of deciduous xerophytic forests, the park is in an ecological transition zone between the Cerrado and Caatinga biomes



with enclaves of Atlantic Forest, all of which provide rich and unique biodiversity to the site.

CRITERION (VIII): to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

The Peruaçu River Canyon is one of the most remarkable examples in the world of a karst valley developed through the collapse of ancient galleries. Throughout its 17 kilometers, it features a vertical variation of over 200 meters and successive collapse dolines, as well as colossal caves at various levels, with magnificent and diverse speleothem decorations, cliffs, towers, limestone arches, karren, natural bridges, and stone forests.

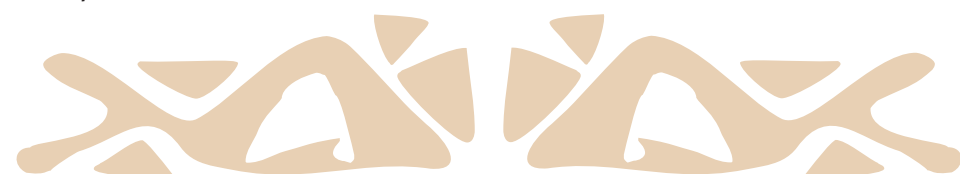
The karst evolved over carbonate rocks, in an area with relative tectonic stability, the São Francisco craton. With its genesis linked to the local fluviokarst, the canyon is believed to have developed underground until its opening process occurred in the Plio-Pleistocene. Global climatic changes in the Quaternary are thought to have generated the deepening of the local base level, leading to decompression and causing significant collapses along the fluviokarst, from the Middle to Upper Pleistocene.

C) STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY (FOR ALL PROPERTIES)

The Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park covers an area of 56,800 hectares. The entire proposed site is sheltered by the National Park, an integrally protected area under Brazilian legislation established in 1999.

The karst in the region involves a significant set of about 500 cavities, including sinkholes, various caves, and a large collection of associated formations that express the diversity of the karstic environment and are well-preserved. The entire extent of the Peruaçu River Canyon is included in the site.

In the 144 cataloged archaeological sites, the associated rock art is in exceptional condition, often sheltered from the sun and rain by cave entrances. They represent a complete sequence of the region's occupation since its first inhabitants.



The Park's vegetation comprises Cerrado areas (12,649.36 ha), Caatinga (25,224.88 ha), and Atlantic Forest (4,225.92 ha), as well as transition ecotones between Cerrado and Caatinga (8,139.44 ha).

All these elements are interconnected and express the processes involved in shaping the Park's landscape over time.

The Peruaçu River basin upstream of the Park is protected by a Sustainable Use Protected Area, managed at federal level: the Cavernas do Peruaçu Environmental Protection Area (APA), covering 143,866 hectares that make up the site's Buffer Zone. The main headwaters of the Peruaçu River are protected by the Veredas do Peruaçu State Park, covering 31,000 hectares and managed at state level.

The main threats to the Park's integrity arise from human occupation and the use of water resources in the Peruaçu River basin upstream of the Park, through livestock farming and agriculture. Ensuring the perennality of water resources in a semi-arid environment is the greatest challenge for the long-term maintenance of the area.

D) STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY FOR PROPERTIES NOMINATED UNDER CRITERIA (I) TO (VI)

NOT APPLICABLE

E) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park was established by the Federal Decree of September 21st, 1999, which set the boundaries of the Park, coinciding entirely with the nominated Property. The Park is administered by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), a federal agency linked to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and an integral part of the Brazilian National Environmental System (SISNAMA). Management and administration are implemented to ensure the preservation of extraordinary natural beauty, geodiversity and biodiversity. The Park belongs to the group of integral protection, whose main objective is nature conservation. The Environmental Protection Area (APA)

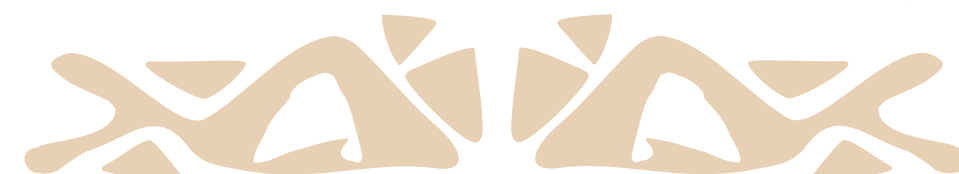


Figure 3: Aerial View of Dolina dos Macacos, Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park.
Photographer: Ataliba Coelho



Cavernas do Peruaçu, established by Federal Decree No. 98,182 on September 26th, 1989, covering 143,866 hectares, constitutes the Buffer Zone of the Property. Both areas are managed in an integrated manner by ICMBio, with unified teams, equipment, and resources. The APA poses the greatest management challenges, especially concerning the protection of the Peruaçu River Basin.

The administration of the Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park follows the zoning stipulated in its Management Plan, approved by IBAMA Ordinance No. 90 on December 28th, 2005. This plan defines the rules and spatial organization of the Park. Management is carried out with the support of an Advisory Council, established by Ordinance No. 96 on December 17th, 2004, composed equally of members from the government and representatives of civil society, ensuring a participatory and integrated management. The objectives of the advisory council are to provide transparency to Protected Area management through social control, to contribute to the development and implementation of the Management Plan, and to integrate the Protected Area with communities, the private sector, research institutions, NGOs, the government, as well as other Protected Areas in the vicinity. Since 2022, there is a unified council for the Park (core zone) and the APA Cavernas do Peruaçu (buffer zone).

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF OFFICIAL LOCAL INSTITUTION/AGENCY/ORGANIZATION

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Areas: DAP/SBio/MMA

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