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**Participative tree domestication as a strategy for use and conservation of high-value native forest species in Uruguay**

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**Abstract**

As a traditional livestock country, Uruguay is still an emergent forestry country despite the commercial plantations boom of the nineties, based on exotic fast growing species. There is a scarce experience on the conservation, domestication and breeding of native forest species in the country and this situation has a negative impact on the establishment of agroforestry systems and on the implementation of native forests conservation and restoration actions. The purpose of this work is to present the knowledge generated in participative tree domestication of high-value native forest species in Uruguay as a strategy for shortening the way and opening opportunities for: (i) the improved seed and seedling production, (ii) the forest species diversification, (iii) the small scale forestry establishment, (iv) the use/incorporation of high-value native forest trees in livestock and agriculture activities and (v) the awareness on climate change impacts and its relationship with deforestation-afforestation, land use and land restoration.