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CONSERVATION OF THE ATLANTIC FOREST IN SÃO PAULO – A ROLEX AWARD FOR LAURY CULLEN JR.

Laury Cullen Jr., Research Coordinator at Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ) based in Nazaré Paulista, São Paulo, is a recipient of The Rolex Awards for Enterprise, sponsored by Rolex S.A. The award was announced in Paris on 29 September 2004. A key aspect of Cullen's receiving this award was his project "Transforming Farmers into Conservationists to Preserve the Atlantic Forest and its Fauna." Over the last nine years, Cullen has focused on protecting the remaining forest fragments in the west of the state of São Paulo, working with small farmers and landowners and demonstrating techniques and systems in agroforestry that promote the recovery of degraded soils as well as the preservation and recovery of forest fragments and their fauna. He is currently planning to increase the number and extent of forest corridors in the region, while simultaneously helping

to promote the economic wellbeing of at least 400 farmers. IPÊ was founded in 1992 specifically to protect the black lion tamarin, *Leontopithecus chrysopygus*, one of the many species that will benefit directly from the forest restoration resulting from Cullen's project. Cullen is currently conducting research for his doctoral thesis at the Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE) of the University of Kent, UK. The deadline to register for "The Rolex Awards for Enterprise 2006" is 31 May 2005. Websites: <<http://www.rolex-awards.com>>, <<http://www.ipe.org.br>>.
