

EVALUATION OF THE PHYSICAL CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE ITIQUIRA MUNICIPAL PARK – FORMOSA (GO), BRAZIL

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This article presents the evaluation of the physical carrying capacity of the Itiquira Municipal Park - IMP, located in the city of Formosa, state of Goiás, Brazil, for assisting in the preparation of its management plan and for the ecotourism. In this study the method developed by Miguel Cifuentest was applied, which relates to environmental preservation and conservation of the tracks with the assessment of the infrastructure, equipment and existing staff. The estimate was based on original data collected in interviews with 110 visitors. IMP has two tracks: one paved with benches, bathrooms, drinking fountains and a playground, and allows access to the fall (well) of Itiquira waterfall. The other leads to the top of the Itiquira waterfall and has no infrastructure, with stretches of gullies and erosion, and loose stones. Based on the method used, the maximum number of visitors in the track to the top of the waterfall was estimated at 2,190 visitors / year and the access to the trail of the fall, 37,595 visitors / year. The average number of visitors / year reported by the administration of IMP is 40,000 visitors, which is in agreement with the calculated effective load capacity of 39,785 visitors / year compared to the resources allocated.

KEY WORDS: *physical carrying capacity, environmental management, protected areas, ecotourism.*