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1 **Drivers of primate richness and occurrence in a naturally patchy landscape in the Brazilian Amazon**

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17 **Abstract**

18 We assessed the spatial extent at which the species-landscape relationship is strongest (i.e. the scale of effect –
19 SE) on primate occurrence (*Alouatta belzebul*, *Saguinus midas*, *Saimiri sciureus*, and *Sapajus apella* and *Cebus*
20 *olivaceus*, the last two considered together in the analysis) and species richness and evaluated which landscape,
21 patch, and human variables influence primate distribution in a savanna ecosystem in Brazil. We used nested
22 buffers to measure the landscape attributes, and used these data to assess the SE of the species-landscape
23 relationships. We explored the relative contributions of landscape, patch, and human variables to species
24 richness and occurrences by using Generalized Linear Mixed Models and logistic regression. We found that the
25 SE did not differ between primates, but did between two regions with different matrix composition. At the
26 landscape level, occurrence of all species was higher as the distance to the nearest block of continuous forest
27 decreased, but was lower as the amount of water bodies and anthropogenic cover in the matrix increased. The
28 occurrence of *S. apella*, *C. olivaceus* and *A. belzebul* was positively related to forest cover, and all species but *A.*
29 *belzebul* had higher occurrence in taller forest. The occurrence of *S. apella*, *C. olivaceus* and *A. belzebul*
30 decreased closer to the city, and *S. apella* and *C. olivaceus* presence increased with the number of residents.
31 Richness was negatively related to the number of residents and anthropogenic cover, but positively to forest
32 height. We concluded that conservation planning for primates should follow a “functional landscape”
33 perspective, by maintaining higher forest cover and minimizing the anthropogenic alterations in the matrix.

34

35 **Key words** Amapá · Habitat amount · Human-modified landscape · Primate conservation · Savanna · Scale of
36 effect

37 **Introduction**

38

39 Forest loss and the area occupied by human-modified landscapes are increasing rapidly around the world due to
40 deforestation, wildfire, forestry and agriculture (Melo et al. 2013; Curtis et al. 2018). This has resulted in
41 increasingly fragmented landscapes, where forest remnants are reduced and disconnected (Arroyo-Rodríguez
42 and Fahrig 2014), being surrounded by matrices of non-natural landscape components, such as agricultural
43 fields, roads and human settlements (Anderson et al. 2007; Laurance et al. 2009; Tee et al. 2018). Understanding
44 how such landscape components affect species within those fragments is crucial for the formulation of robust
45 conservation plans (Fahrig and Merriam 1994; Arroyo-Rodríguez and Fahrig 2014). Furthermore, an
46 understanding of both the spatial extent at which the species-landscape relationship is strongest (i.e. the scale of
47 effect) (Arroyo-Rodríguez and Fahrig 2014) and how other features related to human presence (e.g. hunting)
48 affect the species are necessary to build a more holistic knowledge of how animal communities are affected in
49 human-modified landscapes (Cardillo et al. 2004; Urquiza-Haas et al. 2009).

50

51 Primates are among the most threatened animals globally, and currently many species inhabit human-
52 modified landscapes (Estrada et al. 2017; Galán-Acedo et al. 2019a). They are sensitive to climate change and
53 are threatened by land-use changes (Graham et al. 2016; Estrada et al. 2017; Calle-Rendón et al. 2018). Primates
54 play important roles in sustaining ecological processes such as seed dispersal, and as such, in the maintenance of
55 a high diversity of forest plants (Chapman et al. 2013; Andresen et al. 2018). Some species are important for
56 human populations as food, pets and medicines, and for aspects related to myth, folklore, magic, and religion
57 (Cormier 2006; Parathian and Maldonado 2010). From a landscape perspective (see Fahrig 2005), primate
58 occurrence and richness are positively related to both higher forest cover and matrix permeability (Benchimol
59 and Peres 2014; Carretero-Pinzón et al. 2017; Galán-Acedo et al. 2019b), and additional spatial components,
60 such as distance to the nearest fragment negatively affect the ratio of adult females to adult males (Puig-Lagunes
61 et al. 2016). Some patch characteristics such as fragment size and forest height positively affect both primate
62 occurrence and richness (Michalski and Peres 2005; Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2008; Boyle and Smith 2010;
63 Benchimol and Venticinque 2014; Gouveia et al. 2014; da Silva et al. 2015; Puig-Lagunes et al. 2016; Calle-
64 Rendón et al. 2019), but others such as irregular fragment shape negatively affect primate occurrence and
65 population structure (Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2008; Puig-Lagunes et al. 2016), as in such fragments edge effects
66 drive environmental changes related to vegetation structure (Laurance et al. 1998; Laurance et al. 2006) and

67 composition (Liu et al. 2019), affecting the availability of food for primates. Indeed, although some species are
68 negatively affected by these changes (e.g. *Ateles paniscus*), others may benefit from it (e.g. *Alouatta*
69 *macconnelli*) (Lenz et al. 2014). Furthermore, while variables related to human presence, such as distance to the
70 city and hunting pressure, have been shown to negatively affect primate occurrence (Arroyo-Rodríguez et al.
71 2008; Urquiza-Haas et al. 2009), the effects of human density on primate distributions are complex, and not yet
72 well-understood.

73

74 A large part of the world's human population lives within tropical savanna ecosystems (Scholes and
75 Archer 1997). These ecosystems represent mosaics of forest patches occurring in a non-forested matrix (Furley
76 1999). Historical and continued human use of these areas has led to many highly modified ecosystems (Scholes
77 and Archer 1997). The Savannas of Amapá, in the far north of Brazil, covers an area of approximately 10,000
78 km², and is the least protected complex of Amazonian savannas, being currently highly threatened by the
79 expansion of large-scale agriculture (Carvalho and Mustin 2017; Hilário et al. 2017; Mustin et al. 2017). Eight
80 primate species are present in this ecosystem (*Aotus infulatus*, *Saguinus midas*, *Saimiri sciureus*, *Pithecia*
81 *pithecia*, *Cebus olivaceus*, *Sapajus apella*, *Alouatta macconnelli* and *Alouatta belzebul*) and one of them (*A.*
82 *belzebul*) is listed globally (Valença-Montenegro et al. 2019) and nationally (Valença-Montenegro et al. 2012) as
83 threatened (Vulnerable). Amapá's savannas are under-studied (Carvalho and Mustin 2017; Mustin et al. 2017),
84 and few studies have previously related species richness and abundance of mammals –including primates– to
85 conversion of savannas into anthropogenic environments (but see Coelho et al. 2014; Piña et al. 2019). The
86 Savannas of Amapá are naturally patchy, containing patches of riparian forests, immersed in a matrix of
87 savannas and flooded fields, and particularly in the south of the state, they are being increasingly replaced by
88 anthropogenic cover. This spatial configuration presents an opportunity to study the effects of patch-level
89 attributes, landscape composition and human activities on non-human primates, via a landscape perspective.
90 Most of the knowledge about the effect of landscape composition on primates comes from studies in
91 anthropogenically fragmented landscapes, and little is known about these processes in naturally patchy
92 landscapes. Moreover, due to the cultural and ecological roles played by primates, using them as a model could
93 help in the conservation of naturally patchy landscapes (Estrada et al. 2017; Galán-Acedo et al. 2019c), including
94 the Savannas of Amapá.

95

96 Here, we address two key questions. Firstly, we seek to understand the scale of effect (SE) of landscape
97 composition on primate occurrence and primate species richness in the Savannas of Amapá. The SE is “the
98 spatial extent within which the landscape affects a population” (Arroyo-Rodriguez and Fahrig 2014), and as
99 such, we will test if the amount of forest cover and matrix attributes affect primates over short or long distances.
100 Due to accelerated land use change over large areas in the Savannas of Amapá, a better comprehension of the
101 spatial extent over which such changes affect primates will allow us to identify whether land use change will
102 actually impact populations (i.e. occurs within the SE radius), allowing for better species and habitat
103 management plans to prevent population losses. Thus, we expect that i) the SE will increase with increasing
104 species’ home range size because species with larger home ranges interact with the environment over large
105 spatial extents (Miguet et al. 2016; Galán-Acedo et al. 2018); and ii) the SE in more disturbed areas will be
106 lower than in less disturbed areas, because in disturbed areas, movements are disrupted due to alterations in the
107 matrix and primates are forced to depend on resources from the focal patch (Galán-Acedo et al. 2018). Our
108 second key question concerns the relative importance of landscape attributes, patch characteristics, and human
109 factors in driving patterns of primate species richness and occurrence in the Savannas of Amapá. We predict that,
110 in terms of landscape attributes, forest cover and savanna area will be positively related to primate occurrence
111 and species richness, as forests represent habitat for feeding and reproduction, whereas savannas may be more
112 suitable for primate dispersal than water bodies (e.g. rivers and flooded fields) and anthropogenic cover (e.g.
113 urban areas, roads and agricultural fields) (Benchimol and Peres 2013; Carretero-Pinzón 2013; Garmendia et al.
114 2013; Carretero-Pinzón et al. 2017; Galán-Acedo et al. 2019a). We also expect that the distance to the nearest
115 large block of continuous forest will be negatively related to primate occurrences and species richness, as such
116 forested areas may act as sources (Lawes et al. 2000; Naranjo and Bodmer 2007). In terms of patch-level
117 characteristics, we predict that both larger patches and taller forests will have higher occurrences and species
118 richness of primates (Benchimol and Peres 2014; Gouveia et al. 2016; Calle-Rendón et al. 2019), as taller forests
119 may allow vertical niche segregation between primates and both taller forests and larger forest areas may
120 represent higher resource availability. We further predict that patches that are more irregularly shaped will have
121 higher rates of occurrence of primates with a higher proportion of arthropods in their diets because such patches
122 have more edge effect (Murcia 1995). Finally, in terms of human factors, since human population density is
123 related to the loss of some biodiversity components (Thompson and Jones 1999; Cardillo et al. 2004; Urquiza-
124 Haas et al. 2009), we predict that overall primate richness and rates of occurrence of larger primates will be
125 lower in landscapes with higher numbers of residents, due to increased hunting and clearing of native vegetation

126 (Laurance et al. 2002; Urquiza-Haas et al. 2009). As a second proxy for these types of disturbances, we also used
127 distance to the capital city, predicting that patches closer to the city will be less species rich and have lower rates
128 of occurrence of larger primates, as hunting pressure will be greater than in more isolated patches (Silvestre et al.
129 2020), and the patches are likely to be more highly disturbed (Michalski and Peres 2005).

130

131 **Methods**

132

133 **Study area**

134

135 We conducted this study in three locations (Curiaú, Pedreira and BR-156) in a savanna ecosystem in the
136 Brazilian state of Amapá, in the northeastern part of the Amazon (Fig. 1). The savanna complex in this region is
137 often referred to as the “Cerrado of Amapá” or “Savannas of Amapá” (here after Savannas of Amapá – SOA).
138 The climate in this region is wet and hot, the annual mean temperature is 26.5 °C and average annual
139 precipitation is 2570 mm, with a dry season between August and November (Tavares 2014). The SOA are
140 characterized by a mosaic of natural, open, grassy areas with sparse shrub and tree cover, and flooded fields,
141 interspersed with patches of riparian forest and non-natural areas such as commercial plantations of maize,
142 soybean and manioc (Hilário et al. 2017; Mustin et al. 2017). Currently, the SOA is inhabited by colonists and
143 *Quilombolas* (the descendants of escaped African slaves, who have special land rights in Brazil). This region has
144 been occupied for centuries, and as such, forest patches in this landscape are disturbed, in part as a result of
145 timber extraction to build settlements (Lima 2003). However, one of the main drivers of land conversion in the
146 SOA is to make way for agricultural plantations (Hilário et al. 2017; Mustin et al. 2017). The increase in area
147 planted with soybeans in recent years was higher in the municipality of Macapá, where the Curiaú and Pedreira
148 locations are situated. BR-156 is situated in the municipality of Santana, where the area planted with soybeans is
149 lower compared with Macapá (Hilário et al. 2017). For that reason, we assumed that the anthropogenic
150 disturbance is higher in Curiaú and Pedreira than in BR-156.

151

152 **Study species**

153

154 There are seven diurnal primate species that have part of their distributions in the SOA, but there are no
155 published data on their specific ecology in the SOA. However, studies from other parts of their range show that

156 both the weeper capuchin (*Cebus olivaceus*) and the brown capuchin (*Sapajus apella*) are omnivorous, groups
157 present a home ranges between 270 and 320 ha (Zhang 1995; Miller 1996), and population densities range
158 between 6 and 55 individuals/km² (Freese and Oppenheimer 1981). The squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*) is
159 mainly insectivorous-frugivorous, groups have a home range varying from 65 to 280 ha (Mittermeier and
160 Roosmalen 1981; Lima and Ferrari 2003; Defler 2010), and population densities range between 16 and 528
161 individuals/km² (Baldwin and Baldwin 1981). The red-handed tamarin (*Saguinus midas*) is the smallest primate
162 in the SOA, is mainly insectivorous, group home range size is 31-42 ha (Mittermeier and Roosmalen 1981; Day
163 and Elwood 1999), and population densities range between 2 and 30 individuals/km² (Snowdon and Soini 1988).
164 The Guiana red howler (*Alouatta macconnelli*) and the red-handed howler (*Alouatta belzebul*) are the largest
165 primate species in the SOA, their home ranges vary between 6-45 and 9-18 ha, respectively (Bonvicino 1989;
166 Pinto et al. 2003; Boubli et al. 2008). Howler monkeys are folivorous-frugivorous (Mittermeier and Roosmalen
167 1981; Julliot and Sabatier 1993; Pinto et al. 2003). Population density of these *Alouatta* species are unknown in
168 their distributional range, however, *A. seniculus* (a close species to *A. macconnelli*, Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2003) is
169 present in forest patches of a savanna ecosystem in the Orinoco basin in densities between 23 and 54
170 individuals/km² (Defler 2010). Meanwhile, *A. belzebul* seems to be common in some areas of continuous forest
171 from the Amazon and less common in the Atlantic Forest, where less than 500 individuals survive in some forest
172 fragments, with no information about the species in savanna areas (Valença-Montenegro et al. 2019). The white-
173 faced saki (*Pithecia pithecia*) is mainly a seed predator and its group home range size is the smallest among the
174 species in the SOA, approximately 8-9 ha (Mittermeier and Roosmalen 1981; Oliveira et al. 1985). Population
175 densities range between 1 and 13 individuals/km² (Buchanan et al. 1981).

176

177 **Primate survey**

178

179 Across a total area of approximately 2300 km², we selected 70 forest patches by using images from Google Earth
180 Pro (version 7.3.2.5776). We produced maps of these forest patches, their access roads and any nearby buildings,
181 which were then printed for use in the field. Between October 2017 and February 2018, we visited the buildings
182 marked on the map to carry out interviews with local inhabitants and gather information about the occurrence of
183 primate species. We were able to conduct 77 interviews that provided information on primate presence in 43
184 forest patches (13 patches in Pedreira, 17 in Curiaú and 13 in BR-156) across a total area of approximately 1700
185 km². In some cases, interviews were not possible either because houses marked on the map were not inhabited,

186 locals declined to participate in the interview, or the buildings marked on the map were not actually houses.
187 During the interviews, we used the map as a reference to identify the forest patch of interest. We then showed
188 participants photographs of the 10 primate species known to be present in the state of Amapá (*Alouatta belzebul*,
189 *Alouatta macconnelli*, *Ateles paniscus*, *Chiropotes sagulatus*, *Pithecia pithecia*, *Cebus olivaceus*, *Sapajus apella*,
190 *Saimiri sciureus*, *Aotus infulatus*, and *Saguinus midas*) (Silva et al. 2013) and one Neotropical primate species
191 not present in the study region (*Callithrix jacchus* from the Atlantic Forest and Caatinga), included as a control
192 (Bezerra et al. 2018). Participants were asked to identify which species they had seen in that forest patch.

193
194 Interviews with locals have been commonly used to gather information about occurrence of several
195 mammal species, including primates, and are especially useful in large areas (Michalski and Peres 2005;
196 Urquiza-Haas et al. 2009; Martínez-Martí et al. 2016; Camino et al. 2020). Moreover, interviews and methods
197 based on local knowledge (e.g. locally-based surveys) have a higher detection probability than standard methods
198 such as transects and camera traps and represent a useful and cost-effective approach (Camino et al. 2020).
199 However, to validate the data on primate presence and absence obtained in the interviews, we performed
200 playback sessions in at least 30% of forest patches in each study location (9 in Curiaú, 9 in Pedreira and 4 in BR-
201 156) between July and December 2018.

202
203 We established transects of 800 m in length in each forest patch using Google Earth Pro, standardizing
204 the sampling effort according to the patch area: area < 25 ha (2 transects), 25 < area < 50 ha (3 transects), 50 <
205 area < 100 ha (4 transects) and area > 100 ha (5 transects). Five playback stations were established along each
206 transect at intervals of 200 m. We broadcast a playback session from each station, consisting of a sequence of
207 vocalizations of seven diurnal primates in the following order: *A. belzebul*, *S. midas*, *P. pithecia*, *A. macconnelli*,
208 *S. sciureus*, *S. apella* and *C. olivaceus*. Vocalizations of each species were broadcast for 3 minutes, except
209 *Alouatta* genus, which was broadcast for 7 minutes because the vocalizations of these species are longer than
210 those of other species (Drubbel and Gautier 1993). Playbacks of vocalizations were followed by a 7-minute
211 interval without playback which was used to listen for any response (except *Alouatta* genus, where the interval
212 was 8 minutes). Playback sessions began at 07:00 h, 09:00 h, 10:30 h, 15:10 h, and 16:40 h. We broadcast
213 vocalizations of *Alouatta* only at the first and the last playback station of each transect (07:00 h and 16:40 h),
214 because they generally vocalize at sunrise and sunset (Drubbel and Gautier 1993; Oliveira and Ades 2004).
215 Between playback sessions, the distance between stations was walked slowly (40 minutes), either following our

216 own transect in a Global Positioning System (Garmin eTrex 20) or using human and cattle paths, to detect any
217 primate occurrences and to check the forest floor for primate fecal matter. In eight of the 43 forest patches it was
218 not possible to establish transects of 800 m in length due to patch size and shape, and in these cases we
219 performed just two or three playback sessions per day (i.e. transects of 200 m and 600 m in length respectively).

220

221 The data from the playback sessions was only used to “correct” the interview data in two cases: 1)
222 where species identified as absent in the interviews were recorded as present using playback (N = 1); and 2)
223 where species presence or absence was recorded as unknown during the interview (because the interviewee was
224 unsure), in which case presence was considered to be established by the playback data (N = 2). Three
225 opportunistic confirmations of presence (made outside of playbacks) were used to evaluate the veracity of the
226 interview data. Specifically, two presences of *A. belzebul* (a vocalization from Curiaú and a sighting from
227 Pedreira) and one of *S. sciureus* (a sighting in Curiaú). Finally, as participants frequently reported both *C.*
228 *olivaceus* and *S. apella* to be present in patches in which only one was recorded during playback, records of the
229 presence of both species were joined. As such, absences of *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella* were only recorded in
230 those patches in which participants reported both species as absent, and where neither species was recorded
231 during playback.

232

233 The vocalizations used were obtained from Emmons et al. (1997). In the case of *A. macconnelli*, the
234 vocalization used was of *A. seniculus*, as until recently these taxa were considered to be a single species (Boubli
235 et al. 2008). The vocalizations were edited to standardize the total playback time, and also to reduce the
236 background noise not related to the primate vocalizations. Each vocalization was saved as an MP3 file and
237 broadcast using a Max Print 601205-3 speaker (frequency range: 50 to 20,000 Hz, output power: 100 RMS).
238 Before carrying out the playback sessions, we tested the speaker and established that the maximum distance at
239 which we could still hear the vocalizations was approximately 100 m. The same person carried out all of the
240 playback sessions to avoid biases in species detection.

241

242 **Landscape composition**

243

244 We adopted a patch-landscape approach (Arroyo-Rodríguez and Fahrig 2014) in which response variables are
245 measured in a focal patch, and landscape attributes are measured within a specific radius (buffer) from the focal

246 patch. For each of the 43 forest patches we generated 10 nested buffers using QGIS (Version 2.14.9-Essen). The
247 smallest landscape size was a buffer of 300 m radius (28 ha landscape), and the largest landscape size was a
248 buffer of 1200 m radius (452 ha landscape), as larger radii would have led to overlapping landscapes around the
249 different forest patches. The smallest landscape created is larger than the home range size reported for at least
250 two primate species present in the study site (*P. pithecia* and *A. belzebul*), and the largest landscape is larger than
251 the home range reported for the species with the largest home ranges in the study site (*C. olivaceus* and *S.*
252 *apella*). We nested eight additional buffers between the smallest and largest buffers, at intervals of 100 m: 400 m
253 (50.3 ha landscape), 500 m (78.5 ha), 600 m (113.1 ha), 700 m (153.9 ha), 800 m (201.1 ha), 900 m (254.5 ha),
254 1000 m (314.2 ha) and 1100 m (380.1 ha).

256 We carried out a supervised classification for each study location using Landsat 8 OLI images from
257 2017 and 2018 at a 30 m spatial resolution, retrieved from the U.S. Geological Survey
258 (<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>). We used the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin (Version 5.4.2) in QGIS
259 (Version 2.14.9-Essen), combining bands 2 to 8. We separated the area into four general attributes of landscape
260 composition: 1) forest cover (FC), which included forest environments and palm corridors; 2) savanna (Sav),
261 including some cleared areas used for cattle ranching which were not distinguishable from savannas areas; 3)
262 water bodies (WB), including rivers, lakes and flooded fields; and 4) anthropogenic cover (AC), including urban
263 areas, roads, open areas (e.g. bare ground) and agricultural fields (mainly soybeans, maize and manioc
264 plantations). We used a total of 2122 points based on field observations and from Google Earth Pro images to
265 make the classification in the three regions, and used between 28% and 38% of those points to validate the
266 classification. Overall, classification accuracy was between 89% and 98%.

268 We calculated the distance between each forest patch and the nearest block of forest considered as a
269 possible source of species (DF). To do so, we first identified in Google Earth the blocks of continuous forest that
270 could be sources of individuals, based on the information on presence of primates gathered in the interviews with
271 locals. We then drew a polygon of each block, exported the polygon into QGIS, and calculated the Euclidean
272 distance between each forest patch and the nearest block of forest. Although DF is not a landscape attribute
273 according to the landscape perspective, it was included as landscape predictor since it is representing a measure
274 of the space in the landscape.

275

276 **Patch characteristics**

277

278 We imported the forest patches delineated in Google Earth Pro into QGIS and calculated the patch area (PA).

279 We then calculated a shape index (SI) as:

280

$$281 \quad SI = p / \sqrt{(\pi \times PA)}$$

282

283 where p and PA are the perimeter and patch area, respectively, in meters (Carretero-Pinzón et al. 2017). Higher

284 values of SI represent forest patches that are more irregular and a value of 2 represents a forest patch that is

285 perfectly circular. We calculated forest height in each playback station by using the difference between X-band

286 and P-band from Synthetic-Aperture Radar (SAR) images of 5 m spatial resolution, obtained from the *Secretaria*

287 *de Estado do Meio Ambiente* (State's Secretariat of the Environment) of Amapá. We then used the average

288 among points to calculate the forest height (FH) of each patch.

289

290 **Human factors**

291

292 We used a shapefile based on data from the 2010 census, obtained from the *Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e*

293 *Estatística* (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) (IBGE 2019). We used the nested buffers from the

294 landscape evaluation to extract the values of number of residents (NR) in each buffer. Additionally, we

295 calculated the distance by road of each forest patch to Macapá (DC), the most populated city and capital of the

296 state of Amapá, by delineating in Google Earth the roads using the 'path tool'. DC was used as a proxy of

297 hunting frequency (Silvestre et al. 2020).

298

299 **Statistical analysis**

300

301 All analyses were performed in R (version 3.5.1) (R Core Team 2018). We calculated the Cohen's kappa

302 coefficient to measure the concordance of presence-absence data between interviews and playbacks, by using the

303 'irr' package (Gamer et al. 2012). Concordance was high for *A. belzebul* (Kappa = 0.83) and *P. pithecia* (Kappa

304 = 1), and moderate for *S. midas* (Kappa = 0.529). Although concordance was low for *S. sciureus* (Kappa =

305 0.188), and *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella* (Kappa = 0.253), there were no false positives for these species (i.e. an

306 interview participant reporting an absence when a playback reported a presence) (Table S1). Indeed, there was
307 only one false positive (for *S. midas*). As such, we are confident in the reliability of the interviews to inform
308 primate occurrence in the study area, because such differences between interviews and playback likely reflect
309 low detectability of those species using playback, rather than a low quality of information provided by the
310 interview participants. Once a species is detected, its presence is assured, while it may take a number of surveys
311 without detection to be sure about the absence of a species. Therefore, it is more common to have false absences
312 (i.e. imperfect detection or false negatives) than false presences (i.e. false positives). Considering this, we think
313 that playback sessions may have missed some species, but these species may have been detected by locals, as
314 they have spent far more time within the forest patches. Moreover, no participant reported the presence of the
315 species used as a control. While species richness was modeled using all reported species, we only used the data
316 of *A. belzebul*, *S. midas*, *S. sciureus*, and *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella* (together) to model occurrence, as *A.*
317 *macconnelli* and *P. pithecia* were only present in one and six forest patches, respectively.

318

319 We used an ANOVA to test for significant differences in landscape attributes (FC, Sav, WB and AC)
320 among regions using the amount calculated in the largest radius (1200 m). Following Jackson and Fahrig (2012),
321 we identified the spatial extent that maximized the strength of the relationship (i.e. the scale of effect) between
322 primate richness and occurrence and landscape attributes and only one human factor measured using a landscape
323 perspective (NR). We used pairwise Generalized Linear Models (GLM) to relate primate occurrence (binomial
324 distribution) and species richness (poisson distribution) to each attribute of landscape composition (FC, WB, Sav
325 and AC) and NR (transformed as $\ln[1+NR]$) in a specific radius. The scale of effect was considered to be the
326 radius of the buffer for which the AIC (Akaike's information criterion) value of the model was lowest (Jackson
327 and Fahrig 2015).

328

329 To answer our first question about the scale of effect, we calculated the ΔAIC for each model by
330 computing the difference between the AIC of each model and the AIC of the most supported model (i.e. the
331 model with the lowest AIC). We considered that models with $\Delta AIC < 2$ could have the same empirical support,
332 and where all models had $\Delta AIC < 2$, we inferred that there was no definable scale of effect (Gestich et al. 2019).
333 Then we plotted the radius of each landscape against the ΔAIC of forest cover, considering the occurrence
334 models of all species (prediction 1), and against the ΔAIC of forest cover considering models of species richness
335 (prediction 2). In this second prediction, pairwise GLMs were implemented for each location separately (BR-

336 156, Pedreira and Curiaú). For these models, we selected only 11 forest patches per location to increase the
337 spatial separation between Pedreira and Curiaú, as these two locations were 3.8 km apart from each other, thus
338 we excluded four landscapes at the northern limit of Curiaú. We also excluded an additional six patches for
339 which the presence of some species was unknown (i.e. the interviewee could not confirm the presence of the
340 species) (Fig. 1). After this process, the distance between the closest forest patches of Curiaú and Pedreira was
341 11 km.

342

343 To answer our second question, we used a multimodel inference approach to assess the relative effect of
344 each predictor on each response variable (Burnham and Anderson 2002). For species occurrence data we fitted
345 logistic regression models using Firth Logistic Regression from the ‘logistf’ package (Heinze et al. 2018), as
346 data exploration revealed problems of perfect separation (Heinze and Schemper 2002). Then we assessed the
347 effect of the attributes of landscape composition (FC, WB, Sav, and AC measured at the scale of effect, and DF),
348 patch characteristics (FH, ln[PA], and SI) and human factors (ln[1+NR] measured at the scale of effect, and DC)
349 on occurrence of each species through full models. As we detected differences in the SE among locations (see
350 results concerning our second prediction in Results section), we used Generalized Linear Mixed Models
351 (GLMM) to assess the effect of landscape composition (FC, WB, Sav, and ln[1+AC], and DF), patch
352 characteristics (FH, ln[PA], and SI) and human factors (ln[1+NR] and DC) on species richness. We implemented
353 the GLMM using the ‘lme4’ package (Bates et al. 2018) with the Laplace approximation (Bolker et al. 2009),
354 and each location (Curiaú, Pedreira and BR-156) as a random factor. The SE used in this GLMM were those
355 detected in each location in the evaluation of the second prediction related to our first question. Additionally, we
356 assessed the effect of the random factor (i.e. the effect of the location) plus fixed factors (i.e. landscape
357 attributes, patch characteristics and human factors) on species richness using the conditional R^2 (Nakagawa and
358 Schielzeth 2013). We used the ‘MuMIn’ package (Bartoń 2018) to obtain a set of models for the occurrence of
359 each species and species richness and ranked them according to the AICc, considering only those models with
360 $\Delta AICc < 2$. Variance inflation factors (VIF) were calculated for each model using the package ‘car’ (Fox et al.
361 2018). If a $VIF > 3$ was detected, then we ran a new analysis with the ‘subset’ argument to exclude models with
362 collinear variables. The performance of each logistic regression from the set of models was assessed with the
363 area under the ROC curve (AUC) using the ‘pROC’ package (Robin et al. 2019). We checked for spatial
364 autocorrelation in the residuals of all models with $\Delta AICc < 2$ through Moran’s I correlograms in the package
365 ‘ncf’ (Bjørnstad and Cai 2018). We obtained the Akaike weights (w_i) of each model in the set of models and

366 hence, the relative importance of each predictor variable (i.e. the sum of the weights: $\sum w_i$). We used a threshold
367 of $\sum w_i = 0.4$ to decide whether a predictor was important or not (Burnham 2015). Additionally, we calculated the
368 average relative importance of each group of variables (landscape, patch and human) for the occurrence of each
369 species, and for species richness (Carretero-Pinzón et al. 2017).

370

371 **Results**

372

373 **Difference in landscape composition between locations**

374

375 We found that anthropogenic, forest and savanna cover were significantly different between the three locations
376 (ANOVA: $p = 0.008$, $p = 0.02$ and $p = 0.03$, respectively), however the *post hoc* analysis showed that the
377 differences were only significant between BR-156 and Curiaú (Fig. S1). Anthropogenic cover was higher in
378 Curiaú (mean 86.3 ± 80 SD) and lower in Pedreira (mean 44.7 ± 37.9 SD) and BR-156 (mean 18.5 ± 17.3 SD)
379 (Fig. S1). The average forest cover in BR-156 was approximately 30% higher than forest cover in both Curiaú
380 and Pedreira (Fig. S1). Savanna cover from BR-156 was 34% and 40% higher than in Pedreira and Curiaú,
381 respectively (Fig. S1). Patch size did not differ significantly between localities, and the mean area was 38 ± 32.3
382 ha, 46.6 ± 51.6 ha and 57.5 ± 63.4 ha in BR-156, Curiaú and Pedreira, respectively.

383

384 **Primate surveys**

385

386 *Alouatta belzebul* was recorded in 48% of the patches, and *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella* in 57%, and were present
387 mainly in Pedreira and BR-156. *Saguinus midas* was recorded in 64% of the patches and was present mainly in
388 BR-156 and Curiaú. *Saimiri sciureus* was present in 61% of patches and occupied the three locations in similar
389 proportions. *Pithecia pithecia* and *A. macconnelli* were present only in the BR-156 and occupied six and one
390 patch respectively. Species richness ranged between zero and five species per patch. The location BR-156 had
391 the highest mean species richness (mean 3.9 ± 1.5 SD) followed by Pedreira and Curiaú (mean 2.3 ± 1.2 SD and
392 mean 1.8 ± 1.4 SD, respectively).

393

394 **Scale of effect of landscape composition on primate occurrences and species richness**

395

396 We found that the scale of effect (SE) varied widely across the buffer radius (Fig. 2). There was no clear positive
397 relationship between home range size and the SE (first prediction). The SE for occurrence of *A. belzebul* (species
398 with smallest home range in our analysis) varied from 500 to 800 m, while the SE for *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*
399 (species with the largest home range) varied from 500 to 1100 m. For *S. sciureus*, the SE was plausible at
400 distances between 300 and 1100 m and there was no definable SE for *S. midas* (Fig. 2a). Finally, the SE of forest
401 cover on species richness in the most disturbed location (Curiau, between 800 and 1200 m) was higher than the
402 SE of the least disturbed location (BR-156, between 300 and 500 m), which was contrary to our second
403 prediction (Fig. 2b).

404

405 **Relative importance of landscape attributes, patch characteristics and human factors on primate** 406 **occurrence and species richness**

407

408 Models showed that occurrence of all species but *S. sciureus* may be explained by landscape, patch and human
409 variables (Table S2). For *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*, *A. belzebul*, and *S. midas* all models in the set of models
410 were significant and the AUC ranged between 0.90 and 0.98, but for *S. sciureus* models were not significant and
411 AUC ranged between 0.76 and 0.77 (Table S2). Landscape attributes were more important than patch
412 characteristics and human factors in explaining the occurrence of all species, however, human factors were more
413 important than landscape attributes and patch characteristics for species richness (Fig. 3).

414

415 At the landscape level, both the probability of occurrence of all species and species richness were lower
416 where landscapes had higher anthropogenic cover ($\sum w_i = 1$ for occurrence of all species and $\sum w_i = 48$ for species
417 richness - Fig. 4), and the probability of occurrence of all species was also lower where the matrix contained
418 higher proportions of water bodies ($\sum w_i = 1$ for all species - Fig. 4). The probability of occurrence of *A. belzebul*
419 ($\sum w_i = 1$) and *S. midas* ($\sum w_i = 0.85$) were lower where landscapes had larger areas of savanna (Fig. 4). Forest
420 cover was positively related to the occurrence of *S. sciureus* ($\sum w_i = 1$), *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella* ($\sum w_i = 0.68$),
421 and *A. belzebul* ($\sum w_i = 1$) (Fig. 4). The distance to the nearest block of forest was negatively related to the
422 occurrence of all species ($\sum w_i = 0.85$ for *S. midas*, $\sum w_i = 1$ for *S. sciureus*, $\sum w_i = 0.72$ for *C. olivaceus*, *S. apella*,
423 and *A. belzebul* - Fig. 4). At the patch level, forest height was important and positively related to species richness
424 ($\sum w_i = 0.48$) and occurrence of *S. midas* ($\sum w_i = 1$), *S. sciureus* ($\sum w_i = 0.79$), and *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella* ($\sum w_i$
425 = 0.63) (Fig. 4), but was negatively related to *A. belzebul* ($\sum w_i = 0.71$) (Fig. 4). *Saimiri sciureus* and *A. belzebul*

426 had a higher probability of occurrence in more irregularly shaped patches ($\sum w_i = 0.8$ and $\sum w_i = 0.45$,
427 respectively - Fig. 4). In terms of human factors, distance from the city was important and positively related to
428 the occurrence of *S. sciureus*, *A. belzebul*, and *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*, but was negatively related to the
429 occurrence of *S. midas* ($\sum w_i = 1$ for all species - Fig. 4). Species richness was lower ($\sum w_i = 0.94$) and the
430 probability of occurrence of *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella* higher ($\sum w_i = 0.4$) in areas with more residents (Fig. 4).

431

432 Eleven models of species richness had empirical support (Table S3). Fixed factors explained the same
433 variation as the fixed and random factors together (i.e. marginal $R^2 =$ conditional R^2) in all models in the set of
434 models (Table S3). In fact, values of the variance for the random intercept (\hat{d}) were zero or close to zero (Table
435 S3). This means, there is no effect of the locality in explaining species richness when considering landscape,
436 patch and human variables together. However, when considering only one landscape attribute (e.g.
437 anthropogenic cover or forest cover), the random factor (i.e. the locality) and the fixed factor (i.e. the landscape
438 attribute) together explain a higher variation in species richness (i.e. conditional $R^2 >$ marginal R^2), but these
439 models had low empirical support.

440

441 **Discussion**

442

443 To the best of our knowledge, this study represents the first assessment of patterns of occurrence and species
444 richness of Neotropical primates from a naturally patchy landscape to include human factors alongside landscape
445 attributes and patch characteristics. Our key findings include that, while landscape variables, particularly matrix
446 composition, are the most important correlates of occurrence of all species, the number of residents is the most
447 important correlate of species richness. The probability of occurrence of the large-bodied primates (*A. belzebul*,
448 and *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*) also decreased with increasing proximity to the state capital, Macapá. Beyond
449 this, we found that *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*, *A. belzebul*, and *S. midas* were less frequent in patches in Curiaú,
450 the most disturbed region, than in the other two regions, and that *P. pithecia* and *A. macconneli* were restricted to
451 BR-156, the least disturbed region, where overall species richness was also higher. Taken together, these results
452 seem to indicate that anthropogenic use and disturbance are influencing the primate community in the Savannas
453 of Amapá. Indeed, the proportion of anthropogenic cover (urban areas, roads, bare ground and agricultural
454 fields) in the landscape was found to be an important predictor, and negatively related to species richness and the
455 probability of occurrence of all primate species. Given the precipitous increase in anthropogenic cover in the

456 region in recent years, and the likely continuing trend towards the expansion of large-scale agriculture (Hilário et
457 al. 2017; Mustin et al. 2017), our results have important implications for the conservation of Neotropical
458 primates in the Savannas of Amapá.

459

460 **Scale of effect**

461

462 The only factor that influenced SE was the location, which is likely due to variation in disturbance levels, with
463 SE of forest cover being higher in Curiaú (more disturbed) than in BR-165 (least disturbed). This result may
464 indicate that in Curiaú primates use habitat further away from the focal patch and that as such they need to travel
465 larger distances than in the less disturbed regions. This result is consistent with another study regarding
466 Neotropical primates where the SE was larger in the most disturbed region and where animal movements among
467 fragments seemingly follow metapopulation dynamics (Galán-Acedo et al. 2018). From an ecological
468 perspective, these results suggest that the primate community in the SOA may be modulated by a
469 metacommunity dynamic, such that a set of local communities are interacting through dispersal among patches
470 (Livingston et al. 2013). At the species level (i.e. metapopulation dynamics), similar processes have been
471 suggested to occur for *Alouatta palliata* in a highly fragmented landscape in Mexico (Galán-Acedo et al. 2018),
472 as many individuals were recorded switching between fragments to obtain resources (Anzures-Dadda and
473 Manson 2007; Galán-Acedo et al. 2018). In another savanna ecosystem from Colombia, four primate species
474 have been recorded using live fences to move between patches (Carretero-Pinzón 2010), and indeed this could
475 also be occurring in the SOA. Given these results, conservation planning for primates in the SOA must take into
476 account locality when considering forest cover, as the SE of forest cover varied between localities. However,
477 when other variables are included, differences in SE between localities disappear, suggesting that conservation
478 planning does not need to be carried out in separate regional units, unless strong changes occur in the landscape.
479 That being said, the smaller proportion of anthropogenic cover in BR-156 compared with Pedreira and Curiaú
480 might call for different conservation priorities between the localities. Specifically, avoiding the conversion of
481 savannas into agricultural fields, such as has been anticipated in the *Zoneamento Socioambiental do Cerrado do*
482 *Amapá* (Socioenvironmental Zoning of the Savannas of Amapá) (Hilário et al. 2017), is urgent to maintain
483 primate species richness in the BR-156. While this is also crucial in the more highly disturbed location, there the
484 primate community could also benefit from further conservation actions such as increasing connectivity using
485 live fences. In addition, species home range size had no effect on the SE. This may reflect the importance of

486 other spatio-temporal processes, such as migration and source-sink dynamics, in determining species
487 occurrences (Jackson and Fahrig 2015; Galán-Acedo et al. 2018), as has previously been suggested for Atelids in
488 Mexico (Galán-Acedo et al. 2018).

489

490 **Influence of landscape scale processes on primates**

491

492 Anthropogenic cover was the only important landscape correlate of the probability of occurrence of all primate
493 species, as well as overall species richness. Roads, agricultural fields and human settlements denote hostile, less
494 permeable and low quality matrices that act to increase isolation of primates in the forest patches (Michalski and
495 Peres 2005). However, according to our results, the effects of anthropogenic cover operate mostly over short
496 distances (scale of effect up to 400 m). This may indicate that primate dispersal might be affected not only by the
497 anthropogenic cover in and of itself (i.e. roads, agriculture and human settlements), but also by other human-
498 environment interactions that may be taking place, such as persecution from people and domestic animals
499 (Michalski and Peres 2005), and degradation of forest vegetation (Lewis et al. 2015).

500

501 While anthropogenic cover was an important correlate for all species, forest cover was only important
502 for the larger primates (*A. belzebul*, *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*). In general, studies in fragmented landscapes
503 have shown that forest cover is important not only for primates (Benchimol and Peres 2013; Carretero-Pinzón et
504 al. 2017), but also for bats, carnivores, rodents, marsupials and forest specialist birds (Carrara et al. 2015;
505 Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2016; Melo et al. 2017; Rabelo et al. 2019). This is consistent with the habitat amount
506 hypothesis which posits that species richness (or occurrence) increases as the patch size and the natural habitat
507 surrounding the patch increase (Fahrig 2013). Our study indicates that the same pattern is true for patchy non-
508 fragmented environments, indicating that similar mechanisms are probably operating. This reinforces the
509 significance of forests as reservoirs of biodiversity and highlights the importance of maintaining forest patches to
510 support primate communities and the ecological services they provide (Chapman et al. 2013; Estrada et al. 2017;
511 Andresen et al. 2018). Although deforestation is not a common process in the SOA, wildfires are common there
512 (Mustin et al. 2017) and could reduce the extension and the quality (reducing forest height, tree diversity,
513 increasing lianas and pioneer species) of the forest patches (Hoffman et al. 2003) with negative consequences for
514 primates and other species.

515

516 At the landscape level, and contrary to our expectations, the probability of occurrence of two primate
517 species declined with increasing savanna cover, which may suggest that the savannas are not very permeable for
518 these species. Indeed, savannas generally seem to represent poor structural connectivity for mammals (Piña et al.
519 2019). Additionally, and consistent with our prediction, water bodies have a negative effect on the occurrence of
520 all primate species in the SOA. Large seasonal lakes (mainly found in Curiaú) may reduce primate movements
521 between forest patches because of the physical impediment, but also due to disturbances caused by fishing and
522 rearing of African buffalo. Small dams are frequently made to provide water for cattle, and to be used for fish
523 farming and recreation, which may also increase disturbance levels, acting as deterrents to primates.

524
525 Finally, the large block of forest that surrounds the SOA may act as source of individuals of all primate
526 species as occurrence rate is higher as distance to the block decrease. The mainland-island model from
527 metapopulation theory assumes that the mainland (the block of forest) is a source of individuals that migrate to
528 habitat islands (the forest patches) (Hanski and Gyllenberg 1993). Patterns of occurrence of some mammal
529 species have been consistent with this theory (Lawes et al. 2000). This has implications for the conservation of
530 wild populations since such blocks of forest, when protected, can act as a source of species in the landscape
531 (Naranjo and Bodmer 2007). The state of Amapá is the most protected in Brazil, and its protected areas generally
532 encompass continuous forest. It is possible that immigration to forest patches is necessary to keep viable primate
533 populations in the SOA and thereby, effort must be made to optimize landscape connection in order to keep the
534 movements of fauna through riparian forest, palm corridors and forest patches.

535

536 **Influence of patch scale processes on primates**

537

538 For all but *A.belzebul*, probability of occurrence was higher in patches where the forest is taller, which
539 is a reflection of higher habitat quality in these patches (Anzures-Dadda and Manson 2007; Gouveia et al. 2014;
540 Carretero et al. 2017; Piña et al. 2019), and possibly of vertical stratification of the primate community (Peres
541 1993). The fact that *A.belzebul* is more likely to be found in patches where the forest is not so tall does not
542 however mean that this species prefers low-quality habitat, but rather likely reflects the importance of other
543 environmental variables (e.g. soils) in influencing forest characteristics related to high-quality habitat, such as
544 fruit production. In the Colombian Llanos, occupancy of both *Alouatta seniculus* and *Sapajus apella* has been
545 shown to decrease with increasing forest height, which it has been suggested reflects the importance of

546 topography and forest composition, rather than canopy height, in determining habitat quality for these species
547 (Carretero et al. 2017). Indeed, our results show that at the patch level, the probability of occurrence of
548 *A. belzebul* is related to patch shape, increasing with irregularity of the patch. *Alouatta belzebul* has a relatively
549 high proportion of leaves in its diet (Pinto et al. 2003), and irregular forest patches have a higher edge
550 proportion, leading to edge effects that include modified plant species composition in the patch border (Liu et al.
551 2019), ultimately increasing the representation of plant species with higher nutrient content (Poorter and Bongers
552 2006), with obvious benefits to *A. belzebul*. These findings are consistent with another Amazonian areas where
553 *Alouatta* prefers forest edges (in fragmented forests) and river borders (in continuous forest) instead of the forest
554 interior (Peres 1997; Lenz et al. 2014). However, such results may depend on site context or even depend on
555 species specificity, since another *Alouatta* species (*A. palliata*) did not present preference for either edge or
556 interior environments in Costa Rica (Bolt et al. 2018; Johnson et al. 2020). Similarly, we found higher
557 occurrence of *S. sciureus*, a species with a higher proportion of arthropods in its diet, in irregular forest patches.
558 However, models of this species were not reliable, which may suggest that other factors not considered in this
559 study, such as site level variables (e.g. number of trees with fruits, Carretero-Pinzón et al. 2017), are more
560 important correlates of the occurrence of *S. sciureus*.

561

562 **Influence of human processes on primates**

563

564 The probability of occurrence of the largest bodied primates in the SOA increased with distance from the most
565 populated city (Macapá). The occurrence of *Alouatta* genus has also been shown to be positively correlated with
566 distance to the city in forest fragments in the southern Amazon (Michalski and Peres 2005). This pattern may
567 reflect increased hunting pressure on large bodied mammals, which are often preferred by hunters (Jerozolinski
568 and Peres 2003). In the SOA, hunting is a common activity closer to the city (Silvestre et al. 2020). Indeed, eight
569 interviewees indicated that primates were among their target hunted species during the data collection for this
570 study, with a focus on the larger species (*A. belzebul* 50%, *A. macconnelli* 12.5%, and *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*
571 37.5%). Moreover, two interviewees told us they had eaten *A. belzebul* during the three weeks prior to the
572 interview. In contrast to this pattern for the larger primates, and contrary to our prediction, we found that the
573 probability of occurrence of *S. midas* –the smallest primate– increased with proximity to the city. This could
574 reflect a pattern of reduced inter-specific competition as larger-bodied species are absent from these patches

575 (likely due to hunting), meaning that smaller species can occupy the fragments (Peres and Dolman 2000), though
576 this has not been assessed specifically in the SOA.

577

578 While the occurrence of most species is not related to the number of residents in the landscape, we
579 found that overall species richness is lower where the number of residents is higher, and that the probability of
580 occurrence of *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella* is actually higher in more densely populated areas. Human population
581 density has previously been related to low probability of occurrence of mammals and low species richness (Parks
582 and Harcourt 2002; Urquiza-Haas et al. 2009). The number of residents is a driver of biodiversity loss mainly at
583 small scales, reducing species richness, and it is associated with other human activities such as road kills,
584 persecution and low habitat quality (Urquiza-Haas et al. 2009). In terms of *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*, their
585 increased occurrence may reflect increased resource availability as areas with higher numbers of residents are
586 associated with more shifting cultivation of manioc and small-scale fruit plantations, and *Cebus* and *Sapajus* can
587 feed actively on such crops (Freitas et al. 2008; Spagnoletti et al. 2017).

588

589 **Conservation implications and future directions**

590

591 Amazonian savannas, including the SOA, are being cleared for large-scale agribusiness plantations at a fast pace,
592 before conservationists and researchers are truly able to characterize their biodiversity and ecosystem processes,
593 and as such, understanding their role for biodiversity conservation (Carvalho and Mustin 2017). As we found no
594 difference in the scale of effect between primate species, conservation strategies for primates in this landscape
595 can focus on the primate community as a whole, rather than on particular species. Given that landscape attributes
596 are the most important correlates of primate occurrence in the SOA, conservation actions for primate populations
597 should follow a “functional landscape” perspective by maintaining both higher forest cover and structural
598 connectivity (see Melo et al. 2013). Possible strategies to increase the conservation value of forest fragments in
599 the SOA for primates include protecting against the spread of large-scale agriculture and infrastructure projects,
600 the planting of live fences to promote dispersal throughout the landscape, and reduction of disturbance
601 associated with water bodies via fishing, pastoralism and recreational activities. These actions can, in theory, be
602 achieved in collaboration with private landowners or through the establishment of protected areas. Conservation
603 strategies for primates, and even other animals, outside of protected areas could include planning for their
604 sustainable use through agreements of use with local communities, and enhancing connectivity through

605 protection of native vegetation on private properties, including individual trees that may be used as stepping-
606 stones in agricultural fields, and tree-lines or palm corridors that act as elements of structural connectivity
607 between forest patches across crop fields and non-forest environments. The establishment of protected areas may
608 be particularly important in landscapes such as the SOA, as forest patches are currently surrounded by extensive
609 areas of natural environments (e.g. savannas), but anthropogenic cover is increasing quickly (Mustin et al. 2017).
610 Planning and implementation of potential new protected areas must take into account both the biodiversity value
611 of the SOA, and also their importance for the well-being, livelihoods and traditions of local communities, and
612 the process through which such areas are planned must be open, transparent, participatory and respectful of local
613 land and resource use rights and customary tenure.

614

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616

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623

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896 **Fig. 1** The three study locations (Pedreira, Curiaú and BR-156) in a savanna ecosystem in the state of Amapá
897 (Brazil), in the northeastern part of the Amazon. Buffers with dotted lines represent the forest patches that were
898 not included in the analyses to test the second prediction about the scale of effect, nor in the analysis of species
899 richness

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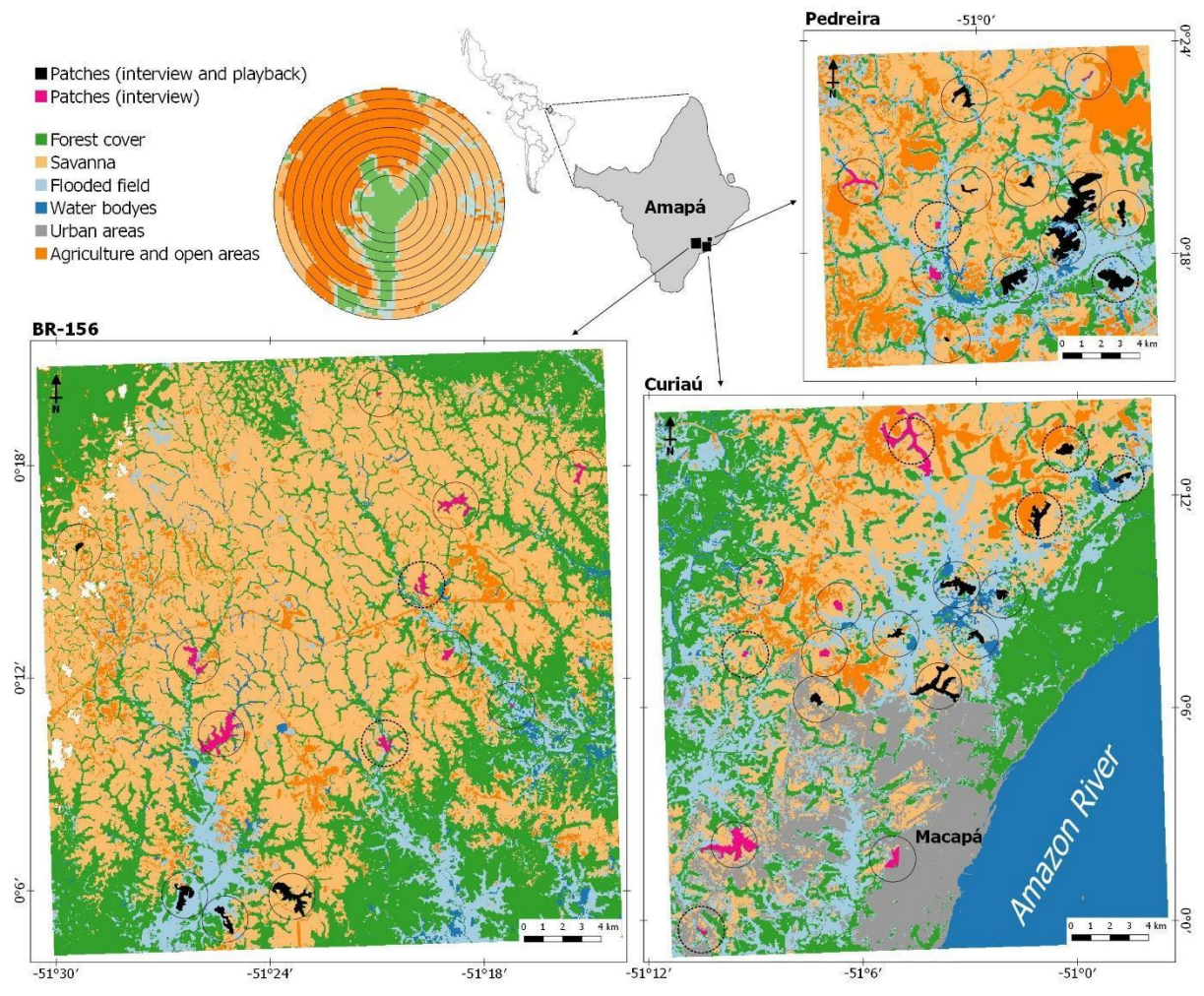
902 **Fig. 2** Association between landscape size (radius in a circular landscape) and difference in Akaike's
903 Information Criterion (ΔAIC) between forest cover and two response variables: (a) primate occurrence, and (b)
904 species richness. ΔAIC was obtained from generalized linear models. The range of scale of effect is indicated
905 with a gray horizontal line (Ab: *A. belzebul*; Cap: Capuchins (*C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*); Ss: *S. sciureus*; Sm: *S.*
906 *midas*; Cur: Curiaú; BR: BR-156; and Ped: Pedreira). Dotted horizontal line indicate the limit in which models
907 are considered to have equivalent support. Black symbols indicate $\Delta AIC \geq 2$

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910 **Fig. 3** Average relative importance for each group of variables (landscape, patch and human) for four primate
911 species and species richness in a Brazilian Amazonian savanna. For *S. midas* and *A. belzebul* only one variable
912 related to human factors was present in the set of models, impeding the calculation of the average. Capuchins are
913 *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*

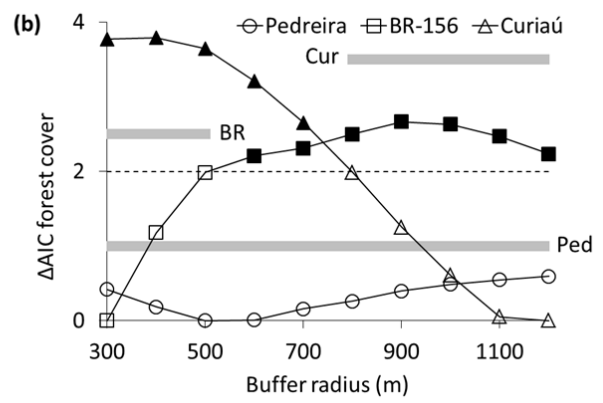
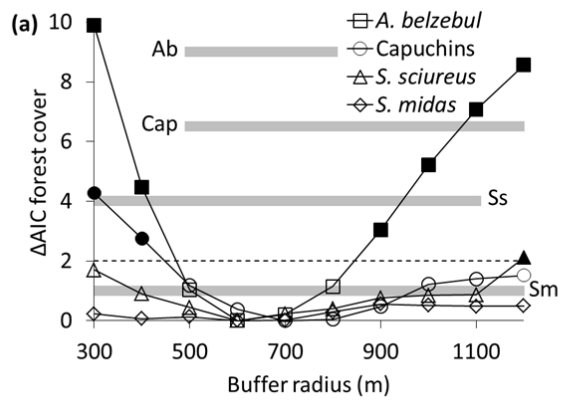
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916 **Fig. 4** Relative Importance of landscape attributes, patch characteristics and human factors for four primate
917 species (capuchins are *C. olivaceus* and *S. apella*) and species richness in a Brazilian Amazonian savanna.
918 Numbers within bars of landscape attributes and NR are the scale of effect. Note that for species richness the
919 scale of effect depends on each locality (Ped: Pedreira; Cur: Curiaú; and BR: BR-156). Symbols indicate
920 whether the relationship is positive (+) or negative (-). Predictors are anthropogenic cover (AC), water bodies
921 (WB), forest cover (FC), savanna (Sav), distance to block of forest (DF), patch area (PA), forest height (FH),
922 shape index (SI), distance to city (DC), and number of residents (NR). Vertical line is the threshold ($\sum w_i = 0.4$)
923 above which the variable is considered to be an important correlate of primate occurrences and richness



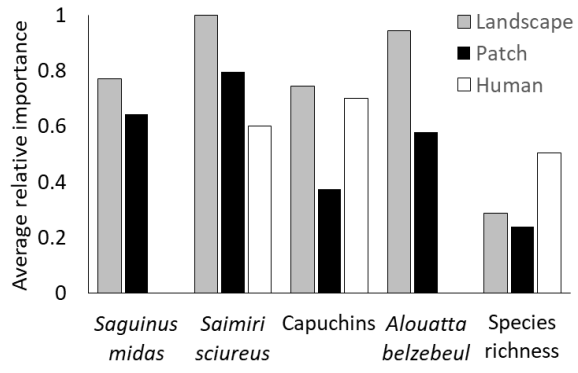
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925 Fig. 1



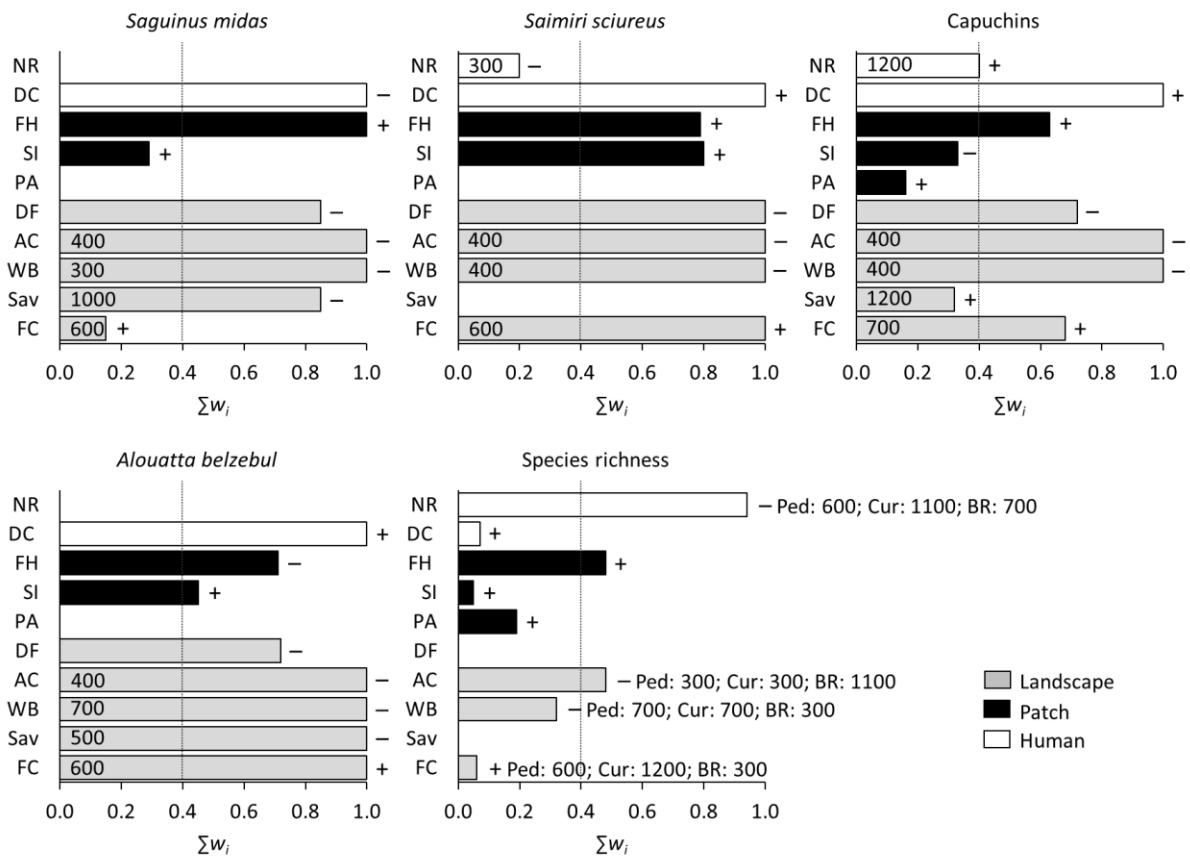
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927 Fig. 2



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929 **Fig. 3**



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931 Fig. 4