



# CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Zoos play a unique and vital role in today's complex world of conservation. As global leaders in biodiversity preservation and drawing upon our animal expertise, Zoo Atlanta works to save species and their wild environments around the globe and partners with conservation organizations to expand reach and competency.

Golden lion tamarins (GLTs) are squirrel-sized monkeys endemic to the lowland Atlantic Coastal Forest in Rio de Janeiro state in southeastern Brazil. They nearly went extinct in the 1970s due to habitat loss and the pet trade, but through extensive conservation efforts, GLT numbers have increased significantly in recent decades. However, the population still faces threats such as habitat fragmentation and disease. The Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado (AML) is the Brazilian non-profit organization focused on the conservation of GLTs and their habitats using a science-based approach that includes research, habitat protection and restoration, and education.

Conservation action requires asking questions and investigating the answers to help formulate solutions. By recognizing an issue that a wild species is facing, effective conservation action follows the same cyclic process as scientific inquiry; programs adapt and change as more is learned about the outcomes of conservation work. **Follow the conservation process below to better understand how Zoo Atlanta and our partners use adaptive management (an iterative management and monitoring process) to ensure success for golden lion tamarins.**



**PROJECT STATUS:** AML has worked for over 30 years to protect golden lion tamarins and their habitat. Through adaptive management and a science-based approach, AML is getting closer to their goal of 2,000 GLTs living in 25,000 hectares of connected and protected habitat. While the current total population is estimated at 4,800 individuals (census 2023), additional areas of forest must be connected and protected to continue growing populations. Zoo Atlanta has been a key AML partner, having provided support for over 20 years. Additionally, two groups of GLTs from Zoo Atlanta were reintroduced to the wild in Brazil during the reintroduction program which ran from 1984-2000. Dr. Jennifer Mickelberg, Vice President of Collections and Conservation at Zoo Atlanta, serves as advisor to AML, working with the team to assess and develop population management strategies for long term viability. To learn more about golden lion tamarin conservation, visit: [micoleao.org.br/](http://micoleao.org.br/)



FREE CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS



ZOOATLANTA.ORG/LEARN | 404.624.5822 | EDUCATION@ZOOATLANTA.ORG

