**SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE**



**Figure S1.** (**A**) State total Caatinga area (\*106ha) versus state protected area percentage (PAs area (%) in Caatinga), and in (**B**) versus strictly protected and sustainable use (SP + SU area (%) of protected areas) of total protected area. State total Caatinga area (log10, ha) versus Environmental Protected Areas (EPA) area (%) of total protected area (EPA area (%) of protected areas; **C** and **D**). The relationship in (**C**) and (**D**) was tested using Pearson correlation. In (**D**) we removed states with less than 2% of Caatinga inside their territory (i.e. MA and MG). We notice that all states are protecting the Caatinga predominantly in EPAs, the less restrictive protected area category. And states with larger Caatinga area have even greater proportion of EPAs in its PA system.

States: Ceará (CE), Bahia (BA), Piauí (PI), Paraíba (PB), Pernambuco (PE), Minas Gerais (MG), Rio Grande do Norte (RN), Maranhão (MA), Alagoas (AL) and Sergipe (SE).