

Editorial

Marcel Bursztyn, José Augusto Drummond,
Gabriela Litre, Maria Beatriz Maury

We are very pleased to present the seventh issue of ***Sustainability in Debate - SeD***. Early 2013 brought highly relevant developments that made us ponder about the intricate routes of sustainability.

One year has passed since Rio + 20. The Summit's underlying theme was the polarization of environmental discussions between the issues of climate change and green economy. Since then, global politics have somewhat subsided and political and geopolitical strategies have focused on more immediate topics. The engagement of the European Union (a block of nations that has played a remarkable role in dealing with environmental challenges) in its own economic crisis has caught much more attention than long-term matters. One example is the redefinition of its taxation system in accordance with criteria linked to pollution and carbon emissions. International conflicts, such as the Syrian civil war and the imminent admission of Iran into the closed club of nations that have nuclear warfare hardware have also caught a large part of the media's attention and of the international debates.

Environmental problems are becoming ever more evident and surprising. In May of 2013, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) announced that its observatory of Mauna Loa, in Hawaii, recorded the all time high measurement of 400 ppm (parts per million) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. According to the most authoritative studies, this amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere never happened before during the history of humanity. The average estimated level for the last thousands of years, before the Industrial Revolution, is 280 ppm. The implications of this phenomenon, although not yet fully evaluated, are very serious. This is one more example of how reality has been more radical than predictions.

Since 2010, when we published the first issue of ***Sustainability in Debate (SeD)***, the journal has been an important showcase for the state of the art research and for perspectives on issues concerning the natural environment and sustainable development, in Brazil and in the world. Our Book Review section has offered insights about an important sample of the pertinent literature. Our decision to publish thematic dossiers, coordinated by invited editors who are specialists in their fields,

has allowed us to provide deeper discussions and to display different points of view about current issues. Other sections, like opinion pieces, interviews and image galleries, enrich our journal.

The growing number of texts published in languages other than Portuguese, particularly English, has allowed some of our readers to choose among a wider variety of writings, in an international scale. People from more than 70 countries, from all continents, have accessed *SeD*.

In early 2013 we received good news about the relevance of our journal – *SeD* was awarded with a B2 rating by the Qualis-Capes journal rating system¹. This relatively high rating was issued exactly by the Capes committee representing the field of Environmental Sciences, which is our major target field. For a journal that at the moment of the evaluation had existed for only two years (and published only four issues), this has generated much encouragement.

We will continue to work hard, expecting to reach a higher rating the next time around. Our efforts have been especially careful about several points, among which we should mention four: punctuality; the double-blind peer review method; visual quality; and the avoidance of inbreeding. This last point means that the publication of articles by authors linked to the institutions that publish the journal is limited to a maximum of 10 percent of the total articles in each issue and even then they must go through the same evaluation as all other articles.

The valuable financial support provided by Brazil's IPEA helped fund the publication of the two 2012 issues. However, the contributions of our editorial staff (see credits) have been vital to our success. Besides managing all aspects of the journal, our staff is composed by high-level researchers. Without them, *SeD* could not be published regularly.

We wish to thank the growing number of authors who submit their texts to *SeD* and our reviewers.

Our seventh issue contains a thematic dossier focused on one of the most controversial kinds of environmental management policies or instruments – payments for environmental services. Ludivine Eloy, Emilie Coudel e Fabiano Toni were invited to edit this issue, which contains seven articles. Their contents are described in the introduction to the dossier, written by the invited editors.

Five other scientific articles on various topics are also published in this issue. In “Sobre palavras e atos no consumo sustentável no Brasil: os ‘aparentes paradoxos’ de uma pesquisa qualitativa”, Rita de Cassia Monteiro Afonso, Roberto Bartholo, Dorothea Kleine and Maria das Graças Brightwell examine the contradictions between discourse and practice in the field of sustainable consumption.

Many countries remain reticent about the adoption of new institutions and participatory negotiation arenas in transboundary areas. Assuming that there is a



peculiar transboundary dynamics, Gisela A. Pires do Rio and Helena Ribeiro Drummond, in “Água e espaços transfronteiriços na América do Sul: questões a partir do território”, discuss several aspects of water management in international boundaries, seeking to stimulate discussions about concrete situations of cooperation and/or conflict over water found in South American countries.

Andrea Janaina Cayres Estrela Fiorini, Celso Correia de Souza and Mercedes Abid Mercante, in “A Pegada Ecológica como Instrumento de Avaliação Ambiental da Cidade de Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul”, show that the ecological footprint of the city of Campo Grande is 12.22 percent above the world footprint and 68.33 percent above the levels of what is available in a sustainable mode of life for each of the Earth’s inhabitants.

In “Indicadores de avaliação para projetos de Mecanismo de Desenvolvimento Limpo (MDL) em aterros sanitários”, Silvia Regina Stuchi Cruz and Sônia Regina Paulino propose indicators to assess the social and environmental benefits to be generated by CDM projects involving the Bandeirantes and São João landfills, both located in the city of São Paulo.

Finally, in “A Formação da Nova Geopolítica das Mudanças Climáticas”, Helena Margarido Moreira describes the evolution of climate change negotiations, as they try to move towards a global agreement that is more inclusive and effective.

The issue is completed by an essay written by Luis Fernando Novoa Garzon – “Da maldição à benção dos recursos naturais: um palimpsesto discursivo do Banco Mundial”; three book reviews; an interview with Roldan Muradian and Esteve Corbera about payments for environmental services; a debate about Anthony Hall’s recent book on REDD projects in Latin America; and the Gallery, which offers text and photographs on the same topic of payments of environmental services.

We hope that our readers will be pleased with the content of this issue and that authors will continue submitting their work to **SeD**. We wish a good reading to all.

NOTES

¹ In Brazil, CAPES evaluates scientific journals by through the Qualis index, which, among other purposes, identifies the journals which have stronger relevance in each area of knowledge, both to researchers and to funding agencies and scientific institutions.

