

Editorial

By José Augusto Drummond, Marcel Bursztyn, Gabriela Litre e Juliana Dalboni Rocha

During 2013, climate changes made 22 million people worldwide lose their houses in tragic manners. This information was provided by a report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre – IDMC, presented during the recent 20th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) of the UNFCCC, in Lima, Peru. However, 2014 has come to an end with good news about the sustainability of the planet: After overcoming several impasses, the same COP 20 meeting closed with the approval of a set of decisions that will be essential for the negotiations over a new climate agreement, to occur in November 2015, in Paris, France.

Revised in order to assimilate the demands of emerging and developing countries, among which stands Brazil, the final version of the COP 20 document managed to neutralize the ghosts from the failed attempt to produce a climate agreement in the COP meeting held in 2009, in Copenhagen. The 195 countries represented in Peru upheld it immediately. If the Copenhagen ghosts have really vanished, the climate agreement to be negotiated in Paris will replace the Kyoto Protocol in 2020.

A possible multi-lateral agreement to be achieved in 2015, in Paris, would give the planet the chance to reach the end of the current century with an increase of up to 2 percent in its average temperature. Without this agreement, the thermometers will rise much more than this, resulting in impacts that vary according to the different parts of the planet, according to the predictions made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC. According to information circulated by the IDMC during the Lima meeting, the risk of having newly displaced people, affected by new catastrophes, has grown by a factor of four since 1970. From desertification to dire housing conditions, there are several risk factors in areas subject to floods. Basic resources, such as water and food, are becoming increasingly scarce in several areas of the planet, particularly in the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia. The IDMC informed that in 2013 80.9 percent of those displaced by natural disasters were Asians, as opposed to only 0.3 percent of Europeans. According to the IPCC's latest report, people who migrate on account of climate-related causes are also liable to be the target of hostilities as they try to live in rich countries.

In this increasingly dramatic context, the emerging countries grouped in Basic (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) and the countries belonging to the G77 (developing and poor countries) made a clear statement about their positions during the COP 20 meeting. They came out in favor of two important principles. First, there is the need for the commitments made by rich countries to include the means to finance,

train and transfer technology, so that poor countries may live up to their own commitments. This premise is not new, as it is stated in the 1992 Climate Convention. The second principle included in the COP 20 final document is that of “common, but differentiated responsibility”. Again, this is not new, as it was defined by the COP meeting in Durban, in 2009. It is meant to imply that developed countries must make additional and more ambitious commitments in the matter of reducing their emissions, in line with the fact that they have been releasing these gases in the atmosphere since the middle of the 18th century. Under this principle, emergent countries (even leading polluters such as China and India) and poor countries would be subject to a lesser amount of requirements.

In this context of increasing climate threats, the Cerrado biome –most of which is located inside Brazilian borders – emerges as an important laboratory for understanding the impacts of these changes on the natural setting of the Cerrado and on the livelihoods of its more vulnerable inhabitants. The Cerrado, a tropical savanna macro-formation, is Brazil’s second largest continental biome, commonly considered to be the most biodiverse savanna formation in the world, rich in endemic life forms. The major threats to the biome stem from its accelerated conversion to production systems that do not take into account the potentials of its biodiversity; nor do they respect the ways in which its more vulnerable local communities earn their living. Although potentially useful groups of native species have been identified, the development of technology to deal with adequate production and/or collection systems is still lacking adequate support by research and specific policies and interventions.

In order to stimulate discussions about the importance of the products of family farming and agro-extractive systems in the Cerrado, *Sustainability in Debate – SeD* – is hosting in this third and last issue for 2014 a dossier entitled “**Innovations for the valorization of the products of family farming and agro-extractive systems in the context of the Cerrado**” [*“Inovações para a valorização de produtos da agricultura familiar e do agroextrativismo no contexto do Cerrado”*]. The texts selected by the invited editors Janaína Deane de Abreu Sá Diniz, Mario Lúcio de Ávila and Mônica Celeida R. Nogueira show that, among the actions that can work in favor of the conservation of native stands of Cerrado, the most prominent is the use of non-timber forest products (NTFP) taken from the native biodiversity. This option may help lower the pressure for the clear cutting of remnant natural stands and at the same time generate income for resident communities. However, for this to happen there is the need for a deeper understanding of the trajectory and the dynamics of the biome’s native species as they enter the several productive chains – local, national and international.

On the other end of the productive chains, the commercialization of the products of Cerrado family farms and extractive communities faces several challenges – technical, financial, tributary, managerial or even related to public health. Despite this, the last few years have witnessed multiple initiatives that helped those products

reach markets. These initiatives have been the responsibility of producers' organizations, civil society groups and a few government agencies (local state and federal). Also worthy of mention is that these initiatives, public policies and the opening of new markets require the mediation of extension agencies and activities.

Five scientific articles, three book reviews, a Debate, an Interview and a Gallery, compose the dossier.

In "A pecuária geraizeira e a conservação da biodiversidade no Cerrado do Norte de Minas Gerais", Igor Homem de Carvalho examines the possibility of combining cattle ranching with biodiversity conservation in the Cerrado. Tayline Walverde Bispo and Janaína Deane de Abreu Sá Diniz, in "Agroextrativismo no vale do rio Urucuia-MG: uma análise sobre a pluriatividade e multifuncionalidade no Cerrado", emphasize that agro-extractive systems is a strategy that allows families to remain in their properties and to play multiple roles in rural areas

In "Indicações geográficas e a valorização comercial do artesanato em capim dourado do Jalapão", John Wilkinson and Carla Arouca Belas discuss the perspective of geographical identification as an innovation that complements policies designed to save the cultural heritage of small rural producers. They also point out the difficulties implicit in combining market mechanisms with cultural products. In the article "Os agricultores ecologistas nos mercados para alimentos orgânicos: contra movimentos e novos circuitos de comércio", Paulo André Niederle studies the numerous trajectories, networks and commercialization channels used to place organic products in the market. Eric Sabourin and co-authors, in "Inovação social na comercialização de produtos orgânicos e agroecológicos da agricultura familiar no Distrito Federal", study the farmers' markets in Brazil's Federal District (Brasília) as commercialization sights and found that values such as reciprocity are found in them.

Three reviews examine recent books that complement the current references about the models of production and commercialization of organic and agroecological goods and about the relations between society and nature in the Cerrado biome.

The Debate records the exchanges between a scientific researcher, two public managers and a civil society activist, all of them experienced in acting and reflecting about the dilemmas and challenges of agriculture and extraction in the Cerrado.

The Interview, conducted with professor Carlos Walter Porto-Gonçalves, allowed him to share deep thoughts about the role of traditional populations in the conservation and sustainable use of the Cerrado's biodiversity. The text of the Gallery, together with a set of pertinent original photographs, discusses several problems and solutions concerning the commercialization of the products generated by extractive communities.



In the **Varia** section, the article “Discursos e práticas sociais da sustentabilidade a partir da pecuária bovina brasileira”, by Lívio Sergio Dias Claudino, examines the construction of discourses and associated practices linked to the matter of the sustainability of Brazilian cattle ranching. The text shows the technocratic definition of “strategic models” considered to be “sustainable” forms of cattle ranching.

Ronaldo Ferreira Maganhotto, Leonardo José Cordeiro Santos, João Carlos Nucci, Marciel Lohmann and Luis Claudio de Paula Souza, in “Unidades de Conservação: limitações e contribuições para a conservação da natureza”, discuss matters related to Brazilian protected area legislation and the limitations and proposals contained in those areas’ management plans. The authors point out that the success of protected areas depends a great deal on the combination of joint efforts of all actors involved, the effective implementation of management plans, and on specific measures such as deforestation control and efforts to integrate protected areas with local economies.

In “Os Objetivos de Desenvolvimento do Milênio (ODMs) – uma avaliação crítica”, Paulo Gonzaga Mibielli de Carvalho and Frederico Cavadas Barcellos present a balance of the much debated “millennium goals”, in terms of their formulation and implementation. They conclude that, despite the political success of these goals (particularly for the UN, which attained a previously unrivaled level of visibility in social matters), the effort to achieve a set of human development goals until 2015 failed. Lastly, “Justiça social e ambiental: reflexão sobre os megaeventos esportivos no Rio de Janeiro”, by Rodrigo Machado Vilani and Carlos José Saldanha Machado, deal with the juridical and political debate about the rights to the city by its inhabitants. They evaluate the extent of urban renewal interventions linked to sport events, in face of the current framework of environmental justice and of the historical process of social and spatial segregation starkly illustrated by Rio de Janeiro’s slums.

This issue of **SeD** includes another book review, written by Cristiane Gomes Barreto. It evaluates *Thinking in systems: a primer*, a posthumous work of the late environmental scientist and writer Donella Meadows.

We wish you a happy Holiday season and a great 2015!

The Editors

Brasília, December 2014