

Editorial

Water in a critical condition

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The year 2017 is coming to an end, while 2018 is already at the door, bringing some signs and expectations. How can we face this transition? What does this passing year leave us as a message and what does the new year call us to think about?

This year was marked by a water scarcity in the heart of the capital of Brazil, requiring the implementation of a water rationing in a rotational system, by the distribution company, in all regions of the Federal District. The water rationing was similar to São Paulo's experience, markedly between 2014 and 2016. However, those shortages are not always caused by water level decreases in reservoirs due to reduction in precipitation - a problem of quantity. The rupture of the Fundão dam in November 2015 (known as the Tragedy of Mariana), completed two years without the socio-environmental problems related to the accident fully solved, including the reestablishment of water, referring to other aspect that causes shortages: quality. Together, quality and quantity, ensured on an ongoing basis, have been the focus of the international community in the consolidation of the water security concept, as a means to guarantee the human right to water. Nonetheless, it is important to remember that the definition of water security presented by UN-Water in 2013 reinforces a broader view beyond the necessary attention to the problem of human supply. Water Security, in this definition, requires the consideration of ecosystems protection, both to provide water for human supplies and to protect all biodiversity.

Mariana's tragedy is representative of this multifocal conjunction related to the water security concept: the necessary interweaving between disaster prevention, human supply, development of productive activities and ecosystem protection, also drawing attention to the need of implementing mechanisms to decrease geopolitical vulnerability of governmental entities and communities to inadequate land use in upstream areas. This vulnerability was concrete on affected municipalities downstream of Rio Doce, in Espírito Santo state. Remarkably, Mariana's tragedy occurred in the ending year of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" (2005-2015), proclaimed by the UN, in the General Assembly/Resolution: A/RES /58/217. The importance dedicated to the theme in this decade, and the continuation of concerns that led to its deliberation, led the same UN to declare another decade focused on water: 2018-2028 - International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" (General Assembly/Resolution A/RES/71/222).

In this context, the new upcoming year has been reintroducing and reinforcing the international concerns for water sustainability, which gains even more emphasis with the imminent 8th World Water Forum in March 2018 in the city of Brasília, organized by the World Water Council. The first Forum edition occurred in 1997 in Marrakesh, Morocco, with the meeting becoming the biggest event of this subject in the world.

The World Water Forum is a tri-annual meeting that congregates government officials, science and technology professionals, private sector, users and civil society to discuss several water issues. Five major activities are structured around: a Thematic Process, which will tackle the main themes to be addressed in the Forum (Climate, People, Development, Urban, Ecosystems and Financing, in addition to transversal themes of Governance, Training and Sharing); a Political Process that will involve the local, regional and national levels, aiming to create understanding protocols, agreements and cooperation treaties for integrated water management; Regional Process, which will discuss the main problems,

guidelines and possible mechanisms for cooperation and integrated water management in continents or geographic regions; Sustainability Focus Group, which will attempt to identify the adherences between public policies and sustainable development principles, contributing in other processes; and Citizens Forum, which will promote the participation of organized civil society in discussions, exchanges of experiences and other activities in the Forum.

Nevertheless, simultaneously with the World Water Forum, it is also underway the organization of the World Alternative Water Forum in the same city of Brasilia. The calling for an alternative event was justified on the grounds that the World Water Forum would seek to validate government privatization policies, while simultaneously influencing public opinion and decision makers for a privatized view and management of water resources. The World Water Forum organization committee responded to critics with more open signals, highlighting the event is being held for the first time in the southern hemisphere, hoping to increase the participation of peripheral and semi-peripheral countries of the world economy. The creation of the Citizens Forum would also reflect the greater opening to social participation. The confrontation of those two visions only illustrates the theme's importance and relevance, which increases in importance and expectation as the events period approaches, from March 18 to 23, 2018, before the closing of Sustainability in Debate next edition.

This editorial has the objective to draw attention to the unique moment we live in and to the importance of water for sustainability, especially because the subject of water is existent and conducting various elements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also under discussion around the world. In this context, SeD decided to present, in the last issue of 2017, a thematic issue on Water and Gender, aligned with international debates on the need to value the different world views and of management that may arise from gender differences.

In addressing these dimensions, the journal focuses on one of the pillars of integrated water resource management, social equity and the recognition that access to water is marked by class, gender, ethnicity and generation disparities. With this perspective, connections between the interfaces of SDG 6 - Water and Sanitation and SDG 5 - Gender Equality are intended. The respect and acceptance of different gender-related views are believed to promote resilience to the management of water resources, and positively contribute to the realization of the human right to water.

The issue, entitled "Gender: A Necessary Approach to Water Management", with this broad analysis on the subject, presents an interview with Dr. Alice M. Bouman-Dentener, and four scientific papers addressing the issue of Water and Gender in diverse geographical and cultural contexts. Sustainability in Debate also presents eight articles in the Varia section. Within the broad spectrum of sustainability, papers discuss environment, society and development, ecological paradigms, community social systems and environmental licensing.

The first Varia article, entitled "The state of India's environment: reflecting its underdevelopment," by V. Santhakumar, is an opinion text addressing the major environmental problems of contemporary India. The paper analyzes the interrelationship between the economical sphere (underdevelopment) and environmental outcomes.

The article "Trends and perspectives of the New Ecological Paradigm: a systematic review of scientific production", by Edson Talamini et al., presents finding of a bibliographical research of publications about the New Ecological Paradigm (NEP), identifying its application trends and perspectives.

The authors Hirdan Katarina de Medeiros Costa, André Felipe Simões and Edmilson Moutinho dos Santos, in the article "Integral Sustainability as a driving force for paradigmatic change in human lifestyle", also discuss paradigmatic questions that involve the sustainable development proposal. To do so, the discussion on the concept of sustainability is recovered and expanded.

In the article "The land system as a platform for integration and interpretation of complex environmental-society relations", Evandro Albiach Branco, Daniel Rondinelli Roquetti and Evandro Mateus Moretto reflect on the relationships between the terrestrial system, interdisciplinarity and complexity.

Raul Asseff Castelão et al., in the article “Green jobs in the Brazilian Pantanal region”, within the context of activities promoting environmental preservation, make a survey on “green jobs” in the Pantanal region among the years of 2002 to 2015.

With research in another biome, but also with a socio-environmental focus, Luiz Cláudio Moreira Melo Júnior, Doris Sayago and Manoel Malheiros Tourinho, in the article “Social systems in riverside communities in the Amazon: socio-environmental dynamics in question”, address the recent socioenvironmental dynamics (2008 - 2014) of the social systems of riverside communities located in an open frontier region along the Arapiuns River in the western region of Pará state.

With the same community perspective, the article “Smallholder families and commercial farmers’ perception on Agroforestry Systems in Tomé-Açu, Pará, Brazil”, by Gisele Pompeu, Osvaldo Kato and Ruth Almeida, analyzes the perception of agroforestry systems, through quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Lastly, Emanoele Lima Abreu and Alberto Fonseca, in the article “Comparative analysis of environmental licensing decentralization in municipalities of the Brazilian states of Minas Gerais and Piauí”, make a comparative evaluation between experiences of municipalization of environmental licensing in two municipalities in Piauí (Teresina and Água Branca) and two in Minas Gerais (Belo Horizonte and Betim). The methodological approach was qualitative through multiple case studies, collection of data in documentary analyzes and structured interviews with city hall representatives.

In consonance with the reflections promoted by the conclusion of the year and the assessment of developed activities, we highlight that in 2017 SeD intensified the proposal to extend its impact factor in the international level. The calls for manuscripts in other languages were reinforced, while at the same time the indexation in journals search bases was expanded. The last assessment allows us to proudly inform you that Sustainability in Debate is indexed on the following platforms: Scopus, Crossref, EZB, UlrichsWeb, Latindex, DOAJ and EBSCO.

In order to maintain and expand the possibilities of indexers, we are operating procedural adjustments in the journal, such as a clear and transparent definition of submitted manuscripts analysis stages, updating the Editorial Board, expanding the group of referees, and increasing the support for evaluators to sustain a qualified and rigorous article evaluation. In addition to the interest of SeD increasingly becoming a reference journal in the area of sustainability, the effort of the editorial team and collaborators is aligned with ethical principles of the journal responsibility for the development of science.

Good reading and a happy 2018.

The Editors