

## Presentation

On the occasion of Rio+20 – United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and of the celebration of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Capes launched the book *Contribuição da pós-graduação brasileira para o desenvolvimento sustentável: Capes na Rio+20* (The contribution of Brazilian postgraduate studies to sustainable development: Capes at Rio+20) to record the advances of Brazilian postgraduate studies on sustainable development.

Capes publishes this edition of *Revista Brasileira de Pós-Graduação* (RBPG) taking into account the importance of the theme, and continuing the effort to support the reflection on the harmonious combination of processes that lead to the development of the country, based on the principles of economic viability, social justice, environmental balance, and respect to the cultural values of society.

At the same time it promotes quality in the training of high-level human resources and stimulates the advancement of the frontiers of science, technology and innovation, Capes provides room for reflection in postgraduate studies on the challenges present in the vast agenda of Brazilian development.

Environmental issues have particularly been valued over the past few years because they lie at the convergence of socio-economic demands with the prospects of affirmation of a model of sustainable development. In 2011, the area of Environmental Sciences was established in the framework of the National System of Assessment of Postgraduate Studies, under the responsibility of the Evaluation Board, giving visibility and ascribing strategic relevance to subjects that belong in this major agenda, such as development, planning, management, use of technology and education for science.

By way of illustration, the area of Environmental Sciences alone currently offers 37 courses – six doctoral courses and 25 programmes with master's and doctoral degrees –, which demonstrates that the creation of this new area at Capes was correct. Furthermore, the creation of this

area reveals the increasing appreciation, by various Capes programmes, of the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach of Brazilian postgraduate studies.

Being aware of the need to promote scientific and technological research and innovation, as well as the formation of qualified staff aimed at facing the present and future challenges posed by issues such as energy, food production, quality of life in cities, water and water resources, among many others, Capes also supports research projects by financing actions such as the Programmes Sciences of the Sea and Pro-Amazon: Biodiversity and Sustainability.

During Rio+20, the Agency started a partnership with Vale, whose result was the Vale-Capes Award of Science and Sustainability. The award recognizes the best doctoral theses and master's dissertations that seek innovative solutions to issues such as the reduction in water use; energy efficiency; and the reduction, reuse and recycling of solid wastes.

Besides, Capes has encouraged the creation of professional master's degrees aiming to qualify teachers in public elementary and high schools throughout Brazil by promoting the articulation between postgraduate studies and basic education.

Along the lines of the Programa de Mestrado Profissional em *Matemática em Rede Nacional* – Profmat (National Professional Master's Programme in Mathematics) – the first continuing education course approved in the stricto sensu format–, other proposals aimed at this post graduation model are being planned, in order to create a national professional master's programme in the area of Environmental Sciences, aimed at the training of professorson socio-environmental issues. By means of these programmes and other initiatives aimed at teachers of basic education, we hope to stimulate and disseminate knowledge, research and interest in this agenda as soon as possible, preferably in classrooms. Finally, I would like to thank, on behalf of Capes, the availability and dedication of all those who worked to publish this issue, mainly the authors, reviewers, and members of the commission of analysis and judgment of articles.

Jorge Almeida Guimarães  
President of Capes