

## Editorial

Since the global and gradual recognition of the relevance of environmental issues in the mid-1960s, the theme of sustainability has gained importance throughout the planet.

This movement can be defined as a growing demand for the institutionalization of environmental issues in society as a whole.

United Nations international conferences on the environment have become landmarks of the institutionalization process, such as Stockholm 1972, Rio-92 and, most recently, Rio+20, which have boosted institutionalization in governments, civil society and markets in several countries.

This process has been materialized in the form of management, a legal framework and an institutional apparatus, and has been constituted as an area of knowledge and specific field of research that pervades many areas.

In this context, increasing efforts have been made to overcome the numerous challenges presented to establish a development standard on sustainable bases. The Conference on Sustainable Development and Environment, Rio+20, was an important part of such efforts, which add up to several others, such as those in the field of research on environmental issues, especially considering its interdisciplinary nature.

While disciplines must move forward in the consolidation of their methods, themes such as the environment and sustainable development, which are complex and cross-cutting in nature, encourage the exchange of knowledge and the imminent need for collaboration.

In 2012, Capes launched Edict No. 036 to call for articles for this edition of Revista Brasileira de Pós-Graduação (RBPG), which addresses postgraduate education and its relationship with the principles of sustainable development. Faced with the fact that this topic is effervescent, cutting-edge and challenging, this special issue of RBPG

brings 13 articles that discuss the topic, especially considering its cross-cutting and interdisciplinary nature, through discussions, experiences and case studies.

Opening the edition and the session Debates, in “Sustainable Development, Interdisciplinarity and Environmental Sciences”, Philippi Jr. et al. present the debate on interdisciplinarity in research and postgraduate studies, focusing on environmental sciences. The institutionalization of interdisciplinary and environmental sciences in Brazilian postgraduate studies is discussed, evincing some challenges and paths to the near future.

In the second article, “The challenges of the sustainability theme in graduate education”, Malheiros et al. bring elements related to the challenges to implement research and teaching on sustainability in the Brazilian postgraduate context, thus suggesting features applied to the curricula and to the perspective of postgraduate programmes in dealing with the issues of sustainability. Due to the inseparability of the themes related to sustainability, the authors highlight its interdisciplinary nature and its role as a change of values.

In the third article, “The inclusion of green chemistry in postgraduate programmes in Chemistry in Brazil: trends and perspectives,” Zuin discusses ways in which the principles of Green Chemistry have been inserted into Brazilian postgraduate programmes in chemistry. Considering the importance of sustainability, the article highlights the existence of a process with disciplines, groups, lines, and research projects that can significantly contribute to rethinking ways to generate green materials and establish green processes.

In the fourth article, “Multiple knowledge of network diversity: intercultural connections in the debate over digital inclusion with respect of the people of the forest,” Moura presents an analysis concerning digital inclusion in the Amazon, considering that public policies of digital inclusion do not extend to these populations. Their inclusion is defended, taking into account the recognition of their cultures and the right to exercise citizenship.

To complete the section Debates, in “Sustainable development and specific vulnerabilities generated by the lack of basic needs,” Assisi and Zanella address individual and social vulnerabilities that may be generated by not meeting human needs. The authors advocate the importance of economic approaches considering and addressing complexity, by means of indicators of sustainability and human values, addressing the context of transition from one model of unsustainable development to another one, of sustainable development.

Opening the section Experiences, Rabelo et al. sign the sixth article, entitled “The experience of PRODEMA in Brazilian postgraduate education: science for sustainability at UFC,” which presents the contributions of the Postgraduate Programme in Development and Environment at Universidade Federal do Ceará to train professionals and scientists open to interdisciplinary work in complex contexts, in view of the issues related to sustainable development.

In “Sustainability and interdisciplinarity: innovations and challenges for postgraduate programs on the environment and society: the case of the Centre for Sustainable Development at the University of Brasília”, Nascimento, Amazonas and Vilhena present the experience of the Centre of Sustainable Development at Universidade de Brasília (CDS/UnB), showing innovations and challenges of said centre, which has built its identity in the binomial sustainability and interdisciplinarity.

With the article “Commitment and alignment of PUC-Rio’s postgraduate programme with sustainable development,” Frota and Luiz reflect on the experience at Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) in sustainable development, in line with the recommendations of United Nations conferences on this aspect. They point out that the construction of commitment to the theme occurs through integrated action of the university and deeply analyse an experience related to a postgraduate programme at the institution.

In the article “Collaborative learning, transdisciplinarity, and social-environmental management in the Amazon: approaches to knowledge production between academia and society,” de Athayde et al. reflect on

two experiences in the formation of leaders for social and environmental management in the Amazon, involving the interdisciplinary perspective when integrating theories and methods from different disciplines and the transdisciplinary perspective when it leverages participatory management experiences and collaborative learning involving academia and society, integrating perspectives and expertise from different social players.

Next, in “Postgraduate education and the sustainability of rainwater supply to riparian communities in the Amazon: from concept to action,” Veloso et al. continue the necessary discussion on the integration between academia and society, by means of integrating the experience of two postgraduate programmes in implementing alternatives to the use of rainwater for potable purposes, in order to contribute to the sustainability of local supply.

Closing the section Experiences, in “Innovation and sustainability in the construction industry: a teaching exercise in the University of Brasília’s Postgraduate Programme in Architecture and Urbanism,” Blumenschein, Miller and Tomé present the results of the development of the tool Cais (Portuguese acronym for design and analysis in innovation and sustainability) to structure the reasoning and analysis of projects, in order to generate results in synergy with innovation and sustainability in the construction industry.

Opening the section Studies, in “Legislation and environmental policy in Brazil: the possibilities of sustainable development and the risks of environmental retrogression,” Vilani analyses the appropriation of the ideal of sustainable development as an intergenerational commitment established by the main federal environmental laws, as well as by the Brazilian Federal Constitution.

Completing the edition, Campelo’s article, “Public policies for Brazilian family farming in a semiarid climate: from combat to coexistence,” discusses the ideology of public policies to combat drought, carried out in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, comparing them to the policies of coexistence

with the semi-arid climate, which bring a new strategic configuration for the sustainability of local development.

Finally, we must point out that the experience of Brazilian postgraduate studies is broad, and the articles published in this issue of RBPG represent only a small sample of the richness of this experience in the many areas of knowledge, which has considered and acted on the theme of the country's development on a sustainable basis.

Arlindo Philippi Jr. and  
Maria do Carmo Martins Sobral