

Territorial planning for the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil: The example of PROGESC

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The development of the Programa de Informações Básicas para Gestão Territorial de Santa Catarina – PROGESC (Programme of Basic Information for the Territorial Management of Santa Catarina – PROGESC), carried out by the Geological Survey of Brazil – CPRM, reached a bench mark in the State regarding the way in which to obtain information on the natural environment. This in turn paved the way for management and planning in municipalities. Three lines of action were taken: (i) the management of water resources; (ii) the organisation of urban agglomerates and master plans; and (iii) the emergency problems called SOS Town Councils.

The Project aimed to define the different attributes of the natural environment: declivity, geology, geomorphology, pedology, water resources and vegetation. The correlation of these attributes with information on human activities such as housing, roads, industry, waste disposal and agriculture, led to the production of fifteen reports and seventeen thematic maps.

All these technical tools subsidised a re-evaluation of the Master Plan for Criciúma, which is now the first municipality in Santa Catarina State having the thorough data on natural environment and anthropic action. On the other hand, the monitoring of the three import drainage basin (Araranguá, Urussanga and Tubão) accomplished by the Environmental Foundation of Santa Catarina State, by using the PROGESC data and maps, allowed the life improvement of the 600,000 inhabitants of the eleven villages and towns of the State's Coal Region.