

Porto Alegre Environmental Atlas: a Tool for Urban Planning with Participative Citizenship

¹MENEGAT, R.; ¹FERNANDES, L. A. D.; ¹CARRARO, C. C.;
²PORTO, M. L., ¹KOESTER, E. ¹Instituto de Geociências - UFRGS, Porto Alegre, Brazil. ²Instituto de Biociências - UFRGS, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Old paradigms of urban environment management had to be reviewed taking into account a self-sustained Earth. Public policies implemented for the cities need to consider that no solution will be complete without the formulation of a strategy continuously carried out by the citizens. A good example is the city of Porto Alegre, the capital of the southernmost state in Brazil, regarded as having the best quality of life in the country. Population of Porto Alegre participates and has influence in the city's future through a system named Participative Budgeting. This system of direct democracy have been improved through the development of a policy for environmental information and education. Through a partnership among the City Hall, the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), an Environmental Atlas of Porto Alegre has been elaborated. The main goal of this *Atlas* is to disseminate state-of-the-art scientific and technical environmental parameters for the city. The *Atlas*, a 256 (32x41cm) page long volume, contains 98 maps, 150 water-colour block-diagrams and 611 photographs. The *Atlas* provides technical support for environmental prognostics. Several distinct scale connections are available in order to situate Porto Alegre's environment from a continental to a microscope view. In addition, the *Atlas* also presents the temporal evolution from a geological time scale (events about 800 Ma old) down to a time scale of hours, months or years that represent the evolution of series of natural phenomena. A CD-ROM complements the printed information.