

Geoenvironmental map of the region of the discovery of Brazil.

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The Municipalities of Porto Seguro and Santa Cruz Cabralia (BA) have historical importance as the site of the discovery of Brazil. Recently, these municipalities have undergone considerable tourist and urban development, which has created environmental problems due to the human occupation of the mangrove swamps and areas subject to erosion and/or areas devoid of basic infrastructure. Additional environmental problems have been caused by deforestation, with consequent burning; the creation of pasture and rubbish dumps; road construction and the digging of drainage canals. In the region there are six conservation authorities which motivated the to development of projects to study the physical environment. These studies consisted of geological, geomorphological and hydrological mapping; maps showing land, soil, forest and infrastructure utilization, in addition to erosion vulnerability studies and climate studies. All these studies have led to the preparation of geoenvironmental maps, a basic instrument for governmental and private planning. The delimitation of areas into environmental units has led to the identification of their potential, environmental fragility, and the limitations of each geographical space. As a result, plans for the management and conservation of natural resources, as well as methods on how to evaluate the quality of these environments and their behaviour in the light of pressures brought about by economic exploration have been produced.