

LANDSLIDE HAZARD ASSESSMENT FOR THE SITES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SERRA DO MAR, SÃO PAULO STATE, BRAZIL

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The cultural heritage sites in the Serra do Mar, specially those existing along the roadway named Caminho do Mar, comprises some of the most important historical buildings and monuments of São Paulo. Constructed in the beginning of the century, the Caminho do Mar itself, and together with other buildings and monuments form a distinguished collection which reveals the fight of the former people of São Paulo to over cross the topographical barrier represented by the scarps of Serra do Mar. Serra do Mar, with 700 to 1000 m high, is the most remarkable topographic feature that goes along parallel to the coast of São Paulo State, separating the Coastal Plain and the Interior Plateau. The cultural heritage of the Serra do Mar also comprises the remainder natural environment of the tropical rainforest. Also the so called Calçada do Lorena, which construction was finished in 1792, was the first stoned paved way of communication between São Paulo Plateau and the Coastal Plains. In 1996, heavy rainfalls triggered widespread landslides at the slopes of Serra do Mar, crossed by the Caminho do Mar. Debris flows were generated downhill causing the destruction of bridges and obstructing passages in many points of the Caminho do Mar. This way is interrupted to visitation, limiting the access of people to these historical sites, which are suffering deterioration by absence of necessary reconstruction and maintenance of the Caminho do Mar road.