
Introduction

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1 Introduction

The objective of this special issue is to present a series of high quality papers on the relationship between human aspects/factors and environmental management in Brazilian organisations. The ‘Human side of environmental management’ theme has been getting more and more attention by sustainability researchers (Renwick et al., 2012; Jackson et al., 2011). Without giving attention to human factors and organisational aspects, it is difficult to implement any organisational strategy or practice with the objective of contributing to sustainable development.

Six papers on the theme are presented in this special issue. These papers underwent a rigorous evaluation process and at least one major revision. They add to the growing scientific production about the human aspects of environmental management in Brazil (Jabbour et al., 2010) and are briefly introduced below.

2 Brief profile of papers published

In the paper entitled ‘Competences for environmental performance in a Brazilian oil company’, Hippertt et al. present a study with the aim of identifying organisational competences that impact the environmental performance of organisations. A case study is adopted as a research strategy.

The authors Eboli and Mancini present the paper ‘Corporate education for sustainability’. The objective is to discuss the importance of corporate education systems

(CES) in fostering the competences necessary for companies to face the challenges of sustainability in their management processes.

In 'Relationship between resources, environmental strategies, and organisations performance: an application in the cold storage sector', Sehnem and Rossetto present a framework to understand this complex relationship.

Ventura et al., with 'The human side of social technology for climate change mitigation and human development: the case of 'efficient stoves' in Brazil' explore how the incorporation of the human side into carbon management reinforces its contribution to generate human development in local communities and to improve the company's image.

Munck and Borim-de-Souza present 'Sustainability and competencies in organisational contexts: a proposal of a model of interaction', with the aim of proposing a model of interaction between sustainability and competencies in organisational contexts.

Finally, Raele et al. present the paper 'The second-generation ethanol in the state of São Paulo – Brazil: understanding the stakeholders' point of view', with the objective of mapping the perspective of publics interested in this new environmental technology.

3 Lessons learned from the articles

An analysis of the papers published in the special issue, reveals the following lessons:

- there is still a broad conceptual and theoretic field for discussing the relationship between human aspects and environmental management in Brazilian organisations
- several sectors of the economy should be considered in this line of research, such as oil and agriculture
- environmental training and education for the environment become a fundamental element for adopting environmental management practices
- the human side of organisations tends to be important not only for environmentally fitting management, but also for socially responsible management.

The papers in this special issue hope to be relevant for advancing knowledge about 'the human side of environmental management' not only in Brazil, but also in all countries and companies seeking sustainable development.

References

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