

- INVITATION, CALL FOR PAPERS -

“Global Governance for Sustainable Development: the role of non-state actors”

Journal Background

The Brazilian RGSA journal (Journal of Environmental and Social Management) is published online at www.rgsa.com.br (free access) since 2007 (3 issues per year with 7-10 articles each issue). It is supported by the Brazilian Academy of Management (ANPAD), but it has also readers and authors from all over the world, especially from Latin America.

Theme and Objectives

There is a growing recognition of the increasingly significant and influential role played by non-state actors (Non-Governmental Organizations – NGOs, business, the scientific networks, individuals, media, etc) in global governance for sustainable development. The non-state actors contribute to the shaping of the sustainable development agenda, perform governance functions by establishing new norms and institutions, protest and mediate and influence regime formation and implementation.

Academic literature has neglected the role of market and civil society actors in making/defining global public policy. The dominance of the state-centric paradigm has meant that the influence of non-state actors have often been minimized or ignored in the study of international environmental politics. Then, after years of neglect, significant interdisciplinary research is currently being undertaken that aims to advance our empirical knowledge and theoretical tools for better understanding the role of the market and civil society actors in global governance for sustainable development and the implications of non-state forms of governance.

RGSA seeks to examine how non-state actors might question and contribute to Global Governance for Sustainable Development, as well as the long-term implication of the emergence of such non-state authority and governance. A particular attention will be given to non-state actors coming from developing countries and emerging economies.

Articles could consider, but are not limited to, one of the following questions:

1. How do non-state actors engage with the global governance for sustainable development? What are the different degrees and the forms of participation?
2. What are the implications of non-state forms of global environmental governance (voluntary agreements, codes of conduct, certification)? How might such governance achieve legitimacy and authority?

3. What concrete results have been reached by the public-private partnerships projects for sustainable development carried out by the non-state actors in collaboration with the states?
4. Is non-state global environmental regulation viable? What might the potential consequences and implications of non-state regulation be?
5. Are the non-state actors truly visible, representative and legitimate when they participate in international environmental forums?
6. How do non-state actors influence the formation and the implementation of global environmental regimes? What are their strategies? What are their interests/concerns?
7. How do the non-state actors analyse the efficiency of global environmental governance systems?
8. What is the non-state actors' role in the United Nations global environmental governance system reform project?
9. How can the non-state actors contribute to global environmental governance systems more effectively?
10. What roles can the non-state play in the different global environmental governance system reform proposals?
11. What spaces might the non-state actors occupy to better participate in a decentralized global environmental governance model?
12. What would be the non-state actors' role in decentralized global environmental governance carried out through the concept of a hybrid public policy network?
13. How does the current discussion about the roles of non-state actors in global governance for sustainable development differ from debates in the past? Has there been a change in their ability to influence state policies; if so, what are the implications?
14. How do the different theoretical perspectives understand the role and influence of the non-state actors in global governance for sustainable development?
15. How does the nature of power and authority in the United Nations global environmental governance system change with globalization?

Who Should Submit

RGSA invites academics, researchers, practitioners and policy experts to engage in a multi-disciplinary discussion of the stated theme. We seek to publish empirical, theoretical, policy oriented articles and case studies that cover, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Environmental Policy and Management;
- International Relations, Political Science and Government;
- Development Studies, Economics and Geography;
- International Trade and Finance;
- Political and Development Sociology.

Selection Process

The special issue will follow the editorial guidelines of the RGSA – Revista de Gestão Social y Ambiental, Journal of Social and Environmental Management: www.rgsa.com.br.

Articles selected for the special issue will undergo a two-stage refereeing process. 1) Interested authors are invited to send an abstract of no more than 500 words by **November 30, 2008**. The editor will first review the abstracts to analyze their suitability for this special edition of RGSA. 2) Authors of the selected abstracts will then be asked to submit the full paper by **March 31, 2009** for a double blind review. The size of the articles will range from 6,000 to 9,000 words. *Acceptance of the article will depend on the quality of the full paper, and not only on the acceptance of the abstract.* Selected contributors will be required to submit final revised papers by **June 30, 2009**. The special issue will come out in **August 2009**. Abstracts and articles must be written in Portuguese, Spanish, English or French.

How to Submit

Abstracts and papers must be sent only by email to:

Célio Andrade (celio.andrade@superig.com.br)

Professor at the School of Management of the Federal University of the State of Bahia in Brazil.

Researcher associated with the “Global Environmental Governance Reform Project” at the *Institut Hydro-Québec en Environnement, Développement et Société*, (EDS Institute), Laval University, Québec, Canada.

Please write “Call for Papers on Global Governance” in the subject line.

Submission Timetable and Deadlines

Abstracts (500 words): **November 30, 2008**.

Full papers (6,000 - 9,000 words): **March 31, 2009**.

Revised papers: **June 30, 2009**.

Release date of the special issue: **August 2009**.