

# Environment Protection and Public Policies: the case of the Brazilian System of Protected Areas (SNUC)

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## Abstract

This poster aims to present the Brazilian System of Protected Areas (SNUC), which is the result of the enforcement of the Brazilian society in promoting public policies to reduce the impact of human activity in nature. It has presented the concept of a public policy, a short history of public policies regarding the environment in Brazil, the main points of the Brazilian System of Protected Areas (SNUC), and a map exposing the protected areas in Brazil. The main finding is that the SNUC is a strong instrument to promote public policies to protect the environment, not only excluding the use of the land but promoting sustainable development.

## Introduction

Human beings are changing their environment completely, causing brutal reactions from nature. Snow in hot cities, waves of warmth in cities with a temperate climate, and forest burning are all consequences of the impact of the actions of humans in nature. However, how is Brazil, the country with the most significant part of Amazon forest, acting to promote public policies to protect the environment and the areas of nature necessary to avoid higher impacts in the global weather? This poster presents the most advanced instrument to answer this question, the Brazilian System of Protected Areas (SNUC), which is the reflex of a history of public policies created to protect the nature of the impact of human actions and regulate the sustainable use of the environment.

## Public Policies

Public policies are a set of intentional and causal, reputable and effective actions, which aim to achieve objectives considered of value by society or to solve problems whose solution is considered of public interest or benefit, whose intention and cause have been defined by the type of dialogue that takes place between the government and sectors of society. Thus, a public policy is not singular and transient government action but a set of structured, stable, systematic actions that follow a pattern of action. Furthermore, the fundamental characteristic of this is citizen participation in defining objectives, instruments, and political actions, a government that must be legitimate and respects the legality (VILLANUEVA, 1992).

## Public Policies for Environment Protection in Brazil

From the second half of the 20th century, there was a change in dealing with the environment, especially concerning its regulation. This position can be attributed to the coercion of the international community regarding environmental problems, which fostered protocols and treaties to which Brazil became a party and ratified them. It is also in this period, mainly in the 1970s, that international recognition of the progress of environmental degradation on animal and plant species in Brazil occurs, which fosters movements for the creation of protected areas, which are aligned with national political projects for the integration and development of all regions of the country concomitant with territorial control (PECCATIELLO, 2011).

Mercadante, 2001, shows that until this period, conservation units were established for aesthetic reasons, with no policy to guarantee the conservation of specimens representing ecosystems in Brazil or a strategic relationship in creating national parks and forests. However, this situation began to change in the 1970s, *eg*, in 1976, the work “An Analysis of Priorities in Nature Conservation in the Amazon” is presented, which laid out the “Plan for the System of Protected Areas in Brazil” which was consolidated in 1982 (MERCADANTE, 2001). During the change in political regimes in Brazil, during the 1980s, the search for aligning development plans with the regulation of the use and protection of the environment took on greater proportions. In 1988, a draft bill for the institution of a National System of Protected Areas – SNUC began to be drafted. This draft was approved and in 1992 was sent by the Executive Branch to the National Congress as a Bill (MERCADANTE, 2001).

As major national projects, the discussion for the approval of the National System of Protected Areas – SNUC – involved several social actors and promoted a clash between interests. Finally, however, it was approved on June 21, 2000, by the National Congress.

## The Brazilian System of Protected Areas (SNUC)

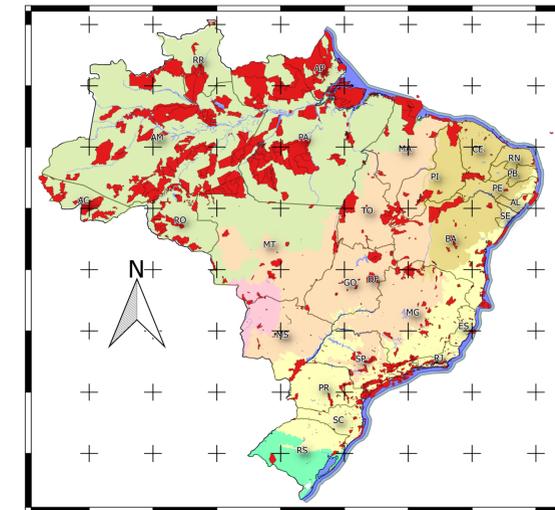
The Brazilian System of Protected Areas (SNUC) The approved text defined the creation of 12 categories of Conservation Units, grouped in two groups, Full Protection Areas and Areas of Sustainable Use:

### Full Protection Areas

The Full Protection Areas seek the integral preservation of biodiversity. Humans cannot inhabit their areas, and controlled activities such as scientific research and ecological tourism are allowed. Five categories make up this strict protection group: Ecological Stations; Biological Reserves; National Parks; Natural Monuments; Wildlife Refuges. Furthermore, their areas are in the public domain since the private properties in the delimited area must be expropriated for their installation.

### Areas of Sustainable Use

In turn, Areas of Sustainable Use are categorized into Environmental Protection Areas, Areas of Relevant Ecological Interest, National Forests, Extractive Reserves, Fauna Reserves, Sustainable Development Reserves, and Private Natural Heritage Reserves. Consisting of public or private land, the Environmental Protection Areas have important attributes for quality of life and human well-being and have as basic objectives to protect biological diversity, discipline the occupation process and ensure the sustainability of the use of natural resources (BRASIL, 2000). Thus, it is understood that in Environmental Protection Areas, human occupation is allowed, as this categorization seeks to reconcile human occupation in an orderly manner with the use of environmental resources in a sustainable manner. This sustainable development model is the driving force behind the 375 Environmental Protection Areas currently registered with the Ministry of the Environment, 37 of which are from the federal administration, 200 from the administration of the States, and 138 with the municipal administration. As it is possible to see in red on this map from the National Institute of Amazon Research (<<https://ppbio.inpa.gov.br/Mapas/UCs/Todas>>)



## Results

Looking at the map with all the protected areas is possible to see that many of them are in the region of Amazon forest; once that, this biome needs to be protected to avoid impact in all the biosphere. Furthermore, there are protected areas through all the Brazilian biomes that expose the impact of environmental conservation policies in Brazil.

## Conclusion

Public policies are promoted and supported by all the society, once that impact the collectivity. The Brazilian System of Protected Areas (SNUC) is the reflex of these policies promoted since the second half of the 20th century, and it is responsible for avoiding a higher impact of climate change in Brazilian society and the world.

## References

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