



The New Forest Code and Payment for Environmental Services as Part of Water Management

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Introduction: This scientific study is part of a larger project entitled: “WATER MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING OF DRAINAGE BASINS: Studies pertaining to the basin of the Paranapanema River.” This project on public policy and management of water resources in Paranapanema River basin was approved in the CNPq. Interim results are reported in the CNPq/PIBIC volume at the beginning of 2013, which included studies of the new forest code and payment for environmental services (PES) as measures contributing to the management of the basin of the Palmitalzinho River in the municipality of RegenteFeijó, São Paulo. **Methodology and Development:** The methodology took in a review of the literature, in particular studies of Brazilian Environmental Legislation: The New Forest Code (Law 12.727/12) which outlines a method of environmental management by means of preserving the environment and natural resources – achieved through preservation and conservation – in the Permanent Preservation Areas (APP) and the Legal Reserve (LR) which have suffered various changes over the years. The argument has intensified since 2009, leading, in May 2012, to Law 12.651 and, later, on 17th October the same year, to Law 12.727 and the Rural Registration System (CAR). This legislation will help to evaluate the occupation and use of the Palmitalzinho river basin in RegenteFeijó / SP following conflicts in the APP and production undertaken in the basin area. Another matter which will be part of the research is the PES, currently seen as a new tool in the environmental management of water by means of financial compensation to farmers seeking to reconstruct their areas of the APP through practising proper management of natural resources on their property. **Final considerations:** Compliance with environmental legislation can be seen as a basic tool and mechanism for the planning and management of water resources. Maintaining the forest cover in the river basins contributes to preservation and conservation and the environmental quality benefits everyone. However, it is important to be sure that the new forest code is properly implemented in the Palmitalzinho river basin area of the municipality of RegenteFeijó so that the legislation contributes to the conservation of soil and water resources bearing in mind that this region is used as pastureland. Turning to water management, another matter in sharp focus nowadays is the cost of environmental services alongside Brazilian environmental legislation, including the forest code, which includes the protection and proper management of natural resources, pre-eminently water.

Key words: River basin; forest code; cost of environmental services.