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Article

Indicators of the Municipal Environmental Licensing Process in Brazil, Challenges and Good Practices

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Abstract

The implementation of the Law 140/11 has enforced local governments to decentralize the environmental licensing process in Brazil. However the majority of the Brazilian municipalities have failed to implement this process integrally. This has caused problems not only in the socio-economic development process, but also caused negative impact on the environment that compromises local sustainability. Based on the critical situation of the environmental licensing process, this paper analyzes the obstacles of decentralization as well as the successful experiences in five Brazilian capitals. Research was carried out through the application of semi-structured questionnaires. This allowed the definition of legal, institutional and procedural indicators of the municipal environmental licensing process. These indicators were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using graphs and tables. Although the literature indicates that the municipal decentralization process in most municipalities is still insipid, the research has identified good practices in the municipalities that were analyzed. These experiences should be known and disseminated to improve the Brazilian municipal environmental licensing process, contributing ultimately to the local sustainable development.

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