

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF TOURISM ON THE FLUVIAL SYSTEMS

Valdecir Galvão
José Cândido Stevaux
UNESP - Universidade Estadual
Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho
Rio Claro - Brasil

The study area is located on the border of South Matogrosso and Paraná, in the municipalities of Puerto Rico and Sao Pedro do Paraná (District Porto São José) in Paraná and Taquarussu in South Matogrosso. With the relatively recent implementation of the Project Costa Rica, it is believed that tourism is further intensifying and jeopardizes whole ecosystems of the alluvial plain. This work raised and analyzed economic data and physical aspects of local tourism and assessed the risk to the environment. Using geomorphic and biological characteristics, the sub-environments were classified according to its intrinsic characteristics (weakness) and tourist use of their characteristics (type of activity and intensity). Finally this parameter was confronted with the frequency, providing the risk that the sub-environment is subject to. It was found that the situation of different sub-environments is quite different, and revealed low-average risk (4.5) to high (10.5) on a scale 1-12. Through a still scarcely used perspective in Brazil to study the impact of tourism, this research now suggests its applicability in studies of calculation of load capacity and management projects.

KEY WORDS: *eco-tourism, methodology for impact assessment, fluvial geomorphology, Paraná River*