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Solid Waste

National Plan. On September 5, 2011 the Ministry of the Environment ("MMA", in Portuguese) initiated the **public consultation** in connection with the first version of the Solid Waste National Plan, one of the main instruments of the National Policy of Solid Waste (Federal Law No. 12,305/2010).

Once approved, the Plan will be valid for an indefinite term, but will contemplate a 20-year horizon, with updates every four years.

The content of the Plan includes the following aspects: (i) diagnosis of the current situation of the different types of waste in Brazil; (ii) macroeconomic and institutional scenarios; (iii) directives and strategies for the different types of waste; and (iv) **goals for environmentally adequate final disposal of waste, for the reduction of residues and recovery of biogas in landfills** and for the management of the different types of waste, pursuant to its origin.

Such preliminary version of the Plan will be subject to discussion in five **regional public hearings** and will be consolidated in a

national public hearing to be held in Brasília.

The Plan is available through the link <http://bit.ly/nhdEoi> and comments can be sent to MMA by November 7, 2011, in a proper form, to the following e-mail: comite.interministerial@mma.gov.br.

Used Lubricant Oil. During its 103rd Ordinary Meeting, held from August 31 to September 1st, 2011 the National Council for the Environment ("CONAMA", in Portuguese) released the **Report on Used and/or Contaminated Lubricant**

Oil ("OLUC", in Portuguese), pursuant to CONAMA Resolution No. 362/2005, which addresses the pick-up, collection and final destination of OLUC.

Pursuant to the Resolution, the **manufacturers and importers** of finished lubricant oil are obliged to collect or to guaranty the collection and to perform adequate final destination of OLUC, in a proportional manner with the total oil volume that they have commercialized.

The Resolution also establishes 



➔ that all collected OLUC must necessarily be destined to recycling, by means of a **re-refining process**.

For year 2010, pursuant to Inter-Ministerial Rule No. 464/2007, enacted jointly by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the **minimum collection percentage** of OLUC was fixed as follows: 35% for the national level, 23% for the North and North-East regions, 31% for the

Center-West, 42% for the South-East and 35% for the South. Although the percentage has been reached for the national level (the result was 36,69%), the Report indicates that a considerable portion of the States (Acre, Amapá, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, Ceará, Maranhão, Pernambuco, Piauí, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina) did not achieve the respective regional percentage.

Such deficit occurred due to the **deficiencies of the collection logistics and in the verification of stocks**, as well as because of **illegal deviations**. The Report is available in the following link: <http://bit.ly/pM4mOB>.

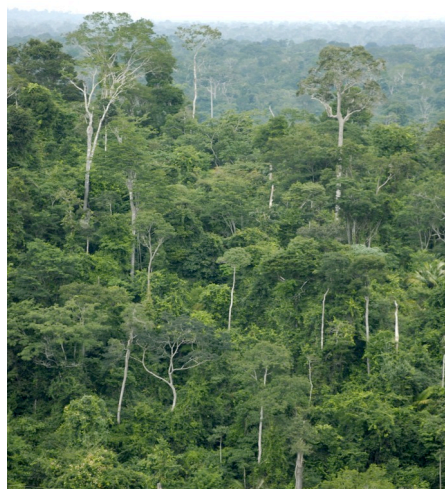


Specially Protected Areas

Forestry Code. On September 13, 2011 a joint hearing was held involving the Commissions of Constitution, Justice and Citizenship (“CCJ”), Environment, Consumer Defence, Monitoring and Control (“CMA”), Agriculture and Rural Reform (“CRA”) and Science, Technology, Innovation, Communication and Computing (“CCT”), all of them under the Senate, in order to debate, together with jurists and representatives of the Judiciary Branch and the Public Prosecution Office, the improvement of the reformation of the Forestry Code.

Probably because of the discussions occurred during such hearing, there was a postponement of the vote about the Report on the Bill of the New Forestry Code (Bill No. 30/2011, as approved by the Chamber of Deputies on May 24, 2011), which was originally scheduled to occur on September 14, 2011.

As presented by Senator Luiz Henrique on August 31, 2011 the Report recognized the constitutionality of the Bill, but proposed certain amendments especially in connection with the enlargement of the **authority of States, Municipalities and the Federal District to legislate about forestry matters**.



Another controversial aspect of the Report was related to the insertion of the construction of sta-

diums and sport facilities related to the World Cup of 2014 and the Olympic Games of 2016, in the list of activities that can be implemented in **permanent preservation areas** by means of a prior authorization from the competent environmental agency (activities of “public utility” and “social interest”).

It seems that, with the contributions brought by the joint hearing, Senator Luiz Henrique will perform amendments in the Report. The new vote shall occur in the next meeting of the CCF, scheduled on September 21, 2011. After passing through the CCJ, the Bill will be analysed by the CRA, the CCT and the CMA, before being subject to vote in the plenary session of the Senate.

National Parks in the Amazon Region. Provisional Measure No. 542, published on ➔

➤ August 15, 2011 has modified the limits of the **Amazon National Park** (Municipalities of Itaituba and Aveiros, in the State of Pará, and Maués, in the State of Amazonas), of the **Amazon Fields National Park** (in the States of Amazonas, Rondônia and Mato Grosso) and of the **Mapinguari National Park** (Municipalities of Canutama and Lábrea, in the State of Amazonas, and Porto Velho, in the State of Rondônia).

The Provisional Measure was proposed to the Presidency of the Republic by the Ministry of the Environment (“MMA”, in Portuguese) with a justification based on the necessity of remediating the fragmentation of the areas and to conciliate social and conservation interests for the region, by means, as the case may be, of the relocation or real estate regularization in connection with land possessors in the region.

In the specific case of the Mapinguari National Park, the justifications presented by the MMA for the modification were the negative environmental impacts that would be caused by the hydro-power plants complex of the Madeira River (**Jirau and Santo Antônio Hydropower Plants**).

As far as the Mapinguari National Park is concerned, the Provisional Measure established an express permission to **mining exploitation** activities in the respective buffer zone, as long as authorized by the National De-

partment of Mineral Production (“DNPM”, in Portuguese), licensed by the competent environmental agency and in compliance with the provisions of the management plan of the Park. ■



Environmental Compensation. Instruction Rule No. 17, published on August 15, 2011 by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (“ICMBio”, in Portuguese), regulated the administrative procedures for the execution of **Environmental Compensation Commitments** (“TCCA”, in Portuguese) involving the compliance with obligations oriented to federal conservation areas.

Pursuant to the Instruction Rule, after the publication of the abstract of the TCCA, the undertaker will usually have a 120-day term to perform the deposit of the amount stipulated as environmental compensation. Not later than 30 days after the deposit is made, the licensing environmental agency will issue the respective Certificate of Partial or Total Compliance with the Environmental Compensation. The non-compliance with the TCCA will subject the undertaker to the **suspension or cancellation of its environmental license**, in

addition to other applicable penalties. ■

Real Estate Regularization. On August 24, 2011 the ICMBio published its **Guidebook for Real Estate Regularization in Conservation Areas**, with the purpose to demonstrate, on a step-by-step basis, the enforcement of its Instruction Rule No. 02/2009, which establishes the procedures for the implementation of the real estate regularization of federal conservation areas, as from the beginning of the indemnity process until the transfer of the areas.

The Guidebook was prepared with the support of the non-governmental organizations Conservation International and SOS Mata Atlântica Foundation and contains all the models of documents pertaining to the regularization process, as well as relevant information for the instruction of the process and a list of the applicable legislation. The publication is available through the following link: <http://bit.ly/pEolXs>. ■

Municipality of Porto Alegre, RS. Municipal Complementary Law No. 679, published on August 29, 2011 established the **Municipal System of Nature Conservation Areas in Porto Alegre** (“SMUC-POA”, in Portuguese). Based on the framework established by the National System of Nature Conservation Areas (the “SNUC”, created by Federal Law No. 9,985/2000), the Municipal Law divides the conservation areas into two groups ➤

➡ (thorough protection and sustainable use), which are comprised by different categories (the same ones established under SNUC). The Municipal Law also defines the procedures for the creation, establishment and man-

agement (plans) of the municipal conservation areas and imposes the **payment of environmental compensation** for the licensing of undertakings that have a significant environmental impact. ■

Electrical Sector



Teles Pires Hydropower Plant. On August 19, 2011 the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (“IBAMA”, in Portuguese) issued the **Installation License** for the construction of the Teles Pires Hydropower Plant, located in the river of the same name, with estimated capacity of 1,820 MW, in the limit between the States of Mato Grosso and Pará. The undertaking is part of the Growth Acceleration Program No. 2 (“PAC 2”, in Portuguese) of the Federal Government. The **requirements** of the License comprise the implementation of various specific environmental plans and programs, including: (i) Environmental Management Plan; (ii) Fauna Rescue and Monitoring Programs; and (iii) Reservoir Permanent Preservation Area Implementation and Forestry Recovery Programs. ■

Santo Antônio Hydropower Plant. On September 14, 2011 IBAMA issued the **Operating License** for the Santo Antônio Hydropower Plant, in the Madeira River, State of Rondônia,

authorizing the start-up of the energy generation activity. The Plant will have an estimated capacity of 3,150 MW, with a 546-square-kilometer reservoir. As **environmental compensation**, the undertaker must invest approximately R\$ 56 million in conservation areas, corresponding to 0.5% of the reference amount of the undertaking. ■

Public Prosecution Office. During the XI Brazilian Congress of the Environmental Public Prosecution Office, held on August 02-03.2011, in the city of São Paulo, the Inter-American Network of Environmental Public Offices organized a Latin-American thematic meeting to articulate the understanding of Environmental Public Prosecution Offices about **Hydropower Plants and Small Hydropower Plants** (“PCH”, in Portuguese), recognizing that the Public Prosecution Office shall act systematically in the **environmental licensing** of undertakings in the realm of energy generation.

As a result of the meeting, **28 Directives have been approved**, expressing the following understandings, among others: ➡

Water Resources



Tucuruí Canal Locks. Pursuant to its Resolution No. 558, published on August 19, 2011, the National Agency of Waters (“ANA”, in Portuguese) issued an authorization to the National Department of Transportation Infrastructure (“DNIT”, in Portuguese) for the use of water resources aiming the operation of the level gap transposition of the two canal locks of the **Tucuruí Hydropower Plant**, located in the Tocantins River, in the limit of the Municipalities of Tucuruí and Breu Branco, in the State of Pará. The Resolution also establishes the characteristics and requirements for the operation of the canal locks – the largest in Brazil -, which allowed the overcoming of the 72-meter level gap created with the construction of the hydropower plant in the Araguaia-Tocantins Waterway, through which a significant portion of the **grains and minerals production** originated from the Center-West region is disposed of. This is the first time that ANA issues an authorization for this type of operation. ■



➔(i) the establishment of hydro-power plants requires a **wide view of the environment**, contemplating not only the natural environment, but also the social, the economic and the cultural one; (ii) the fractioning of environmental licenses that divide the undertakings into parts is unacceptable; (iii) the area of influence of the project over physical environment will always contemplate, at least, the water basin; (iv) the Public Prosecution Office will require the preparation and approval of the Environmental Plan for Conservation and Use of the Surrounding Area of the Artificial Reservoir (“PACUERA”, in Portuguese) as a requirement for the issuance of the Operating License.

The complete 28 Directives and other conclusions adopted during the event are available in the following link: <http://bit.ly/q6piT4>. ■



REDE LATINO-AMERICANA DE
MINISTÉRIO PÚBLICO AMBIENTAL

Biodiversity

Fishery. On August 19, 2011 the Commission of Agriculture, Cattle Raising, Supply and Rural Development (“CAPADR”, in Portuguese) of the Chamber of Deputies approved, by unanimous vote, the opinion with complementary vote of the rapporteur, Deputy Carlos Magno, in connection with Bill No. 5,989/2009, which was written by Deputy Nelson Meurer, proposing an amendment to the Fishery and Aquaculture Law (Federal Law No. 11,959/2009).



The Bill establishes the obligation, for owners and concessionaire companies of reservoirs installed in watercourses, to perform the **annual recovery of the fish population** with native



species originally found in the relevant water basins. The original wording of the Bill also contemplates a **controversial equivalence between certain exotic species** - specifically carps and tilapias - and locally native ones, for the purpose of **fish farming using fishnet tanks** and similar structures, installed in water reservoirs.

The Bill also imposes a prohibition against the release, into the natural environment, of **aquatic genetically modified organisms**.

Pursuant to the CAPADR’s understanding, however, the Bill shall establish that the environmental recovery of reservoirs shall be performed in compliance with the procedures that will be specified by the Ministry of Fishery and Aquaculture. Moreover, according to the CAPADR, the list of exotic species that will have equivalence for the farming using fishnet tanks shall not be established by the Law itself, but by the Ministry of Fishery and Aquaculture. As for the prohibition in connection with transgenics, the CAPADR concluded that the issue should be remitted to the Biosafety Law (Federal Law No. 11,105/2005).

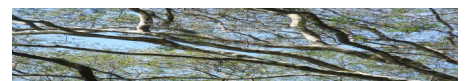
Now, the Bill is under analysis by the Commission of Mines and Energy and shall after that be appreciated by the Commission of Constitution, Justice and Citizenship. ■

Environmental Violations

State of Espírito Santo. State Law No. 9,685, of August 23, 2011 amended State Law No. 7,058/2002, significantly enlarging the list of conducts that are deemed administrative environmental violations. Among such new conducts are the omission to

adopt **containment or recovery measures in connection with already-occurred environmental damages**, on a timely or satisfactory manner and/or as established under emergency plans, as well as the non-compliance with item or clause of

an **Environmental Commitment** (“TCA”, in Portuguese). The new Law also establishes the requirements and procedures for execution and the minimum content of the TCA. ■



Oil Palm I. On August 10, 2011 the Commission of Agriculture, Cattle Raising, Supply and Rural Development of the Chamber of Deputies approved, by unanimous vote, the opinion of the rapporteur, Deputy Lira Maia, favourable to Bill No. 7,326/2010, which was written by the Executive Branch. The Bill addresses the creation of the **Oil Palm Sustainable Production Program** in Brazil and establishes directives for the **agro-ecological zoning** for the cultivation of oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*).

The oil extracted from the fruit of the palm (also known as “dendê”), a vegetal species originated from Africa, is a raw material used mainly by the food, chemicals and cosmetics industry. Although already common in Brazil, the expansion of the cultivation of the tree suffers with the opposition of ecologists due to its association with the destruction of tropical forests, especially in the Asian South-East. The Program includes, among its purposes, the protection of the environment, the conservation of biodiversity and the rational use of natural resources, as well as the expansion of the cultivation of palm exclusively in **already-exploited areas** and the stimulus to its cultivation for the **recovery of degraded areas**.

The Bill also contemplates the mandatory registration of oil palm production facilities with the Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle Raising and Supply. Currently, the Bill is waiting for the designation of a rapporteur in the Commission of Constitution, Justice and Citizenship. ■



Oil Palm II. On August 25, 2011 the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil - RSPO announced the achievement of the record of 1 million hectares of oil palm cultivated on a sustainable basis in world-wide scale, after certifying, in Brazil, the Agropalma Group (first organization in Latin America to obtain the certification). The companies interested in certifying its production must evidence the compliance with the requirements established by the RSPO, which are based on principles that include, among others: (i) the adequate use of the **best agriculture practices**; (ii) the **environmental responsibility** and the **conservation of natural resources and biodiversity**. More information about the procedures and requirements for the RSPO certification are available

in the following webpage: <http://www.rspo.org>. ■

State of Pará. On August 26, 2011 the State Secretariat of the Environment (“SEMA”, in Portuguese) enacted Rule No. 1,852, establishing the **Environmental Compliance List of Rural Properties**, which will be used to evidence, before the society in general and the financial institutions in particular, the rural properties located in the State of Pará that, pursuant to SEMA’s understanding, are in environmental compliance. In order to be in environmental compliance, the property must simultaneously observe the following requirements: (i) to be enrolled with the Rural Environmental Registry (“CAR”, in Portuguese), observing the terms established therefore; (ii) having filed a request for the Rural Activity License (“LAR”, in Portuguese), observing the filing terms, in accordance with the size of the property; and (iii) to be located in a municipality that is a participant of the Green Municipalities Program (“PMV”, in Portuguese) and to be in compliance with certain goals established under the Rule. The List is available in the following link: <http://bit.ly/oqInDc>. ■

State of Mato Grosso do Sul. On August 22, 2011 the State Secretariat of the Environment, Planning, Science and Technology (“SEMACE”, in Portuguese) published its Resolution No. ➡

➔21, which amends the regulation on the procedures related to vegetal suppression, cleaning and substitution of **pastures in areas located in the Pantanal** of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul. Pursuant to the Resolution, such activities do not require the obtaining of an Environmental Authorization for both areas with cultivated pasture and native fields, except for

in the case of trees that have a breast-high circumference of more than 32 centimeters and that generate timber materials. ■



Climate Change

IPEA's Publication. On August 29, 2011 the Institute of Applied Economic Research ("IPEA", in Portuguese) published its digital book "**Climate Change in Brazil: economic, social and regulatory aspects**", which assembles various articles from 46 specialists on the climate issue. The publication emphasizes the importance of the matter of climate change in the formulation of public policies and actions, including, among others, the following specific issues: (i) regula-



tory and governance aspects; (ii) global warming and urban quality of life; (iii) inventory of greenhouse gases atmospheric emissions; (iv) agriculture and farming in the context of the low carbon economy; (v) the Clean Development Mechanism – CDM; and (vi) the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation – REDD. The global negotiations about climate and the climate change policy adopted in Brazil are also addressed. The book is available in the following link: <http://bit.ly/nQig9X>. ■

Air Pollution

State of São Paulo. On August 19, 2011 the State Secretariat of the Environment ("SMA", in Portuguese) enacted Resolution No. 44, which re-classifies the sub-regions of the State of São Paulo in accordance with the **level of saturation of the air quality**, based on monitoring data ob-

tained in the last three years. Pursuant to State Decree No. 8,468/1976, as amended by State Decree No. 52,469/2007, the territory of the State of São Paulo was divided into Air Quality Control Regions ("RCQA", in Portuguese), which can be divided into sub-regions, for purposes of us-

Forestry Resources

On August 25, 2011 the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources ("IBAMA", in Portuguese) published its Instruction Rule No. 9, establishing procedures for the **exploitation of primitive forests that contemplate the species of rose-wood (*Aniba rosaeodora*)**, which was included in Annex II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna ("CITES"). Pursuant to the Instruction Rule, the exploitation of rose-wood will only be authorized by means of a Sustainable Forestry Management Plan and subject to the compliance with specific utilization requirements. ■



ing and preserving the air. Each sub-region can be classified as "saturated", "to be saturated" or "non-saturated" for each specific pollutant, whereas, in the case of "saturated" and "to be saturated" sub-regions, the environmental agency of the State of São Paulo ("CETESB") shall establish an ➔

➔ Atmospheric Emissions Reduction Program (“PREA”, in Portuguese). Based on the PREA, CETESB will guide and establish requirements for the issuance and renewal of environmental licenses for undertakings located

in “saturated” and “to be saturated” sub-regions, also contemplating a **mechanism for emissions compensation**, with the use of **reduced emissions credits**. ■



Environmental Management

State of Minas Gerais. On August 20, 2011, the State Council for Environmental Policy (“COPAM”, in Portuguese) published its Deliberation No. 167, establishing **new requirements for laboratories** that perform environmental measurements and associated equipment calibration, including, among other activities, the characterization of effluents, atmospheric emissions or wastes and the analysis of soil and water quality.



Pursuant to the Deliberation, the reports on surveys and calibration certificates issued by laboratories will be deemed valid, for purposes of environmental measurements, when at least one of the following requirements are fulfilled: (i) to be accredited for the performed surveys and calibrations, pursuant to Brazilian Technical Rule ISO/IEC 17025, with the National Institute of Metrology, Normalization and Industrial Quality (“INMETRO”, in Portuguese), or with an organism that maintains

a mutual recognition of INMETRO; (ii) to be homologated for the performed surveys and calibrations with the state-level Metrological Net belonging to the State Forum of Nets and to have a system for recognizing the competence of laboratories based on the requirements of the same Rule ISO/IEC 17025.

The reports of surveys and calibration certificates that were issued by laboratories that evidence having initiated the procedures required for accreditation or homologation will be deemed valid until January 7, 2012. ■

Environmental Administration

State of São Paulo. On August 13, 2011 the Board of Executive Officers of the environmental agency of the State of São Paulo (the *Companhia Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo*, or “CETESB”) adopted Decision No. 226/2011/P, approving the **new By-laws of the Environmental Chambers** of the State of São Paulo. The Environmental Chambers were created in 1996 (under the designation of “Technical Chambers”) and are collegiate bodies with a consult-

ing character subject to the State Secretariat of the Environment (“SMA”, in Portuguese), which were established under CETESB and have the purpose to promote the environmental quality by means of the permanent interaction between the public power and the productive and infrastructure sectors. Currently, the Environmental Chambers encompass twenty sectors of economic activity, including, among others, water and sewage, food, pulp and paper, civil construc-

tion, energy, mechanical, metallurgy, steel, mining, chemical and petrochemical. The main amendment to the By-laws is related to the insertion of a **public consultation mechanism** in the evaluation process of proposals that were submitted to the approval by CETESB’s Board of Executive Officers. Such mechanism is intended to promote a larger participation of the specialized sectors and of the society in general. ■

Fauna Protection

On August 31, 2011, by unanimous vote, the Commission of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Chamber of Deputies approved the Report and Substitute Proposal of Deputy Ricardo Tripoli on Bill No. 684/2011, which was written by Deputy Weliton Prado. The Bill includes a **new article in the Law of Environmental Crimes**, characterizing as a crime the **use of wild, domestic, domesticated, native or exotic animal fur in fashion events** in Brazil. The penalty established for such crime is imprisonment of up to three years and fine. In the Report, Deputy Ricardo Tripoli justifies that al-

though there already is a legal provision considering bad treatment toward animals as a crime, the Bill aims to discourage the use of fur, once fashion industry has influence on **social behaviour**. There are doubts, however, about



the reach that the expression “animal fur” should have in the text of the Bill: although the rapporteur clarifies that, technically, the term “fur” does not include “leather” (fur after suffering stabilization and tanning process), he declares that when the leather is

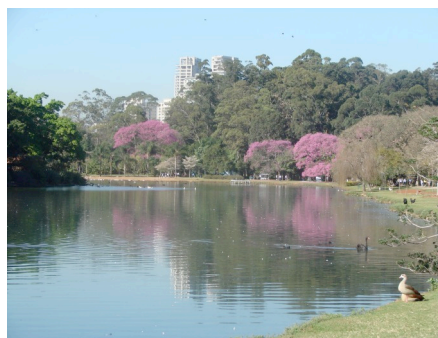
originated from exotic animals, such as frogs, snakes, crocodiles and fish, it would still be considered “fur”, even after being tanned, as it would also be originated from “wild” animals. In the Substitute Proposal, the rapporteur recommends an order inversion of the references to animals, since both the “native” and “exotic” animals should be included in the category of “wild” ones.

Currently, the Bill is under analysis by the Commission of Constitution, Justice and Citizenship and after that will follow to vote by the plenary session of the Chamber of Deputies. ■

Urban Environment

Sustainable Cities. On August 19, 2011 the Ethos Institute, through a partnership with *Rede Nossa São Paulo* (Our São Paulo Network) and the Brazilian Social Network for Just and Sustainable Cities, launched the **Sustainable Cities Program**. The purpose of the Program is to sensitize, mobilize and offer tools to promote the sustainable socio-economic and environmental development of Brazilian cities. Therefore, the Program has access to a database of **urban sustainability practices and policies** and is based on an agenda with 12 thematic axes (including, among others, governance, shared natural assets,

education and responsible consumption) for **indicators** that incorporate, on an integrated manner, the social, environmental, economic, political and cultural dimensions. The guidebook of the Program is available in the following address: <http://bit.ly/qUk6bo>. ■



State of São Paulo. State Complementary Law No. 1,146 was

published on August 25, 2011 establishing the **Jundiaí Urban Agglomeration**, a regional unit comprised by the cluster of the Municipalities of Cabreúva, Campo Limpo Paulista, Itupeva, Jarinu, Jundiaí, Louveira and Várzea Paulista, in the State of São Paulo. The purposes of the Agglomeration are, among others, the promotion of rational use of natural and cultural resources, as well as the protection of the environment. Therefore, the Complementary Law created the Development Council, with regulatory and decision-making powers and acting in fields of common interest, such as the planning and use of the soil, the ➔

➔ basic sanitation and the environmental issue. ■

Municipality of São Paulo, SP. Municipal Law No. 15,431 was published on September 3, 2011 addressing the **Environmental Responsibility Automotive Program** and creating the **‘Green Wheel’ Certification** in the realm of the Municipality of São Paulo. Pursuant to the Law, **automobile concessionaires and resellers** can voluntarily neutralize or compensate the effects of the pollution that is generated by its products. The **‘Green Wheel’ Certification** will be granted to the interested party that adheres to the

Program, provided that such party undertakes the compromise to plant arboreal specimens that are indicated by the competent municipal agency, in the sub-region where its headquarters are located, observing an equivalent proportion number in connection with the potential emissions of the automobiles that are sold and pursuant to the Arborisation Guidebook of the Municipal Secretariat of Green and Environment (“SVMA”, in Portuguese), during a period to be established by the Executive Branch. The Law also establishes that the certified party is responsible for maintaining the planted arboreal specimens for a two-year term. ■

Rio+20

Public Consultation. By September 25, 2011 the Ministry of the Environment will receive suggestions to the proposals that will be sent by the Brazilian Government to the United Nations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”), to be held on June 4-6, 2012 in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. To send suggestions, the interested person shall respond a **questionnaire** that is available through the link <http://bit.ly/ocI7MH> and send it to the following e-mail address:

rio2012@mma.gov.br.



such initiative was embraced by SADC and, in 2006 the states encompassed by the Okavango-Zambezi Transboundary Protection Area adopted an agreement of principles, which was embodied in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Victoria Falls.

The protection area established by the treaty is known for its biological diversity, wild fauna ➔

Global Links



Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. On



August 18, 2011 during the 31st



Chiefs of State summit of the Southern Africa



Development Community (“SADC”) held in the Angolan capital, Luanda,



after a long and patient path of almost two decades, Angola, Botswana,

Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe signed the **Okavango-Zambezi Treaty**, which creates a Transboundary Protection Area that is the **largest protected area of the world.**

The created area has an extension of 278,000 square kilometers, of which 87,000 are in Angola, 98,000 are in Zambia and the remaining portion is in the territories of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, encompassing fourteen natural parks and reserves located in the five countries that are parties to the Treaty and, therefore, it is expected that the area will become an important destination for the practice of **international ecotourism.**

The origin of the project was based on the idea of the creation of a Wildlife Sanctuary in Southern Africa, emerged in 1993 and afterwards transformed into the Okavango High Zambezi International Tourism Initiative (“OUZIT”, in English). In 2001,

➡ wealth and rarity and especially for hosting the **largest elephant reserve of the African Continent** and will be benefited by an integrated project that already is deemed the most ambitious tourism project of the world, with multiple objec-

tives oriented to **share the benefits originated from biodiversity** through best management and conservation practices, for the development of ecotourism and associated infrastructures and for the creation of larger opportunities and subsis-

tence means for its populations, under a sustainable development perspective. ■

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