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Extended Abstract of Bachelor Thesis

**Sustainable Development in Bolivia:
How the EIAs affect the achievement of sustainability**

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Abstract

The aim of the bachelor thesis is to analyse what are the methodological criteria for the socioeconomic studies that are involved with the EIAs development process in Bolivia, for which, unfortunately, there are no standardized parameters generating differences in the assessment and prediction of qualitative and quantitative environmental and economic impacts for the populations where the projects, activities or public works are being done. An analysis and study of the Regulations to the Environmental Law N°1333 “Environmental Prevention and Control” was done because the EIAs are framed by it and should meet the requirements of this legal norm to be approved. After that, there is the analysis and exposition of a sample of the EIAs (second category – specific analytical), the results of which are detailed in the quantitative and qualitative study of the socioeconomic aspects, the identified socioeconomic structure, a socioeconomic diagnosis, and a prediction and evaluation of socioeconomic impacts that were identified. One of the main conclusions reached is that when reviewing the EIAs, it is evident that there are no minimum parameters or criteria that a socioeconomic study should contain. In addition, some research recommendations and proposals regarding the basic guidelines are formulated.

Keywords: Sustainable development, economy, Bolivia, indicators, South America, development, environmental economics, sustainability, analysis.

Abstrakt

Cílem bakalářské práce je analýza metodologických kritérií pro socioekonomické studie v souvislosti s procesem EIA v Bolívii, pro něž bohužel neexistují standardizované parametry, které by generovaly rozdíly v hodnocení a predikci kvalitativních a kvantitativních environmentálních a ekonomických dopadů na obyvatelstvo v souvislosti s prováděnými projekty, činnostmi nebo veřejnými pracemi. Součástí práce je analýza Opatření k Zákonu o životním prostředí č. 1333, Prevence a kontrola životního prostředí, protože posuzování vlivů na životní prostředí je koncipováno v téže směrnici a mělo by splňovat požadavky této právní normy, která má být schválena. Další součástí práce je analýza příkladu části EIA (druhá kategorie - specifická analytika), jejíž výsledky jsou podrobně popsány v kvantitativní a kvalitativní studii, , socioekonomických aspektů, identifikované socioekonomické struktury, socioekonomická diagnóza a predikce a hodnocen identifikovaných socioekonomických dopadů. Jedním z hlavních závěrů práce je konstatování, že z provedené analýzy EIA je zřejmé, že neexistují žádné minimální

parametry nebo kritéria, která by měla socioekonomická studie obsahovat. Dále jsou definována některá doporučení a návrhy dalšího výzkumu.

Klíčová slova: Udržitelný rozvoj, ekonomika, Bolívie, ukazatelé, Jižní Amerika, rozvoj, enviromentální ekonomie, udržitelnost, analýza.

The present investigation work has as a focus on the analysis and study of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) of Bolivia that were elaborated in between 2007 to 2018. Hence, EIAs are probably one of the sources of why sustainable development is not the reality that Bolivia claims they have achieved. That's why the author decided to present the hypothesis: *“The absence of minimum criterions to guide the socioeconomic studies in the Environmental Impact Assessments “EIA” (second category – specific analytical) generates differences in the evaluation and prediction of quantitative and qualitative environmental impacts. Delaying the process of Sustainable Development in Bolivia”*.

In order to make this analysis possible, it was necessary for the investigation to have the main objective to be the determination of the minimum criteria that an EAI (specific analytical) must contain at the time of conducting a socioeconomic study.

To achieve that goal the methodology of the investigation had types of exploratory research in a first instance and descriptive in a second instance. In addition, the non-experimental transectional method, will be integrated in the study. Considering that in Bolivia it's been proven that not always what is stated in the documents is the reality of the country, for the proper way to obtain clear and valid information in order to achieve the objectives of the investigation, as well as to be able to reach proper conclusions, there has also been implemented the method of interviews that have a semi-structured format with open questions.

The interviews were aimed at executives and official of the Ministry of Environment and Water and expert enterprises consultants responsible for the socioeconomic component of the EIAs at their companies.

It should also be mentioned that to determine the sample of the investigation, the Stratified Probabilistic Sampling method was used. And the research sample was determined by the formula that is used for finite populations, giving a result of the analysis of 22 EIAs (second category – specific analytical).

On the theoretical framework chapter, a basis of conceptual ideas such as the definition of sustainable development, environmental economics, an introduction to

Bolivia, the problematic of how Bolivia is dealing with the environmental issues, economic environment and just Sustainable Development in general, will be explained.

For the legal framework for this investigation, the laws that Bolivia has been creating for the rights of Mother Earth, the prevention and conservation of the environment, how to introduce and work the model for Sustainable Development in the country, the current process of the EIAs and the functions of the studies to these ones in a socioeconomic system will be presented and addressed.

As a result of the main objective of this investigation on the practical framework there will be a described and explained analysis of the documents of the sample, which in this case will be the EIAs (second category – specific analytical), that were approved by the Ministry of Environment and Water, because they detail the qualitative and quantitative study of the socioeconomic component, moreover, the socioeconomic structure used in socioeconomic diagnoses (Baseline), the socioeconomic variables, predictions and evaluations of socioeconomic impacts that were identified in the investigation. In addition, the interviews that were realized to the experts on these fields are going to be detailed and explained.

Following on the thesis the suggested solutions and recommendations are given, synthesising that reflected on the benefit and utility of an EIA, in environmental management, the results provided by them are of great importance for future decision-making processes, therefore, an EIA carried out without the proper criteria could generate differences in the assessment and prediction of quantitative and qualitative impacts regarding socioenvironmental information, making it an aspect that would later translate into unreliable information.

Finally, the conclusions of the following research are developed, proving that the hypothesis proposed is accepted and that unfortunately this is just another case in Bolivia where the statements and multiple laws cannot support the real facts. And the results of this research would contribute to improve the process of environmental evaluation in the socioeconomic area, showing that its purpose is to establish standardization parameters that are based on the preservation of impacts, conservation, improvement and restoration of the socioeconomic environment for real sustainability.

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