



# **Urban policy and institutional change in Belo Horizonte**

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# Brief overview of planning and urban policy in Brazil

- Contemporary urban planning and policy evolved from modernist urbanism to comprehensive/functionalist planning
- Worldwide crisis of comprehensive planning, associated to deeper crisis of capitalist modernity, led to new planning alternatives
- Since the late 1970s-early 1980s popular movements managed to bring their demands to the public arena, evolving to structured social groups
- State unable to provide minimum standards of urbanity and living conditions for all.
- Participatory strategies turned into important methodological and political criteria.
- The state, initially seen as the enemy, becomes a partner
- Planning and popular participation discourses start to converge

# Brief overview of planning and urban policy in Brazil

- 1990s – emphasis on urban and environmental regulation at local level (1988 Constitution)
- Urban policy begins to incorporate the “real city” - the totality of urban settlements, with their inequalities and differences, formal or informal, slums, peripheral developments, etc...
- Empowering capacity of environmental issues and environmental justice movement – preservation + economic and social distribution and justice - popular struggles articulated around social and human rights, collective life quality and environmental sustainability.
- Urban planning progressively introducing environmental criteria in their policies and proposals - at the level of regulation there are many collegiate instances of state/society participation and decision-making

## **Brief overview of planning and urban policy in Brazil**

- At theoretical level – challenge of building a political ecology of urbanization remains
- At practice level– merge between urban/social and environmental issues

### **Ex: Urban Development National Policy**

- **Ministry of Cities (2003):** housing, transportation and mobility, urban programs (mainly land regularization and upgrading), and environmental sanitation.
- **National Council of Cities (2004):** technical and professional experts, popular and professional movements.
- Collegiate instances of decision in **several geographical scales and areas of intervention:** collegiate councils, participatory budgeting, irregular settlements and slums upgrading, community administered housing policies, environmental licensing (and impact assessment) of urban activities, conferences, etc.

## **Brief overview of planning and urban policy in Brazil**

- Environmental sanitation - enlargement of traditional notion of basic sanitation, encompassing also urban water management, vector-borne diseases control, and the field of garbage collection and disposal to waste recycling and income generation policies.
- New legislation (2006) - federal sanitation policy and regulation sanitation services
- Environmental health as social right, not a commodity - public sanitation seen as a social service to be provided by the state, challenging neoliberal pro-privatisation discourses.

# Planning and urban policy in Belo Horizonte

- Since 1993 - process of urban and environmental planning based on social inclusion, recognition of urban informality, and popular participation.
- Participatory Budgeting as key element in terms of redefining priorities for resources allocation (infrastructure and housing).
- Participation redefined debate on governance  
direct democracy X representative democracy.
- Integrative approach to environmental sanitation since early 1990s – considered a national reference – Brazil's first Municipal Sanitation Plan (2001) adopted same concepts later established in the national policy.

# **INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION MAPS CONCERNING GOVERNANCE AND THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING LEARNING ALLIANCES IN BELO HORIZONTE**

## ***ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION POLICY – SINCE 2001:***

- MUNICIPAL SANITATION PLAN (PMS)
- MUNICIPAL SANITATION FUND (FMS)
- MUNICIPAL SANITATION COUNCIL (COMUSA)
- DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN (PDD)
- PROGRAM OF ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY  
(DRENURBS)

## ***DRENURBS COMPRISES:***

- 73 CREEKS – 30% OF THE TOTAL
- 135 KILOMETRES
- 177 KM<sup>2</sup>
- ONE MILLION PEOPLE (45% OF TOTAL URBAN POPULATION)



## ***DRENURBS - CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY SCALE***

- GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION
- NECESSITY OF REALLOCATION OF DWELLERS DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS
- OCCURRENCE OF WATER-TRANSMITTED DISEASES
- OCCURRENCE OF FLOODS

***AND ALSO, EXISTENCE OF OTHER FORMS OF INTERVENTION, SUCH AS:***

- URBAN PROGRAMS IN PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION
- EXISTENCE OF WORKS DECIDED THROUGH PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

# SMURBE

URBAN PLANNING

*PARTICIPATORY COUNCILS:*

- COMPUR
- COMAM
- COMUSA
- CMH

UEP - DRENURBS

*SECRETARIES:*

- ENVIRONMENT
- HOUSING
- REGULATION (LAND USE)
- RISK SURVAILANCE

*FOUNDATIONS:*

- ZOOBOTANIC
- PARKS

*AUTHARCHIES:*

- PUBLIC WORKS
- GARBAGGE COLLECTION

*MIXED COMPANIES:*

- SLUM UPGRADING
- TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

# *PROSPECTS FOR SWITCH*

## *RESEARCH ACTION*

### *Working principles:*

- Main challenges not only related to technical or conceptual aspects of the sanitation policy, but also mainly associated to the prevailing unequal patterns of urbanization, marked by informal housing and occupation of environmentally protected
- Integrative approach to sanitation and urban/social policies (social housing, land use, public health, risk management)

# *PROSPECTS FOR SWITCH*

## *RESEARCH ACTION*

### *Planned activities:*

- THEORETICAL REVIEW ABOUT AUTONOMY AND HETERONOMY IN DECISION-MAKING AND GOVERNANCE
  - EMPIRICAL ANALYSES ABOUT DIFFERENCES AMONG COUNCILS, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO THE NATURE OF DECISION-MAKING
  - EMPIRICAL ANALYSES ON FORMS OF PARTICIPATION/GOVERNANCE

# *PROSPECTS FOR SWITCH*

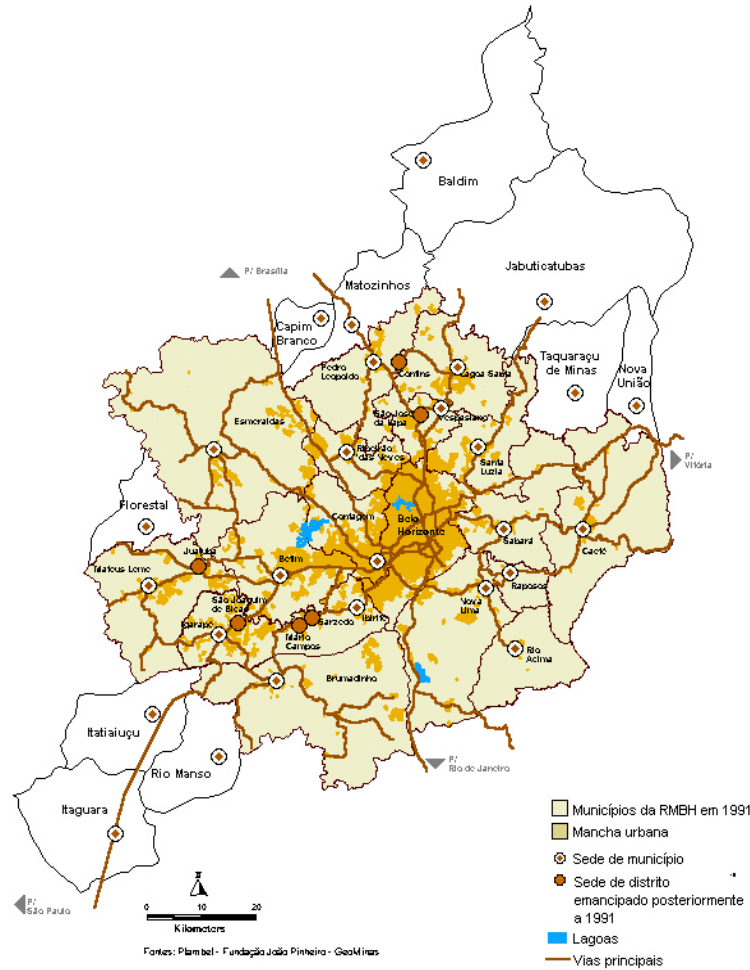
## *RESEARCH ACTION*

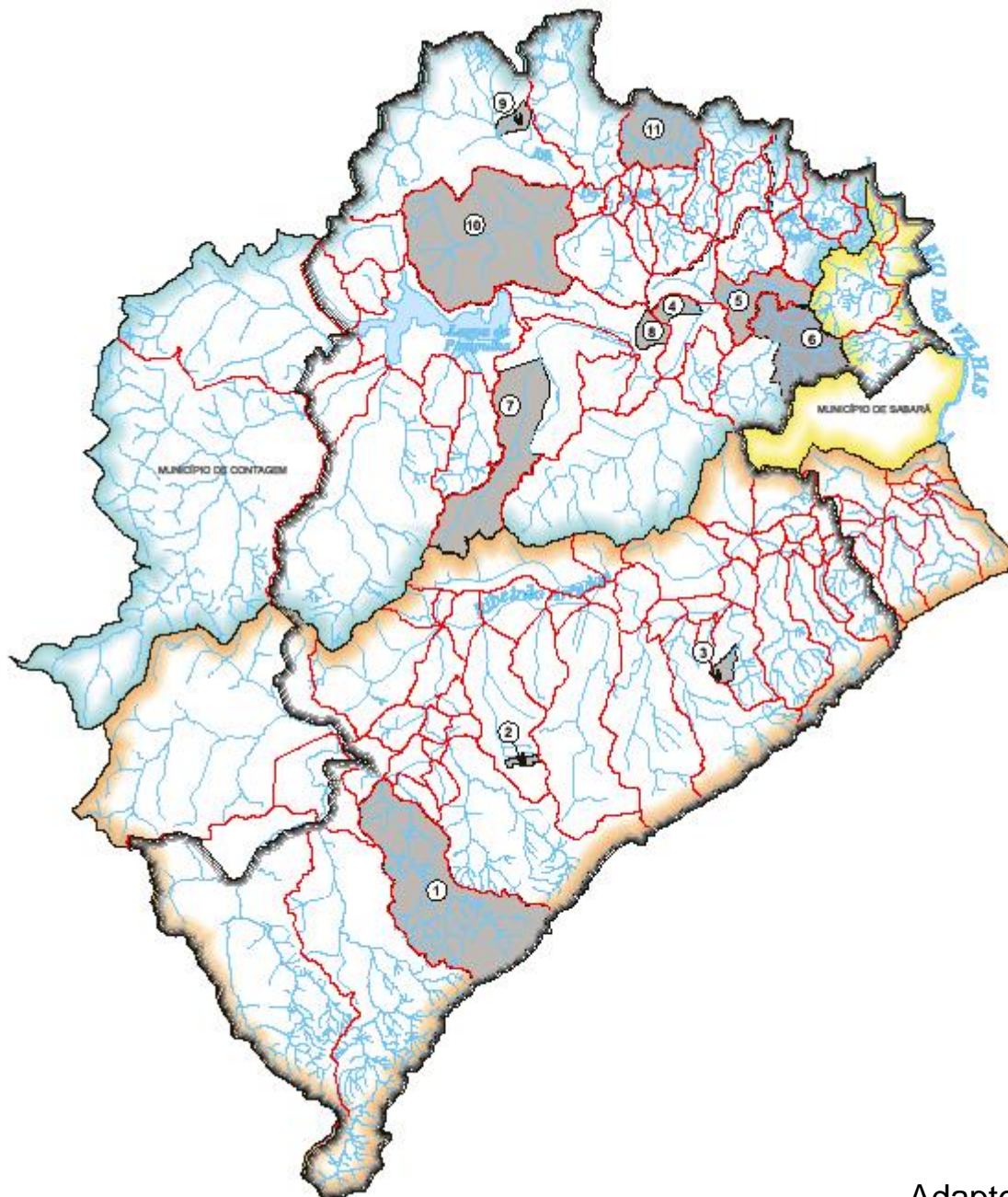
### *Planned activities:*

- EMPIRICAL ANALYSES ABOUT INTEGRATED PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING
  - SPECIFIC INVESTIGATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE MUNICIPAL SANITATION FUND
  - WORK-IN-PROGRESS ANALYSES ABOUT DRENURBS IMPLEMENTATION (BASED ON A PROPOSED “SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM”)



## Região Metropolitana de Belo Horizonte





No.	CURSO D'ÁGUA PRINCIPAL
1	Córrego Bonsucesso
2	Córrego das Piteiras
3	Córrego Av. Maria Carmem Valadares
4	Ribeirão da Onça/N.S. Piedade
5	Ribeirão da Onça
6	Córrego Gorduras
7	Córrego Engenho Nogueira
8	Ribeirão Pampulha/Ribeirão 1º de Maio
9	Córrego Av. Baleares
10	Córrego do Nado
11	Córrego Terra Vermelha

#### LEGENDA

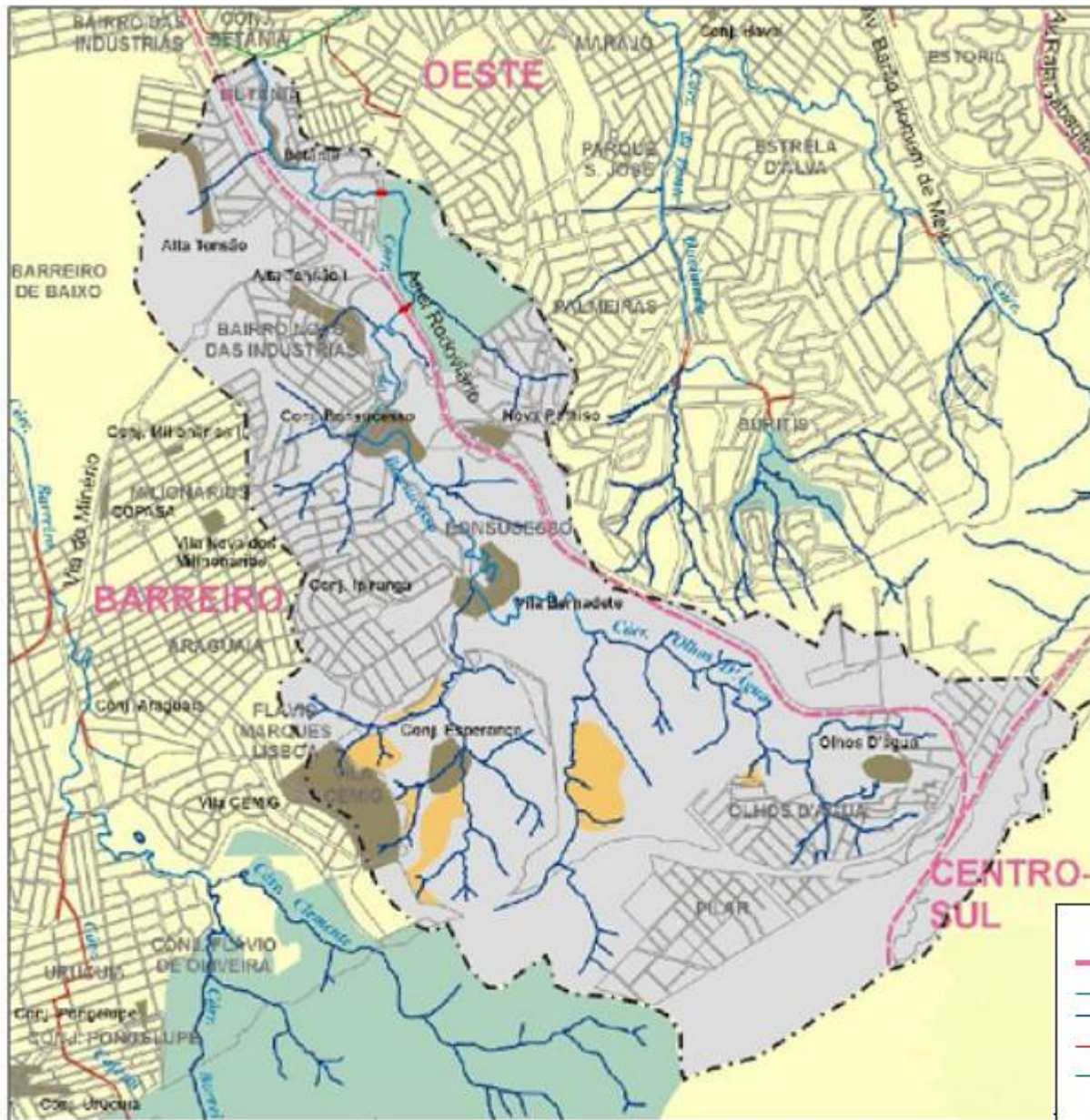
- Limite de Bacias Hidrográficas
- Bacia do rio das Velhas
- Bacia do ribeirão da Onça e Isidoro
- Bacia do ribeirão Arrudas
- Município de Belo Horizonte
- Divisores das Bacias Elementares
- Curso d'água
- Bacias em estudo

15.000m 0 15.000 30.000m  
  
 ESCALA

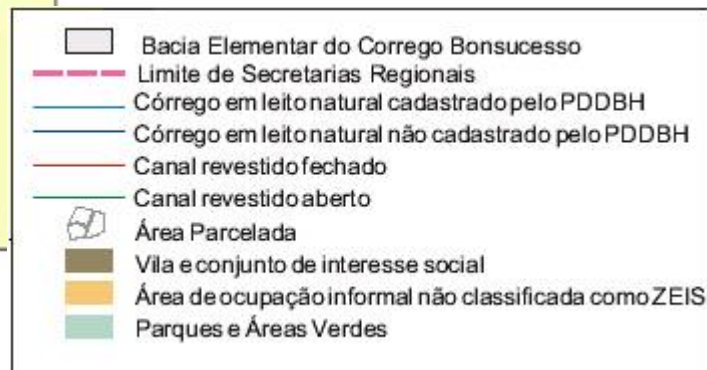
## DRENURBS/BID WATERBASINS

Adapted from [www.pbh.gov.br](http://www.pbh.gov.br). In: Ribeiro, 2006





Possible case study:  
Bonsucesso creek  
waterbasin





Conflict between  
housing and sanitation

Possible case study:  
Bonsucesso Creek

