
BRAZILIAN NATIONAL URBAN FOREST POLICY

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Abstract: Despite the growing knowledge on the benefits of the Urban Trees, there is a gap related to the dimension related to the dimension of governance, normative instruments and public policies. In an attempt to improve this context, the Brazilian Society of Urban Forest instituted the Urban Forest National Policy Work Group (GTPNAU) inserted in the scope of the Standardization and Certification Brazilian Committee. GTPNAU had as its goal to elaborate a public policy proposal at national level, capable of offering guidelines and instruments, based on principles that acknowledge the urban forest as a public utility service. Another important expected result with the advance of the Brazilian National Urban Forest Policy consists on the understanding of Urban Trees as essential infrastructure for life in cities, on behalf of the several urban stakeholders, public managers, decision makers, real estate investors and companies that provide services; in order to correct the distortions in the urbanization process, that currently transform the green areas in urban cities in something that just a little piece of the population can enjoy which should be available for everyone.

Keywords: Urban Forest; National policy; Technical note.

A POLÍTICA NACIONAL DE ARBORIZAÇÃO URBANA

Resumo: Apesar do crescente conhecimento sobre os benefícios da vegetação arbórea urbana, observa-se uma lacuna, relacionada à dimensão da governança, instrumentos normativos e políticas públicas. Na tentativa de avançar melhorar esse contexto, a Sociedade Brasileira de Arborização Urbana instituiu o Grupo de Trabalho da Política Nacional de Arborização Urbana (GTPNAU) inserido no âmbito do Comitê Brasileiro de Normalização e Certificação. O GTPNAU teve por objetivo elaborar uma proposta de política pública em nível nacional, capaz de oferecer diretrizes e instrumentos, baseados em princípios que reconhecem a arborização urbana como um serviço de utilidade pública.

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Outro importante resultado que se espera obter com o avanço da Política Nacional de Arborização Urbana consiste na incorporação, por parte dos diversos stakeholders urbanos, gestores públicos, tomadores de decisão, investidores do setor imobiliário e empresas prestadoras de serviço, do entendimento das árvores urbanas como elementos de infraestrutura essencial para a vida nas cidades de modo a corrigir as distorções do processo de urbanização, que atualmente transformam o verde urbano que deveria ser um direito de todos em um privilégio que poucos podem usufruir.

Palavras-chave: Arborização urbana; Política nacional; Nota técnica.

Technical Note

The reality observed in big and medium cities shows the reproduction of urban areas with low rates of arboreal vegetation. The few public policies in this area, allied to conflicts between urban and environmental legislations, contribute directly to the low quality of urban forest (CAICHE, 2020).

Despite the growing knowledge on the benefits of conservation, maintenance and insertion of arboreal vegetation in urban centers (SALBITANO, 2016), a scientific and technical gap is noted related to the dimension of governance, most specifically in the aspect related to the normative instruments and sectorial public policies of management and urban vegetation handling.

It is possible to verify in literatures from 1985 that at the 1st Urban Forest Conference held in Porto Alegre, Brazil (ENAU, 1985), the first record mentioning the necessity of establishing a normative instrument in a national range capable of ordering urban forest. Lately this theme has been present in other technical/scientific events like São Paulo Urban Forest Conference (Piracicaba, 2007), XVIII Brazilian Urban Forest Congress held in Rio de Janeiro (SBAU, 2014) and XXIII João Pessoa CBAU (SBAU, 2019), and in all cases the theme appeared in the events final documents, highlighting the importance of discussing the creation of an Urban Forest National Policy.

In the field of legal initiatives, there are the bills No. 2.897/2008, 396/2014 and 1.435/2019 that deal with the subject. What these three projects have in common is not the fact that they present a proposal of urban afforestation national policy, but that they amend Federal Law No. 10.257 from 2001 (City Statute) that makes Brazilian cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants being obligated to elaborate their urban with more than 20,000 inhabitants be obligated to elaborate their Urban Forest plans. However, these three initiatives currently have their proceeding closed.

In an attempt to improve this context, on May 6th of 2020 the Brazilian Society of Urban Forest instituted the Urban Forest National Policy Work Group (GTPNAU) inserted in the scope of the Standardization and Certification Brazilian Committee.

This group was coordinated by the forestry engineer Daniel Caiche and supported by professional from several areas: Luiz Octavio Lima Pedreira (Forestry Engineer - Secretary GTPNAU); Sergio Chaves (Landscape Architect - President SBAU); André Fraga (Environmental Engineer - Vice-president SBAU); Ricardo Martins (Agronomic Engineer - Technical Scientific Director SBAU); Maria Do Carmo Sanchotene (Biologist); Eliane Guaraldo (Architect and Planner); Flávio Pereira Telles (Forestry Engineer); Pedro Mendes (Agronomic Engineer); Giuliana Veslaco (Agronomic Engineer); Demóstenes Ferreira Silva filho (Agronomic Engineer); Roberto Rocha (Architect, Planner and Lawyer) e Adriana Reis (Forestry Engineer).

GTPNAU had as its goal to elaborate a public policy proposal at national level, capable of offering guidelines and instruments, based on principles that acknowledge the urban Forest as a public utility service, for managements and governments on their different spheres.

In order to achieve this goal, during 2020 and 2021, 24 meetings were held with the members of the group, counting on special guests such as Prof. Dr. Flávia Gizele Konig Brun, professor at Paraná Technological Federal University - Campus Dois Vizinhos/PR. The Forestry Engineer Claudio Renato Wojcikiewicz, member of Paraná State Interinstitutional Work Committee for Analysis of Urban Forest Plans, in addition to Cecília Michea, Cecilia Benavides and Leonardo Lira, members of *Red Árbol Urbano* from Chile.

As a result of this work, there is a first version composed by 43 articles, distributed in 5 main titles (General Dispositions, of the Urban Forest National Policy, of the Urban Forest Planning, of the Governance in Urban Forest and Final and Transitory Dispositions). This version established guidelines for the urban Forest planning on national scale, defined responsibilities and rights and brought innovative management instruments of the urban Forest.

This version was put in open consultation process on the Brazilian Urban Forest Society website. Lately meetings were held to incorporate suggestions and proceed the due adjustments of the proposal text. After that, the referral will follow to the National Congress so that the text can become a bill and follow the official proceeding.

It is expected that from the creation of the Urban Forest National Policy, the theme gets attention in the governmental agendas and that the arboriculture professionalization, as well as the increase of resources destined to the urban vegetation management materialize in improvement of quality of life in Brazilian cities.

Another important expected result with the advance of the Urban Forest National Policy consists on the understanding of incorporating of urban trees as essential infrastructures elements for life in cities, on behalf of the several urban stakeholders, public managers, decision makers, real estate investors and companies that provide services; in order to correct the distortions in the urbanization process, that currently transform the green an urban that should be everyone's right in a privilege that little can enjoy.

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