

## **PERCEPTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE JAPARATUBA RIVER BASIN IN SERGIPE STATE, BRAZIL**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Water is a very scarce resource in the Semiarid region in Northeast of Brazil. Furthermore, many rivers located in this region show signs of degradation, including water pollution, erosion of banks and siltation. The Japaratuba river basin has many economical activities, such extraction of oil, salts and sand, agriculture and pasture areas, beyond industries, that may be provoking water quality degradation. This study aimed to identify signs and sources of water quality degradation in streams of Japaratuba basin by application of a participatory diagnosis method and field trips with GPS survey. The initial results demonstrate that river banks deforestation and urban sewage are main problems cited by participants of the workshop. However, georeferenced photographic records show the precarious situation of streams in the basin. This diagnosis is an important step to alert the population living in the Japaratuba basin and authorities for immediate application of control measures of environmental degradation.

**PALAVRA-CHAVE: participatory diagnosis, semiarid basin, environmental degradation**