

MAP OF KARST PHENOMENA OF THE CORDISBURGO REGION, MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this work is to provide subsidies for a rational and sustainable management of one of the most significant Karst regions in the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The region is distinguished by the magnificent potential not only of the endokarst but also of the archaeological, paleontological, historical and tourist sites. The karst of the city of Cordisburgo (823.22 km²) is located at about 110 km north of Belo Horizonte, on the metasedimentary carbonate rocks of the Grupo Bambuí Sete Lagoas Formation (Late Proterozoic). The predominant climate is typical of tropical regions: the two well defined seasons which are characteristic of the Cerrado. The annual temperature average is 22° C and the annual rainfall average is 1230mm. This karst scenario is characterized by elongated massive limestone mounts in the E-W direction (maximum height of 1055m), intercalated by *poljés* (minimum height of 715m) with temporary lagoons. The endokarst is developed in four main caves, their horizontal development equal or superior to 1000m (Gruta da Morena - 4620m; Lapa Nova do Maquine - 1312m; Gruta do Salitre - 1098m; Gruta do Toboga - 1000m). This karst scenario will be presented and analyzed during the elaboration of the geomorphologic map, whose cartography will be based on the standards established by the Commission of Karst Phenomena of the National Committee of Geography (Paris, 1965), adapted by Kohler (1988). The work will be developed at a 1:50.000 scale, based in the topographical letters of IBGE, satellite images (LANDSAT 7, Google Earth, IKONOS) and aerial photographs, 1:25.000 with field control (GPS). The map that will turn out is intended to be the basis for the geoenvironmental compartmentation of that region and will offer important subsidies for the sustainable management of this environmental scenario.

Keywords: Karst, Geomorphology, Geoecosystem, G.I.S

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