## Accepted Manuscript

A Pressure-State-Response Approach to Cumulative Impact Assessment

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PII: S0959-6526(16)30047-6

DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.02.134

Reference: JCLP 6836

To appear in: Journal of Cleaner Production

Received Date: 13 March 2015

Revised Date: 1 February 2016

Accepted Date: 27 February 2016

Please cite this article as: Neri AC, Dupin P, Sánchez LE, A Pressure-State-Response Approach to Cumulative Impact Assessment, *Journal of Cleaner Production* (2016), doi: 10.1016/ j.jclepro.2016.02.134.

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

	$  \rightarrow$	Selection of projects	<b>]→</b>	Ten projects concentrated in an iron ore mining region in Minas Gerais, Brazil
Scoping	$\rightarrow$	Selection of valued environmental and social components (VECs) and indicators	$] \rightarrow$	Five VECs: air quality, water resources, natural vegetation, public roads, natural and cultural heritage
Data collection	$ $ $\rightarrow$	Collection and compilation of pressure, state and response indicators from individual impact assessments	]→	Pressure indicators hardly available in a comparable basis for the reviewed projects: other sources had to be used
Analysis	→	Cumulative impacts and corresponding mitigation	<b> →</b>	<ul> <li>The future state of the affected environment will likely be critical for both air and water quality, possibly stable for natural vegetation and for cultural heritage</li> <li>Mitigation resulting from individual assessments is insufficient to curb adverse impacts</li> </ul>
Conclusions	→	<ul> <li>By focusing on major projects and a limited number of VECs, CIA can be used to improve decision-making and to devise landscape or watershed scale mitigation, commensurate with the significance of cumulative impacts</li> <li>Individual assessments proved to be unsatisfactory, as key information on both the projects and baseline are largely inconsistent across studies and presented in very different formats</li> <li>A Pressure-State-Response approach to cumulative impact assessment is recommended only when databases are reliable and built on the basis of standard protocols</li> <li>Using standardized indicators in individual impact assessments is recommended</li> </ul>		

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