

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION: A REAL POSSIBILITY IN SOUTH AMERICA THROUGH THE UNASUR

INTEGRAÇÃO DE ENERGIA SUSTENTÁVEL: UMA POSSIBILIDADE REAL NA AMÉRICA DO SUL POR MEIO DA UNASUR

Roberta Hehl de Sylos Cintra*
Celso Maran de Oliveira**

Introduction

We live in a society adjusted and dependent on energy sources. One of the main indicators of wealth of a country is its energy consumption *per capita*. This energy allows societies to develop and achieve greater productivity and quality of life. An uninterrupted supply of this energy becomes even more essential as our contemporary economy is based on the magnitude and intensity of the flow of goods, people, capital and access to information (CORRAL, 2012). However, it is not only in relation to the amount of energy that the concerns of contemporary states are related. In addition to the increased need to produce and offer more and more energy to the population and to the economic markets,

we must be alert to the finitude of environmental resources, which are, in the end, these energy suppliers.

Regarding to sustainability, energy exploitation must be adapted to the biological services capacity to renew the stock of natural resources, particularly, because its ubiquity and unknowability. Therefore, the policies for development and sustainable use of energy resources by Unasur must consider the lack of spatial and territorial limits, as well as the impossibility of total knowledge of the extent of the impacts of the human actions on environmental goods.

Although fossil fuel is renewable, in terms of human life scale, they are considered non-renewable resources, suffering significant depletion when exploited without any con-

* É Doutoranda em ciências ambientais pela Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCar/São Carlos/SP/BR). Bióloga, advogada e consultora ambiental. robertahc@gmail.com.

** É professor adjunto do Departamento de Ciências Ambientais (Graduação e Pós-Graduação) da Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCar/São Carlos/SP/BR). celmaran@gmail.com.

servation criteria. For instance, the use of water resources represents a more efficient sustainable source, once the hydrological cycles are faster and configures a renewable energy matrix or, as defined by literature, so called a clean matrix. And so are also wind and nuclear energies, though there are some controversies about the last one.

The South American States are involved in a new process of regional integration, called the Union of South American Nations. Through some normative texts, especially the Treaty of Brasilia, in 2008, it can be perceived that these States seek a distinguished form of regional integration, where the economic issues are not the only subjects, but they are treated in conjunction with social policies.

The need for energy integration was highlighted since its early stages, and it has been formally established as a specific goal of Unasur. But in order to achieve this purpose it is needed to come up with a common legal framework, through which South American countries will face profound asymmetries among member states, since some countries are surplus in energy and others find many difficulties even to achieve energy security.

Within the context of so many diversities this paper is developed. Some South American countries are energy exporters and others are dependent on imported energy. The process of regional integration provided by Unasur can be extremely important for both, guaranteeing economic, social and environmental balance if these three values are considered during the creation of a legal framework of energy within the Unasur regional integration process.

There are no doubts about the enormous abundance of natural resources existing in all country parties of Unasur, and the searching for economic development through energy exploration in the block, associated with capability for exportation, cannot occur at the costs of the depletion of energy resources and being regulated by an exploratory policy of the environment.

This paper will discuss, at first, the integration process itself, so called Union of South American Nations – Unasur (in Spanish), and then goes on to the specific goals linked to the environment and energy. It is discussed the need of a common regulatory framework to achieve energy integration in South America, which can provide economic balance between its members, considering poverty eradication and environmental sustainability. Although these goals are difficult to be achieved, we have never been so close to overcome them, because South American countries may encounter in the process of regional integration of Unasur a breeding ground for this achievement. We'll also cover the sustainable energy distribution issue and democratic changes in Unasur, together with a strong commitment to clean energy.

1. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

The Union of South American Nations was established by the Treaty of Brasilia in 2008 among twelve sovereign States¹, based on a shared and solidarity history of these multi-ethnic, multicultural and plurilingual States. This process relies on

1. The Republic of Argentina, Republic of Bolivia, Republic of Brazil, Republic of Chile, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Ecuador, Republic of Guiana, Republic of Paraguay, Republic of Peru, Republic of Suriname, Republic of Uruguay and Republic of Venezuela.

a landmark struggle for emancipation and South American unity, honoring those who imagined their independence and freedom in service of unity and towards a welfare future for all South American countries.

The countries seek, throughout Unasur, the construction of an identity and citizenship for the entire region, developing an integrated regional space, not only in the economic field, as traditionally the blocks are idealized, but especially concerning politics, society, culture, environment, energy and infrastructure, in order to contribute to the strengthening of the unity of Latin America and Caribbean. In that way, they will not only pursue the solution of common problems, such as poverty, exclusion and social inequality, through the improvement of economic conditions of their people, but also, reach sustainable development and general well-being of the entire population of this important region of the globe.

The developing model chosen by these countries was integration, so common in recent decades in the South American continent, through two important processes of regional integration – MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) and the Andean Community. Taking advantage of the improvements of those processes and along with the experience of Chile, Guyana and Suriname, South American countries agreed that this innovative model of integration is strongly based on unrestricted sovereignty, integrity and territorial inviolability of the States members; self-determination of peoples; solidarity; cooperation; peace; democracy, citizen participation and pluralism; univer-

sal human rights; reduction of asymmetries and harmony with environment toward a sustainable development.

In light of the above basic principles, South American countries have established the foundations for a new regional integration experience, which must be implemented gradually and in a flexible manner, according to the reality of each of the members by the time of its incorporation at Unasur. It is also needed the confirmation of the full effectiveness of democratic institutions and the respect for human rights, being those unrestricted and essential conditions for the construction of a common future of peace, economic and social prosperity.

It was through the Treaty of Brasilia, on May 23, 2008, that twelve sovereign nations settled negotiations for the creation of the Union of South American Nations, establishing at that time, an international legal personality for the new entity², which was, by the way, very different from Mercosur process, whose personality was acquired only after Ouro Preto Protocol, in 1994 (OLIVEIRA, 2011).

Concerning to Unasur purposes, it was established that its general objective is: to build in a participatory and consensual way, a space of integration and unity among its people regarding the cultural, social, economic and political environment, prioritizing political dialogue, social policies, education, energy, infrastructure, finance and the natural environment, among others, pursuing the eradication of socioeconomic inequality, the achievement of social inclusion and the citizen partici-

2. Although they have described the international legal personality to Unasur in its constitutive treaty, the article 26 determined thirty days for its valid beginning, which has occurred on March, 2011.

pation, the strengthening of democracy and the reducing of asymmetries through the reinforcement of the sovereignty and independence of States.³

“And the specific objectives, directly linked to energy and environmental issues were described in 3rd. article of Unasur constitutive treaty “d) energy integration for the integral, sustainable and supportive uses of the natural resources of the region;” “e) the development of an infrastructure for the interconnection of the region and people according to criteria of sustainable social and economic development;” “g) protection of biodiversity, water resources and ecosystems, as well as cooperation for disaster prevention and commitment in confronting the causes and effects of climate change”.

Assessing the aims of Unasur, Clément (2009) considers that both the overall objectives and the specifics, because of their wide and diffuse range, they do not establish concrete targets to be achieved in a specified period; they cannot even be considered functional and solid goals, therefore he, in fact, considers the Treaty that has been established a single agreement of cooperation with predominantly declarative intentions.

However, it is undeniable that we are facing a new international geopolitical dynamics and South American countries seek to have central role in the integrationist process. Regarding this purpose, the regionalist Union of South American Nations, created with the goals not only economical, but also covering political and social issues, have among their objectives the meeting of its members to adopt com-

mon positions in multilateral forums of global governance. This Union launches a new geophysical and political alliance in a region where there are large reserves of natural resources, such as minerals, water, arable land and energy. The South American subcontinent is endowed with natural resources, which if supported by infrastructure and well-trained human resources, can turn the region in one of the most important economic areas of a globalized world that consumes large quantities of food, raw materials and energy (MOREIRA, 2009).

According to Guimarães (2010), regional asymmetries in South America are evident when observed that, although it is a continent rich in natural resources, on both soil and underground resources, such richness is irregularly distributed among members of Unasur, creating a series of asymmetries concerning agriculture, energy, industry, and mining.

Although the Latin America can be considered a surpluses region in the energy sector, if the countries are taken separately, it is possible to see that some of them have more resources than others and that some, in fact, can be even energy deficient. Thus, the union among those countries around an energy security will bring political and economic force to contribute to the achievement of the other goals in the Unasur constitutive treaty. Cardozo (2006) highlights this positioning by considering that the energy integration in the subcontinent presents itself as an opportunity to stimulate growth, economic and social development, and the security of regional governance.

3. 2nd article of Unasur constitutive treaty.

2. Energy, sustainability and democracy in UNASUR

Although South America in 2011, has been considered the second largest area with oil reserves in the world, energy markets in general are experiencing one of the most uncertain periods in decades, given the impact of the Arab Spring on exploration and production processes and the consequences of the economic crisis in the euro area. Add to this scenario, structural factors combined with the policy, such as the pressure of increased Chinese demand, the increase in demand for electric power generation and the increase in the cost of oil production. Therefore, although new deposits have been discovered and have been exploited, the South American countries must be prepared for an increasing demand for energy sources (PEREIRA, 2011). Precaution must be taken with the frenzy caused by the discovery and exploration of new oil deposits, since they stretched the deadline to live in a society dependent on non-renewable sources, but they are still a finite source.

By seeking an urgent and necessary inclusive policy to rule the energy matrix of its Member States, the Unasur created, in March 2007, during the first South American Energy Summit, the South American Energy Council, which established the Group of Experts in Energy, with the assignment to formulate: the South American energy strategy, the action plan for energy integration and the structure of the Energy Treaty⁴. Members of the group through strategic studies have tried to find enough knowledge to minimize energy dependence and the vulnerability of their countries.

In an attempt to better manage non-renewable energy resources, some countries increased the State control, often through public enterprises, by the direct oil exploration, as well as by increasing tax instruments. However, according to CEPAL's report (2013), neither the State oil companies, nor the contractual regulations implemented to incorporate private enterprises in productive scenario have been sufficient to revert and increase the exploration and development of this energy matrix, in order to maintain balanced the relationship between reserves, production and offer. The challenge will require institutional innovations, regulatory and contractual new standards, as well as it will be required, among other things, adjustments between the different national policies (UNASUL, 2013).

In addition to the management of South American energy matrices in terms of production technique and economic profitability, there are some more disturbing and urgent needs, such as reduction in poverty indices of the Unasur member countries and the efforts to minimize the impacts on the natural environment.

Within the scenario of depletion on non-renewable resources, even if it will happen in a long run, the countries of Unasur must seek more and more efficiency in clean energy arrays. In this sense, the group should look for institutional solutions that are able to prioritize sustainable exploitation of resources, improving the efficiency of related services, pursuit the universalization of their uses, even as a way to reduce poverty. Thus, Unasur countries should guide their policies and regulatory rules in order to provide greater transparency of public resources investments, establishment of a self-

4. UNASUR - Management Report of the Group of Experts on Energy, Ministry of Mines and Energy, 2013.

sustaining market, greater clearness about the distribution of responsibilities between members and better management efficiency.

There are no doubts that the Union of South American Nations is the right space for discussion about sustainable and democratic distribution of energy. This recommendation can be found in the South American Energy Council. Within the goals that the Council has been worked on their meetings, there is great focus on regional energy security, in union of energy structures and industrial and social development, based among other points, in the elimination of socioeconomic inequality and reduction of asymmetries among Member States. (WOJCICKI, 2012).

In order to achieve the goal is necessary to pay attention to the important fact that the reduction of poverty, the elimination of inequalities and the sustainable exploitation of regional energy matrix have different costs of stabilization, depending on the degree of socio-economic exclusion of populations between countries and the variability of the costs of extraction and conservation of environmental resources among member, since all these aspects are not equitatively distributed throughout the subcontinent. It is expected that, if the benefits are significant, it will be possible to find a way to make political barriers and neighbor countries cooperate in setting up projects that benefit everyone. (KELMAN; GAMA, 2013)

Given the set of documents about the goals and guidelines specified by Unasur, it can be observed that even within discussions about energy efficiency and integration, the phenomenon of poverty in member countries becomes, if not the main, one

of the most relevant aspects to the formulation of normative regulations and institutional texts.

3. Energy, poverty and conservation of natural resources in South America

The Declaration of Margarita⁵ lays down that “the energy integration of the South American community of Nations should be used as an important tool to promote the social, economic development and the eradication of poverty”. This kind of commitment is repeatedly emphasized in the statements of the representatives of member countries to increase the commitment of each country to the project.

And a question arises: Is there an excess of wariness concerning poverty and a lack of environmental conservation alarm? The answer is obvious. There is never too much wariness in pursuing a worthy existence for any human. Everyone must be able to live and take care of their own family, grow old and die leaving something good for their descendants, if not in the form of money, but at least with satisfaction about life.

From this reflection it is initiated the evaluation of the intersection between improvement in South American energy matrix, poverty and conservation of natural resources. Here will be listed, although in an initial way, the three elements and their relationships: poverty eradication, energy policies and environmental sustainability.

It seems to be a commonplace to speak of poverty reduction with the balanced use of energy resources. However, what is observed in developing countries in South America through its energy policies, is

5. Declaration of Margarita - building energy integration of the south, from April 18, 2007.

the large focus being given to energy as a source of solutions, almost miraculous, to poverty reduction and not so much in relation to environmental resources and their conservation. And this is something to be concerned with.

By energy efficiency, government guideline policies and transgovernmental entities, such as Unasur, lead us to the binomial: greater efficiency in the exploitation of resources and better distribution of the benefits of this exploitation. By benefits it is understood both the adequate supply of energy to the final consumer, as the whole structure for the energy supply. Not only physical infrastructure, but also a political and economic environment which allow the use of this energy as a way to achieve the main goal, the development of the nation. These efficient socio-economic and legal frameworks must pursue the minimization of waste and greater profitability in the exploitation of environmental resources of energy.

However, although there are no doubts about the veracity of this understanding, there are still issues without much evaluation or focus, because of the urgency of reducing American poverty indices. This is the case of the urgent need for regulatory instruments which seek actually the environmental conservation as a priority.

Several countries of South America have a peculiar situation regarding to their own stocks of energy. They are very abundant. If we think in terms of energy resources that can be directly explored, like fossil fuels, natural gas, water, wind and solar incidence, they are of enormous dimensions, but if we add to them the biodiversity as a source of energy and raw material for genetic coding for future technologies in response to environmental changes, we will have an abundance of energy re-

sources and functions provided by them of unimaginable magnitude. The conservation of biodiversity must, indeed, also enter the agenda of policies concerning the energy matrix of a region.

If the short-term energy policy predominates, due to the prioritization of poverty eradication, attracting all attention and resulting in short-term solutions, the exploitation of energies more direct and profitable economically, such as fossil fuels, will increase a lot more than sustainable standards. Thus, issues such as biogenetic inventories, preservation of ecological niches and maintenance of biogeochemical cycles will be left aside. However, if these policies also glimpse effects and impacts in the medium and long term, if they become more careful and cautious, they will seek to reconcile the urgent need to reduce poverty with the also imperious need of supporting the habitats and exploring more renewable sources within an interval of time required for occurrence of the renovation of the energy stock itself.

In developed countries it becomes relatively easier to compute the value of these incentives facing the valuation that the natural environment receives there. In these countries there is a comfortable situation, in which the environment is just expected to maintain what it has been provided in terms of the quality of human life. So, apparently, there is no need to include the "additional pay for insalubrity" to keep it healthy. Policies can peacefully cover environmental conservation issues, although it must be considered their huge ecological footprint and, therefore, they should be concerned about restructuring the general habits of the population, because if they do not impact the natural environment around them, since they are quite legally protected, they impact

ecological resources from other regions in developing countries. This cruel and unfair market takes place when developed countries offer big financial profits for countries in developing process or in poverty, in return for their supplies, even though this irresistible offer leads degradation of natural resources and its derivatives. It would be like offering food to the hungry at the cost of its own future survival, because if those countries exhaust their resources or degrade them permanently, it will be the survival of its own population that is at risk.

On the other hand, in developing countries, such as the case of South American countries, from the environment, beyond its stability in biological services, it is also expected from it to provide, like in a miraculous way, the salvation to the large mass of humans in poverty. However, the environment is limited. Even in its ability to renew constantly, it is limited by the time needed for that particular resource resets at levels that provide and maintains the conditions for life quality. By that we mean that any species, in this case human beings, has its population growth with quality limited by the capacity of the environment to sustain them indefinitely within a given period of time. When the environmental carrying capacity is exceeded, it is the beginning of a decrease in quality of life, and over time, the effects on population can be very painful. The gradual extinction, with deaths resulting from the effects of poverty can be a real example of this process, although there are other components that influence poverty, such as corruption and poor education, poverty has many roots in environmental breakdown. It is well known, although this article does not go further on this issue, that technological changes, social and cultural rights were and are responsible for the

expansion of the carrying capacity of the planet and its natural resources, in particular for the human species, but, even though, there are limitations, since the space of the Earth and its resources are finite and the population continues to grow at exponential rates (MILLER JUNIOR, 2006). South American countries should, indeed, add the poverty correction share in the value given to energy natural resources, although this must be done cautiously and with balance so that this increase does not become responsible, either by the rising price of energy supplied to the final consumer, or by becoming the only concern of the energy policies. In other words, efforts should make the use of environmental resources more profitable as possible, seeking the reduction of human poverty, but this concern must be balanced with the elementary need of conserving the resources, since the basic laws of thermodynamics imply in the loss of some irrecoverable amount of energy. There is no fully effective exploitation, and these impacts must be accounted for. The aggregate value of the energy obtained from the exploration process in developed and developing countries is considerably different and these differences must be taken into account in the formulation of legal norms, whether they are national or transnational.

Once it has been made the above reflections, it is also important to attempt to the fact that poverty is not just result of bad energy distribution or a lack of it. But it is a complex social phenomenon, durable and multidimensional (PEREIRA, 2006). Poverty from the point of view of its macro cause can be understood as resulting from models of social structuring and social dynamics. If poverty persists even with the existence of policies to combat them, the weakness is in the policy makers, in the

policy itself, in the implementation of the regulations or in the economic system that regulates the society. We have, in fact, a mixture of all these factors, since South American countries have set exploratory damaging environmental policies.

These economical systems based on environmentally exhaustive energy policies contribute significantly to the impoverishment of the region. And its apparent short-term economic richness should not blind their operators about the harmful effects of this economic standard procedure for the future. Among the contributions to poverty provided by non-sustainable energy systems, we have: extreme simplification of biological systems, high production of waste and pollution, high nutrient waste rate, high rate of population unplanned disproportionate growth, misallocation of human beings in physical spaces available, poor distribution of income arising from the use of environmental resources, high concentration of capital in the hands of a few, bad urban planning, among others.

That way, poverty elimination cannot fit within a more efficient and integrative energy planning as the only concern. This planning should, in proportion to its share, include undoubtedly the human variable, contributing and seeking better life quality. But there is also much to worry about with environmental sustainability in the strict sense. The human component of the current South American environmental liabilities, even if caused by our own actions should integrate the guidelines of each strategic sector like energy development, educational, social, physical and cultural integration, as it comes to the aspect in which we see ourselves more vulnerable, given the prevalent anthropocentric vision of world.

But, it is worthy and essential insist that neither poverty nor wealth exists if the search and maintenance of the ecological balance is not considered one of the most urgency necessity of humankind, as the only way to prevent population collapse. Natural resources should be maintained and their quality should be a priority, since this leads to a higher efficiency in the functions performed and provided by the resources.

The focus on development of energy policies must converge attention to clean energy sources. The administration of Governments and private companies should consider in their environmental accounting not only the human liabilities, which could include poverty, but also the environmental liabilities in the strict sense, in addition to goals and guidelines for environmental assets, namely, what still exists of natural resource and what can be expected in terms of ecological functions.

Merely exemplifying, if we have balanced temperatures currents that bathe the continents and if we make efforts to maintain them, we can expect more regular cycles of rain, sunshine and evaporation. An efficient water cycle can be achieved. If we have natural habitats for several species of animals and plants to interact, more biodiverse environment will be, so that the genetic stocks will be assured and, consequently, our perspectives of innovations in vaccines, cures and treatment for various diseases, as well as their use for biopharming and bioengineering. The maintenance of the cycles of nitrogen, carbon and oxygen, which are essential for life, including the human life, would also have its equilibrium preserved.

Following the same logic, if we become a lot more aware of our ecological footprint, i.e., the impact of the human lifestyle have

in stocks of environmental resources, we might be able to understand the reason and the importance of really changing our personal modus operandi as well as the public regulatory. Governments and transnational institutions must increase the rigor in sustainability policies and, especially, the supervision of them. If more care and caution are considered when exploring the environmental resources and better understanding on how ecological services work are improved, the negative impacts will be reduced on the environment and, consequently, lesser and faster the effort the planet will need to rebalance itself. According to Miller Junior (2006), protect your capital and live from the income that it offers or deplete your capital and, at some time, it will have gone forever. Yes, the Earth doesn't need us, we're the ones who need it.

When projects are planned and the investments in environmental assets are made, at financial terms, on public or private accounting, there is a decrease of need of future capital investments to contain liabilities, since it will be more return in natural capital available, the profitability of ecological resources will be efficient and able to sustain the various types of life, including the human. By planning and acting like this, in the future, given the investment made in natural resources has generated renewable energy in more efficient arrays, it can be thought about reducing liabilities and convergence to a less-impactful lifestyle, including a rise in the quality of life of the South Americans. It is essential the migration from an impoverishing energy matrix, to a sustainable one.

According to CEPAL (2013), should Unasur assess the contribution of hydroelectric power and define correctly the concepts of sustainability and renewability, guided by

the following assumptions: (i) conduct an environmental assessment of hydropower projects; ii) establish a code of conduct with the communities, iii) establish the payment for environmental services; iv) modify the terms of the power purchase agreements, v) establish mechanisms which recognize the synergy between wind and water projects; vi) maintaining a comprehensive overview of watersheds; vii) fulfill social obligations and resolve conflicts, and viii) ensure public disclosure and transparency of information.

In area of the regulations, there is not only the need for normative guidelines for local and regional governmental actions, such as rules that benefit and encourage movements, but also strategies for the private exercise of exploration to be made according sustainable ways.

In the perspective of the adequacy of a normative model for regional energy exploitation, Unasur countries also must pay much attention to hydroelectric projects. In recent decades several crises were related to the installation of plants, such as those involving the expulsion of communities, forest destruction and flooding of large areas. These difficulties were increased by the problematic social acceptance and by the several restrictions from international banks of financing and multilateral trade (UNASUI, 2013).

Conclusion

This research discussed the need to achieve, during the process of integration of Unasur, a common and sustainable energy policy, seeking to bring into discussion the main points of this policy, in addition to addressing the great energy potential of the region, as well as the invaluable environmental richness of the subcontinent.

We believe that within the normative planning for energy matrices the precautionary principle should be considered essential variable when the policy-making occurs, because we cannot take so many risks in damaging the environment. Must undoubtedly be considered all the important variables both abiotic and biotic, being the quality of human life also a component element.

Because it is well known that natural resources are exhaustible, at least in human timescale, it becomes indispensable guiding and monitoring those who still believe that these forecasts are untruths. In this sense, the law, together with diplomacy and political relations are of utmost importance and usefulness.

These should be the first reflections made by decision makers. Since it is chosen a really sustainable energy policy, it should combine efforts not only to the immediate lowering of poverty, but also for intense development of renewable energy sources and the preservation of natural environments, such as the various biomes of South American region. Decision makers, either from public and private areas, must concern about investing heavily in developing methodologies for exploitation of natural resources increasingly focused on the environment rebalance. Important to remember that within the set of components that make up the environment are human beings and, therefore, these actions will be focusing also on the search for the welfare of the population, with consequential poverty reduction.

Ensuring that policy tracks the correct directions, so as to harmonize the regional energy exploration with real sustainable development, should be the focus of several studies and research involving the South American Nations Union. And with-

in these efforts the role of social and legal sciences, like the case of environmental laws are essential.

The sustainable use of resources must be cognized, directed, persuaded, chased, encouraged and, if necessary, taxed, and rewarded. By following these movements it is expected several instruments to be created and regulated in order to educate society more about environmental issues, to seek a less invasive development, with less degrading activities and less voracious consumption, to profit with environmental conservation, to feel restrained by vandalizing and punished by doing so, eventually, to benefit when taking care of nature, its features and ecological functions. To all these objectives the environmental and energy laws, to be explored by Unasur under regional and international levels, can show themselves as one of the best instruments of dissemination and implementation.

References

- CARDOZO, E. La gobernabilidad democrática regional y el papel (des)integrador de la energía. In: *Nueva Sociedad*, nº 204, jul-ago. 2006.
- CEPAL. Recursos Naturales en UNASUR: situación y tendencias para una agenda de desarrollo regional. Disponible em: <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/3/49893/P49893.xml&xtsl=/publicaciones/ficha.xsl&base=/publicaciones/top_publicaciones.xsl>. Acceso em: 10 set. 2013.
- CLÉMENT, Z. D.. El sistema de solución de controversias de UNASUR y su coherencia con el modelo de integración de ese proceso. In: *Anuario XI (2008) del Centro de Investigaciones Jurídicas y Sociales*. Buenos Aires: La Ley, p. 337-351, 2009.
- CORRAL, A. C. P. Regional energy integration: a wide and worthy challenge for South America. *Journal of World Energy, Law & Business*, v. 5, nº 2, p. 166-173, jun. 2012.

GUIMARÃES, S. P. A América do Sul em 2022. *Carta Maior*, 28(07), 2010. Disponível em: <http://www.cartamaior.com.br/templates/materiaImpri-mir.cfm?materia_id=16822>. Acesso em: 15 set. 2013.

KELMAN, J.; GAMA, S. Z. Energia Elétrica: aproveitamento de complementaridades entre países da América do Sul. In: *O Brasil e a governança da América Latina: que tipo de liderança é possível?*. Rio de Janeiro: Fundação Instituto Fernando Henrique Cardoso, IFHC, p. 109-136, 2013. Disponível em: <http://www.ifhc.org.br/div/o_brasil_e_a_governanca_da_america_latina_que_tipo_de_lideranca_e_possivel.pdf>. Acesso em: 10 set. 2013.

MILLER JUNIOR, G. T. *Ciência ambiental*. 11. ed. São Paulo: CENGAGE Learning, 2006.

MOREIRA, H. Integração sul-americana: situação atual e perspectivas. Rio de Janeiro: *Revista Eletrônica Boletim do TEMPO*, Ano 4, nº 03, 2009.

OLIVEIRA, C. M. *Teoria da Integração – MERCOSUL (Mercado Comum do Sul)*. E-book. Livraria Cultura, 2011.

PEREIRA, J. E. A. Geopolítica, segurança jurídica e inserção do Brasil na questão energética internacional. *Revista da Escola de Guerra Naval* (ed. português), v. 17, nº 1, p. 115-126, jan./jun., 2011.

PEREIRA, C. P. A pobreza, suas causas e interpretações: destaque ao caso brasileiro. *Ser Social*. Brasília: UnB, v. 1, p. 229-252, 2006.

UNASUL. *Informe de Gestão do Grupo de Especialistas em Energia*. Disponível em: http://www.mme.gov.br/mme/galerias/arquivos/unasul/Unasul_VisaoGeral.pdf. Acesso em: 03 set. 2013.

WOJCICKI, F. R. *Perspectivas da comunidade energética no mundo e na América Latina: desafios da indústria elétrica na América Latina*. Rio de Janeiro: Ministério das Minas e Energia. ago. 2012. Disponível em: <http://grandesenergia.org.br/eventos/20120827_WEC/Documentos/2o%20Painel%20-%2005%20Francisco%20Rom%C3%A1rio%20Wojcicki.pdf>. Acesso em: 01 set. 2013.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to inspire an initial assessment and subsequent discussion of the birth and development of the energy policy within the integrative perspective of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). Once established the role expected by this international entity facing global and regional energy demands, it is intended to ascertain the level of completeness of environmental issues within these negotiations. To achieve the desired goals in this preliminary study provided largely by the search and reading of specific literature, the work begins with an explanation of the origins and institutional bases of UNASUR, showing its previous and explicit goals. In sequence, the research is directly targeted to a study of UNASUR policies that include the plans, strategies and specific regulations for the development of the desired energy framework. Finally, as part of the systematic sequence of this study, it is approached the hybrid field of the inclusion of conservation goals and sustainable use of natural resources and its compatibility with the egalitarian energy policy. Finally, it is prospected the presence of sustainability variables of natural resources and its vital importance to the compatibility between poverty reduction in South American countries and the maintenance of the quality of the environment and consequently the human race included on it.

KEYWORDS

Energy. Environment. Poverty. UNASUR.

RESUMO

O presente trabalho busca suscitar de forma ainda inicial uma avaliação e subsequente discussão acerca do nascimento e desenvolvimento da política energética dentro da perspectiva integracional da União das Nações Sul-americanas (UNASUL). Uma vez estabelecido o papel esperado por este ente internacional frente às demandas energéticas regionais e mundiais, averigua-se o nível de conclusão das questões ambientais dentro destas tratativas. Para a consecução dos objetivos almejados neste estudo preliminar e proporcionados em grande parte pela pesquisa e leitura de literatura específica, inicia-se o trabalho com uma explanação da própria origem e bases institucionais da UNASUL, demonstrando seus objetivos prévios e explícitos. Parte-se, então, para um estudo direcionado das políticas da UNASUL que contemplem os planos, estratégias e regras específicas para o desenvolvimento da matriz energética almejada. Como parte integrante da sequência sistematizada deste estudo, adentra-se no campo híbrido da inclusão dos objetivos de conservação e do uso sustentável dos recursos naturais e sua compatibilidade com a política energética igualitária. Por fim, prospecta-se a presença de variáveis de sustentabilidade dos recursos naturais e sua vital importância para a compatibilidade entre a redução da pobreza nos países sul-americanos e a manutenção da qualidade do meio ambiente e, conseqüentemente, da espécie humana nele inserida.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Energia. Meio Ambiente. Pobreza. UNASUL.

Recebido em: 21/01/2014

Aprovado em: 16/03/2015

