

STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FOR FEDERAL LAND INFRASTRUCTURE CONCESSIONS





POLICY BRIEF
JUNE 2021

INTRODUCTION

The life cycle of infrastructure projects has at least two key points when an analysis of socio-environmental components is expected to be conducted during the implementation of large-scale projects. These are: when the Technical, Economic and Environmental Feasibility Studies (*Estudos de Viabilidade Técnica, Econômica e Ambiental -* EVTEA) and the Environmental Assessment Study (*Estudo de Impacto Ambiental -* EIA) are conducted.

Both studies are part of a project's viability phase. The EVTEA is a more comprehensive study and, in practice, places greater emphasis on investigating the economic feasibility of a given project and the feasibility of the concession itself; it also devotes a section to a socio-environmental analysis. The EIA, as its name implies, focuses on the environmental impacts a project may cause.

The more robust and effective these environmental studies are, the lower the probability is the actual projects implemented will harm the environment. Additionally, improved studies also produce better input to increase the quality of projects. Nonfeasible or low-viability projects are less likely to reach the bidding stage. As a result, higher-quality environmental studies make the business environment more secure and reduce transaction costs in the sector.

In this brief, researchers from Climate Policy Initiative/Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (CPI/PUC-Rio) identify and analyze the socio-environmental components covered by the terms of reference for EVTEA and EIAs, the studies themselves, the highway and railroad sectoral manuals used to prepare EVTEA, and by the ten most important socio-environmental components

foreseen in international guidelines for railroad and highway projects surveyed under this study.

This analysis (i) checks whether the socioenvironmental components of EVTEA and EIAs have different emphases, (ii) ascertains whether the terms of reference (TRs) for EVTEA and EIAs and the studies themselves incorporate the most relevant socio-environmental components in accordance with the international guidelines surveyed, as well as those outlined in highway and railroad sectoral manuals and, finally, (iv) checks whether the environmental studies have complied with the provisions in their respective TRs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve the terms of reference for studies and the analysis of socioenvironmental components in EVTEA and in the EIA by incorporating international guidelines.
- Incorporate the social and environmental components included in sectoral manuals into the terms of reference for EVTEA or in the EVTEA bid notices, thus making them binding.
- Ensure a process with clear and transparent criteria for the assessment and approval of environmental studies by requiring full compliance with the terms of reference for EVTEA and EIAs and sectoral manuals or by providing a technical justification for the lack thereof.
- Make it mandatory for EVTEA to be conducted before EIA.



KEY FINDINGS

- i. Environmental studies include more components related to the socio-economic and physical environments, than they do to the biotic environment. The number of components pertaining to the physical and socio-economic components in EVTEA reinforces the current emphasis on technical and economic feasibility, thus missing an opportunity to conduct a more robust analysis of the biotic environment earlier in the process and incorporate them into project feasibility equation prior to the environmental licensing procedure.
- ii. Approximately 30% of the components analyzed in the EIAs are also analyzed in the EVTEA. This shows that there would be a significant efficiency gain if there were a mandatory correlation between the two studies. There is also a clear possibility for EVTEA to conduct certain analyses prior to when they would otherwise be conducted (in the EIAs), since the components analyzed in both studies are fully compatible.
- iii. The studies do not fully follow the sectoral manuals, which indicates that improving and standardizing sectoral manuals and TRs alone may not be enough if they're not mandatory.
- iv. The environmental studies analyzed fail to consider all the ten most relevant social and environmental components laid out in international guidelines in the railroad and highway projects surveyed for this study.
- v. Environmental studies fail to fully comply with their TRs.

1. THE VIABILITY PHASE FOR LAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

This research conducted by CPI/PUC-Rio¹ focuses on the regulations applicable to federal railroad and highway concessions to the private sector² and identifies the main phases and stages of the concession flow, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Life Cycle Stages of Land Transport Projects



¹ Chiavari, Joana, Luiza Antonaccio, and Gabriel Cozendey. Regulatory and Governance Analysis of the Life Cycle of Transportation Infrastructure Projects in the Amazon. Rio de Janeiro: Climate Policy Initiative, forthcoming. See also: Cozendey, Gabriel and Joana Chiavari. Environmental Viability of Land Transport Infrastructure in the Amazon. Rio de Janeiro: Climate Policy Initiative, 2021. bit.ly/3xuebBD.

² Initially, the study was going to analyze concessions and non-concessions of federal and state railways and highways in the Legal Amazon, but ultimately state highways and non-concession highways were excluded from the analysis due to the unavailability (or complete lack) of sufficient data. The researchers did not find any railways not under concession in the Legal Amazon.



In the viability phase, cost-benefit analyses and technical and environmental feasibility studies are carried out to determine whether a project is, in fact, viable for execution. EVTEA are the studies used to identify these issues and describe them in detail. The government also decides in the viability phase which public agency or institution will be centrally responsible for spearheading the project; for the cases considered in this brief, it is usually the National Land Transport Agency (*Agência Nacional de Transportes Terrestres* - ANTT) or VALEC Engenharia, Construções e Ferrovias S/A (VALEC).

After that, the environmental licensing process begins. A Preliminary License (*Licença Prévia -* LP) is the first of three environmental licenses that must be granted to land infrastructure projects before implementation and operations can begin. The LP attests to a project's environmental feasibility and can be obtained by the initiative of the government or the concessionaire. This first license is part of the viability phase, as it attests to a project's environmental feasibility; no project can be undertaken without it.

Issuance of the LP is based on an analysis of the respective EIA,³ which does not necessarily have to pre-date the EVTEA or even be logically correlated with it, according to the regulations currently in effect.⁴ This lack of a relationship between the studies squanders an opportunity for issues discussed only in the environmental licensing stage to be addressed earlier, during the EVTEA.

Box 1. Environmental Studies Foreseen throughout the Life Cycle of an Infrastructure Project

	EVTEA	EIA	
Scope	Broad	Narrow	
Objective	Assess a project's economic feasibility and the feasibility of the concession itself	Assess a project's environmental impact	
Is this a precondition for advancing to the next phase?	No	Yes; it is required for obtaining the LP	
When	Viability phase	Viability phase	
Foundations	Sectoral manuals and term of reference from the bid to contract the study	Term of reference established by the competent environmental authorities	

Note: Terms of Reference from institutions potentially involved are also used as a basis for preparing EIAs. See: Inter-ministerial Ordinance no. 60/2015. <u>bit.ly/3pJXyiG</u>.

³ The EIA is approved after a public hearing, which also serves as input for the analysis to approve the LP.

⁴ Cozendey, Gabriel and Joana Chiavari. *Environmental Viability of Land Transport Infrastructure in the Amazon*. Rio de Janeiro: Climate Policy Initiative, 2021. <u>bit.ly/3xuebBD</u>.



2. ANALYSIS OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY AND RAILROAD CONCESSIONS IN THE LEGAL AMAZON

To analyze the socio-environmental components included in environmental studies (EVTEA and EIAs), first information must be obtained about them, including their terms of reference and any government manuals that guide their preparation.

Considering the available documents, 14 sections of highway and railroad projects were analyzed in total, broken down into nine railroad sections and five highway sections. However, only three railroad sections and two highway sections had both the EVTEA and its TR available for analysis; these were acquired by means of the Information Access Law (Law no. 12527/2011). Only three railroad sections had their EIAs and respective TRs available for analysis. In the highway sector, there were no EIAs and respective TRs available for any of the sections under analysis (Table 1).

Table 1. Sections of Highway and Railroad Concessions under Analysis and Documents Made Available through LAI

		EVTEA TR	EVTEA	EIA TR	EIA
Railroads	Ferrogrão	✓	✓	✓	√ *
	Ferronorte (Cuiabá - Santarém)	✓	✓	-	-
	Ferronorte (Itiquira – Rondonópolis)	-	-	✓	✓
	FICO (Porto Velho - Vilhena)	✓	✓	-	-
	FICO (Campinorte - Lucas do Rio Verde)	-	✓	-	-
	FICO (Mara Rosa – Lucas do Rio Verde)	-	✓	-	-
	FICO (Uruaçu - Vilhena)	-	-	✓	✓
	Norte-Sul (Açailândia - Barrena)	-	✓	-	-
	Norte-Sul (Estreito – Babaçulândia)	-	-	✓	✓
Highways	BR-153 (Aliança do Tocantins/ TO - Anápolis/GO)	-	✓	✓	-
	BR-364 (Rondonópolis/MT e Jataí/GO)	✓	✓	-	-
	BR-364 (Comodoro-MT - Candeia do Jamari/RO)	_	-	✓	-
	BR-163 (Sinop/MT - Miritituba/PA)	✓	✓	-	✓
	BR-163 (border MS/MT - Sinop/MT)	-	✓	-	-

^{*}Not yet approved by IBAMA.



It should be noted that only one project (Ferrogrão) had complete information available on all environmental studies (and their TRs) that should be carried out throughout the life cycle of any project, corroborating the lack of transparency in this sector as previously reported by CPI/PUC-Rio.⁵

3. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS UNDER ANALYSIS

The first step of the analysis carried out by CPI/PUC-Rio researchers identified the socioenvironmental components adopted in the environmental studies and their TRs to find out if there is an emphasis on any specific socio-environmental aspect and if the EVTEA and EIAs focus on the same aspects.⁶

Annexes 1 and 2 illustrate all the socio-environmental components identified in the studies and their TRs under assessment. In total, 57 components were identified as present in the EVTEA and their TRs and 98 components were identified in the EIAs and their TRs. Of the 98 components identified in the EIAs and their TRs, 29 are also present in EVTEA and their TRs. Therefore, almost 30% of the components analyzed in the EIAs are also analyzed in the EVTEA. **This shows that there would be a significant efficiency gain if there were a mandatory correlation between the two studies.** There is also a clear possibility for EVTEA to cover certain analyses prior to when they would otherwise be conducted during the EIAs, since the components analyzed in both studies are fully compatible.

3.1 DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS IN THE EVTEA AND EIAS FOR RAILROAD AND HIGHWAYS

From the outset, it should be noted that this is merely a quantitative analysis conducted to understand the distribution of socio-environmental components across the studies and TRs under analysis. Such distribution does not consider the depth or quality of the analysis for each component in the studies and TRs; it only illustrates which socio-environmental aspects (the biotic – fauna and flora –, physical and socio-economic environments) had more or fewer components detailed in the studies.

The EVTEA TRs and the EVTEA themselves, in their majority, had more components related to the socio-economic environment, followed by the physical environment. The biotic environment, separated into flora and fauna, had fewer components under study; of the two, the fauna had the fewest components under analysis. Considering that the EVTEA currently does not focus on a project's socio-environmental feasibility (Box 1), it is not surprising that there are more components focused on the physical and socio-economic environments, which have a more direct impact on a project's technical and economic feasibility analysis.

While the highway sector's EVTEA and EVTEA TRs include a higher number of socioenvironmental components under study, in the case of EIAs the higher number of such components is in the railroad sector.

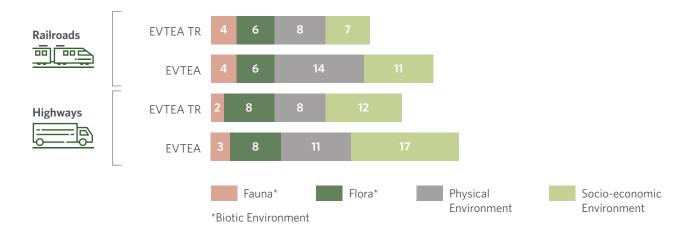
⁵ Cozendey, Gabriel and Joana Chiavari. Environmental Viability of Land Transport Infrastructure in the Amazon. Rio de Janeiro: Climate Policy Initiative, 2021 hit ly/3xuebBD.

⁶ The components identified are described in detail in Annexes 1 and 2.

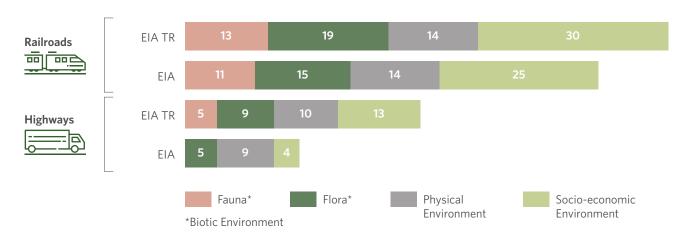


Figure 2. Distribution of Socio-economic Components across Highway and Railroad EVTEA and EIAs

2a. EVTEA and Terms of Reference (TR) for EVTEA



2b. EIAs and Terms of Reference (TR) for EIAs



Source: CPI/PUC-Rio, 2021

Like EVTEA, the TRs and the EIAs in both sectors consider only a few fauna-related components. Though such component is part of the TR for highway projects, it is not analyzed in the actual studies. Flora-related components are also limited, especially in the highway sector, which is alarming given the widely recognized negative impact that these types of projects have in terms of deforestation.

As such, studies and their respective TRs have more components tied to the assessment of the socio-economic and physical environments, while the biotic environment – comprised of fauna and flora – has quantitatively fewer components analyzed.



3.2 MOST RELEVANT SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS

The second step in the analysis was based on a survey of international guidelines carried out by a team of consultants⁷ to identify the ten most relevant social and environmental components for railway and highway projects.^{8,9,10,11,12,13,14}

They are as follows: (i) forest cover, (ii) conservation unit, (iii) biodiversity and natural habitat, (iv) indigenous and *quilombola* communities, (v) natural caverns, (vi) water resources, (vii) historical and cultural heritage, (viii) riverine communities, (ix) air quality, and (x) climate.

These guidelines also seem relevant for Brazil, considering that the Social and Environmental Scope for Evaluation and Structuring of Highway Concessions (*Escopo Socioambiental para Avaliação e Estruturação de Concessões Rodoviárias* - ESAEC-R) - a document prepared (though not yet formally published) by the Ministry of Infrastructure to standardize EVTEA TRs for highway concessions¹⁵ - includes most of the social and environmental components identified internationally. The only components missing from the ESAEC-R are: air quality and riverine communities.

A comparison between international guidelines and the components identified in the EVTEA for the selected projects shows that none of the EVTEA had analyzed all ten of the components listed above. Only two components had been included in all EVTEA under review: conservation units and indigenous and *quilombola* communities. Riverine communities, on the other hand, were not included in any of the studies - probably because there is no specific legislation in place to protect them. Figure 3 shows the share of EVTEA and TRs for EIAs that considered each of the ten components provided for in international guidelines.

In the case of EIA TRs, none of the projects under analysis incorporated all the components included in international guidelines into the TRs for the EIAs under assessment. Once again, riverine communities were not covered in any study.

It should be noted, however, that certain components may be missing because of the location of the section in question, which may simply have no impact on a particular component. However, considering that these studies – both EVTEA and EIAs – are preliminary to the final project design, there should at least be a justification for why the component was not addressed.

⁷ Halrik, Carlos and Thomas Miazaki. Consultancy services contracted by the Climate Policy Initiative. December, 2019.

⁸ Quintero, Juan D. A Guide to Good Practices for Environmentally Friendly Roads. Latin America Conservation Council. 2016. bit.ly/3pEBC8s.

⁹ Infra Eco Network Europe. International Guidelines for Ecologically-adapted Linear Infrastructure. 2018.

¹⁰ International Road Federation. Moving Towards Green Road Infrastructure. 2013. bit.ly/3gifJHK.

¹¹ The World Bank. Roads and the Environment: A Handbook. 1997.

¹² International Finance Corporation. Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Railways. 2007. bit.ly/359S1Zo.

¹³ International Finance Corporation. Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Toll Roads. 2007. bit.ly/3pDrxJ6.

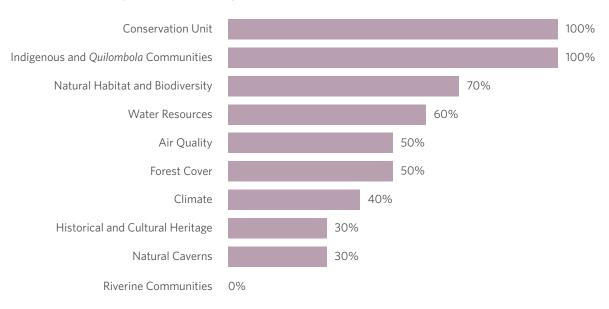
¹⁴ The World Bank. Environmental and Social Framework. 2017. bit.ly/3zjAnQr.

¹⁵ A query was made via the Freedom of Information Act as to the possibility of making the ESAEC-R and ESAEC-F available and whether they were in effect. For the ESAEC-R, the response was that "the document had been approved by the Permanent Commission on Highway Concessions (Comissão Permanente de Outorgas Rodoviárias - CPOR) on December 21, 2017, and later updated and submitted for validation by CPOR on June 12, 2019". When CPOR was extinguished by Decree no. 9,759 on April 11, 2019, however, the document had not yet been validated. Nevertheless, the response to the question formulated via the LAI states that the document "is already used as a reference for the preparation of Technical, Economic and Environmental Feasibility Studies (EVTEA) for highway concessions". Regarding the ESAEC-F, the request to make that document available was denied because the council in charge of approving it had been extinguished (by the same decree that extinguished the CPOR).

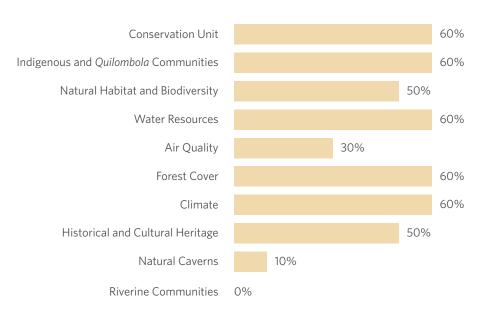


Figure 3. Most Relevant Components Considered by EVTEA and TRs for EIAs

3a. Most relevant components considered by EVTEA



3b. Most relevant components considered by TRs for EIAs



Source: CPI/PUC-Rio

3.3 EVTEA COMPLIANCE WITH SECTORAL MANUALS FOR THE PREPARATION OF EVTEA

The third step in the analysis was determining whether the EVTEA do, in fact, include the socio-environmental components provided for in the sectoral manuals for the preparation of EVTEA – issued by the National Department of Traffic Infrastructure (*Departamento Nacional de Infraestrutura de Trânsito* – DNIT) for the highway sector and by VALEC for the railroad sector. It turns out that these manuals are not entirely followed. The railroad sector has incorporated, on average, 47% of the components provided for in VALEC's manual, while the highway sector has incorporated, on average, 54% of the components provided for in DNIT's manual.

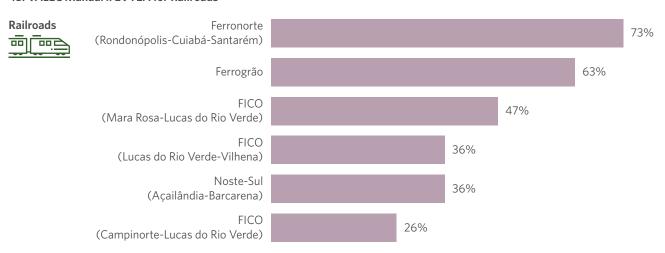


Figure 4. EVTEA Compliance with Sectoral Manuals

4a. DNIT Manual x EVTEA for Highways



4b. VALEC Manual x EVTEA for Railroads



Source: CPI/PUC-Rio, 2021

In view of the government's ongoing efforts to standardize EVTEA TRs by means of sector manuals, as in the case of the ESAEC-R mentioned above, it is not enough to have a robust manual in place for the preparation of environmental studies if the social and environmental components it provides for are not included in the terms of reference for contracting studies or in the EVTEA bid notices and if compliance is not duly assessed and approved.

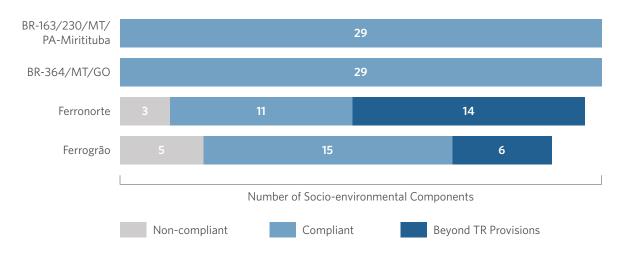
3.4 COMPLIANCE BETWEEN STUDIES AND THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE

The fourth and final step was to determine whether the environmental studies fulfilled the items in their respective terms of reference. Though some of the studies looked into components not originally included in the TR, they also failed to analyze all foreseen components, such as the railroad EVTEA, as shown in Figure 5. Highway EVTEA, on the other hand, complied with their terms of reference.

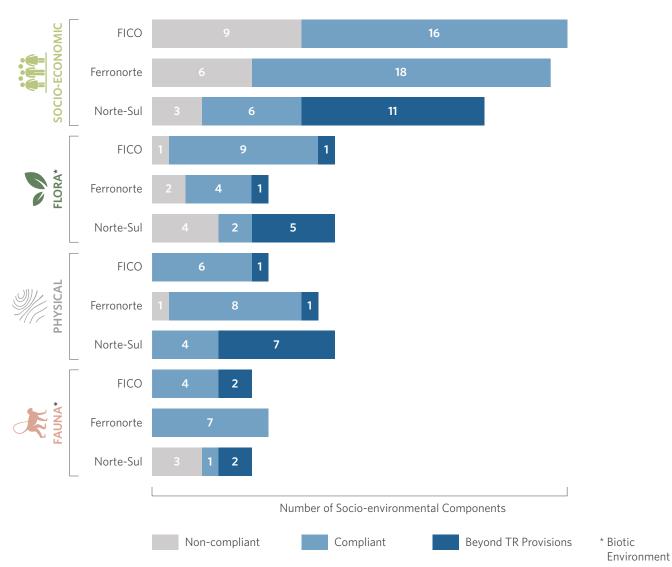


Figure 5. Number of Socio-environmental Components per EVTEA and EIA Compliance with TRs

5a. EVTEA compliance with TRs



5b. EIA compliance with TRs



Railroads' sections: FICO (Uruaçu-Vilhena); Ferronorte (Itiquira-Rondonópolis); Norte-Sul (Estreito-Babaçulândia)



In the case of EIAs, none of them were fully compliant with the TR, though there were cases where the study was fully compliant in certain regards. In one case, for example, the study analyzed components not included in the TR.

CONCLUSION

In this brief, CPI/PUC-Rio researchers identify the socio-environmental components covered by sectoral manuals, terms of reference for EVTEA and EIAs and by the studies themselves, as well as by the international guidelines, for federal highway and railroad concessions in the Legal Amazon.

The study finds that the EVTEA and EIAs under analysis, as well as their TRs, have more components related to the socio-economic and physical environments. While this is a quantitative analysis, it is noteworthy that the biotic environment, which is essentially environmental in nature, has fewer components than other socio-environmental aspects, especially in EIA TRs and in the EIAs themselves, since they focus on projects' environmental impacts.

CPI/PUC-Rio identified room to improve the TRs for EVTEA and EIAs by incorporating the components outlined in international guidelines, such as riverine communities, and sectoral manuals, like endangered fauna species. However, strengthening the TRs alone will not be enough unless the studies actually fully comply with them. A clear and transparent process for evaluating and approving studies must be in place to ensure full compliance with TRs and sectoral manuals, or there should a proper justification if that is not the case.

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Annex 1. Equivalent Social and Environmental Components Identified in both the EVTEA and the EIA and their TRs

	EVTEA AND TR	EIA AND TR
	Ecological Corridors	Ecological Corridors
FLORA	Forest Cover	Identify total and relative forest cover for each type of vegetation and anthropogenic areas
	Permanent Preservation Areas (Áreas de Preservação Permanente - APP) and Legal Forest Reserves	APP
	Species that are endemic or rare, serving as bioindicators, threatened with extinction, endowed with economic or medical value or protected by law	Characterize and describe species that serve as indicators of environmental quality and that have economic or scientific value
	Conservation Units*	Conservation Units
	Characterization of the fauna	Characterization of the fauna
FAUNA	Endangered species**	Endemic, rare or endangered species or those protected by law**
	Separation by group: reptiles, fish, birds and mammals	Classification by groups: reptiles, fish, birds and mammals
	Climate	Climate
	Geology and geotechnics	Geology
		Geotechnics
	Geomorphology and topography	Geomorphology
		Topography
AL	Mining	Mineral resources
HYSICAL	Paleontology	Paleontological heritage
F	Hydrology	Hydrology
	Soil	Soil
	Noise	Sound quality
	Natural cavities	Natural cavity
	Water and air quality	Air quality
		Land use and occupation**
	Socioeconomics of affected communities	Socio-economic aspects of the main affected communities
	Infrastructure	Basic infrastructure service
U	Historical and cultural heritage	Historical and cultural heritage
SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Health	Endemic diseases and health
	Economic Ecological Zoning (<i>Zoneameneto Ecológico Econômico</i> - ZEE)	Economic Ecological Zoning (ZEE)
	Demography	Demography, distribution and mapping of the population
	Indigenous Lands*	Indigenous Lands
	Quilombola communities*	Quilombolas
	Land use and occupation**	

^{*}Components identified in the Protected Areas chapter of the EVTEA

^{**}Equivalent components





Annex 2. Other Social and Environmental Components Identified in both EVTEA and EIA and their TRs

	FLORA	FAUNA	SOCIO-ECONOMIC		PHYSICAL
	Biome	Degree of endemism	Urban interventions	Education	Urbanized areas
EVTEA AND TR	Protected areas and their distance from the project	Hunted by locals or for economic or medical value, migratory species or those protected by law	Potential for using natural resources	Characterization of Municipalities	Relief
	Atlantic Forest Law (<i>Lei da Mata Atlântica</i>)		Employment opportunity, economic activities and local economy	Organization of space and demographic dynamics	Agricultural and cattle raising capacity
	Relevant legislation		Employment and unemployment rates	Railroad liabilities	Interception in an urban watershed
	Priority areas for conservation		Quality of life index	Settlements	Interception in an urban area
	Main types of vegetation		Economic development	Water use	Watershed
EIA AND TR	Identify and characterize protected areas and refuges for fauna and flora	Map the areas affected by the project with potential for fauna migration	Characterization of regional infrastructures (transport, energy, health, education, etc.)	Check migration patterns between affected municipalities	Water quality
	Characterization of all native forests within the study area (primary sources)	Updated satellite images and photos with an example of each area	Traditional communities	Expectations about the project by the population present	Meteorology
	Flora information in the Area of Indirect Influence (Área de Influência Indireta - AII) or in the study area (secondary sources)	Characterization of richness, abundance, and diversity in the Area of Direct Influence (Área de Influência Direta - AID)	Characterization of the health system (formal, informal, rural, or urban)	Social characterization of the Directly Affected Area (Área Diretamente Afetada - ADA) and the AID	Hydrogeology
	Present a stabilized collector curve or a clear path to stabilization for each physiognomy	Quantitative and qualitative aspects, habitat, feeding, breeding and migratory species for breeding	Political and institutional characterization of the ADA, AID and AII	Historical and descriptive analysis of the transformation process involved in rural and urban occupation	Water
	Vegetation maps for the AID and AII	Aquatic and semi-aquatic life	Land structure of the ADA	Urban mobility	Construction sites
	Estimate deforestation (a qualitative and descriptive explanation)	Identification of the fauna present in the study area	Compliance with the Municipal Master Plan	Resettlement and expropriation	
	Present and justify the methodologies used for analysis	Collisions with the fauna present in the study area	Urban expansion zone and existing zoning	Identify regional economic growth	



	FLORA	FAUNA	SOCIO-ECONOMIC		
	Identify and characterize any remaining vegetation that may be affected by the project	Describe the vertebrate and invertebrate fauna in the study area and its surroundings	Identify urban expansion factors	Tourism and economic potentials	
	Indication of sensitive areas in the ADA and AID	Characterization of the All ecosystem (secondary sources)	Economic characterization of the affected area	Mining rights in the Area of Influence	
	Satellite images and maps of the vegetation located in the area of influence, with the identification of existing vegetation types	Description and table with the fauna probably present in the AID, based on secondary sources presented in the All and in the work carried out <i>in loco</i> at the All	Labor availability	Social characterization	
	Classification of native vegetation by type and ecological succession	Characterization of the AID ecosystem	Population dynamics in the study area	Productive and services structure	
EIA AND TR	Land ecosystem	Indicate whether the project interferes with routes of migratory species	Economic development vectors	Institutional structure of health and infrastructure	
	Discuss sample sufficiency for each vegetation type	Characterization and description of species of economic or scientific value or indicative of environmental quality	Land zoning	Land use and occupation in the Area of Influence	
	Identification of native vegetation in the AID	Prioritize methods with little or no capture	Analysis of endemic diseases and vector mitigation measurements	Existing communities in the ADA	
	Priority areas for biodiversity	Fauna probably present in the study area	Expropriation	Location of urban or rural agglomerations	
	Phyto-sociological research		Characterization of the scenario		
	Land use				
	Aquatic ecosystem				