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NATIVE VEGETATION SUPPRESSION IN THE UPLAND AREAS OF THREE SUB-BASINS OF UPPER PARAGUAY RIVER BASIN

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The expansion of the agriculture frontiers over the Cerrado biome of the High Paraguai River Basin, since the 70's results in a process of original vegetation cover conversion to crop cultivation and to pastures for beef production, mainly in the uplands around the Pantanal. It permitted the development of an area considered unproductive in the past, but due bad soil conservation practices, an intensive erosion process increase the soil losses in the uplands, resulting in a high amount of sediment deposition in the rivers channels in the Pantanal. Images of the sensor CCD, CBERS-2 satellite and sensor TM 5, Landsat satellite was used to quantify the vegetation alteration in the upland portion of the basins São Lourenço river (SLR), Jauru-Sepotuba-Cabaçal rivers (JSCR), in 2004 and for the whole basin of the Miranda river (MR), in 2006. The original vegetation alteration quantified was 14.086 K² or 61% (SLR) and 16.653 Km² or 56% (JSCR). For MR, 60% of total basin original vegetation area was quantified as altered and was estimated around 80% for the upland portion. A land use map was produced and alterations in liminological processes are been analysed. Although there was already legislation for land use planning, the Forestry Code since 1965, it there was not respected, and it continues until today. The high level of original vegetation conversion is a threat for ecological services conservation of these basins in the uplands as well as in the Pantanal. Grants: PELD/CNPq 520056/98-1 and FINEP/CT-HIDRO (001/2004).

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56469 - 1