ESG and Infrastructure delivery: Belo Horizonte Rodoanel Project Biannual Conference of the Section of Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law

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- 1 CONTEXT: ESG AND INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY – BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCE
- 2 CASE STUDY: BELO HORIZONTE RODOANEL PROJECT
- 3 CONCLUSION: FIRST PPP CONTRACT WITH SPECIFIC ESG PROVISIONS – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



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CONTEXT

ESG and Infrastructure Delivery: Brazilian Experience





Infrastructure in Brazil has recently developed mainly through public-private partnerships (PPPs)

Brazil is one of the

the world

largest PPP markets in



~8million km²

Budgetary constraints



3 levels of government

Under PPPs, **private partner** is usually responsible for building/expanding, operating and maintaining the infrastructure, meaning it will render public services directly to USERS, on behalf of the competent government authority



PPPs are long-term contracts



PPPs: long term contracts between public entity and private partner Federal: Ports, railways, airports, energy, roads (if in more than one state).

State: Roads (if within a state)



Municipal: Water and sewage, urban mobility



ESG in PPP Infrastructure Projects

Limited ESG applicability in Infrastructure PPP Projects through:



Environmental Licensing

ESG standards incorporated through licensing requirements (environmental laws)



Loans

ESG standards as lender requirements for the loan



How is ESG broader scenario in Brazil?



Environmental: One of the most advanced environmental frameworks in the world

Governance: Significantly improved after *Lava Jato* corruption scandal (especially re. corporate governance and anti-corruption policies)



Social: Lagging behind / Difficulties in setting up mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts of infrastructure projects to surrounding communities

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CASE STUDY

Belo Horizonte Rodoanel Toll Road Project Minas Gerais State, Brazil





What's new?



Scope of project: Outer ring toll road creating an expressway around the metropolitan region of Belo Horizonte, in Minas Gerais State, to be entirely built, maintained and operated for 30 years by the private concessionaire. Grantor is the Minas Gerais State.



What's new?

 First PPP Contract with specific ESG obligations to be undertaken by future Concessionaire: PPP Contract draft attached to RFP includes a chapter providing for specific ESG obligations



How did ESG provisions come into the game?



Part of funding for Rodoanel comes from the Brumadinho Settlement Agreement:

- ✓ After the dam collapse in 2019, Vale executed a settlement agreement with the Minas Gerais State to compensate for the damages caused;
- ✓ Agreement established that part of the funds would be used to build the Rodoanel Project.

Communities' activism:

- During the public consultation phase preceding the tender, communities surrounding the toll road route challenged the Project;
- ✓ Their activism forced State Government to modify some aspects of the project and include ESG provisions.



Examples of ESG Obligations – Environmental



Carbon Emissions

Concessionaire must:

- Calculate and report, on a yearly basis, project's carbon emissions
- Submit for approval and execute a plan to compensate those emissions every 5 years throughout PPP Contract period



Examples of ESG Obligations – Social



Human Rights

Concessionaire must implement a program to map and mitigate risks of breaching human rights, especially contemplating the communities affected by the PPP project



Labor Health and Safety

Concessionaire must implement a system to manage labor health and safety during project construction and operation



Examples of ESG Obligations – Governance



Anti-corruption

Related Parties

Concessionaire must implement anti-corruption and compliance programs



Concessionaire has to prepare, publish and implement policies for transactions with related parties



Examples of ESG Obligations – Mitigating Brumadinho's consequences



Employment for Brumadinho victims' family members and inhabitants

Concessionaire must prioritize hiring Brumadinho dam collapse victims' family members or inhabitants for the construction and operation of the project

Project partially financed by Vale compensation

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CONCLUSION

First PPP Contract with specific ESG obligations: What does it mean?



Conclusion

First PPP Contract with specific ESG obligations: What does it mean?

- State of Minas Gerais is taking one step further in the ESG agenda by including ESG obligations in the Belo Horizonte Rodoanel PPP Contract;
- Some obligations are too broad and lack metrics, which puts their effectiveness at risk;
- This could be solved by selecting proposals during tender phase also based on their ESG plans or creating contractual incentives for implementation of ESG plans (higher ESG accomplishments triggering higher financial contributions by Grantor, for example)
- Although the Belo Horizonte Rodoanel project includes ESG obligations due to a major environmental and social disaster, its innovations could mean a long-lasting change in the way infrastructure projects are delivered



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