



REVIEW REPORT (A)

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Decision: Revisions Required

Title: Linha Verde: The Scar Highway: Socio-environmental Conflicts and Impacts on the Northern Coast of Bahia

This article makes a valuable contribution to the special issue on Beach Grabbing, as it engages with two of the dossier's central axes: the legitimacy of access to nature as a common good and the processes of enclosure and withdrawal from natural spaces. The paper's originality lies in its effort to systematize the conflicts presented in the documentary *Linha Verde: The Scar Highway: Socio-environmental Conflicts and Impacts on the Northern Coast of Bahia*.

The English throughout the manuscript is generally comprehensible; however, certain passages would benefit from linguistic refinement. Some terms could be better chosen, and a few sections would be clearer if rewritten to avoid overly literal translations from Portuguese. (Please refer to the detailed comments in the annotated manuscript.)

In my assessment, there are five main aspects that require revision before the article can be considered for publication:

1. Structure: The methodology section currently appears at the end of the article, immediately before the conclusion. I recommend relocating it to follow the introduction, in line with conventional academic structure.

2. Methodology: Although the authors describe the step-by-step process of the documentary analysis, I suggest including a table that details how the units of meaning extracted from the film were coded, with an additional column specifying the coding scheme. Moreover, several quotations from the documentary appear in the text without proper referencing. For accuracy and transparency, the authors should indicate the exact minute mark in which each cited statement occurs.

3. Description and methodological justification of the documentary: Given that the documentary is central to the analysis, the article would benefit from a brief description of its content and a stronger methodological justification for its selection as the primary data source. The authors should address the following question: Why should this documentary be considered relevant empirical material for examining the conflicts along the *Linha Verde*? The paper also needs a clearer statement of its contribution beyond what is already shown in the documentary. Was there any fieldwork involved, or does the analysis rely exclusively on the documentary? For instance, is the aim to systematize the conflicts portrayed in the film? What are the analytical limitations of this approach? This section should be theoretically and methodologically reinforced. It might also be worth noting that the paper derives from a doctoral dissertation, as this provides useful context regarding its methodological and conceptual foundations.

4. Presentation of conflicts: The authors identify and discuss six conflicts, yet their presentation remains largely descriptive. I suggest developing a stronger analytical thread—perhaps centered on conflicts over land appropriation and use—and demonstrating how this theme unfolds across the six cases. This section contains several promising insights, but it

currently lacks a clear guiding argument that would help the reader grasp the overarching logic connecting the cases.

5. Conclusion: The conclusion diverges somewhat from the article's main focus, which is the analysis of the documentary's narratives. I recommend revising it to better align with the core analytical objectives of the paper. The authors could, for instance, highlight that:

- The process of territorial appropriation tends to favor outside investors over local residents. This dynamic is made possible by ambiguities and evolving interpretations of the notion of sustainability.

- The affected communities demonstrate limited organizational capacity to resist these processes, as illustrated by the conflicts and testimonies presented in the film.

- Issues such as ethnic rights, restricted access to coastal areas, sanitation challenges, constraints on subsistence practices, and the arrival of outsiders all intersect within the broader disputes over land ownership and land use.

- Finally, the paper presents a particularly valuable reflection that should be retained: ultimately, land is conceived as both an economic and environmental asset for "sustainable" tourism development. Yet, there is no shared understanding of how this vision is enacted in practice, as interpretations of sustainability vary significantly among stakeholders.