Materials Transfer at the Continent-Ocean Interface under the Scenario of the Anthropocene

## Luiz Drude de Lacerda

*Instituto de Ciencias do Mar, UFC* 



# CNPq - INCT - TMCOcean



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE CIÊNCIA E TECNOLOGIA DE TRANSFERÊNCIA DE MATERIAIS CONTINENTE-OCEANO

http://inct.cnpq.br/web/inct-tmcocean/home/

# **Continent-Ocean Transfer Processes** \* (Concepcion at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)



**Biogeochemistry of transfer prodesses** 

Lacerda, 2009

\*Most legislation still based on it!

## Present –day Continent-Ocean Transfer Processes \*



**Biogeochemistry of transfer prodesses** 

Lacerda, 2009

## Principals characteristics of the COI

- Transfer of water, mass and energy occur through the continent-ocean interface at large spatial scale both in terrestrial and marine adjacent areas
- 2 Transfer occurs simultaneously both at continentocean and ocean-continent directions at different temporal e spatial scales.
- 3 Transfer is affected by natural and anthropogenic vectors.

c.f. Kjerfve, 2007

## Vectors affecting the continent-ocean transport

Naturals: geotectonic (subsidence/elevation), wind,

earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, inundations, sea level

oscillation, type and abundance of coastal vegetation,

Anthropogenic: wastewaters, agriculture runoff,

pollutant emissions and remobilization, conversion of conversion of works, global climate works, global climate changes.

Synergies: vectors act simultaneously and do affect each other, including through feedback mechanisms, in generally very poorly known.

c.f. Kjerfve, 2007

## Major effects of anthropogenic vectors Human activities largely accelerate biogeochemical cycles (İ) and the transfer of materials at the planetary levels; Natural fluvial filters have been constantly altered, *(ii)* particularly by the construction of dams and deforestation of gallery forests and conversion of coastal vegetation; (iii) Fluvial discharges to the oceans are presently artificially controlled and reduced by engineering interventions (dams, diversion withdraw) and due to global climate change, at least in lower latitudes).

Meybeck a & Vörösmarty (2005)

# Principals classes of anthropogenic vectors affecting the transport of materials at the continent-ocean interface

	Vectors	Pressure	Impact
Agrib Aqua	usiness/ culture	Increasing loads of sediments, nutrients and contaminants, permeability of surfaces, decreasing water availability	Sedimentation Eutrophication
Urbar Indus	nization / trialization		Sedimentation Eutrophication Contamination
Dams	\$	Retention of sediments and nutrients Regularization of the fluvial flux	Sedimentation Erosion Oligotrophy
Globa	al climate change	Sea level rise, alteration of the rainfall regime	Sedimentation Erosion

Marins et al. (2002)

Global changes augment continental runoff in high latitudes, and decrease in lower latitudes and in semiarid regions in particular (Dai et al., 2009).



## Clases of interface systems in Brazil (Knoppers et al., 2009).

#### 1. Spatial Scale

#### Exporters / Accumulators



## Baía Maracanã Baía de São Marcos Baía de Todos OS Eantos Santa Baía de Guanabara Baía Baía de de Santos Santa Catarina

### Accumulators/ Exporters

Typical exporting systems form fluvial plumes over continental shelves, but may display seasonality



## 1. Spatial scale

Typical retainer systems forms sedimentary environments in the estuarine zone

1. Spatial scale

#### Concentration changes of COD, COP e TSS along Sepetiba Bay, SE Brazil



INSTITUTO DO MILÊNIO



## Hg vs Al in sediments along the continental shelf in SE Brazil



## Al distribution in shelf sediments from NE Brazil



Irrigated perimeter

## 1. Spatial scale

Trace metals in shelf sediments ina offshore oil and gas exploration area in NE Brazil (Lacerda et al., 2013)



## Potiguar Basin, RN











#### Si vs Salinidade, Período Chuvoso

Seasonality under semiarid climate

R. Jaguaribe, CE (Lacerda et al., 2010)



#### Si vs Salinidade, Estação Seca





1. Space-temporal scale





Salt intrusion at the Yangtze, China *c.f. LOICZ* (2010)

#### Fluxes (ADCP) under umid climate

### Rio de Contas, Itacaré, BA

## 8

#### П

Contour Variable: Velocity - Direction



-111



Contour Variable: Velocity - Direction



20

#### Fluxes under semiarid climate (ADCP)

Rio Jaguaribe, Fortim, CE

2. Space-temporal

Contour Variable: Velocity - Direction



Contour Variable: Velocity - Direction



Globally, about 40% of traported materials from continental origin by rivers are trapped in estuarine and deltaic sediments.

Materials passing through the estuarine-deltaic filter are deposited in the continental shelf according to shelf characteristics.

Less than 10% is eventually exported to the deep ocean



Post-depositional colonization of estuarine and deltaic sediments by plants changes the biogeochemical nature of the environment



e.g. Impact from mangrove colonization of significance to estuarine ecology and sustainable use

- Augment of the deposition of fine sediments and sedimentation rates
- Decreasing aeration of sediments
- Increasing organic matter deposition and preservation in sediemts
- Increasing consumption of dissolved oxygen
- Anoxia & sulfate reduction





16:58

 $100 \ s$ 

湘 宣 時 瞿;



Pires & Lacerda (2007)



×1.8k 0313 25kV 20µm

 Pt
 Pt

 Ft
 EDX FTO 241

 Fe
 Fe

 SFeAleFid
 Fe Cu Pt

 Q102
 20.47 [b]

## **Typical granulometry of shelf sediments**





## Metal distribution in NE Brazil shelf sediments



## Influence of contineetal sources

В

## Metal distribution in NE Brazil shelf sediments



Influenced by marine processes

## Metal distribution in NE Brazil shelf sediments



## Influenced by marine processes

"The magnitude of transfer processes are today controlled mostly by anthropogenic drives". Vectors causing direct changes on the biogeochemical properties of the environment through emission of alien substances (mostly typical of the last century)

## 2

Vectors causing direct changes on the biogeochemical properties of the environment through interactions with its properties or among themselves (our challenger today).

Lacerda, 2009



Relative importance of natural and anthropogenic sources of nutrients and metals to the NE Coast of Brazil. Average values from 19 estuaries.

■ Natural ■ Antrópica


Sources	Emission factors N and P (t/km²/year); Cu, Hg and Zn (kg/km²/year)		Substances present in effluent		
Natural sources	N = 0.05 - 0.9 P = 0.01 - 0.06	Cu = 2.0 - 2.6 Zn = 5.0 - 6.5 Hg = <0.001	Mostly associated matter	with particulate	Receiving body
Agriculture	N = 0.05 – 2.65 P = 0.12 – 0.56	Cu = 0.7 – 13.5 Zn = 0.04 – 0.13 Hg = 0.02	Nitrate; Ammonia; Phosphate	Cu²+, Zn²+, Particulate- Cu and Zn	Soil
Husbandry	N = 0.09 - 1.31 P = 0.09 - 1.73	Cu = 0.3 – 1.0 Zn = 0.4 – 7.3 Hg = <0.001	Ammonia; Phosphate	Particulate- Cu and Zn	Soil
Urban waste waters and runoff	N = 0.03 – 0.55 P = 0.01 – 0.14	Cu = 0.1 – 15.3 Zn = 0.01 – 47.2 Hg = < 0.001	Nitrate; Ammonia; Phosphate; Particulate-P	Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> ; Particulate- Cu and Zn	Soil, waterways and estuaries
Urban solid wastes disposal	N = 0.001 - 0.2 P < 0.0001	Cu = 0,001 - 0,03 Zn = 0,001 - 0,07 Hg = 0.04	Dominant forms of N and P are too site-specific	Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> ; Particulate- Cu and Zn	Soil
Shrimp aquaculture	N = 1.25 – 4.09, P = 0.13 – 0.32	Cu = 38.6 – 59.8 Hg = 0.03 – 0.04 Zn = 508	PON (70%); NO <sub>3</sub> ; Ammonia; NO <sub>2</sub> ; POP; Phosphate	Particulate- Cu, Zn and Hg	Waterways and estuaries



# Changes in soil uses Urbanization

Fortaleza, 2007

117 tPb.ano<sup>-1</sup> 0,578 tHg.ano<sup>-1</sup> 7.200 tN.ano<sup>-1</sup>

# Legacy of irresponsible technologis faces lack of governance Industrialization





# Changes in soill use: Agriculture

#### Natural

0,45 tN.km<sup>-2</sup>.ano<sup>-1</sup> 0,03 tP.km<sup>-2</sup>.ano<sup>-1</sup> 2,3 kgCu.km<sup>-2</sup>.ano<sup>-1</sup> 
 Agriculture

 1,35 tN. km<sup>-2</sup>.ano<sup>-1</sup>

 0,34 tP.km<sup>-2</sup>.ano<sup>-1</sup>

 7,1 kgCu.km<sup>-2</sup>.ano<sup>-1</sup>



# Irrigated agriculture: Vale do Acaraú (CE): metals in soils

(c.f. Lacerda & Senna, 2005, baseado em várias fontes)

Vegetação natural Culturas diversas



# The management of the area exports continental material out to shelf sediments



## A question of scale: Mississipi Delta, Gulf of Mexico, USA



# Hipoxia in coastal seas



- Increasing globally due to excessive loads of nutrients and oxygen consumption
- Today, affects over 18,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the Texas-Louisiana shelf during summer



# Continental carbon to the South Atlantic

Present production

The original coverage of the tropical Atlantic forest in the year 1500<sup>4</sup> (dark shading, left panel) was reduced to about 8%, consisting of fragmented patches. Today's production (right panel) of black carbon in the drainage basin of Paraiba do Sul River (the area outlined by the box in the left panel) is largely due to pre-harvest burning of sugarcane in the lower part of the catchment area.



Annual production rates are for the polycyclic aromatic fraction of black carbon. The rate shown for the period 1800-1854 also represents the period 1500-1800. Black carbon was mainly produced by slash-and-burn clearing of the Atlantic forest. Today's production is mainly due to pasture management and pre-harvest burning of sugarcane. Changes in land use: Shrimp aquaculture (*c.f.* Marins et al., 2009)



#### Speed of response (eutrophication) to increasing nutrient emissions from different non-industrial activities



Fluxo fluvial para o Oceano Atlântico do Rio Jaguaribe, NE do Brasil durante os últimos 50 anos. (segundo Marins et al. 2002)







#### Godoy (2010)

## Aquaculture & sediment production



Increasing sedimention areas

Godoy (2010)



Alteración en la morfología del estuario de Río Pacotí (CE)

Lacerda et al. (2007



## Water diversion



Contribuição de água e sedimentos pela transposição do Rio Paraíba do Sul para a Baia de Sepetiba



Molisani et al. (2007)

Mudanças nas taxas de sedimentação na Baía de Sepetiba, RJ devido a diversão de águas do Rio Paraíba do Sul (Lacerda et al. 2002)



#### Contribuição de Hg pela transposição do Rio Paraíba do Sul para a Baia de Sepetiba





## Global climate change: Sea level rise

OUT IT IS NOT THE OWNER WATER OF THE OWNER OF T



#### Efeitos pouco óbvios: Impacto na biogeoquímica costeira

- In areas of small supply of sediments, e.g. semiarid littorals, seafront mangroves, sea clifs; coastal deposits are increasing the remobilization of pollutants.
- On the other hand, coastal plain areas in the tropics and subtropics dominated by mangroves, sea level rise will induce mangrove migration inland, creating typical areas dominated by the mangrove metabolism (e.g. anerobic respiration through sulfate reduction).
- Trace metal biogeochemistry and bioavailability are highly affected by the sulfate reduction metabolism.
- Part of the metal load will be accumulated as metallic sulfides in sediments, but part, with the abundant dissolved organic carbon compounds due to incomplete oxidation of organic matter, will be made more bioavailable, increasing bioaccumulation and enhancing biota and human exposure through food chains.



Sea level rise and Hg contribution through erosion (Kwasigroch et al., 2018 (in press) Up to 14.5 kg.yr<sup>-1</sup>; the 3rd most important Hg source to Gdansk Bay.



Fig. 3 The percentage of Hg fractions in horizontal and vertical profiles of investigated cliffs. a Puck cliff, b Oslonino cliff, c Mechelinki cliff

## Erosion of coastal mangroves sediments in NE Brazil

#### Metal concentrations (µg/g)



#### Variação do escorrimento superficial e precipitação global

Out of 200 rivers, **45**, mostly in lower latitudes, have their flows decreased between 1984 and 2004, whereas **19**, have them increased

Increasing fluxes are frequently in higher latitudes and increasing flux **do not relates to increasing rainfall**, a probable reflect of ice and glacier melt.

-2.0

-3.5

-1.5

-5.0



#### **Reduction Annual precipitation and runoff anomalies**





Mercury distribution in coastal waters of the semiarid northeast as a proxy of regional changes in the NE region's watersheds. The clear pattern of higher concentrations to the east are a result of such changes.

#### Water balance (m<sup>3</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>) at the Jaguaribe estuary, NE Brazil (Dias, Lacerda & Marins 2011) pluriannual average.



m3.s-1

# Conceptual hydrodynamics model of semi-arid rivers, from Lacerda , Marins & Dias (2012)



Choking of the lower estuary due to decreasing continental runoff and increasing the strength of ocean forcing over the continental shelf, results in longer residence time of water masses within the estuary during the dry season (Lacerda, Marins & Dias, 2012)



The hydrodynamics of rivers in the semi-arid at the continent - ocean interface and therefore the distribution and biogeochemistry of their ecosystems depends on:

1 – the magnitude of the fluvial flux & continental runoff;

2 – the residence time of water masses in flooded areas and;

3 – sea level variation and the volume of the tidal prism.

All these variables are highly sensitive to global climate change.

Therefore, how global climate change is already affecting the functioning of the semi-arid ecosystems and what can we expect in the future?

Apart from the effects of global and regional changes at the semi arid region itself, tele-conections & large scale transfer in the South Atlantic Ocean may also affect the residence time in estuaries and eventually the export and mobility of substances to marine food chains.



**E.g. The increasing strength of the Agulhas leakage** (*Biastoch, A., C.W. Böning, F.U. Schwarzcopf and J.R.E. Lutjeharms,* **Nature** 462, 495-498, Nov/2009).

#### The impact of ocean water on continental shelf off the semiarid coast of Brazil. Slide & Model, cortesy of Dr. Edmo Campos, USP



Surface circulation off the Brazilian coast is part of a "Super Gire" connecting the South Atlantic ocean with the Indian Ocean. The South Atlantic is the ocean where highest heat accumulation occurs due to global warming.

Indian Ocean waters "leek" to the South Atlantic, a key element in the global thermohaline circulation. Courtesy Dr. Edmo Campos, USP.

✓ Temporal and spatial distribution of continental water masses combining multi-tracers analysis and simultaneous sampling grids in river, estuary, plume and continental shelf, show freshwater plume during the rainy season and penetration of Tropical Waters (Oceanic) into the shelf. ( ) (Dias, Castro & Lacerda, 2011)



Choking the estuary increases water residence time, augmenting reactivity and bioavailability of substances. Stronger ocean forcing moves mixing zone and reactivity processes landward (Dias, Castro & Lacerda, 2011)





What are the major impacts of the processes described above on the fate of pollutants?

How the chemistry of pollutants responds to the increasing choking of estuaries and decreasing continental runoff, sedimentation in estuaries, mangrove expansion and longer water residence time there? Origins of alterations identified in 41 estuaries of the semiarid littoral of NE Brazil. Comparing radar data from 1980 to Landsat, SPOT & Quickbird data from 1999 to 2013




Changes in island area in the Jaguaribe River estuary between 1988 and 2008 (Godoy & Lacerda, 2013)



Mangrove expansion in NE Brazil (Maia, Gentil & Lacerda, 2006)

Parameter	km	%	
Total mangrove area	in 1978	27	8
Total mangrove area	in 2004	35	2
Increase (uncertainty)	) 7	'4	21% (3%)



Three generations of mangroves along the Jaguaribe River, NE Brazil

### **Biogeochemical Scenario**

✓ Augmenting water residence time and sedimentation at the estuary increases mangrove areas and its metabolism based on dissimilatory sulfate reduction expands to larger areas.

✓ There is a larger export of DOC from the incomplete respiration of organic matter by anaerobes.

✓ Deposited metals from continental origin accumulate and suffer chemical changes instead of rapid being exported to the continental shelf.



Pires & Lacerda (1997) Lacerda (1998) Lacerda (2007)

#### Organic-Hg complexes production in porewater facilitates Hg export from sediments



## Relative Speciation of Hg in the dry and wet season at the Jaguaribe Estuary (Lacerda et al., 2013)



Dissolved Hg species dominate the flux during the dry season.

Particulate Hg species dominate the flux during the wet season.

#### **River to estuary**



Export of particulate Hg from river to estuary occurs only under intermediate and high fluvial fluxes; Dissolved Hg export occurs



Mechanisms involved in the augment of Hg dissolved species (bioavailable), favored by the augment of the water residence time within the estuary

Desorption of Hg from suspended particles due to salinity increase and saline intrusion landward

Export of pore waters enriched in DOC from ever larger mangrove forests

Formation and export of soluble Hg-organic complexes

Increased uptake by the phytoplankton associated with higher water transparency.

Faster assimilation and accumulation in the food chain



Figure 1: Correlation of T-Hg concentration (ng/L) with DOC (mg/L) (r = 0.6003, n = 31, p < 0.05) during the dry season on the continental shelf of Ceará - Brazil.



Figure 2: Correlation of T-Hg concentration (ng/L) with DOC (mg/L) (r = 0.3604, n = 20, p <0.05) for the rainy season on the continental shelf of Ceará - Brazil.

Total Hg in coastal waters off the Jaguaribe River (Soares, Marins & Lacerda, 2011)



Augment of water mass chocking and water residence time in estuaries. Increasing saline intrusion and accumulation of continental materials inside the estuary



Continental fluxes may decrease in total but qualitative changes occur due to longer residence time augmenting reactive and bioavailable species (e.g. Hg)





Increasing reactive species increases biological uptake, food chain transfer and human exposure.



Hg em Cephalopholis fulva do mar cearense (Lacerda et al., 2006)



\*













#### Principals characteristics of the COI

- Transfer of water, mass and energy occur through the continent-ocean interface at large spatial scale both in terrestrial and marine adjacent areas
- Transfer occurs simultaneously both at continentocean and ocean-continent directions at different temporal e spatial scales.
- **3** Transfer is affected by natural and anthropogenic vectors.

c.f. Kjerfve, 2007

#### Vectors affecting the continent-ocean transport

Naturals: geotectonic (subsidence/elevation), wind, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, inundations, sea level oscillation, type and abundance of coastal vegetation, etc. Anthropogenic: wastewaters, agriculture runoff, pollutant emissions and remobilization, conversion of octor at a reas, engineering works, global climate http://organic. Synergies: vectors act simultaneously and do affect each other, including through feedback mechanisms, in generally very poorly known. c.f. Kjerfve, 2007

#### Major effects of anthropogenic vectors

- (i) Human activities largely accelerate biogeochemical cycles and the transfer of materials at the planetary levels;
- (ii) Natural fluvial filters have been constantly altered, particularly by the construction of dams and deforestation of gallery forests and conversion of coastal vegetation;
- (iii) Fluvial discharges to the oceans are presently artificially controlled and reduced by engineering interventions (dams, diversion withdraw) and due to global climate change, at least in lower latitudes).

Meybeck a & Vörösmarty (2005)

## Principals classes of anthropogenic vectors affecting the transport of materials at the continent-ocean interface

	Vectors	Pressure	Impact		
Agrib Aqua Urbar Indus	usiness/ culture nization / trialization	Increasing loads of sediments, nutrients and contaminants, permeability of surfaces, decreasing water	Sedimentation Eutrophication Sedimentation Eutrophication		
Dams	3	availability Retention of sediments and nutrients Regularization of the fluvial flux	Contamination Sedimentation Erosion Oligotrophy		
Globa	al climate change	Sea level rise, alteration of the rainfall regime	Sedimentation Erosion		
	Marins et al. (2002				































Globally, about 40% of traported materials from continental origin by rivers are trapped in estuarine and deltaic sediments.

Materials passing through the estuarine-deltaic filter are deposited in the continental shelf according to shelf characteristics.

Less than 10% is eventually exported to the deep ocean





# e.g. Impact from mangrove colonization of significance to estuarine ecology and sustainable use

- Augment of the deposition of fine sediments and sedimentation rates
- >Decreasing aeration of sediments
- Increasing organic matter deposition and preservation in sediemts
- >Increasing consumpion of dissolved oxygen
- >Anoxia & sulfate reduction




## Typical granulometry of shelf sediments Image: sedimetry of shelf sedimetry of sedimetry of shelf sedimetry of s





## Metal distribution in NE Brazil shelf sediments





"The magnitude of transfer processes are today controlled mostly by anthropogenic drives".







Sources	Emission factors N and P (t/km²/year); Cu, Hg and Zn (kg/km²/year)		Substances present in effluent		
Natural sources	N = 0.05 - 0.9 P = 0.01 - 0.06	Cu = 2.0 - 2.6 Zn = 5.0 - 6.5 Hg = <0.001	Mostly associated matter	with particulate	Receiving body
Agriculture	N = 0.05 – 2.65 P = 0.12 – 0.56	Cu = 0.7 – 13.5 Zn = 0.04 – 0.13 Hg = 0.02	Nitrate; Ammonia; Phosphate	Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> , Particulate- Cu and Zn	Soil
Husbandry	N = 0.09 - 1.31 P = 0.09 - 1.73	Cu = 0.3 – 1.0 Zn = 0.4 – 7.3 Hg = <0.001	Ammonia; Phosphate	Particulate- Cu and Zn	Soil
Urban waste waters and runoff	N = 0.03 – 0.55 P = 0.01 – 0.14	Cu = 0.1 – 15.3 Zn = 0.01 – 47.2 Hg = < 0.001	Nitrate; Ammonia; Phosphate; Particulate-P	Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> ; Particulate- Cu and Zn	Soil, waterways and estuaries
Urban solid wastes disposal	N = 0.001 - 0.2 P < 0.0001	Cu = 0,001 – 0,03 Zn = 0,001 – 0,07 Hg = 0.04	Dominant forms of N and P are too site-specific	Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Zn <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> ; Particulate- Cu and Zn	Soil
Shrimp aquaculture	N = 1.25 – 4.09, P = 0.13 – 0.32	Cu = 38.6 – 59.8 Hg = 0.03 – 0.04 Zn = 508	PON (70%); NO <sub>3</sub> ; Ammonia; NO <sub>2</sub> ; POP; Phosphate	Particulate- Cu, Zn and Hg	Waterways and estuaries











## A question of scale: Mississipi Delta, Gulf of Mexico, USA



















Increasing sedimention areas

Godoy (2010)













## Efeitos pouco óbvios: Impacto na biogeoquímica costeira

- In areas of small supply of sediments, e.g. semiarid littorals, seafront mangroves, sea clifs; coastal deposits are increasing the remobilization of pollutants.
- On the other hand, coastal plain areas in the tropics and subtropics dominated by mangroves, sea level rise will induce mangrove migration inland, creating typical areas dominated by the mangrove metabolism (e.g. anerobic respiration through sulfate reduction).
- Trace metal biogeochemistry and bioavailability are highly affected by the sulfate reduction metabolism.
- Part of the metal load will be accumulated as metallic sulfides in sediments, but part, with the abundant dissolved organic carbon compounds due to incomplete oxidation of organic matter, will be made more bioavailable, increasing bioaccumulation and enhancing biota and human exposure through food chains.














## Conceptual hydrodynamics model of semi-arid rivers, from Lacerda , Marins & Dias (2012)



Choking of the lower estuary due to decreasing continental runoff and increasing the strength of ocean forcing over the continental shelf, results in longer residence time of water masses within the estuary during the dry season (Lacerda, Marins & Dias, 2012)



The hydrodynamics of rivers in the semi-arid at the continent - ocean interface and therefore the distribution and biogeochemistry of their ecosystems depends on:

1 – the magnitude of the fluvial flux & continental runoff;

- 2 the residence time of water masses in flooded areas and;
- 3 sea level variation and the volume of the tidal prism.

All these variables are highly sensitive to global climate change.

Therefore, how global climate change is already affecting the functioning of the semi-arid ecosystems and what can we expect in the future?

Apart from the effects of global and regional changes at the semi arid region itself, tele-conections & large scale transfer in the South Atlantic Ocean may also affect the residence time in estuaries and eventually the export and mobility of substances to marine food chains.









What are the major impacts of the processes described above on the fate of pollutants?

How the chemistry of pollutants responds to the increasing choking of estuaries and decreasing continental runoff, sedimentation in estuaries, mangrove expansion and longer water residence time there?





## **Biogeochemical Scenario**

✓ Augmenting water residence time and sedimentation at the estuary increases mangrove areas and its metabolism based on dissimilatory sulfate reduction expands to larger areas.

 $\checkmark$  There is a larger export of DOC from the incomplete respiration of organic matter by anaerobes.

✓ Deposited metals from continental origin accumulate and suffer chemical changes instead of rapid being exported to the continental shelf.





## Relative Speciation of Hg in the dry and wet season at the Jaguaribe Estuary (Lacerda et al., 2013)







Mechanisms involved in the augment of Hg dissolved species (bioavailable), favored by the augment of the water residence time within the estuary

\*Desorption of Hg from suspended particles due to salinity increase and saline intrusion landward

\*Export of pore waters enriched in DOC from ever larger mangrove forests

\*Formation and export of soluble Hg-organic complexes

\*Increased uptake by the phytoplankton associated with higher water transparency.

\*Faster assimilation and accumulation in the food chain



## Augment of water mass chocking and water residence time in estuaries. Increasing saline intrusion and accumulation of continental materials inside the estuary

Continental fluxes may decrease in total but qualitative changes occur due to longer

qualitative changes occur due to longer residence time augmenting reactive and bioavailable species (e.g. Hg)

Increasing reactive species increases biological uptake, food chain transfer and human exposure.





