



**zef**  
Center for  
Development Research  
University of Bonn

# Too big to fail: the Amazonia and solutions towards sustainable development

**November 13, 2017 | 2pm-4pm**

Center for Development Research (ZEF), Right Conference Room, Groundfloor  
Bonn - Germany

\* [For registration, click here.](#)

## Overall:

The Amazon is a key region for the future of our planet: it houses the world's largest reservoir of biodiversity, surface freshwater and terrestrial carbon stocks. The Amazon also plays an important role in the dynamics of global water cycle. Given current trends of anthropogenic pressures and the planet boundaries, the Amazon is a region of strategic global importance. It is too big to fail.

The biggest challenge of the Amazon is to change current business as usual (BAU) trajectories. The Amazon is largely perceived by central governments as a frontier to be occupied and developed through conventional economic development. Mining, oil and gas, agricultural land, timber and extraction of other natural resources are object of both legal and illegal business, with strong ties to policy making at federal, state and municipal levels. Insufficient advances were achieved in terms of the sustainability of those economic activities.

There is a warning call to refine conservation strategies towards synergic efforts of multi-stakeholders within the region, to increase legal enforcement and provide sustainable alternatives and solutions to enforce sustainable development in the region. Some solutions are:

- a. A toolkit focused on the designing of innovative schemes for Payment for Environmental Services (PES) in Latin America, such the Bolsa Floresta Program which benefits 40 thousand people within 10.9 million hectares in Amazonas-Brazil;
- b. A web-based platform of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the Amazon (SDSN-A) which both localize sustainable solutions within the Amazon (nine countries) and foster connections and partnerships amongst stakeholders (public agencies, NGO, grassroots organizations, private companies, researchers, specialists, local leaders etc.);
- c. Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on terrestrial ecosystems which explores best practices in protecting, restoring and sustainably managing terrestrial ecosystems, from biodiversity to the impact of human activity on these regions.

This event will explore the importance of the Amazon, its challenges and potential solutions to achieving sustainable development.

## Speakers:

- Prof Virgilio Viana, Director General, Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS)
- Prof. Britaldo Soares, Professor, Federal University of Minas Gerais
- Prof. Dr. Jan Börner, Senior Researcher, Center for Development Research (ZEF)
- Juan Pablo Bonilla, Manager of Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Marcelo Dutra, Secretary, State Secretariat of the Environment – Amazonas (SEMA)



- Victor Salviati, Innovative Solutions Program Coordinator, Sustainable Amazon Foundation (FAS)
- Ambassador Tarcisio Costa, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brazil)\*
- Thais Megid, Manager, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Amazonia (SDSN-Amazonia)

#### **Agenda:**

#### **10' Opening remarks: challenges for Amazon Conservation**

- Prof. Britaldo Soares, Professor, Federal University of Minas Gerais

#### **10' Amazonia towards sustainable development**

- Prof Virgilio Viana, Director General, Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS)

#### **10' Main outcomes from "designing innovative schemes for PES" publication**

- Victor Salviati, Innovative Solutions Program Coordinator, Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS)

#### **20' Web-based sustainable solutions platform and MOOC focused on terrestrial ecosystem**

- Thais Megid, Manager, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Amazonia (SDSN-Amazonia)

#### **40' Debate - Key questions:**

1. Which are the main challenges to pursue sustainable development considering current agendas such as mining, food production and forest degradation in the Amazon?
  2. What is the roadmap for sustainable development for the Amazon for 2030?
  3. Which would be the best arrangement to integrate solutions aforementioned?  
How do you see your organization within sustainable development in the Amazon?
- Juan Pablo Bonilla, Manager of Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
  - Prof. Dr. Jan Börner, Senior Researcher, Center for Development Research (ZEF)
  - Marcelo Dutra, Secretary, State Secretariat of the Environment – Amazonas (SEMA)
  - Ambassador Tarcisio Costa, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brazil)\*

#### **10' Closing remarks**

- Prof Virgilio Viana, Director General, Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS)

#### **30' Cocktail**