

# Amazonian Perspectives for a Just Transition and Forest Protection

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## **Preliminary Contribution**

The Amazon plays a central role in the global climate balance. The protection of tropical forests and the construction of a just energy transition are challenges that require solutions considering the territorial, social, and cultural realities of the region. This contribution presents Amazonian perspectives based on experiences in environmental education, social mobilization, community initiatives, and territorial actions aimed at forest protection and tackling the climate crisis.

Building effective climate solutions requires recognizing the fundamental role of Amazonian peoples, including indigenous peoples, riverside communities, extractivists, family farmers, youth, and environmental educators, as protagonists in the conservation of territories and the implementation of sustainable solutions.

Although this contribution is based on the Amazonian reality, many of the proposals presented here dialogue with challenges faced by other Brazilian biomes, such as the Cerrado, the Atlantic Forest, the Pantanal, the Caatinga, and the Pampa, which also face increasing pressures of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

## **Main challenges to halt deforestation and advance the just transition**

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Despite advances in environmental policies and international commitments, structural challenges persist that hinder progress in forest protection and the reduction of dependence on economic activities with high environmental impact.

Among the main challenges identified are:

- Expansion of illegal activities such as wildcat mining, land grabbing, and illegal logging;
- Fragility in environmental enforcement in remote areas;
- Lack of direct financing for community conservation initiatives;
- Social and economic inequalities that limit sustainable alternatives for local communities;
- Low investment in climate education and the training of territorial leaders;
- Lack of access to technologies that can strengthen monitoring and territorial management by the communities themselves.

These challenges demonstrate that the protection of the Amazon does not depend solely on environmental policies, but also on social justice, inclusion, and the strengthening of territorial governance.

## **Paths and solutions to accelerate forest protection**

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Experiences in different regions of the world demonstrate that reducing deforestation depends on a combination of public policies, community participation, and economic incentives for sustainable activities. Some international initiatives show relevant results, such as the strategies adopted by Colombia, which managed to significantly reduce deforestation in certain periods through the strengthening of territorial governance, environmental monitoring, and agreements with local communities.

Inspired by international experiences and existing practices in the Brazilian Amazon, some priority proposals stand out.

### **Strengthening climate and environmental education**

1. Investing in climate education programs in Amazonian schools and communities can broaden the understanding of the impacts of climate change and stimulate the active participation of the population in the protection of territories.
2. Climate education must integrate scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge, valuing the experiences and practices of communities that historically preserve the forest.

3. In addition to recognizing traditional knowledge, it is essential to strengthen the articulation between local communities, public universities, research centers, and scientific institutes. Brazil has a vast scientific production in areas such as environmental monitoring, biodiversity conservation, forest management, and remote sensing technologies. Bringing science, communities, and public policies closer together can increase the effectiveness of territorial protection strategies and tackling the climate crisis.

## **Community technology for environmental monitoring**

Access to monitoring technologies can strengthen the role of communities in protecting territories.

Tools such as:

- Environmental monitoring applications;
- Use of GPS and georeferencing;
- Deforestation alert platforms;
- Digital connectivity in remote areas.

These can support community surveillance initiatives and facilitate communication with institutions responsible for environmental enforcement. Strengthening so-called citizen science can expand territorial monitoring capacity and generate relevant data for public policies.

## **Support for the bioeconomy and socio-biodiversity chains**

The strengthening of sustainable production chains based on socio-biodiversity, such as non-timber forest products, handicrafts, seeds, traditional foods, and community management, represents an important economic alternative to reduce pressure on the forest. Bioeconomy initiatives need to be accompanied by access to markets, financing, and training for local communities.

## **Direct financing for community initiatives**

One of the main challenges faced by community organizations is limited access to financial resources.

Climate financing mechanisms must prioritize initiatives led by indigenous peoples, traditional communities, and local organizations that act directly in the conservation of territories.

Although deforestation in the Amazon receives great international attention, other Brazilian biomes also face accelerated degradation processes. The loss of native vegetation in the Cerrado, the Atlantic Forest, and the Pantanal demonstrates the need for integrated conservation policies that consider all Brazilian biomes and their ecological interconnections, including impacts on water resources and coastal systems.

## Contributions to a just transition

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The transition to more sustainable energy systems must consider the different social and economic realities of countries and regions.

In the Amazon, a just transition needs to guarantee:

- Access to clean and affordable energy for rural and isolated communities;
- Investments in sustainable infrastructure;
- Generation of employment and income from activities compatible with forest conservation;
- Inclusion of local communities in decision-making on climate policies.

The energy transition must not reproduce historical inequalities, but rather contribute to strengthening sustainable local economies.

## Final considerations

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The protection of the Amazon and tackling the climate crisis require integrated actions that articulate public policies, social participation, and international cooperation.

Amazonian peoples play an essential role in forest conservation and must be recognized as strategic partners in building lasting climate solutions. Strengthening territorial initiatives, expanding access to technologies, and investing in climate education are fundamental paths to accelerate the implementation of global commitments to protect forests and promote a just transition.

The Amazon and other Brazilian biomes do not represent only environmental conservation areas, but strategic territories for building global climate solutions.