Climate Risk, Good Governance and Low Carbon development in the Amazon

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Major Vulnerabilities to Climate Change in Amazon countries (1)

- Structural dimensions that increase vulnerability: High social inequality, high rate of poverty, poor quality of democracy (high corruption, low transparency, low accountability, political class rent seekers), poor level of education and civic culture, high violence/crime. Venezuela, Brazil and Colombia among high homicides rates in the world.
- Transnational organized crime (narcotics, weapons, fauna, prostitution, money laundry) very powerful in the whole Amazon undermines rule of law.

Major Vulnerabilities to Climate Change in Amazon countries (2)

- Transforming semi-arid in arid regions (Brazilian Northeast)
- Diminishing productivity of agriculture all across the continent, both agri-business and family agriculture
- Retraction of glacier in the Andes threaten water supply to big cities in dry areas.
- The Eastern Amazon transformed in a Savannah, increased risk of fire in the whole Amazon
- The countries depend mostly of hydropower for electricity, changes in climate patterns undermines energy security
- Many cities with vast human settlements in risky areas in relation to severe rainfall.

Climate Risk, Governance and Crime in South America

	IVMC (Maplecroft 2014)	Government Effectiveness (BM, 2016)	Homicides Rates (BM, 2014)	Quality of Democracy (The Economist)	Total	Ranking
	9,54 (10)	1,02 (10)	4 (10)	7,8 (9)	39	
	8,33 (9)	0,55 (9)	8 (6)	8,1 (10)	35	
	6,66 (8)	0,18 (8)	8 (6)	7,0 (8)	31	
	4,3 (5)	-0.17 (6)	7 (9)	6,5 (5)	25	
	5,77 (7)	-0,18 (5)	30 (2)	6,9 (7)	21	
	4,98 (6)	0,02 (7)	28 (2)	6,7 (6)	21	
	3,76 (4)	-0,43 (4)	8 (6)	6 (3)	17	
	1,58 (1)	-0,77 (2)	9 (5)	6,3 (4)	12	
	2,48 (2)	-0,57 (3)	12 (4)	5,5 (2)	11	
	3,64 (3)	-1,29 (1)	62/120 (1)	3,9 (1)	6	

Brazil

- 70% Amazon is in Brazil. Deforestation was extremely high until 2004, was reduced dramatically in 2005-2010, stagnated in 2011-2014 and deteriorated again since 2015.
- Deep economic, political and moral crisis since 2014 has produced low public attention to environmental governance and climate change.
- Most Agribusiness conservative. Agribusiness caucus in Congress extremely powerful, 20% of GDP, 38% of Chamber of Deputies. Most Amazonian Deputies and Senators conservatives.

Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru

- In Bolivia and Ecuador, there is a profound mismatch between progressive environmental protection goals settled in the Constitution and Amazonian development projects. In Bolivia narcotraffic is extremely powerful.
- In Colombia, narcotraffic has the longest tradition in Latin America. The peace process has raised significant and additional challenges to conservation in the Amazon. Dramatic increase in deforestation in 2017-2018. Colombian government elected in 2018 conservative in relation to environmental/climate issues.
- In Peru, agricultural expansion, mining projects and road infrastructures threaten the country's goal of improving forest management.
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Venezuela and Comparison

- In Venezuela, the situation is too critical and extreme: the largest economic and social catastrophe in South American history. Organized crime has become extremely powerful and has strongly colonized the State. Venezuela has became a Narco-State. Environmental policy doesn't exist at all.
- In a comparative approach, the present reality of deforestation in the Amazon is extremely negative in Venezuela, negative in Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador, and moderately negative in Brazil and Peru.

Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization, ACTO

- At the regional level, efforts to preserve the Amazon were undermined by the low level of governmental interest in the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), divergent views and interests, sovereignty and territorial concerns, technical and financial limitations, and institutional weaknesses.
- The preservation and sustainable development of the Amazon depend on the strengthening of the ACTO, on new revolutionary technologies, and on avant-garde environmental diplomacy by the Amazonian countries.
- A seminal paper from the Brazilian Academy of Science proposed in 2014 the introduction of a new model of development in the Amazon with intensive use of new technologies (bio-economy, big data, artificial intelligence, etc.)

Brazilian leadership in ACTO

- In most dimensions – share of forest cover, capacity of environmental and scientific institutions, financial resources, and relevance in global governance – Brazil is the key player regarding the protection of the Amazonian forest and the implementation of a sustainable low carbon development paradigm in the region.
- An integrated strategy for the Amazon depends fully on Brazilian investment in ACTO and leadership.

Brazilian Impact in South American Policy and Politics.

- Ambitious climate and forest policies in Brazil could impact the environmental agenda of the country's Amazonian neighbors. South American political dynamics have been recently more interdependent and generally influenced by Brazil, which accounts for half of the region's population and GDP.
- The country was a key driver in the 2000s – Lula's election influenced several electoral victories of leftist candidates who favored increased intervention of the state in the economy and whose power was based on a strong charismatic leader.

Brazilian Impact in South American Policy and Politics

- Since 2012 there was a continuous growth of an extensive and profound anti-corruption investigation in Brazil that started to promote similar campaigns in many South American countries. Since the operation began in 2014, corruption has risen and disseminated as a major issue in public debates in the region.
- In addition, between 2008 and 2015, following deforestation control in the Brazilian Amazon, forest loss declined in almost all other Amazonian countries.

Brazilian General Elections of 2018

- The results of the Brazilian presidential and Congress elections of October 2018 will probably define the level of ambition of Amazonian policies over many years to come. If reformist political, economic, and social forces win the presidential election, and there is a strong renewal in the profile of the national Congress – enhancing the quality of democracy in the country and the definition of public interest in decision-making – a substantial improvement in climate and forest/Amazonian policies might be expected. Unfortunately this is a low probability scenario at this moment.
- A reformist victory in Brazil would probably have a positive impact (in differentiated time spans) on Amazonian policies in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. The disintegration of Venezuela will likely continuous.