



CPI study highlights the need to prioritize Amazon regeneration

Analysis shows the importance of incorporating secondary vegetation into Brazilian public policies.

Climate Policy Initiative (CPI/ PUC-Rio), through the [Land Use Initiative](#) (INPUT), launched a study that highlights the need to consider the regrowth of deforested areas in Brazilian Amazon – known as secondary vegetation. The analysis provides early guidance for policymakers and stakeholders on how to interpret forest regeneration in promoting effective conservation and land use policies.

New data, released by the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE), reveal that nearly a quarter of the deforested area in Brazilian Amazon, through 2014, showed signs of regeneration, totaling 17 million hectares of secondary vegetation. Despite its magnitude, the regrowth remained invisible for a long time. This was in part due to a characteristic of Brazil's current systems for monitoring and quantifying deforestation, designed to only detect deforestation of primary vegetation.

According to the CPI/ PUC-Rio study, the factors that have driven this regrowth are unclear. How existing deforestation policies may have stimulated or inhibited such an increase in natural regeneration remains unanswered. Nonetheless, an increase did occur without directed policies and the mechanisms behind it must be understood.

"Our study leads us to a clear conclusion: secondary vegetation needs to be incorporated into Amazon conservation policies," states Juliano Assunção, executive director of CPI in Brazil and professor in the Department of Economics at PUC-Rio. "The lack of knowledge about the rise of secondary vegetation in the Amazon stresses the need for more research on the topic. We must use analyses and rigorous methods to interpret the data to understand what drove this growth."

Researchers at CPI/ PUC-Rio identified four priorities to better understand the nature and dynamics of secondary vegetation. First, it is imperative to **measure the impact that current deforestation policies have had on forest regeneration**. Second, it must be determined

whether the increase in regeneration represents inefficiencies in the land use in the Amazon. Third, it is important to assess how forest regeneration fits into the new Forest Code. Finally, identifying how forest regeneration affects Brazil's targets of emission reduction should be pursued.

See publication at <https://goo.gl/rDvect>

Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) works to improve the most important energy and land use policies around the world, with a particular focus on finance. We support decision makers through in-depth analysis on what works and what does not. CPI's Brazil program - Núcleo de Avaliação de Políticas Climáticas - partners with the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and focuses on a Production and Protection approach to land use. <http://climatepolicyinitiative.org/>

The Land Use Initiative (INPUT) is a partnership between Climate Policy Initiative and Agroicone, and is funded by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF). It brings together a team of specialists who work at the forefront of how to increase environmental protection and food production. <http://www.inputbrasil.org/>

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