

10 Key considerations to save the Amazon

1. The sovereignty of the Amazon is untouchable.

The Amazon forest is located within the sovereign territory of eight nations and one national territory. Not a single nation outside of the Amazon can threaten the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Amazonian nations and forests. The [Leticia Pact for the Amazon](#) reaffirms the sovereign rights of the countries of the Amazon region over their territories and natural resources. Regional agreements such as the [Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization \(ACTO\)](#) are in line with other international agreements and the [UN Charter](#).

2. The rights of the inhabitants of the Amazon are a priority.

The Amazon is home to around 35 million people, including more than 400 indigenous and traditional communities, who speak more than 300 languages. Most of the inhabitants of the Amazon live in cities, some of them among the most violent urban areas in the world, with vast informal settlements (*favelas*) and high levels of poverty. Sustainable development of the Amazon must consider and respect the dignity and rights of its population.

3. Saving the Amazon is a global commitment.

The Amazon is the biological heart of the planet. A plan to save the Amazon must be developed and implemented by the Amazonian countries and supported by nations around the world. The most developed countries have a deep responsibility as consumers of products from deforested areas and for their accumulated emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), with great impact on the Amazon. Global cooperation and mutual responsibility are essential for the survival and sustainability of the Amazon.

4. Science-based solutions.

The sustainable development of the Amazon must be based on sound scientific principles and on the recommendations of the scientists researching the Amazon, especially those from the Amazonian countries, who are deeply committed to the necessary scientific

research, monitoring, and advisory activities. Sustainable development of the Amazon must explore options based on an innovative, standing-forest bioeconomy; sustainable infrastructure; sustainable management of the Amazon River, its tributaries and floodplains; and sustainable protection of freshwater fisheries.

5. The indigenous Peoples are the guardians of the Amazon forest.

Recognizing and respecting the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities of the Amazon is a priority. It is essential to prioritize the traditional knowledge and practices with which indigenous peoples have managed the Amazon forest for millennia.

6. Real-time monitoring.

Data provided by tools such as satellites, backed by long-term spatial surveillance, are critical and allow accurate, real-time monitoring of deforestation, forest fires, and other threats to the Amazon. Data collected on location is also crucial to validate satellite data and information. The scientific community must jointly collaborate to enable the implementation of a platform for early warning of risks and ensure that crucial data is available worldwide in near real time.

7. A sustainable and efficient economy for an Amazon with a future.

No private entity has the right to participate in commercial activities that threaten the survival of the Amazon forest and the people who depend on its conservation. Agriculture, mining, and hydropower must be kept within the lands authorized for such activities and based on solid scientific criteria. Higher priority should be given to improving productivity in degraded areas and favor highly productive activities by adopting state-of-the-art technologies and best practices.

8. Responsibility for sustainable production.

All companies that trade and utilize products originating from the Amazon, including investment funds and banks, are responsible for the sustainable production of such products. Consumers should have access to all information regarding any companies and product lines that threaten the viability of the Amazon rainforest. Certification measures

and sustainable practices should be adopted at scale when illegal activities are effectively curtailed.

9. Urgent forest restoration.

The large-scale forest restoration plans put forth by Amazonian countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to comply with the Paris Agreement must be high priority. In the Amazon, deforestation could lead to the transformation of forest areas into tropical savannas, due to significant changes in hydrological cycles. A level of safety can be generated through immediate, active, and ambitious reforestation. This is particularly true in deforested regions, which are largely abandoned cattle ranches and farmland, and account for around 23% of destroyed forest land.

10. Leveraging/harnessing new technologies.

Finding alternative paths to sustainable development in the Amazon is more urgent today than ever. With the most advanced science and technologies, we can save the tropical forest; conserve the ecosystems of the Amazon, indigenous peoples, and traditional communities; and continue to undertake sustainable economic activities for an innovative bioeconomy: the bioeconomy of the rivers that flow in this tropical, standing forest. We can leverage new technologies and high-value bio-industries, including pharmaceuticals, food, nutraceuticals, cosmetics, and new materials, strictly managed within clear and firm ecological limits, and protecting people's social rights, and supported by rigorous monitoring and evaluation.