



# BRAZIL

## CLIMATE CHANGE FACT SHEET

Brazil is home to 60 percent of the Amazon Basin and contains biodiverse ecosystems that provide essential services both regionally and globally. Brazil plays a critical role in the global fight against climate change, as the Amazon rainforest is one of the world's largest land "carbon sinks," removing more greenhouse gases (GHG) from the atmosphere than it emits. However, Brazil is also the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The impacts of these greenhouse gases and climate change in the Amazon Basin have significant and widespread effects. Temperature-sensitive species may alter movement patterns. Increased drought severity can greatly affect freshwater ecosystems and increase the threat of rainforest fires.

### GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL CLIMATE PRIORITIES

Brazil updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in December 2020, removing deforestation and sector-specific goals, while including emissions reduction goals for 2025 and 2030 and noting "an indicative long-term goal" of carbon neutrality by 2060. At the Copenhagen climate conference in 2009, Brazil set a target to limit Amazon deforestation to 3,925 square kilometers per year by 2020. In 2020 Brazil was 183 percent above this target. Brazil's 2015 NDC pledged to eliminate illegal deforestation by 2030, but this was removed in the 2020 NDC.

### USAID'S CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM: OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

USAID supports the Government of Brazil's development and climate priorities through a series of initiatives and partnerships across the biodiversity conservation sector. USAID focuses on initiatives with the potential to leverage resources from the private sector for biodiversity conservation and improvement of local livelihoods in the Brazilian Legal Amazon. USAID also supports conservation and sustainable management of protected areas (State and Federal conservation units, indigenous lands, and other traditional territories).

#### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

USAID works to support Brazil's conservation efforts in the Amazon through the Partnership for the Conservation of Amazon Biodiversity (PCAB).

USAID strengthens biodiversity conservation through a productive collaboration with Government of Brazil partners across a large geographic area (46m hectares) representing 153 protected areas, of which 32 percent are Indigenous Lands. USAID's biodiversity conservation programming in Brazil also contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## RESULTS IN 2020

- More than 34 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent GHG emissions avoided.
- Strengthened management of 153 Protected Areas (PAs) covering 46 million hectares.
- Achieved 97 percent reduction in deforestation in USAID-supported PAs (compared to 42 percent reduction in non-USAID PAs), contributing to Trillion Trees Initiative and reducing emissions.
- Leveraged \$13.5 million for biodiversity-friendly enterprises and social economic development, including \$550,000 raised through a crowd-lending platform.
- Accelerated 30 sustainable Amazonian companies.
- Amazon Biodiversity Fund and Sitawi's Crowdfunding Platform, both of which USAID helped to develop, won international recognition from Environmental Finance as Multi-Asset Fund and Impact Initiative of the Year, respectively.

## KEY BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

USAID helps to strengthen the management of biodiversity conservation in Amazon Protected Areas, improving biophysical conditions in more than 44.9 million hectares. USAID also strengthens sustainable value chains to increase the economic value of the standing forest, resulting in increased socio-economic benefits for over 87,000 people. Finally, USAID engages with the private sector to jointly co-design, co-implement and co-evaluate initiatives for greater scale, sustainability, and effectiveness toward biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the region.

- **Partnership with US Forest Service (USFS) and Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil (IEB):** The partnership builds the government's capacity to manage protected areas, develops sustainable livelihoods by building value chains for targeted products (Pirarucu fish, Brazil nut, sustainable timber, açai berries) and fostering tourism, and strengthens Brazil fire science and management.
- **Partnership Platform for the Amazon (PPA):** PPA is a private sector-led, collective action platform that develops and identifies innovative solutions for sustainable development and conservation of the Brazilian Amazon. PPA currently has over 40 national and international companies and foundations from diverse sectors as members.
- **Amazon Biodiversity Fund (ABF) Brazil:** Launched in 2019, ABF is an impact investment fund owned by Mirova Natural Capital, intending to raise approximately \$65 million in private capital. The fund seeks to conserve biodiversity in the Amazon by investing in sustainable production supply chains and related conservation enterprises.
- **Support Indigenous and Quilombola Peoples:** USAID supports the National Implementation Plan for the National Policy on Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI) by working directly with indigenous organizations to build their institutional capacity. Activities also increase the sustainable production of non-timber forest products.