

Topics (T)
Interactive Presentations (IP)

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THINKING SOCIALLY, ACTING GLOBALLY: SATELLITE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND
THE AMAZON FUNDS CONTINUITY.

Abstract

In 2014, the Satellite Environmental Monitoring of the Amazon Biome project – PAMZ+ was proposed by INPE – the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research. This project was funded by the Amazon Fund, a REDD+ mechanism created to raise donations for non-reimbursable investments in efforts to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation. As the project monitored the Amazon it was also an evidence of ecosystem services in the region, according to Landel–Mill and Porrass definition (2002). In 2019, however, the Amazon Fund was suspended due to political disagreements among Brazilian authorities and the countries that provide the funding. In the new Lula government in 2023, however, the PAMZ+ project is likely to return. The technological improvements it provided are widely recognized, such as qualifying deforestation in the Legal Brazilian Amazon and providing subsidies for a better understanding of land use and land cover. The present article proposes an agenda for the Brazilian Space Agency - AEB, INPE's partner in Brazil to improve the PAMZ+ project in the coming years. AEB has been operative in environmental applications of space technologies, especially in terms of training and technology transfer. The present political context, however, has caused a shift in the way social aspects of sustainability are approached such as less command and control and more income transfer policies. The article concludes that as higher frequency data and artificial intelligence are needed to guarantee the robustness necessary to understand land use and land cover in the Amazon monitoring, there is a political directive for Amazon Funds enforceability to take greater account of the reduction of inequalities in the Amazon as a strategy to stop deforestation. Payments for environmental/ecosystem services come in consonance with the creation of progressive ministries such as the Ministry of Racial Equality and the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, as well as political articulation for scientific exchange and environmental cooperation among countries.