

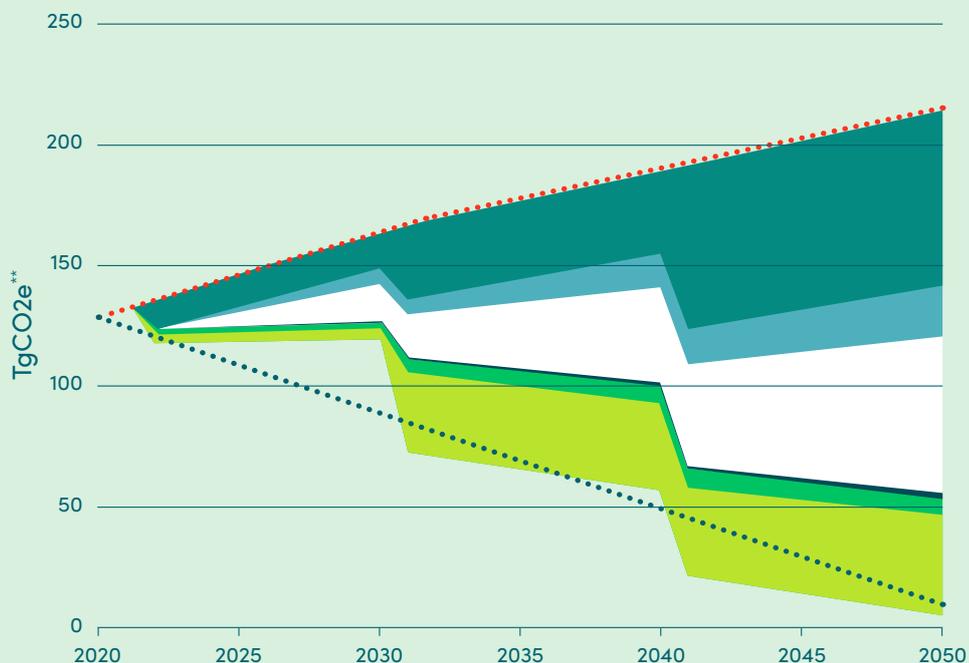
The Climate Pathway Project



Expected GHG* reductions from business as usual (BAU) through prioritised actions:

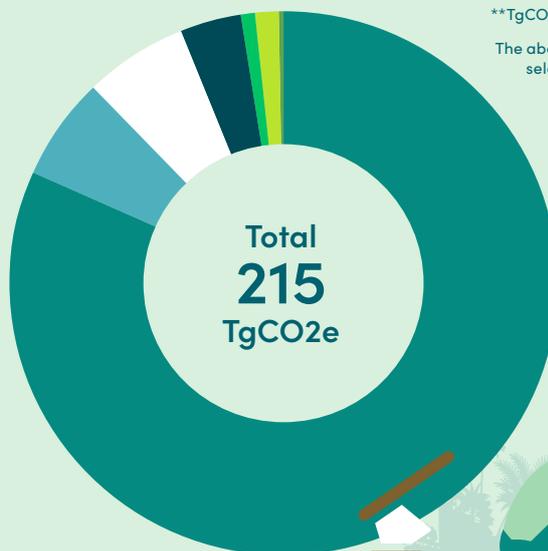
Priority Actions

- Forest protection
- Land use efficiency
- Forest expansion
- Commercial reforestation
- Reduction of forest fires
- Sustainable forest management
- Forest timber products
- ⋯⋯⋯ BAU scenario
- ⋯⋯⋯ Net zero goal



Business as usual emissions (2050) per sector (TgCO2e):

- Forestry & Land Use176
- Energy13
- Transport.....13
- Agriculture8.1
- Industry.....1.3
- Waste.....3.1
- RCI.....0.47



*GHG = greenhouse gas
 **TgCO2e = Teragrams of carbon dioxide equivalent
 The above priority actions for decarbonisation were selected by the Government of Amazonas in the development of their state-level pathway.



Amazonas' GHG emissions reduction target is to limit emissions to 2 tCO2e/inhabitant per year:

- 2030 target: 46% reduction in emissions
- 2050 target: 95% reduction in emissions

Amazonas has a business policy based on sustainability with investments in:

- Agribusiness
- Industry (including the Industrial Pole of Manaus (PIM))
- Tourism

The Climate Pathway Project supports state and regional governments to develop a transformational process, or 'pathway', to reducing emissions while supporting economic and social development, in collaboration with local communities and businesses.

*AFOLU - Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
 **RCI - Residential, Commercial, Industrial

A pathway to forest protection in Amazonas, Brazil

On 4 February 2021, **Natalie Orentlicher (N)**, Knowledge and Learning Manager for the Climate Group, spoke with **Francisco Itamar Gonçalves Melgueiro (F)**, Head of the Department of Environmental and Territorial Management and **Maria do Carmo Pereira (M)**, Technical Advisor, of the Environmental Secretariat of the State of Amazonas, Brazil.

Here's a summary translation of that conversation.



Natalie Orentlicher

Priority actions and the importance of nature

N: To begin with, the AFOLU sector (agriculture, forestry and other land uses) is the most important sector for Amazonas. How does this pathway align with the state's focus on nature-based solutions?

F: **1. Forest protection**

We selected priority actions for decarbonisation that are fully related to forest protection, including the conservation and preservation of forests, rural properties and protected areas. Monitoring was also a key consideration, because it's crucial that we manage the issues of deforestation and burning.

2. Intensive and sustainable agro-livestock activities

In areas already deforested and consolidated, one of our priority actions is to intensify agricultural production through alternative land-use systems such as agroforestry systems and crop-livestock-forest integration. This works to reduce the rate of expansion of deforestation in the state.

3. Forestry expansion

The expansion or restoration of forest land to protect native and secondary vegetation was another important topic for the working group. Natural regeneration in forests will be supported and guided through forest management to restore the landscape as closely as possible to its native state. **In Amazonas, the area of forest use is only 20% of the territory, the remaining 80% is legal reserve.**

The state's biggest economic potential is its forests — timber, timber forest products and non-timber forest products are socio-biodiversity products obtained through extractivism and they enhance the local value chain and bio-economy.

M: We also focused on the southern Amazonas region, inhabited mostly by migrants who have a more limited knowledge of the forest and who concentrate their efforts on agricultural production. They have few sustainable agro-ecological practices and instead use other practices that involve clearing of vegetation cover, thus promoting further deforestation.

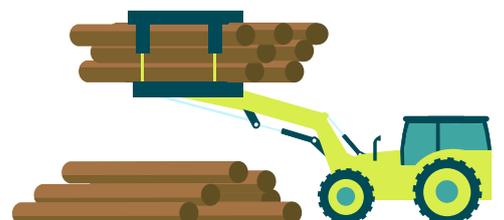
On the other hand, in the central and northern regions of Amazonas, Ribeirinho (river-dwelling) and indigenous peoples have a closer relationship with the forest and their production is more focused on the use of timber and non-timber resources, as well as having more sustainable systems of environmental exploitation, with production practices that are more in harmony with the forest dynamics.



Francisco Itamar Gonçalves Melgueiro



Maria do Carmo Pereira



Policy context: forestry regulations as precedents for climate action

N: What is the political context of climate change in Amazonas and what regulations have been put in place to help the pathway development process?

Key public policies already in place:

- The [Amazonas Climate Change Act \(Act n. 3.135/2007\)](#)
- [The Forest Code](#)
- The [Amazonas State Act on Environmental Services \(Act n. 4266/2015\)](#)
- Previous projects: [Bolsa Floresta \(Forest Stipend\) Programme and REDD+ projects in the Juma Sustainable Development Reserve](#)

F: Amazonas launched the first **Climate Change Act** of Brazil in 2007, before the federal government's act in 2009. Since then, the state has been implementing the climate change agenda, setting targets and promoting a sustainable low-emission economy.

Our **Forest Code** was also important in the process. With Brazil's Forest Act we intend to promote the reform of environmental responsibilities in areas where deforestation is high. The action to expand forest land, for example, was fully in line with the Forest Code.

Another example of a pre-existing programme that influenced the process was the launch of the **Bolsa Floresta (Forest Stipend) Programme** in 2007, a payment for ecosystem services initiative aimed at reducing emissions to curb deforestation and increase protection of conservation territories. It was very successful, **with less than 1% deforestation in the State Conservation Units**, and now the conservation units are planning to expand it. More actions will likely be implemented within the units where the Bolsa Floresta Programme already operates and also in the Juma Sustainable Development Reserve through [the Juma REDD+ project](#)¹.

Next steps: implement, fundraise, create legislation

N: Having developed the pathway, what are the next steps for Amazonas and how does the state plan to move forward with the pathway once the project is completed?

F: The next step is to transform the results of the project (the selected actions) into a public policy that is implemented in all of the state's municipalities. Then, a plan, programme or legislation will be needed that requires the state to continue working on these issues.

We have to implement these actions, turn them into public policy and raise funds or have the government itself allocate funds.

We firmly believe that these actions, in addition to preserving our natural resources, will improve the wealth of our citizens in a sustainable way. This is important when we consider that the countries most affected by climate change, including in terms of health, are tropical countries such as Brazil.



We firmly believe that these actions, in addition to preserving our natural resources, will improve the wealth of our citizens in a sustainable way.



M: We have our actions planned, but now have the problem of not being able to go to the field because of the pandemic. So it is important to draw up a post-Covid plan, so that we can carry out our actions. We must also improve our communication within the state, for example, coordinating with the town councils of the municipalities with higher deforestation rates. We've always done this, but we have to improve so that they understand and become aware of this agenda. This work is important and urgent, it must move forward.



Advice for other states: The forest as a fundamental asset for sustainable economic development at the local level

N: And finally, what advice would you give to other states that want to carry out the same endeavour as Amazonas and develop a pathway?

M: Raise awareness amongst decision-makers on how important these actions are for the state and why resources are needed for their implementation.

In terms of next steps, we are working to ensure legal certainty that the actions will be delivered and that funds will be available. We have to translate the actions into legislation to ensure that they will happen as there is currently no money attached to them. We are also looking for funders, but the legislation must guarantee funding so that we can obtain the necessary resources to deliver the actions.

F: I started off by mentioning that 97% of the state of Amazonas is still native forest, as such our principal focus is the sustainable use of forest resources.

I believe that everyone should value the forest more and treat it as a heritage of the state. It should be viewed as an asset, a resource, an available wealth, with a high added value and not only as an obstacle to development. Some states think that the forest hinders development, but the truth is quite the opposite: a standing tree, if we were to calculate all the services it provides, is much more than a head of cattle in the meadow.

Therefore, the lesson we put forward to other states is that we value the peoples who live in our territories and that we also appreciate the importance of our forests, for their resources and their role in many important processes, including climate regulation, respiratory disease reduction and water protection.



I believe that everyone should value the forest more and treat it as a heritage of the state.

Secretaria do
Meio Ambiente



¹REDD+ : (REDD) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, (+) plus sustainable management of forests, and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.



Supported by:

Lead Partner:

Partners:

