

# CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY IN BRAZIL: RESPONSE LANDSCAPE AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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*Brazil is navigating a complex landscape shaped by the ongoing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, with significant long-term implications for human security and sustainable development. As guardian of globally vital ecosystems, Brazil's environmental challenges are central to regional and international debates—yet the ways in which these challenges intersect with social vulnerabilities often go overlooked.*

This report addresses that gap, examining how climate and environmental pressures intensify poverty, hunger, and human insecurity through complex, reinforcing pathways. Building on Brazil's legacy of multilateral leadership and environmental diplomacy, the analysis highlights practical entry points within an expansive landscape of national policies, institutions, and multilateral mechanisms to foster for sustainable, resilient, and inclusive solutions—leveraging national policies, institutions, and international cooperation.

By reviewing Brazil's socioeconomic and political landscape, the report underscores the country's pivotal role in forging innovative responses to climate and development challenges, both at home and abroad. It also reflects on the domestic realities and historical experiences that inform Brazil's approach to linking climate, environment, and human security on the global stage.

Current discussions around climate and environmental risks to human security often look at nations as either contributing the most to climate change (higher income countries) or being affected the most by its impacts (lower income countries). Brazil challenges this notion through its combination of large-scale industries and widespread inequality and human insecurity. This demonstrates that there is a need for these discussions on the international level to be inclusive of such complex socioeconomic dynamics, as they present unique entry-points for action. For Brazil, this translates into a combination of need for international support, however with increased implementation capacities.



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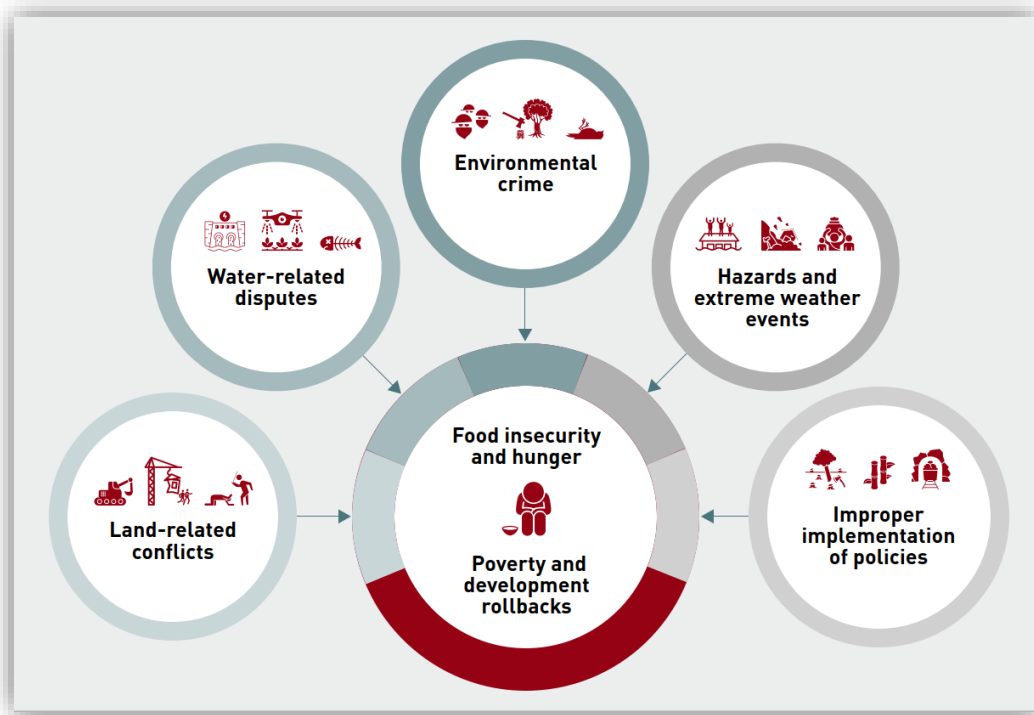
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## Pathways of climate and environmental risk to human security in Brazil

Central to the report is an analysis of **five key pathways through which climate change and environmental degradation intersect with human security** in Brazil, with direct and indirect impacts on food security and development:

- **Land-related conflicts:** Traditional populations, including Indigenous groups, *quilombolas*, and riparian communities, face escalating land grabs and violence as competition intensifies due to deforestation, mining, and agribusiness expansion.
- **Water-related disputes:** Despite Brazil's abundant freshwater resources, growing agro-industrial demand, hydropower projects, and climate-driven droughts are fuelling water scarcity and pollution, disproportionately affecting smallholders and traditional populations and jeopardizing livelihoods and local economies.
- **Environmental crime:** Environmental crime, driven by both organized groups and communities with limited alternatives, is a major cause of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and violence. Indigenous territories, wildlife, and environmental defenders are increasingly under pressure, with 25 environmental defenders losing their lives in 2023.
- **Hazards and extreme weather events:** Climate change is magnifying the scale and frequency of floods, fires, and landslides, resulting in mass displacement, ecosystem loss, and heightened food insecurity, especially where disaster response and urban resilience are lacking.
- **Improper implementation of climate and environmental policies:** Even well-intentioned policies, such as carbon credit initiatives or critical mineral extraction for the energy transition, can inadvertently incentivize land grabbing and community displacement when they fail to integrate human security or social safeguards.



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## Responses and recommendations

The report charts Brazil's robust national and regional response landscape—spotlighting both strong frameworks and persistent gaps—and closes with practical steps to boost well-being, development, and peace by accelerating climate action through inclusive and coordinated solutions.

### Recommendations for Brazilian policymakers

1. **Champion Brazil's leadership in global discussions:** Advocate for solutions that reflect the realities of middle-income countries, building on Brazil's experience and unique perspective in international climate and development forums.
2. **Strengthen implementation of existing policies and frameworks:** Prioritize effective delivery of current policies by increasing support for key institutions such as IBAMA and Funai, advancing the Forest Code, and fulfilling commitments under regional and international agreements like the Belém Declaration and Escazú Agreement.
3. **Enhance action against environmental crime:** Improve coordination among agencies, streamline judicial processes, and invest in enforcement and monitoring to prevent environmental crimes, improve supply chain traceability and protect environmental defenders, vulnerable territories and communities.
4. **Support and empower vulnerable communities:** Expand sustainable livelihood opportunities, ensure the protection of indigenous and traditional land rights, and provide resources for grassroots organizations to strengthen resilience and local advocacy.
5. **Promote inclusive dialogue:** Encourage constructive engagement among diverse stakeholders—including agribusiness and conservation sectors—to identify shared solutions that advance human security, development, and environmental sustainability.

### Recommendations for international stakeholders

1. **Tailor engagement to Brazil's context:** Prioritize approaches that respect Brazil's historic concerns and national priorities, focusing on livelihoods, food security, development and social inclusion rather than prescriptive and one-size-fits-all solutions.
2. **Align with Brazil's development goals:** Support climate and environmental initiatives that reinforce Brazil's efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and promote responsible practices in key sectors such as agriculture and mining, balancing environmental protection with economic growth.
3. **Promote collaborative partnerships:** Invest in technology transfer, capacity building, and partnerships with Brazilian civil society and research institutions to strengthen implementation, expand sustainable practices, and address inequality.
4. **Support Brazil's global leadership:** Encourage and assist Brazil in advancing human security within its climate and environmental agenda, exploring context-specific interlinkages, and extending its global leadership to address complementary social and development priorities.

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