

BRAZILIAN AMAZON IN 2050.

RAINFOREST SUSTAINED AS THE RESOURCE BASE OF AN ADVANCED MODEL FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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The Challenge. Successfully using rainforest without its destruction. Two global forces are restructuring land use without enabling its development: a) agro business global tradings inducing the moving frontier with strong deforestation; b) global finance inducing the natural capital frontier, mainly carbon credits. Government's strategy of Protected Areas is not anymore able to stop deforestation, and to generate jobs and revenue demanded by the 24 million Amazonians.

The Proposal. A new development model using forest ecosystems with advanced production forms. Conditions: a) innovation: S&T revolution attributing economic value to original forests allowing them both, to compete with commodities and to profit from all environmental services; b) institutional change; c) regionalization including the central role of cities as logistic nodes.

The Strategy. Where and how to apply the new model. Only at the dense rainforest – the forest heartland – still little affected by human action, since settlement occurred in the open rainforest and the transition forest to the savannah surrounding the core (Fig. 1). Discourse on a “vague” Amazonian forest must therefore change. So does development strategy, according to the natural forest zoning.

Core's defense, a priority, will be based on advanced production forms using forest potential: biodiversity, environmental services and in a less extent mineral exploitation in selective points. A network of cities will organize this new production and act as a “flexible containment belt” around the core (Fig. 2); cities will be linked to Manaus that, thanks to its strategic position in South American Amazon, will be a tropical global city based on environmental services (Fig. 3).

In the settled area corresponding to the open rainforest and the transition forest, another network of cities will organize logging and forest industry (Fig. 4), and small producers cooperative farms oriented to food production. These activities will develop the area and built a second “flexible containment belt” defending the core.