



## INVITATION SEMINAR

### What is the Future For Amazonia?

#### Analysing Socio-Economic and Environmental Transformations in Amazonia

Thursday 5 June 2014 at CREA, University of Amsterdam

It is a pleasure to invite you to participate in the academic seminar “What is the Future For Amazonia”. The theme of the seminar is inspired by recent developments in Amazonia that potentially will have large-scale and probably irreversible impacts on this last wilderness on earth.

Amazonia is becoming a significant platform for the extraction of natural resources. Land use maps show the growing size of territories in use for mining, including small-scale gold digging, small and large scale cattle raising and agricultural production, and timber logging. These activities are supported by an inflow of foreign and domestic investments; flows of migrants; the construction of new intraregional and regional infrastructure like roads, railways, water and air transport facilities; the building of hydro-energy facilities including storage lakes and high voltage transmission lines; and the spread of service centres. Hence, amidst the largest forest on earth a new resource-based economy is being developed serviced by a web of interconnected growth poles and transport infrastructure. As a consequence of these interrelated developments, the anthropogenic pressure has been increasing



and is expected to increase further, particularly in view of the improved accessibility of the area and growing world demand for commoditized natural resources.

The seminar will focus on:

- (i) recent socio-economic developments in Amazonia;
- (ii) spatial and environmental modelling of (potential) impacts of such developments on land use and deforestation; and
- (iii) the potential role of so-called Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) of infrastructure.

Presentations will deal with changes at the level of overall Amazonia, as well as states, departments, provinces and regions in Brazil and several other countries, particularly Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guyana and Suriname.

The aim of the meeting is to bring together researchers with different academic backgrounds to contribute to our understanding of these recent changes and improve our analytical capabilities to understand the socio-economic and environmental implications.

Attached please find a preliminary programme of the seminar and list of speakers.

If you are interested in participating, you are kindly requested to send a confirmation to [secretariat@cedla.nl](mailto:secretariat@cedla.nl). About two weeks prior to the seminar you will be informed how you can obtain access to the digitalized version of the papers that will be presented summarily at the seminar as inputs for further discussions. Subsequently, the papers will be published as a Cuaderno del CEDLA.

The seminar is part of a series of academic activities and events organized on the occasion of CEDLA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Moreover, it comes at the end of my long academic career at VU University Amsterdam, CEDLA and several other research institutes. It is a pleasure to invite you to this special academic meeting and I hope to meet you on June 5<sup>th</sup> at CREA, Amsterdam.

Pitou van Dijck

CEDLA



## What is the Future For Amazonia? Analysing Socio-Economic and Environmental Transformations in Amazonia Programme

### Presentations and Round Table Discussions

9.30 Opening and Introduction to the theme

**Pitou van Dijck**, Associate Professor of Economics at CEDLA, Amsterdam

9.40 Territorial Development and Infrastructure: The Case of Brazil

**Vicente Ruiz**, Researcher at the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris

Presentation and Discussion

10.30 Coffee Break

10.50 Sustainable Development in the Amazon: Territorial Disparities and Integration Strategies

**Ruud Buitelaar**, Head Regional and Local Development at the Instituto Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Planificación Económica y Social (ILPES) at the Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL/ECLAC), UN, Santiago de Chile

Presentation and Discussion

11.45 Diversifying Economic Activity and the Future of Ecuador's Amazon Region: The Role of Infrastructure and Non-Agricultural Development

**Rob Vos**, Director at the Food and Agriculture Organization, UN, Rome



Presentation and Discussion

12.30 Lunch

### **Presentations and Round Table Discussions**

14.00 Modelling of Spatial Implication of Roads for the Use of Land and Resources  
– with a Case Study of Suriname

**Martin van der Beek**, partner of Object Vision, Amsterdam, in cooperation with Mathilde Molendijk, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at the VU University Amsterdam, and Ronnie Lassche, Object Vision, Amsterdam

Modelling Environmental Impacts from an Ecological Perspective - with Case Studies from French Guyana

**Pita Verweij**, Researcher at the Copernicus Institute, Utrecht University

14.30 Roundtable discussion

15.15 Tea

15.30 Troublesome Assessment: Controversies over the Manaus-Porto Velho Hub and Its Impact Assessment

**Marinella Wallis**, formerly from CEDLA, Amsterdam

Strategic Impact Assessments, Stakeholders' Participation and Government Policies

**Bert van Barneveld**, former Regional Manager DHV South America, La Paz

Improving Impact Assessments: Lessons Learned

**Pitou van Dijck**, CEDLA, Amsterdam

16.15 Roundtable Discussion

17.00 Conclusion of the Seminar

Drinks



Venue: CREA Nieuwe Achtergracht 170, 1018 WV Amsterdam.

(Access via Sarphatistraat)

CREA is very conveniently located only 10 minutes' walk from the Weesperplein Metro stop (exit Sarphatistraat / Roetersstraat). From the Central Station, get out at the third metro stop, and from the Amstel Station, get out at the second. See map location below.

## Presentations

**Pitou van Dijck** is Associate Professor of Economics at CEDLA, Amsterdam

**Vicente Ruiz** is economist at the Development Centre of the OECD , Paris

**Ruud Buitelaar** is economist, Head Regional and Local Development, at ILPES, CEPAL/ECLAC, Santiago de Chile

**Rob Vos** is economist, Director Social Protection Division, FAO, Rome

**Martin van der Beek** is economist and partner of Object Vision, Amsterdam

**Pita Verweij** is biologist at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University

**Marinella Wallis**, international policy studies, is former research assistant and editor at CEDLA, Amsterdam

**Bert van Barneveld** is a tropical agriculturalist, agro-ecologist and natural resources specialist, former Regional Manager of the DHV Consulting Group of the Netherlands in La Paz, Bolivia

Organization: Pitou van Dijck, CEDLA



*Map location CREA*

