

Guide

Pathways from the Amazon to COP28

2023



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What you need to know about this edition of the biggest event on climate of the planet



COP28 UAE

COP28 will take place between November 30 and December 12, 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and will bring together leaders from more than 150 countries, representatives of the United Nations and members of organized civil society from around the world on key issues to deal with the climate crisis.

For three decades, the conference has been a space for dialogue and joint decision-making at a global level to tackle the greatest threat facing humanity: climate change, which is escalating at unprecedented levels and is close to a point of no return.

But what is COP?

COP is an acronym for Conference of the Parties, an event that is also called the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The “parties” are the 198 countries that make up the convention responsible for holding the conferences. Held annually, the COPs are meetings between these nations to sign commitments, exchange experiences and create solutions for the climate on a global level. The conferences are also spaces for socio-environmental movements and the scientific community to present their demands, questions and proposals for halting the advance of climate change.

A brief history of the COPs

Environmental issues have been gaining more attention in the international community since the 1970s, most notably at the Sustainable Development Summit in Stockholm.

However, the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (better known as Rio-92) can be seen as the starting point for the creation of the COP. It established the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Every year since 1995, the Framework Convention Conferences, or COPs, bring together member countries to define the direction of environmental policy. Important milestones in environmental policy at the international level have been generated from these conferences, such

as the Kyoto Protocol (1997), which set greenhouse gas reduction targets for developed countries, and the Paris Agreement (2015), which for the first time involved almost all the world’s countries in an effort to reduce carbon emissions and curb the effects of global warming.

Despite these important resolutions, one of the major challenges faced in recent years by the governments that are members of the convention is to enforce the targets set and generate significant changes in the conduct of countries that positively influence the climate change scenario.

What can we expect from COP28?

COP28 follows in the footsteps of the last few conferences in building paths towards a green transition in the global economy, especially among the countries most responsible for emitting polluting gases into the atmosphere. Here are three of the most eagerly awaited points at the 2023 edition of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Loss and Damage Fund: COP27 in Egypt ended with an agreement to create a Loss and Damage Fund for the most vulnerable countries affected by floods, droughts, rising seas and other climate disasters. **A committee has been set up to examine how the arrangements for this fund will work. Decisions on the Loss and Damage Fund are expected to be taken at COP28.**

Review of the Paris Agreement: The first review of the Paris Agreement, which began two years ago at COP26 in Glasgow, will be concluded at COP28. This process assesses global progress towards achieving the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets that were negotiated.

New national climate targets: In 2015, national governments agreed to try to limit the increase in the planet's average temperature to less than 1.5°C. However, a recent United Nations report on climate change shows that the world is at risk of exceeding this limit. At COP27, governments were asked to review the targets in their national climate plans until 2030. **It is expected that countries will return to the negotiating table with more ambitious strategies compared to what was presented in 2022.**

What will the dynamics of COP28 be like?

The conference is organized into two large spaces for circulation and deliberation. The Blue Zone, which is managed by the Framework Convention, is reserved for heads of state, delegations from member countries, and other accredited observers and organizations. This is where the formal negotiations of climate agreements, the World Climate Action Summit, country pavilions, presidency events and hundreds of side events, including panel discussions, round tables and cultural events, take place.

The Green Zone is open to the public and private sectors, socio-environmental organizations and the general public. It is the venue for parallel events and discussion tables proposed by civil society.

The COP28 program will focus on technology and innovation, inclusion, communities on the front line, and financing. Check out the COP28 agenda:







COP28 and the Amazon

The Amazon has a central position in the COP discussions due to its influence on global climate dynamics and the extent of the socio-biodiversity it harbors.

Brazil, the country that has the largest portion of the biome in its territorial extension, arrives at COP28 at a new moment in its foreign policy, more willing to integrate with the other nations that make up the Pan-Amazon region and open to articulate a joint vision on the environmental issues that concern the region.

The Amazon Summit, held at the beginning of August in Belém do Pará, brought together the presidents of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and was

a demonstration of this new willingness and a return to prominence in global climate discussions. Belém is also preparing to host the 30th edition of the COP in 2025, marking the first time that an Amazonian city will host a climate conference.

This phase of renewed dialogue between the Amazon and the world coincides with a climatic period of great fragility in the biome: **2023 registers one of the most severe dry seasons in Northern Brazil, with the drought and the rivers reaching critical low levels, causing the death of fish and river dolphins and isolating riverside communities without access to water and food. Added to the scenario is the increase in forest fires that have covered several Amazonian cities in smoke in recent months.**

That's why, at COP 28, we need to build joint solutions for the future of the planet that put the Amazon at the center. A vision that considers it beyond the forest, in its fullness, with fauna, flora and people. A vision that recognizes the climate injustice committed against the traditional communities and peoples of the Amazon, proposes actions to mitigate and combat the effects of the climate crisis, and considers the perspectives and ideas of Amazonians.

Read below an article by FAS's Sustainable Development Superintendent, Valcléia Solidade, on the importance of converging purposes and strengthening efforts in the Amazon at COP28:



Credits: Brenha Martins

Brazil in the Negotiations: Unity in the Amazon Region

*By Valcléia Solidade

The Amazon has been in the spotlight in major discussions about climate change and global action to refrain it. We are now in another year in which it is the central theme due to the world's concern about climate change issues. This year, civil society took part in important discussions, such as the Amazon Pre-Summit in Belém, where socio-environmental organizations from the Brazilian Amazon held a closer dialogue with indigenous peoples, traditional populations, quilombolas and

extractivists about the challenges faced and possible solutions for a prosperous and living Amazon.

Dialogues on the Amazon need unity and a more collective outlook with the other countries that are also home to the biome so that we can achieve more significant results, not only regarding its conservation, but also in terms of how to strengthen the people who live there, understanding that we will only achieve good results when our perspective is truly collective. Bringing together the people who play a fundamental role in conserving the world's largest rainforest is essential for any debate, including at COP 28.

That's why we need to take care of the people who look after our forests. To work as a unit. We see them as the way forward for the environment and this is the main objective of the Foundation for Amazon Sustainability (FAS). Here, I'll give you some examples of how we form human capital to play a leading role on the various fronts of socio-biodiversity conservation. FAS's central strategy is to combine the principles of Social Technology, promoting the growth of sustainable enterprises in 802 communities located in 28 Conservation Units (UCs) in the Amazon. Our main objective is to expand the knowledge of the forest peoples and offer resources to enable the creation of sustainable businesses in the Amazon region, as well as multiplying knowledge and enabling territories to strengthen and develop.

Last year alone, the sustainable businesses led by our entrepreneurship strategy earned R\$7 million. In all, 62 ventures were supported, 582 families assisted and R\$124,000 in credits earmarked for these businesses.

FAS also contributes to projects to strengthen the bioeconomy with a focus on environmental conservation, food security and community empowerment, helping to improve the quality of life of the Amazon's riverside populations based on the objectives of sustainable development. All these fronts are essential for reducing deforestation and poverty - two of the main objectives of sustainable development in the region.

As a result of all this work to keep the forest alive, I report that FAS's work has performed well in the Conservation Units where it operates. In 16 units in the state of Amazonas, there was a 2% reduction in deforestation between 2021 and 2022, according to data from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE). The areas without the Foundation's work, on the other hand, saw an average increase in deforestation of 103%.

With all these examples, in which the community is the protagonist of forest conservation, we understand that collaboration and the voice of the region's peoples are extremely important to take and address issues to COP28. I emphasize that dialogue between the "various Amazons" is essential for a positive outcome: understanding the challenges and that we are one, similar, but with different

difficulties and demands. The in-depth knowledge of the region, the sustainable development models made for subsistence, such as community-based tourism, and the conservation and awareness of these peoples make it impossible for authorities not to recognize the role they play within the biome.

The Amazonians are protecting the greatest treasure we have in our hands, but we also need to look at, care for, respect and appreciate them, because the Amazon's greatest wealth is the people who live there.

**Valcléia Solidade, superintendent of Sustainable Development of the Sustainable Amazon Foundation (FAS). With a degree in Public Policy Management and a specialization in Innovation and Social Technology, she has almost 30 years' experience in sustainable development projects in the Amazon, working on community-based social initiatives. She has been working at FAS for the last 15 years, implementing income generation, community empowerment, community infrastructure, entrepreneurship and health programs.*

**Read the article
published in O
Globo:**



Credits: Lucas Bonny

COP28 Dictionary

Keeping up with the COP28 negotiations and agreements can be challenging with so many acronyms, technical terms and concepts from the socio-environmental and international relations fields. That's why we've prepared this short dictionary with some of the main definitions, words and jargon that will be intensively used during the conference:



COP - Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties is the annual meeting of the member countries of the international convention on climate change. This is the 28th edition of the conference, which has been held annually since 1995.

Climate crisis

This term is used by governments and scientific communities to adequately address the seriousness and urgency of climate change, which is the result of human action and has caused serious impacts around the planet.

Carbon market

Financing model that negotiates greenhouse gas emission rates, serving as a stimulus for forest conservation, attracting investment and generating local income.

Carbon credit

A measure that serves as “currency” in the carbon market and is equivalent to a fee for not emitting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Climate finance

These are the resources, from the public, private or mixed sectors, invested and earmarked for climate mitigation and adaptation activities. There are various forms and levels of climate finance, from local to international.

Climate mitigation

Mitigation is the term used to refer to efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases. Mitigation can involve using new technologies and renewable energies or changing management practices or consumer behavior.

Climate adaptation

Humanity is already living, on different scales, in a reality altered by global warming. Adaptation refers to adjustments in human ways of life and production and in natural systems in the face of this new climate change scenario.

Energy transition

It is the change, on a national or global scale, from energy matrices or sources focused on fossil fuels to one with low or zero carbon emissions, based on renewable sources.

Climate injustice

It is the awareness that environmental disasters resulting from the climate crisis have a greater impact on populations and regions of the world that are already in a situation of vulnerability, on the margins of access to basic rights and the full exercise of citizenship.

Protagonism

The process of recognizing the autonomy and leadership of social segments in causes in which they have authority, knowledge and experience to advocate for change and better results.

UNFCCC

Acronym for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The convention is made up of hundreds of countries and was created at Rio-92 to address multilateral efforts to combat climate change.

IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Active since 1988, the panel is an arm of the United Nations that evaluates and compiles scientific and technical production on climate change.

NDC

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are targets and commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that each country has set for itself based on the Paris Agreement, signed in 2015 as a result of COP 21.

About FAS

The Foundation for Amazon Sustainability (FAS) is a non-profit civil society organization that works for the sustainable development of the Amazon. Its mission is to contribute to the conservation of the biome, to improve the quality of life of the people of the Amazon and to value the standing forest and its biodiversity. In 2023, the institution completed 15 years of work with outstanding figures, such as the 202% increase in the average income of thousands of families benefited and the 40% drop in deforestation in areas served between 2008 and 2021.



@fasamazonia

About SDSN Amazonia

The Solutions Network for the Sustainable Development of the Amazon (SDSN Amazonia), created in 2014 in the city of Manaus (Brazil), is a regional network of SDSN Global. SDSN Amazonia aims to mobilize local knowledge in the search for and creation of solutions and good practices for challenges related to sustainable development, while respecting the relevant characteristics of the realities of the 8 countries and one province of the Amazon Basin (Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, and French Guiana).



@sdsnamazonia

About Rede Cenarium

REDE CENARIUM AMAZÔNIA is a communication vehicle available online, as a digital magazine, a print magazine, a news agency and Web TV with the aim of reporting information from the nine states of the Amazon region. Headquartered in Manaus (AM), CENARIUM has representatives in the states of Pará, Roraima and Rondônia and a branch in Brasília (DF), with 27 collaborators and an Editorial Board made up of specialists in the areas of Human Rights, Traditional Peoples, Research, Social Sciences, Politics and Economics.

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