

# The Brazil Times



CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIAL



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## Overview

Brazil is being heavily impacted by things like risk of drought, wildlife endangerment, and overall temperature increase. Farming is becoming less profitable and less easy, A lot of Brazil's economy is fed by farming and the revenue that the country nets from that. To farm they need stable conditions, and climate change is disturbing that. The government will have to find a way to help the economy up, and this will likely put them into lots of debt. Farming is one of the most crucial things to Brazil's economy, and these two things are being affected by climate change a lot. Also, increased risk of extreme weather and natural disasters can affect the populations living conditions. This can breed civil unrest and the government will also have to occupy themselves with that. The rainforest will also be majorly affected through increased heat. With climate change so prevalent in the world today, some of the most important things to focus on are the natural landscape and climate, as well as the economy in countries affected.

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### Climate Change's Major impacts in Brazil

In past years people in Brazil have experienced all types of weather from extreme snow storms to month long droughts. The rainy season has increasingly got shorter and droughts longer. The effects of this extreme weather can be seen all around the world but stand out in Brazil. Ecosystems have been ruined and forced animals to move, reservoirs water supply has gotten down to 3% of their full capacity, and people around the country have lost access to clean water.



Brazil is one of the world's biggest agricultural producers, Brazil is critical to food security. Droughts impose a great problem for agribusiness in Brazil and the rest of the world. Due to droughts Brazil lost a large part of their yearly income from loss of agriculture. From 2012 to 2017 Brazil experienced the most severe drought covering over 50 percent of the country.

Wildlife in Brazil has been forced to change their way of life and endanger their species. "The study adds to mounting evidence that future climate change is poised to change the very fabric of biological life on Earth," says Julian Olden, a professor of ecology at the University of Washington. Habitats like the Amazon rainforest

**"... future climate change is poised to change the very fabric of biological life on earth"**

**-Julian Olden, UW**

are being ruined and animals forced to move or die. There are over 700 different species of mammals in Brazil and about 110 of them have become endangered in past years. Higher temperatures have put ocean creatures in danger and forced them to find new areas in the ocean. Less rainfall has ruined many freshwater habitats and a lot of freshwater fish have died. Animals in the Amazon have had to move because the rainforest is drying out and losing its natural climate. Exotic species population in Brazil has decreased in past years by shocking numbers and is not getting better.

Temperature is also a very large impact of climate change, and one of the primary causes of both increased risk of extreme living conditions for humans and endangerment of wildlife. With more CO<sub>2</sub> being released into the atmosphere, more radiation and sunlight gets trapped in the atmosphere, causing the world's temperature to slowly rise. This rising temperature is devastating to the climate, and therefore the wildlife and economy.



The picture above shows Brazil's rainforest, and how through deforestation and climate change, it is becoming a savanna that is almost uninhabitable for most animals. This destroys the food chain as well as the living space for most animals. Human and personal well-being will be affected as well, though it may seem far-fetched. The Amazon rainforest is a very large CO<sub>2</sub> hole, which means it absorbs a lot of CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air. The more the rainforest becomes savanna, the less CO<sub>2</sub> it will take out of the air, resulting in much hotter temperatures and a more polluted atmosphere. This becomes a cycle of devastation, and if we don't break the chain somewhere, it will continue to destroy the planet.

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### What Is Brazil Doing About Climate Change?

Brazil is planning to make the share of renewable sources of energy 45% higher than they were in 2005 by 2030. They are doing this by making it so more of their energy comes from things like wind and solar power. They also trying to specifically protect wildlife and the environment by getting rid of all illegal deforestation by 2030, and compensating for the added CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere from loss of vegetation.

The government is also funding 12 million hectares of forest to be planted and restored, which will bring back the habitats for many animals which are currently losing their living space. Brazil is also helping the economy (which is greatly supported by farming) by restoring 15 million hectares of land for pastures, and “enhancing 5 million hectares of integrated cropland-livestock-forestry systems (ICLFS) by 2030.”.

Brazil is increasing energy efficiency by promoting renewable energy and better transportation methods. They are providing some electric ways of transport and trying to increase energy efficiency by 10% in busy electric sectors. This should also help reduce emissions in the upcoming years.

Brazil has begun to enact NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), but even with them, Brazil will not meet emission reduction requirements set by the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement requires each country to have few enough emissions so the global warming rise will steady at 1.5 C. While Brazil is doing many things to curb climate change, drastic matters have to be taken for a major global effect.

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