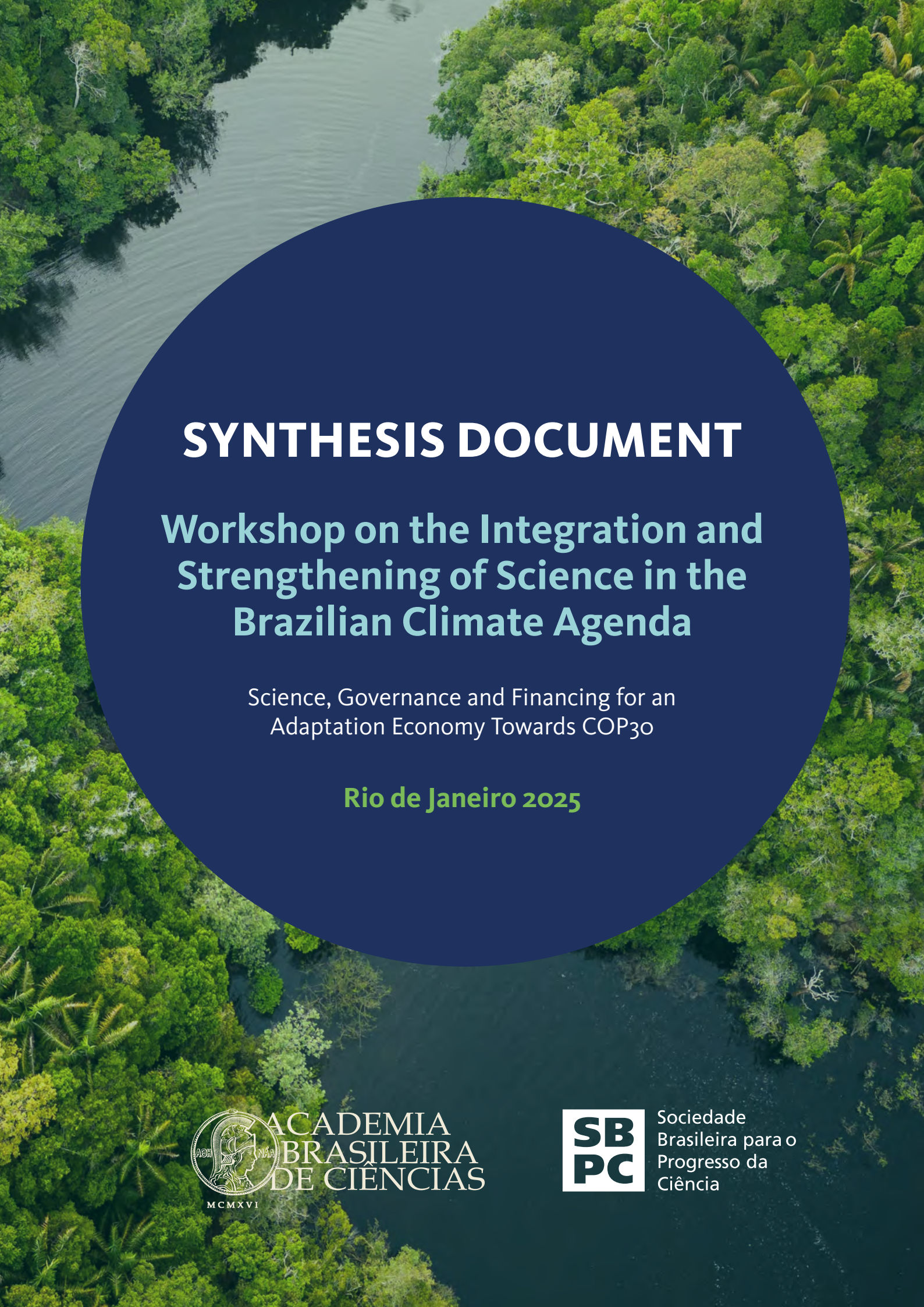

SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT

Workshop on the Integration and Strengthening of Science in the Brazilian Climate Agenda

Science, Governance and Financing for an Adaptation Economy Towards COP30

Rio de Janeiro 2025

ACADEMIA BRASILEIRA DE CIÊNCIAS

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Executive Summary

The Workshop "Integration and Strengthening of Science in the Brazilian Climate Agenda", held on October 3, 2025, in Rio de Janeiro, and organized by FINEP, MCTI, ABC, and SBPC, brought together 72 scientists and managers from 50 institutions with the aim of strengthening the articulation between science, public policy, and climate financing in the context of COP30, which will be hosted in Belém.

The meeting consolidated the understanding that science is a structural element of climate governance and must guide mitigation and adaptation policies, financial instruments, and sustainable development strategies. In this new scenario, the adaptation economy emerges as a strategic axis for the formulation of policies that integrate resilience, innovation, and social justice.

The discussions resulted in five fundamental tasks for Brazil at COP30, summarizing the convergence between scientific knowledge and the country's political and socioeconomic demands:

1. Accelerate the transition to renewable energy and adaptive infrastructure by strengthening national research and innovation in clean energy and storage technologies;
2. Achieve zero deforestation of tropical forests by linking environmental conservation with inclusive regional development;
3. Ensure adaptation and social protection for vulnerable populations through concrete policies in health, education, sanitation, and water security;
4. Secure stable and scalable climate finance by integrating FNDCT, the Climate Fund, the Amazon Fund, BNDES, and international financing mechanisms;
5. Strengthen climate governance and multilateralism through the creation of a permanent and autonomous structure for coordinating the national climate agenda.

These guidelines form the basis of the recommendations presented across the five thematic axes of this document, which outline concrete measures to strengthen the scientific, institutional, and financial foundations for climate action. Together, they reaffirm the capacity of Brazilian science to play a decisive role in building a sustainable and adaptive economy, positioning the country as a global leader at COP30 and throughout the transformative decade ahead.

02

Presentation

Brazil has reaffirmed its commitment to tackling climate change through an active and ambitious approach. The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) presented at COP29 in Baku (2024), along with the National Climate Plan, the National Adaptation Plan, and the National Mitigation Strategy, were all developed through participatory processes involving government sectors, civil society, and academia, with targets aligned with achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

On the eve of COP30, which will be hosted in Belém, the country stands at a historic crossroads: the transition from a mitigation economy, focused on reducing emissions, to an adaptation economy, which recognizes the urgency of preparing productive, social, and environmental systems to coexist and thrive in a world transformed by climate change. This new framework redefines the role of science, technology, and innovation as drivers of resilience, equity, and sustainable development.

As President Lula stated at the 2024 G20 Summit, "There is no point in negotiating new commitments if we lack an effective mechanism to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement." In this context, COP30 represents a milestone: more than a negotiation forum, it will serve as the global laboratory of the adaptation economy — a space where science becomes a tool for strategic, industrial, and territorial planning.

Within this context, the Workshop on the Integration and Strengthening of Science in the Brazilian Climate Agenda, held at Finep on October 3, 2025, was designed to consolidate science as a structural pillar of the adaptation economy. The event aimed to identify mechanisms for integrating science and public policy and to strengthen Brazil's capacity to act in a coordinated and strategic manner in climate-related actions. Holding the event at Finep underscored the institution's strategic role as a forum for dialogue with the scientific community, reinforcing the bridges between research, innovation, and climate policy.

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ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Participants: 72 scientists, officials, and representatives from 50 institutions.

Organizers: Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (FINEP); Secretariat for Strategic Policies and Programs of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (SEPPE/MCTI); Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC); and the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC).

Structure: Four thematic panels addressed topics ranging from the national context of climate policies to the integration of public agendas, with a strong emphasis on the Amazon as a strategic region.

Opening Session: Luís Antônio Elias (President of FINEP); Helena Nader (President of ABC); Francilene Garcia (President of SBPC); Andrea Latgé (Secretary of SEPPE/MCTI); Ricardo Galvão (President of CNPq); and Denise Carvalho (President of CAPES), with messages from the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Luciana Santos, and Ana Toni, Executive Director of COP30.

03

Synthesis of Panels and Key Messages

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Panel 1: The National Context – Climate Policies, Science and Technology in Action

Coordination: Francilene Garcia (SBPC)

Panelists: Andréa Latgé (MCTI), Carlos Nobre, Ricardo Galvão (CNPq), Fernando Rizzo (CGEE), Aluízio Lopes Melo (MMA)

Key Messages:

- **Integration and Strengthening:** Brazil has a robust scientific base, but it must be further integrated and strengthened to address the climate agenda effectively. Existing infrastructures — such as the National Institutes of Science and Technology (INCTs), research units under MCTI, and universities — should be consolidated and supported by long-term, state-level policies.
- **Scientific Infrastructure:** Recent investments include R$ 200 million for the INPE supercomputer, major international cooperation projects such as ATTO and AmazonFACE, and the Rede Clima network, which brings together more than 400 researchers in 16 sub-networks. Open platforms — Adapta Brasil, SIRENE, and SINAPSE — promote transparency and accessibility of climate data.
- **Climate Emergency:** The planet temporarily reached 1.5 °C of warming in 2023–2024. Parts of the Amazon have already crossed critical tipping points, functioning as a net carbon source for the past 15 years in some southeastern areas of the region.
- **Investment in Research:** There are 100 active INCTs (2022–2027, R$ 1.6 billion) and 143 new ones approved in 2024, totaling 243 institutes, 34 of which are focused on climate-related themes. The Conhecimento Brasil program connects 200 research networks and offers over 500 fellowships for Brazilian scientists returning from abroad.
- **Critical Gaps:** Persistent fragmentation of climate data, lack of integrated metrics linking research and development to emission reduction outcomes, low standardization of databases across institutions, and the need for long-term, sustained programs.

BRAZILIAN SCIENTIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE ON CLIMATE

Major Facilities: ATTO (Amazon Tall Tower Observatory), a result of ten years of Brazil–Max Planck collaboration; AmazonFACE (inauguration scheduled for November 2025); INPE, with R$ 200 million invested to modernize its weather and climate forecasting capabilities.

Redes de Pesquisa: Rede Clima, network with over 400 researchers across 16 thematic sub-networks; 34 climate-focused INCTs among 243 nationwide (100 active for 2022–2027 and 143 newly approved in 2024); Conhecimento Brasil Program, with 200 networks linking Brazilian and diaspora scientists; PELD, with an increasing number of long-term ecological research sites; and the LBA Program, with 27 years of operation, 1,500 trained students, and 15 flux towers across the Amazon.

Digital Platforms: Adapta Brasil, SIRENE, and SINAPSE (open and publicly accessible); Center for Synthesis on Global Climate Change (established in 2023).

Structuring Programs: TR11 (Artificial Intelligence) and TR12 "SOS Clima Brasil" under the FNDCT; NIT Brasil for the capacity building of Technology Innovation Centers; and the Low-Emission Hydrogen Competence Center (in partnership with the Fraunhofer Institute).

Critical Challenge: The urgent need for emergency funding to modernize equipment and ensure the long-term sustainability of existing infrastructures.

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Panel 2: Brazil in the International Arena – Climate Commitments and Agreements

Coordination: Helena Nader (ABC)

Panelists: Andréa Latgé (MCTI), Carlos Nobre, Ricardo Galvão (CNPq), Fernando Rizzo (CGEE), Aluízio Lopes Melo (MMA)

Key Messages:

- **Global Methane Pledge:** Brazil has committed to reducing CH_4 emissions by 30% until 2030 (based on 2020 levels), but emissions increased by 6% between 2020 and 2023, moving in the opposite direction. The main sources are enteric fermentation from ruminants (200 million head of cattle) and waste in open dumps.
- **Global NDCs:** As of the date of the event, only eight of the 22 G20 and BRICS countries (which together account for 80% of global emissions) had submitted their contributions for 2035.
- **Restoration Challenge:** The National Plan for the Restoration of Native Vegetation (Planaveg) aims to restore 12 million hectares with native species. However, the resilience of these species to future climate conditions remains uncertain, demanding greater investment in research and innovation in the ecological restoration sector.
- **Climate Governance:** Technical documents have often been treated as mere bureaucratic formalities, without being effectively integrated into decision-making processes. A broad scientific appropriation of these materials is needed, going beyond administrative compliance. Currently, the governance structure requires approval from 23 ministries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which may compromise the agility and effectiveness of climate actions.
- **Dramatic Urgency:** With heat waves surpassing 50°C, there will be severe consequences for public health in Brazil. The human physiological limit for thermoregulation under humid conditions is 40°C. If the climate slips out of control, the entire climate justice agenda will collapse.

Panel 3: The Amazon and the Socio-Environmental Dimension of the Climate Agenda

Coordination: Ima Vieira (MPEG/FINEP)

Panelists: Mercedes Bustamante (UnB), Paulo Artaxo (USP), Adalberto Val (INPA)

Key Messages:

- **Interconnected Crisis:** The climate crisis is part of a complex system involving biodiversity, pollution, and inequality. Latin America is a highly exposed region, already experiencing temperature increases above the global average.
- **The Amazon in Numbers:** The region stores 120 gigatons of carbon (equivalent to ten years of global fossil emissions). It provides water through evapotranspiration to central and southern Brazil. However, impacts are already visible. The state of Acre recorded 202 extreme events between 1987 and 2023, with exponential growth after 2010.
- **Critical Contamination:** 98% of fish species are contaminated by mercury and microplastics. International mercury trade exceeds R$ 44 billion annually, posing a direct threat to the food security of traditional communities.
- **The "Aquatic Death Trio":** Warming (temperatures above 40°C, while fish tolerate 32–38°C), acidification (pH 3.5–4 due to CO_2), and hypoxia (loss of dissolved oxygen) are causing mass mortality among Amazonian fish species such as jaraqui, matrinxã, and tambaqui. These conditions also affect larvae, leading to deformities such as scoliosis and microcephaly, which compromise food and nutritional security.
- **Regional Challenge:** The Legal Amazon, which covers 60% of Brazil's territory, receives less than 4% of investments in Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I). Its population is predominantly young (average age 29) and mostly female, yet its social progress index remains below the national average. The only policy with comprehensive reach in the region: education.
- **Institutional Challenges:** Greater alignment is needed among government ministries. The climate agenda must account for other public initiatives: new offshore oil platforms, infrastructure projects in sensitive areas (such as the BR-319 highway), and agricultural policies that could increase pressure on forests and other ecosystems.

Panel 4: Integration of Public Policy Agendas – COP30

Coordination: Luís Antônio Elias (FINEP)

Panelists: Carolina Grottera (Ministério da Fazenda), Marilene Corrêa (UFAM/CDESS), Gaston Kramer (WTT), Júlio Salarini (BNDES)

Key Messages:

- **Growth in Financing:** Resources allocated to the FNDCT increased from R$ 5.5 billion in 2022 to R$ 17 billion in 2025. The Climate Fund expanded from R$ 200 million six years ago to R$ 2 billion annually, as part of a total of R$ 10 billion per year. The Amazon Fund is projected to reach R$ 3.5 billion in 2025.
- **Severe Bottleneck:** The BNDES faces a portfolio with R$ 5 billion in project demand versus R$ 2 billion available. Projects unable to provide guarantees (land without tenure regularization, uncertain carbon revenues). Demand is extraordinarily high. The strategic minerals call for proposals received projects totaling 17 times the amount offered; for sustainable aviation fuels, demand exceeded supply by 28 times.
- **Scaling Challenge:** The tension between large-scale projects and community-based initiatives remains unresolved. The bioeconomy faces the risk of reproducing the commodity model. The appropriate scale depends on context, region, and activity type.
- **Climate Justice:** The Legal Amazon hosts 655 graduate programs that train around 100,000 professionals per year, yet these remain underfunded. Between 5,000 and 10,000 Amazon residents are expected to mobilize in Belém during COP30 to demand climate justice directly from heads of state.
- **Need for Integration:** To overcome the democratic deficit in ST&I, it is necessary to establish qualified structures for social participation and to incorporate climate justice and knowledge co-production criteria into public calls, transforming the current reliance on individual “heroes and heroines” into an institutionalized and sustainable system.

IDENTIFIED STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

Governance: Twenty-three ministries currently develop climate-related agendas, yet coordination among them requires strengthening. Aligning the actions of sectoral ministries (such as Energy, Agriculture, and Transport) with scientific and environmental directives highlights the need for a permanent, integrated governance structure.

Regional Equity Challenges: The Amazon accounts for 60% of Brazil's territory but receives less than 4% of investments in ST&I. Although mechanisms such as the 30% regional reserve for the North, Northeast, and Central-West exist, asymmetries persist. The climate agenda represents a strategic opportunity to reverse this historical pattern and strengthen science and technology in traditionally underfunded biomes and regions.

Science–Policy Integration: Scientific documents often fulfill formal obligations without effectively guiding public policy decisions. Brazil's NDC, with its hybrid composition of scenarios, presents challenges for consistent monitoring. It is essential to strengthen mechanisms that ensure scientific knowledge is effectively appropriated by decision-makers and that evidence systematically guides climate policies.

Financing Architecture: The demand for climate financing exceeds available resources by a factor of 2.5, revealing the gap between needs and investment capacity. Multiple funding sources (FNDCT, Climate Fund, Amazon Fund, CAPES) operate with little integration, creating barriers to access and management. Many projects struggle to provide adequate guarantees, particularly in contexts of land tenure insecurity. Integrating these sources into a cohesive national financial architecture is essential to expand reach and effectiveness.

Data Infrastructure: The national greenhouse gas emissions inventory requires updating to reflect new agricultural technologies and changes in production systems. The CAR and PRADA platforms face operational challenges that limit their effectiveness. The carbon certification infrastructure is still incipient, with only two certifying entities operating in the country, creating bottlenecks. Strengthening this infrastructure through methodological standardization and expanded certification capacity is fundamental for credibility and transparency.

04

Recommendations

Axis 1: Governance and Institutional Framework

- Create an autonomous public agency with administrative and financial independence for integrated climate management.
- Establish permanent expert panels with systematic interaction processes between the scientific community and decision-makers.
- Coordinate the three Rio Conventions (Climate, Biodiversity, and Desertification) through non-fragmented policies.
- Establish the cross-sectoral integration of the climate agenda across all ministries with effective coordination mechanisms.

Axis 2: Scientific Strengthening and Regional Development

- Sustainably increase the budget and modernize the infrastructure of the MCTI research units and higher education institutions.
- Create long-term research programs (10+ years) with the possibility of renewal.
- Establish permanent positions and incentives to retain talent in strategic regions.
- Redesign the regional distribution of ST&I resources, prioritizing the Legal Amazon (60% of Brazil's territory).
- Create integrated regional centers for innovation and distributed scientific infrastructure across Amazonian territories.

Axis 3: Data, Transparency, and Monitoring

- Consolidate the National Climate Transparency System, standardizing methodologies across sectors and ministries.
- Develop integrated metrics linking investments in R&D to effective emission-reduction outcomes.
- Establish a national network for direct measurement of greenhouse gases, connected to the global network.
- Build national capacity for the certification of carbon credits and ecosystem services.
- Fully publish the methodologies of Brazil's NDC for validation by the scientific community.

Axis 4: Financing, Technological Innovation, and the Adaptation Economy

- Integrate and coordinate resources from multiple sources (FNDCT, Climate Fund, Amazon Fund, BNDES, international funds, and carbon-market mechanisms) under a national financial architecture focused on adaptation and resilience.
- Create innovative financing instruments such as blended-finance funds, sovereign resilience bonds, climate insurance schemes, and debt-for-adaptation swaps, increasing resource predictability and protection for vulnerable populations.
- Establish climate and territorial justice criteria in credit allocation and public calls, ensuring social participation and prioritization of regions most affected by climate change.
- Incorporate scientific, traditional, and local knowledge into the design of innovation programs and funds, recognizing the value of Indigenous and community knowledge in building climate resilience.
- Develop and scale technologies for the Amazon bioeconomy and the circular economy, ensuring regional value addition and job creation, supported by local production arrangements and short value chains.
- Strengthen cooperation between Finep and BNDES to structure a National Adaptation Finance Ecosystem capable of aligning credit policy with climate and ST&I policy, focusing on measurable outcomes for mitigation and adaptation.

Axis 5: Education, Communication and International Cooperation

- Education, Communication, and International Cooperation
- Include climate change as a curricular component at all educational levels.
- Expand teacher training in climate change, prioritizing the North, Central-West, and Northeast regions.
- Develop a robust infrastructure for science communication, establishing systematic partnerships with media organizations.
- Strengthen bilateral and multilateral scientific cooperation, leading coordination efforts among Global South countries.
- Use COP30 as a platform to launch permanent initiatives that will extend beyond the event.

FIVE FUNDAMENTAL TASKS FOR COP30

1. Accelerate the transition to renewable energy.
2. Achieve zero deforestation of tropical forests, especially in the Amazon, but also in highly converted biomes such as the Caatinga and the Cerrado.
3. Ensure adaptation for vulnerable populations through concrete protection policies.
4. Secure climate financing to support the transition in developing countries.
5. Strengthen multilateralism and create a permanent post-COP30 structure (an autonomous agency with administrative and financial independence).

05

Adaptation as a New Climate Agenda

Adaptation is more than a field of climate action, it is the new paradigm of sustainable development. By recognizing the need to transform vulnerabilities into opportunities, Brazil can lead the development of an **adaptation economy** based on innovation, inclusion, and social justice.

This approach integrates science, technology, and public policy, fostering the creation of new markets, jobs, and resilient infrastructures. By incorporating adaptation as an economic logic, the country moves from a reactive perspective to a structural and strategic one, in which scientific knowledge guides investments, regulations, and international cooperation.

COP30 in Belém will be the turning point of this agenda — an opportunity for Brazil to demonstrate that science can drive a just, innovative, and sustainable transition.

06

Final Declaration

The Workshop on the Integration and Strengthening of Science in the Brazilian Climate Agenda was organized by the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (Finep), the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC), and the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC), with the purpose of discussing the integration of science, technology, and climate policy in Brazil, fostering dialogue among different sectors, and identifying ways to strengthen the country's response to climate change.

Held at Finep headquarters on October 3, 2025, the workshop brought together 72 scientists, researchers, and officials representing 49 institutions. This declaration reflects the collective position of the scientific community present at the event, encompassing a diversity of knowledge fields, regional perspectives, and academic and societal sectors committed to addressing the climate crisis. The considerations and recommendations expressed here represent the consensus reached throughout the meeting and constitute a contribution to the strengthening of national climate policies.

Throughout the discussions, participants recognized the significant advances made by the current government in its scientific and environmental policies, which have laid essential foundations for more effective climate action. Brazil possesses internationally recognized scientific capacity, a consolidated research infrastructure, and innovative solutions for addressing the climate emergency.

However, structural challenges persist that require immediate and coordinated action to reinforce the role of science in shaping and implementing climate policies at both national and international levels.

Science is unequivocal: there is no automatic return once climate limits are surpassed. The climate system is non-linear, and the feedbacks already underway make reversals difficult or impossible. The planet reached 1.5°C of warming between 2022 and 2024, and the window for action is closing rapidly. Due to its continental size, Brazil faces projected thermal amplification of 4–4.5°C under current scenarios, making it one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, with severe impacts on health, food security, and the habitability of its regions.

In light of this reality, we reaffirm three fundamental priorities: ensuring a new energy matrix in the next decade based on clean and renewable sources; achieving zero deforestation of tropical forests; and securing international climate financing that enables developing countries to carry out their transitions.

For the Amazon, a region at a critical tipping point, it is urgent to implement a development model that reconciles sociobioeconomy, food security, and the protection of traditional peoples, while combating illegal resource exploitation, which today remains more economically competitive than legal activities. Policies must anticipate the emerging demands of economic sectors with high pollution potential.

We recognize that regional inequalities persist and are exacerbated by the climate crisis, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable populations. The concentration of science and technology resources in Brazil's South and Southeast perpetuates historical asymmetries that must be urgently addressed.

The Amazon region, which covers approximately 60% of the national territory, urgently requires a reversal of the historical pattern of underinvestment in infrastructure, along with the strengthening of public policies that promote a sustainable development model capable of combining environmental conservation, social justice, and a thriving bioeconomy. Recent studies reveal that 98% of the region's waterways are contaminated with microplastics, while the Amazon Basin records the highest mercury flows in the world, primarily due to illegal mining. This dual contamination poses a growing and direct threat to the food security and public health of traditional, riverine, and Indigenous communities whose livelihoods depend on Amazonian aquatic ecosystems.

Data integration and transparency are essential. The National Climate Transparency System, to be launched at COP30, must consolidate existing platforms and integrate climate data with socioeconomic, territorial, and vulnerability indicators. Metrics must be standardized across sectors, and impact must be measured in terms of tangible outcomes — effective emission reductions and increased resilience — not merely processes. Full publication of the methodologies behind Brazil's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is critical for scientific validation and for strengthening international confidence in the country's climate targets.

In line with the advancement of Science, Technology, and Innovation, we emphasize the central role of education at all levels in promoting climate and scientific literacy. Higher education institutions, beyond their research missions, have the potential to train professionals from all areas to act in a rapidly changing world and to help shape new paradigms of inclusive and equitable development.

At the institutional level, we acknowledge the progress represented by the formulation of the National Climate Plan, which establishes a comprehensive and integrated climate agenda, demonstrating the Brazilian government's commitment to both national and international goals. However, we identify the urgent need to further strengthen climate governance by enhancing coordination among different government levels and sectors. The scientific community proposes that the government create a specific organizational structure, preferably a public agency, with the autonomy to manage and coordinate the national climate agenda. It is essential for science to be placed at the center of public policies across all ministries, ensuring that decisions related to climate crisis are grounded in robust and up-to-date scientific evidence.

For all these reasons, we call for the permanent institutionalization of the relationship between science and climate policy. We need permanent expert panels, systematic interaction processes, and a governmental structure capable of engaging in high-level technical dialogue with our centers of scientific excellence.

We leave this event with the conviction that Brazil possesses the instruments, knowledge, and people necessary to meet these challenges. What is needed now is to reinforce national climate policies within an integrated, permanent, and solid system capable of sustaining the transformations that Brazil and the world must undertake.

COP30 in Belém will be our opportunity to demonstrate that this is possible. Our challenge is to ensure that the advances achieved so far are consolidated into structural and lasting policies that deliver tangible results and position Brazil as a global leader in building a sustainable future.

07

Credits

The **Workshop on the Integration and Strengthening of Science in the Brazilian Climate Agenda** received institutional and financial support from the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (Finep) and the Secretariat for Strategic Policies and Programs of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (SEPPE/MCTI), both of which played a central role in making the event possible. Held at Finep headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, the workshop reaffirmed the Agency's importance as a strategic space for articulating science, technology, innovation, and climate policy, consolidating the commitment of MCTI and Finep to strengthening Brazil's scientific base and to building an adaptation economy guided by research and innovation.

This document, carefully prepared by the organizers, reflects the valuable contributions of the workshop's speakers and participants, whose analyses and experiences enriched the discussions. Finep and MCTI, as hosts of this initiative, uphold the intellectual autonomy of participants and bear no responsibility for the positions or content expressed herein.

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