



CALL FOR PAPERS

Bioeconomy and Innovative and Sustainable Businesses in Context of Natural Resource Management and Climate Change in Amazon






IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Submission of Full Paper: until July 15th, 2024.

Review process ends: until October 15th, 2024.

Special Issue publication (expected): November/December 2024.

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SPECIAL ISSUE THEME

Since the 1990s, the debate about the need to manage natural resources for sustainable regional development in and around the Amazon has been prominent. In the context of this debate, there are at least four major theoretical strands that present themselves as economic alternatives to support regional development (Vasconcellos, 2013).

The first strand defends the verticalization of production that uses resources that are mainly exported, such as iron, manganese, wood, and products linked to agribusiness. Commodities generation is the core of this proposition.

The second strand is based on the assumption that the majority of rural and regional businesses are linked to small-scale family-based agriculture, and so far, it would be the path for generating work and income for regional development. Including small Amazonian rural properties in public policies involves possibilities to guarantee minimum prices for biodiversity products.

The third strand joins itself with the discussion on small-scale family-based agriculture and proposes a way based on alternative development founded on the social, solidarity, and cooperative economy.

The fourth strand proposes a region development based on extractive management and/or maintenance of the forest for carbon sequestration and environmental compensation. Accordingly, industrialized societies should pay for this environmental service. This proposition is based on the appreciation of the culture of local and original communities once they dispose of the required knowledge about the forest. This last strand is closely linked to the need for combating climate change that is increasingly felt in all parts of the world. In this aspect, there are discussions on green bonds, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (REDD+), ecosystem services, and payments for environmental services.

However, notably in the last five years, there is a great debate that partly reconciles the last three theoretical strands called bioeconomy (Costa et al., 2021; Nobre & Nobre, 2019). This approach is based on the understanding that Amazon needs to use its socio-bio and cultural diversity to implement new and innovative business arrangements that reconcile nature conservation and regional culture with technological development. This proposition uses science, technology, and innovation (Bioökonomierat, 2018; Lopes & Chiavari, 2022) to support the emergence of new businesses.

According to the Global Bioeconomy Summit (2015), bioeconomy is “... the production, use, and conservation of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, to provide information, products, processes, and services in all economic sectors for sustainable economy achievements.”

Although the initial bioeconomy theoretical proposition introduces itself as a ‘new alternative’ for regional sustainable development, there is a lot of criticism about this interpretation (Vivien et al., 2019), mainly taking the argument that the central axes of the proposal (bioresources for economy and development) have always been present in all development patterns implemented in the region.

The emerging approach of bioeconomy has also been seen as a way for reconciling the regional socio-bio and cultural diversity, small family producers (agriculture or neo-extractivism), and the provision of environmental services from forest conservation and/or restoration, precisely by the lens of ecological bioeconomy. Accordingly, ecological bioeconomy is an approach that is concerned with ecological processes to promote biodiversity and avoid monoculture and soil degradation (Bugge et al., 2016). However, this requires new businesses patterns, which imply an innovative and sustainable standpoint.

It should be stressed that the concepts of technology and innovation in the bioeconomy context in Amazon are not only constituted from a classical viewpoint but also in the relationship between scientific knowledge and local and traditional knowledge. This means that innovative and sustainable Amazon-based businesses come from both classic technological innovations and social and socio-technical innovations.

The business core is the appropriate use of regional socio-bio and cultural diversity. Innovative sustainable businesses involving Amazonian socio-agrobiodiversity are part of valuing and recognizing local and traditional knowledge perspectives about the use and exploitation of natural resources that, in turn, can be understood as territorial assets and attributes. Consequently, in these kinds of businesses, the fair appropriation of work and knowledge values is required, taking the appropriation of benefits context.

Taking the broad spectrum of bioeconomic topics and consequently the great diversity of businesses based on products, processes, and services in several economic sectors, it is crucial to deepen the debate about the meaning of bioeconomy from a positive and critical perspective, as well as to discuss cases and propositions of innovative and sustainable businesses that dialogue with this concept in the Amazon. This is the aim of this RAC’s special issue. Submitted papers should address theoretically or empirically-theoretically the topics listed below duly related to bioeconomy, sustainability, and the concern of climate change in Amazon:

- . Circular economy;
- . Creative economy;
- . Ecological economy;
- . Bioproducts and energy
- . New business and use and exploitation of natural resources;
- . Social and environmental impact businesses;
- . Public policies and bioeconomy;
- . Technology-based bioproducts;
- . Local knowledge and appropriation of benefits;
- . Carbon sequestration and local communities;
- . Innovations in processes and services;
- . Sociotechnical innovations and business emergence.

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SUBMISSION PROCESS

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