

# Media Release

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## **WWF: New report highlights growing risks to Brazil, including drastic impacts to the world's largest rainforest**

*Gland, Switzerland* – If drastic action is not taken now, Brazil will experience significant changes in rainfall patterns and more frequent extremes of climate in just decades, with severe consequences to Brazil's rural and urban areas and the world's largest remaining and most species-rich tropical rainforest in the world, the Amazon, says WWF.

Commenting on release today of the of First National Assessment Report (1<sup>st</sup> RAN) by the Brazilian Panel on Climate Change [1], WWF-Brazil Climate Change and Energy Programme lead Carlos Rittl says the impact of climate change is already being felt in the country, including the Amazon, and real commitment to act is needed by Brazilian policymakers in order to scale up the responses to risks imposed by climate change.

Brazil is increasingly critically threatened by the effects of climate change. But, up to now, Brazil's climate policy landscape is seen as a patchwork, with poor coherence, synergy and coordination among different departments of Governments and between Federal and State level governments, he says.

“In spite of some progress in recent years, Brazil's climate agenda is still marginal and not mainstreamed into major development plans. A clear signal of this is that Brazil is putting 70% (about US\$ 325 billion) of all investments in energy (accounting for 32% of Brazilian GHG emissions in 2010, according to official estimates) between now and 2020 on fossils, while the country has an immense potential from low impact renewable energy, such as wind, solar and biomass, which could provide a huge share of Brazil's energy demands in the next decades,” says Rittl.

In addition, the Government of Brazil invested US\$ 46.6 billion between 2011 and 2012 on agriculture and ranching (responsible for 35% of Brazilian emissions in 2010) in the country, but only US\$ 1.5 billion to low carbon agriculture,” he says.

Commenting on the report, WWF Global Climate & Energy Initiative leader Samantha Smith says while the science is clear, the need to act is even clearer – also in Brazil. “In



our global campaign **Seize Your Power** [2]; WWF is calling on governments and financial institutions to scale up investments in renewable energy and a phase out investments in fossil fuels. Brazil is ideally placed to make this change and to change the course of its development towards a cleaner, safer future,” she says.

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**Notes to editors:**

1. The Brazilian Panel on Climate Change ([PMBC](#)) is a national scientific body that aims to gather, synthesize and evaluate scientific information on the relevant aspects of climate change in Brazil after the publication of National Assessment Reports.
2. WWF’s global campaign [Seize Your Power](#) was launched in June 2013.

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**About WWF**

WWF is one of the world’s largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF’s mission is to stop the degradation of the earth’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world’s biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

The Global Climate & Energy Initiative (GCEI) is WWF’s global programme addressing climate change, promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.

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