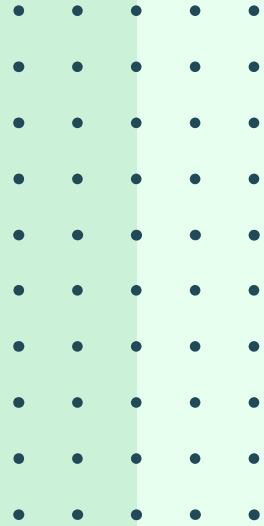
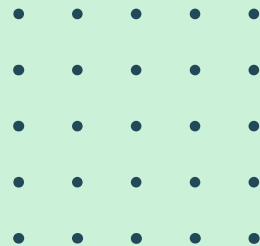


Magazine Design Deck

Emma Campos (Ferren)



Goals and Objectives



01.

**Creative
Masthead**

03.

**Create my own
Illustrations**

02.

Use Text Flow

04.

**Use Grids and
Columns Effectively**

The TROPIC TOPIC



**Keeping You up to
Date on the
Amazon**

The TROPIC TOPIC



Fall Edition 2026

Where Ancestral
Knowledge Meets Modern
Technology

pg. 23

Time Limit on
Land Rights

pg. 30

When
in
DROUGHT

pg. 10

Keeping you up to date on the Amazon

Front Cover

WHEN IN DROUGHT

Written by: Rainforest Foundation
Illustration by: Emma Campos

Drought Is

Pushing the Amazon to the Brink:
With rivers at record-low levels,
wildlife struggling to survive,
and hundreds of Indigenous
and local communities
isolated, the threat of
extreme drought and
rising heat is

pushing the
Amazon Rainforest
closer to the brink of
ecological
collapse. Climate change has
triggered extreme drought
conditions that continue to grip the
Amazon in 2025. Droughts and
other climate disruptions are
pushing parts of the Amazon
toward a tipping point, where
the rainforest fails to
regenerate and begins emitting
more carbon than it absorbs.

By 2050, rising
temperatures, droughts, and
fires could endanger nearly half
of the Amazon, with far-reaching
impacts for the global climate. The
droughts that gripped the Amazon
in 2023 and 2024 were the most
extreme on record, leaving lasting
impacts that continue into 2025. In
2023, July-September rainfall across
the nine Amazonian countries dropped
to its lowest level in four decades.

In
Brazil
alone, the
Amazon biome lost
over 8 million acres of surface
water in 2023—an area 25 times
the size of Los
Angeles. Meanwhile, the
Amazon River saw its worst
decline in water levels in over a
century.

Climate



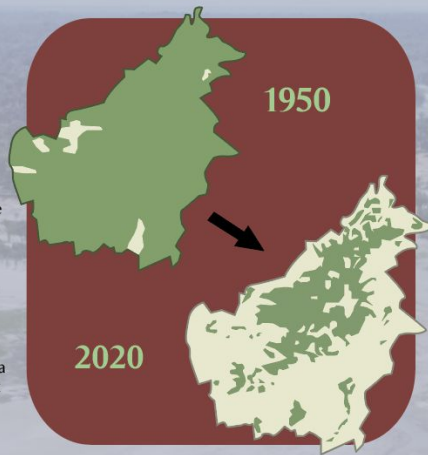
Why is the Amazon Drying Up?

Research increasingly shows that human-caused climate change is the main driver of drought in the Amazon, making extreme weather events up to 30 times more likely. Rising global temperatures have intensified drying trends, making droughts longer, more frequent, and more severe. The Amazon now receives less rainfall during the dry season (June to November) than in the past. Meanwhile, hotter temperatures accelerate evaporation from soils and vegetation, reducing moisture across the basin. Although the natural climate phenomenon El Niño contributed to recent drought conditions, its impact is minor compared to the growing effects of human-driven global warming. Over the past 40 years, the Amazon has warmed at an average rate of 0.27 °C per decade, with some central and southeastern regions heating up as much as

0.6 °C per decade. In many of these areas, the average dry-season temperature is now more than 2 °C higher than it was 40 years ago. If current trends continue, the temperature in parts of the rainforest could rise by more than 4 °C by 2050. Drought and deforestation interact in a vicious cycle. As drought hampers river transport, pressure has grown to pave highways like the highly contested BR319 in Brazil's Amazon. But paving makes it easier to access these forested areas and accelerates deforestation, which in turn reduces rainfall by disrupting the forest's natural water cycles (evapotranspiration). This led to recent drought conditions, increased fire risk, and further forest loss. In 2023, monitoring detected more than 5,000 km of illegal side roads branching off BR319, intensifying the degradation of the surrounding rainforest.

Last year it was extremely dry. There was no water, and what little remained was dirty. The fish in the river died.

Climate



Deforestation rate from 1950 to 2020.

“ From a scientific perspective, the evidence speaks for itself. The southern Amazon's dry season now lasts up to **five weeks longer** and brings **20% less rainfall** than it did **four decades ago**. If current trends persist, nearly **half** of the Amazon rainforest could be **at risk from drought** and fire by 2050. Yet within **Indigenous territories**, satellite data consistently shows **lower rates of deforestation and ecosystem degradation**, even more so when their lands are officially **titled and consistently monitored**. These areas demonstrate greater resilience to **climate stress**. ”

Cameron Ellis
Field Science Director,
Rainforest Foundation US

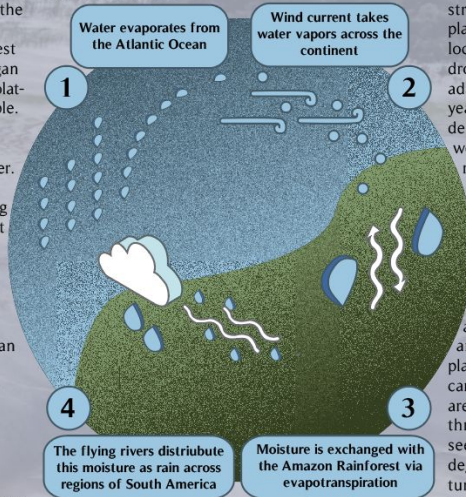
It wasn't like this before. We've been suffering for the last two years, and they say this year will be even worse. Forest

patroller and first woman leader of the San Francisco de Yahuma community, Peru Rivers run dry: In October 2023, the Rio Negro, one of the Amazon's largest tributaries, hit its lowest level since records began over a century ago, isolating thousands of people. Locals reported illnesses linked to drinking stagnant water. Entire riverside communities, including Indigenous people that rely on fishing and river transport, were left without access to food, medical care, or clean water. Rivers as lifelines: In the Brazilian Amazon, over 60% of towns and villages are closer to major water bodies than to roads, underscoring their reliance on rivers as primary access routes. When waterways run dry: Boats can't travel, cutting off access to food, medicine, and markets. Fishing livelihoods collapse. Stagnant waters contaminate drinking supplies. Those in need of medical attention, including women in labor and newborns, are left stranded without access to care.

Rainforest Foundation US (RFUS) is supporting actions that make a tangible difference in preventing and mitigating droughts. Healthy forests regulate water and climate, and Indigenous lands, when legally secured and

Today, those efforts are more important than ever in supporting communities to withstand the growing threat of drought. Advancing land rights across millions of acres, supporting Indigenous peoples with the legal

and respond to deforestation, fires, and illegal invasions threatening territories and water security. Providing direct support to Indigenous organizations to integrate traditional knowledge with scientific data, strengthen emergency planning, and enhance local governance for drought response and adaptation. The next five years will decide the future of the world's tropical rainforests and the stability of our global climate. Rainforests across Latin America are home to more terrestrial biodiversity than anywhere else on Earth and are among our planet's most powerful carbon sinks. Yet they are nearing a dangerous threshold, one that could see them transform into degraded savannahs, turning forests into carbon sources. Over the next five years, RFUS and our Indigenous partners will advance Indigenous peoples' land rights across 14 million acres, because when communities have legal control over their ancestral lands, they can protect forests for generations.



standing and autonomy to manage their territories and headwaters, defend forests against external pressures, and build long-term resilience to climate impacts. Expanding monitoring programs such as Rainforest Alert, a community led system that uses smartphones and drones to detect

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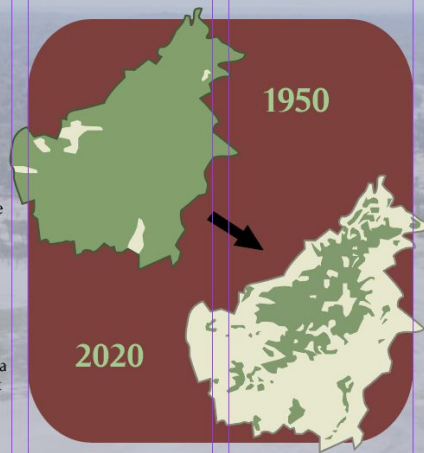
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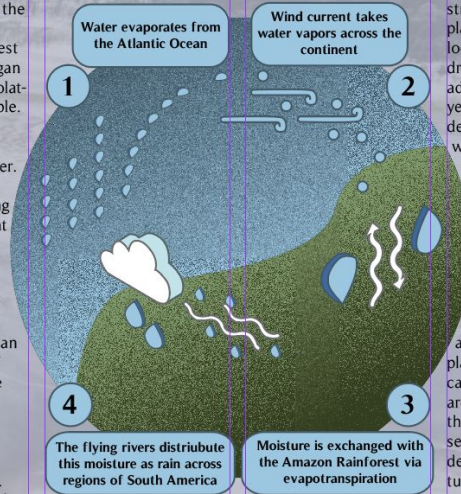
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Extreme Drought in the Amazon has Global Consequences.

Moisture from trees in the Amazon form "flying rivers" that carry 200,000 m³ of water vapor per second across South America, feeding rainfall for crops as far away as Argentina.

Losing the Amazon rainforest would cut rainfall by 40% in these regions, devastating agriculture across the continent and accelerating climate instability. Scientists warn that if global temperatures climb

beyond 2 °C above preindustrial levels, vast areas of the rainforest could convert into degraded savannah. The rivers of the Amazon are like the forest's veins, and right now, they're drying up faster than ever.

The rainforest suffered record droughts in 2023 and 2024, when many of the world's biggest rivers were below the lowest point on record. That was the fourth severe drought in two decades, four times more than would have been expected in an undisrupted climate. Every year, the dry season is becoming longer and more arid. The annual dry season in the southern Amazon used to last three to four months and even then there would be some rain.

But today, it is four to five weeks longer and there is 20% less rain. If this trend continues, we will reach a point of no return in two or three decades. Once the dry season extends to six months, there is no way to avoid self-degradation. We are perilously close to a point of no return. In some areas, it may have already been passed. In southern Pará and northern Mato Grosso, the minimum rainfall is already less than 40mm per month during the dry season. The Amazon also has fewer lightning strikes because the clouds are lower than in the savannah.

Almost 50% of the water vapour that comes into the region from the Atlantic through trade winds is exported back out of the Amazon on what we call "flying rivers". I was the first to calculate the huge volume of these flows: 200,000 cubic metres of water vapour per second. My former PhD student, Prof Marina Hirota, calculated that tropical forests and Indigenous territories account for more than 50% of the rainfall in the Paraná River basin in the far south of Brazil, which is a major food-growing area. These flying rivers also provide water for crops in the Cerrado, Mato Grosso,

Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás, Paraná, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul, Paraguay, Uruguay, and all that northern Argentina agricultural area. So if we lose the Amazon, we are going to reduce the rainfall there by more than 40%. Then you can forget agricultural production at today's levels. And that would also contribute to converting portions of the tropical savannah south of the Amazon into semi-arid vegetation. The devastation of the most biodiverse biome in the world would also affect hundreds of thousands of species and raise the risks of zoonotic diseases crossing the species barrier. For the first time since the Europeans came to the Americas,

we are experiencing two epidemics: Oropouche fever, and Mayaro fever. In the future, the degradation of the Amazon forest will lead to more epidemics and even pandemics.

Wild life is dying. In both 2023 and 2024, overheated waters in Brazil's Lake Tefé caused the death of over 200 endangered river dolphins and thousands of fish.

"The rivers of the Amazon are like the forest's veins, and right now, they're drying up faster than ever. But what we're seeing is that inside Indigenous territories, the damage is far less severe, especially where lands are officially recognized and titled. These areas are better protected, with much lower rates of deforestation and degradation. Securing and expanding Indigenous land rights isn't just the right thing to do, it's also one of the smartest, most effective ways to keep forests standing and rainfall patterns stable across the whole region."

Christine Halvorson
Program Director, Rainforest Foundation US

Scientists identify global climate change, not local deforestation, as the main driver of extreme drought in the Amazon basin. Indigenous peoples still play a crucial role in the rainforest's resilience. They collectively hold and protect nearly one third of rainforests in the Amazon, and securing their land rights is essential to maintaining the region's natural water cycle. Forests inside Indigenous territories have far lower deforestation rates and less fires than surrounding areas, thereby preserving dense canopy cover that recycles vast amounts of water vapor back into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration.

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Fall Edition 2026

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Keeping you up to date on the Amazon

RAINFOREST FOUNDATIONS

Protecting rainforests in partnership with Indigenous peoples since 1988

Amazon and Central American Rainforests

Learn how | Why to Support

Why Support Rainforest Foundations Must Be Done Now

Why is the Amazon Drying Up?

Amazon's increasingly severe drought is the main driver of the Amazon's drying up. The Amazon's water cycle is being disrupted by a combination of factors, including deforestation, climate change, and human activities. The Amazon's water cycle is being disrupted by a combination of factors, including deforestation, climate change, and human activities. The Amazon's water cycle is being disrupted by a combination of factors, including deforestation, climate change, and human activities.

11

Climate

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13

Climate

WHEN IN DROUGHT

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10

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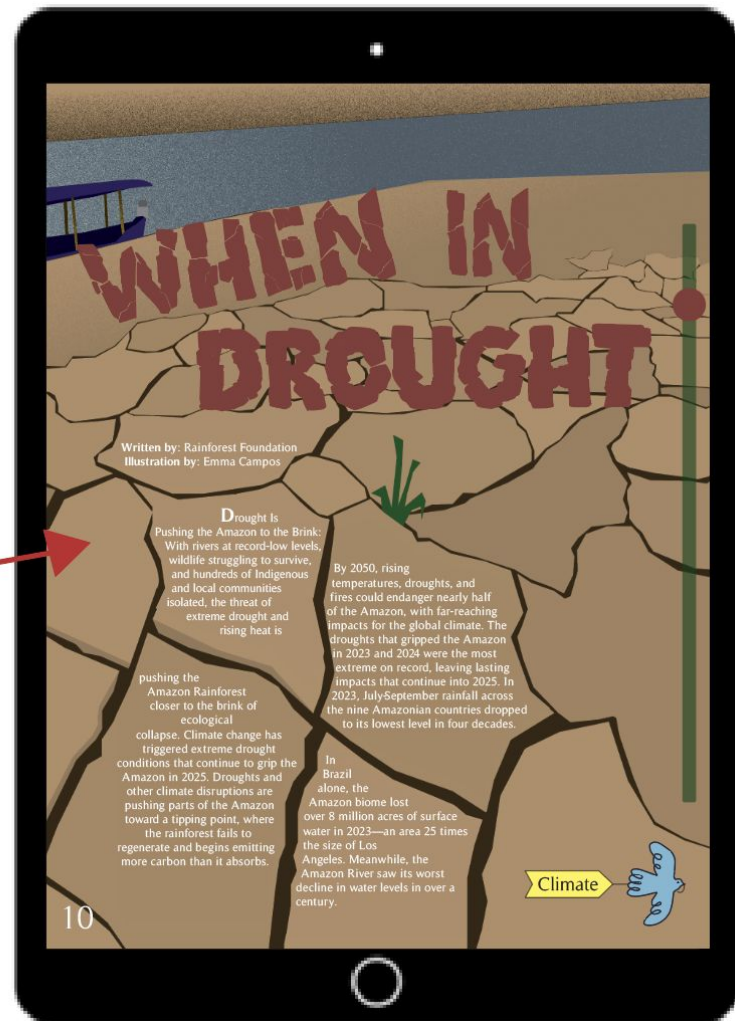
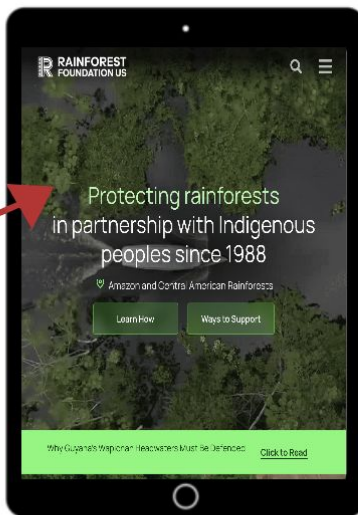
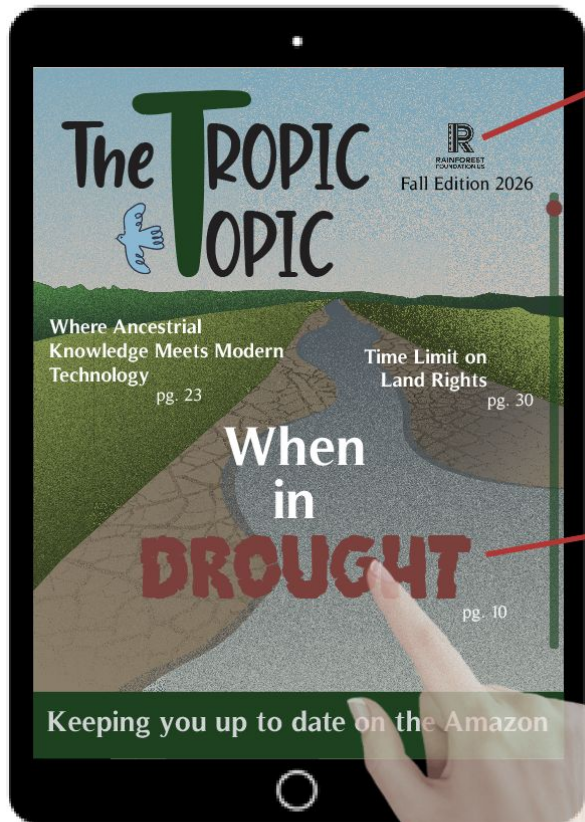
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14

Climate



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Climate



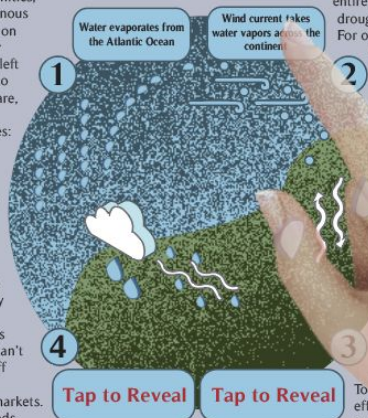
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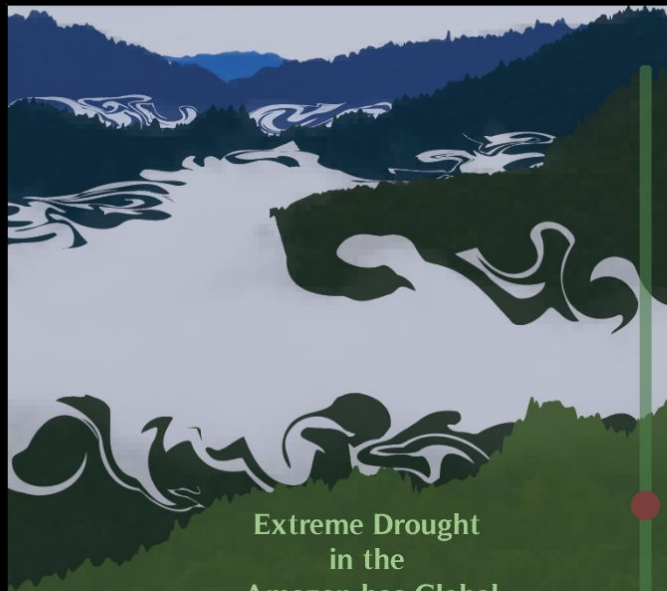
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Tap to Reveal

12

Climate





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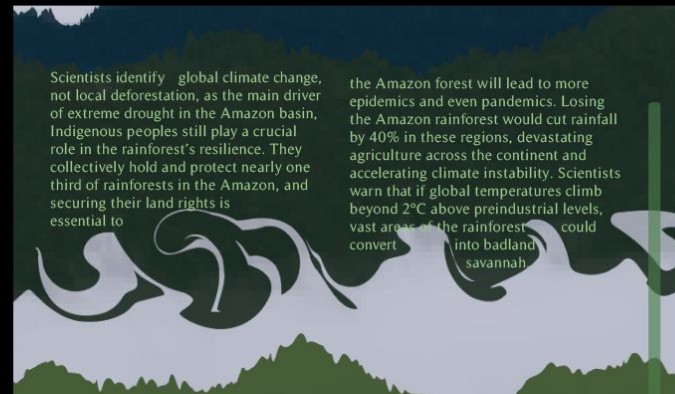
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Climate



13



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Climate



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