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Reply to Escalating Climate Disasters in Brazil: A Scientific and Structural Call Before COP30

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Enner Alcântara (1) brings examples of climate-related disasters in Brazil and the explains the importance of adaptation measures by Brazilian institutions and as an agenda item for COP-30. Adaptation, or the actions taken to live with ongoing climate change by minimizing its impacts, is indeed vital, as the Brazilian government recognizes. What the Brazilian government does not really recognize (despite its discourse) is the need for the country to take dramatic action on mitigation – the subject of the editorial in *Science* (2). Mitigation, or the fight to prevent the continued rise of global temperatures, is inconsistent with the actions of almost all of the Brazilian federal government outside of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (including President Lula), as explained in the editorial. Brazil cannot be a leader in fighting climate change if it continues to open new oil and gas fields (including in the mouth of the Amazon River) (3), open vast areas of Amazon forest by building roads like BR-319 and its associated network of side roads (4), and encourage and subsidize deforestation through a variety of actions (including legalizing invaders and land grabbers in government land) (5). COP 30 is the opportunity for Brazil to assume the needed leadership in the global struggle to contain climate change. We are near various tipping points both in the Amazon forest and in the climate system that, if passed, would lead to global warming escaping from human control (6). If this is allowed to occur, the impacts in Brazil (7) would be such that no amount of adaptation could avoid catastrophic devastation.

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