

Fearnside, P.M. 1986. "Brazil's Amazon Forest and the Global Carbon Problem: Reply to Lugo and Brown". Interciencia 11(2): 58-64.

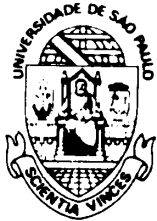
ABSTRACT:

Fearnside rebuts arguments made by Lugo and Brown (Interciencia 11(2): 57-58) which question the validity of his 1985 literature review and calculations on the contribution of tropical deforestation to the global carbon problem (Interciencia 10 (4): 179-186). Lugo and Brown maintain that Fearnside's article exaggerates the carbon dioxide contribution of tropical deforestation due to the author's citation of old literature, his factual mistakes, and his preconceived bias.

Fearnside maintains that his review of old and new literature has been thorough, and that his analysis was conservative. He admits some factual errors were present in his article, but denies that they significantly alter his findings, and he denies that he was biased.

In response to the alleged factual errors, Fearnside: (1) admits that above-ground biomass figures were mistakenly labeled total biomass in the text, but maintains his calculations were correct save for one minor error which decreased released carbon; (2) admits some biomass figures may be high but denies better information is available in some cases, and denies the resulting error could reach the magnitude Lugo and Brown suggest; (3) claims that reliable values for the area of secondary forest are difficult to obtain; (4) disputes Lugo and Brown's claim that he has overestimated the carbon loss following conversion to pasture; and (5) disputes that his rates of carbon release due to land use change are unacceptable.

In regard to the allegations of unsubstantiated bias, Fearnside feels his analysis was conservative, and specifically responds that: (1) recovery rates for degraded pastures are low; (2) no evidence exists to indicate that natural forests have a role in the carbon cycle; and (3) he has not assumed delayed effects will cause all carbon in the Amazon vegetation to become airborne.



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