



To: Organização do Tratado de Cooperação Amazônica (OTCA)  
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)  
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## Research Across Boundaries for Amazon Systems

The Amazon Summit provides a momentous opportunity for Amazon nations to make transformative changes for the region. Recently, in Leticia, the presidents of Brazil and Colombia stressed the importance of Amazonian nations taking the lead on a new model of sustainable development. To achieve this, they called for scientific research and partnerships across borders. **Fulbright Amazonia** embodies this sort of interdisciplinary, Pan-Amazonian network, with researchers from across the basin and the United States working together to understand and propose solutions to address the ecological, economic, and social issues that know no borders.

**What is Fulbright Amazonia?** Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Fulbright Commission in Brazil, **Fulbright Amazonia** is an international, multi-disciplinary collaboration of scholars investigating topics related to the Amazon Basin. The program brings together 16 researchers from across 8 Amazonian nations and the U.S. to perform transnational and applied research to inform policy and provide innovative solutions for a more sustainable Amazon Basin. This inaugural cohort of Fulbright Amazonia puts social and natural scientists, including experts from ecology, biomedicine, filmmaking, and engineering, together in an interdisciplinary dialogue. Collectively, the aim is to generate a deeper understanding of the Pan-Amazon region, its people, and the issues they face. The sustained interaction provided by the program helps build new relationships and networks that can stimulate future collaboration and strengthen applied research across boundaries.

The scholars work on three main themes. Each of these themes requires interdisciplinary perspectives to understand topics that transcend boundaries. **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation** researchers aim to understand ecological impacts and drivers of destruction across borders and synthesize data to generate a more holistic understanding of environmental change. **Human and Environmental Health and Security** seek to understand long-standing and emerging threats that are place-specific, but which also span borders. **Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development** emphasizes research and ground-based innovation efforts aimed at the development of locally embedded economies, especially those with promising or broadly applicable approaches that have economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Interdisciplinary research that spans borders is key to understanding issues that have no boundaries. **Fulbright Amazonia** strives to embody this spirit of collaboration and a more holistic view of the region and the integrated health of its environment and people. During the "Amazonian Dialogues," which preceded the summit on August 6, part of the Fulbright Amazonia scholars, in collaboration with leaders of social movement organizations, led a self-organized event, "In the climate of international collaboration: cross-border responses to challenges without borders in the Pan-Amazon", in which some transnational research-to-action recommendations were directed to the Amazon Summit.