Are environmental services affected by successional pathways in secondary Amazonian rain forests?

Rita Mesquita, Paulo Massoca, Tony Vizcarra & Bruce Williamson

Environmental services in the Amazon include climate regulation, hydrological fluxes, ecological processes mediated by biodiversity (such as pollination, decomposition and nutrient cycling), and carbon sequestration and storage.





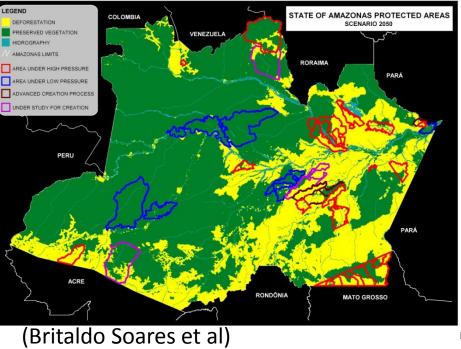


(Photos By Zigy Kock)





Deforestation results in loss of environmental services





O gráfico a seguir apresenta a distribuição percentual das classes temáticas mapeadas pelo TerraClass:

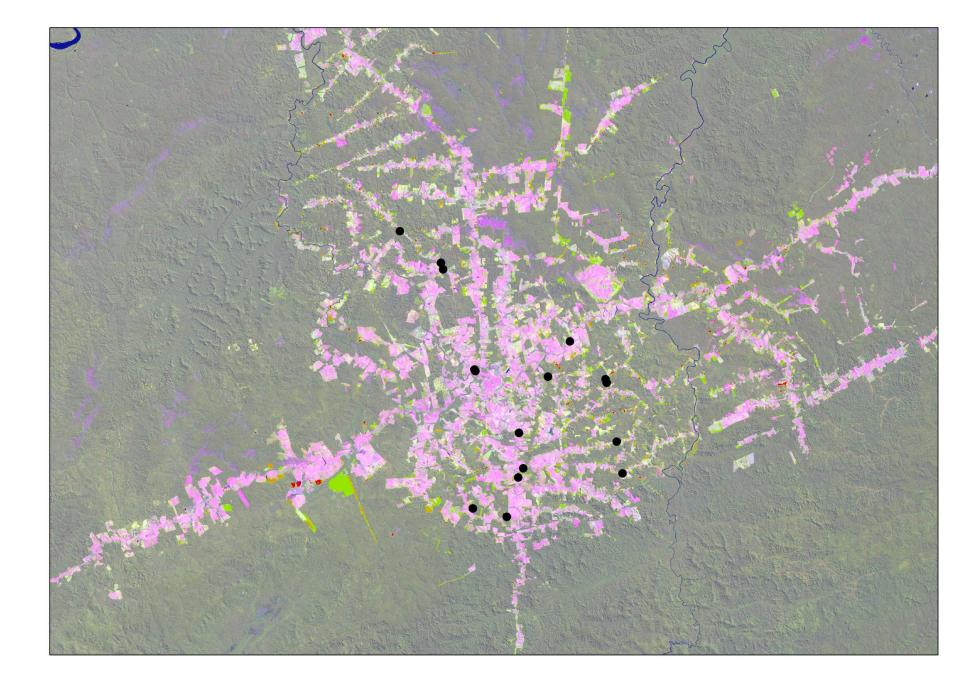
TERRACLASS 2008

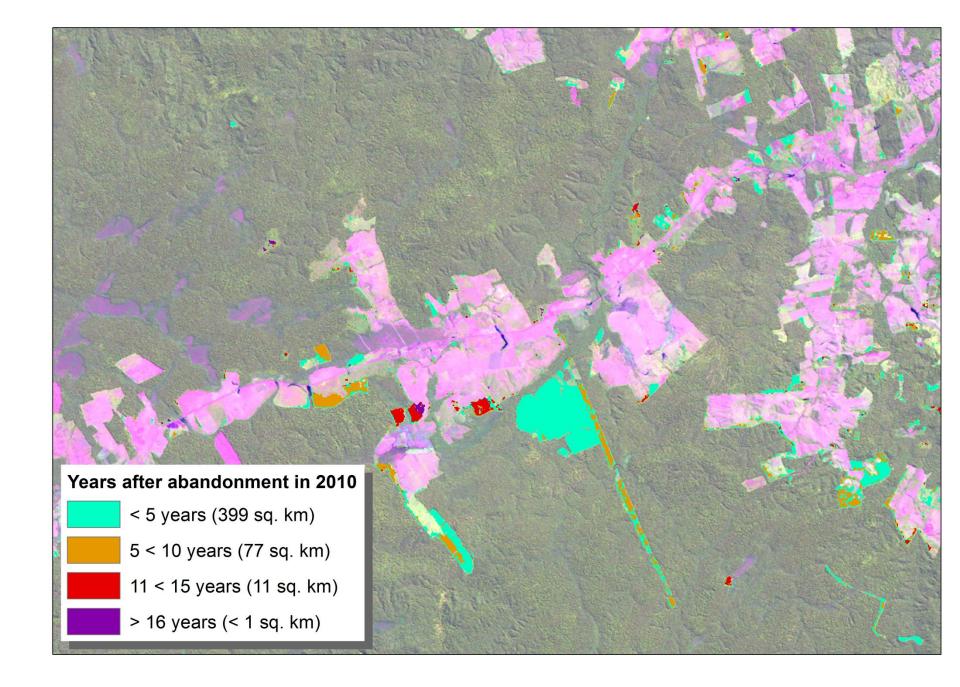
Classes de Uso e Cobertura da Terra nas áreas desflorestadas da Amazônia

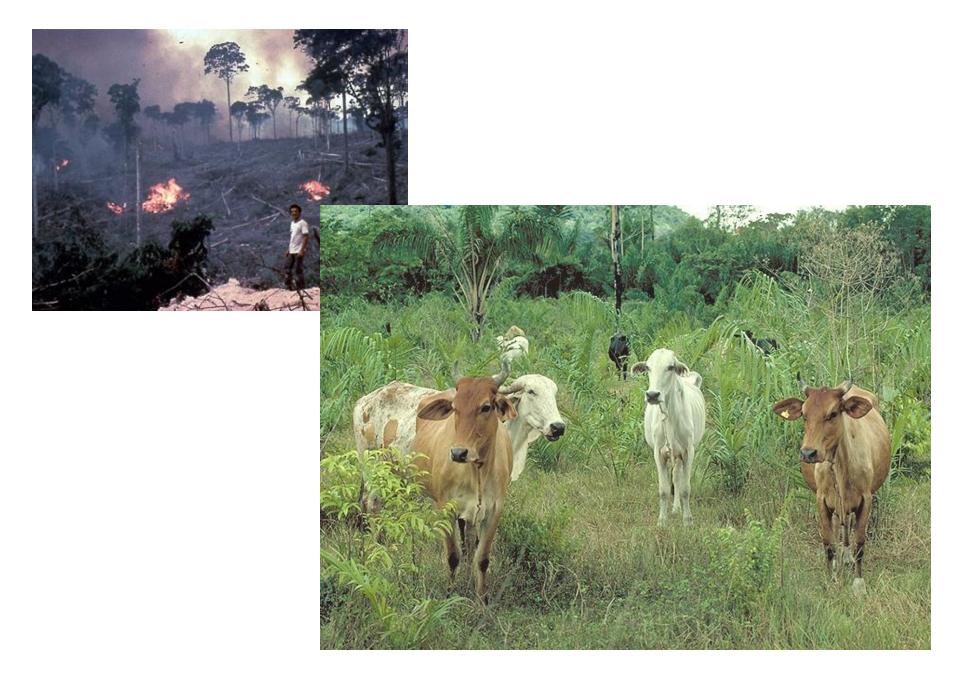
- Pasto Limpo
- Vegetação Secundária
- Pasto Sujo
- Regeneração com Pasto
- Área Não Observada
 - Agricultura Anual
- Mosaico de Ocupações
- Área Urbana
- Mineração
- Pasto com Solo Exposto
- Outros
- Desflorestamento 2008

0,5% 0,1% 0,1% 1,6% 3,4% 0,1% 4,9% 6,3% 6,7% 46,7% 8,7% 21,0% Abandoned areas= 36.4%

Terra Class 2011 – Fonte Embrapa e INPE









Poorly managed pastures: 5-10 yr use before abandonment

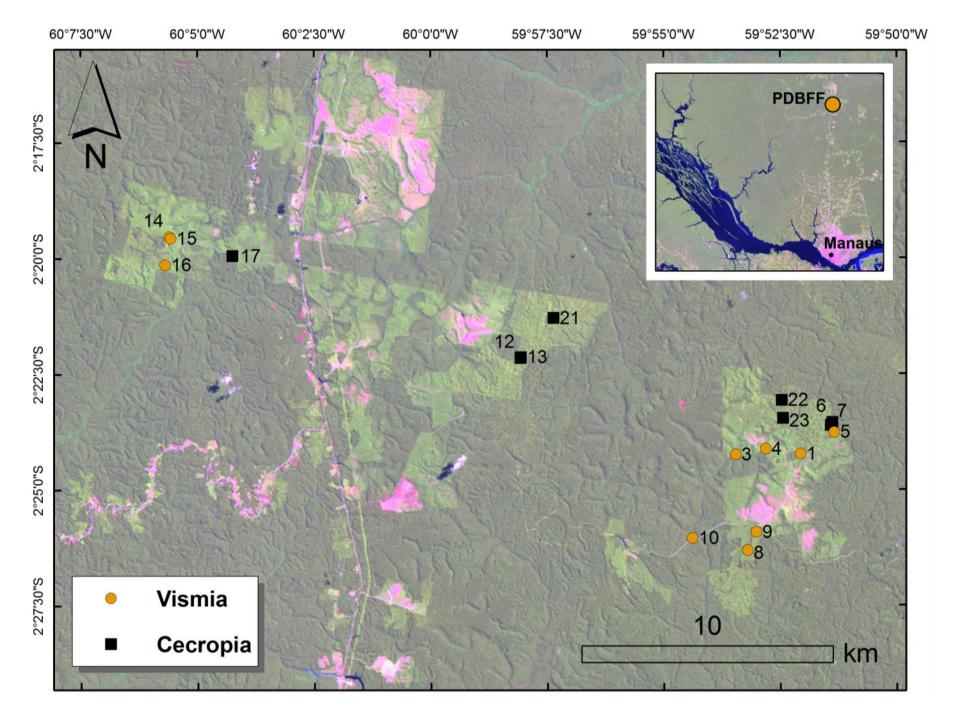


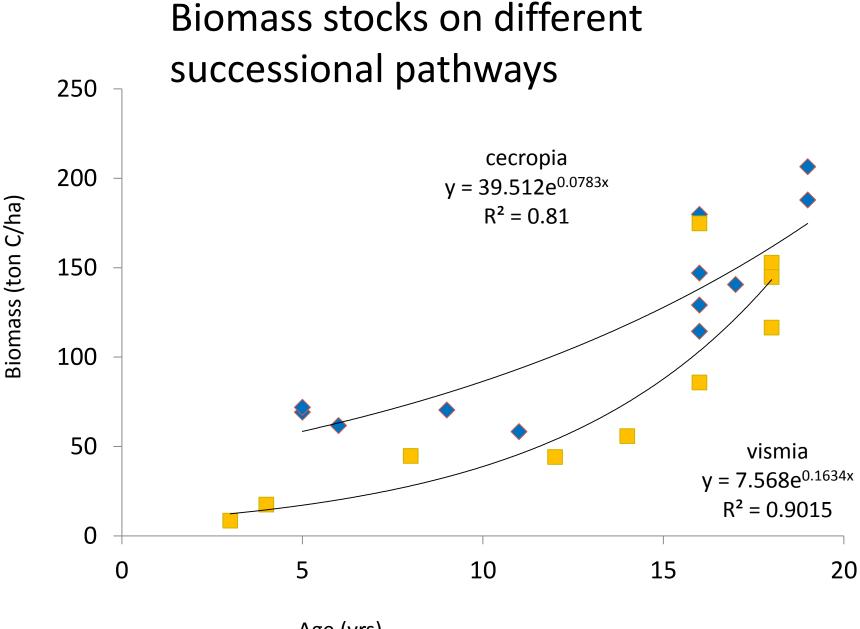




→ or new openings on primary forest

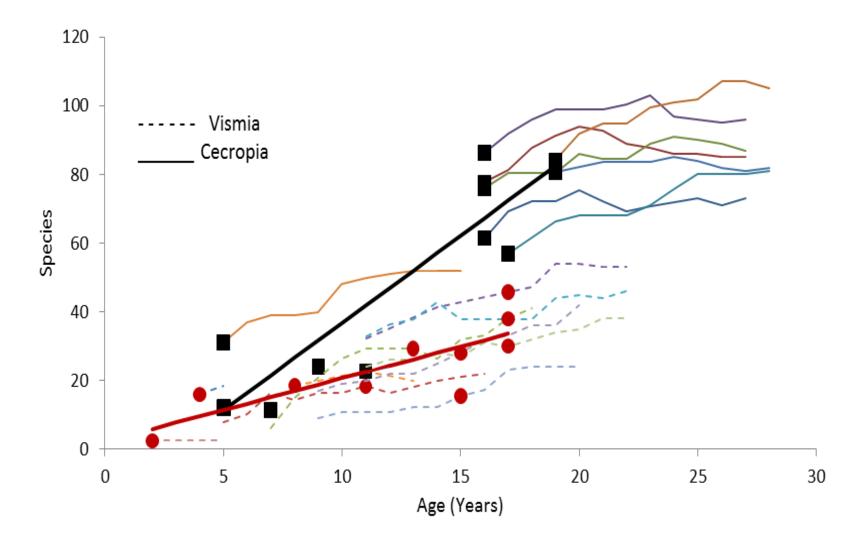
Secondary vegetation \rightarrow Fallow until more use





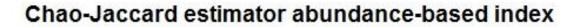
Age (yrs)

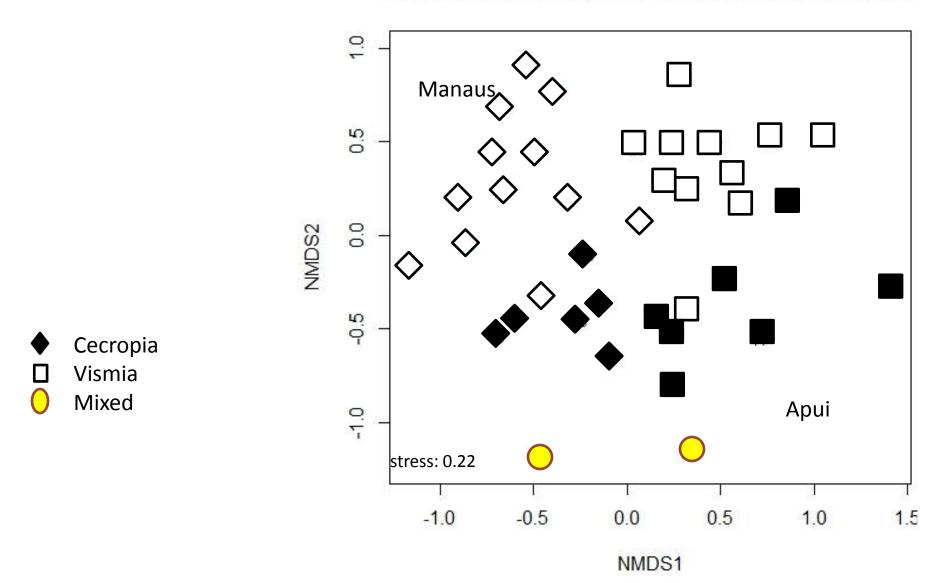
Changes in species density through time for *Vismia* transects (thin dashed lines) and *Cecropia* transects (thin solid lines).



Williamson et al, in press

Floristic composition





Conclusion

- Cecropia-dominated second growth has higher carbon stocks, and a larger number of plant species
- Succession advances more rapidly in areas with low-intensity use histories;
- areas abandoned after intensive use have their regeneration potential compromised.
- The environmental services of secondary forests in the Amazon are variable and depend on previous use history.

Contatos

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