



The Amazon from an International Law Perspective

By Beatriz Garcia

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With a vast river network and rainforests extending over eight South American countries, the Amazon plays a vital role particularly in maintaining biodiversity and terrestrial carbon storage. Due to its ecological characteristics, the Amazon benefits not only those states but also the international community at large. However, the Amazon forests are being rapidly cleared with a consequent loss of biodiversity and impact on global climate. This book examines whether international law has an impact on the preservation of the Amazon by inquiring into the forms of cooperation that exist among the Amazon countries, and between them and the international community, and to what extent international cooperation can help protect the Amazon. Given the role of this region in maintaining the balance of the global environment, the book examines whether the Amazon should be granted a special legal status and possible implications in terms of international cooperation.

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Editorial Review

Review

'This work's outstanding contribution to the broader literature on the Amazon ... is its welcome focus on the changing rights and duties of states over time, a subject that has generally received short shrift in studies essentially concerned with the magnitude of the environmental problem and one that has been confined hitherto mainly to the pages of international law journals.' Philip Chrimes, International Affairs

About the Author

Beatriz Garcia is a research fellow at the Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law at Sydney Law School. She completed her master's degree and Ph.D. at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. She has worked on the Biodiversity and Climate Change Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, particularly on projects related to the Amazon region, and has also held positions at government agencies in Brazil and at the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

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