

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791536703321
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Titolo	Assessment of the risk of Amazon dieback // Walter Vergara and Sebastian Scholz
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : The World Bank, , 2011
ISBN	1-282-96654-5 9786612966545 0-8213-8622-0
Descrizione fisica	xiv, 95 pages : illustrations (some color), color maps. ; ; 26 cm
Collana	World Bank study
Altri autori (Persone)	ScholzSebastian M
Disciplina	333.75/1409811
Soggetti	Climatic changes - Amazon River Region - Forecasting - Computer simulation Deforestation - Amazon River Region - Computer simulation Forest biomass - Carbon content - Amazon River Region - Computer simulation Forest microclimatology - Amazon River Region - Computer simulation Rain forest plants - Climatic factors - Amazon River Region - Computer simulation
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title Page; Copyright; Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; Acronyms and Abbreviations; 1. Introduction; 2. Modeling Future Climate in the Amazon Using the Earth Simulator; 3. Assessment of Future Rainfall over the Amazon Basin; 4. Analysis of Amazon Forest Response to Climate Change; 5. Interplay of Climate Impacts and Deforestation in the Amazon; 6. Conclusions; Appendixes; References; Back Cover
Sommario/riassunto	The Amazon basin is a key component of the global carbon cycle. Not only is the old-growth rainforests in the basin huge carbon storage with about 120 billion metric tons of carbon in their biomass, but they also process annually twice the rate of global anthropogenic fossil fuel emissions through respiration and photosynthesis. In addition, the basin is the largest global repository of biodiversity and produces about 20 percent of the world's flow of fresh water into the oceans.

Despite the large CO₂ efflux from recent deforestation, the Amazon rainforest is still considered to be a net carbon
