

The effectiveness of environmental policies on reducing deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS

The Effectiveness of Environmental Policies on Reducing Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon

by Silke Heuser

1. The role of environmental policies in reducing deforestation has been the creation of enforcement and incentive mechanisms for compliance with Brazil's forest code. (Chapter five).
2. Market signals are essential in both expanding and constraining deforestation, but in the end, they raise, rather than settle, the question of what role environmental policies play in reducing deforestation. (Chapter one).
3. Land titles provide indigenous communities with the opportunity to pursue traditional and modern livelihoods. (Chapter two).
4. Providing indigenous communities with land titles does not substantially curtail migration of individuals, who may circulate between urban and rural settings and thus create for themselves alternative livelihood opportunities (Chapter two).
5. Providing indigenous peoples with land titles does not show an immediate effect on deforestation. (Chapter three).
6. The dramatic decline in deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon between 2004 and 2012 can only be explained if one takes the effectiveness of environmental policies into account. (Chapter five).
7. Tropical forests, a traditional carbon sink, have recently become a net source of carbon emissions due to deforestation and forest fires; hence, prioritizing effective environmental policies, along with greater stewardship and responsibility towards forest preservation, can help to mitigate climate change.
8. Using a mixed methods approach enables researchers to shed more light on the impact of land titles, with insights into living conditions and personal experience enriching Amazon-wide data and satellite images.
9. An improved understanding of how Brazil's environmental policies overlap and interact on the ground will help the country make progress towards its forest-related Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) under the Paris Agreement.