

Analysis of the large-scale  
Biosphere Atmosphere  
Experiment in Amazonia (LBA)  
abstracts of June 2000

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# What is **LBA**?

LBA is an international research initiative led by Brazil, and is centered on two questions:

- 1 . How does the Amazonia currently function as a regional entity?
- 2 . How will changes in land use and climate affect the biological, chemical and physical functions of Amazonia, including the sustainability of development in the region and the influence of Amazonia on global climate?

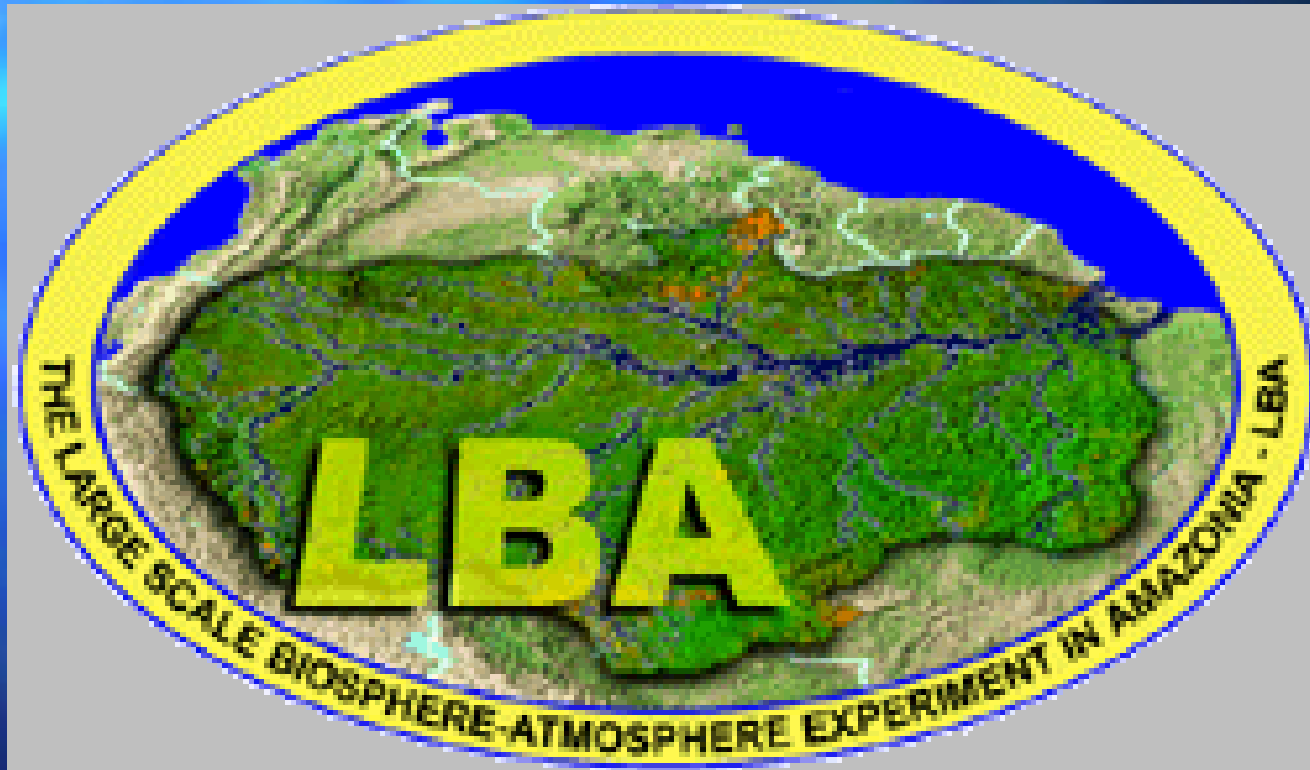
**The broad goal of the LBA research program is to improve the understanding of the effects of tropical forest conversion on ecosystem function and the sustainability of land use.**

**Based on these criteria, the research question of this component of the mini-project is:**

**Up to what extent  
have the two key  
questions posed by  
LBA have been  
currently  
answered?**

**To address this  
question a  
rapid appraisal  
of the book of  
abstracts from  
the first LBA  
scientific  
conference  
(Jun/00) was  
made.**

# First approach to the 1<sup>st</sup> LBA scientific conference abstracts



Amazonian countries: Equator, Peru,  
Colombia , Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil, Guyana

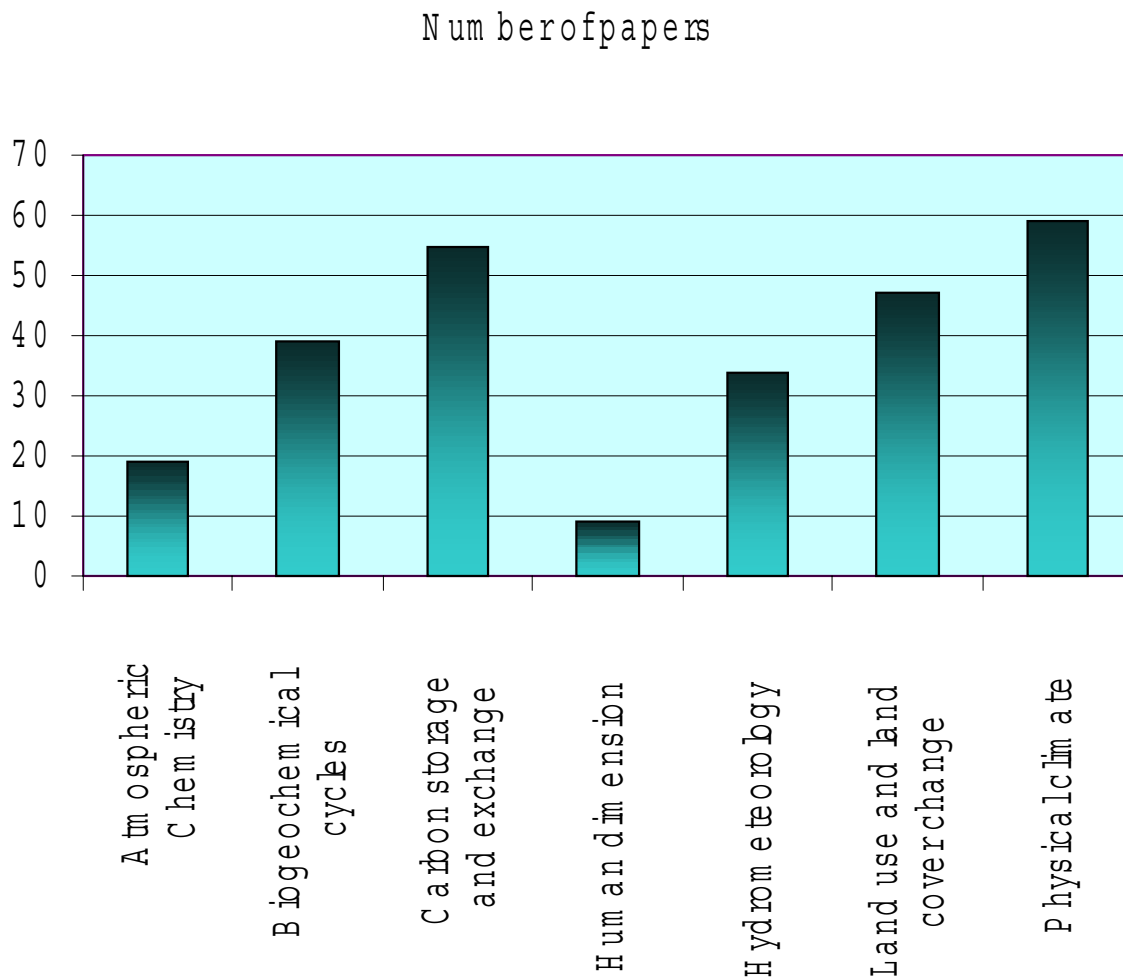
# Criteria for classification

**This first analysis of the abstracts focused on the LBA questions key words**

**“Sustainability of development” and “Regional entity”. They were used as indicators of the relevance of these issues in those papers.**

Emphasis on LUCC and human dimension papers

# Number of papers presented per general area



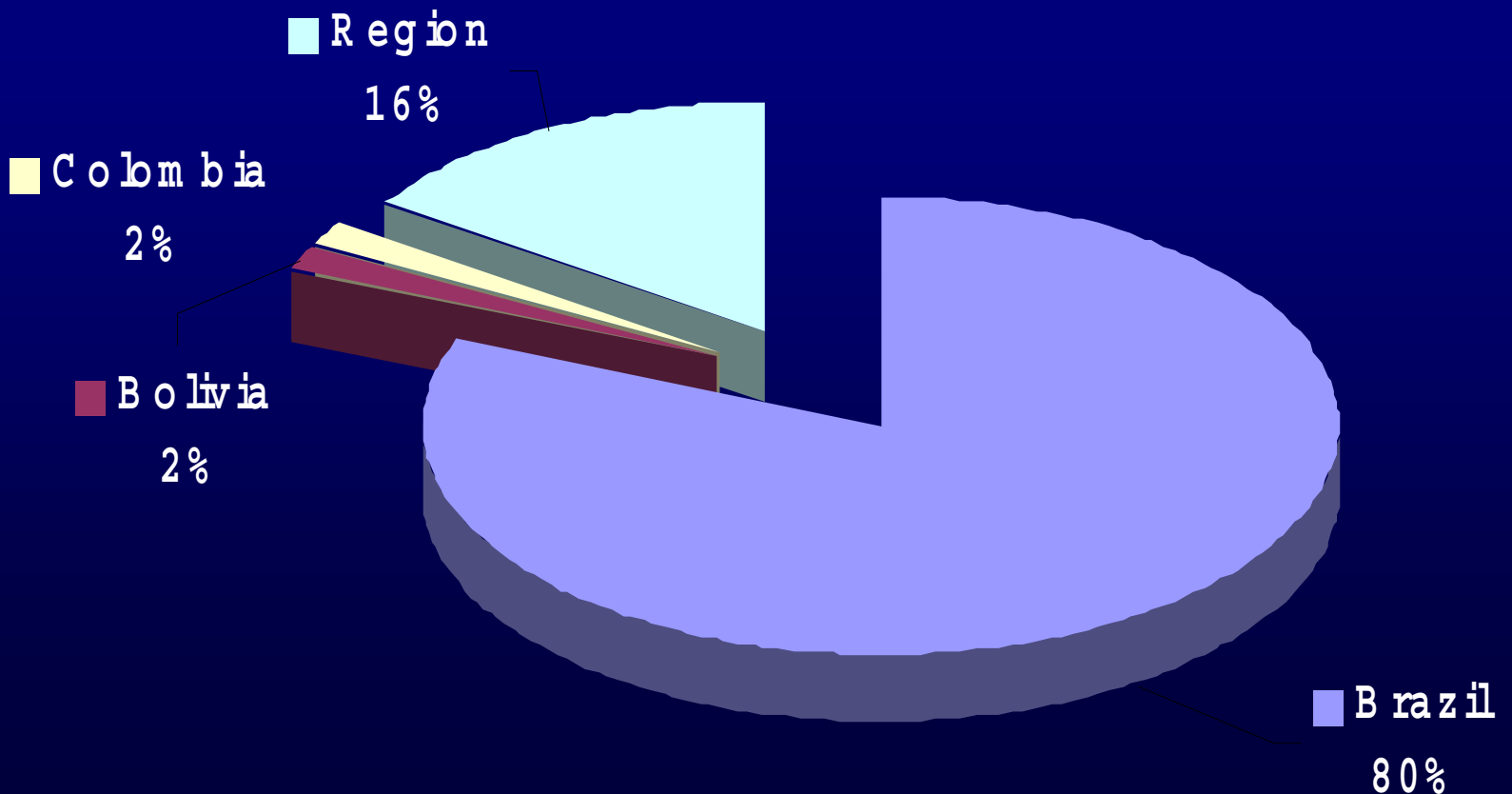
| General Areas                  | Number of papers |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Atmospheric Chemistry          | 19               |
| Biogeochemical cycles          | 39               |
| Carbon storage and exchange    | 55               |
| Human dimension                | 9                |
| Hydrometeorology               | 34               |
| Land use and land cover change | 47               |
| Physical climate               | 59               |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>262</b>       |

# Human dimension and LUCC papers (56 out of 262 )

| <i>F o c u s o n</i>   | <i>N</i>  |
|--|-----------|
| <i>A l t e r n a t i v e s o f p r o d u c t i o n</i>               | <i>1</i>  |
| <i>P o l i c i e s</i>   | <i>3</i>  |
| <i>S o c i o e c o n o m i c i n d i c a t o r s</i>                 | <i>2</i>  |
| <i>D e v e l o p m e n t ( A m a z o n i a )</i>                     | <i>1</i>  |
| <i>S u s t a i n a b l e d e v e l o p m e n t</i>                   | <i>0</i>  |
| <i>E d u c a t i o n</i>   | <i>1</i>  |
| <i>P o t e n t i a l R e g i o n a l<br/>i m p l i c a t i o n s</i> | <i>31</i> |
| <i>M i s c e l l a n e o u s</i>                                     | <i>19</i> |

# Papers by Country

## Human dimension and LUCC



# Conclusions of this preliminary analysis

**The two key questions of LBA are not being completely addressed:**

- **The regional focus is weak among the 262 papers.** The research effort is concentrated in the lower Amazonia basin, in Brasil.

- **The sustainable development issue is being overlooked**

Very little is being done regarding sustainable development of the region as a whole

# Recommendations

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- More in depth analysis of the those papers
- Dissemination of the results among the decision-making and policy level
- Re-evaluation of the research announcements criteria to emphasize sustainability of development and Amazonia as a Regional entity.