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Brazilian Environmental Policy Under Lula

Balancing Priorities

Brazil is a country of contrasts. It contains not only two of the largest cities in the southern hemisphere - São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, but also the majority of the Amazon and Pantanal, the largest remaining tropical forest in the world and one of the world's largest and most spectacular wetland systems, respectively.

These contrasts are also evident in Brazil's social realities. Despite extensive natural resource reserves, many Brazilians suffer under poverty, inequality and other social ills. Newly elected president Luis Inácio Lula da Silva must walk a fine line, balancing the need to improve social conditions, bolster the economy, and keep pace with constantly increasing energy demands against the need for conservation of resources and environmental preservation.

On May 1, 2003, *Brazil @ The Wilson Center*, in partnership with The Brazilian Embassy in Washington, The John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and Environment, Georgetown University's Brazilian Studies Program, and Astro Cafe was proud to host **Marina Silva, Brazil's Minister of State for the Environment**.



Marina Silva

From her beginnings with the rubber tappers' movement, and founding of the Central Workers union in the Amazon state of Acre to her rise through the ranks of local and federal government, the appointment of Marina Silva as Minister of the Environment is a testament to the evolution of environmental politics in Brazil. Outlining the Lula administration's plans during a May 1st meeting at the Wilson Center, Minister Silva stressed the promotion of economic development while simultaneously respecting and preserving the environment in Brazil.

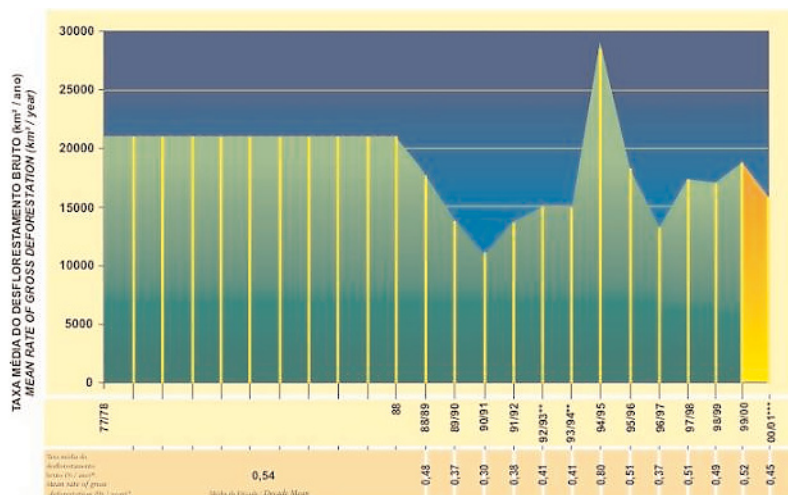
Minister Silva began by highlighting the holistic approach that Brazilian Environmental Policy will follow under the Lula administration. Lula's stated principle, "I do not want a Ministerial environmental policy... I want a governmental environmental policy," will form the basis for Brazilian environmental policies, which will be designed to address three broad agendas known as "brown, blue, and green."

⇒ The brown agenda is mainly concerned with the processing and disposal of solid waste in an environmentally friendly manner. To this end,

a national solid waste policy is being established, which will also promote social inclusion and create jobs.

⇒ The blue agenda is focused on air pollution and recovery of rivers and riparian buffers. This agenda also includes a joint program with the Ministry of Cities which addresses urban pollution problems and will attempt to improve environmental conditions for disadvantaged populations in urban centers. Additionally, a national policy for water resources, will include a new program that provides potable water through a cistern network in regions where it may not be readily available. 30,000 such cisterns have been built with the help of FEBRABAN (privately owned Brazilian Federation of Banks) in the arid Brazilian Northeast. An additional 200,000 are planned for next year with the ultimate goal of 1 million projected for the end of Lula's tenure.

⇒ The green agenda is based on a concept that emphasizes the agricultural development while respecting forest conservation. Minister Silva underscored the success of policies adopted during the former administration and noted that



Source: INPE, 2002

henceforth the approval of agricultural projects will depend on their environmental impact assessments.

In addressing these agendas, the Ministry of Environment will follow four overarching guidelines:

- ⇒ First, the government will seek to strengthen the articulation and coordination of all environmental policies undertaken by agencies in both federal and state administrative spheres.
- ⇒ Second, the government will attempt to apply the concept of transversality to the planning and execution of environmental policy. In accordance with this concept, all governmental policies should consider the relevance of environmental concerns and will be designed in manner to avoid conflict with environmental policy. For Minister Silva, the primary step will

be to educate other ministers to consider the environment variable when designing their respective policies.

⇒ Third, the government will stimulate the participation of civil society in controlling environmental policy.

⇒ Finally, Brazilian environmental

policies must be realistic in the sense that they should not preclude the economic development of a country rich in natural resources, which desperately needs to provide a better standard of living for the 50 million

Brazilians who live to below the poverty line. As Minister Silva stated, "We want a model in which sustainable development will promote the social inclusion of the millions of Brazilians [living below the poverty line]."

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Golden Lion Tamarin at Poço das Antas, RJ

Public Policy Scholar Competition 2003

The application period for The Brazilian Ministry of Culture's Public Policy Scholar competition has ended. The topic of the current competition is *The Influence of Race and Social Inequality on Brazilian and American Culture*.

Grantees will spend a two month period in residence at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC and will be announced on our homepage at www.wilsoncenter.org/brazil by June 16th, 2003.

Thinking Brazil is a publication of **Brazil @ the Wilson Center**. This project is founded on the conviction that Brazil and the U.S.-Brazilian relationship deserve to receive better attention in Washington. Brazil's population, size, and economy, as well as its unique position as a regional leader and global player fully justify this interest. In response, and in keeping with the Center's mission to bridge scholarly research and public action, **Brazil @ the Wilson Center** sponsor activities designed to create a "presence" for Brazil in Washington that captures the attention of the policymaking community. **Brazil @ the Wilson Center** is grateful for the support of the Ministry of Culture of Brazil, ADM, Cargill, Chevron-Texaco, FMC, and GE Foundation.

For comments and to request copies of this publication, please e-mail Alex Parlini at parliniaj@wwic.si.edu.



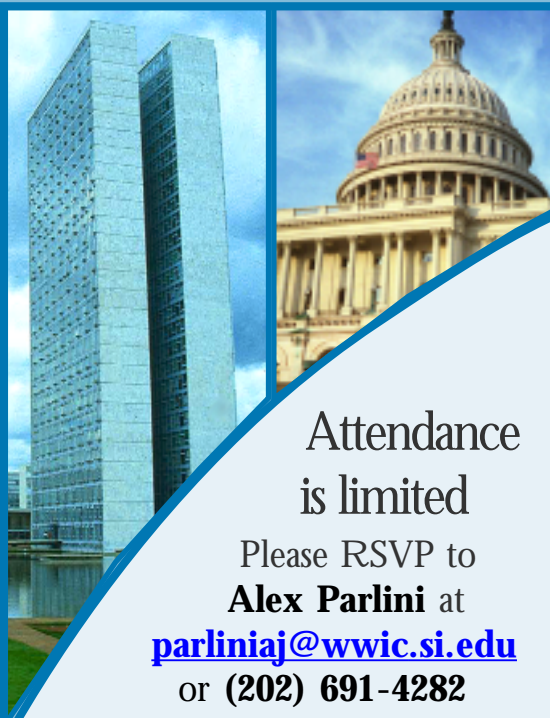
Brazil and the United States in a Changing World

Political, Economic, and Diplomatic Relations in Regional and International Contexts

June 4, 2003

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

6th Floor Auditorium

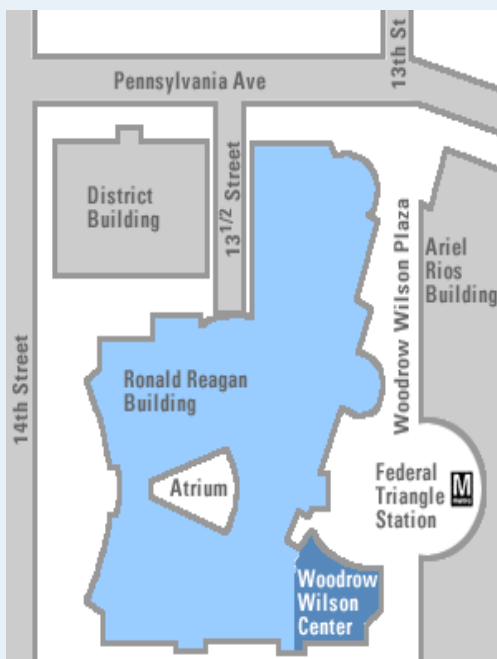


Attendance
is limited

Please RSVP to
Alex Parlini at

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or (202) 691-4282

-For security purposes, please
bring a photo ID and allow extra
time to enter the building



Opening: **Ambassador Rubens Antonio Barbosa**

Luncheon: Keynote **Amb. Roger F. Noriega**,
Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere
Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Panel 1: US-Brazil Relations in a Historical
Perspective

- Lincoln Gordon**, The Brookings Institution
- Paulo Roberto de Almeida**, Brazilian Embassy

Comments:

- Thomas Skidmore**, Brown University
- Carlos Henrique Cardim**, Brazilian Embassy

Panel 2: Parallel Paths of Development and
Economic Interdependence

- John DeWitt**, US Department of State, ret.
- Eliana Cardoso**, Visiting Scholar, Georgetown U.

Comments:

- Joseph Love**, University of Illinois, Urbana
- Marshall C. Eakin**, Vanderbilt University
- Eduardo Viola**, REL-UnB

Panel 3: Bilateral/Regional Trade and
Hemispheric/Multilateral Negotiations

- Jeffrey Schott**, IIE
- Rubens A. Barbosa**, Brazilian Embassy

Comments:

- Marcelo de Paiva Abreu**, BID, PUC-RJ
- Paolo Giordano**, BID

Panel 4: Prospects for Bilateral Relations in 2003
and the Future

- Peter Hakim**, Inter-American Dialogue
- Thomaz Guedes da Costa**, NDU

Comments:

- William Perry**, Consultant
- Maria Regina Soares de Lima**, IUPERJ
- Luis Bitencourt**, Brazil @ The Wilson Center

Conclusions: **Ambassador Rubens Antonio Barbosa**



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