

Module 2 Response *For Our Common Home*

Lesson 1

# Integral Ecology

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

**Where and what is the Amazon basin?**

**How are rainforests (and in particular the Amazon rainforest) important?**

**What is going on in the Amazon rainforest today that is causing global concern?**

**What is meant by integral ecology in *Laudato Si'*?**

## TEACHER PREPARATION

**Download and Set Up**

the accompanying PowerPoint presentation

**Print**

this lesson plan, so that you can follow the power point as directed herein

**Print/Copy**

one complete set of pictures in color for each grouping of four students, (and cut into individual pictures) for a total of 42 pictures for each group

**Print/Copy**

one complete set of picture titles for each grouping of four students (and cut up into individual blocks) for a total of 26 titles for each group

**Prep**

one box of paper clips

**Prep**

pre-cut paper (one 8 ½” x 11” paper divided into four)

*Note: In CREATE, students will be asked to write down one or two questions that they have; the pre-cut paper will be used for them to record their questions to submit to you. These questions become an important part of the next lesson.*

**Read**

The PowerPoint entitled *Teacher Additional Information* provides a much deeper look into the issues, beyond what you’ll have time to cover in the classroom.

**Teacher Notes**

The exercise of **categorizing and titling** will take up most of the lesson time. It is an important pedagogical tool that invites students to make connections and share thinking to arrive at a deeper level of understanding.

The appendix provides sources for each of the **pictures** in case students wish to learn more about the situations they depict. If preferred, the teacher may choose to print off only a portion of the **pictures** and **picture titles** provided.

## LESSON PLAN

### IGNITE

Project Slide 1 before class begins.

#### Ask the students:

- What do you know about the Amazon region?
- Where is it?
- Why is it important to the world?

Project Slides 1 - 12

with BRIEF discussion after each. This should take no more than 10 minutes total time.

Project Slide 13 video (3:43) [Amazon lungs of our planet BBC](#)



#### Video links:

[Amazon, lungs of our planet by the BBC](#)

### IMMERSE

Project Slide 14 and ask students

- What is going on in the Amazon rainforest right now?

Note what has changed or not changed since 2014.

Categorizing of Pictures

Students form groups of four. Give each group a set of pictures (42 pictures). Ask them to *create categories for the pictures*. Once they have agreed upon the categories, invite students to give each category a *title*.

Invite groups to look at *one other group's* categorization and titles. One person from each group should stay behind to explain their categories. Students should take non-judgemental note of similarities and differences with their own categories.

### COALESCE

**Give each group the title words in the appendix for the pictures (not all pictures have title words).**

Have students place each title beside the picture that it best describes until none remain.

Invite students to *move pictures into other categories* and/or *rename categories*, now that they have additional information. As a group, discuss impacts of what they see.

Invite a *spokesperson* from each group to choose *one of their categories* and explain the group's understanding of what is happening in the Amazon rainforest. No group should repeat a category that has already been named (if possible). Name the impacts that the group discussed.

#### Pope Francis says in Laudato Si':

"Today, in view of the common good, there is urgent need or politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life." (LS, 189) and "Politics and the economy tend to blame each other when it comes to poverty and environmental degradation. It is to be hoped that they can acknowledge their own mistakes and find forms of interaction directed to the common good. While some are concerned only with financial gain, and others with holing on to or increasing their power, what we are left with are conflicts or spurious agreements where the last thing either party is concerned about is caring for the environment and protecting those who are most vulnerable." (LS198)

**DISCUSS** with students what will have become quite apparent in their work.

*Everything is interconnected:* economy, politics, social structure, culture, ecological systems, and life. This is what Pope Francis terms *Integral Ecology*. *Everything affects everything else. It is all inter-related and inter-connected.*

PROJECT slide 15

This slide is a definition of *Integral Ecology from Laudato Si'*.

Ask each group to use a paperclip to put all their *groups' pictures together* and another paperclip to put all the *picture titles together*, and to assemble these into one pile, put the pile back in the envelope, and return to the teacher.

## **CREATE**

### **Ask students:**

When you think about what you learned today, what further questions do you have about things you saw, discussed, or discovered?

Write one question down on the paper provided and give them to your teacher to be used in tomorrow's lesson.

Further opportunities for CREATE will emerge into Lessons 3-5.

Please consider making a donation to support our mission at Development and Peace – working with partner organizations in the Global South who promote alternatives to unfair social, political and economic structures, and educating Canadians about the causes of poverty and mobilizing towards actions for change.

## Picture titles

As fires ravage the Amazon- Indigenous tribes **pray** for protection

Illegal gold mining

Ruins of the Brazilian town of Bento Rodrigues destroyed after a **tailings dam collapsed** at a Vale facility in 2015. This same thing happened to the town of Brumadinho in Jan 2019.

Indigenous peoples, guardians of nature, strive to protect their **way of life** while under siege

**Rerouting** the Xingu river to build the Belo Monte hydroelectric dam

A **ruptured pipe** spilled 10,000 barrels of crude oil upstream into a tributary of the Amazon river

**Ranching** is the leading source of **deforestation** in the Amazon region. Jungles are cleared to create pastures for grazing, but because farmers do not invest in soil health, the land slowly degrades. As grasslands deteriorate, so do farming incomes, leading ranchers to deforest new tracts—a vicious cycle.

**Oil pipelines** carry oil from nearby wells across the Shiripuno River, which flows directly through Yasuni National Park.

Under pressure from land grabs, Brazil's indigenous communities fight back

Eviction of landless community in Brazil ends up in the **massacre** of ten people by police

After extensive investigations regarding the **Belo Monte dam**, federal public prosecutors conclude that the **Brazilian government's development model** promotes the destruction of the social organization, customs, languages and traditions of indigenous peoples.

Londolfo Aranha Neto, 59, **casts his net** among tree-tops at the edge of the Belo Monte Dam reservoir. He is among thousands of fisher families displaced by the flooding of the Xingu River. The once-rich fishing grounds yield far fewer fish than before and fishers constantly snag their nets on submerged trees.

Communities near hydroelectric dam suffer **increased flooding** and the water is contaminated with raw sewage. Many inhabitants have contracted dengue fever.

**Guardians of the Forests** in the Arariboia indigenous reserve in Maranhao state, Jan 31, 2019.

Brazil's huni-kuin indigenous people count the **social costs** of fire and conflict

Mura children near Manaus

Indigenous peoples call for urgent action to protect the Amazon

Growing movement builds unity to defend Indigenous Brazil

The government ran a **road** through indigenous territory to give access to miners, loggers and farmers. Disease killed at least 2/3 of the indigenous population within a few years.

NK-BP, BP's Russian oil venture, sealed a \$1 billion deal for a 45% stake in 21 **oil and gas exploration blocks** deep in Brazil's Amazon rainforest.

New **soy** driven forest destruction exposed

The contrast between **forest and agricultural** landscapes. Many people from the logging and mining companies think the only way to solve problems is by killing the people who defend the forest.

Rainforests play critical role in **climate change** but are also affected by climate change.

Over 36 years, Chevron dumped 68 billion litres of **oil and toxic waste** into the Ecuadorean Amazonia region, causing devastation to the land, contamination of the water, many human illnesses and death, poisoned animals and displaced and killed indigenous tribes. Around 50,000 sq kms remain affected. The case was famously documented in the 2009 film "**Crude**".

The **tapping of rubber trees** that grow wild in the Amazon rainforest is an important economic activity for the livelihood of many living in the rainforest.

The Belem-Brazilia **road** was the first development road into Amazonia.





















For our  
**COMMON  
HOME**

## A future for the Amazon, a future for all

The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest. Like other tropical rainforests, it plays a vital role in regulating the Earth's climate and is one of our best defenses against catastrophic climate change. The post-Amazonian region is a rich, complex biome that feeds up to a third of the world's population. It is also home to more than 30 million people, including more than 100 indigenous groups, each with their own culture, traditions and languages.

Climate change and resource exploitation are driving Amazonia to a "point of no return" characterized by deforestation, pollution and displacement. Our insatiable demand for gold, iron, oil, wood, coal and soy is fueling the destruction of its fragile land and water resources. Invasive species are rapidly altering the life of many organisms, including freshwater fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and other traditional communities. These people have honored sustainable modes of living, have protected the forests for centuries. The women and men who defend their human rights have resilience, organization and determination to stand, teach, lead and fight. Defenders have even been killed. Protecting them is the key to protecting the Amazon and ensuring our common future for future generations.

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