AMAZONICA

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A study by several members of the RAINFOR and AMAZONICA projects was recently published in the Geophysical Research Letter. The study reports on an intensification of the hydrological cycle of the world's largest catchment, the Amazon basin, over the last two decades. It is based on an analysis of river and precipitation records over the last 100 years. The intensification is concentrated in the wet season and driving increasingly greater differences in peak and minimum flows. The data also show an increase in extreme events.

These results are somewhat unexpected as most Earth system models predict a drying of the Amazon basin in a warming world. Although the results suggest the mechanism of change in the Basin is a bit different from predictions, the increase in extreme floods and droughts affects negatively both livelihoods and the forests.

A PDF of the published version of the article is available from the AMAZONICA website. The work has also been reported on various websites including Mongabay.com (http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0514-amazon-discharge.html) and an associated picture can be viewed here: http://especiais.ig.com.br/zoom/estiagem-na-amazonia/.

Emanuel Gloor, University of Leeds

24th – 27th March 2014

The final AMAZONICA Meeting took place at **São Luiz do Paraitinga, Brazil**. Close to 50 participants from all over the world travelled to Brazil for the project meeting, which was combined with another joint Brazilian - UK project (ECOFOR) from 28th-29th March.