

Cities, Water and the Amazon:

Challenges from COP30



Amazon River, Brazil
Photo: Nautilus International
Development Consulting, April 2025

There is an opportunity for global leaders to take transformative actions when the United Nations' annual conference about climate change (UNFCCC – COP30) takes place this November in Belém, Brazil at the mouth of the Amazon River. Not only are the stakes high for the Amazon, but 2025 will mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Accords. In recognition that global mobilization and international dialogue are needed, this program brings together speakers in both Brazil and New York for an afternoon of interconnected events in parallel with key challenges from the action agenda of COP30. Join us in-person in New York City at Cornell Tech's new net-zero energy campus and online internationally.

Date: **Saturday, November 15th, 2025 from 2-6 pm (NYC) / 16h-20h (Brazil)**

Educational Workshop - *Global Sustainability: Americans and the Amazon*

Coffee & Conversation

Panel Discussion - *Linear Riverfront Parks as Climate Infrastructure*

Closing Remarks & Connections

Location: **Gensler Family AAP NYC Center**, Cornell Tech Campus, Tata Innovation Center, 11 E Loop Road, 4th Floor (near Tram, Ferry and F subway), Roosevelt Island, NY

Cost: **Free**

Registration: Join us for any or all events in-person or online. **[Click here to register](#)**

Co-Sponsors: **American Planning Association** (APA) NYMetro Chapter Waterfront Committee; and **Cornell University**, Gensler Family Architecture Art Planning (AAP) NYC Center

For a full description of the events and the speakers, continue to the next page...



American Planning Association
New York Metro Chapter

CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER OR
SCAN QR CODE



Cornell AAP
Architecture Art Planning

Cities, Water and the Amazon: Challenges from COP30

Saturday, November 15th, 2025 from 2 - 6 pm NY / 16h – 18h Brazil

Educational Workshop

2 - 3:40 pm NY / 16h – 17h40 Brazil

Global Sustainability: Americans and the Amazon

One of the most urgent issues facing the planet is the future of the Amazon rainforest, the largest aquatic ecosystem in the world. As the situation is nearing a tipping point, we will explore how cities currently benefit from its vital services and how urbanites can actively participate in making a difference to safeguard it. At this educational workshop, we will first step back and look at the global context, the international environmental order, and the role of Brazil. Then - along with news directly from the conference - we will hear an overview of COP30 and its host city, Belém. A key question throughout will be what role the Amazon plays in Americans' lives, and what they can do to support meaningful climate action.

Moderator: Robert W. Balder, *Executive Director*, Cornell University, Gensler Family AAP NYC Center, and *Co-Chair*, APA NYMetro Waterfront Committee

Speakers: Wagner Costa Ribeiro, PhD, *Cive-Mayor of the Capital-Butantã Campus*, and *Full Professor*, Department of Geography, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Olga Lúcia Castreghini de Freitas, PhD, *Coordinator*, Research Program on COP30 in Belém (PA): *from opportunities for urban transformations to challenges for participation and social control*

Coffee & Conversation

3:40 - 4 pm NY / 17h40 – 18h Brazil

Panel Discussion

4 - 5:35 pm NY / 18h – 19h35 Brazil

Linear Riverfront Parks as Climate Infrastructure - Case Studies

Repurposing public parks along riverfronts to double as climate infrastructure has been a winning strategy in several major cities. Following a general overview of how this innovative approach can be used to integrate both natural and engineered elements for improved resiliency, this panel will explore riverfront parks in three cities. In São Paulo, the Parque Linear Bruno Covas has become a highly popular recreational destination. In New York, the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project—now under construction but partially open at Wagner Park—deploys a range of measures to protect over 120 buildings and four major tunnels in Lower Manhattan. And in Belém, in preparation for COP30, the Tamandaré and Docas Linear Parks have been reconstructed in time for the UN Climate Change Conference.

Moderator: Bonnie A. Harken, AIA, WEDG, *President*, Nautilus International Development Consulting, Inc., and *Co-Chair*, APA NYMetro Waterfront Committee

Speakers: Michel Farah, *Executive Director*, Linear Park Bruno Covas, São Paulo, Brazil
Gonzalo Cruz, ASLA, *Vice President, Design Principal*, NYC LAUD (Landscape Architecture & Urban Design) Studio, AECOM
Maria Goretti da Costa Tavares, *Chair*, Focus on COP, and *Professor*, Postgraduate Program in Geography, Federal University of Pará (UFPA)

Closing Remarks & Connections

5:35 - 6 pm NY / 19h35 – 20h Brazil

*We are grateful for the support of this program by Cornell University
and Nautilus International Development Consulting, Inc.*



Cornell AAP
Architecture Art Planning

CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER OR
SCAN QR CODE

