Brazil’s maritime dimensions demonstrate the importance of the sea for the country. Besides the coastal region, Brazil also has 4.5 million square kilometers of jurisdictional waters that stand out for the presence of important natural riches and fundamental lines of trade and communication. In order to highlight the vital importance of this area for the country, the Brazilian Navy (MB) coined the expression Blue Amazon.

Through its strategic programs, the Navy develops means of action that allow it to maintain surveillance and control over the Blue Amazon. Among these programs is the Blue Management System (SisGAAz), whose main purpose is the integrated monitoring and control of the country’s jurisdictional waters and of the international search and rescue area under the responsibility of the MB, contributing to its to its capacity to timely respond to threats aggression, illegality, emergency or environmental disaster. Besides its importance for the surveillance of national waters, the system stands out for being a technology-intensive program. However, despite its importance for the security and defense of Brazilian waters, the program, started in 2009, has been undergoing a phase of reformulation since 2015 for budgetary reasons, in the midst of the economic crisis in which the country found itself.

In this sense, the objective of this work is to demonstrate the importance of the development and implementation of SisGAAz for the surveillance of the Blue Amazon, presenting the main implications of its interruption, as well as possible alternatives. To accomplish this goal, the paper is structured in five sections, including an introductory section. In the second section, a brief characterization of the Blue Amazon is presented, including its legal definitions and geographic delimitations, besides the main potentialities and vulnerabilities present in it. The third section focuses on the treatment given to the Blue Amazon by the national defense policies, as well as the main surveillance and control systems. The fourth section is dedicated to the evaluation of the SisGAAz, describing it, presenting its history and pointing out viable alternatives. Finally, the conclusion
presents the final considerations, as well as the main result and implications for public policies.

Delays in the development of SisGAAz can have significant negative effects not only for Brazilian maritime security, but also for its scientific-technological development. Besides depriving Brazil of a strategic system for the protection of a vital area, the reformulation of the program implies the interruption of part of the country’s scientific and technological development, making it difficult to obtain important technologies and widening the considerable gap between Brazil and the developed countries.

However, the reformulation of the SisGAAz does not mean its complete invalidation. Although not ideal for the Navy’s needs, other command and control systems remain in full operation, which ensures the capacity for surveillance and protection, even if far from what is intended. Besides this, other auxiliary systems allow the maintenance of some capabilities necessary for the program, even if in a partial and not very comprehensive way, minimizing the damage of its partial development.

Although the ideal is the maintenance of the program and its accomplishment according to the initially planned, the delay in the development of SisGAAz should not imply the abandonment of its final objective: the surveillance and protection of the Blue Amazon. The set of potentialities and vulnerabilities present in these waters make it imperative that the Brazilian state maintains adequate surveillance of this area, so that the country does not lose its wealth or be exposed to threats. Even if this objective can be pursued by other means, it is a partial achievement, since they fall short of the desired capacity that should be provided by the SisGAAz. Therefore, it is fundamental that the state is aware of the importance of prioritizing investment in SisGAAz, since this system will contribute in a large scale to guarantee effective Brazilian sovereignty in the Blue Amazon, so that its valuable economic potential can be effectively explored and translated into socioeconomic development. Therefore, it is necessary that there be reinvestment in the defense and security sectors, which ultimately constitute the pillars that provide an adequate and safe environment for national development.