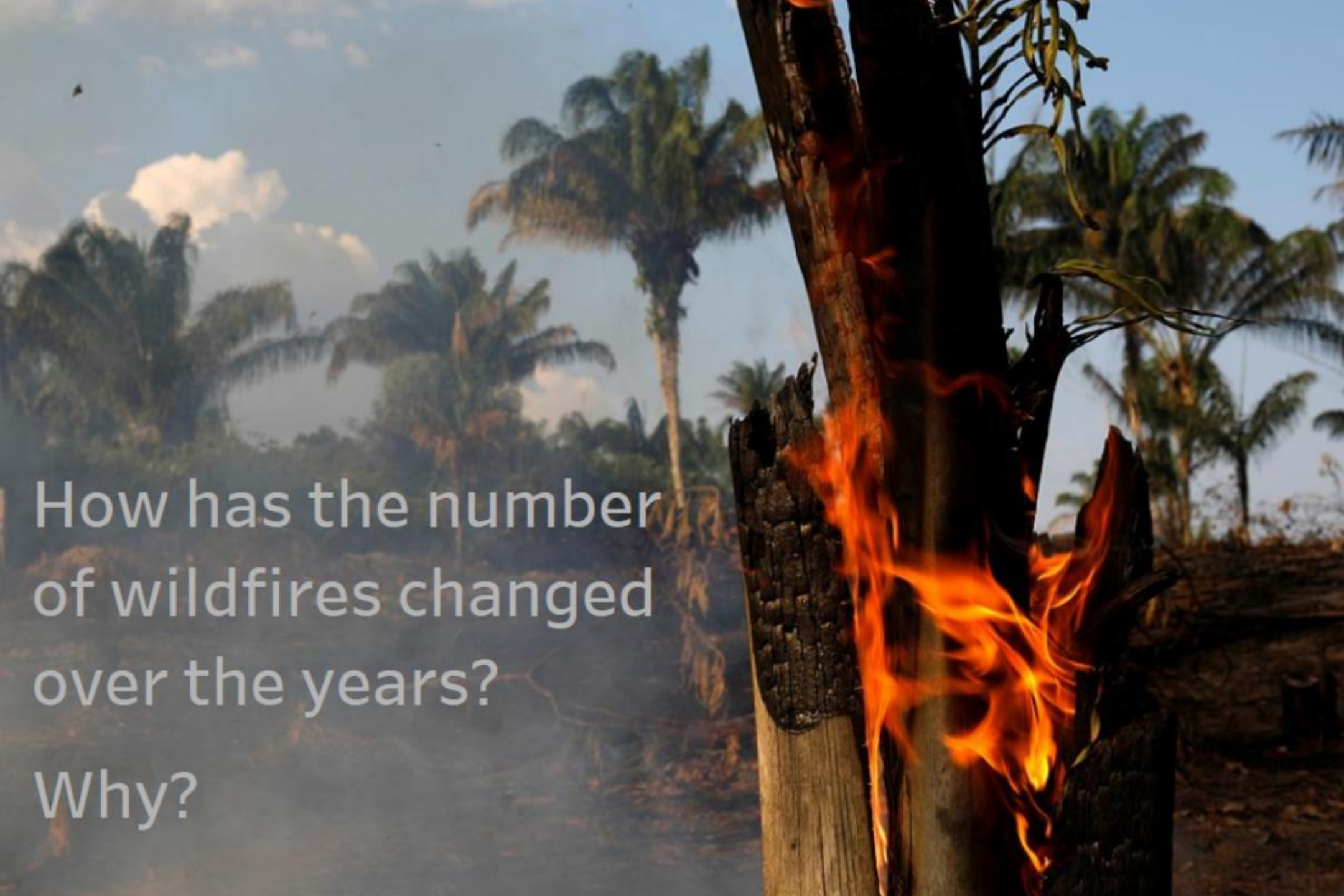


Wildfires in Brazil

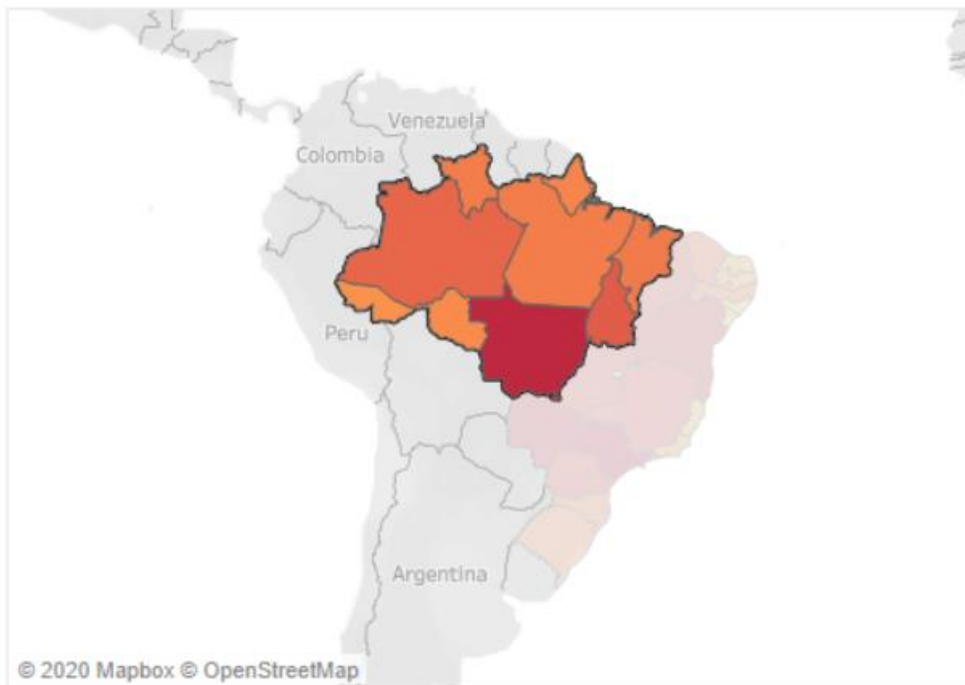
A photograph showing a tree trunk in the foreground, partially engulfed in bright orange and yellow flames. The tree trunk is dark and charred. In the background, there is a dense forest of palm trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene suggests a wildfire in a tropical environment.

How has the number
of wildfires changed
over the years?
Why?

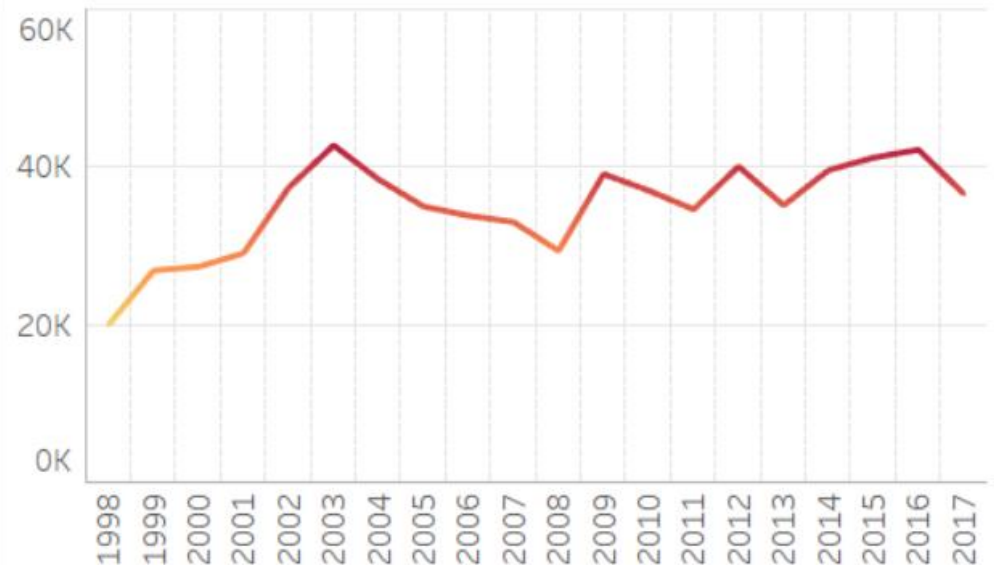
Occurrence of wildfires in Brazil in the period 1998-2017

Wildfires occur all over Brazil. A closer look at the **Amazonas region** (northern part of the country) reveals that the combined 9 states have a high frequency of cases, considering that this region is just forest.

An increasing trend of wildfires occurrence is observed for the whole country over the years. A steep increase in the number of fires is observed up to 2003, and then the trend decreases steadily until 2008.



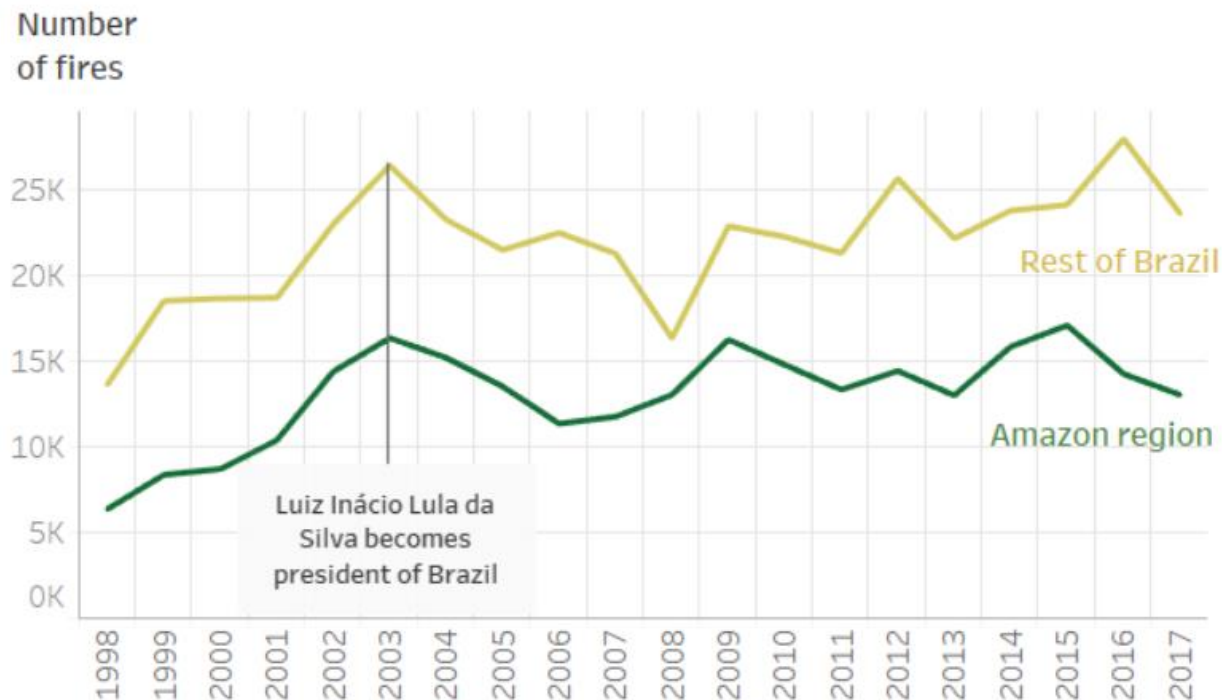
Number of fires



Environmental laws: wishful thinking?

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva promised to take action to tackle global warming. He pledged to reduce deforestation by 80% by 2020. This might explain the decrease in number of wildfires in the period 2003-2005.

However, **an increase in the number of fires in the Amazon region from 2005 onwards** reveals that the implementation of policies over the years did not have an impact in the deforestation in the country over the years.



The deforestation data reveals that the total forest area loss in Brazil from 1998 to 2017 **amounts to almost the size of Germany!**

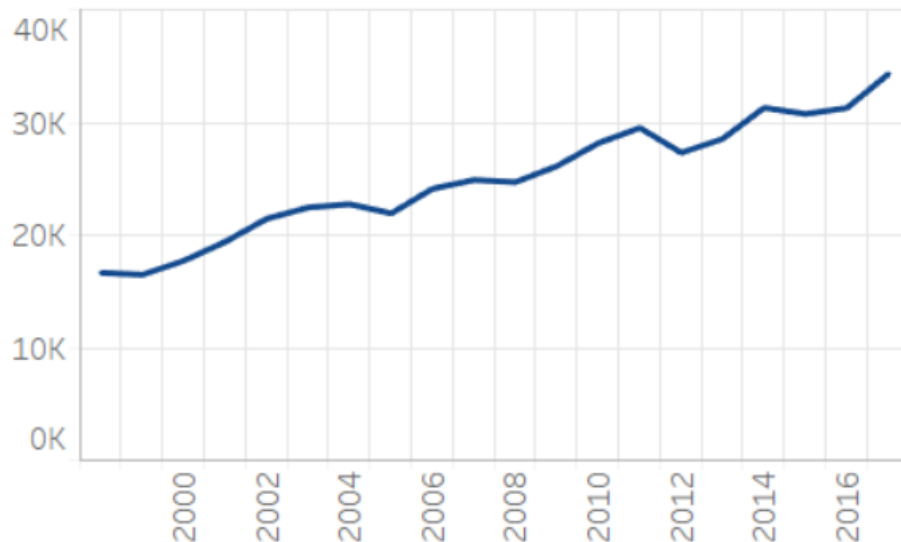
Loss of
forest area (%)



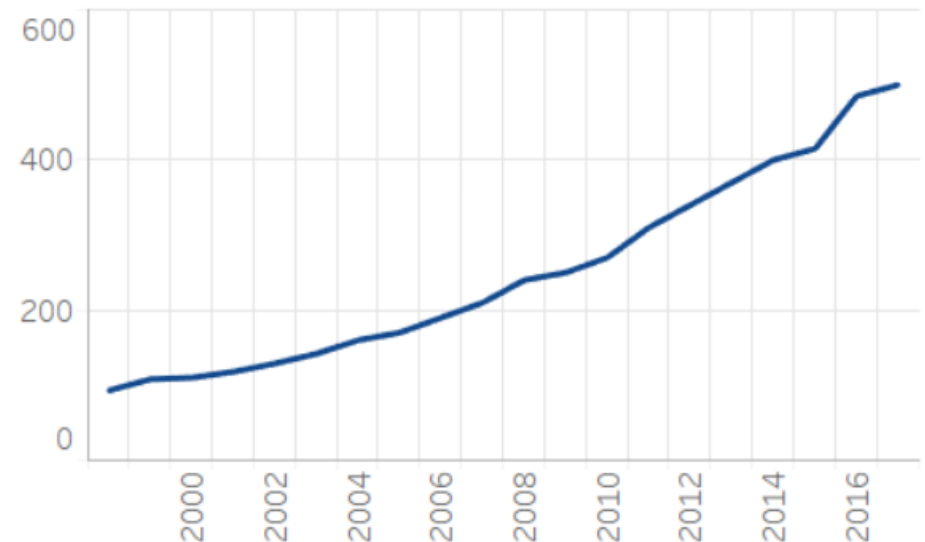
Environmental protection vs. commodities demand

The decrease in forest area is correlated to the increase in agricultural activities due to the high demand for soy, palm oil and cattle, which are harvested in the amazonas region. The production of these commodities has hiked steadily in the last 20 years.

Production of soy beans
in 1000 Mtons



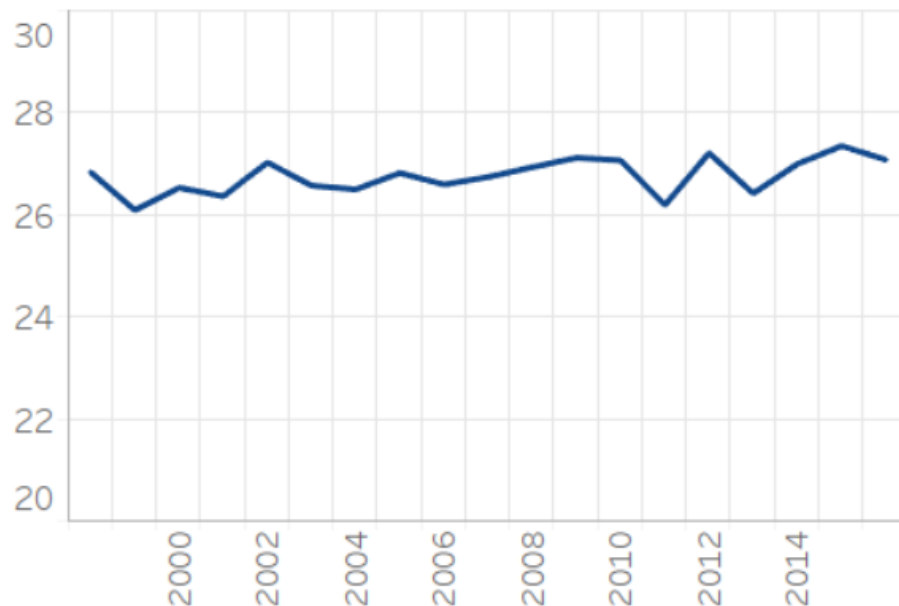
Production of palm oil
in 1000 Mtons



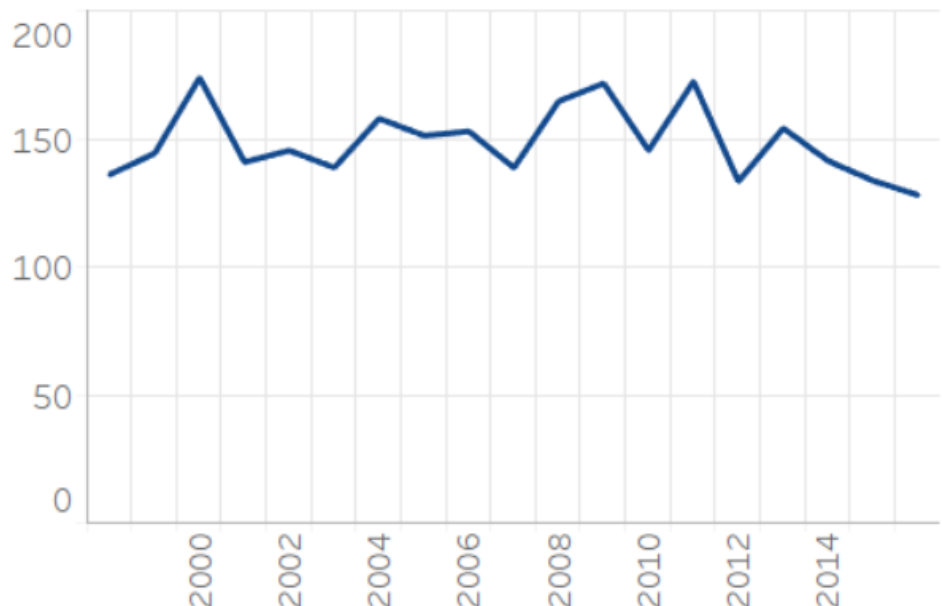
Climate change is pushing the balance

Climate factors may have an impact in the occurrence of wildfires as well. The temperature in Brazil has been increasing slightly whereas the overall level of rain has decreased slightly over the years. These observations are in line with the alarming effects of climate change, which may account to occurrence of fires in addition to deforestation for agricultural purposes.

Max. temperature (°C)



Level of rain



This analysis suggests that the unprecedented devastation of the Amazon forest in recent years may be due to the direct consequence of badly implemented policies in the last decades, which prioritize the use of land for agricultural purposes, in addition to the effect of climate change.

Strong action is needed if we want to save our forests before it's too late!

