# [***38% of the Amazon would have been degraded***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:67DS-1MP1-JCG7-846P-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

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AFP

In a study published in the journal Science, researchers say the damage done to that forest that spans nine countries is significantly greater than previously known.

For the study, the authors examined the impact of fires, logging, droughts and habitat changes along forest boundaries, known in ecology as edge effects.

Most previous studies of the ***Amazon*** ecosystem have focused on the consequences of ***deforestation***.

**Impact**

This study found that fires, timber extraction, and edge effects have degraded at least 5.5% of the remaining ***Amazon*** forest, or about 364,748 square kilometers, between 2001 and 2018.

However, when drought effects appear, the degraded area increases to 2.5 million square kilometers, 38% of the ***Amazon*** forest.

"Extreme droughts have become increasingly frequent in the ***Amazon*** as land use change and human-induced climate change progress, affecting tree mortality, fire incidence and carbon emissions to the atmosphere," the study states.

"Wildfires intensify during drought years," they say, and warn of the dangers of "much larger megafires" in the future.

Researchers from the State University of Campinas in Brazil and other institutions used satellite imagery and other data from 2001 to 2018 to reach their conclusions.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has ratified his commitment to end ***deforestation*** in the ***Amazon*** by 2030. After his inauguration, the president signed a series of decrees to strengthen the protection of the ***Amazon***.

In one of the first measures, Lula revoked a decree authorizing mining on indigenous lands.

**Impact on species**

"The ***Amazon*** is headed for a rapid transition from being a huge natural landscape to one degraded and transformed by the combined pressures of local ***deforestation*** and global climate change," they anticipated.

"Changes are happening much faster for Amazonian species, people and ecosystems," they warned. "Policies to prevent the worst consequences are well known and must be put in place immediately."

**Environment**

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva spoke with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, about "challenges" with the environment and the "risks" of the extreme right for democracy.

Both agreed on the risks to democracy posed by the violent actions of the extreme right.

**Classification**

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