# **Amazon deforestation increased 150% in the last month of Bolsonaro's term in office**

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**Body**

***Deforestation*** in the Brazilian ***Amazon*** increased by 150% in December 2022, Jair Bolsonaro's last month as president of Brazil, compared to the same period of the previous year, according to data analyzed by the ***Deforestation*** Detection in Real Time System (DETER), managed by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research. Specifically, the satellites observed the loss of vegetation in 218.4 square kilometers of Amazonian forests last December, while in December 2021 the losses were 87.2 square kilometers.

Overall, during 2022, the Brazilian part of the ***Amazon*** basin recorded a loss of 10,267 square kilometers of forested areas, the worst figure since, in 2015, the monitoring of this type of data with satellite images began. Until now, the first position in this ***deforestation*** ranking was occupied by 2019 (Jair Bolsonaro's first year in office), in which 9,178 square kilometers of forests were deforested in this part of the ***Amazon*** basin.

Lábrea and Apuí, in the south of the Brazilian ***Amazon***, head the ranking of municipalities with the largest deforested area from August to December 2022. These towns are located on the axis of BR-319 (Manaus-Porto Velho), a highway designed in the 1970s by Brazil's military dictatorship and recovered during the mandate of Jair Bolsonaro. The previous license for the paving of an important part of this road was granted last June, disregarding the opinions of technicians from Brazil's own Ministry of the Environment.

**Logging until the last minute**

Several environmental organizations had warned that burning, logging, land movements and agricultural and mining occupations would increase between the election of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as president of Brazil and his inauguration. As will be recalled, Lula da Silva has promised that one of the priorities of his government will be to curb ***deforestation*** in the ***Amazon***, as he already did during his first two terms in office (2003-2010).

"Bolsonaro's government may be over. but his nefarious environmental legacy will be felt for a long time," Marcio Astrini, executive secretary of the Climate Observatory, a coalition of environmental groups in Brazil, has lamented in a statement.

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