# **Data shows worst Feb deforestation for Brazil's Amazon**

The Straits Times (Singapore)

February 26, 2023 Sunday

Copyright 2023 SPH Media Holdings Pte. Ltd. All Rights Reserved

**Section:** WORLD

**Length:** 284 words

**Byline:** , Data shows worst Feb ***deforestation*** for Brazil's ***Amazon***

**Body**

BRASILIA Brazilian ***Amazon*** ***deforestation*** reached its worst-ever February level in the second month of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's presidential term, provisional data showed on Friday.

Surveillance satellites had detected 209 sq km of forest destroyed, according to the INPE space research institute's Deter monitoring system.

This is an area equivalent to about 30,000 football fields.

The INPE report included data only up to Feb 17, but there was already an increase from the previous worst February, in 2022, when far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro was still in office.

In January, ***Amazon*** ***deforestation*** was down 61 per cent from a year earlier, according to the same source.

But experts warned at the time it was premature to talk of a "reversal" of the ***deforestation*** trend, partly because some forest loss may have been unobserved due to heavy cloud cover.

The February increase may partly reflect forest losses that were unobserved in January, WWF Brazil expert Daniel Silva told AFP.

Over Mr Bolsonaro's presidency, average annual ***deforestation*** increased by 75 per cent compared with the previous decade.

Mr Bolsonaro instigated policies that favoured the agriculture and logging industries mostly responsible for ***deforestation***.

Having previously governed Brazil from 2003 to 2010, Mr Lula took office on Jan 1, 2023, with a promise to rebuild the government agencies tasked with protecting the environment after severe budget and personnel cuts inflicted on them by Mr Bolsonaro. He also announced an ambitious goal of zero ***deforestation*** by 2030.

In order to do so, he is counting on international aid, notably through the ***Amazon*** Fund, to which Germany and Norway are the main contributors. AFP

**Load-Date:** February 25, 2023

**End of Document**