# **Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon reached record high in last year of Jair Bolsonaro's presidency**

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**Body**

The **Brazilian *Amazon*** lost **10,267 kilometers of vegetation cover** in 2022, an extension equivalent to that of a country like Lebanon. Thus, ***deforestation*** of the world's largest rainforest reached a **record** level in the last year of President **Jair Bolsonaro**'s administration.

The area of rainforest in the Brazilian ***Amazon*** devastated last year was **24.9% higher than that destroyed in 2021** (8 219 square kilometers) and the largest since the **National Institute of Spatial Studies (INPE)** began measuring in 2015 the so-called ***deforestation* alerts**, reported this January 6, 2023 the official agency.

**Management against the environment**

Until now, the **year with the highest *deforestation* was 2019** (9,178 square kilometers), precisely the first of management of the ultra-right leader. Environmentalists blame the current crisis in the ***Amazon*** for his **anti-environmentalist rhetoric**, his **defense of mining** even in the reserves. In addition to dismantling the **oversight agencies**.

The data disclosed are measured by **Dete**; a mechanism that uses **satellite images** to alert monthly and in real time about **threatened areas in the *Amazon***; but they are less accurate than those of Prodes; a tool that INPE uses to calculate ***deforestation*** and whose disclosure is annual.

According to the latest **Prodes bulletin**, released in November, the ***Amazon*** lost **11 568 km of vegetation** between August 2021 and July 2022, **11.3% less than the previous year** (13 038 square km) but the second highest in the **last 14 years**.

**Record pace**

Environmental organizations had already **warned** that the destruction was growing at a **record** pace in the last months of 2022 in the expectation that Bolsonaro would be **defeated in the October presidential election**, which ended up happening.

Brazil's new president, **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, who took office on January 1, promised that one of his government's **priorities** will be to return to **minimizing *deforestation* in the *Amazon***, as he did in his first administration (2003-2010), and to **relentlessly combat illegal logging and mining**.

His Minister of the **Environment, the environmentalist Marina Silva**, announced the creation of a secretariat within her portfolio dedicated exclusively to **combating *deforestation***.

According to INPE data, between August and December 2022 alone, **4,793 kilometers of forest** were cleared in the ***Amazon***, a record amount for the period.

In December alone, ***deforestation*** extended over **218.4 square kilometers**, with a jump of **150% compared to the same month of 2021** (87 square kilometers) and the highest number for this month since the beginning of the previous Government.

" **Destruction alerts** were record in the last months of 2022, which left the Lula Government a **rate that will negatively affect the** 2023 **numbers**," since the annual measurement is between August of one year and July of the next, said the executive secretary of the **Climate Observatory, Marcio Astrini**.

For the leader of the main **network of environmental groups in Brazil**, "Bolsonaro's government is over, but his **disastrous environmental legacy** will still be felt for a long time".

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