# **Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon region hit record high in Bolsonaro's last year in office**

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**Body**

***Deforestation*** in Brazil's ***Amazon*** has broken records in the last year of the mandate of former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro, to whom environmentalists attribute the crisis in the rainforest for his anti-environmentalist discourse, his defense of mining (even in reserves) and for dismantling oversight bodies. The largest rainforest in the world has lost 10,267 kilometers of vegetation last year, equivalent to a country like Lebanon. So far, 2019 was positioned as the year with the highest ***deforestation***.

The destroyed area of rainforest in 2022 was 24.9% greater than that destroyed in 2021. Between August 2021 and July 2022, the ***Amazon*** lost 11,568 kilometers of vegetation, ranking as the second highest ***deforestation*** in the last 14 years, according to the Association for Global Development and Management (Prodes).

The priority for Brazil's new president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, will be to "minimize" ***deforestation*** in the rainforest and combat illegal logging and mining. The creation of a secretariat dedicated to combating the destruction of vegetation is already underway. The leader of Brazil's main network of environmental groups has stated that "Bolsonaro's government is over, but his disastrous environmental legacy will still be felt for a long time to come".

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