# **Deforestation in the Amazon increased 150% in Bolsonaro's last month**

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**Body**

***Deforestation*** in the ***Amazon*** increased by 150% in December compared to the same period in 2021, according to an official report released Friday that comprises the last month in office of former President Jair Bolsonaro.

Satellite monitoring detected 218.4 square kilometers of destroyed forest cover last month in the Brazilian part of the world's largest rainforest, according to data from the National Institute for Space Research's (Inpe) Deter satellite surveillance system. The area, almost four times the size of Manhattan Island, increased by 150% from the 87.2 km² deforested in December 2021, according to Inpe.

Bolsonaro generated international protests during his four years in office due to a wave of fires and ***deforestation*** in the ***Amazon***. Under his government, an agribusiness ally and climate change denier, average annual ***deforestation*** in the ***Amazon*** increased 75.5 percent over the previous decade.

"The Bolsonaro government is over, but its harmful environmental legacy will still be felt for quite some time," pointed out Marcio Astrini, executive secretary of the coalition of environmental groups Climate Observatory.

Last December was the third worst month recorded by the Deter program in its eight years of existence, after those of 2017 and 2015. ***Deforestation*** in 2022 was also near or at record levels during the dry season months (August, September, and October), when logging and fires usually increase.

According to experts, the destruction is mainly due to ranches and landowners who clear the forest for cattle ranching and plantations.

In his two previous terms (2003-2010), president Lula achieved a sharp drop in ***deforestation***. He has promised to resume environmental protection programs, to strive for zero ***deforestation***, and to ensure that the country ceases to be a "pariah" in climate issues.

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