# **Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon drops 61% in Lula's first month in office**

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**Body**

Sao Paulo, Feb. 10. ***Deforestation*** in the Brazilian ***Amazon*** fell by 61.3% in January, the first month of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's government, compared to the same period in 2022, according to data released Friday.

In total, 166.58 square kilometers of forest were destroyed in the month, according to satellite data from the Deter system of the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE).

These data are partial, since they do not capture ***deforestation*** in areas covered by clouds, and in January 2023, 50.27% of the Brazilian ***Amazon*** territory could not be observed for this reason, while in January 2022 this area was 48.04%.

The figure was worse than that recorded in January 2021 (82.8 square kilometers) or 2019 (136.1 square kilometers), during the administration of Jair Bolsonaro, who relaxed the fight against ***deforestation***, allowed logging and mining in protected areas and promoted controversial development projects in the region.

In a statement, the non-governmental organization WWF positively valued the ***deforestation*** data for January 2023, although it said that "it is still early" to talk about a reversal of the trend of forest destruction.

In 2022, the last year of Bolsonaro's government, the Brazilian ***Amazon*** lost 10,267 square kilometers of vegetation cover, a record level since satellite measurements have been taken.

President Lula has made the fight against ***deforestation*** one of his priorities, with the goal of reducing it to zero by 2030.

In his first month in office, Lula reactivated the ***Amazon*** Fund, financed by Norway and Germany, revoked Bolsonaro's controversial measures and set up a group with 17 ministries to define policies for the preservation of the rainforest.

In Brazil, ***deforestation*** is the main cause of the emission of polluting gases into the atmosphere.

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