# **Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon increases in February**

CE Noticias Financieras English

March 10, 2023 Friday

Copyright 2023 Content Engine, LLC.

All Rights Reserved

Copyright 2023 CE Noticias Financieras All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 317 words

**Body**

SAO PAULO, Mar 10 (Reuters) - ***Deforestation*** in Brazil's ***Amazon*** rainforest rose in February to the highest level on record for the month, preliminary official data showed on Friday, highlighting the challenges facing the new government to halt the destruction.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took office on Jan. 1 and pledged to end illegal logging after years of rising ***deforestation*** under his predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro.

Environmental experts and officials have warned that it could take years to significantly reduce ***deforestation*** after Bolsonaro cut funds and staff at key agencies.

"We have just left behind a government that supported ***deforestation***," Greenpeace Brazil spokesman Romulo Batista said Friday. "As long as enforcement and control doesn't reach the whole region, illegal deforesters can exploit that to increase this ***deforestation***."

Data from space research agency Inpe showed 322 square kilometers were cleared in the region last month, 62% more than in February 2022 and well above the average of 166 square kilometers for the period.

It was also the highest since the Inpe data series began in 2015.

But thanks to lower-than-average figures in January, ***deforestation*** fell 22% in the first two months of 2023 compared to the same period last year, according to Inpe.

In a presentation last week, an Inpe scientist blamed the large month-to-month fluctuations on cloud cover that hid ***deforestation*** in satellite images in January, only for it to be revealed in February.

Environment Minister Marina Silva said last month, based on partial data from February, that it was unusual to have high ***deforestation*** so early in the year, when heavy rains make it difficult for loggers to work in the forest.

"They are deforesting even in the rainy season. It is a kind of revenge against the actions that are already being taken, but we will continue working to achieve our goal," Silva told reporters.

**Load-Date:** March 11, 2023

**End of Document**