# **Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon increases in the first three months of 2023**

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**Body**

***Deforestation*** in the Brazilian ***Amazon*** increased again in March, closing the first 100 days of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's government with one of the worst rates on record, in a rise that environmental organizations blame on the environmental deregulation that took place during the four years of Jair Bolsonaro's government.

Between January and March of this year, the destruction of the Brazilian ***Amazon*** was the second highest in the historical series for that period, with 844 square kilometers destroyed, only below the figure for 2022, when 941 square kilometers were destroyed, according to official figures released Friday by the National Institute for Space Research (INPE).

After four years of the pro-Bolsonar government, which, according to experts, has weakened regulations and environmental protection agencies, the improvement in ***deforestation*** rates could be delayed, according to the NGO Wildlife Brazil (WWF). "The data show that there is a complex scenario in the face of the weakening of control in the region and the pro-illegality discourse of recent years," explained Mariana Napolitano, conservation manager of the NGO.

**Reversing *deforestation* policies**

Since his election, Lula promised to reverse the environmental policies of his predecessor and eradicate illegal ***deforestation***. "Although the current government has demonstrated its intention to combat ***deforestation*** very seriously, it will take time to change the scenario," added the WWF-Brazil expert.

On his first day in office, Lula signed a series of decrees to annul measures harmful to the environment, create a task force to combat ***deforestation*** and reactivate the ***Amazon*** Fund, an initiative financed by foreign donations that had been suspended since 2019. Before taking office, he traveled to the climate summit in Egypt, where he was a special guest, and pledged to fight "very hard" against ***deforestation***, while proposing to host the 2025 climate conference.

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