# **Google Earth now shows deforestation in the Amazon until 2022**

CE Noticias Financieras English

April 4, 2023 Tuesday

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**Length:** 609 words

**Body**

Google announced on Tuesday (4) that Google Earth now includes images of the advance of ***deforestation*** in the ***Amazon*** until 2022. Updating the platform with data from 2020 makes it possible to track the advance of forest destruction, which had record rates in the Jair Bolsonaro administration.

The technology giant also announced the launch of an early detection system for fires, in partnership with Inpe (National Institute for Space Research), and the expansion of alerts for floods, in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Brazil (CPRM).

The announcements were made at the event Sustainability with Google - ***Amazon***, which is taking place in Belém (PA).

With satellite image records since 1984, Google Earth has a timelapse tool that now shows in detail the changes in forest cover over the last two years (click here to see examples on Google Earth).

The engine used to generate the images, Google Earth Engine, is already used by researchers to monitor the use of natural resources, as in the case of the Mapbiomas platform. The project was created in 2019 and conducts annual mapping of land use and surface water, as well as monthly monitoring of fire scars.

**See in the videos below timelapses showing *deforestation* advance:**

"This kind of historical series is also useful for local communities to draw attention to their issues," points out Rebecca Moore, director of Google's geospatial initiatives.

One of the first people to use the tool was the Surui paiter.

"Technology today is very important for us, indigenous peoples, not only in the protection of territories, but also to take our cosmology and our understanding of the world to other places that think that only their world exists," says activist Txai Surui, a columnist for **Folha** de São Paulo newspaper.

She also says that looking back at the forest helps to show that the fight to keep the ***Amazon*** standing is collective and that the answers for this lie in traditional knowledge. "If there is a future, it is ancestral."

The history of searches on the site shows the increase in interest in environmental topics. In the last ten years, searches on Google for the term "***Amazon***", for example, rose more than 80% in Brazil. Worldwide, the increase was more than 40%.

Furthermore, "weather" and "climate" are among the ten most searched words in the country since the beginning of the historical series, in 2004.

Nubia Quilombola, an educator from Amapa explains that the mapping done by Google Earth made it possible to pinpoint exactly where the gaps and conflicts are. "We were able to show: here there is a lack of school, here quilombola died [in dispute] for land, for example."

"We took the Federal University of Amapá to teach preparatory courses for teachers and researchers to combat environmental racism," he says. "Only then did we realize how the lack of will from the public power excludes our people from the ***Amazon***."

For the new fire detection system, artificial intelligence will be used to identify fire outbreaks in early stages by means of satellite images. Early firefighting makes it easier to contain the fires, avoiding the release of large amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere.

The project is still in the initial phase of model development, and there is no timetable for it to go into effect.

The flood alerts, which have been operating in Brazil since 2022, have been expanded to include 27 cities. The system issues warnings in real time on the search page and on Google Maps when heavy rains deserve the population's attention.

The forecast is that the network will be expanded to 20 more cities in the first half of 2023.

The reporter traveled to Belém at Google's invitation.

**Load-Date:** April 5, 2023

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