# **In 2022, the Amazon had the highest deforestation in 15 years, says Imazon**

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**Body**

***Deforestation*** in the ***Amazon*** set a new record in 2022, year in which the vegetation cover of the forest lost 10,573 km², equivalent to almost 3 thousand soccer fields, according to a report released today (18) by the Institute of Man and Environment of the ***Amazon*** (Imazon).

By satellite monitoring, 2022, which reached its highest level since 2008, when Imazon started monitoring the ***Amazon*** Region.

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In the last 4 years, forest loss in the ***Amazon*** was 35,193 km², according to Imazon. The area exceeds those of states like Sergipe (21 thousand km²) and Alagoas (27 thousand km²). The period coincides with the mandate of former president Jair Bolsonaro, who used to discredit data on ***deforestation***.

The government of president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has promised to give priority to the issue. The Minister of the Environment, Marina Silva, has been making statements about the preservation of the forest. In one of the first measures, the ***Amazon*** Fund was unblocked, which counts on donations from Germany and Norway to be applied in environmental protection actions.

"We hope that this was the last ***deforestation*** record reported by our satellite monitoring system, since the new government has promised to give priority to protecting the ***Amazon***," said researcher Bianca Santos, from Imazon, in the material released on Wednesday (18).

The institute highlighted the jump in ***deforestation*** recorded in December, a month in which 287 km² of forest were cut down, an increase of 150% compared to the same month in 2021 (140 km²) and the worst last month of the year of any historical series.

"In the last month of the year there was an unbridled race to deforest while the gate was open for the cattle, for land speculation, for illegal mining and ***deforestation*** in indigenous lands and conservation units. This shows the size of the challenge of the new government", said Carlos Souza Jr, ***Amazon*** monitoring coordinator at the institute, in the publicity material.

Around 80% of the area deforested in 2022 is in lands under the responsibility of the federal government (8,443 km²). Another 11% of destroyed territory is under the jurisdiction of state governments (1,130 km²).

Also according to the report, the state that deforested the most in 2022 was Pará (3089 km²), followed by Amazonas (2270 km²) and Mato Grosso (1228 km²).

All the information about the ***Amazon*** ***deforestation*** monitoring report can be found at the Imazon portal.

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