# **Legal Amazon: deforestation drops 61% in January**

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**Body**

The aggregate area of ***deforestation* in theLegal *Amazon*** in January was 167 square kilometers, a reduction of 61% compared to the same month last year, when it reached 430 square kilometers. The preliminary data were released this Friday (10) by the **National Institute for Space Research (Inpe)**, based on alerts made by the Real-Time ***Deforestation*** Detection System (Deter).

**With an area of 5 million square kilometers,** which corresponds to **59% of the Brazilian territory**, the Legal ***Amazon*** is formed by the states of Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, Tocantins and part of Maranhão.

The Deter is a rapid alert survey of evidence of changes in forest cover in the ***Amazon***, done by Inpe.

According to the institute, "the system supports the supervision and control of ***deforestation*** and forest degradation carried out by the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama) and other agencies linked to this issue.

The Deter captures only part of the changes that have occurred, due to the lower resolution of the images/sensors used and also the restrictions of cloud cover. Therefore, the data can be revised.

The reference base for measuring ***deforestation*** in the country is carried out by Prodes (Project and Monitoring of ***Deforestation*** in the Legal ***Amazon*** by Satellite), whose database is considered more reliable, with a level of accuracy of close to 95%.

Currently, three systems monitor the Legal ***Amazon***, each with a different function. In addition to Prodes and Deter, Inpe also uses the Selective Exploitation Detection System (Detex).

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