# **Lula fails to halt deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon. It is a new (and sad) record**

CE Noticias Financieras English

February 25, 2023 Saturday

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**Length:** 263 words

**Body**

***Deforestation*** in the Brazilian ***Amazon*** set another record in February, about two months after President Lula da Silva took office, according to official data released.

The satellite monitoring system **detected 209 square kilometers destroyed in the Brazilian part of the world's largest rainforest,** according to preliminary data from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) system.

The area, equivalent to more than 29,000 soccer fields, includes only data compiled through February 17, but was already higher than the previous record of 199 square kilometers destroyed in the entire month of February 2022, the last year of former President Jair Bolsonaro's government.

Satellite monitoring had recorded a 61% drop in January compared to the same period in 2022. But environmental organizations had warned that it was premature to speak of a "trend reversal" as observations may have been hampered by increased cloud cover.

Under the Bolsonaro administration average annual ***deforestation*** in the Brazilian ***Amazon*** jumped 75.5% during the previous decade.

This destruction is mainly due to farmers wanting to increase their land for crops and cattle, activities that Jair Bolsonaro has always encouraged.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, 77, was sworn in as President of Brazil in early January - for the third time - making forest protection one of his priorities.

Marina Silva, a renowned environmentalist, was chosen to head the Ministry of Environment, having already been responsible for this portfolio between 2003 and 2008, when Brazil managed to considerably reduce ***deforestation***.

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2023

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