# **Record deforestation in the Amazon and Cerrado in February**

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**Body**

Areas destroyed in the two biomes are equivalent to more than half the city of São Paulo. ***Deforestation*** is the largest in the period since the beginning of historical measurement, which began in 2015.The month of February recorded ***deforestation*** records both in the ***Amazon*** and in the Brazilian Cerrado. The finding comes from data collected by Deter, Inpe's system that maps regions and issues ***deforestation*** alerts in real time, according to figures released on Friday (10/03), The record was broken even before the end of the month, when ***deforestation*** was already the largest in the period since the beginning of historical measurement, in 2015. Accumulated in the month, the area with alerts was 321.97 km² in the ***Amazon***, an increase of 61.8% compared to the same period last year (198.6 km²).

In the Cerrado, the situation was even more critical, with numbers reaching 557.8 km², an increase of 97% compared to 2020, which until then held the previous record of 282.8 km².

Together, the destroyed areas of the two biomes in February of this year reach almost 880 km², equivalent to more than half of the city of São Paulo (1,521 km²).

The state with the highest rates of ***Amazon*** ***deforestation*** was Mato Grosso, responsible for around 50% of the total (161.83 km²), followed by Pará, Amazonas and Roraima.

In the Cerrado, the highest rates of ***deforestation*** were recorded in Bahia (268.26 km²), also accounting for almost half of the affected area, with Tocantins, Piauí and Maranhão coming next.

***Amazon*** ***deforestation*** rose almost 60% in the Bolsonaro administration

In the first month of the year, the ***deforestation*** of the largest tropical forest on the planet had registered a sharp drop (-61.3%) in the interannual comparison, in addition to having retreated 27% compared to December 2022.

At the time, however, specialists emphasized that the data were partial, since the dense cloudiness recorded over the biome in January prevented satellites from capturing devastated areas in more than half of the Brazilian ***Amazon***. It is possible, therefore, that in February the Deter registered the devastation that it was unable to capture in January.

During the four years of Jair Bolsonaro's government (2019-2022), the destruction of the biome increased by almost 60% compared to the previous quadrennium, mainly due to the lack of controls and the weakening of environmental agencies. In 2022 alone, the Brazilian ***Amazon*** lost 10,277.61 km² of vegetation cover, a level never before seen since measurement with the Deter has been carried out in Brazil.

The recovery of the Brazilian ***Amazon*** is one of the main commitments announced by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva since he was elected.

Already in his first month in office, Lula reactivated the ***Amazon*** Fund, financed by Norway and Germany, and of which he also announced the participation of the United States. The president also revoked measures taken by his predecessor and created a group with 17 ministries to define forest preservation policies.

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