

A PROTECTED RAINFOREST?

PROTECTED AREAS:

The legal Amazon Rainforest spans an area of just under 5 million square kilometers. 43% of that land is considered within protected areas. These protected areas are either Conservation Units (22% of the Amazon) or Indigenous Lands (21%).

Conservation units are territories considered to have natural characteristics that put them under a special administrative regime intended to guarantee their protection. Many of these units, however, lack the necessary level of monitoring to ensure the implementation of their protected status.

Indigenous Territories, with boundaries recognized by the Brazilian government, grant the indigenous residents permanent ownership and use of any wealth originating from that land. There are 173 different indigenous groups that live in 405 different territories in the Amazon. Approximately 300 thousand Brazilian Indians are thought to live in these areas.

