

Amazon deforestation reduced by nearly 84%, Brazil says

June 5 2013



Aerial view of the Amazonian forest reserve of Trairao, western Para state, northern Brazil on December 4, 2011. Brazil said Wednesday it has reduced Amazon deforestation by nearly 84 percent over the past eight years and is nearing its international target for slowing devastation of the world's largest rainforest.

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From August 2011 to July 2012, 4,571 square kilometers (1,764 square miles) of [Amazon forest](#) were destroyed, 27 percent less than during the previous corresponding period and the lowest rate since Brazil began monitoring, said Environment Minister Izabella Teixeira.

It was the fourth consecutive annual reduction.

Teixeira said the country "reached 76 percent of its voluntary deforestation reduction goal in the Amazon as agreed in Copenhagen in 2009," referring to an international conference on [climate change](#) held that year.

That goal set the deforestation ceiling at 3,900 square kilometers (1,505 square miles) in 2020.

According to official but still provisional data, deforestation totaled 1,900 square kilometers between August 2012 and April 2013.

Key causes of the destruction include fires, the expansion of agriculture and livestock, and [illegal trafficking](#) in timber and minerals.

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