

Brazil begins first operations to protect Amazon

January 20 2023



An aerial view of a massive patch of land cleared of trees in Brazil's eastern Amazon.

Brazil this week began the first operations against Amazon deforestation since veteran leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office, the Ibama

environmental agency said Friday.

On the campaign trail before his October election victory—when he defeated far right climate change skeptic Jair Bolsonaro—Lula promised to end [deforestation](#) by 2030.

The Amazon rainforest suffered during Bolsonaro's four-year presidency as the former army captain repeatedly enacted laws favoring agriculture and mining in the forest at the expense of that critically important ecosystem. Reducing deforestation is key to slowing [climate change](#).

"The deployment of teams for the start of inspection operations began on January 16, 2023," Ibama told AFP.

Average Amazon deforestation soared by 75 percent during Bolsonaro's presidency, compared with the previous decade.

"The environmental team put in place by the [federal government](#) has, since the beginning of the transition period, been working to build a plan capable of inverting the rate of deforestation seen these last few months," added Ibama.

On Wednesday, Lula told the Globo News television channel that he wanted to create a federal police force to "act in a stronger manner" to protect forests.



Brazil's Amazon rainforest has been badly damaged by wildfires, such as this one in Para state in August 2022.

He also said he wanted to arrange a meeting with the other South American countries that share the Amazon to discuss a continental preservation policy.

Lula said he would fight deforestation "by any means" and added: "I will need the [armed forces](#), I will need the federal police force."

Since taking office on January 1, Lula has signed a series of decrees pertaining to the protection of the Amazon.

He also reactivated an Amazon protection fund that had been frozen since 2019 due to a disagreement between the Bolsonaro government and major donor countries Norway and Germany over how to spend the money.

And Lula revoked a Bolsonaro decree authorizing mining exploitation in Indigenous areas and protected zones.

© 2023 AFP

Citation: Brazil begins first operations to protect Amazon (2023, January 20) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-01-brazil-amazon.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.