

13 nov 21 - COP26: Environment Minister Joaquim Leite says that "wheres theres forest, theres poverty"

<https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/en/2021/11/13/cop26-environment-minister-joaquim-leite-says-that-wheres-theres-forest-theres-poverty/>

[During an official speech at the UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\), the Minister of the Environment, Joaquim Leite, said "where there is a lot of forest there is also a lot of poverty".](#) The statement shocked environmentalists and opposition members of parliament, who highlighted it as an indication that Bolsonaro's project for the environment remains intact, despite promises of change. "This statement reveals the mentality of the government is from the 70s of the last century: to deforest, for them, is synonymous with development. As it is a government that despises science, they can't accept that this vision has been overcome by everything science has shown," declared congressman Alessandro Molon (PSB-RJ) to Jamil Chade's column. [In the same speech, Leite announced that "the green future has already begun in Brazil. Two days after the minister's declaration, Inpe released that the Amazon beat the historical record of deforestation alerts for the month, adding an area of 877 km<sup>2</sup>. Throughout the event, the government has ignored the advance of deforestation in the country.](#) &nbsp;