

AUGUST 2022

THE AMAZON — AND THE — FUTURE OF BRAZIL

A GUIDE

AN EXAMINATION OF THE REGION'S NINE
STATES BETWEEN 2018 AND 2022

DEFORESTATION

INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY

VIOLENCE

DISINFORMATION

TIMELINE

STATE GOVERNMENT

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS

TESTIMONIALS

ELECTIONS

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Notes on the English version

Cattle herd strategy

In Brazil, “passar a boiada” (or “pass the cattle herd”) has been used to refer to the Bolsonaro government’s attempts to flexibilize or abolish laws and regulations in a way that they jeopardize the environment in favor of agribusiness, mining and other industries. The unfortunate metaphor was first used by former Environment Minister Ricardo Salles at a presidential cabinet meeting when suggesting that the approval of infralegal rules and regulations would be a more discrete and effective strategy to bypass environmental legislation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Currency

All amounts in Brazilian reais. We opted not to convert values into dollars due to constant fluctuation of the exchange rates, something expected to happen more as the election nears.

Agencies, organs and entities

Names have been directly translated when the English translation allows understanding of what the body does. In cases where this isn’t clear, notably with important federal agencies such as IBAMA or FUNAI, we have opted to translate the full name into a sentence that explains what the organ does (FUNAI is “Brazil’s Indigenous Agency”).

Political parties

Are referred to by their acronyms - except in the cases of Republicanos, Solidariedade and UNIÃO. They are PL (Partido Liberal), PSL (Partido Social Liberal), PP (Progressistas), PSD (Partido Social-Democrata), MDB (Movimento Democrático Brasileiro), PROS (Partido Republicano da Ordem Social), PSDB (Partido da Social Democracia Brasileira), PTB (Partido Trabalhista Brasileiro), PSB (Partido Socialista Brasileiro), PSOL (Partido Socialismo e Liberdade) and PDT (Partido Democrático Trabalhista). Bear in mind that these names do not necessarily reflect the ideology or political inclination of the politicians affiliated to them.

Pastoral Land Commission

Translation of Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT), an organization linked to the Catholic Church that monitors land conflicts in Brazil and denounces social injustice and violence in rural areas.

Quilombos/Quilombolas

During slavery, quilombos were settlements founded by afro-Brazilian formerly enslaved persons who escaped captivity. Many of which acted as centers of resistance against the colonial status quo. After slavery was abolished in Brazil, many quilombos continued existing as Afro-Brazilian communities. Quilombo inhabitants are called quilombolas. We have opted to not translate these terms.

Representatives and state representatives

Respectively, in Portuguese, deputados federais and deputados estaduais.

Ruralist

Our English translation of the Brazilian Portuguese term “ruralista”, used to designate owners of large rural properties and their representatives.

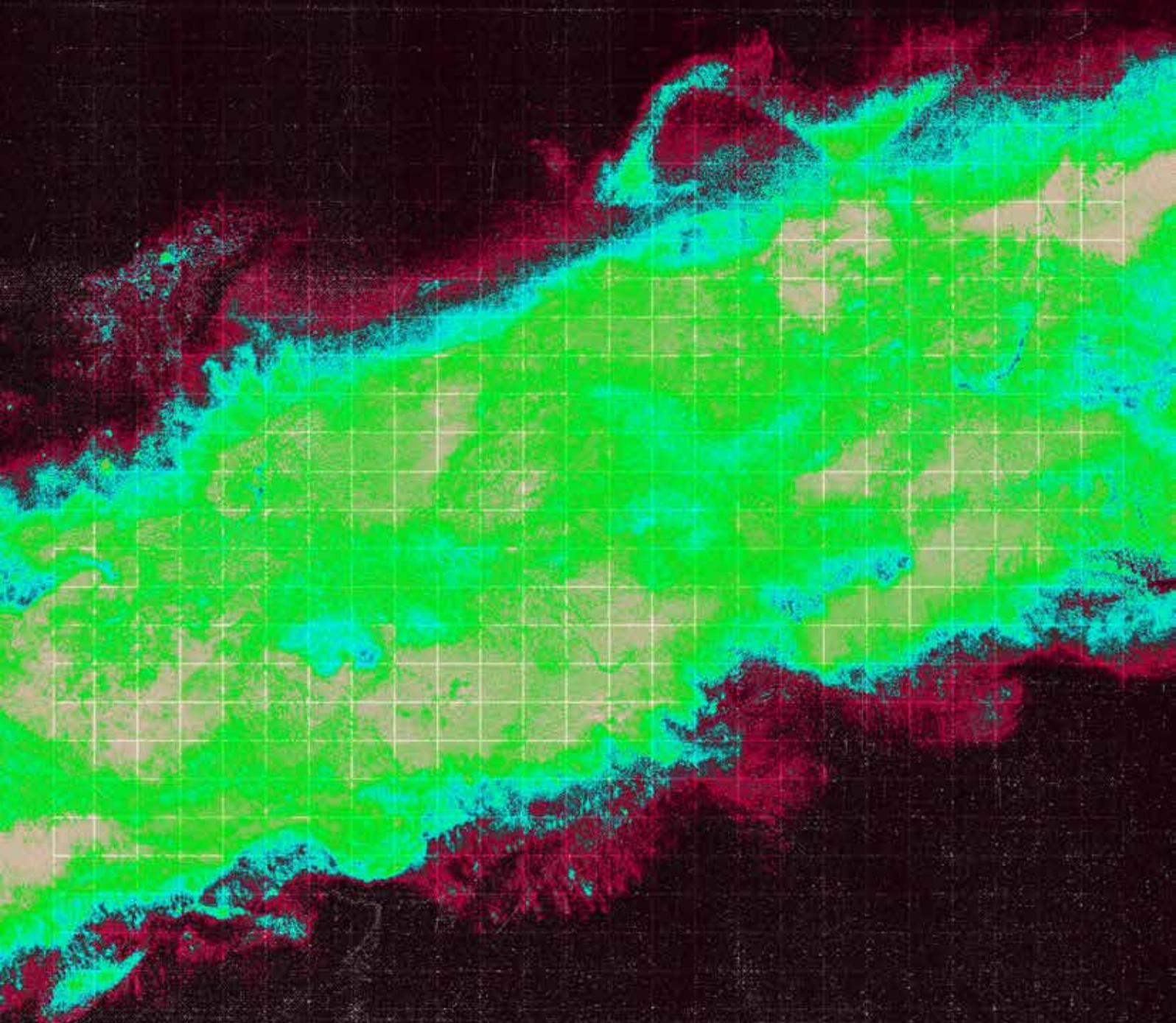
Sertanista

A person who is knowledgeable about the territory and culture of the “sertão”, a term that can be used more specifically to refer to rugged regions of northeastern Brazil or, in a more general way, to the country’s hinterlands.

Settlement project

When we use “settlements” throughout the document we refer to agrarian reform settlements, government-backed redistribution of agricultural land, established by state agency INCRA, in a rural property.

1. INTRODUCTION





[With the worsening of the Brazilian socio-environmental crisis after Jair Bolsonaro's election in 2018](#), the public national and international debate about the Amazon grew exponentially in the press as well as in social media. Amidst shock doctrine, racist discourse and disinformation campaigns promoted by the national government itself and its supporter groups, [keeping up with events](#) became increasingly difficult.

The monitoring initiative carried out by [Sinal de Fumaça](#) shows that the president's vision and plans for the region, announced during his election campaign, materialized in an unprecedented dismantling of Brazilian socio-environmental governance. The de-structuring took place through infralegal reforms, hijacking civilian inspection institutions such as IBAMA (Brazil's main environmental agency), and FUNAI (Brazil's Indigenous agency), and transferring responsibility for combating and controlling deforestation to the Armed Forces through serial decrees of the so-called Guarantee of Law and Order (GLO - Garantia de Lei e Ordem)¹. A [reversal](#) of more than three decades in public policies regarding land use in the country, challenging Brazil's ability to reduce environmental crime and greenhouse gas emissions that fuel the planetary climate collapse.

In the last four years, the explosion of deforestation rates and record fires, in addition to the political incentive to land grabbing, mining and other criminal activities in the forest, have brought lethal consequences for Indigenous peoples, environmentalists, activists and defenders of land struggles

[The brutal murders of Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira and British journalist Dom Phillips in the Javari Valley](#) (Amazonas state) in June 2022 became a sad milestone in the escalation of bolsonarist violence against the forest and its defenders. The Indigenous peoples of the region, which concentrates the biggest number of isolated communities in the world, had been the first ones to understand the seriousness of what happened, initiating independent searches for Dom and Bruno before any reaction from the authorities. The subsequent global commotion surrounding the case brought attention to the Javari Valley thanks to the tragedy, as usually happens in the forest. It was the same with Xapuri and Chico Mendes, Anapu and Sister Dorothy, Altamira and Belo Monte, Eldorado dos Carajás and the massacre of landless workers, among many other losses that make up the long history of invasions and attacks against the Amazon and its defenders.

With this context in mind, as well as the upcoming October elections and our mission to systematize the Brazilian socio-environmental crisis, we have prepared this material. **The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a Guide - An examination of the region's nine states between 2018 and 2022** contributes to a better understanding of the political, economic and criminal forces that have pushed the deforestation borders and fueled human rights violations in various parts of the Legal Amazon in the last four years.



Credit: Midia NINJA

WE USE BRAZIL'S OFFICIAL GEOGRAPHIC LEGAL AMAZON DESIGNATION AS REFERENCE BECAUSE:

- 1** *it involves the Amazon biome and important transition zones to other biomes such as Cerrado and Pantanal*
- 2** *it guides public policies and the enforcement of laws such as the Forest Code and land regularization processes*

¹ *Garantia de Lei e Ordem (GLO) is a provisional measure signed by the president to give policing power to the Armed Forces in exceptional situations.*



WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS GUIDE:

After a brief overview of the region highlighting the main causes of forest destruction and violence, each chapter is dedicated to one of the nine states that make up the Brazilian Legal Amazon, with a selection of socioeconomic and land use data such as deforestation, fires, mining and agricultural activity, from official research sources such as INPE (The National Institute for Space Research) and IBGE (Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics), as well as academic and civil society sources. We gathered indicators of violence in the countryside and violent deaths and listed the threats against Indigenous peoples and land defenders, in addition to mapping key fake news and disinformation campaigns on the environment that circulated in the region. Using our [tool](#), we have highlighted state-level “cattle herd strategy” iconic facts over the past four years.

For this publication we conducted between May and July 2022 an active listening round with 19 exclusive interviews with Indigenous leaders, social movements, communicators, researchers and activists from all of the states of the Legal Amazon. Excerpts from these unpublished testimonies are presented throughout the chapters, with the aim of amplifying voices, diversifying analyses and disseminating the opinions of those who live and are active in the region.

Our survey also considered that, in 2021, once the election of [Arthur Lira \(PP/Alagoas\)](#) and Rodrigo Pacheco (PSD/Minas Gerais) to the presidency of the federal legislative houses was assured, the Bolsonaro government sent a series of priorities to the National Congress. The list included proposals that profoundly alter land use management in the country — the so-called “Destruction Package²”. Several points on the list have made significant progress in recent months. Given the political relevance of the Amazon Caucus in the federal legislature and in their constituencies, we list, state by state, how the federal representatives and senators elected for the 2018–2022 legislature voted on four key projects from the Bolsonaro Destruction Package currently in Congress, as the following summary table shows.

² <https://climainfo.org.br/2022/03/10/protesto-contr-pacote-da-destruicao-mobiliza-milhares-de-pessoas-em-brasil/>



Credit: Paulo Sérgio/House of Representatives



Destruction Package: Four Land Use Bills prioritized by the Bolsonaro Government and Congress

Bill 2633/2020 Land grabbing	Proposal and Procedure	Social and Environmental Impacts	Status
<p>Author: Federal Deputy Zé Silva (Solidariedade/ Minas Gerais)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Federal Deputy Bosco Saraiva (Solidariedade/ Amazonas)</p>	<p><i>SUMMARY: Amends Laws No. 11,952, of June 25, 2009, 14,133, of April 1, 2021 (Bidding and Administrative Contracts Law), and 6,015, of December 31, 1973, in order to expand the scope of land regularization; and makes other provisions.</i></p> <p>The federal government's proposal to change the legal frameworks of land regularization was introduced by Provisional Measure 910, of December 10, 2019; when it expired, Provisional Measure was transformed in Bill 2633/2020, presented on May 14, 2020. After several attempts to put the bill on the House's agenda, it was finally voted and approved by members at the floor session on August 3, 2021. The next day it was referred to the Federal Senate.</p>	<p>Bill 2633/2020 is known as the "Land Grabbing Bill" because it promotes a radical change in the legal framework for the occupation of federal public lands.</p> <p>Three significant changes stand out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the extension of the temporal milestone (or Marco Temporal) for land regularization; (ii) the expansion of the simplified regularization procedure of self-declaration; and (iii) the favoring of medium and large rural producers to the detriment of family farmers, Indigenous peoples and traditional communities³. <p>It is estimated that this kind of change in the rules would threaten at least 19.6 million hectares of federal unassigned areas in the Amazon, which could be occupied and deforested in hopes that the land will be regularized⁴.</p>	<p>In July 2022, Bill 2633 was being discussed in the Federal Senate, passing through the Commissions for the Environment and Agriculture and Land Reform in the house.</p> <p>In the Senate, Bill 2633 runs parallel to Bill 510/2021, authored by Senator Irajá (PSD/State of Tocantins), which also provides for regularization of land located in federally-owned areas and extends the deadline for regularization of land purchased directly (without bidding) or that have been invaded. Bill 510 is considered an even more serious setback by environmentalists and experts⁵.</p>
	<p>Voting score in the House of Representatives:</p> <p>In favor: 296 Against: 136 Abstention: 1+ Total: 433</p>		

³ https://site-antigo.socioambiental.org/sites/blog.socioambiental.org/files/nsa/arquivos/nt_isa_conexoes_car_desmatamento_grilagem.pdf#overlay-context=pt-br/noticias-socioambientais/mesmo-antes-de-aprovado-pl-da-grilagem-esta-destruindo-a-amazonia

⁴ https://amazon.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Imazon_Nota_Tecnica_PL2633_2020-1.pdf

⁵ <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/senado-empurra-pl-da-regularizacao-fundiaria-para-2022/>



Bill 3729/2004 Environmental Licensing

Author:

Federal Deputy
Luciano Zica (PT/
State of São Paulo)

Relator:

[Representative
Neri Geller \(PP/
Mato Grosso\)](#)

Proposal and Procedure

ABSTRACT: Provides for environmental licensing; regulates item IV, paragraph 1, article 225 of the Federal Constitution; amends Laws No. 9,605, of February 12, 1998, and 9,985 of July 18, 2000; revokes the provisions of Law No. 7,661, of May 16, 1988; and makes other provisions.

Presented in 2004 to regulate the Federal Constitution in regards to the processes of environmental licensing, [Bill 3729/2004](#) moved slowly in the House until 2017, when it started to gain momentum. In July 2019, the Bill was given fast track status. A reviewed text presented by the rapporteur Mr. Neri Geller (PP-Mato Grosso) was voted and approved on the floor by Congress members on **13 May 2021**.

Voting score in the House of Representatives:

In favor: 300
Against: 122
Abstentions: 0
Total: 422

Social and Environmental Impacts

The proposal provides that "There will be no need for an environmental license for basic sanitation works, maintenance on roads and ports, distribution of low voltage electricity, works considered of insignificant size by the licensing authority or that are not listed among those for which licensing will be required"⁶.

Civil society organizations listed the most problematic points on the version of the Bill approved by the House of Representatives⁷, among which:

- Exemption from licensing for agriculture, cattle raising and 13 other activities with environmental impact, including water and sewage treatment systems and plants;
- The text allows states and municipalities to complement the definitions of the law and free activities from the need for environmental licensing, generating legal uncertainty;
- The self-declaratory license becomes rule via Licensing by Membership or Commitment, issued automatically without verification by environmental agencies;
- Communities directly impacted will have little or no participation in the processes, since these will be carried out automatically.

Status

On June 11, 2021, Bill 3729 was sent to the Federal Senate and Senator Kátia Abreu was appointed rapporteur. In the Senate, it is being discussed as [Bill 2159/2021](#).

In July 2022, the Environmental Licensing Bill is "in progress" and "with the rapporteur", after having been discussed and having received amendments from the senators who make up the House's Agriculture and Environmental Committees.

⁶ <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/758640-aprovado-texto-base-do-projeto-sobre-licenciamento-ambiental-votacao-continua-na-manha-desta-quinta/>

⁷ <https://www.conectas.org/noticias/entenda-os-8-pontos-mais-problematicos-do-projeto-de-licenciamento-ambiental-aprovado-pela-camara/>



Bill 490/2007 Demarcation of Indigenous Lands	Proposal and Procedure	Social and Environmental Impacts	Status
<p>Author: Federal Deputy Homero Pereira (PR/Mato Grosso)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Federal Deputy Arthur Oliveira Maia (DEM/Bahia)</p>	<p><i>ABSTRACT: Amends Law No. 6.001, of December 19, 1973, which provides for The Indian Statute.</i></p> <p>Presented for the first time in March 2007, Bill 490/2007 moved slowly through the House's Committees, being shelved and unshelved a few times until May 2019, when the House's Committee on Constitution and Justice (CCJC) designated Federal Deputy Arthur Oliveira Maia (DEM/Bahia) as project rapporteur. On June 23, 2021, the CCJ voted and approved the rapporteur's assessment.</p> <p>Voting score at CCJC: In favor: 40 Against: 21 Abstentions: 0 Total: 61</p>	<p>For solicitors in the Public Prosecutor's Office, Bill 490 is currently one of the main threats to Indigenous rights in course in the country, since it intends to incorporate the Temporal Milestone to the demarcation of Indigenous lands⁸. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), when formalizing opposition to Bill 490, pointed out that there is still no "Temporal Milestone signed by the Supreme Court, that the issue is the object of the Extraordinary Appeal and that the respective Rapporteur, Minister Edson Fachin, voted for the unconstitutionality of the thesis"⁹. The Temporal Milestone judgment is postponed indefinitely¹⁰.</p> <p>Soon after the approval of the Bill by the CCJ, more than 160 civil society organizations sent an open letter¹¹ to the House's president, Arthur Lira, stating that "the text approved is an attack on the constitutional rights of Indigenous peoples and creates breaches for the predatory exploitation of their lands, causing irreversible damage to these peoples and the Environment".</p>	<p>In the long path to the CCJ, more than 13 other bills were appended to Bill 490/2007. In July 2022, the proposition was "subject to consideration by the house floor" under the ordinary procedure. If confirmed by the floor, it will proceed to appreciation by the Federal Senate.</p>

8 <http://www.mpf.mp.br/pgj/noticias-pgr/mpf-reitera-posicionamento-contra-pl-que-pretende-incorporar-marco-temporal>

9 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/comissoes/comissoes-permanentes/cdhm/noticias/onu-expressa-preocupacao-com-projeto-de-lei-que-trata-da-demarcacao-de-terras-indigenas>

10 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/justica/marco-temporal-e-adiado-indefinidamente-no-stf/>

11 <https://www.conectas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carta-para-Sr.-Arthur-Lira-Repudio-a-violencia-contra-povos-indigenas.pdf>


Bill 191/2020
Mining in
Indigenous Lands
Author:

Executive branch

Urgency Request:
[Federal deputy
Ricardo Barros
\(PP/Paraná\)](#)
**Proposal and
Procedure**

ABSTRACT: Regulates paragraph 1 of article 176 and paragraph 3 of article 231 of the Constitution to establish the specific conditions for the research and mining of mineral resources and hydrocarbons and for the use of water resources for the generation of electricity on Indigenous lands and establishes compensation for the restriction of the usufruct of Indigenous lands.

Presented in February 2020, [Bill 191/2020](#) was prepared by the executive branch and forwarded by the support base of Bolsonaro's government in Congress. "The Bill regulates the exploitation of mineral, water and organic resources in Indigenous reserves. The initiative of the federal government is in line with statements by President Jair Bolsonaro, who since his inauguration defends Indigenous territories should be explored economically"¹². On **March 9, 2022**, fast track request number 227/2022 filed by the government leader in the House, Federal Deputy Ricardo Barros (PP/Paraná), got a vote of approval despite strong social mobilization against the bill.

**Voting results for the regimen
of urgency in the House of
Representatives:**

In favor: 279
Against: 180
Abstentions: 03
Total: 462

**Social and
Environmental Impacts**

According to an appreciation issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Bill 191/2020 "violates the international human rights standards and commitments agreed by Brazil and would have serious impacts on human rights, development, non-discrimination, health, life, cultural identity, land and territory, life in a healthy, clean and sustainable environment, as well as the right to free, prior and informed consent before the adoption of legislative measures that may affect Indigenous peoples"¹³.

APIB (Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil) issued a Technical Note¹⁴ stating that the unconstitutionality of Bill No. 191/2020 is clear from a formal and material point of view, as well as its unconventionality for violating the right to free, prior and informed consultation with Indigenous peoples and, also, its opposition to the constitutional legal hermeneutics of article 231 of the Federal Constitution of 1988.

The Public Prosecutor's Office issued a new Technical Note¹⁵ reiterating the position taken since 2020 and reaffirming the unconstitutionality and unconventionality of Bill No. 191/2020. For the Public Prosecutor's Office, the project contains an insurmountable defect, incompatible with a fast track procedure.

Status

In July 2022, Bill 191/2020 was "waiting for the creation of the special committee by the Board of Directors; Ready to enter the voting agenda for the floor".

¹² <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/634893-projeto-do-governo-viabiliza-exploracao-de-minerios-em-terras-indigenas/>

¹³ <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/comissoes/comissoes-permanentes/cdhm/noticias/acnudh-rosa-afirma-que-aprovacao-do-pl-191-pode-trazer-danos-irrecuperaveis-ao-brasil>

¹⁴ <https://apiboficial.org/files/2022/03/NOTA-DA-APIB-PL-191.docx.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.mpf.mp.br/pgr/documentos/PGR00085541.2022.pdf>



Amazon Caucus and the Secret Budget

Throughout this Guide we show how members of the Amazon Caucus in the National Congress voted in the Annual Budget Law of 2022. This includes the rapporteur's amendment scheme (RP-9) that became known as the "secret budget" after being exposed in the press last year. [Bill 19/2021/PLOA \(Annual Budget\) 2022](#) was approved by the House of Representatives' floor in December 2021 and by the Federal Senate soon after.

Among other items, the law allocated R\$ 16.2 billion¹⁶ for the rapporteur's amendments to the budget. Financial resources within the RP-9 (amendments presented by the chief rapporteur of the Annual Budget Bill) have been characterized by lack of transparency, since the names of the deputies that direct the funds often remain undisclosed.

Also, execution of these amendments isn't mandatory and depends on agreements between the Federal Executive and Congress. Without clarity in the criteria used for directing the money and according to information published by the press, pro-government Congress members have been favored under Bolsonaro's administration. The rapporteur's amendments have been targeted by lawsuits in the Supreme Court¹⁷ and in the Federal Court of Accounts, but, in an electoral year, Congress has maneuvered to maintain the RP-9 scheme for the 2023 budget¹⁸.



Credit: Victor Moriyama/Greenpeace

¹⁶ <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/834976-emendas-de-relator-vaio-atender-20-programacoes-com-r-162-bilhoes-em-2022/>

¹⁷ <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/orcamento-de-2022-ignora-decisoes-do-stf-sobre-emendas-do-relator/>

¹⁸ <https://g1.globo.com/economia/de-olho-no-orcamento/noticia/2022/02/18/emendas-de-relator-entenda-as-criticas-a-esse-tipo-de-gasto-no-orcamento.ghtml>

2. LEGAL AMAZON: OVERVIEW



9 states



AREA: 5.068.432,45 km²



**corresponds to 58.9% of the
Brazilian territory**



**28.1 million
inhabitants (2020)**



774 municipalities



**GDP: R\$ 613.3 billion, or
8.7% of Brazil's GDP (2018)**



**45% of its area is demarcated as
Conservation Units, Indigenous
Lands and Quilombola Lands**



**62.2% of the territory
covered by forests (2020)**



**Almost 16% of the region suffered
deforestation by 2020**



**1.5 million hotspots¹⁹ were detected
between 2010 and 2020**



**The region emitted 1.14 gigatons
of greenhouse gases in 2019, of
which 76% came from
deforestation and fires**

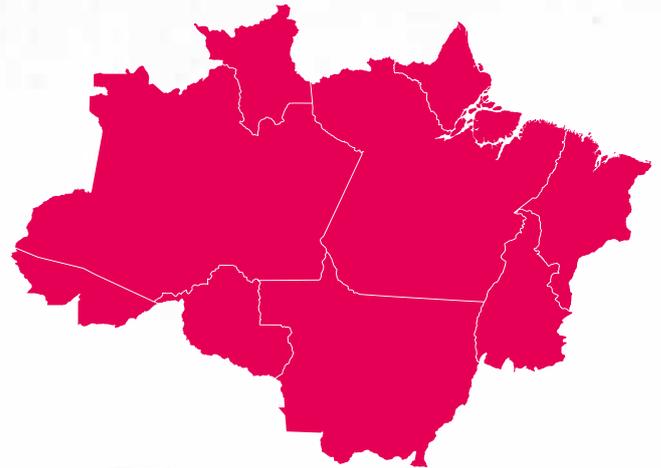
**Infographic prepared with data from
IBGE and "Legal Amazon Facts"*

¹⁹ In this sense, hot spots are clusters of [high heat monitored by satellites](#)

2. Legal Amazon: Overview



The Brazilian Amazon is organized into two main geographical territories: the Amazon biome and the Legal Amazon. The Amazon biome is a "set of ecoregions, fauna, flora and similar ecological dynamics and processes", composed of humid tropical forests, an extensive hydrographic network and enormous biodiversity. The Legal Amazon includes the entire area of the Amazon biome, as well as part of the Cerrado and Pantanal²⁰ biomes.



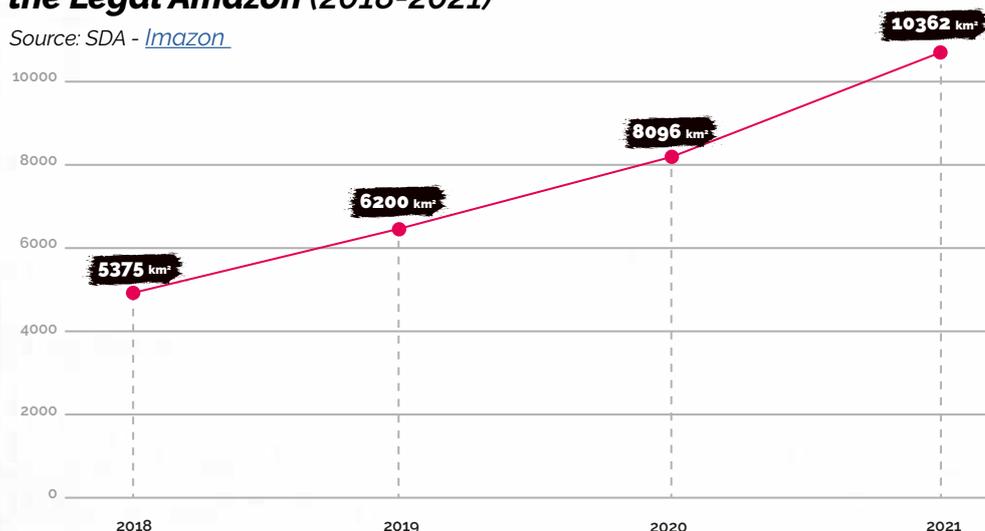
History and Legislation²¹

In 1953, [Law 1806](#), delimited the [Legal Amazon](#) for the first time as a territory that comprised: the states of Pará and Amazonas; the then federal territories of Acre, Amapá, Guaporé and Rio Branco; the part of Mato Grosso north of the 16th parallel; the portion of Goiás north of the 13th parallel; and the area of Maranhão west of the 44th meridian. In 1966, [Law 5173](#) defined that the region would cover the states of Acre, Pará and Amazonas, the federal territories of Amapá, Roraima and Rondônia and areas of Mato Grosso north of the 16th parallel, Goiás north of the 13th parallel and Maranhão west of the 44th meridian. In 1977, Complementary Law 31 integrated the entire state of Mato Grosso into the Legal Amazon.

In May 2001, [Provisional Measure 2146-1](#) created the Amazon and Northeast Development Agencies, extinguishing [Sudam](#) and the Northeast Development Superintendence ([Sudene](#)). Sudam was recreated in 2007 by Complementary Law 124, along with the [Amazon Development Fund](#) (FDA). Today, the Legal Amazon is composed of 772 municipalities distributed over the nine states: 52 municipalities of Rondônia, 22 in Acre, 62 in Amazonas, 15 in Roraima, 144 in Pará, 16 in Amapá, 139 in Tocantins, 141 in Mato Grosso and 181 municipalities in the State of Maranhão located to the west of the Meridian 44, out of which 21 are partially integrated in the Legal Amazon (IBGE).

Accumulated deforestation in the Legal Amazon (2018-2021)

Source: SDA - [Imazon](#)



According to data from [INPE/PRODES](#), deforestation in the Legal Amazon increased **21.97% between 2020 and 2021.**

²⁰ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/fatos-da-amazonia-2021/#:~:text=A%20popula%C3%A7%C3%A3o%20est%C3%A1%20estimada%20em,5%2C6%20habitantes%20por%20km%C2%B2.>

²¹ <https://www.ibge.gov.br/geociencias/cartas-e-mapas/mapas-regionais/15819-amazonia-legal.html?=&t=resolucoes-e-legislacao>



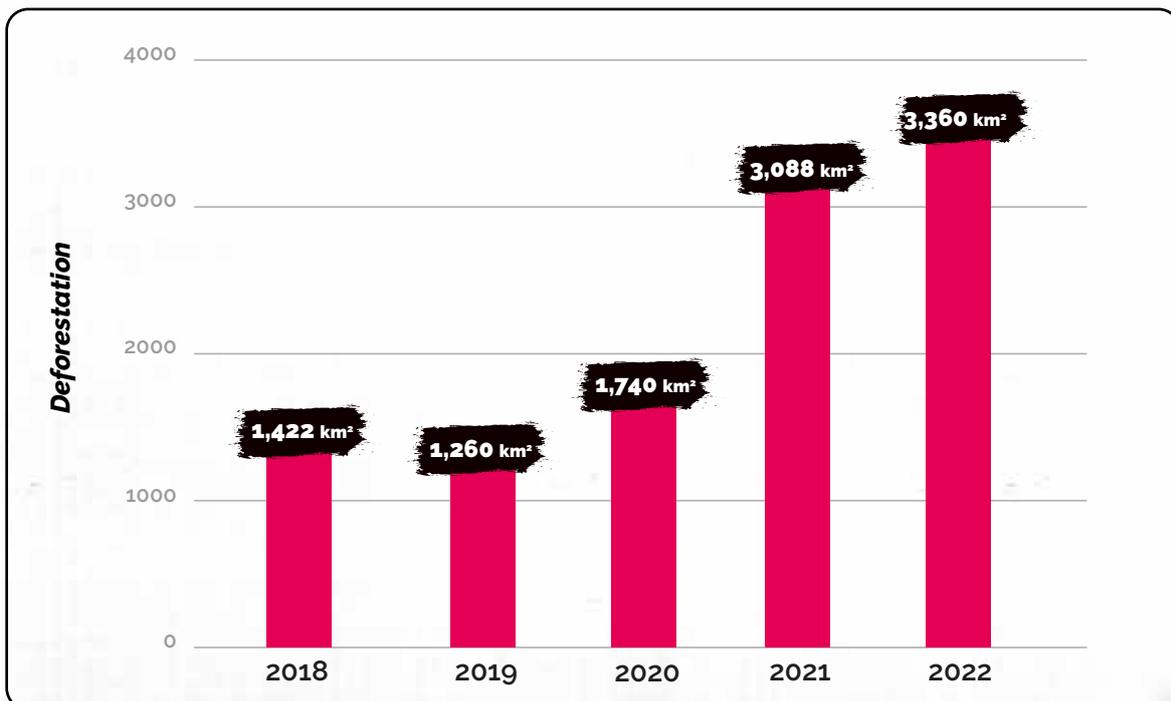
State and total deforestation of the Legal Amazon in 2020 and 2021

STATE	PRODES 2020 (km ²)	PRODES 2021 (km ²)	Variation (%)
Acre	706	871	23,37%
Amazonas	1.512	2.347	55,22%
Amapá	24	39	62,50%
Maranhão	336	363	8,04%
Mato Grosso	1.779	2.263	27,41%
Pará	4.899	5.257	7,31%
Rondônia	1.273	1.681	32,05%
Roraima	297	386	29,97%
Tocantins	25	28	12,00%
Legal Amazon	10.851	13.235	21,97%

Source: INPE/PRODES (Brazil Space Research Institute/Amazon Deforestation Satellite Monitoring Project)

In June 2022, Imazon's Deforestation Alert System (SAD), responsible for satellite monitoring since 2008, released data on deforestation in the Legal Amazon between January and May of the same year: **3,360 km² were felled in just 151 days, the equivalent of two thousand football fields and the largest devastation recorded in the last 15 years.**

Legal Amazon Deforestation Alerts (January - May)



Source: [Imazon](https://www.imazon.com.br)



LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION



LAND GRABBING

Land grabbing — [the process of invasion, theft and possession of public lands](#) — is at the root of environmental crime in the Amazon. Land grabbers have been defrauding the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) to legitimize the irregular possession of public lands, especially in Protected Areas and Non-Assigned Public Forests (FPNDs). More than 10 million hectares of new CAR registrations were identified as overlapping with protected areas in the Legal Amazon in 2020, a **56% increase** if compared to 2018 registrations. In total, there are more than 29 million hectares of CAR records overlapping with protected areas in the region; in 2020, these records showed illegal deforestation of more than 69,000 hectares, an increase of 63% compared to 2018. National and State Units of Conservation, as well as Indigenous Lands, concentrate the highest volumes of CAR overlaps in protected areas in the Amazon²². Non-Assigned Public Forests (FPNDs) occupy 56.5 million hectares in the Legal Amazon. **Today, there are more than 100,000 improperly declared CARs because they overlap with the FPNDs, corresponding to an area of 16 million hectares.** Between 2019 and 2021, more than half of deforestation in the Amazon occurred in these public lands²³.



ILLEGAL WOOD²⁴

The volume of timber production in the Legal Amazon had little variation between 2010 and 2019, reaching 11.28 million m³ with a value of R\$1.95 billion at the end of the decade. What changed was the location of the production and processing hubs, which migrated from the Deforestation Arc to more conserved forest regions. Official wood control systems, such as the Document of Forest Origin (DOF), have chronic tracking deficiencies. **The estimate is that less than 10% of Amazonian timber production is proven to be legal²⁵.**



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK FARMING²⁶

According to IBGE (Brazil's Institute of Geography and Statistics), planted areas or those designated for agriculture in the Legal Amazon increased from 84,927 km² in 2000 to 224,782 km² in 2019. In the same period, the total gross income of the sector jumped from R\$ 6.4 billion to more than R\$ 84 billion. Soy is the most important crop, with an income of R\$ 41.7 billion and a planted area of 124,947 km² in the region. Several studies show that, in addition to the direct conversion of forest into soy, this crop has serious "indirect" impacts: 1) the advancement of soy on pastures drives the increase of deforestation and land grabbing on new land destined for livestock and 2) the infrastructure built to export soy — such as roads and ports — causes massive deforestation through several actors²⁷. The Legal Amazon counted 89.2 million heads of cattle with a pasture area of 709,694 km² in 2019, concentrating almost 40% of the national cattle herd. **The available data indicates that 70% of deforested land in the Amazon is dedicated to cattle breeding** and that the expansion of livestock in the region reflects a model encouraged by land grabbing²⁸.



ORE AND SMALL SCALE MINING

Between 1985 and 2020, the mining area of Brazil grew sixfold. **In 2020, three out of four hectares mined in the country were located in the Amazon²⁹.** Between 2000 and 2020, the value of exported ore from the Legal Amazon increased from US\$ 2.1 billion to US\$ 18.1 billion, especially iron ore (US\$ 14.37 billion/2020). Pará accounts for more than 94% of total exported ores from the Legal Amazon³⁰. Gold exports increased significantly in the Legal Amazon, reaching US\$ 1.2 billion in 2020, split between Pará (US\$ 424.2 million), Mato Grosso (US\$ 270.17 million), Amapá (US\$ 219.79 million), Maranhão (US\$ 218.58), Amazonas (US\$ 83.78 million) and Rondônia (US\$ 10.29 million)³¹. **The region concentrates 93.7% of mining in Brazil, with 132 illegal gold mining areas recorded.** From 2010 to 2020, the area occupied by gold mines within protected areas increased 301%. In the case of Indigenous lands, the increase was 495%, with the largest gold mining areas on Indigenous lands located in the Kayapó (7602 ha), Munduruku (1592 ha) and Yanomami (414 ha)³² territories.

22 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/grilagem-amazonia-desmatamento/>

23 https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AMZ2030_30.pdf

24 P. 3 and 4 - <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

25 <https://oglobo.globo.com/economia/esg/noticia/2022/06/origem-ilegal-e-desafio-para-exploracao-de-madeira-na-amazonia.ghtml>

26 P. 3 - <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

27 <https://amazoniareal.com.br/o-desmatamento-da-amazonia-brasileira-10-soja/>

28 <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/pt-br/publication/a-economia-da-pecuaria-na-amazonia-grilagem-ou-expansao-da-fronteira-agropecuaria/>

29 <https://mapbiomas.org/area-ocupada-pela-mineracao-no-brasil-cresce-mais-de-6-vezes-entre-1985-e-2020>

30 P. 4 - <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

31 <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

32 <https://mapbiomas.org/area-ocupada-pela-mineracao-no-brasil-cresce-mais-de-6-vezes-entre-1985-e-2020>



VIOLENCE

According to the 36th edition of the report on conflicts in rural areas by the [Pastoral Land Commission \(CPT\)](#), launched in April 2022, the **Bolsonaro government recorded 5,725 conflicts, the largest number of all governments since the report began to be published** in 1985. During this period, 2,329 occurrences of land conflicts were recorded in the Legal Amazon, or an average of 2 conflicts a day³³. Between 2020 and 2021, 28 murders resulting from land conflicts took place in the Legal Amazon. Indigenous peoples (26%) are the category that suffers the most violence, followed by quilombolas and squatters (17% each) and landless workers (14%). The State (at the municipal, state and national levels) is the third largest responsible for conflicts (17%), behind business enterprises (20%) and farmers (21%)³⁴.

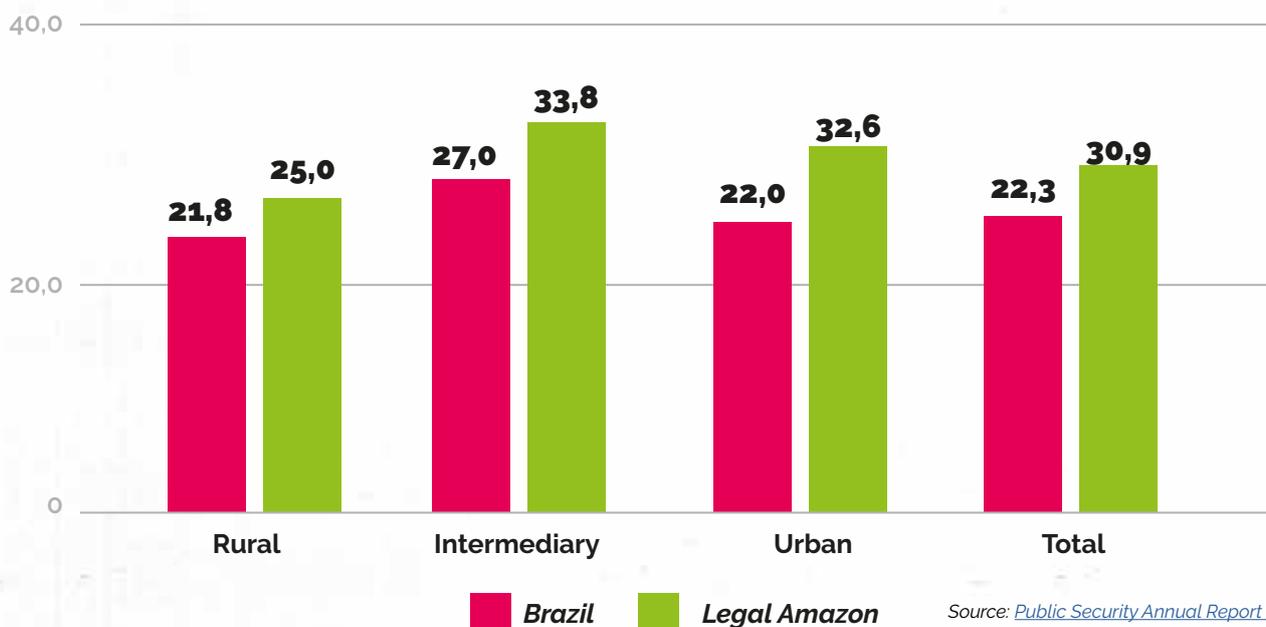
These are not isolated cases.
It is part of a project.

In addition to rural conflicts, **the Legal Amazon has 10 of the 30 most violent cities in the country**, according to a survey by the Brazilian Public Security Forum released in June 2022. The data features in the [Public Security Annual Report 2022y](#) and is based on cases recorded between 2019 and 2022, using the intentional violent deaths index as reference (MVI)³⁵ for every 100 thousand inhabitants. "Of these, 11 are rural cities, with small populations suffering from lethal violence for at least three years in a row (...) Jacareacanga, in Pará, has an average MVI rate of 199,2 per 100,000 inhabitants and is the second most violent municipality in the country. (...) Virtually all 10 municipalities with average rates greater than 100 per 100,000 inhabitants are located either immediately next to or close to Indigenous Lands and to borders with the other countries of the Pan Amazon," says the study.

"Especially in regards to intentional violent deaths, it is possible to see an increase in violence in the Amazon directly related to the processes connected to a vast array of crimes, with emphasis on the relation between drug trafficking and environmental crimes, as well as the growth of organized crime factions in the region," said Aiala Couto, Professor at the State University of Pará and a member of the Brazilian Public Security Forum³⁶.

Lethal Violence in the Legal Amazon

The lethal violence rate in the Amazon is 38% higher than the national average



³³ <https://www.cptnacional.org.br/publicacoes/noticias/articulacao-cpt-s-da-amazonia/5970-saldo-do-governo-bolsonaro-para-as-florestas-e-seus-povos-e-de-2-conflitos-por-terra-por-dia-na-amazonia-legal>

³⁴ <https://ponte.org/conflitos-no-campo-explodiram-durante-o-governo-bolsonaro-aponta-cpt/>

³⁵ Intentional Violent Deaths include: willful homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.

³⁶ Pg 52 - <https://forumseguranca.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/anuario-2022.pdf?v=4>



Credit: Alonso Junior/via Mídia Ninja



JAIR BOLSONARO, SPOKESMAN FOR AMAZON DISINFORMATION

In the last four years, **President Jair Bolsonaro** has consolidated his position as the main official source of disinformation about the Amazon, as well as about Indigenous movements and environmental activism. In the three times he participated in UN General Assemblies (2019, 2020 and 2021) and in dozens of [livestreams](#) and interviews throughout his term, [Bolsonaro](#) denied the seriousness of the socio-environmental crisis in the region, blamed the fires on “caboclos and Indigenous peoples”, lied that Brazil was the most preserved country in the world and defended national “sovereignty” against [supposed](#) foreign interests on the forest.

Racist statements against Indigenous people and quilombolas marked his election campaign³⁷ and, shortly after the first round in 2018, Jair Bolsonaro promised “to end all activism in Brazil”³⁸. In 2019, [he blamed NGOs](#) and celebrities for the forest fires in Pará. On several occasions, the president publicly complained about employees from environmental agencies IBAMA and [ICMBio](#), INPE (Brazil’s Space Research Institute) and FUNAI (Brazil’s Indigenous Agency) only for doing their [work](#) and [confronted](#) journalists who inquired about the [environmental issue](#).

Bolsonaro also received and publicly supported miners, loggers and [large estate landowners](#), in addition to defending guns in rural areas. His [discourses](#) and acts of disinformation and [criminalization](#) of [activists](#) were [imitated](#) by [generals](#) and [government ministers](#)³⁹ and reproduced and adapted by [members of Congress](#) and [authorities](#), [empowering environmental criminals](#) in the states that form the Legal Amazon.

37 <https://terradedireitos.org.br/noticias/noticias/conaq-e-terra-de-direitos-protocolam-denuncia-contr-bolsonaro-por-racismo/22449>

38 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjUgziydfzU>

39 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/01/22/entidades-ongs-e-politicos-denunciam-salles-a-pgr/>

3. ACRE



AREA: 170,895.13 km²



894,470 inhabitants (2020)



22 municipalities



Capital: Rio Branco, where more than 400,000 people live, almost half of the state's population



**HDI*: 0,663
ranking 21st in Brazil (2010)**



GDP: R\$ 15.3 billion (2018)



47% of the area demarcated as Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands



85% of the territory covered by forests (2020)



More than 14% of the state had been affected by deforestation by 2020



About 18,000 hot spots were detected in the state in 2020 and 2021



39.62 megatons of CO₂e emitted in 2019, most from deforestation and changes in land use

*Human Development Index

**Infographic prepared with data from IBGE, from Acre's Government, INPE e "Fatos da Amazônia Legal" (Facts from Legal Amazon)

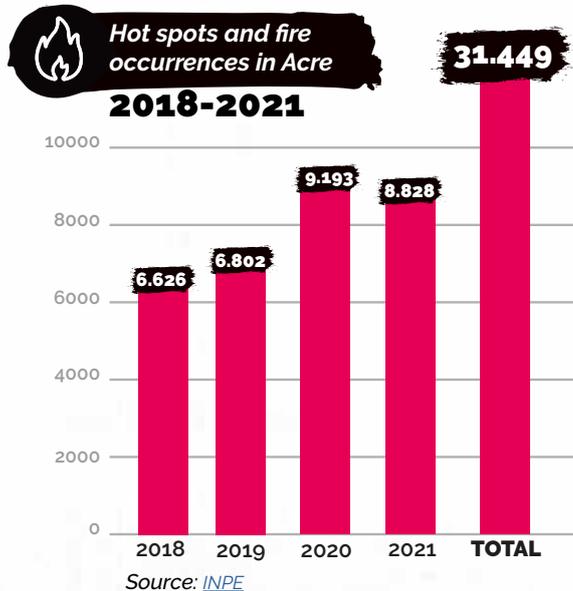


LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION:

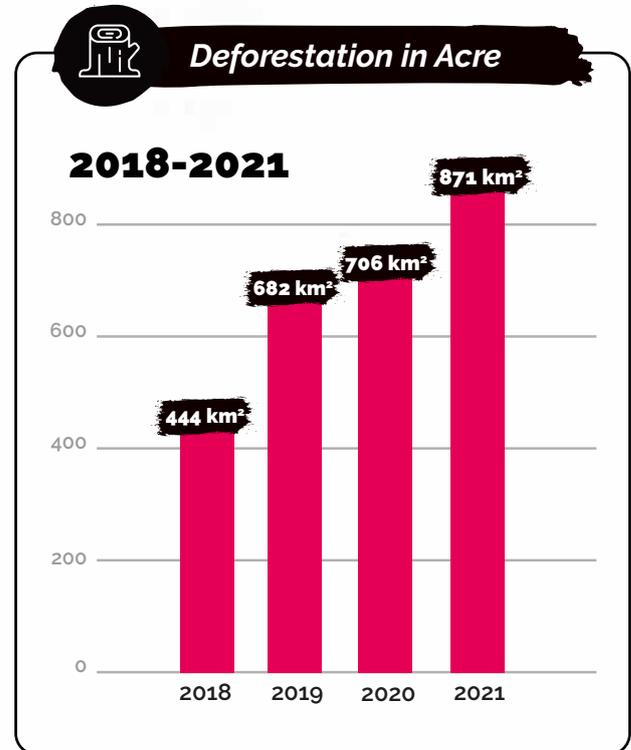
Livestock breeding takes over the forest bolstered by the international market

Acre state legislation does not establish a deadline for the occupation of public lands for the purpose of land regularization, which leaves non-designated forest areas vulnerable to land grabbing and deforestation. An [Amazon study](#) released in 2021 indicates that **28% of the state's land has no agrarian definition or information available**; most of it (69%) belongs to the state and is located almost entirely in border areas. About 1.7 million hectares of these non-designated areas are considered of **high biological importance** and priority for conservation, sustainable use and environmental services. Between 2010 and 2019, Acre ranked fifth in number of conflicts in rural areas among the states of the Legal Amazon⁴⁰.

This lack of certainty in land designation reflects on the loss of forest coverage. In recent decades, the state of Acre has fluctuated between highs and lows in deforestation rates; in 2018, however, the curve began to rise consistently, with an increase of 54% at the turn of 2019⁴¹, reaching a new record in 2021, when it saw the highest rate of forest loss since 2004⁴². Related to the movements and infrastructure of territorial occupation, in 2019, 75% of deforestation in Acre occurred in the east of the state linked to cattle farming, agriculture and proximity to highways⁴³.



Experts indicated that **40% of the scars (signs) left by the fires in 2020 were on recently deforested land**, without any kind of previous crops. Fires in these territories usually occur after the forest is chopped down in order to clean it up for occupation, in addition to deforestation for illegal logging. They also pointed out polygons of increasingly burnt areas and the renewal of pastures due to the increase in the price of cattle⁴⁴.



Source: [INPE - PRODES](#) (Brazil Space Research Institute/Amazon Deforestation Satellite Monitoring Project)

Accumulated data from August 2021 to May 2022 shows Acre registered 480 km² of deforestation (*Imazon*)

⁴⁰ <https://oeco.org.br/noticias/grilagem-a-qualquer-tempo-acre-nao-possui-marco-temporal-para-ocupacao-de-terras/>

⁴¹ http://semapi.acre.gov.br/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2020/08/Relatorio-Desmatamento-PRODES-2019_20200707_v1_FINAL_20200731.pdf

⁴² <https://g1.globo.com/ac/acre/natureza/amazonia/noticia/2021/11/23/desmatamento-no-acre-passa-de-870-km-e-tem-maior-taxa-dos-ultimos-18-anos.ghtml>

⁴³ http://semapi.acre.gov.br/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2020/08/Relatorio-Desmatamento-PRODES-2019_20200707_v1_FINAL_20200731.pdf

⁴⁴ <https://infoamazonia.org/2020/11/16/acre-encerra-temporada-do-fogo-com-area-queimada-39-maior-que-a-de-2019/>



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“The Bolsonaro administration’s unconditional support and flexibilization has generated catastrophic environmental damage, with a record of deforestation and invasion of land for exploitation, as well as the increase in unbridled agribusiness.”

Sarah Soares, Data Engineer at Política por Inteiro⁴⁵, Rio Branco/AC.

Between August 2019 and July 2020, **27,455 hectares of forest were subject to logging in Acre, with 76% of the total concentrated in only 10 rural properties in the state⁴⁶**. While timber products accounted for 38.7% of the state’s total exports in 2020, meat and its derivatives accounted for 26.3%, according to the state government⁴⁷.

The number of cattle reached 3.8 million head in Acre, an increase of 8.3% in 2020 compared to the previous year and the highest growth among the nine states of the Legal Amazon. The strong increase places the livestock industry as one of the main engines of Acre’s economy, fueled by growing international demand for meat and meat products, especially from China⁴⁸. The correlation between the increase in deforestation and land use for livestock in the last decade in Acre is explicit in the data from [MapBiomas](#): in 2020, **84,925 hectares were deforested in the state; in the same year, land assigned for cattle and livestock breeding increased by 84,735 hectares** - practically the same amount.

The Brazil-Peru border region is home to one of the greatest biological diversities and populations of uncontacted Indigenous people in the Amazon and the planet. On both sides of the international border that runs along Acre state, a mosaic of more than 10 million hectares was demarcated, consisting of Indigenous lands, conservation units and lands reserved for uncontacted peoples. Large infrastructure projects planned by the governments of the two countries in the name of “regional integration” threaten the integrity of these territories and their populations, which have been excluded and marginalized in the consultation processes of these works⁴⁹.

⁴⁵ <https://www.politicaporinteiro.org/>

⁴⁶ <https://amazon.org.br/publicacoes/sistema-de-monitoramento-da-exploracao-madeira-simex-mapeamento-da-exploracao-madeira-no-acre-agosto-2019-a-julho-2020/>

⁴⁷ <https://agencia.ac.gov.br/mesmo-com-a-pandemia-acre-apresenta-elevacao-no-volume-de-exportacoes-em-2020/>

⁴⁸ <https://brasil.mongabay.com/2022/01/rebanho-bovino-no-acre-ja-e-quatro-vezes-maior-que-o-numero-de-habitantes-desmatamento-cresce/>

⁴⁹ <https://cpiacre.org.br/a-fronteira/>

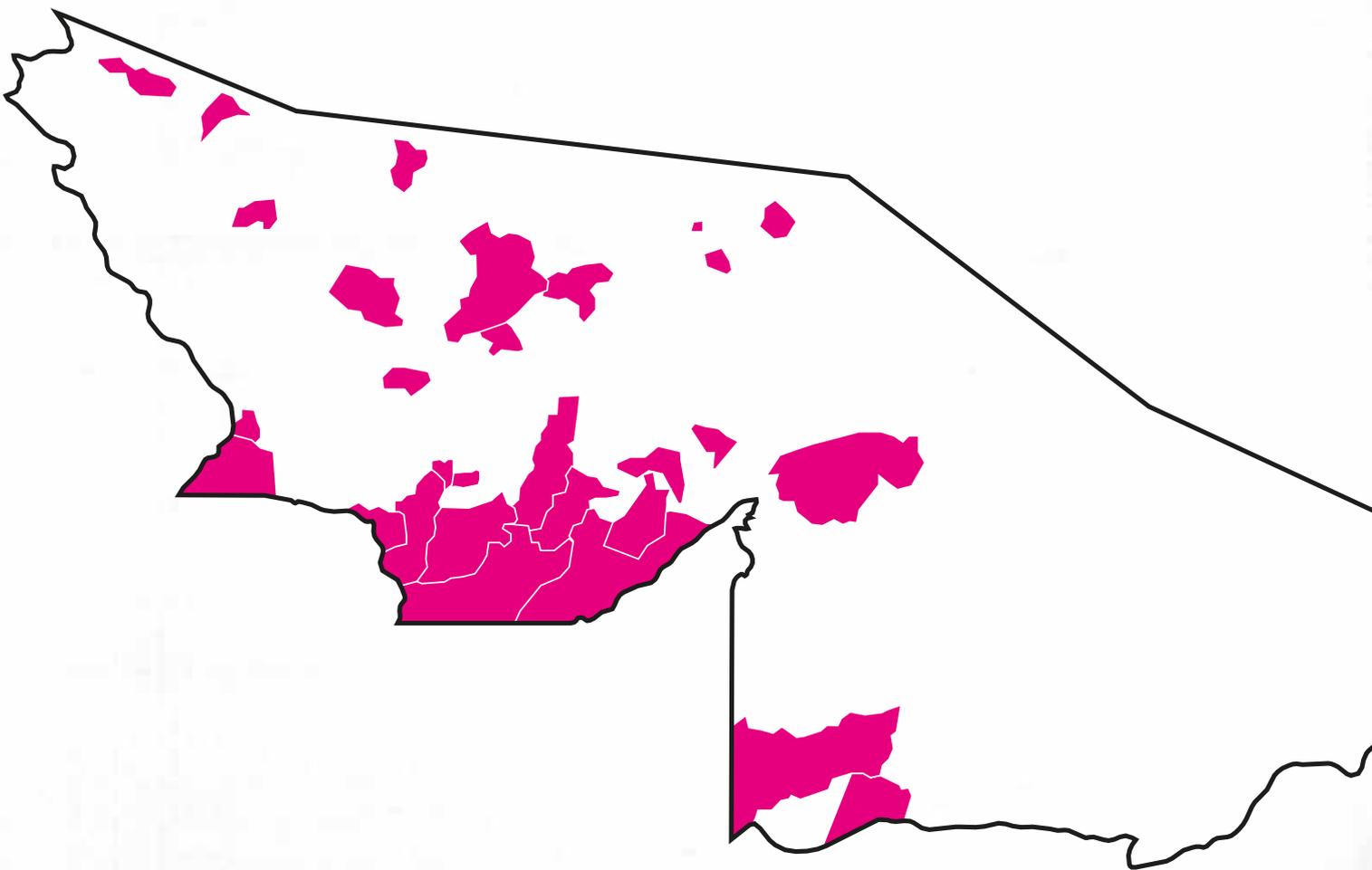


INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY: At least one third of the state's Indigenous Lands awaits regularization

According to data from the Pro-Indian Commission of Acre⁵⁰ and the state government⁵¹, there are [35 Indigenous Lands](#) recognized by the federal government in the state, of which 24 have been fully approved, registered and recorded and another 11 are at different stages of the regularization processes. Located in the basins of the Juruá and Purus rivers, the total area of Indigenous lands corresponds to 14.56% of Acre. The Indigenous populations total about 23,000 individuals from 15 peoples. Their languages belong to three linguistic families (Pano, Aruak and Arawá), plus the uncontacted groups, not yet identified, and a group of recent contact.

Acre

Indigenous Territories*



*We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](#).

⁵⁰ <https://cpiacre.org.br/terras-indigenas-no-acre/>

⁵¹ <http://semapi.acre.gov.br/terras-indigenas/>



Indigenous Lands are the class of land that contributes the least to deforestation in the state of Acre. Even so, they are under increasing pressure from the timber industry, livestock farming and major infrastructure works such as highways.

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“Not only has the invasion of territories been praised, but there has also been an attempt at what Indigenous peoples call killing by the pen, using legal instruments and laws to favor groups that seek wealth from the felled forest.”

Tarisson Nawa, of the Nawa people, of the Indigenous Land in the Serra do Divisor National Park (PNSD), journalist and press officer for Podáali - Brazilian Amazon Indigenous Fund.⁵² Master in Social Anthropology student (PPGAS/MN-UFRJ), Juruá/AC

Free Land Camp - Acre 2022

Between April 11 and 14, leaders and representatives of 14 Indigenous peoples gathered at the Free Land Camp (Acampamento Terra Livre) Acre 2022 in front of the Governor's Office and the State Congress in the capital, Rio Branco. In addition to demands for better Indigenous health, education and participation, the meeting produced a statement that rejected the attacks promoted by Congress and the federal government against socio-environmental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The document highlights, in addition to the trial of the Temporal Milestone and Bills 191, 490 and 3729, the "Bill 6024/2019, proposed by the federal representative for Acre, Mara Rocha, who wants to reduce the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve and close the Serra do Divisor National Park to make way for the expansion of agribusiness, agriculture and mineral exploration, which will directly impact our lives and compromise the lives of future generations."

The Indigenous people also demand that the rights and existence of communities living in protected areas be recognized, such as the Sharanawa in Chandless Park and the Nawa and Nukini in the Serra do Divisor National Park, in addition to the protection of territories and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation, who do not want contact. They still demand "action of the Brazilian government for the defense of the borders and protection from the threat of the roads that are being built in the neighboring country and that will seriously affect Indigenous lands, the forest and the environment in the Upper Juruá". They also demand "actions against the road that is being built to connect the Ucayali River and the Juruá River (Nueva Italia-Puerto Breu) at the border and the suspension of the project of a road between Cruzeiro do Sul and Pucallpa, which is being carried out without consultation, at the risk of damage to the environment, land grabbing, pollution of rivers, invasion of ours and the isolated peoples territories". Read the full text [here](#).

⁵² <https://fundopodaali.org.br/>



VIOLENCE: Organized crime grows along with attacks against women and LGBTQ population

Conflicts and deaths in rural areas - Acre - 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	59	88	59	61
Personal violence **	1	80	13	2

*Corresponding to the sum of conflicts over land and actions of occupations/retakes; **Corresponding to the sum of murders, attempted murder, death as consequence, death threat, torture, imprisonment and assault

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021" ("Land conflicts" is a yearly report published by the Pastoral Land Commission - Comissão Pastoral da Terra)

According to the [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), Acre recorded 1,250 intentional violent deaths⁵³ between 2018 and 2021. As per the study, the state reported that in March 2022 it had 78 active police officers able to conduct criminal investigations. Considering 24-hour shifts on the days of the week, this corresponds to about 19 inspectors per shift to serve the entire population of Acre, with most agents concentrated in the capital and larger cities.

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“Organized crime has evolved a lot in recent years, reports of crimes have increased considerably and with this, the cruelty of them, as we have also seen the dispute of turf in urban and rural territories grow. It is worth mentioning the cases of homophobia and femicide that have become much more frequent (unfortunately). I believe that the president’s speech may have opened a breach for crimes of this nature.”

Sarah Soares, data engineer with Política por Inteiro, Rio Branco /AC.

POINTS OF ATTENTION

High socio-environmental impact projects in the state

Reopening of the Nueva Italia - Puerto Breu Road (UC-105) in Peru: One of the main threats to the Indigenous peoples of Acre was again denounced in April 2021 by the Ashaninka Association of the Amônia River – Apiwtxa in a [dossier](#) on the Nueva Italia-Puerto Breu Road, UC-105, in Peru. According to Apiwtxa, “the highway, which is currently being illegally reopened, cuts through Indigenous territories and conservation areas less than 11 km from the border with Brazil, mainly the Kampa Indigenous Land of the Amônia River, of the Apiwtxa Village. The opening of this road threatens more than 30 Indigenous communities in Brazil and Peru, in the regions of Ucayali, Alto Tamaya and Alto Juruá”. In addition to illegal logging, other activities such as mining, oil extraction and international drug trafficking tend to grow. The highway was built in the late 1980s by an American oil company but was used throughout the 1990s by loggers to transport wood, putting pressure on the Brazilian side until the 2000s⁵⁴.

⁵³ Intentional Violent Deaths include: willful homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.

⁵⁴ <https://amazoniareal.com.br/rodovia-no-peru-ameaca-territorios-indigenas-no-acre/>



PL 6024/2019 - reduces the Chico Mendes Resex and extinguishes the Serra do Divisor National Park:

The Chico Mendes Extractive Reservation (RESEX) is one of the most threatened Conservation Units in Brazil, suffering strong deforestation pressure for the livestock activity that expands in its surroundings. Created in 1989, the Serra do Divisor National Park⁵⁵ has 837,000 hectares and houses 1,233 registered species of animals, including endangered primates. The Park neighbors the Nukini Indigenous Land. There is also demand for the creation of the Nawa Indigenous Land, occupying part of the Park on the right bank of the Moa River, in addition to indications of uncontacted Indigenous groups circulating between Peru and Brazil.

The Park also protects the headwaters of the tributaries of the Juruá River, one of the most important in the region. Even so, the [Bill 6024/2019](#), authored by representative Mara Rocha (PSDB/AC), pending in Congress, proposes to reduce the limits of the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve in 3 municipalities in Acre, handing the lands over to speculation, and to extinguish the Serra do Divisor National Park, transforming it into an Environmental Protection Area with much more flexible rules. The approval of the bill also facilitates the construction of the cross-border highway between the cities of Cruzeiro do Sul and Pucallpa, in Peru. According to local [environmentalists](#), Bill 6024 "is an attack on environmental preservation and a serious threat to traditional families in the region".

DISINFORMATION: State uses fake news to fast-track highway construction

Among the targets of disinformation campaigns in the state, road works of "integration" of Acre with other units of the federation and on the border with Peru stood out.

Bridge over the Madeira River

According to data-checking project [Comprova](#), a 2020 tweet from @humbertovivian "deceives by implying that the construction of a bridge over the Madeira River, which will connect Acre to Rondônia, was done only under the management of President Jair Bolsonaro. The work began

"For us, this is one of the worst bills [the 6024] created in recent times, because it directly impacts the territories of the surrounding Indigenous people who have already suffered an invasion process or are in drug trafficking routes. Leaders are trying to limit this type of action in the territory, but with the extinction of the park and the construction of the road this tends to get worse. There are also social problems that can increase such as alcoholism, prostitution and so many others."

Tarisson Nawa, from the Nawa people, journalist and press officer for Podáali - Indigenous Fund of the Brazilian Amazon. Master's student in Social Anthropology (PPGAS/MN-UFRJ), Juruá/AC

in 2014, still under the government of Dilma Rousseff (PT). In December 2018, a month before Jair Bolsonaro took office, the bridge works were already 85% completed". The publication also implied that the project was already completed, but the bridge was only opened in 2021⁵⁶. The checked post says that "50 years later, Bolsonaro government fulfills the dream of Acreans". In December last year, Asuero Veronez, president of the Federation of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Acre (FAEAC), also said that the project was a 50-year dream⁵⁷, a message replicated by the governor of the state, Gladson Camelli. Comprova found no records of promises made in the 1970s regarding this project that could justify the statement. **After @humbertovivian's tweet, 34 accounts published the images until August 6, 2020, including city councilor Carlos Bolsonaro (Republicanos-RJ) and senator Flávio Bolsonaro (PSL), sons of Jair Bolsonaro.**

55 <https://www.uol.com.br/ecoa/ultimas-noticias/2020/02/24/serra-do-divisor-por-que-parque-com-biodiversidade-unica-corre-risco-no-ac.htm>

56 <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2021/05/07/ponte-do-abuna-e-inaugurada-em-rondonia-e-vai-facilitar-o-acesso-ao-acre.ghtml>

57 <https://contilnetnoticias.com.br/2019/12/se-aditivo-nao-for-aprovado-pelo-governo-ponto-do-rio-madeira-nao-sera-entregue-em-2020/>



”

“Certainly the most striking social and environmental fake news is that the Estrada do Pacífico (Pacific Road) would bring more benefits to the people of Acre. Experts already point out that the construction of this road, in addition to invading part of the Serra do Divisor, a preservation area, stimulates mining, deforestation and crime through drug trafficking. All sources linked to the government share this information, as well as congresspeople accounts.”

Sarah Soares, data engineer with Política por Inteiro, Rio Branco /AC.

Pucallpa-Cruzeiro do Sul cross-border highway, the new Estrada do Pacífico (Pacific Road)

The Pucallpa-Cruzeiro do Sul international road project would be the second highway in Brazil that crosses Peru to reach the Pacific Ocean, in addition to the newly paved Rota Interoceânica do Sul (Interoceanic Southern Route). Both roads are part of the South American Regional Infrastructure Integration Initiative (IIRSA) - officially renamed the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN).

IIRSA's goal is to improve transportation, energy and telecommunications infrastructure corridors in South America. According to a study by INPA (National Amazon Research Institute), the Federal University of Acre and the University of Richmond, **these initiatives accessed remote rural areas, contacted several Amazonian cultures and threatened intact ecosystems**⁵⁸. The proposal of the new Pacific Road, defended by the federal and state governments, represents an extension of 230 km to the BR-364 highway to connect the Acre region of Juruá to Pucallpa, Peru, which would cut through the Serra do Divisor National Park (PNSD) for more than 20 km.

Embedded in PL 6024/2019, which aims to remove the protection status of the PNSD, the work has as its main justification the connection of Brazil to Peruvian maritime markets and ports as well as **facilitating the export of agricultural commodities to Asia**, especially to China. In February 2022, at a meeting with Peruvian President Pedro Castillo, who declared himself against the project, Jair Bolsonaro **reaffirmed** the Brazilian government's intention to build the highway, alleging “great potential to increase economic integration”. According to Infoamazônia, “the first discussions on the road began in 2005 but were buried for lack of political support. The idea was reborn in 2019 when representatives of large rural producers took over the government of Acre after two decades away from power”.

In addition to the serious socio-environmental and biodiversity impacts in one of the Amazon's most protected regions, several studies⁵⁹ **on the so-called Pacific Road defeated the argument that “integration” was needed, as there is already a highway that fulfills this demand: BR-317, which connects Assis Brasil, in southeastern Acre, to Iñapari, in Peru.**

”

“Selling the road as something beneficial disregards the entire Brazilian history of implementing large projects that directly impacted Indigenous lands. The State itself used its press office as a platform to convey this lie.”

Tarisson Nawa, from the Nawa people, journalist and press officer for Podáali - Indigenous Fund of the Brazilian Amazon. Master's student in Social Anthropology (PPGAS/MN-UFRJ), Juruá/AC

⁵⁸ http://philip.inpa.gov.br/publ_livres/2022/Koga_et_al_2022-Parque_Nacional_da_Serra_do_Divisor_amea%C3%A7ado-Serie_completa.pdf

⁵⁹ <https://ac24horas.com/2022/04/25/nova-ligacao-do-acre-ao-peru-e-desnecessaria-porque-estrada-do-pacifico-e-subutilizada-diz-estudo/>



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The “cattle herd strategy” here in Acre meant flexibilizing everything that was possible, such as the encouragement of cattle trade (with a tax reduction on the Value Added Tax - ICMS) and weak inspection initiatives, which culminated in the increase in logging in the state.”

Sarah Soares, data engineer with Política por Inteiro, Rio Branco /AC.

TIMELINE

In [Smoke Signal's](#) monitoring of the main socio-environmental events since the election of Jair Bolsonaro, we highlight two episodes in Acre that reveal the nature and consolidate federal government policies executed with the support of members of Congress and local authorities.



MARCH 2021: Min. Salles appoints environmental criminal's lawyer for IBAMA in Acre⁶⁰

In yet another appointment that went against the responsibilities of IBAMA's supervisory body, then Minister of the Environment Ricardo Salles chose lawyer Helen de Freitas Cavalcanti as the organ's superintendent for Acre state. She works as an attorney for environmental offenders, in order to free them from fines imposed by agents from IBAMA and ICMBio⁶¹, Brazil's biodiversity conservation institute. “Look for a lawyer who works in Environmental Law (who knows what he's talking about), get ahead,” Cavalcanti announced on social networks. After the appointment, Acre's Public Prosecutor reported that a representation contesting the appointment had been filed. Three months after her nomination, Helen Cavalcanti was dismissed⁶².



MARCH 2022: Land grabbing skyrockets in Amazonas, Acre and Rondônia, study points out⁶³

A study by the NGO Greenpeace exposed a scheme of theft of public lands in an area of the Amazon rich in biodiversity, located between Amazonas, Acre and Rondônia. The region, known as AMACRO (a combination of the acronym for the three states), totals 454,220 km², almost the size of Spain, and houses the so-called Gleba João Bento, “the target of a chain of fraudulent securities, leading to the emergence of hundreds of deeds of purchase and sale and duplicity of real estate registration”⁶⁴. “Glebas” are large areas of government property not yet designated, that is, public lands that must be kept for conservation or sustainable use.

⁶⁰ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/03/03/nova-responsavel-por-ibama-no-acre-nomeada-por-salles-e-advogada-de-criminosos-ambientais/>

⁶¹ <https://sustentabilidade.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral,salles-nomeia-advogada-de-infratores-ambientais-para-cuidar-de-ibama-no-acre,70003634778>

⁶² <https://g1.globo.com/ac/acre/noticia/2021/06/21/apos-3-meses-no-cargo-superintendente-do-ibama-no-acre-e-exonerada.ghtml>

⁶³ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/03/08/grilagem-de-terras-explode-entre-amazonas-acre-e-rondonia-aponta-estudo/>

⁶⁴ https://sustentabilidade.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral,greenpeace-aponta-explosao-de-desmatamento-em-area-da-amazonia,70004001961?utm_source=akna&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10032022-Climainfo-Newsletter



STATE GOVERNMENT: The “Centrão”⁶⁵ and loggers in power

In 2018, Gladson de Lima Cameli (PP) was elected governor of Acre with 53.71% of the valid votes⁶⁶. According to his [official profile](#), Governor Cameli was born in Cruzeiro do Sul in 1978, graduated in Civil Engineering in 2001 and practiced professional activities as a partner of the family company. He is the nephew of the former governor of the State of Acre, Orleir Cameli. Inspired by his uncle, he entered politics at the age of 28, when he was first elected a federal representative; in 2010, he was re-elected to the House of Representatives. He was a member of the PFL party between 2000 and 2003 and of the PPS party between 2003 and 2005. He has been in the Progressive Party since 2005. In the 2014 election he was elected senator.

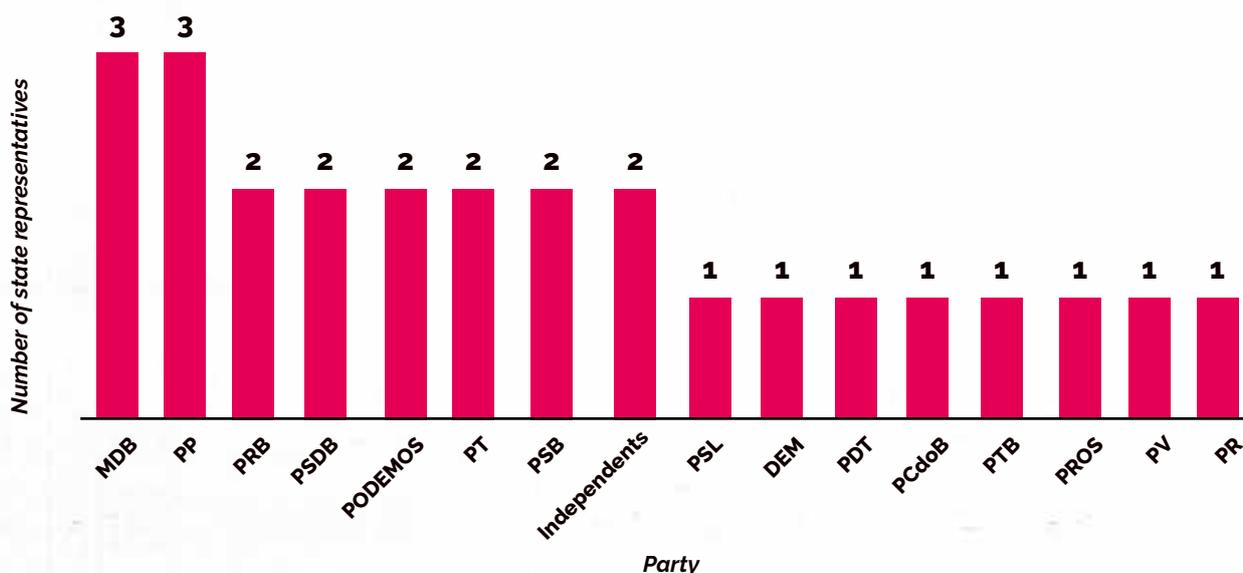
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“The ‘cattle herd’ crossing my state is led by deputies who have always advocated the death of forests for the benefit of some groups and the strengthening of companies and developments within the forest, it is the return of the Cruzeiro do Sul Road to Pucallpa discussion, ignoring the practice of free, prior, and informed consultation.”

Tarisson Nawa, from the Nawa people, journalist and press officer for Podáali - Indigenous Fund of the Brazilian Amazon. Master's student in Social Anthropology (PPGAS/MN-UFRJ), Juruá/AC

In the 1990s, governor Gladson Cameli's family was charged with illegal logging on the Ashaninka Indigenous land in an area adjacent to the Serra do Divisor National Park⁶⁷. In 2020, an agreement ended the 25-year lawsuit and ordered the company of the former governor of Acre and Gladson's uncle, Orleir Cameli, to pay R\$ 14 million to the Indigenous people⁶⁸.

[Acre's State Congress](#) has 26 state representatives, distributed as seen below in the period of 2018-2022:



⁶⁵ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centr%C3%A3o>

⁶⁶ <https://g1.globo.com/ac/acre/eleicoes/2018/noticia/2018/10/07/gladson-cameli-do-pp-e-eleito-governador-do-acre.ghtml>

⁶⁷ <https://infoamazonia.org/2022/03/10/projeto-de-estrada-avanca-sobre-floresta-intocada-na-amazonia/>

⁶⁸ <https://g1.globo.com/ac/acre/noticia/2020/04/02/depois-de-25-anos-acordo-garante-indenizacao-de-r-14-milhoes-a-ashaninkas-do-ac-por-desmatamento.ghtml>



ACRE'S CAUCUS IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:

52,38% of representatives voted with Bolsonaro on social-environmental reforms. (52,66% with abstentions); 62,5% are part of the Ruralist Caucus⁶⁹

Acre's [legislative caucus](#) in the National Congress' 2018-2022 Legislature has eight federal representatives and three senators. Most of Acre's representatives voted in line with Bolsonaro government in the key projects of the Destruction Package and favored the approval of the 2022 Budget Law with the allocation of record funds for the rapporteur's amendments ("secret budget").

”

“The worst bill on the socio-environmental issue in the last 3 years is undoubtedly Bill no. 3.729/2004, approved in the House of Representatives and now going through the Senate. It deals with the end of Environmental Licensing.”

Sarah Soares, data engineer with Política por Inteiro, Rio Branco /AC.

How Acre's Federal Representatives voted on the Bolsonaro Destruction Package and the 2022 Budget Law

Names highlighted in pink are part of the Agriculture and Livestock Farming Congressional Front (FPA) - Agribusiness Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ⁷⁰ Plenary	LICENSING ⁷² (Bill no. 3729/2004) Floor	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ⁷³ (Bill no. 191/2020) Plenary - Urgency	DEMARCATION OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (Bill no. 490/2007) ⁷⁴ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021 (LOA 2022) ⁷⁵ Floor
01	Alan Rick (DEM)	In favor	In favor	In favor of urgency	x	In favor
02	Dra. Vanda Milani (SD)	In favor	In favor	In favor of urgency	x	In favor
03	Flaviano Melo (MDB)	In favor	In favor	Against urgency	x	In favor
04	Jessica Sales (MDB)	In favor	Absent	Against urgency	x	Absent
05	Jesus Sérgio (PDT)	Against	Against	Against urgency	x	In favor
06	Leo de Brito (PT)	Against	Against	Against urgency	Substitute in CCJ (party voted against)	In favor
07	Mara Rocha (PSDB)	In favor	In favor	In favor of urgency	x	In favor
08	Perpétua Almeida (PCDoB)	Against	Against	Against urgency	Substitute in CCJ (party voted against)	Against

Source: Organized by the guide based on web pages of the House of Representatives and the [Agriculture and Livestock Farming Parliamentary Front](#)

⁶⁹ The calculations were made adding the coefficients of representatives favorable to pro-Bolsonaro projects in the Land Grabbing Bill, Environmental Licensing and urgency for the Mining in Indigenous Lands Bill and calculating an average from the number of representatives in each state. From the number of absences in voting sessions and understanding that voting the status of urgency of Bill no. 191 divided more opinions than usual, it can be said that the number of representatives who follow the anti-environmental agenda is even higher.

⁷⁰ <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?ideVotacao=9924>

⁷¹ <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

⁷² <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

⁷³ <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

⁷⁴ <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

⁷⁵ <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>



ACRE IN THE SENATE

Acre has three representatives in the Federal Senate: Senator Mailza Gomes (PP); Senator Márcio Bittar (UNIÃO) and Senator Sérgio Petecão (PSD); Mailza Gomes and Márcio Bittar participate in the Agriculture and Livestock Farming Parliamentary Front. The three Acre senators voted in favor of Bill no. 19/2022 (Annual Budget)⁷⁶.

”

“Bill no. 191 of 2020 is an outrage for Indigenous peoples as it allows mining within Indigenous territories. We don’t want mining. The most complicated thing is that they try to sell this narrative to us as if we would benefit from it. And we don’t benefit from it. We think about the whole, not just the money. We think about which living beings will be affected by this type of action within our lands. What will become of our culture and our religion that are intrinsically linked to the forest, to the sacred beings of the forest? It makes no sense to destroy the house of the sacred spirits of the forest to obtain wealth.”

Tarisson Nawa, of the Nawa people, journalist and press office for Podáali - Indigenous Fund of the Brazilian Amazon. Master’s student in Social Anthropology (PPGAS/MN-UFRJ), Juruá/AC

⁷⁶ <https://interativos.g1.globo.com/politica/2019/como-votam/senado/brasil/projetos/orcamento-da-uniao-para-2022>



4. AMAPÁ



AREA: 142.470,762 km²



861,773 inhabitants (2020)



16 municipalities



Capital: Macapá, where over 522,000 people live — about 60% of the state's population



**HDI*: 0,708
ranking 12th in Brazil (2010)**



GDP: R\$ 16.8 billion (2018)



**73% of the area demarcated as
Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands**



**77.42 % of the territory
covered by forests (2020)**



**More than 2.18% of the state's forests have
been affected by deforestation up to 2020**



**Approximately 1,426 hot spots were
detected in the state in 2020 and 2021**



**18.38 megatons of CO₂e emitted in
2019, most from changes in land use
and agriculture**

*Human Development Index

**Infographic created with data from [IBGE](#), [INPE](#),
[Government of Amapá](#) and "[Fatos da Amazônia Legal](#)"



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“In terms of socio-environmental policies in the Amazon during Bolsonaro's administration, nothing is better and almost everything is worse. The highjacking of policies and the agencies that should guarantee the implementation of these policies ended up contributing to several problems which are already historical in these territories, such as violence against native peoples, fires and deforestation.”

Gil Reis, communications director at Instituto Mapinguari, Macapá/AP⁷⁷

LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION: The lack of designation of public lands facilitates land grabbing and conflicts

Although Amapá has relatively low levels of deforestation and the country's largest percentage of protected areas, uncertainties regarding land ownership and the large extension of forests and other public areas which have not been designated, added to the lack of control on Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands, facilitate invasions and land grabbing, fomenting land conflicts.

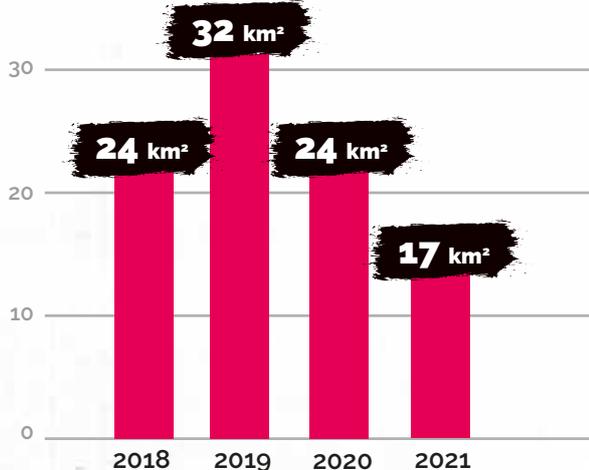
The study [Leis e Práticas de Regularização Fundiária no Amapá \(Laws and Practices of Land Regulation in Amapá\)](#), launched in 2021 by Imazon, analyzed the legal situation of land ownership and use in the state. According to estimates, the state has

82% (11.6 million hectares) of its land already designated, excluding overlapping. Most of the state's territory (62.5%) is made of Conservation Units (UCs), excluding Environmental Protection Areas (APA). Indigenous Lands (TIs) occupy 8.5% and Settlement Projects⁷⁸ cover 8% of the state's area, while private properties account for 3%. Of the total areas with no information on designation (18% of the state), most belonged to the federal government (73%) but were being transferred to the state government, as determined by Federal Law n.º 10.304/2001 and Federal Decree n.º 6.291/2007. **In total, 23 plots of land will be transferred to the state government, in a process that has already been dragging on for 20 years. Another 100 thousand hectares of federal land awaits decision on its use.** The study also states that 60% of non-designated areas have priority for conservation, according to an Environment Ministry survey on priority areas for conservation, sustainable use and distribution of benefits from biodiversity; most are considered of extremely high biological importance (1.3 million hectares).



Deforestation in Amapá

2018-2021⁷⁹



Source: [INPE - PRODES \(Brazil Space Research Institute/Amazon Deforestation Satellite Monitoring Project\)](#)

A protected area status is not always enough to curb deforestation. According to the Deforestation Alert System*, between August and October 2021, state forest [FES Amapá](#), in the western region, appeared as the eighth most threatened Conservation Unit in the Legal Amazon in that period⁸⁰. Created in 2006, this unit covers an area of 2,400,000 hectares and belongs to the sustainable use category. Managed by Amapá's Environment Department (SEMA-AP), the conservation unit faces chronic problems of illegal fishing, land grabbing and deforestation. **At the end of April 2020, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office charged 19 people for fraud due to the illegal concession of areas in Amapá's State Forest**, including public servers and private citizens who benefited from the scheme. They had allegedly formed a criminal organization to illegally explore forest products in the area, inserting false data on public documents to obtain terms of recognition of land tenure and forest management authorizations, as well as paying bribes to speed up processes in the state's environmental agencies.⁸¹

⁷⁷ <https://www.instagram.com/imapinguari/?hl=en>

⁷⁸ When we use "settlements" throughout the document we refer to agrarian reform settlements, government-backed redistribution of agricultural land, established by state agency INCRA, in a rural property.

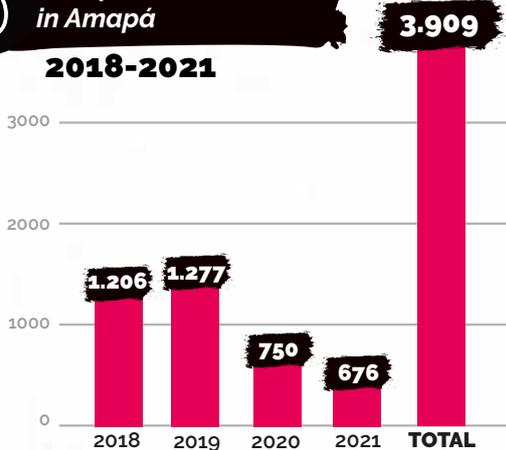
⁷⁹ PRODES Amazônia does not consider the mapping of deforestation in areas of unforested vegetation such as shallow vegetation, farmed land and other sorts of savanna or countryside vegetation which feature more prominently in the states of Amapá and Roraima.

⁸⁰ <https://imazon.org.br/publicacoes/ameaca-e-pressao-de-desmatamento-em-areas-protetidas-sad-de-agosto-a-outubro-2021/>

⁸¹ <https://uc.socioambiental.org/pt-br/noticia/205598>



Hot spots and fires in Amapá



Source: [INPE](#)

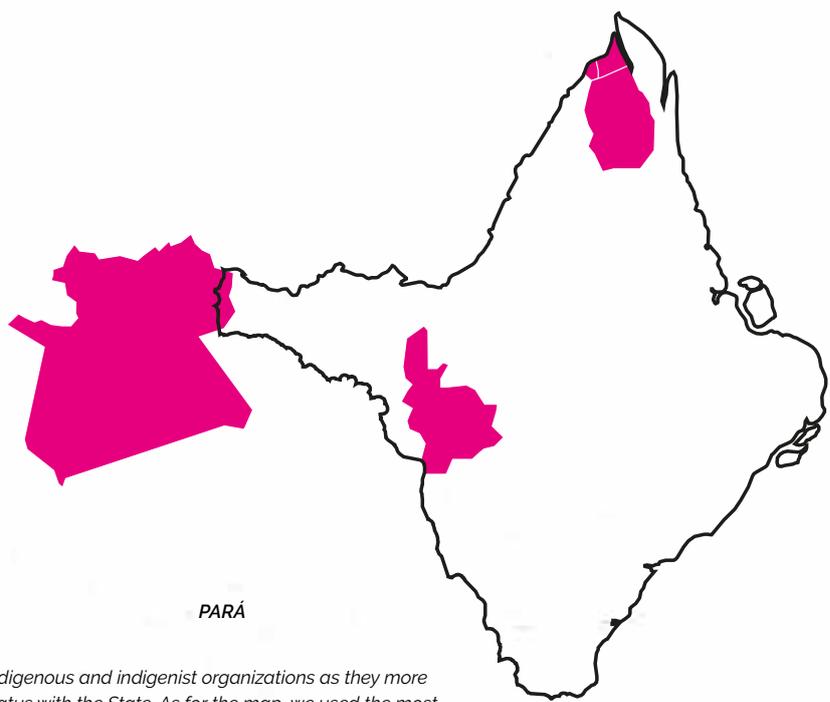
The most critical period for the occurrence of forest fires is between August and November, with "95% of forest fires in the state of Amapá being caused by agricultural practices". The Hotspots Monitoring Report in Amapá (Focos de Calor do Estado do Amapá), produced for the state's Public Prosecutor Office, shows that in 2019, 11,2% of the grand total of fires happened in Conservation Units while Indigenous Lands had 8,7% of the detected spots.⁸²

Fiocruz' Map of Conflicts⁸³ lists 11 cases of land conflicts in Amapá, threatening quilombolas, Indigenous peoples, riverside dwellers and family farmers. Among the causes of conflict are monoculture, mining and real estate speculation, causing an increase in violence and health problems in the communities.

INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY: Peoples under pressure from violence from illegal mining

Amapá has more than 7,000 Indigenous people living in six demarcated territories, as well as in rural and urban areas, according to IBGE's 2010 Demographic Census. Demarcated Indigenous lands represent 8.6% of the state's territory with an area of approximately 140,276 km².⁸⁴

Amapá Indigenous Territories*



PARÁ

*We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](#).

82 https://mpap.mp.br/images/Focos_de_Calor_pdf_1.pdf
 83 http://mapadeconflitos.ensp.fiocruz.br/?populacao_tax=0&atv_gerad_tax=0&dano_tax=0&impacto_tax=0&uf_tax=ap&q
 84 <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/noticia/60143#:~:text=Amap%C3%A1%20%C3%A9%20o%20primeiro%20estado.Palikur%2C%20Waiapi%20e%20Galibi%20Marworno>



Indigenous Peoples of Amapá

The four Indigenous groups who inhabit the region of the lower Oiapoque river speak Aruak (the Palikur), Carib (the Galibi-Kali'na) and Patoá (the Karipuna and the Galibi-Marworno) languages. They also speak Portuguese and French, learned in interrelations with different peoples who have been through this region, close to the border with French Guyana, in the last 400 years. These four peoples occupy three contiguous Indigenous Lands (Uaçá Indigenous Land, Juminã Indigenous Land and Galibi do Oiapoque Indigenous Land), which are demarcated and homologated, and cover 23% of the territorial extension of Oiapoque's municipality. These lands form a large continuous area, cut to the west by the BR-156 highway, which connects Macapá to Oiapoque. It is estimated that there are about 7,000 Indigenous people today, divided across 35 villages and in the city of Oiapoque.

The Waiãpi who live in Waiãpi Indigenous Land now number approximately one thousand people, distributed among 49 small villages. The Indigenous Land was identified in the 1970s, but its formal delimitation only occurred in 1980. Since then, it has suffered successive attempts of reduction, and only had its legal limits demarcated and homologated between 1994 and 1996. It is an area of dense rainforest with a rugged topography, comprising the Tumucumaque mountain range. The Waiãpi live from agriculture, hunting, fishing and gathering, periodically moving the location of their villages to allow for environmental recovery of occupied areas. Waiãpi speak Tupi-Guarani and most of them also speak and understand Portuguese. In 2001, the Waiãpi had their graphic art Kusiwa registered on IPHAN, Brazil's heritage agency, and in 2003 their graphic and oral expressions were recognized by Unesco as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Source: texts extracted from an illustrated [map](#) of Indigenous lands and protected areas in Amapá and northern Pará, prepared by the [lepé](#) Indigenous institute.

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“What struck me the most were the cases of violence against native peoples, quilombolas and socio-environmental defenders, but especially the lack of interest from the federal government in solving these cases. More recently the murders of Bruno and Dom, but also the murders of Zé do Lago and his family, Chief Emyra and many others that have occurred since 2019.”

Gil Reis, communications director at Instituto Mapinguari, Macapá/AP.

According to a report by the [Amazônia Real](#) news agency, one of the first entourages to arrive at the 18th Free Land Camp (Acampamento Terra Livre - ATL)⁸⁵ in April 2022 was that from Amapá, with around 100 people from 11 Indigenous groups, who spent four days traveling on rivers and land to reach Brasília. Simone Karipuna, from the Kunana village, in TI Juminã (Oiapoque/AP), told [Amazônia Real](#): “the attacks are impending, very intensely against us. Even before being voted, Draft Bill 191 (which is going through the House of Representatives and refers to mining in Indigenous lands) already has its impacts. They (those interested in their approval) are confusing our people, disseminating information within our territories, saying that the mines have already been cleared. They persuade Indigenous people that mining has already been approved in Congress, giving wrong interpretations of the Federal Constitution. Our job is to deconstruct these narratives”. She said that the Indigenous people in Amapá keep constant vigilance over their territories.

Quilombos in Amapá

There are 200 quilombola communities identified in Amapá, 47 of which are certified by the Palmares Foundation and another four by the Incra, Brazil's land reform agency⁸⁶. The process of giving land titles to remnant quilombo communities through certification guarantees land possession for these populations, in addition to enabling access to public policies of citizenship, health, education and preservation of memory and culture.

⁸⁵ <https://apiboficial.org/atl2022/> - The ATL is an annual gathering of the Brazilian Indigenous movements that has been held since 2004 in the capital Brasília.

⁸⁶ <https://www.portal.ap.gov.br/noticia/1705/mais-seis-comunidades-sao-reconhecidas-como-remanescentes-de-quilombo-no-ap>



VIOLENCE:

State has one of the deadliest police in the country

”

“Amapá appears in the statistics, proportionally, as one of the most violent states in Brazil, and also has the deadliest police in the country. In recent years, the establishment of criminal gangs in the state has been notorious, having already caused conflicts and murders in the capital. Not paradoxically, we have the police with the lowest crime-solving rates in the country. All these factors end up contributing to a horror scenario both in the city and in rural areas.”

Gil Reis, communications director at Instituto Mapinguari, Macapá/AP.

Conflicts and deaths in rural areas - Amapá - 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	47	43	56	47
Personal violence**	0	3	4	2

*Relating to the total number of conflicts over land and actions of occupations/retakes; **Relating to the total number of murders, attempted murders, death as a consequence, death threats, people tortured, imprisoned and assaulted

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021"- ("Land conflicts" is a yearly report published by the Pastoral Land Commission - Comissão Pastoral da Terra)

According to the [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), Amapá recorded 1,250 intentional violent deaths⁸⁷ between 2018 and 2021. Between 2020 and 2021, there was a 30.2% increase in intentional violent deaths in the state.

”

“Crime only increases, the state of Amapá is always in the violence against women ranking and there is also a high mortality of young black men and battles between gangs here.”

Isis Tatiane Da Silva Dos Santos, president of the Mãe Venina Women's Association in Quilombo Curiaú⁸⁸ (AMMVQC), activist of the black, cultural and environmental movement in Amapá.

⁸⁷ Intentional Violent Deaths include: intentional homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.

⁸⁸ <https://g1.globo.com/ap/amapa/noticia/2021/03/08/mulher-a-frente-do-seu-tempo-trajetoria-de-tia-venina-marca-a-historia-do-quilombo-do-curiau.ghtml>



POINTS OF ATTENTION

Activities of high socio-environmental impact in the state

Food insecurity and fish contamination with mercury used in illegal mining

A study⁸⁹ in Amapá published in 2020 suggests that the food security of local populations, which includes their preference for carnivorous fish, is threatened by the mercury contamination from illegal gold mining. Mercury intake can cause serious problems in the kidneys as well as in the nervous and cardiovascular systems. "All fish analyzed in the research showed detectable mercury levels and 28,7% exceeded the mercury limits for human consumption established by the World Health Organization. As predators, carnivorous fish accumulate great quantities of mercury along their life cycle", demonstrated the study carried out in five regions of Amapá, including some of the most biodiverse and economically significant river basins in the region. The study chose rivers that border protected areas due to a higher occurrence of mineral deposits and a large number of illegal mining spots.⁹⁰

GOLD MINING IN THE AMAZON

Artisan small scale gold mining, usually organized in illegal networks and led by miners and profiteers, is the main source of mercury emissions, contamination and consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the northern Brazilian Amazon, gold mining has contaminated the environment and people over the last century. Such activities have expanded significantly in the region in the last two decades, establishing themselves as one of the main causes of deforestation and degradation of habitats in the northern Brazilian Amazon, particularly in the borders of Guyana, French Guiana, Surinam and Venezuela with the Brazilian states of Roraima, Amapá and Pará. Also known as the Guyana Shield Ecoregion (Ecorregião do Escudo da Guiana), it covers 250 million hectares and contains one of the largest ranges of uninterrupted primary tropical forests on Earth.

This situation was exacerbated by the global increase in the price of gold, stimulating the expansion of illegal mining activities in the Amazon and threatening even more the environment and local communities' human rights. It is this type of mining, invariably illegal, which exposes the traditional communities who depend on natural resources for their survival to contamination, affecting the health of riverbank and Indigenous communities.

Source: Fragment extracted and adapted from a [study](#) by WWF.

DISINFORMATION: Fake news blame social movements for blackout and spread socio-environmental denialism

Among the targets of disinformation campaigns in Amapá state in the last four years, we notice the reproduction of denialist narratives and conspiracy theories against activists promoted by the federal government through spokespersons and local events, as shown in the two examples below:

Denialism of the severity of fires and the socio-environmental crisis in the Amazon

In full fire season in August 2019, the Federal Senate summoned a presentation on the "spreading of forest fires in the Amazon Rainforest" during the 146th Ordinary Deliberative Session⁹¹. Amapá senator Lucas Barreto (PSD/AP) made a speech that minimized the situation and accused the 'partisan' opposition of lying. "They are almost saying that we are Amazon's *Neros*, which is not true. We saw (...) in *CartaCapital* the entire Amazon in flames, totally burnt, and the other half of the country, such as your Rio Grande Do Sul, all green, when it is the other way round, when it is the opposite. I say this because I am from

Amapá, from up North, where the Brazilian nation begins, up in Oiapoque (...), today the Amazon (...) is a super trendy topic. Media vehicles in the first world and Brazil have been reporting on the destruction of our forests and the genocide of Indigenous peoples in a systematic way. The story of genocide, one item of fake news in Amapá: they said that 50 miners had invaded the villages and killed an Indigenous chief. And the Federal Police report showed that the chief died from drowning. Former senator Capiberibe not only said this but created fake news with touches of cruelty, because he said that the gold miners invaded and took *pit-bull* dogs as well to bite the Indigenous people. What nonsense! They are stories, senator Kajuru, often manufactured right here and intentionally transformed into absolute truths, leading citizens around the world to believe that each Amazon inhabitant is a cruel Barbarian and irresponsible destroyer", said the senator, citing Emyra Waiãpi, an Indigenous leader whose death took place under strong suspicion of violence by miners.

89 <https://www.wwf.org.br/?76771/Amapa-peixes-mais-consumidos-sao-tambem-os-mais-contaminados-por-mercurio>

90 <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/15/5269>

91 <https://www25.senado.leg.br/web/atividade/pronunciamentos/-/p/pronunciamento/456998>



MST and the Blackout

In November 2020, a blackout in energy supply affected 13 of the 16 cities in Amapá state, lasting 20 days. The blackout was caused by a fire in a Macapá power substation, which started due to maintenance faults, according to government electricity agency Aneel. The substation had three transformers: one had been switched off for almost a year for repair. With the fire, there was only one transformer left, and it did not handle the usage of nearly all the state's population. The blackout generated a national mobilization in social media in support of the people of Amapá⁹² as well as the spreading of fake news, such as a video that circulated in several Facebook and Twitter groups stating that the Landless Workers Movement (MST) had been responsible for the powercut.

According to project Comprova⁹³, "the footage showed a group of people destroying energy poles in an unknown place with the caption: 'MST members destroying a transmission station in Amapá'. The rotten media won't show this". It is not true. The images are from 2017, in Bahia (state), and had no connection with the MST. The Government of Amapá explained to Comprova that the video was not made in the state and "there was no evidence of involvement of the MST in the "apagão"; it is fake news". Also contacted by the reporters, the MST said that the accusations are unfounded and that "these people and this type of attack have no relation with the movement".

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“One fake news that circulated around here is that it was the NGOs who set fire to the Amazon. I probably found on the Internet”.

Gil Reis, communications director at Instituto Mapinguari, Macapá/AP

⁹² <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/cotidiano/2020/11/drama-gerado-por-apagao-cria-movimento-de-apoio-na-internet-aos-moradores-do-amapa.shtml>

⁹³ <https://projeto.comprova.com.br/publica%C3%A7%C3%B5es/e-falso-que-mst-tenha-destruido-estacao-de-energia-no-amapa/>





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“(With the Bolsonaro government’s socioenvironmental policies)... deforestation in the Amazon just increased disorderly; (former minister of the Environment) Salles was a great evil”.

Isis Tatiane Da Silva Dos Santos, president of the Mãe Venina Women’s Association of the Curiaú Quilombo (AMMVQC), activist in the black, cultural and environmental movement in Amapá

TIMELINE

In [Smoke Signal’s](#) monitoring of the main socio-environmental events since the election of Jair Bolsonaro, we highlight three episodes in Amapá that reveal the nature and consolidate federal government policies which are pushed ahead with the support of members of Congress and local authorities.



JULY 2019: Indigenous leader Emyra Waiãpi is assassinated by gold miners⁹⁴

Emyra Waiãpi, an Indigenous leader of the Waiãpi people, was murdered on July 22 during an invasion of their Indigenous land by miners searching for gold, in the west of Amapá. At 68, Emyra was violently stabbed and beaten in the Mariry village; his body had signs of physical violence and was missing an eye⁹⁵. Around 1,300 waiãpis live in this demarcated land. They are the only Indigenous group in the country who have an official permission for low scale gold prospecting in their territory. Two days after the murder, about 50 gold miners attacked the Mariry village, in the first invasion of this kind in decades. An internal document of FUNAI (Brazil’s Indigenous agency) obtained by the press mentioned at least 15 strongly armed men and said “we can conclude that the presence of invaders is real and the tension in the region is high”. After a few days, Apina, the council of Waiãpi villages, published a note with more details on the invasion and the crime⁹⁶. President Jair Bolsonaro questioned the veracity of the story and reaffirmed his intentions of opening up Indigenous lands for mining and gold prospecting. “They manipulate Indians, to demarcate more and more land, saying they are being mistreated. This case now... There is no strong evidence that this Indian was murdered there. There were several possibilities, the Federal Police is there, those we could send there have already been sent. I will try to solve the case and show the truth about this”, he said. Bolsonaro also affirmed that international NGOs are against mining in these lands because they want Indigenous people to be kept “in a zoo” and the work of these organizations threaten the sovereignty of Brazil in the Amazon.⁹⁷



APRIL 2020: Covid-19: Advance of mining in Indigenous lands during the pandemic⁹⁸

The Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (Coica) and the WWF (World Wildlife Foundation) received reports about an increase in the influx of Brazilian gold miners in the Oiapoque River region, in Amapá, en route to French Guiana⁹⁹. Researchers point Oiapoque as the main route of smuggling from illegal mines in French Guiana. For Claudette Labonté, president of the Parikweneh Federation of French Guiana and member of Coica, “the police dropped their guard” during the pandemic.



NOVEMBER 2020: Quilombola communities suffer with blackout in Amapá¹⁰⁰

When Amapá faced a blackout in the supply of electricity that affected 13 of the 16 municipalities in the state, it aggravated the situation of vulnerability of the state’s 258 identified quilombola communities, according to an estimate by the National Coordination of Quilombola Black Rural Communities (Conaq)¹⁰¹. Distant from urban centers, quilombolas suffered with cuts in water supply - with no power, there is no water pumping - and, as a result, were exposed to contamination from drinking water not fit for human consumption, taken from artesian wells and rivers, as reported by residents¹⁰². Storage and purchase of food have also been compromised. With no access to ambulances, which did not reach quilombola lands, the community has had to mobilize their own resources to transport those infected by Covid-19 to health centers. The critical situation also victimized an important local community leader: Sergio Clei de Almeida, 50, president of the Quilombos Association of San Francisco de Matapi, died after being electrocuted on November 18, 2020, while trying to reestablish the energy supply for the community of Torrão de Matapi.¹⁰³

94 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2019/07/30/emyra-waiapi-e-assassinado-por-garimpeiros/>

95 <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/poder/2019/07/indio-e-assassinado-durante-invasao-de-garimpeiros-no-amapa-dizem-moradores.shtml>

96 <https://www.socioambiental.org/pt-br/noticias-socioambientais/conselho-das-aldeias-wajapi-se-manifesta-sobre-assassinato-de-cacique-e-ameacas-de-invasores>

97 <https://exame.abril.com.br/brasil/nao-tem-nenhum-indicio-forte-que-esse-indio-foi-assassinado-diz-bolsonaro/>

98 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/04/01/covid-19-garimpo-avanca-em-terras-indigenas-durante-a-pandemia/>

99 <https://www.dw.com/pt-br/ind%C3%ADgenas-na-amaz%C3%B4nia-denunciam-aumento-de-garimpo-ilegal-durante-pandemia/a-52984189>

100 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/11/19/comunidades-quilombolas-sofrem-com-apagao-no-amapa/>

101 <http://ecam.org.br/en/news-and-editais/apagao-no-amapa-deixa-comunidades-quilombolas-sem-agua-e-provoca-perdas-na-producao/>

102 <https://jornaldebrasil.com.br/brasil/comida-estragada-difteria-covid-e-diarreia-quilombolas-do-amapa-sofrem-efeitos-do-apagao/>

103 <https://deolhonosruralistas.com.br/2020/11/19/em-meio-a-apagao-lider-quilombola-morre-eletrocutado-em-macapa/>



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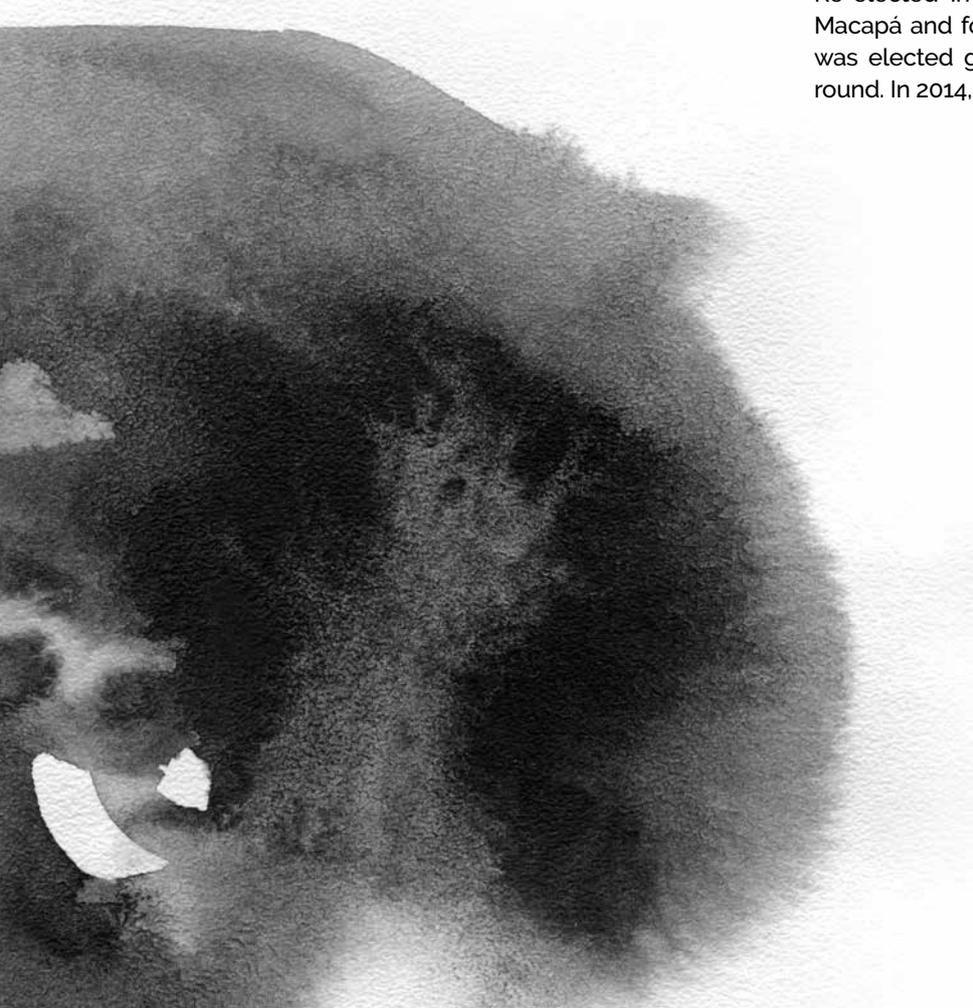
“Amapá is the poorest state in Brazil today, with a population experiencing food insecurity at much higher rates than the national average. Its capital, where most of Amapá’s population lives, has the worst basic sanitation among the 100 most densely populated cities in the country. In addition, we have the highest national rate of young people who don’t study or work. The disregard for the lives of the people of Amapá is historical, as was seen with the 2020 “apagão” which lasted about 1 month and left marks still felt by the population today. **Has the “cattle herd strategy” been through here? Of course, but this is hardly felt when a population already lives in a state of neglect as deep as ours.** From the perspective of a socio-environmental worker, what we see today are soy plantations advancing on quilombola territories.”

Gil Reis, communications director at Instituto Mapinguari, Macapá/AP

STATE GOVERNMENT: Protests against exclusion from Amazon Council

In 2018, Antônio Waldez Góes da Silva (PDT), 60, was reelected for his fourth term as governor of Amapá. A state civil servant who worked as a rural extensionist, he began his political career in 1989 when he joined the Democratic Workers Party (PDT). A year later, he was elected to the State Congress as the best voted state representative in Amapá.

Re-elected in 1994, he ran two years later for mayor of Macapá and for the State Government in 1998. In 2002, he was elected governor and in 2006, re-elected in the first round. In 2014, he was elected governor again.

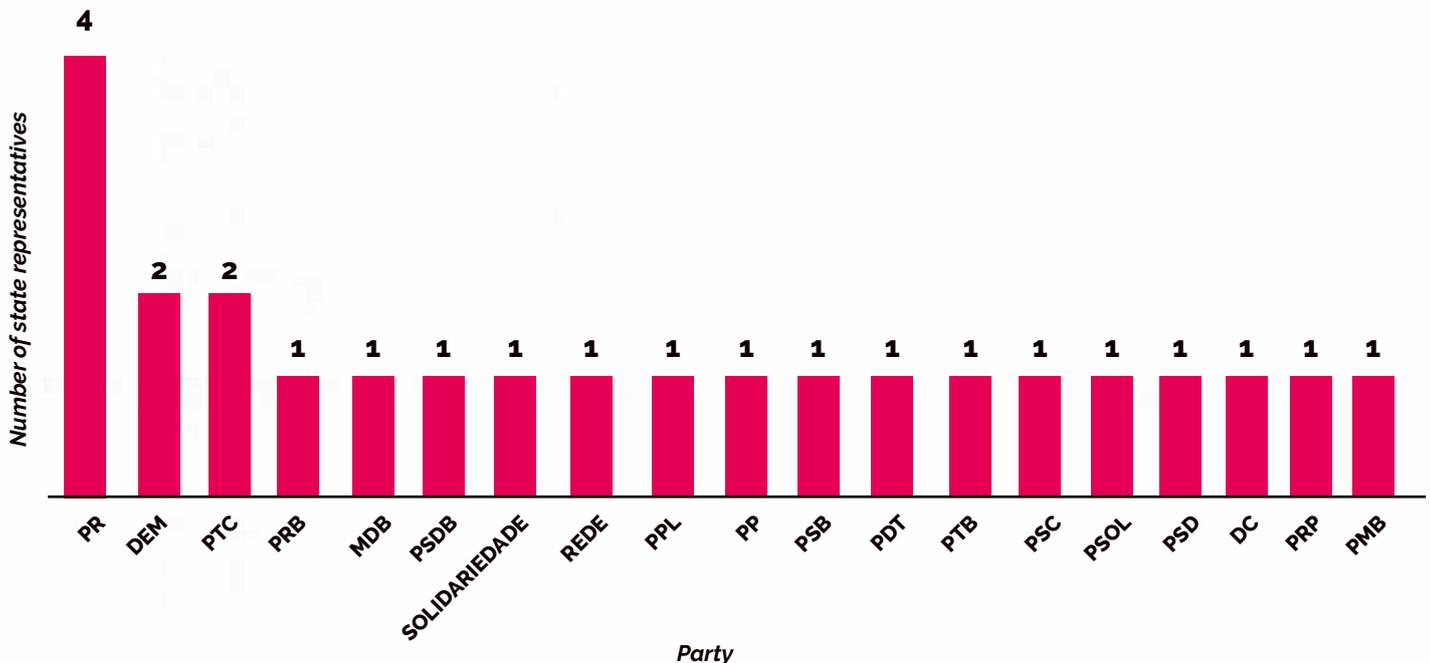




Governor Waldez Góes returned to the presidency of the Sustainable Development Interstate Trust of the Legal Amazon in March 2022.

In 2019, he was the first to occupy the chair and in the previous administration he stood against Bolsonaro's decree of February 2020 that excluded governors from the Amazon Council bloc and moved the organ from the Environment Ministry to the vice-presidency office.¹⁰⁴

Amapá's State Congress has **24** state representatives, distributed as seen in the table below:¹⁰⁵



AMAPÁ'S CAUCUS IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:

62.5% of representatives voted with Bolsonaro on social-environmental reforms. 25% are part of the Ruralist Caucus

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.politicaporinteiro.org/2022/03/04/foco-amazonia-3-mensal-fevereiro-2022/>

¹⁰⁵ <https://especiais.gazetadopovo.com.br/eleicoes/2018/resultados/eleitos-deputado-estadual-ap-quem-ganhou/>



Amapá's legislative bench in the National Congress in the 2018-2022 legislature has eight federal representatives and three senators. Most of Amapá's representatives voted in line with the Bolsonaro government in the key projects in the Destruction Package and favored the approval of the 2022 LOA Budget Law with the allocation of record funds for the rapporteur's amendments (secret budget).

”

“(The worst draft bill)... is the licensing for mineral exploration inside a number of Indigenous communities.”

Isis Tatiane Da Silva Dos Santos, president of the Mãe Venina Women's Association of Quilombo Curiaú (AMMVQC), activist in the black, cultural and environmental movement in Amapá

How Federal Deputies from Amapá voted on Bolsonaro's Destruction Package and the 2022 Budget Law

Names highlighted in pink are members of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) - the Ruralist Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ¹⁰⁶ 107 Plenary	LICENSING ¹⁰⁸ (Bill no. 3729/2004) Plenary	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ¹⁰⁹ (Bill no. 191/2020) Floor - Urgent	DEMARCATON OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (Bill no. 490/2007) ¹¹⁰ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021 (LOA 2022) ¹¹¹ Floor
01	Acácio Favacho (MDB)	In favor	In favor	Against	x	In favor
02	Aline Gurgel (REPUBLICANOS)	In favor	In favor	Against	x	In favor
03	André Abdon (PP)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
04	Camilo Capiberibe (PSB)	Against	Against	Against	x	Against
05	Leda Sadala (PP)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
06	Luiz Carlos (PSDB)	In favor / Substitute Pedro da Lua (PSC)	In favor	In favor / Substitute Pedro da Lua (PSC)	x	In favor / Substitute Pedro da Lua (PSC)
07	Professora Marcivania (PCdoB)	Against	Against	Against	x	Against
08	Vinicius Gurgel (PL)	In favor	In favor	In favor / Substitute Jorielson (PL)	x	In favor / Substitute Jorielson (PL)

Source: Organized by the guide based on the House of Representatives [website](#), the press and the [Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front](#)

106 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?deVotacao=9924>

107 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

108 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

109 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

110 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

111 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>



AMAPÁ IN THE SENATE

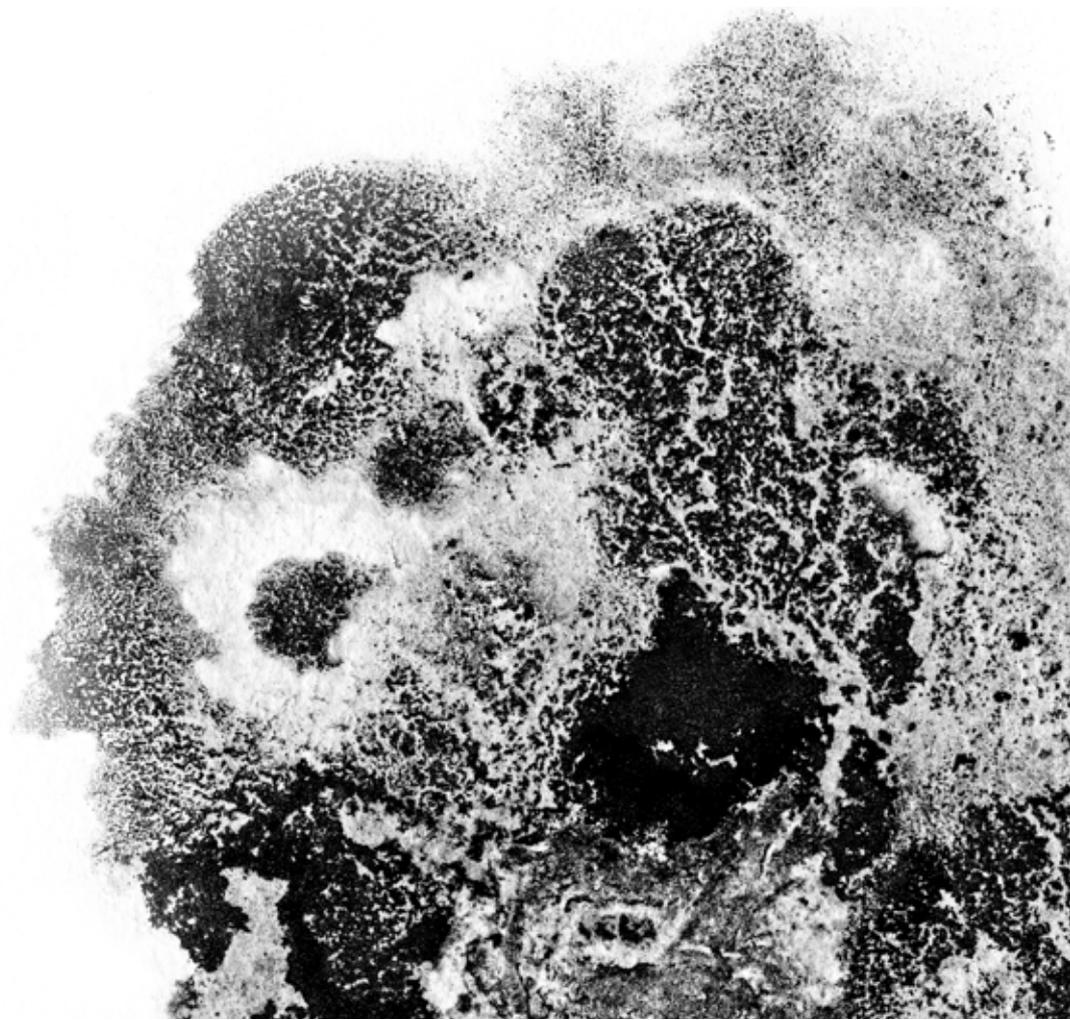
Amapá has 3 Senators elected for the state: senator Davi Alcolumbre (UNIAO); senator Lucas Barreto (PSD) and senator Randolfe Rodrigues (REDE); Alcolumbre and Barreto are part of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front and voted in favor of LOA 2022; Randolfe Rodrigues voted against.¹¹²

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“(Thinking of the future, a socio-environmental policy)... where there really was care for this greater good of ours. Far from the perverse irresponsible extractivism, with investment on conservation; where economic development would not affect the environment; that would be planned with the social aspect in mind.”

Isis Tatiane da Silva dos Santos, president of the Mãe Venina Women's Association of Quilombo Curiaú (AMMVQC), activist in the black, cultural and environmental movement in Amapá.

¹¹² <https://interativos.g1.globo.com/politica/2019/como-votam/senado/brasil/projetos/orcamento-da-uniao-para-2022>



5. AMAZONAS



AREA: 1,559,167.85 km²



4,207,714 inhabitants (2020)



62 municipalities



Capital: Manaus, where over 2,255,000 people live, more than half of the state's population



**HDI*: 0,674
ranking 18th in Brazil (2010)**



GDP: R\$100.1 billion (2018)



54.62% of the area demarcated as Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands



91.05% of the territory covered by forests (2020)



More than 6.55% of the state had been affected by deforestation by 2022



About 31,577 hotspots were detected in the state in 2020 and 2021



148.33 megatons of CO₂e emissions in 2019, most from deforestation and changes in land use

*Human Development Index
**Infographic created with data from IBGE, INPE, and "Fatos da Amazônia Legal"



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“Since the beginning, the Bolsonaro government has shown its intention to promote barbarism in the socio-environmental agenda in the country. It almost extinguished the Environment Ministry but ended keeping it under pressure. Then it took on a clear scorched earth strategy in the offices and departments, removing qualified and career employee from posts and reducing structures of management, such as in ICMBio. **It shut down or reduced participatory spaces that included civil society, states and municipalities, such as CONAMA, among others. It dismantled investment funds for actions of environmental protection and management, as was the case with the Amazon Fund. To complete the macabre picture, the government has also been promoting environmental crime in speeches, generating an atmosphere of green light for destructive and criminal actions, as has been the case with mining and illegal occupation of public lands, Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands.”**

Carlos Durigan, geographer and director of Wildlife Conservation Society Brazil¹¹³, Manaus/AM

LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION: Destruction doubles with Bolsonaro

Amazonas has over 90% of its territory covered by native forests - the highest index among states in the Amazon. Historically preserved and with little access by land to other units of the federation, the state has seen forest degradation and destruction advance in the last decade, especially in the southern region. In 2020, **Amazonas had the 3rd highest deforestation rate in the region**, overtaking Rondônia and behind only Pará and Mato Grosso. This dynamic shows that the Arc of Deforestation is rapidly approaching biodiversity reserves and Indigenous peoples in the most remote parts of central Amazon.

On the list of 39 priority municipalities for prevention, monitoring and combating deforestation in the Amazon, prepared by the Environment Ministry, five are located in the Amazonas state: Apuí, Manicoré, Novo Aripuanã, Boca do Acre and Lábrea.¹¹⁴

The study [Practical Laws and of Agrarian Regularization](#) in Amazonas, prepared by Imazon, estimates that 62.5% of the state's territory has already been designated; most of the area is formed by protected areas: 29.5% of Indigenous Lands (TIs) and 24% Conservation Units (UCs), excluding Areas of Environmental Protection (APAs).

Settlement Projects occupy 5.5% of the state and private properties, 4%. It also identified: 1.6 million hectares (1% of the state) mapped out for titling by Incra (Brazil's land reform agency); 210,000 hectares for the creation of Conservation Units (ICMBio, 2016) and other 53,000 hectares possibly in demand for Indigenous Lands (2017). **The other 37.5% of the state represent non-designated areas or with no information on destination.**

Data from 2017 indicate that 79% of the non designated areas (44.7 million hectares) belonged to the state government and 21% to the federal government. Imazon also identified that 56% of non-designated areas (32.5 million hectares) have priority for conservation, according to an Environment Ministry survey on priority areas for conservation, sustainable use and distribution of benefits from biodiversity; nearly all are considered of high biological importance.

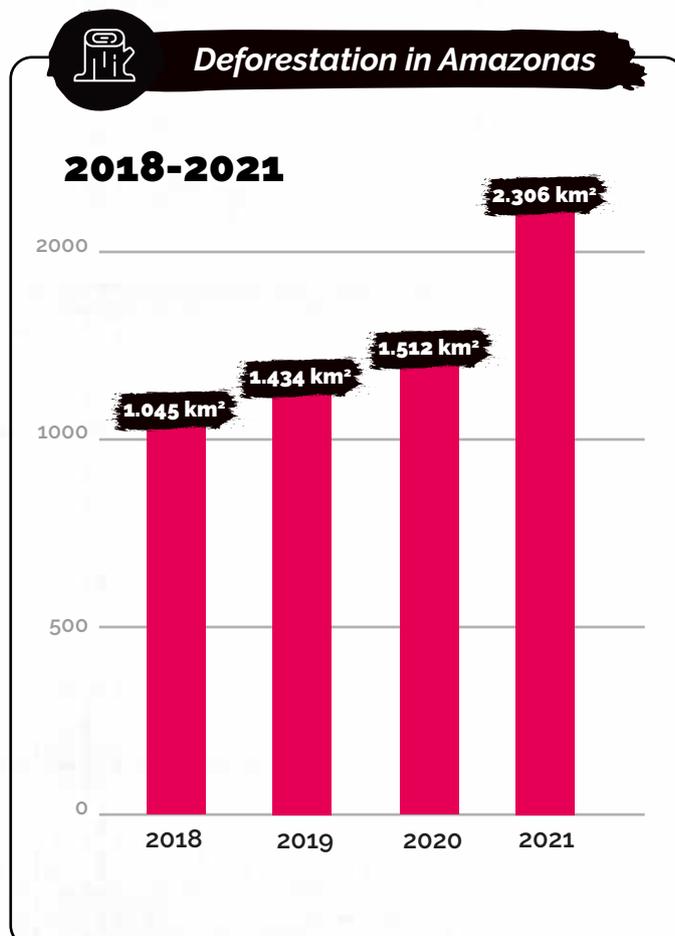
¹¹³ <https://brasilwcs.org/>

¹¹⁴ <http://combateadodesmatamento.mma.gov.br/municipios-prioritarios>



Non-designated areas of public forests, settlements, conservation units and Indigenous lands are affected by rural conflicts in Amazonas state. According to an Amazon survey, "some of the main factors motivating conflicts are:

- i) real estate speculation and land grabbing;**
- ii) emission of titles in areas of FUNAI's manifested interest;**
- iii) overlapping between Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands. Southern Amazonas is cited as one of the most conflictive regions in the state.**



Between 2020 and 2021, deforestation in Amazonas increased 55.22% (Prodes/INPE)

Source: [INPE - PRODES](#) (Brazil Space Research Institute/Amazon Deforestation Satellite Monitoring Project)



Land Grabbing + Illegal Timber:

The Gleba João Bento case

In the city of Lábrea, southern Amazonas, "gleba" João Bento has 295 thousand hectares - which is equivalent to roughly twice the size of São Paulo city. Glebas are government areas not yet designated and usually enormous. One Greenpeace [study](#) showed how the cycle theft of public land/illegal timber/deforestation is compromising this immense territory, in collusion with political decisions and legislative maneuvers in Brasília.

Gleba João Bento has been the target of land grabbing by criminal groups since the 1970s. In 2011, the area was reclaimed by the federal government, without preventing more land theft. According to the survey, of the 295,000 hectares of forest in the gleba, 93,000 have already been felled and burned, giving way to vast areas of pasture for cattle farming. About 57% of this destruction occurred between 2019 and 2021, during the Bolsonaro government. Contradicting the law, Ipaam, the environmental agency in Amazonas state, approved plans for forest management inside the gleba, ignoring the fact that it was federal public land and that, therefore, the "owners" (land grabbers) did not have titles of domain or authorization from Incra (Brazil's land reform agency) to use the area.

Investigations by the Federal Police in operation Archimedes showed that the authorizations given by Ipaam were part of an illegal logging scheme in the Amazon and led to the definitive suspension of these management licenses. According to Greenpeace's report, in Bom Princípio Farm alone, inside gleba João Bento, **between the approval and the cancellation of the forest management plan, approximately 13,000 m³ of timber was extracted** (500 truckloads), with profits of more than R\$ 1 million for the invaders. All the timber extracted from this farm was sold to the company Industrial Madeireira Atalaia Ltda, whose managing partner, André Bandeira Macari, is also the founder of the Jequitibá Condominium, a land grabbed inside the gleba where 45,000 m³ of illegal timber was extracted. Industrial Madeireira Atalaia Ltda traded with timber companies from eight states and exported, via the port of Manaus, a total of 28 containers of Amazonian timber to Portugal, Belgium and France.

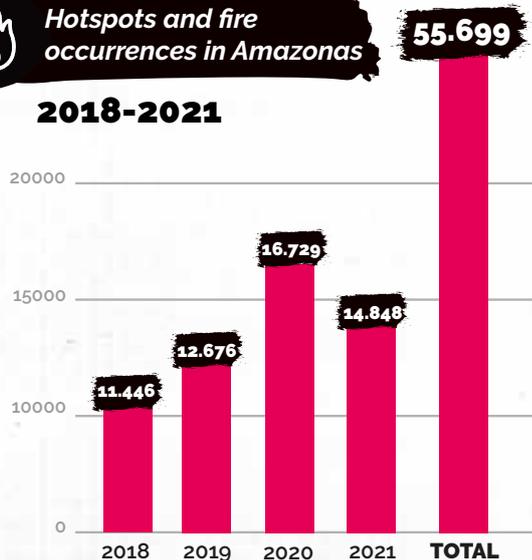
”

“The scenario of unprecedented increase in deforestation and fires, happening at a critical time for humanity, has had a massive impact. It seems that the fire of our forests, whether in the Amazon, in the Pantanal, in the Cerrado, is the front display of this administration followed by other spectacles of destruction.”

Carlos Durigan, geographer and director of Wildlife Conservation Society Brazil, Manaus/AM



Hotspots and fire occurrences in Amazonas



Source: [INPE](#)

In the 2020 fire season, Amazonas achieved a historical record of hot spots. A [technical note](#) from the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (Ipam) published in June that year indicated that the fires would be more intense and demanded attention from authorities to prevent them in places with accumulation of deforested and unburned areas in the previous year, citing Apuí, Nova Aripuanã and Boca do Acre.

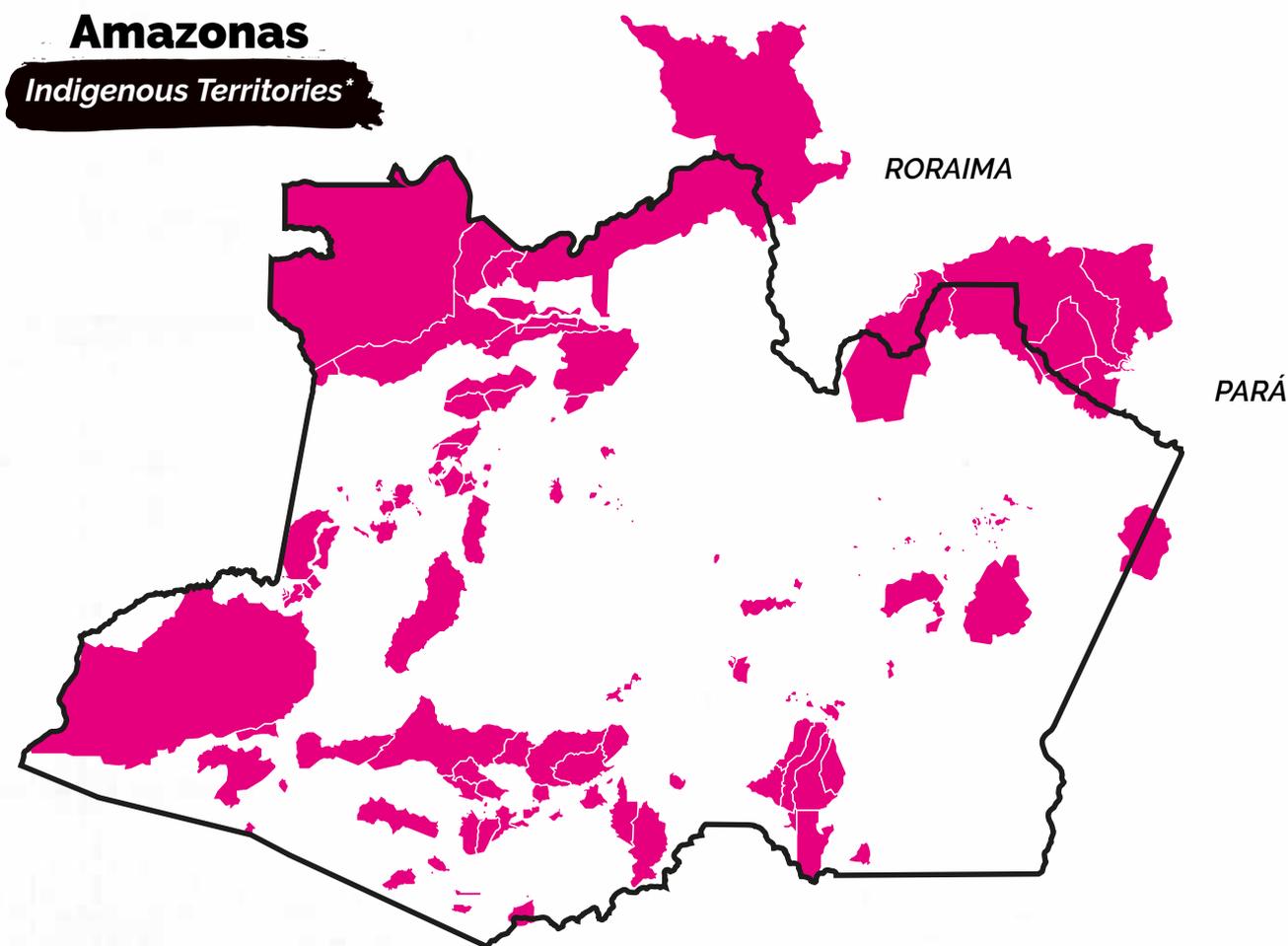
According to a report by [Amazônia Real](#), the municipality of Apuí, located in the south of the state, on the margins of the Transamazônica highway and surrounded by preserved forests in Indigenous Lands and Conservation Units, suffered large fires in 2020. The Mosaic of Apuí became a constant target of Amazonas representatives who advocate the revision and reduction of these protected areas.



Speaking to *Amazônia Real*, the mayor of Apuí, Antonio Rogue Longo (DEM), attributed the large fires in the municipality to the increase in land grabbing. "There have been more fires in 2020 than in previous years. There is a land grabbing gang in federal lands who make false documents and sell them to businessmen, I don't know where from, I think from other states. Those who bought them are cutting down large swathes of forest and starting big fires". The mayor also complained about the absence of state and federal government agencies in the region in the period leading up to the fires.

INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY: Isolated Peoples threatened by increase in deforestation and neglect by FUNAI

There are 164 Indigenous Lands in the state of Amazonas, occupying an area of more than 45 million hectares¹¹⁶, or 28.5% of the state's territory. In various stages of regularization and recognition, the Indigenous Lands in Amazonas are home to around 58 different Indigenous peoples¹¹⁷, including dozens of isolated Indigenous groups or of recent contact.¹¹⁸



Despite concentrating only a small part of deforestation, Indigenous Lands in Amazonas have suffered mounting pressure from invaders, loggers and drug traffickers, because of infrastructure projects and the absence of monitoring and control agencies.

**We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](#).*

¹¹⁵ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

¹¹⁶ <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/brasil>

¹¹⁷ https://pib.socioambiental.org/pt/Quadro_Geral_dos_Povos

¹¹⁸ https://pib.socioambiental.org/pt/Onde_est%C3%A3o_os_isolados%3F



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“It’s worse for us, Indigenous peoples. It’s better for the miner, the logger, who have support from Bolsonaro, the current government. For us, peoples of the forest, it’s much worse.”

Cláudia Baré, Indigenous educator, Manaus/AM.

According to the campaign website [Isolated or Decimated](#), which monitors and pressures the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) for the adoption of restrictive measures to protect such peoples, the Jacareúba-Katawixi Indigenous Land (AM) is currently unprotected, since the ordinance for this territory expired in December 2021 and has not yet been renewed by the Indigenous agency.

In Médio Purus, the presence of an isolated group on the Mamoriá River, outside the boundaries of Indigenous lands, was confirmed more than 5 months ago. So far, FUNAI has not restricted use of the area to prevent invasions and contacts. A campaign report released in March 2022 indicates that if the scenario of misgovernment continues, deforestation in the southern Amazon, in isolated Indigenous territory, can quadruple and reach about 170,000 km² by 2050, four times more than the historical average between 2012 and 2016. The perspective of paving the BR-319 highway also represents high potential of increase of deforestation in the region.¹¹⁹

Indigenous Javari Valley threatened: the murders of allies Maxciel, Bruno and Dom

One of the regions with the highest concentration of isolated Indigenous peoples is the Javari Valley Indigenous Land, with about 8.5 million hectares demarcated and homologated on the borders of Amazonas state with Peru and Colombia. It is the second largest Indigenous Land in the country, inhabited by 26 peoples, 19 of which are isolated groups as well as the Kanamari, Korubo, Kulina Cloth, Marubo, Matis, Matsés and Tsohom-dyapa peoples, totalling more than 6,300 people.¹²⁰

According to the Indigenous Work Center, the region is traditionally under constant pressure to exploit its natural resources, especially rubber, timber and fur and skins. More recently, due to its location on the Peruvian border, it has been the target of illegal hunting and fishing, drug trafficking and oil exploration¹²¹. After the election of Jair Bolsonaro, violence and the invasion of criminals exploded in the Javari Valley, as in several other areas of the Amazon, culminating with the brutal murders of Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira and journalist Dom Phillips.

On September 6, 2019, an agent of FUNAI (Brazil’s Indigenous agency), Maxciel Pereira dos Santos, was assassinated with two shots to the back of his head on a busy street, in front of his family, in the city of Tabatinga (AM), which borders Colombia. Maxciel worked in Javari. INA - FUNAI’s association of public servants - had already requested protection for agents; several left the area after receiving death threats.¹²²

A [note](#) from the Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley (Univaja) on September 27, 2019 stated that *“the threats from before are intensifying in the present. Among the most recurrent are those that, in the name of religion, establish a base with evangelical missionary work and seek contact with the isolated, causing interference in the traditional geopolitical space of our ancestry. Iron ore extraction activities should be mentioned. Prospectors settle illegally and start commercially exploiting the region causing incalculable environmental problems to Brazilians living in the region and to national interests. The same occurs with the resurgence of farmers, drillers, fishermen and hunters of wild animals. The official agency that should ensure the protective policy of the territory is increasingly weakened. We also highlight that the reduced team of agents from FUNAI who have rapport and commitment to the Indigenous people’s cause are currently suffering threats from the invaders.”*

The letter also denounced a gun attack by environmental criminals against the Itacoai/Ituí River Protection Base the week before, the seventh in a series of attacks since November 2018. That was the base of indigenist Maxciel dos Santos before he was murdered. It is also the region where Bruno Pereira worked, before he took leave from FUNAI for disagreeing with the policies implemented by the agency under the Bolsonaro government and started acting as a collaborator of Univaja.

Almost two years later and after many other alerts from Univaja and INA, on June 15, 2022, after following the directions indicated by the Indigenous people, the Federal Police (PF) confirmed that the remains found were Bruno and Dom’s. They had disappeared in the Javari Valley on the 5th. Since the first information on the disappearance came

119 <https://povosisolados.com/2022/03/14/2767/>

120 <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/terras-indigenas/3895>

121 <https://trabalhoindigenista.org.br/programa/javari/>

122 <https://cimi.org.br/2019/09/mais-mortes-podem-acontecer-dizem-invasores-a-indigenas-apos-assassinato-de-colaborador-da-funai/>



out, Univaja followed and documented searches actively organized by Indigenous people of different groups — without their leadership and pressure, Dom and Bruno would probably not have been found.¹²³

The engagement of Indigenous peoples contrasted with the Brazilian government's omission and delay in sending adequate resources for investigations and with the federal police's insinuations that there were no masterminds soon after arresting three local fishermen as suspects for the crime. "By taking this position, the PF disrespects the qualified information offered by Univaja in innumerable documents, since the second semester of 2021 (...) which point to the existence of an organized crime group acting on constant invasions of the Javari Valley Indigenous Land, of which Pelado and Dos Santos are a part", says a [note](#) by the Indigenous organization dated June 17, 2022.

Commenting on the crime, President Jair Bolsonaro and Marcelo Xavier, president of FUNAI, chose to misinform and accuse the "opposition" of creating false narratives. The case provoked commotion and mobilization within civil society, national and international press, initially for the search of Dom and Bruno, and then for the continuation of investigations

and justice. Demonstrations of solidarity were registered in several Brazilian cities and abroad.

On June 23, protests by FUNAI agents took place in 42 of its 52 units during a national strike. In July 2022, the court of Amazonas referred the case of Dom and Bruno to the Federal Court¹²⁴ and investigations continued without the official identification of the mastermind(s) of the crime.

Bruno Pereira, considered one of the most important Indigenous experts of his generation and a great specialist and ally of the Javari peoples, moved Brazil with his voice singing in [Kanamari](#) and his fight in defense of forest peoples. He was mourned and buried in Recife (PE) on June 24, 2022, under [weeping](#) of the Xukuru Indigenous people.

Dom Philips, a British journalist who adopted Brazil as his home, was in Javari doing research for a book. Dom was remembered in editorials in major international press vehicles and wept by family members and a legion of friends he left across the world. He was mourned and cremated in Niterói (RJ) on June 26, 2022. The aftermath of his murder is being accompanied by [international organizations](#) for the protection of journalists.

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“There were budget cuts and many cases of moral harassment against employees of federal environmental agencies. Inside FUNAI, Bolsonaro made a speech and proposed measures to open up the frontier, “pass the cattle herd”, that is, to deliver the last public lands protected by law to capital, real estate speculators and forest predators. Unregulated mining, unmanaged timber extraction, encouragement to arm rural areas: violence and invasions of protected areas in the Amazon exploded under this government. Demarcation of new Indigenous Lands was not even discussed, and attempts were made to criminalize social movements. The attempt to militarize the socio-environmental management staff in the Amazon was disastrous. People without any knowledge, without sensibility in dealing with the (Indigenous) peoples and without practice of active listening and participatory dynamics came in betting on a policy of confronting the NGOs who have great experience in the region.”

Armando Soares Filho, retired indigenista of FUNAI with 38 years of experience, Lábrea/AM + Marcelo Horta, sociologist, PhD student in geography (Federal University of Rondônia), specialist in Indigenous affairs (Positivo University/Opan), master in rural extension (Federal University of Viçosa), researcher at IFAM, Lábrea/AM.

¹²³ <https://univaja.info/monitoramento/>

¹²⁴ <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/poder/2022/07/juiza-do-amazonas-envia-caso-bruno-e-dom-para-a-justica-federal.shtml>



VIOLENCE : Association between land related conflicts and gang wars increase mortality rates

Conflicts and deaths in rural areas Amazonas - 2018-2021: land conflicts rise 36%

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	44	52	67	60
Personal violence **	4	32	32	7

*Relating to the total number of conflicts over land and actions of occupations/retakes; **Relating to the total number of murders, attempted murders, death as a consequence, death threats, people tortured, imprisoned and assaulted

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021" ("Land conflicts" is a yearly report published by the Pastoral Land Commission - Comissão Pastoral da Terra)

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“We are experiencing a growing wave of unprecedented crime and violence in the Amazon, a sad scenario dominated by drug trafficking both in the cities and in the rural areas, Indigenous peoples and quilombola and riverine communities threatened by illegal activities, and a deficient state structure to deal with this scenario.”

Carlos Durigan, geographer and director of Wildlife Conservation Society Brazil, Manaus/AM.

According to the [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), Amazonas recorded 5,197 intentional violent deaths¹²⁵ between 2018 and 2021. The Annual Report also mentions that, in the case of Amazonas, regional conflicts between criminal groups “intensified after a period of stability, so much so that the state presented the greatest variation in its violent mortality rate in 2021, with an increase of 53.8%. The state experiences overlapping crises in public security, which is related to the abundance of environmental crimes and land disputes, but also closely associated with the conflicts between members of drug trafficking gangs Comando Vermelho – CV (Red Command) and Família do Norte – FDN (Northern Family)”¹²⁶

According to the 2022 report, the rural municipality of Japurá, in northern Amazonas, with about 2,000 inhabitants, ranks 12 in the list of 30 most violent cities in Brazil.¹²⁷

¹²⁵ Intentional Violent Deaths include: intentional homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.

¹²⁶ Pg 40 - <https://Pg40-forumseguranca.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/anuario-2022.pdf?v=4>

¹²⁷ <https://piqui.folha.uol.com.br/homicidios-em-serie-no-coracao-da-floresta/>



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“The main concern is the infiltration of drug trafficking criminals into environmental crimes; thus, while before those who invaded Indigenous lands were loggers or fishermen seeking profits in their businesses, today drug traffickers seek customers inside Indigenous Lands and, what is worse, they aim to recruit Indigenous youth to trafficking. Criminal gangs such as CV, Família do Norte etc. are established on the outskirts of Lábrea, reproducing a model that dominates all of Brazil. Murders for drug debt, feuds between gangs and Indigenous youth who end up falling horribly into this network. But the worst of the violence remains symbolic, the violence of prejudice that sees the Indigenous as a lower citizen, despised by local urban elites.”

Armando Soares Filho, retired FUNAI agent with 38 years of experience, Lábrea/AM + Marcelo Horta, sociologist, PhD student in geography (Federal University of Rondônia), specialist in Indigenous studies (Positivo University/Opan), master in rural extension (Federal University of Viçosa), researcher at IFAM, Lábrea/AM.

POINTS OF ATTENTION

Activities of high socio-environmental impact in the state

The reconstruction of the BR-319 highway and the explosion in land grabbing and deforestation between Manaus and Porto Velho

A promise of the 2018 election campaign reiterated in several visits to Amazonas¹²⁸, the paving of highway BR-319, which connects Manaus (AM) to Porto Velho (RO), was used by President Jair Bolsonaro as a political platform in the state. In speeches, **Bolsonaro praised the military dictator Ernesto Geisel**, who inaugurated the BR-319 with a total of 885 km in 1976. However, its traffic was interrupted in 1988. Since 2015, a “maintenance” program has made it marginally passable during the dry season. A stretch of more than 400 km between the municipalities of Humaitá and Careiro da Várzea, in Amazonas, part of the highway’s original route planned by the military, is hardly accessible today.

The reconstruction and paving of the so-called ‘Middle Section’ is supported by several of the state’s political and business leaders, as it would create another land route for the transportation of goods and services. The work has historically been the target of federal prosecutors’ lawsuits¹²⁹ due to the intrinsic socio-environmental impacts, since it would connect by land the Arc of Deforestation to a still preserved forest region in Central Amazon. In 2019, the Middle Section’s reconstruction project was approved in the Ministry of Economy’s Investment Partnership Program, prompting great political effort for the construction work and the explosion in land grabbing and deforestation in the region.

Experts believe that completion of the BR-319 and associated side roads would represent a point of no return for forest degradation, biodiversity loss and the role of climate regulation in the Amazon.

¹²⁸ https://www.em.com.br/app/noticia/economia/2019/07/25/internas_economia.1072407/em-manaus-bolsonaro-promete-asfaltar-a-br-319-mesmo-com-orcamento-de.shtml

¹²⁹ http://www.mpfmp.br/atuacao-tematica/ccr4/dados-da-atuacao/eventos/audiencia-publica/audiencia-publica-br-319/eia-rima_br-319.pdf



A study published in [Land Use Policy](#) magazine in September 2021 detailed how **the BR-319 has served as access to illegal logging, trespassing, land grabbing and deforestation** in the surrounding areas of the road and how these movements involve actions by government agencies such as Inbra. "Although the environmental legislation demands an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for allotment C, one of the areas where deforestation is increasing, a judge authorized the paving of the section without the EIA," affirms the publication. The Superior Court of Justice's (STJ) decision in April 2021 alleged that the lack of road access poses a serious risk to public order, safety, economy and health, linking the road works to the severe crisis of oxygen shortage during the Covid-19 pandemic in Manaus in January that year - an argument reproduced by different state and federal political [leaders](#) to support the paving of the highway.

The paving of highway BR 319 threatens 63 Indigenous Lands where 18 groups live, including totally isolated individuals, totaling around 18,000 impacted people within a radius of 150 km on both sides of the road, according to researchers from the National Institute of Amazonian Research (Inpa).¹³⁰

"We expect actors and processes of deforestation to migrate to all the areas connected to Manaus by road, such as Roraima, in the north of the Amazon, and to the vast area of forest in the west of Amazonas state that will be opened by roads planned to connect to BR-319. Brazil is totally unprepared to contain the destruction that this change in the geography of deforestation represents," says Inpa researcher Philip Martin Fearnside in an [article](#) on the highway for Amazônia Real.

[Observatory BR-319 \(OBR-319\)](#), a network of civil society organizations operating in the region of influence of highway BR-319, is monitoring the progress of the project's licensing conducted by IBAMA after the STJ's decision. The first public hearing on the BR-319 was held on September 27 and the process was closed on October 1, 2021, after poor participation from the public, "especially those directly affected by the enterprise, such as Indigenous peoples and traditional populations, and by the lack of a Study of the Indigenous Component (ECI) (a procedure of the environmental licensing process), which had not been finalized until the end of this licensing process".¹³¹

In July 2022, while the licensing process and discussions about federal and state responsibilities in the project dragged on, illegal deforestation continued to advance in the region. The frustration of those who believed the work would be completed before the next federal elections increased, with recent editorials in the local press stating: "We are in the fourth year of the current government and nothing has been done. The promises by (Vice President) Mourão, Tarcísio de Freitas and President Jair Bolsonaro himself have dissolved into the warm and unique breeze of Amazonian climate".¹³²

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“In recent years, the most symbolic facts were the invasion of gold prospectors, fires and deforestation. There is no way we can talk about deforestation and not talk about the fires that were caused by criminals. The prospector that kills not only the human being, but all living beings that need pure water.”

Cláudia Baré, Indigenous educator, Manaus/AM.

¹³⁰ <https://oeco.org.br/reportagens/projeto-de-pavimentacao-da-br-319-ignora-regras-e-preve-entrega-em-2022/>

¹³¹ <https://www.observatoriobr319.org.br/linha-do-tempo/>

¹³² <https://amazonasatual.com.br/general-mourao-tera-que-comer-a-boina-br-319-nao-foi-recuperada/>



Illegal gold mining on the Madeira River

Illegal gold mines on the Madeira River have existed for decades. Initially, they were concentrated near Rondônia state. In recent years, they have advanced on the territory of Amazonas, around the municipalities of Borba, Nova Olinda do Norte, Novo Aripuanã and Autazes. The Madeira River is famous for allegedly having huge deposits of gold in its bed. The mud scooped from the river is taken to rafts, where it is “washed” and put through sieves that seam gold from other sediments using mercury. This mining activity mobilizes a complex chain of suppliers of raw materials, equipment and labor. In addition to the increase in the price of gold in financial markets and authorities’ support of mining, another factor behind the large influx of prospectors in the Madeira region is the dismantling of federal environmental control. The Madeira River cuts through Rondônia and Amazonas and is under the responsibility of national agencies such as IBAMA and ICMBio.

DISINFORMATION: WhatsApp is used to undermine Indigenous movement and threaten leaders

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“I have lived and worked with conservation projects in the Amazon for almost 30 years. What is happening now is very sad. We have witnessed the weakening of agencies working in the environmental departments and in support of Indigenous peoples, quilombolas and traditional rural communities in general, an unprecedented increase in crime, an increase in the incidence of endemic diseases, an economic crisis that greatly affects the already precarious lives of those who live in areas far from urban centers, among others. To make matters worse, this collapsing scenario is compounded by an unjustifiable increase in hatred, driven by denialism and fake news, towards people and institutions dedicated to science, the environment, and the rights of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.”

Carlos Durigan, geographer and director of Wildlife Conservation Society Brazil, Manaus/AM

Strategies of disinformation about socio-environmental issues have increased so much in the state that they prompted the creation of project [Amazonas: Mentira tem preço](#) (Lies have a price), an investigation by production company [FALA](#) and [InfoAmazonia](#). Since the beginning of 2022, the initiative has produced 12 reports addressing different actions of dissemination of fake news through social media, in addition to revealing flaws in compliance with the Information Access Law. Next, [we highlight](#) two fake news items investigated by the project:

“Amazon Indigenous leaders and land demarcations are under attack in WhatsApp groups”¹³³

While the Struggle for Life Indigenous camp took place in Brasília in early September 2021, during the trial of the Temporal Milestone in the Supreme Court¹³⁴, a video released in Whatsapp “accused, without providing any evidence, the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) and the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) of using the camp’s resources for other purposes and stated that the organizations did not represent the Indigenous communities of the whole country.” The Whatsapp video reached Indigenous networks throughout the country and was already circulating in the platform’s public groups in Amazonas, whose members’ interests go from politics to religion. Even far from the camp in Brasília, Milena Mura, leader of the Mura people (AM), was a victim of targeted lies on WhatsApp and social media while she and 400 other people, from 17 communities, protested against the the Temporal Milestone on the Manaus (AM) - Porto Velho (RO) highway. In the eleven Amazonas public groups monitored in the “Amazonas: Lies have a Price” report since August 2021 stories attacking the mobilization against the Temporal Milestone were also shared. One of them generically credited the protests to NGOs and left-wing parties. Others associated the movement with violent acts and “vandalism.” Demarcation of Indigenous Lands: Agribusiness calls for respect to the Constitution” was another post that circulated in groups. The content presented the position of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA), which is in favor of the Temporal Milestone.

133 <https://infoamazonia.org/2022/01/26/whatsapp-fake-news-indigena-amazonas/>

134 <https://cimi.org.br/2021/08/stf-julgamento-marco-temporal-01-09/>



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“Bolsonaro states that if PL 191 is approved, the Indigenous people will also be able to take advantage of resources [of mining on their land]. This will never happen. First, our relatives do not have the knowledge of what a precious stone is, of what is a metal that really has its worth. I’ve been upstate and I know about this. People often come by and exchange a gem for a basic food basket. The relative has not been to school, has not taken a geology course to know the value of a particular gem. To start a mine he has to have money, and Indigenous people don’t have it. Only businessmen have money.”

Cláudia Baré, Indigenous educator, Manaus/AM.

“Speech by Bolsonaro supporter against NGOs gains ground in AM sites”¹³⁵

According to an investigation in Amazonas: Lies have a Price, which surveyed 42 local vehicles from the Atlas da Notícia (News Atlas) 2020, “the narrative against actions by non-governmental organizations in the Amazon is highlighted in the environment coverage of local websites and blogs in Amazonas that claim to do independent journalism, either deliberately or through the reproduction of speeches by President Jair Bolsonaro (PL) and members of the cabinet”. One of these posts, published on the Chumbo Grosso website on June 4, 2019, reads: “Certain that they will lose benefits, environmentalists protest for Amazon Fund in Rio”. On the LR Notícias website, columnist Osiris M. Araújo da Silva criminalized the action of NGOs without presenting evidence in his column titled “Environmental Terrorism”, on August 8, 2019. To give credibility to his arguments, Silva used statements by the then Minister of the Environment, Ricardo Salles. The Amazon’s deforestation records in recent years do not appear in Chumbo Grosso and LR Notícias’ coverage. The two sites display ads from the Amazonas’ state government.

While NGOs and Indigenous movements have suffered coordinated disinformation and defamation attacks, groups linked to environmental crimes such as illegal logging and mining act freely on social media, according to local environmentalists and Indigenous people.

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“A striking example of the ‘cattle herd strategy’ passing through the Amazon is the Mafia Log, loggers who have public groups on social media and act with impunity¹³⁶. Gold diggers do the same.”

Armando Soares Filho, retired Indigenous expert of FUNAI with 38 years of experience, Lábrea/AM + Marcelo Horta, sociologist, PhD student in geography (Federal University of Rondônia), specialist in Indigenous affairs (Positivo University/Opan), master in rural extension (Federal University of Viçosa), researcher at IFAM, Lábrea/AM.

¹³⁵ <https://infoamazonia.org/2022/02/25/discurso-bolsonarista-contra-ongs-ganha-terreno-em-sites-no-am/>

¹³⁶ <https://www.tiktok.com/@elieltonlopes10/video/7023842869785955590>
<https://m.facebook.com/Mafia-da-tora-Rond%C3%B4nia-412586142284361/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ImperioDaMadeiraRO/>



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“For me it was horrible to see Bolsonaro being supported here in Amazonas. It was also sad to see relatives (other indigenous peoples) supporting this government. For me, relatives supporting Bolsonaro, can also be seen as an effect of the ‘cattle herd strategy’”

Cláudia Baré, Indigenous educator, Manaus/AM.

TIMELINE

In [Smoke Signal's](#) monitoring of the main socio-environmental events since the election of Jair Bolsonaro, we highlight four episodes in Amazonas that reveal the nature and consolidate federal government policies executed with the support of members of Congress and local authorities.



FEVEREIRO DE 2019: Tukano Leader is murdered¹³⁷

Francisco Pereira, 53, a Tukano Indigenous leader, was shot and killed in the Urukia community in the city of Manaus (AM) on February 27, 2019. Hooded men broke into his home and fired several times at Pereira. The crime was witnessed by his wife and daughter. According to his family, he worked with 42 Indigenous communities and there had been no previous conflict that could have motivated the crime.



SEPTEMBER 2020: Smoke in Manaus reflects record number of fires in Amazonas and Pará¹³⁸

In the first week of September 2020, Manaus was covered by an extensive smoke cloud proceeding from forest fires in different points of the Amazon. Rates of forest fire occurrences in the region have been breaking historical records since July. According to a report by Amazônia Real, between September 1 and 8 of 2020, INPE (National Institute of Space Research) recorded 2,002 fire outbreaks, a number 170% higher than the same period in 2019, when the state recorded 742 outbreaks. Records from INPE and other institutions consulted in the state detected a concentration of fires in the municipalities of Lábrea, Apuí and Boca do Acre.



JANUARY 2021: Covid-19: Manaus has lack of oxygen in crowded hospitals at the peak of the second wave¹³⁹

Manaus (AM), one of the first cities to see its health system collapse early in the pandemic, faced a predictable tragedy in January 2021 with the explosion of cases of Covid-19 and a shortage of oxygen in crowded hospitals. Patients died from asphyxiation, according to reports from health professionals, and more than 200 were transferred to other states. Reports in the press and the Pandemic CPI (Congressional Investigation Committee) in Congress investigated the “oxygen crisis” in Manaus, including the fact that then Health Minister, Eduardo Pazuello, had been warned about the critical shortage of oxygen in Manaus by members of the Amazonas government and the company that supplies the product at least four days in advance. Days earlier, during the week of total collapse, the minister financed a task force of doctors who supported the inefficient “early treatment” in public health units in Manaus. In an interview for O Estado de São Paulo newspaper, epidemiologist Jesem Orellana, from Fiocruz-Amazônia, highlighted the rejection of lockdown recommended as of September 2020 by state governor Wilson Lima, a decision celebrated by president Jair Bolsonaro and his supporters, and what he called “bad science”, referring to a study published by researchers which stated Manaus had reached herd immunity. “This circulated in the political environment, on bar tables. Today more people question the study. But since then [September 2020] the population relaxed and the end of the story is what we saw”, he lamented. While the collapse of Manaus encouraged strong mobilization in civil society to mitigate the situation in hospitals, with campaigns for donations and the buying of oxygen cylinders, the president maintained his denialist stance. “We did our part,” he said, in addition to reinforcing his defense of the use of ineffective drugs against Covid-19.

¹³⁷ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2019/02/27/lideranca-dos-tukano-assassinada/>

¹³⁸ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/09/09/fumaca-em-manaus-reflete-recorde-de-queimadas-no-amazonas-e-no-para/>

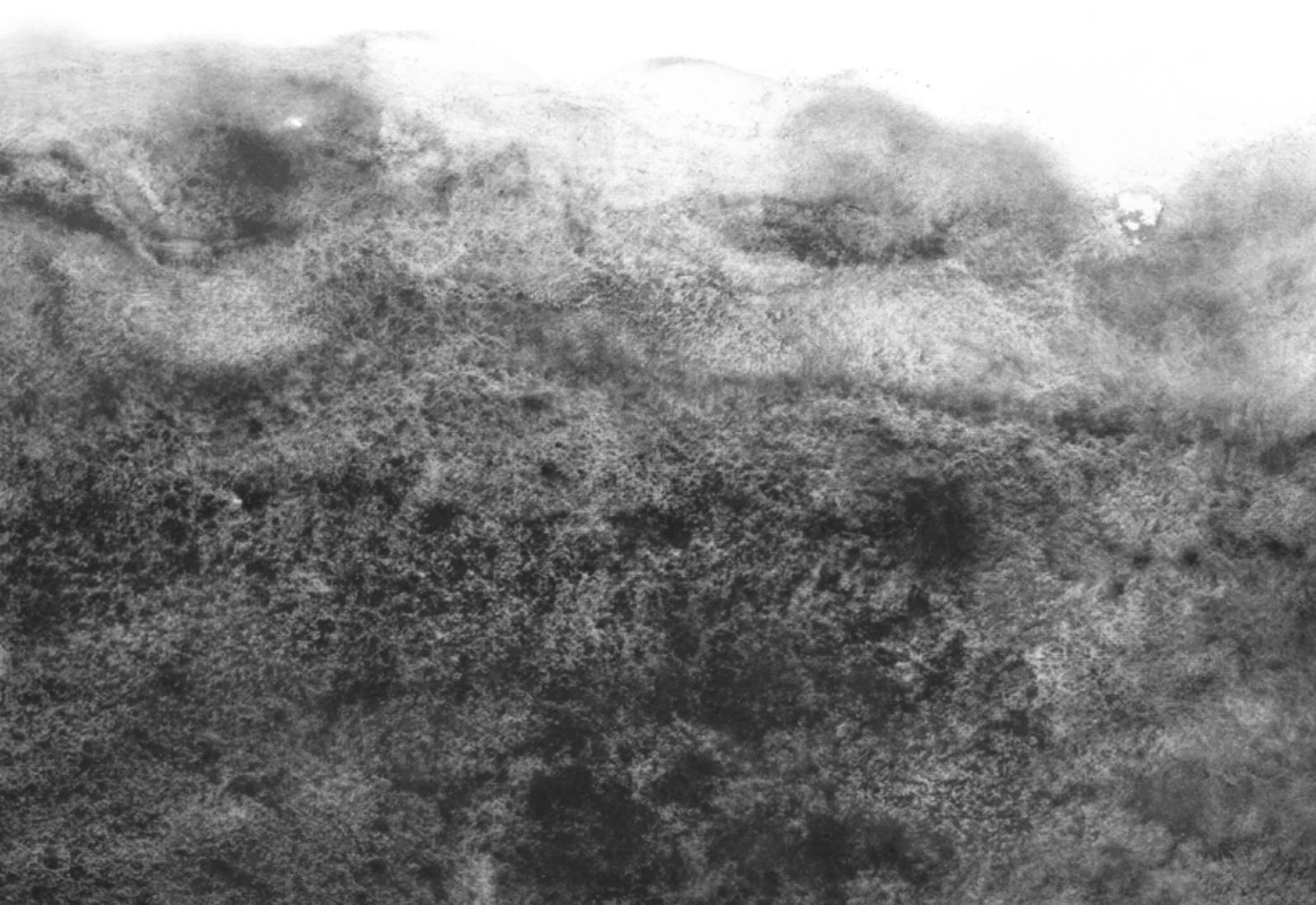
¹³⁹ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/01/17/covid-19-manaus-am-tem-falta-de-oxigenio-em-hospitais-lotados-no-pico-da-segunda-onda/>



NOVEMBER 2021: Illegal miners line up 600 rafts on the Madeira River, PF carries out operation and mayors support criminals¹⁴⁰

On November 24, 2021 shocking images of a line of more than 600 rafts of illegal miners going down the Madeira River, in the region of Autazes and Nova Olinda do Norte municipalities, in Amazonas, spread through social media. According to the press, "a man identified as a miner talks about setting up a 'wall' of rafts, with people around the dredgers, to react to any kind of inspection by the Federal Police". The presence of rafts in the river, one of the most important in the Amazon, seriously threatens the local ecosystem, compromising the feeding of hundreds of fish species and the quality of the water, in addition to causing sedimentation. Five days later, with the aim of dismantling the "wall" of illegal gold prospectors' rafts advancing through the Madeira River in the region of Autazes (AM), the Federal Police (PF) and IBAMA launched operation Uiara, with support from the Armed Forces. More than 130 rafts were set on fire by the PF and three people were arrested. Critical of the law enforcement operation, mayors of the Amazonian municipalities of Autazes and Borba mobilized to appeal to the state's federal caucus in order to stop the destruction of rafts. "I've talked to several federal deputies and senators who represent Amazonas. And with that I'm sure we can solve this situation. If we can reverse a federal order, all of you and us will emerge victorious," said the mayor of Borba, Simão Peixoto (PP-AM), to dozens of miners gathered in the town square, where they sought shelter after fleeing from the police.

140 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/11/24/garimpeiros-ilegais-enfileiram-600-balsas-no-rio-madeira/> and <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/11/29/pf-faz-acao-contra-garimpo-ilegal-no-rio-madeira-am-prefeitos-apoiam-criminosos/>





STATE GOVERNMENT: Controversies and attempted impeachment of a surfer of Bolsonaro's wave

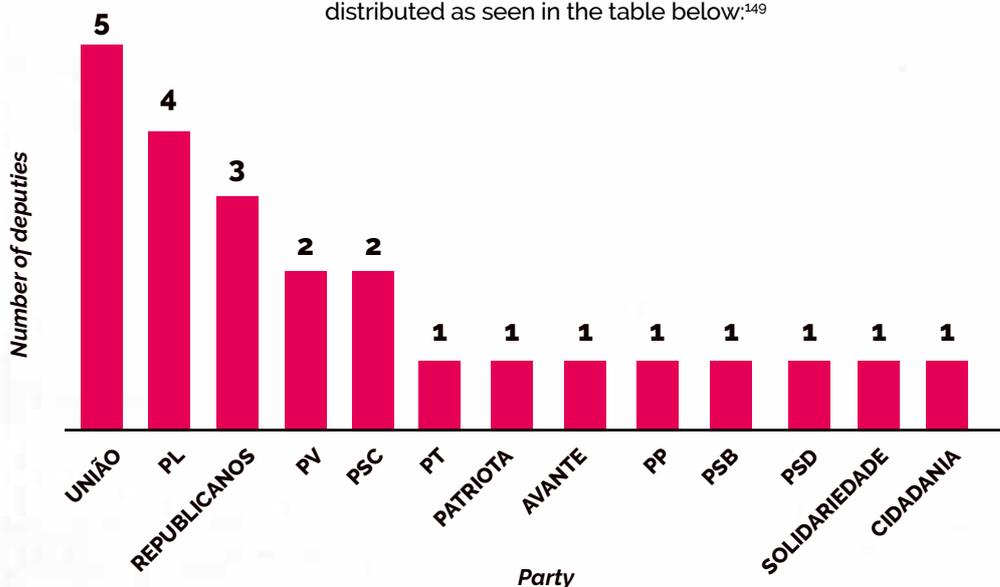
In 2018, journalist and broadcaster Wilson Miranda Lima, 46, was elected governor of Amazonas by the PSC with Carlos Almeida (PRTB) as his vice-governor, with more than 1 million votes in the second round¹⁴¹. It was the debut election campaign for Wilson Lima, who became known among the Amazonian population for presenting a local TV show. Lima, who surfed the wave of "political renewal" and received support from Jair Bolsonaro, migrated to União Brasil in the "party window" (the period in which politicians are allowed to change parties) of early 2022. Married with two children, Wilson Lima's first term was marked by controversy, accusations and even an attempted impeachment.

Governor Wilson Lima is charged

The pandemic had arrived in Brazil only a few weeks earlier and the capital, Manaus, was already one of the epicenters of the country's health crisis. In April 2020, the Federal Prosecution Office (PGR) asked the Superior Court of Justice (STJ) to authorize an investigation on Amazonas 'governor Wilson Lima following evidence of overbilling in the purchase of 28 hospital respiratory ventilators for R\$ 2.9 million¹⁴². In early May, the president of the Legislative Assembly of Amazonas accepted two impeachment requests against the governor and vice president. Filed by state doctors, the complaints alleged mismanagement in the local government's fight against Covid-19 and accused administrators of political-administrative offenses.¹⁴³

In June 2020, authorized by the Supreme Court, the Federal Police served warrants and ordered the temporary arrest of eight people linked to the state government and the companies being investigated. Search and seizure warrants were served against Governor Wilson Lima and his assets, frozen¹⁴⁴. The impeachment process was filed in August 2020 after a vote in the State Congress¹⁴⁵, but investigations into overbilling in the purchase of respiratory ventilators continued and in August 2021 the Supreme Court charged Wilson Lima and 15 others¹⁴⁶. In March 2022, the Supreme Court of Justice denied appeals filed by Lima and other defendants. No date has yet been set for the trial.¹⁴⁷

Amazonas¹⁴⁸ State Congress has **24** state representatives, distributed as seen in the table below:¹⁴⁹



¹⁴¹ <https://www.acritica.com/channels/manaus/news/wilson-lima-e-eleito-o-novo-governador-do-amazonas-com-mais-de-xxx-mil-votos>

¹⁴² <https://d24am.com/coronavirus-no-amazonas/pgr-pede-inquerito-para-investigar-wilson-lima-por-compra-de-respiradores-em-adeaga/>

¹⁴³ <https://brasil.elpais.com/brasil/2020-05-01/governador-do-amazonas-enfrenta-pressao-pelo-seu-impeachment-diante-do-caos-pelo-coronavirus.html>

¹⁴⁴ <https://g1.globo.com/politica/noticia/2020/06/30/stj-ve-indicios-de-envolvimento-do-governador-do-amazonas-em-irregularidades-na-compra-de-respiradores.ghtml>

¹⁴⁵ <https://g1.globo.com/am/amazonas/noticia/2020/08/06/por-12-votos-a-6-processo-de-impeachment-de-wilson-lima-e-vice-e-arquivado-na-assembleia-legislativa.ghtml>

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.mpfmp.br/pgr/noticias-pgr/governador-e-vice-governador-do-am-e-outras-12-pessoas-viram-reus-por-irregularidades-na-compra-de-respiradores>

¹⁴⁷ <https://g1.globo.com/am/amazonas/noticia/2022/03/07/apos-stj-negar-recurso-no-caso-dos-respiradores-governador-vice-e-empresarios-do-am-seguem-sendo-reus.ghtml>

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.aleam.gov.br/deputados/>

¹⁴⁹ <https://especiais.gazetadopovo.com.br/eleicoes/2018/resultados/eleitos-deputado-estadual-ap-quem-ganhou/>



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“There are so many bills that generate so much concern that it is even difficult to assess them. I understand that all these ongoing processes end up forming the basis for a perfect storm of destruction of our environmental policies and consequently of our natural heritage.”

Carlos Durigan, geographer and director of the Wildlife Conservation Society Brazil, Manaus/AM

AMAZONAS' CAUCUS IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:

83,3% of representatives voted with Bolsonaro on social-environmental reforms. (62,5% with abstentions); 50% are part of the Ruralist Caucus

The Amazonas legislative caucus in the National Congress has eight federal representatives and three senators. Most of the representatives voted with the Bolsonaro government in the key projects of the Destruction Package and were in favor of the 2022 Budget Law which allocates record funds for the rapporteur's amendments (secret budget).

How Federal Deputies from Amazonas voted on Bolsonaro's Destruction Package and the 2022 Budget Law

Names highlighted in pink are members of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) - the Ruralist Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ¹⁵⁰⁻¹⁵¹ Plenary	LICENSING ¹⁵² (Bill no. 3729/2004) Plenary	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ¹⁵³ (Bill no. 191/2020) Plenary - Urgency	DEMARICATION OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (BILL no. 490/2007) ¹⁵⁴ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021 (2022 Annual Budget Law) ¹⁵⁵ Floor
01	Átila Lins (PSD)	In favor	In favor	x	x	x
02	Bosco Saraiva (SOLIDARIEDADE)	In favor <i>'project rapporteur</i>	x	In favor	x	In favor
03	Capitão Alberto Neto (PL)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	x
04	Delegado Pablo (UNIÃO)	x	In favor	In favor	x	x
05	José Ricardo (PT)	Against	Against	Against	x	Against
06	Marcelo Ramos (PSD)	x	In favor	Abstention <i>'chaired the session</i>	x	Abstention <i>'chaired the session</i>
07	Sidney Leite (PSD)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
08	Silas Câmara (REPUBLICANOS)	In favor	x	In favor	x	In favor

Source: Organized by the guide based on web pages of the House of Representatives and the [Agriculture and Livestock Farming Parliamentary Front](#).

150 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

151 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?deVotacao=9924>

152 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

153 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

154 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

155 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>



AMAZONAS IN THE SENATE

The three elected senators for Amazonas are Eduardo Braga (MDB), Omar Aziz (PSD) and Plínio Valério (PSDB). All are members of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front and voted in favor of the approval of the Annual Budget Law of 2022.¹⁵⁶

”

“The worst project is PL 191, which is a very cruel way to gradually extinguish Indigenous peoples. It generally affects all our lands and has many impacts for us Indigenous peoples.”

—*Cláudia Baré, Indigenous educator, Manaus/AM.*—

¹⁵⁶ <https://interativos.g1.globo.com/politica/2019/como-votam/senado/brasil/projetos/orcamento-da-uniao-para-2022>



6. MARANHÃO



AREA: 264,715.03 km²



5,914,375 inhabitants (2020)



183 municipalities



Capital: São Luís, where over 1,115,932 people live



**HDI*: 0,639
ranking 26th in Brazil (2010)**



GDP: R\$98.2 billion (2018)



25.57% of the area is demarcated as Conservation Units, Indigenous Lands and quilombolas



15.46% of territory covered by forests and 42.66% by non-forest native vegetation (2020)



More than 40.24% of the state had been affected by deforestation up to 2020



About 32,894 hot spots were detected in the state in 2020 and 2021



81.56 megatons of CO₂e emitted in 2019, most from deforestation and changes in land use

*Human Development Index
**Infographic created with data from [IBGE](#), [INPE](#), and "Fatos da Amazônia Legal" (Legal Amazon Facts)



”

“The political implications arising from the current president’s administration have substantially cooperated with major setbacks in Brazilian socio-environmental policy, directly affecting the states that make up the Legal Amazon. Despite all the scandals and growing public pressure, the dismantling and infralegal reforms of the Bolsonaro government continue.”

*Karoline Ramos, coordinator and legal advisor of
Coletivo Re(ocupa), São Luís/MA¹⁵⁷*

LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION:

Amazon rainforest approaching collapse as deforestation grows with agribusiness

The [“Leis e Práticas da Regularização Fundiária no Estado do Maranhão” \(Laws and Practices of Land Regularization in the State of Maranhão\)](#) study, published by Imazon in 2021, estimates that 56% of Maranhão’s territory already has been designated (overlaps not considered), with 30% made up of private properties. Another part consists of 11% of settlement projects and 9% of Indigenous Lands and 6% of Conservation Units. **About 62,400 hectares of Quilombola Territory were identified, according to data from Incra (Brazil’s land reform agency), which also mapped another 340,000 hectares (1.5% of the state) for titling.**

The other 44% of Maranhão’s territory had no land designation or information available. About 41% of this undefined area, or 18% of the state, was registered as private property in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) - it is not possible to say whether

they are legally constituted properties or occupations of public lands pending evaluation by government agencies that could represent cases of land grabbing. Another large part of this non-designated area, 24.5% of the territory, did not have information regarding its occupation, not even in the CAR. The responsibility for 89% of these areas lies with the state government, which is equivalent to 39% of the non-allocated land. The 11% under federal jurisdiction would be available for the regularization of ownership, according to a decision of the Technical Chamber for Designation and Regularization of Federal Public Lands in the Legal Amazon. The Imazon survey also indicates that 1.2 million hectares of non-designated lands are priorities for conservation, according to the Ministry of the Environment, with more than half of them classified as areas of extremely high biological importance.

”

“There was a partnership between the federal government and organized crime. This led to gangs of land grabbers, loggers, prospectors, ranchers and soybean farmers taking large portions of the forest by storm, destroying everything in front of them, fomenting land conflicts that resulted in deaths, threats to people, water pollution, fires and genocide of Indigenous peoples.”

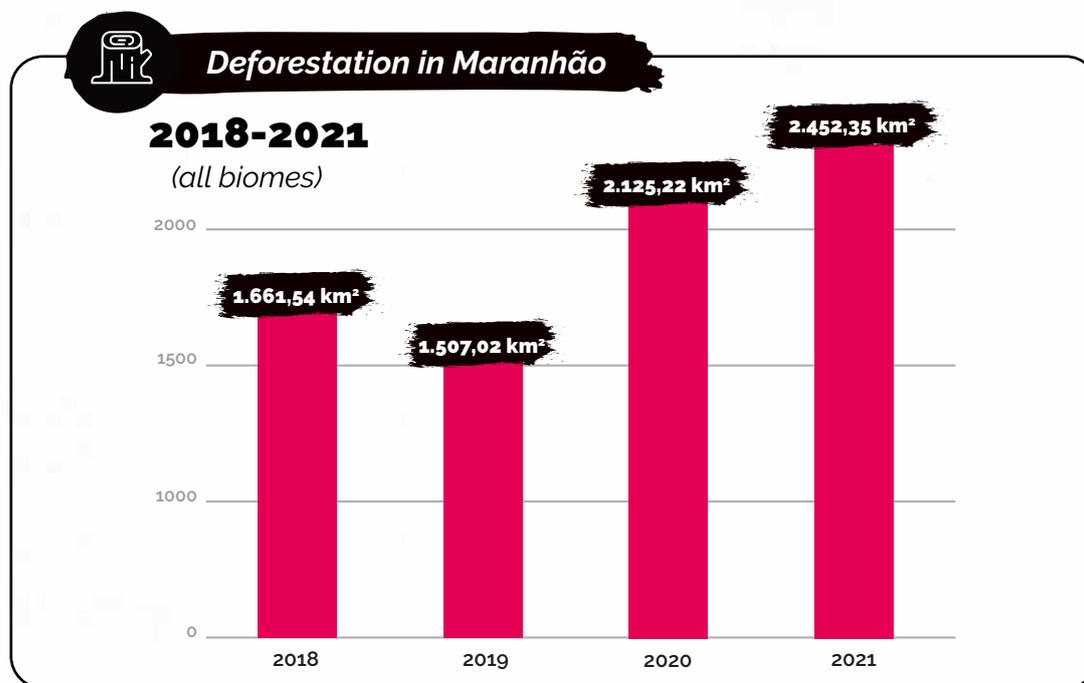
Diogo Cabral, civil rights lawyer, São Luís/MA¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁷ Collective with a popular-political educational and content verification (fact-checking) focus in the city of São Luís that aims to contribute to an active, public, effective and hierarchically transversal participation of the population on the themes of Right to the City in the axes of climate and society, active mobility and environment. https://linktr.ee/Re_o_cupa

¹⁵⁸ <https://twitter.com/Diogotapuio>



According to the ecological macro-zoning produced by Embrapa (Brazil's federal agriculture research company) in 2016, the State of Maranhão has 3 biomes: **Cerrado (64% of the state), Amazônia (35%), and Caatinga (1%), forming a mosaic rich in biodiversity.**



Source: [INPE](#) - PRODES (Brazil Space Research Institute/Amazon Deforestation Satellite Monitoring Project)

AMAZON BIOME

The Amazon forest area in the state of Maranhão is in a situation of imminent collapse, says a [scientific article](#) published in the Land Use Policy magazine in September 2020. According to the study, the original forest cover lost almost 1,000 km² between 2016 and 2019, and another 6,000 km² were degraded by fire or logging activity, in addition to causing high rates of violence against Indigenous peoples and rural communities. About 80% of the state's native forests have already been destroyed¹⁵⁹. Data from MapBiomas (2021) indicate that **11.6 million hectares of forest remain in Maranhão, of which 85% are concentrated on Indigenous lands and integral protection Conservation Units.**¹⁶⁰

CERRADO BIOME

The main causes of deforestation in the Cerrado of Maranhão are agriculture, livestock breeding and eucalyptus plantation. Between 2020 and 2021, the city of Balsas, in the south of the state, was the municipality in which there was the most deforestation of Cerrado, according to a survey by the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM). In addition to Balsas, three other municipalities in Maranhão are on the list of the 10 cities in Brazil that have most deforested the biome: Grajaú, Caxias and Aldeias Altas. The integral protection areas in Maranhão's Cerrado are mainly in the Mirador State Park (766,781 hectares) and in the Chapadas das Mesas National Park (160,046 hectares).^{161 162}

¹⁵⁹ <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2020/06/30/no-maranhao-80-da-floresta-amazonica-ja-foi-devastada>

¹⁶⁰ <https://g1.globo.com/ma/maranhao/noticia/2021/09/05/dia-da-amazonia-o-desafio-de-preservar-o-pouco-que-ainda-resta-da-floresta-no-maranhao.ghtml>

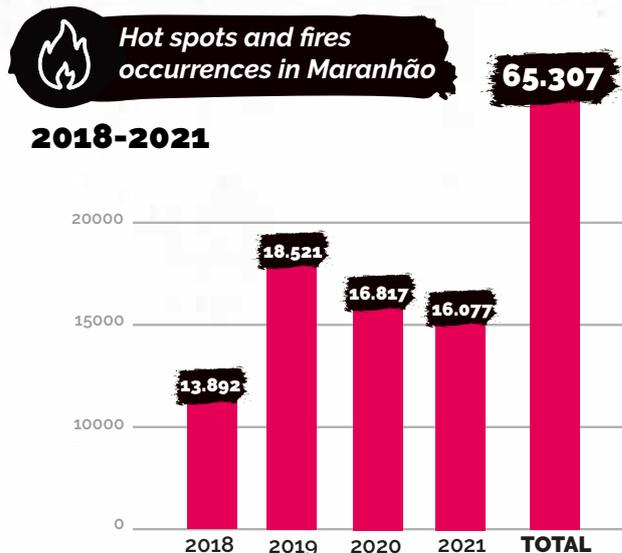
¹⁶¹ <https://g1.globo.com/ma/maranhao/noticia/2021/01/03/maranhao-esta-entre-estados-que-mais-desmatam-o-cerrado-para-a-agropecuaria.ghtml>

¹⁶² <https://g1.globo.com/ma/maranhao/noticia/2022/01/07/balsas-e-o-municipio-do-maranhao-que-mais-desmatou-o-cerrado-no-ultimo-ano-aponta-ipam.ghtml>



At the beginning of the 2021 fire season, in August, fires in Maranhão increased 78% in 15 days, reaching more than 1,698 fires in the state in just two weeks.

Most were concentrated in the Cerrado biome, with 1,550 occurrences, and another 115 hotspots recorded in the Amazon biome; at that time, more than a hundred fires were mapped within Indigenous lands of the state¹⁶³. In 2021, the state registered more than 16,000 hot spots (INPE). The peak of fires in the state usually happens in November and the fire can be aggravated by regional climate issues.



Source: [INPE](#)

”

“What remains of the Amazon in Maranhão is due to Indigenous lands, extractive reserves, biological reserves and traditional territories. In the past 3 years, we have witnessed an overwhelming destruction of the Maranhão Amazon. There is not much to say in terms of the future of the forest. The forest is dying.”

Diogo Cabral, civil rights lawyer, São Luís/MA

INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY AND RESISTANCE OF THE CERRADO PEOPLES: Last trenches of forest and savanna

According to the platform [Indigenous Lands of Brazil](#), Maranhão has 22 Indigenous territories identified and in different stages of regularization and demarcation, covering almost 9% of the state area. In the last Census of 2010, the state had 38,831 Indigenous people, of whom 76% lived in Indigenous Lands, spread over 31 municipalities in Maranhão. According to FUNAI, Brazil's Indigenous Agency, there are seven ethnic groups living in Maranhão: Ka'apor, Guajá, Tenetehara, Timbira, Kanela, Krikati and Gamela.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶³ <https://oestadoma.com/noticias/2021/08/24/focos-de-queimadas-aumentaram-78-em-15-dias-no-maranhao/>

¹⁶⁴ <https://oimparcial.com.br/cidades/2019/04/o-mapa-dos-indios-no-maranhao/2/#the-post>



All Indigenous Lands in Maranhão suffer pressure and threats, according to the [study](#) "Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples in the state of Maranhão."¹⁶⁵ The publication states that, over the years, while logging, burning and infrastructure works swallow up the surrounding forests, threats to Indigenous Lands grow and, consequently, traditional and chronic violations of the social, territorial, cultural and human rights of native peoples intensify. In the higher courts and in the second instance of the Regional Federal Court of the 1st Region, the research found no judicial condemnations of environmental crimes within Indigenous lands. Also, according to the study, between 2003 and 2019, out of 57 murders of Indigenous people reported, 32.3% were correlated with the invasion of their territories and the illegal exploitation of their natural resources. It is noteworthy that for every 10 Indigenous people murdered in this period, 7 belonged to the Guajajara people.

“Considering the widely documented scenario of invasions and deforestation, the absence of convictions related to environmental crimes within the Indigenous Lands reinforces the perception that a scenario of impunity prevails (...) [as] a determining factor to support the escalation of violence, making Maranhão one of the most dangerous states in Brazil for Indigenous peoples”

Study: Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples in the state of Maranhão.

Maranhão

Indigenous Territories*



*We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](#).



In addition to Indigenous peoples, Maranhão concentrates many traditional communities. Far from being effectively protected, they face threats from the advance of soy and eucalyptus plantations, and land disputes over their ancestral territories. To resist in an organized way, the [Network of Traditional Peoples and Communities of Maranhão](#) (Teia dos Povos e Comunidades Tradicionais) has been holding large meetings for 10 years.

The last took place on February 24 and 26 in state capital São Luís and was attended by Indigenous groups, quilombolas, coconut breakers, small scale fishermen, country people, peasants, missionaries of the Missionary Council for Indigenous Peoples in Maranhão (CIMI), Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), Interstate Movement of Babaçu Coconut Breakers (Miqcb), Quilombola Movement of Maranhão (Moquibom), Pastoral Council of Fishermen (CPP) and the Center for Studies and Research in Agrarian Issues (NERA), Federal University of Maranhão (UFMA). As early as April 8th and 9th, the [Pastoral Land Commission](#) brought together people from the Cerrado threatened by agricultural enterprises and conflicts in rural areas of the city of Barra do Corda (MA).

”

“Between 2020 and 2022, 8 quilombolas were murdered in Maranhão, 6 of them were community leaders. There was also an attempt to deconstitutionalize the State Commission for the Prevention of Violence in the Field and in the City.”

Karoline Ramos, coordinator and legal advisor of Coletivo Re(ol)cupa, São Luís/MA.

Quilombolas of Alcântara still under threat

The Alcântara Launch Base (ALC) in Maranhão has threatened the lives of quilombola communities in the region since it was built. Under the justification of being a geographically privileged place for satellite launches, the installation of the space base in the city of Alcântara by the Brazilian government violated an ancestral territory of the quilombola community whose occupation dates back to the 18th century. Alcântara, located in the metropolitan region of São Luís, concentrates the largest quilombola population in the country, with more than 17,000 people, distributed in almost 200 communities.

Opened in 1983 as a project of the country's Air Force and Space Program, the construction of the base resulted in the expropriation and expulsion of more than 300 families from 23 quilombola villages, forcibly resettled in agricultural villages far from sea and river and without any structure. The change violated the traditional way of life of the population, bringing food insecurity, movement restriction within the territory and lack of access to public policies of education, health, basic sanitation and transportation.

In 2019, President Jair Bolsonaro signed a Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) with then-President Donald Trump for the use of the ALC by the United States. Promulgated in February 2020, the proposal provided for a 30,000-acre expansion of the base. This would imply the forced removal of 30 quilombos that house about 2,000 people. In the midst of the pandemic, Resolution No. 11, from March 26, 2020, signed by General Augusto Heleno, entrusted the Ministry of Defense with “the execution of family removals”.

According to a survey by [Agência Pública](#), the resolution was questioned in a lawsuit by federal representative Bira do Pindaré (PSB/MA), president of the Joint Congressional Front in Defense of Quilombola Communities. In May 2020, an injunction from the Federal Court suspended the removal, determining that it would not be effective before free, prior and informed consultation of those affected took place. In October 2021, the US Senate commission decided that resources assigned for Brazil should not be used to remove communities. Subsequently, the Development Committee of the Brazilian Space Program revoked Resolution No. 11. Also, according to Agência Pública in a January 2022 report, the case of quilombolas against the base was admitted to trial by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR), after a complaint filed in August 2021 by the affected communities and entities such as Global Justice, Global Exchange and Federation of Agricultural Workers of the State of Maranhão (FETAEMA), among others.



VIOLENCE: Record holder in violence in the countryside in 2019 and 2020

According to the Pastoral Land Commission (PLC), between 2010 and 2019, Maranhão ranked first among the 9 states of the Legal Amazon in the number of accumulated conflicts in rural areas, with 1,684 cases identified in the period.

Given the seriousness of the situation, in 2015 the state government created the State Commission for the Prevention of Violence in Rural and Urban Areas (SCPVFC), linked to the Human Rights and Popular Participation Department, to act in consolidated collective cases in areas of state jurisdiction. SCPVFC's aim is to provide mediation in order to avoid the abusive employment of police force and the respect of human rights.¹⁶⁶

Conflicts and deaths in rural areas - Maranhão 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	199	174	203	98
Personal violence**	95	53	30	29

**In relation to the sum of conflicts over land and occupations/repossessions; **Relating to the total number of murders, attempted murders, death as a consequence, death threats, torture, imprisoned and assaulted*

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021" ("Land conflicts" is a yearly report published by the Pastoral Land Commission - Comissão Pastoral da Terra)

”

“Maranhão is a violent state. Between 2020-2021, there were 14 murders of Indigenous leaders, quilombolas and peasants, all concentrated in the Maranhão Amazon. In none of the cases a mastermind was identified and, in only two, the police investigation was completed. Between 2015-2022, there were 43 murders of human rights defenders and environmentalists in the State of Maranhão.”

Diogo Cabral, civil rights lawyer, São Luís/MA

According to the [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), Maranhão recorded 4,062 intentional violent deaths¹⁶⁷ between 2018 and 2021. Over the course of ten years (2011-2021), the rate of intentional violent deaths rose 21.4% in the state. The municipality of Junco do Maranhão occupies the 29th position in the ranking of the 30 most violent cities in the country.¹⁶⁸

”

“The current government, regarded as progressive, carries out violent policing. Data collected by the Network of Security Observatories indicate that, in Maranhão, 29 deaths resulting from police operations and 79 occurrences with firearms have been recorded¹⁶⁹, numbers that grow as local factions (Bonde dos 40, Comando Vermelho and PCC) expand and dispute territories.”

Karoline Ramos, coordinator and legal advisor of Coletivo Re(o)cupa, São Luís/MA.

¹⁶⁶ https://amazon.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LeisRegularizacaoFundiarria_Maranhao.pdf

¹⁶⁷ Intentional Violent Deaths include: intentional homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.

¹⁶⁸ <https://noticias.uol.com.br/cotidiano/ultimas-noticias/2022/06/28/anuario-brasileiro-de-seguranca-publica-2022.htm>

¹⁶⁹ <https://www.observatoriodeseguranca.org/artigos/retratos-da-violencia-novos-dados-do-maranhao-e-piaui/>



“In Maranhão, a woman is the victim of violence every 72 hours; feminicides and femicide attempts account for 69% of occurrences. All victims of crimes against LGBTQIA+ are black people, indicating overlapping racism and homophobic violence”

Security Observatory Network

POINTS OF ATTENTION

High socio-environmental impact projects in the state

The destruction of the Cerrado Maranhense: soy and environmental racism in **Matopiba**

A [study](#) released by the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (Ipam) in March 2022 showed that the **MATOPIBA** - a Cerrado region comprising parts of **MA**ranhão, **TO**cantins, **PI**aui and **BA**hia - concentrated more than 61% of all deforestation in the biome between August 2020 and July 2021, the highest index of the historical series (PRODES/INPE). In the same period, the Cerrado biome had the highest total deforestation rate since 2015. **Maranhão was the state with the biggest area of deforested native vegetation with 2,281.72 km²**, followed by Tocantins (1,710.55 km²), Bahia (925.11 km²) and Piauí (583.73 km²). The sum of the Cerrado area already deforested in Matopiba corresponds to just over three times the territory of the city of São Paulo. According to MapBiomas, Tocantins and Maranhão, in this order, are the states that most lost native vegetation of Cerrado in the last decade. The initiative revealed that the Matopiba region has more than doubled the area dedicated to agriculture in the past 36 years.

The dossier [AT THE BORDER OF \(I\)LEGALITY: Deforestation and land grabbing in Matopiba](#), prepared by the Articulation of Resistance of Matopiba, part of the National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado, affirms that, from the point of view of the logistics of agricultural commodities outflow from Matopiba, projects such as the expansion of the BR-135 highway and Porto São Luís, in Maranhão — among several in the other states — are under study, construction and/or concession, causing intense territorial conflicts. The document also warns that Embrapa has conducted research and launched crop varieties adapted to the soil and climate of the region, promoting the expansion of monocultures.

In 2020, about 17% of the deforested Cerrado area in Matopiba — or 4 million hectares — was destined for soybean monocultures (2018) and 14.6 million hectares for pastures (2020), with an increase of 258% since 1985. Together, cattle and soy correspond to almost 80% of the accumulated deforestation area in the Matopiba Cerrado.¹⁷⁰

One of the cases detailed by the dossier is the Mirador Crossing, in south-central Maranhão, where 78 family farming communities have been waiting for 40 years for a judicial decision to designate the area for land reform and regularization. They are agro-extractive families that practice traditional livestock farming, cultivate the millenary slash-and-burn technique and live in the region's plateaus with food sovereignty and income generation. The cassava flour, for example, has significant importance to feed neighboring cities. In addition to failing to comply with the court ruling, the state created a park in the area in the 1980s. The environmental preservation area does not allow the presence of communities. Threatened by the park's management, they also suffer from the advance of large properties around the unit. Land grabbing is a historical problem, as the limits of the unit are not clear and Incra, Brazil's land reform agency, has been allowing the registry of private properties over the area. Among the agribusiness companies that exploit the region, there are allegations of slave labor and illegal purchase of land by foreigners.

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.matopibagrilagem.org/matopiba>



"While the community members are treated as invaders and offenders, agribusiness is seen as a partner and an ally of environmental preservation, even with the extensive deforestation around the park and in the non-designated eastern portion to make way for soybean monocultures," says the analysis of the Association of Lawyers of Rural Workers (AATR), which participated in the preparation of the dossier.¹⁷¹

The document also points out that [Complementary Bill No. 246/2020](#), authored by federal deputy Pastor Gil (PL/MA), which establishes the Geoeconomic and Social Complex of Matopiba, is being processed in Congress. The project was approved on September 22, 2021, at the Committee on Economic Development, Industry, Trade and Services with an amendment based on the Rapporteur's report, Federal Deputy Capitão Fábio Abreu (PL/State of Piauí). The main modification proposed in the report approved by the committee was the inclusion of part of the state of Pará that "borders territorially and agriculturally the states of Maranhão and Tocantins", which would mean "approximately 39 more municipalities" in Pará and the change the acronym of the geoeconomic complex to MAPATOPIBA. The unfolding of the project process may represent a new offensive against the territories.

DISINFORMATION: Businesses and governments use the media to criminalize traditional communities

Among the targets of disinformation campaigns in Maranhão in the last four years, the state government itself has systematically used its security forces and official communication channels to criminalize traditional communities, as shown by the example of the Akroá Gamella people detailed below:

VERSIONS WAR: STATE GOVERNMENT VS. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Akroá Gamella report: On November 17, 2011, according to information from the [Missionary Council for Indigenous Peoples \(CIMI\)](#), "the Akroá Gamella people, from the Taquaritiua Indigenous Land, in the municipality of Viana (MA), were taken by surprise by the hostile arrival of employees of an electricity company, accompanied by thugs – who identified as police officers. For years, this company has been trying, without any consultation and respect for Indigenous people, to install transmission towers and lines within the Taquaritiua Indigenous Land, an area that is undergoing a lengthy demarcation process by FUNAI, the Brazilian Indigenous Agency. "Indigenous leaders reported that about 60 men spent the early hours of the 18th in the area watching the community and that the thugs helped employees install energy towers. In the afternoon of the following day, military police officers from the government of Maranhão went to Aldeia Cajueiro, inside the Indigenous Land and, according to CIMI, forcibly placed some leaders inside the vehicle, seized cell phones and other communication equipment from the Indigenous people, using firearms, pepper spray and rubber bullets against the community. According to Lucimar Carvalho, legal advisor to CIMI, several complaints have already been made about the case. Since 2016 Equatorial Energia has been trying to continue the process of implementing the energy line that tears the Taquaritiua Indigenous Land in half. "The action of this company is completely unreasonable. First, the licensing is being obtained through the State Environment Department, whereas it should be applied through IBAMA (the federal environment agency). The impacts on the territory were not even observed," she states.

What the company and the authorities said: In a statement about the occurrence, the Maranhão State Department of Public Security (SSP-MA) reported that the police were called after the employees of the energy company were taken hostage and had two vehicles burned while carrying out work in the rural area of Viana. The SSP stated that "two agents of the Military Police of Maranhão (PM-MA) were taken hostage and had their weapons removed. With the arrival of reinforcements, the hostages were released, the weapons recovered, and four Indigenous people were taken to the Regional Police Station of the municipality." The police version was corroborated by Equatorial Energia, who repeated that "employees were approached by the Indigenous people asking them to stop their work, representatives allegedly attempted to hold a meeting with the parties when the Indigenous people 'got carried away' and held them all hostage for hours". According to the company, the weapons of the military police were taken and vehicles were burned.¹⁷²

¹⁷¹ <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2021/12/06/quatro-casos-demonstram-na-pratica-a-relacao-entre-grilagem-e-desmatamento-no-matopiba>

¹⁷² <https://g1.globo.com/ma/maranhao/noticia/2021/11/18/cimi-diz-que-indios-gamela-foram-atacados-por-policiais-militares-durante-conflito-no-ma-ssp-nega-versao.ghtml>



”

“During Equatorial Energia’s action, the State Department for Public Security informed the newspapers that the police were called after the company’s employees were taken hostage and two vehicles burned. The SSP even stated to the media that two police agents were taken hostage and had their weapons removed when they arrived at the site, which does not hold true.”

*Karoline Ramos, coordinator and legal advisor of
Coletivo Re(ocupa, São Luís/MA.*

It is no news: In addition to the threat of the energy company, there is a chronic case of conflicts in the region due to the long wait for demarcation of the territory, which has lasted four decades. The re-occupation of the Akroá Gamella was marked by a slaughter promoted by livestock farmers. In April 2017, 20 Indigenous people were injured and two had their hands cut off after being attacked by more than 200 people incited by politicians and farmers in the region¹⁷³. A day after the massacre, while the news ran, the governor of Maranhão, Flávio Dino, then in his first term, posted on his Twitter account that until that moment “there were no victims with severed hands”. According to CIMI, “it was not only the severing of the hands that was put in doubt after the massacre. At the time, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security called the Akroá-Gamella “so-called Indigenous people”. A police major referred to them as “those who claim to be Indians.”

TIMELINE

In [Smoke Signal's](#) monitoring of the main socio-environmental events since the election of Jair Bolsonaro, we highlight two episodes in Maranhão that reveal the nature and consolidate federal government policies executed with the support of members of Congress and local authorities.



NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019: The murders of Guajajaras^{174 175}

In early November 2019, Paulino Guajajara, forest agent of the Guajajara people (MA), was ambushed and murdered by loggers inside the Araribóia Indigenous land. Paulino was murdered with a gunshot wound to the face. Another Indigenous leader, Laercio Guajajara, was injured and taken to the hospital. Reports also show that a logger died in the conflict, but his body was not located. Paulino had been receiving death threats and had made a request to be included in a witness protection program. “He didn’t have time,” said Sônia Guajajara, coordinator of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) and a relative of Paulino. About a month later, Firmino Silvino Guajajara and Raimundo Bernice Guajajara, of the same ethnic group as Paulino, were killed in a shooting attack in the municipality of Jenipapo dos Vieiras (MA). The attack left two other Indigenous people injured, whose names were withheld for security reasons. The Federal Policy sent a team to the place for the inquiries.



JANUARY 2022: Deforestation breaks record in Cerrado¹⁷⁶

The Cerrado has reached the highest deforestation rate since 2015, according to the consolidated data of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE). According to the institute’s technical note, released on December 31, there was a 7.9% increase in native vegetation elimination from August 2020 to July 2021, the official period for measuring the annual deforestation of the PRODES satellite monitoring system, totaling 8,531.44 km². Of the deforested area, 61.3% (5,227.32 km²) was concentrated in Matopiba, an agricultural frontier that encompasses part of the states of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia, indicates analysis by the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM).

¹⁷³ <https://cimi.org.br/2019/05/por-que-esse-homem-ainda-ta-vivo/>

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2019/11/01/paulino-guajajara-e-assassinado/>

¹⁷⁵ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2019/12/07/indigenas-guajajara-sao-assassinados-no-maranhao/>

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/01/05/desmatamento-bate-recorde-no-cerrado-em-2021/>



STATE GOVERNMENT: Opposition in power, but traditional communities continue to face challenges

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“The most striking fake news of socio-environmental policy is that the state carries out a public policy for the protection of biomes in an appropriate manner. This was published on official channels of the government of the State of Maranhão and reproduced in articles and blogs.”

Diogo Cabral, civil rights lawyer, São Luís/MA

In 2018, Flávio Dino, then at PCdoB party, was re-elected governor of Maranhão in the first round with 59.29% of valid votes¹⁷⁷. Dino served his second term with PCdoB until June 2021, when he migrated to PSB. In April 2022, he took a leave and left vice-governor Carlos Brandão (PSB) in his place. In his farewell letter¹⁷⁸ from the state government, Dino highlighted investments in the construction of schools, in combating the pandemic and in works such as highways and bridges. He did not mention even once the socio-environmental conservation or land conflicts in Maranhão.

THE AMAZON AND CERRADO EEZ IN THE STATE OF MARANHÃO

In May 2020, the then governor Flávio Dino (PSB) sanctioned Law 11.269/2020, approved by the State Congress of Maranhão (AL/MA). Authored by the Executive Branch, the law instituted the Ecological-Economic Zoning of the State of Maranhão (EEZ-MA) for the Amazon Biome. The Dino government presented the project claiming that “the EEZ is an instrument of strategic planning indispensable to the improvement of public policies that stimulate the sustainable socioeconomic development of the State”¹⁷⁹. Also proposed in the Dino administration, two years later, the Ecological-Economic Zoning (EEZ) of the Cerrado Biome and Coastal System of the State of Maranhão became Law 11.734/2022 after sanctioning by acting governor Carlos Brandão (PSB). According to a note from the Maranhão State University¹⁸⁰, which participated in the studies that supported the EEZ, “the law is fundamental to consolidate the environmental licensing process, the environmental policies of the Forest, Water Resources and Climate Change areas, in addition to the State System of Nature Conservation Units.

Civil society organizations, however, complained of haste, lack of transparency and the exclusion of relevant amendments. Vitor Hugo Moraes, lawyer and public policy advisor for the Society, Population and Nature Institute (ISPN), an organization that has worked on socio-environmental issues in Maranhão since the 1990s, recognizes the sturdiness of the studies of the EEZ but warns that the text of the Executive ran hastily through the State Congress without going through the Environment Committee or the State Environment Council (Consema). “There was no change in the text presented by the Executive because there was no time to analyze the law. Civil society presented improvement amendments that were discarded. Nothing that was presented at the public hearings was considered.” Among the points ignored by state representatives we highlight the need to prepare Management Plans for State Conservation Units that do not yet have them, in addition to the creation of “damping belts” between rural properties and eventual neighboring villages, in order to avoid conflicts between farmers and local communities¹⁸¹. Another point criticized by researchers is the reduction of preservation areas as a Legal Reserve¹⁸² provided for in EEZ.¹⁸³

¹⁷⁷ <https://g1.globo.com/ma/maranhao/eleicoes/2018/noticia/2018/10/07/flavio-dino-do-pcdob-e-reeleito-governador-do-maranhao.ghtml>

¹⁷⁸ <https://www.correiobrasiliense.com.br/politica/2022/03/4997254-flavio-dino-deixa-governo-do-maranhao-para-disputar-senado.html>

¹⁷⁹ <https://www.al.ma.leg.br/noticias/39800>

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.uema.br/2020/06/uema-participa-de-lei-do-zoneamento-ecologico-economico-do-bioma-amazonico/>

¹⁸¹ <https://ispn.org.br/en/o-zee-do-maranhao-foi-aprovado-e-agora/>

¹⁸² Legal Reserves are percentages of areas with vegetation that must be preserved or used for sustainable forest management inside private rural properties; the percentages for each Brazilian region are defined by the Forest Code.

¹⁸³ <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2020/06/30/no-maranhao-80-da-floresta-amazonica-ja-foi-devastada>

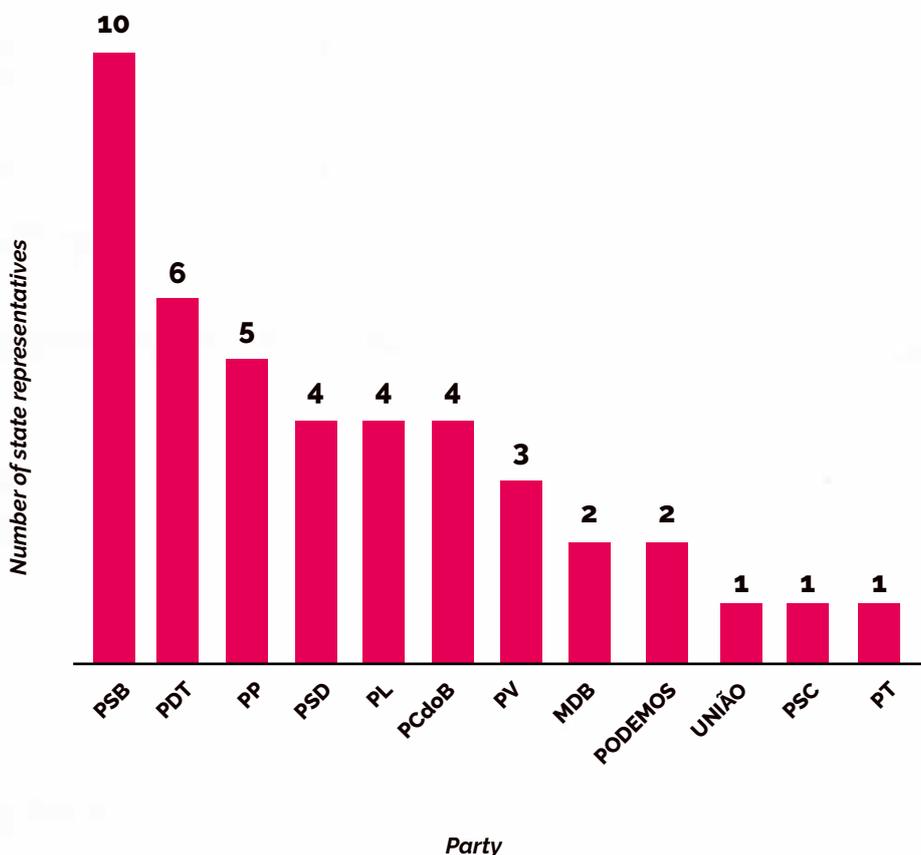


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“Well, here the relation of the passage of the ‘cattle herd’ took place in all instances of power, from Maranhão state’s legislative to the judiciary. With emphasis on the Ecological Economic Zoning of the Amazon and Cerrado Biomes, which has been presented by the media as a path of environmental preservation. However, what the proposal aims at is, above all, to interfere in the areas defined as Legal Reserve.”

*Karoline Ramos, coordinator and legal advisor of
Coletivo Re(o)cupa, São Luís/MA.*

The State Congress of Maranhão¹⁸⁴ has 43 state representatives, distributed as follows:



184 <https://www.al.ma.leg.br/deputados/>



77

“Several bills, such as number 2.633/20 — better known as Land Grabbing Bill — and others contrary to socio-environmental interests have gone forward. The bills have great potential to expand deforestation, grant amnesty to land grabbers, weaken the protection of Indigenous peoples and encourage climate chaos and have begun to move quickly in Congress: Senate Bill 510 (Land Grabbing); Bill 490 (Demarcation of Indigenous Lands); and Bill 3729 (Environmental Licensing).”

*Karoline Ramos, coordinator and legal advisor of
Coletivo Re(o) cupa, São Luís/MA.*

MARANHÃO CAUCUS IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:

72,25% of the members of the house of representatives followed the pro-Bolsonaro agenda in votes (59,25% with abstentions); 50% are members of the Ruralist Caucus

Maranhão's legislative caucus in Congress has 18 federal representatives and three senators¹⁸⁵. Most of the deputies voted with the Bolsonaro government in the key projects of the Destruction Package and were in favor of the 2022 Budget Law which allocates record funds for the rapporteur's amendments (secret budget).

¹⁸⁵ <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/parlamentares/em-exercicio>





How the Federal Deputies of Maranhão voted on the Bolsonaro Destruction Package and the 2022 Budget Law

Names highlighted in pink are members of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) - the Ruralist Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ¹⁸⁶⁻¹⁸⁷ Plenary	LICENSING ¹⁸⁸ (Bill no. 3729/2004) Plenary	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ¹⁸⁹ (Bill no. 191/2020) Plenary - Urgency	DEMARICATION OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (Bill no. 490/2007) ¹⁹⁰ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021 (2022 Finance Act) ¹⁹¹ Plenary
01	Átila Lins (PSD)	In favor	In favor	Against	Substitute - did not vote	In favor
02	André Fufuca (PP)	In favor	x	In favor	x	In favor
03	Bira do Pindaré (PSB)	Against	Against	Against		Against
04	Cleber Verde (REPUBLICANOS)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
05	Edilázio Júnior (PSD)	In favor	In favor	In favor	Title holder - voted in favor	In favor
06	Gil Cutrim (REPUBLICANOS)	x	In favor	In favor	Substitute - did not vote	In favor
07	Hildo Rocha (MDB)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
08	João Marcelo (MDB) Proxy: Victor Mendes (MDB)	x	In favor	Against	x	In favor
09	Josimar Maranhãozinho (PL) Proxy: Paulo Marinho Júnior (PL)	x	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
10	Josivaldo Jp (PSDB)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	Against
11	Junior Lourenço (PL)	In favor	In favor	x	x	In favor
12	Juscelino Filho (UNIÃO)	In favor	x	In favor	x	In favor
13	Márcio Jerry (PCdoB)	Against /proxy Gastão Vieira (PROS)	x	In favor /proxy Gastão Vieira (PROS)	x	x
14	Marreca Filho (PATRIOTA)	In favor	x	Against	x	In favor
15	Pastor Gil (PL)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
16	Pedro Lucas Fernandes (UNIÃO)	In favor	In favor	Against	x	In favor
17	Rubens Pereira Junior (PT)	Against	x	Against	x	Against
18	Zé Carlos (PT)	Against	Against	Against	x	In favor

Source: Organized by the guide based on the House of Representatives, press and the Agriculture and Livestock Farming Parliamentary Front web pages¹⁹²

186 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?ideVotacao=9924>

187 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

188 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

189 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

190 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

191 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>

192 <https://fpagropecuaria.org.br/todos-os-membros/membros-da-regiao-nordeste/>



MARANHÃO IN THE SENATE

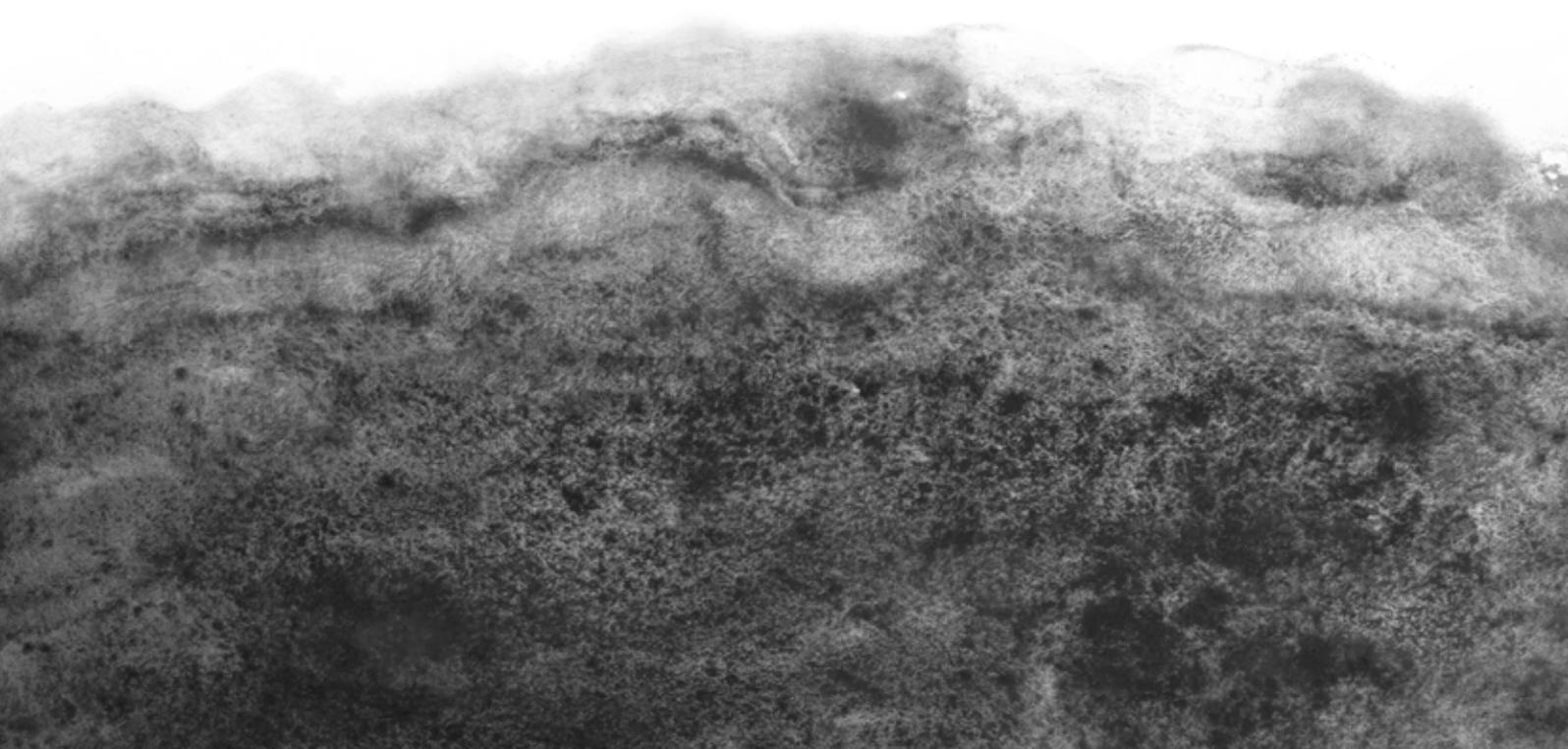
Maranhão is represented by three senators: Eliziane Gama (CIDADANIA); Roberth Bringel (UNIÃO)¹⁹³ and Roberto Rocha (PTB). Eliziane Gama and Roberto Rocha make up the Agriculture and Livestock Farming Parliamentary Front caucus; the three voted in favor of Bill no. 19/2022 Budget Bill.

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“Along the lines of dismantling, we have the deregulation of a set of public policies aimed at land reform, family farming, environmental inspection and licensing and demarcation of Indigenous lands. There was the dismantling of a set of instances of social control, such as the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA), the extinction of the Ministry of Agrarian Development, reduction of resources for actions such as the Family Agriculture Food Acquisition Program, the School Meal Program and the Cistern Construction Program, in addition to the relaxation of control over the use of pesticides with the Poison Bill.”

Diogo Cabral, civil rights lawyer, São Luís/MA

¹⁹³ Bringel was a substitute that replaced senator Weverton Rocha (PDT), on leave.



7. MATO GROSSO



AREA: 903,207.68 km²



3,526,220 inhabitants (2020)



141 municipalities



Capital: Cuiabá, where more than 623 thousand people live



**HDI*: 0,725
11th in the Brazilian ranking (2010)**



GDP: R\$ 137.4 billion (2018)



Less than 19% of area demarcated as Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands



33.63% of the territory covered by forests and another 41.72% by non-forest native vegetation (2020)



More than 31.93% of the state had been affected by deforestation by 2021



About 70,228 hot spots were detected in the state in 2020 and 2021



230.23 megatons of CO₂e emitted in 2019, most from deforestation and land use

*Human Development Index
**Infographic created with data from [IBGE](#), [INPE](#), and "[Fatos da Amazônia Legal](#)" ([Legal Amazon Facts](#))



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“We saw a scenario where environmental governance was being dismantled at the federal level. In practice, this led to local actors deciding on more deforestation, violations and illegalities. The rates of forest loss and threats to protected land have risen alarmingly. It is a degree of dismantling that will probably take a few years to rebuild, if we have this opportunity.”

Alice Thuault, executive-director of the Life Center Institute (ICV)¹⁹⁴, Cuiabá/MT and Brasília/DF

”

“Deforestation, forest fires caused by human action, mining, illegal logging... are crimes against the Amazon itself. Much of what has been built over the years has been dismantled little by little. We can feel in our skin what this has caused within our communities. Off season rains, extreme heat. It got much worse. People act as if there is no law and go unpunished. Since Bolsonaro took office, socio-environmental policy has ceased to exist.”

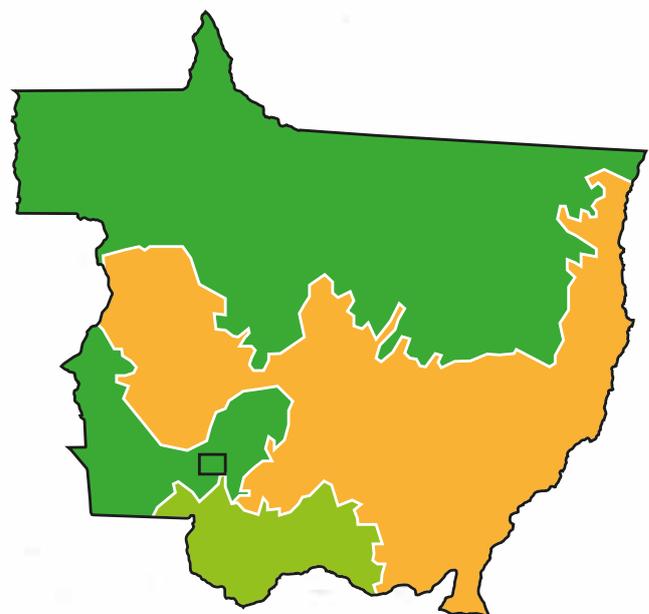
Eliane Xunakalo, institutional advisor to the Federation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Mato Grosso (FEPOIMT)¹⁹⁵, Bakairi Indigenous Land¹⁹⁶, Cuiabá/MT

LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION:

High forest loss in a state where the lack of regulation opens avenues for land grabbing

Mato Grosso is the only state to have three of the country's main biomes:

Amazônia, Cerrado e Pantanal.



■ Amazônia ■ Pantanal ■ Cerrado

194 <https://www.icv.org.br/>

195 https://www.instagram.com/fepoimt_oficial/?hl=en

196 <https://pib.socioambiental.org/pt/Povo:Bakairi>



The state concentrates 74% of the Legal Amazon's agricultural area¹⁹⁷

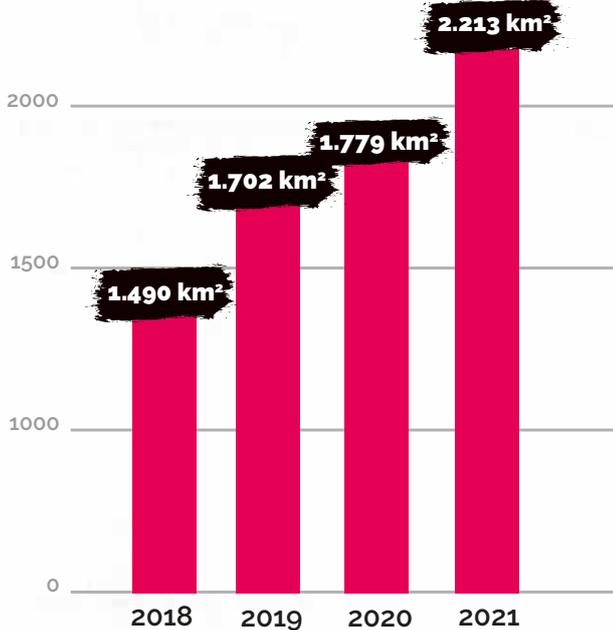
The [Laws and Practices of Land Regularization in the state of Mato Grosso](#) study, prepared by the Imazon research institute, estimates that 89.5% of the land in the territory of Mato Grosso already has been designated, with 65.5% of the state territory formed by private properties, 16.5% by Indigenous Lands (TIs), 5% by Settlement Projects and 2.5% by Conservation Units (UCs). Another 10.5% of the state territory (9.3 million hectares) are neither allocated nor have deeds — even so, most (6% of the state) were registered in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). Due to the lack of public information about the land situation of these properties, it is possible that many of these records in the CAR are occupations on public land without title, possibly land grabbing. The Imazon survey also indicated 596,000 hectares mapped for deed assignment by Incra, Brazil's land reform agency, and 176,000 hectares with possible demand for Indigenous Land. More than half of

the non-designated land (57%) belongs to the government of Mato Grosso but was not registered in the name of the state, blocking land allocation and regularization processes. About 29% of the non-designated area (2.7 million hectares) has a high biological priority for conservation, according to a survey by the Ministry of the Environment. Imazon identified that Mato Grosso state's administration does not demand that illegally deforested land must be recovered, as well as any other liabilities that might exist in the properties, before transferring the deed; there also aren't any setbacks to the regularization of properties which have been deforested recently; and there is no deadline established by law for the beginning of occupation of public land. Such breaches can stimulate the continuity of the occupation of public areas for appropriation ends.



Deforestation in Mato Grosso

2018-2021



Source: [INPE](#) - Prodes (Deforestation Monitoring Project by Satellite for the Legal Amazon)

The extent of non-designated public areas, added to land conflicts plus the pressure of the logging and agricultural frontier place Mato Grosso in second in the deforestation ranking of Legal Amazon states, behind Pará only.

In the Amazon biome portion, Mato Grosso has already deforested 42% of its original forest cover (2020). Accumulated deforestation in the state in the Cerrado and Pantanal portions reached 139,504 km², equivalent to 58% of the total for the two biomes within the Legal Amazon (2020).¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁷ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

¹⁹⁸ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>



SOY

The Amazon and the Cerrado have, respectively, 14.6% and 55.1% of all the area of soybean crops in Brazil and are the biomes most threatened by grain expansion.¹⁹⁹

In February 2022, the [Centro de Vida Institute \(ICV\)](#) published, with the support of [Global Canopy](#), the [Soybean and Illegal Deforestation report: State of the art and Guidelines for an Expanded Grain Protocol in Mato Grosso](#), with updated analyses on illegal deforestation in soybean-producing rural properties in the state. **Mato Grosso is the largest producer and exporter of the agricultural commodity, with more than 10 million hectares of soybean crops and a harvest of 35.1 million tons in 2020.** Between October 2020 and October 2021, Mato Grosso exported US\$ 253.2 million in products of the soybean complex. Data for the year 2021 shows that 80% of soy grown in the state was exported, with the main destination being the Chinese market, which absorbed 42.1%, followed by the European Union, which bought 20% of Mato Grosso's production. According to the ICV survey, in 2018, agricultural activities generated a GDP of R\$ 25.7 million for Mato Grosso. More than half of this amount came from the 20 municipalities that concentrate half of the soybean crops in the state.

The main results of the survey were:

- 1/5 of the deforestation in Mato Grosso between August 2008 and July 2019 occurred in properties with soy culture (511,000 hectares);
- 92% of deforestation in soybean properties occurred without authorization from the competent bodies and was therefore illegal;
- 34% of the areas illegally deforested in these properties had soybean cultivation in 2019;
- Less than 200 rural properties concentrated half of all illegal deforestation associated with soybean in the analyzed period;
- 66% of illegal deforestation in rural properties with soybeans was concentrated in the Cerrado biome;
- Only 30% of soybean-producing properties with illegal deforestation had some kind of embargo;

For the authors, "the adoption of measures such as the expansion of agreements against deforestation of the Cerrado biome in the soybean chain, monitoring of rural properties' entire areas and the development of a platform that brings more transparency regarding how agreements work are necessary actions to control illegal deforestation associated with the soybean chain in Mato Grosso".

CATTLE

The strong expansion of cattle breeding in the Legal Amazon, where the herd has doubled in size in the last 20 years, depended on a large expansion of pasture areas. This became the main factor of deforestation in Mato Grosso, which is the sector's leader in the region. **Today the state has more than 21 million hectares of pastures, second in the national ranking.²⁰⁰**

The largest herd among the states of the Legal Amazon is in Mato Grosso, with 32 million head of cattle²⁰¹

¹⁹⁹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0264837718317836>

²⁰⁰ <https://mapbiomas.org/pastagens-brasileiras-ocupam-area-equivalente-a-todo-o-estado-do-amazonas>

²⁰¹ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>



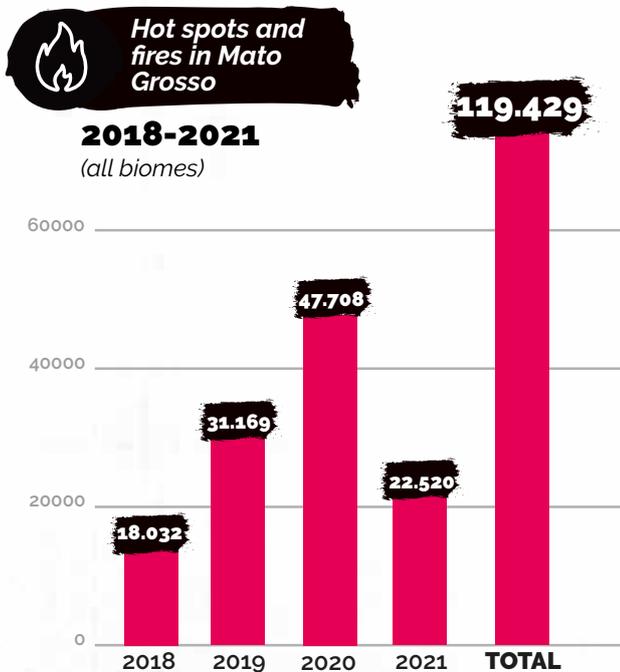
A symbolic case of the deforestation/cattle raising relation in Mato Grosso is the Serra Ricardo Franco State Park, a unique biodiversity forest located in the region where the Amazon, Pantanal and Cerrado biomes meet. [Research](#) carried out by Greenpeace in 2020 showed that more than 38,000 hectares of the area that should be under full protection have already been deforested, 33% of which occurred after the creation of the park. In total, 24% of the park area was destroyed. In addition, 71% have overlaps with 137 “farms” registered in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). Many of these private properties raise cattle within the park, then export to markets in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. In detailing the chain of custody of meat, research shows that not only governments, but the market as a whole — farmers, slaughterhouses and importers — fuel the predatory and illegal relationship with the forest.

TIMBER

The total area of forests affected by logging (authorized and unauthorized) reached about 17,000 km² in Mato Grosso between 2007 and 2018. In the period, the municipalities of the state with the largest areas affected by unauthorized logging were Nova Maringá (788 km²), Marcelândia (733 km²) and União do Sul (721 km²). In 2019, 3.75 million m³ of timber were produced in the state²⁰². The logging area in Mato Grosso between August 2019 and July 2020 was 234,290 hectares. Of this total, 88.3 thousand hectares were illegally exploited for logging — corresponding to 38% of the activity in the state.

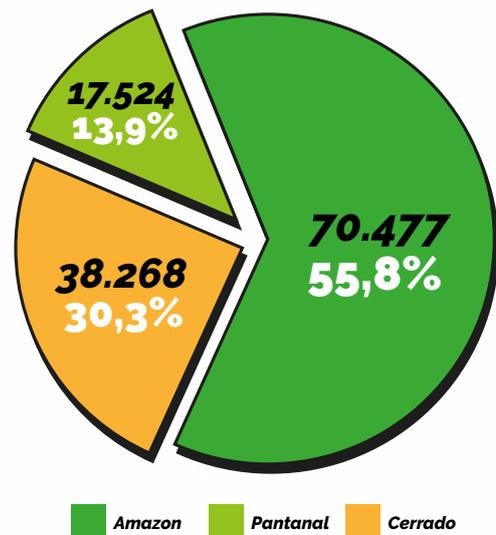
Mato Grosso is the largest supplier of native wood in Brazil and accounts for half of the total production of the Legal Amazon.²⁰³

In July 2021, Mato Grosso recorded 1,700 hot spots in the three state biomes, with 18 hot spots in the Pantanal, 1,059 in the Amazon and 639 in the Cerrado. A year earlier, Mato Grosso biomes had broken historical records of fires, especially the Pantanal, with the largest fire in its history in 2020. In 2021, the state recorded a total of 22,520 outbreaks, down from 2019 and 2020²⁰⁴. Between January 1 and June 30, 2022, the number of hot spots in the state increased 23% compared to the same period in 2021, according to the Fire Monitor of the Life Center Institute (ICV), with 6,800 fires registered. **Fire is part of the deforestation process that consolidates the conversion of native vegetation into pastures in Mato Grosso.²⁰⁵**



Source: [Inpe](#)

Hot spots per Biome in Mato Grosso 2018-2022



Source: [ICV](#)

202 <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

203 <https://imazon.org.br/publicacoes/sistema-de-monitoramento-da-exploracao-madeireira-simex-mapeamento-da-exploracao-madeireira-em-mato-grosso-agosto-2019-a-julho-2020/>

204 <https://www.icv.org.br/2021/08/com-forte-reducao-no-pantanal-focos-de-calor-tem-queda-de-29-no-periodo-proibitivo-em-mt/>

205 <https://g1.globo.com/mt/mato-grosso/noticia/2022/07/12/numero-de-focos-de-calor-em-mt-foi-23percent-maior-em-comparacao-com-o-mesmo-periodo-de-2021-diz-pesquisa.ghtml>



The Pantanal is one of the largest continuous wetlands on the planet. Located in the Alto Paraguay river basin, it has a total area of 138,183 km², of which 65% in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul and 35% in Mato Grosso.²⁰⁶

PANTANAL IS BURNING

According to the Institute [SOS Pantanal](#), "the satellite data is clear when showing that the 2020 fires in the Pantanal were the worst in the history of the biome, resulting in more than 26% of the territory consumed by the fire, mainly reaching the northern Pantanal (Poconé, Barão de Melgaço and Cáceres) and the Serra do Amolar range in the southern Pantanal". According to the BBC²⁰⁷, surveys indicate that the fires in the Pantanal between July and October 2020 were caused by man and that there was no record of rains or lightning to justify natural fire in the biome that year. Researchers quoted in the report said that the fire spread rapidly because of the extreme drought in the region in 2020, the worst in almost five decades, and the delay of the government in intervening to control the fires. Federal Policy inquiries to ascertain the origins of the flames in the Pantanal had pointed out that at least five farmers had been responsible for the criminal fires that caused destruction at an unprecedented scale in the region.

In 2021, 12.6% of the biome was consumed by fire, this time concentrated mainly in the portion of the Pantanal located in Mato Grosso do Sul. The flames consumed 1,945,150 hectares, 49.7% less than in 2020, with 3,909,075 hectares burned. The decrease was driven, according to experts, by the great popular commotion caused by the images of burnt animals and vast areas on fire that won the media and social media in Brazil and worldwide in 2020. New fire brigades and monitoring networks were created, as well as increased investments in fire prevention and control agencies. The SOS Pantanal cites the example of the municipality of Chapada dos Guimarães (MT), which had 78.8% less hot spots and a 77.5% reduction in the extent of areas affected by fire in 2021, when compared to 2020. According to the institute, "this reduction was mainly due to the organization between society and the government. Eleven civilian forest fire brigades were formed, whose action, together with the work of the MT Fire Department and the Municipal Civil Defense, resulted in a much more controlled scenario last year".

INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY:
lack of supervision puts
Indigenous Lands under pressure
from agribusiness

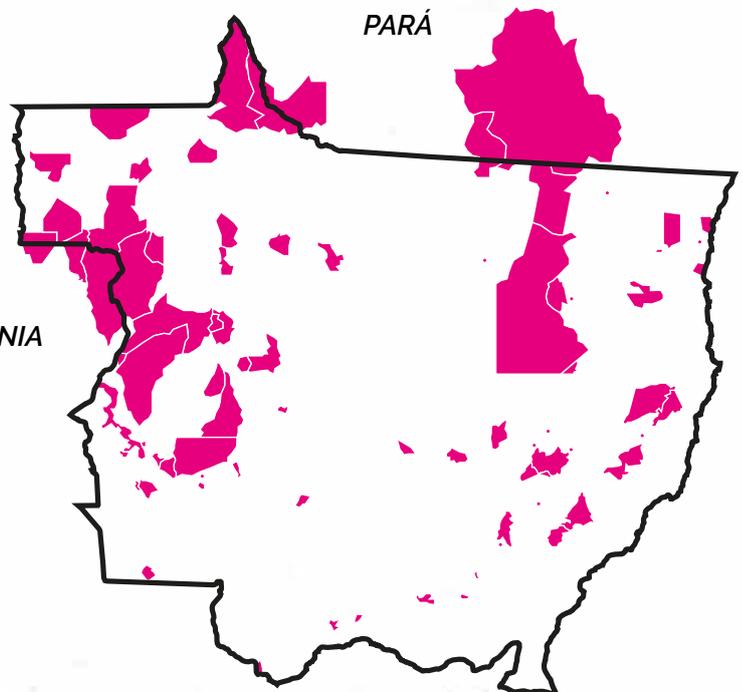
Mato Grosso

Indigenous Territories*

In Mato Grosso, there are more than 40 peoples²⁰⁸ living in 79 Indigenous territories²⁰⁹ in different stages of regularization and homologation that occupy about 16% of the state area.

RONDÔNIA

PARÁ



*We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](#).

206 <https://www.embrapa.br/pantanal/apresentacao/o-pantanal#:~:text=O%20Pantanal%20%C3%A9%20uma%20das,e%2035%25%20no%20Mato%20Grosso>

207 <https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/internacional-54848995>

208 https://pib.socioambiental.org/pt/Categoria:Povos_ind%C3%ADgenas_no_Mato_Grosso

209 <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/brasil>



Although the Indigenous territories are the protected areas with the lowest deforestation rates in the Legal Amazon, the omission of government inspection and the political and economic incentive to environmental crime translate into pressures and threats against these territories. A [report](#) by the System of Alerts of Deforestation on Protecting Areas made by Imazon and released on 2 May 2022 indicated that two Indigenous Lands of Mato Grosso were among the 10 most threatened by deforestation in the country in the first quarter of the year: Batelão and Enawenê-Nawê of the Kaiabi people, where almost 900 indigenous people live on about 850,000 hectares. According to the study, the Batelão Indigenous Land, between the municipalities of Juara and Tabaporã, is 7th in the ranking with six threatened areas. In 9th place is the Enawenê-Nawê Indigenous Land, between the municipalities of Juina and Sapezal, also with six points identified.²¹⁰

FEPOINT

The Federation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Mato Grosso ([Fepoint](#)) was created in June 2016 to represent the indigenous peoples of the state. Headquartered in the capital Cuiabá, the institution defends the protagonism and autonomy of indigenous people, gathering forces for the political articulation and socioeconomic and cultural organization of peoples in the struggle for land regularization, environmental management, territorial protection and the assurance of indigenous rights. Fepoint operates in 7 regions: Cerrado/Pantanal, Kayapó Norte, Médio Araguaia, Noroeste, Xavante, Vale do Guaporé and Xingu²¹¹. Indigenous people of Mato Grosso participated in the Free Land Camp 2022 in Brasília and in the Indigenous Communicators Network, generating audio and video coverage in communication networks for our people all over the country. "The good thing is that we can convey our thinking in an easier way for those who are watching. The target audience is the indigenous people themselves and the communities", says Kaianaku Kamaiurá, advisor and communicator of Fepoint.²¹²

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“We have conflicts that have intensified. On the border with Bolivia, in the lands of the indigenous Chiquitano, who are still in the process of demarcation, there is a history of violence related to land tenure that is very strong. You talk to the Chiquitano, and they report a routine of constant surveillance for the protection of the territory. Generally speaking, the rural areas have become a much more violent place.”

Alice Thuault, executive director of Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV), Cuiabá/MT and Brasília/DF

QUILOMBOLAS

According to the ICV report, based on data from January 2019 from Incra, Brazil's land reform agency, it is estimated that there are 134 identified quilombola communities in Mato Grosso, of which 78 are certified by the Palmares Cultural Foundation; **none, however, has the deeds of their lands**, remaining vulnerable to changes in land laws and pressure from the agricultural frontier.²¹³

²¹⁰ <https://g1.globo.com/mt/mato-grosso/noticia/2022/05/24/duas-terras-indigenas-em-mt-estao-entre-as-10-mais-ameacadas-por-desmatamento-no-pais.ghtml>

²¹¹ <https://cojab.org.br/mato-grosso>

²¹² <https://www.tnc.org.br/conecte-se/comunicacao/noticias/comunicadores-indigenas-do-para-cobertura-atl2022/>

²¹³ <https://www.icv.org.br/2020/07/plc-que-flexibiliza-licenciamento-ambiental-em-mt-e-aprovado-as-presas-sem-participacao-da-sociedade-em-plena-pandemia/>



VIOLENCE: Conflicts blow up in 2020

Conflicts and deaths in rural areas - Mato Grosso - 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	44	86	169	80
Personal violence**	13	40	6	13

*Relating to the total number of conflicts over land and actions of occupations/repossessions; **Relating to the total number of murders, attempted murders, death as a consequence, death threats, torture, imprisonment and assault

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021" (Land Conflicts in Rural Areas reports)- CPT

According to the [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), Mato Grosso recorded 3,763 intentional violent deaths²¹⁴ between 2018 and 2021.

”

“In Mato Grosso, there are several scenarios of violence. For example, every year the municipality of Colniza achieves the feat of being responsible for 15% to 20% of the state’s deforestation at the Amazon biome portion. Colniza’s history of violence goes way back. Five years ago, the mayor of the city was murdered on the street, there have been massacres. The context of violence and state absence remains.”

— Alice Thuault, executive director of Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV), Cuiabá/MT and Brasília/DF

Aripuanã (MT) ranks 9th in the list of the 30 municipalities with the highest rates of violent deaths in the country.²¹⁵

POINTS OF ATTENTION

Bill proposals and high socio-environmental impact projects in the state

Mato Grosso out of the Legal Amazon? [Bill 337/22](#)

Presented in February 2022 by congressman Juarez Costa (MDB/MT), Bill 337/22 excludes the state of Mato Grosso from the Legal Amazon area. The proposal, that modifies the Código Florestal (Forest Code), was being analyzed by the [Commission of Environment of the House of Representatives](#) in July 2022. According to the [House of Representatives news agency](#), the author states that the aim of the measure is to reduce the area of legal reserve in the state. According to the Forest Code, every rural property must maintain a specific percentage of native vegetation in its area, known as the legal reserve. Properties located in the Legal Amazon, however, are obligated to have larger legal reserve areas: 80% if located in a forest area; 35% in a Cerrado area; and 20% in a general fields' area. Outside of the Legal Amazon, the percentage of legal reserve is 20%.

“The economic cost of recovering legal reserves, or to compensate for this immense area, would be very large and unjustifiable for one of the most important agricultural regions in the country. Removing Mato Grosso from the Legal Amazon would reduce the 20% requirement, saving Mato Grosso producers the expenses of maintenance of 80% of land without agricultural use,” says Costa. For Indigenous people, environmentalists and social movements heard by [Amazônia Real](#), congresspeople resurrected a project that had already been overturned in other legislatures to include it as another anti-environmental “bomb” moving ahead in Congress.

²¹⁴ Intentional Violent Deaths include: intentional homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.

²¹⁵ <https://noticias.uol.com.br/cotidiano/ultimas-noticias/2022/06/28/anuario-brasileiro-de-seguranca-publica-2022.htm>



F.A.T.O., another violence against the Bororo people

In addition to environmental racism and threats of invasions and deforestation, the indigenous peoples of MT are also threatened by infrastructure works linked to agribusiness logistics. This is the case of the Ferrovia Autorizada de Transporte Olacyr de Moraes (F.A.T.O.), a 730 km long railway line that intends to connect the municipality of Lucas do Rio Verde, in the grain-producing north region of the state, to the capital Cuiabá and the city of Rondonópolis (MT), where there already is a corridor connecting with the port of Santos (State of São Paulo) for the export of commodities.

The project is managed by Rumo Malha Norte S.A., the largest rail operator in the country, which signed a contract with the state of Mato Grosso in September 2021. According to publicity from the company²¹⁶, the project will be built with private capital to generate a "cycle of socio-economic expansion" and the first section will be delivered by 2025. According to a report by [Infoamazônia](#), the railroad will have a direct impact on the Bororo people, since its route runs between its two sister lands,

Tadarimana Indigenous Land (less than 10,000 hectares) and Teresa Cristina Indigenous Land (25,684 hectares), territories today surrounded by soybean fields and cattle pastures. Even before signing the contract, in June 2021, the Public Prosecutor's Office recommended FUNAI, IBAMA, the state of Mato Grosso and Rumo to carry out consultation with the residents of the two indigenous lands. With the refusal of the parties, on December 16, prosecutor Rodrigo Pires de Almeida, of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Rondonópolis, opened a civil inquiry to investigate the lack of Bororo participation in the construction of the railroad. He accuses government indigenous agency FUNAI of an unconstitutional stance for not defending the interests and rights of Indigenous people in the process. Until March 2022, the Bororo had not been heard about the construction of the enterprise, as provided for in article 6 of the Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO)²¹⁷, which guarantees the right to free, prior and informed consultation and consent of the affected peoples.

DISINFORMATION: Attempts to blame Indigenous people for agribusiness's fires amplify and include the president

Among the targets of disinformation campaigns in the state of Mato Grosso, in the last four years, we highlight the example of a sensationalist lie that feeds conspiracy theories against NGOs and indigenous peoples, and, on the other end, the sophisticated and ambiguous strategy of representatives of Mato Grosso's agribusiness to clean up their image with the international market.

False piece about Indigenous people vs. NGOs goes viral during fires in Pantanal

In the first half of September 2020, amid the historic fires in Mato Grosso's Pantanal, a piece claiming that indigenous people from the Pantanal region had arrested members of NGOs that were setting fire to the region went viral on Facebook, accumulating more than 6,000 shares from personal profiles. All posts were marked with the FALSE seal by the verification tool [Aos Fatos](#), which checked the information with the Public Security departments of the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul. Both told Aos Fatos they were not aware of any similar case; nor did they publicize news to the press on the subject.

Also, according to Aos Fatos, in 2019, "a photo of loggers²¹⁸ being arrested by Indigenous people circulated on social media as if it portrayed members of NGOs and the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST) setting fire to the Amazon Forest. The same image started to be shared again²¹⁹ in early September 2020 with similar misinformation." The data checking platform reports that disinformation pieces associating environmentalists with forest fires were also shared in 2019, then focusing on fires in the Amazon; President Jair Bolsonaro himself made use of this conspiracy theory²²⁰ to try to explain the fires that hit the region.

²¹⁶ <https://g1.globo.com/mt/mato-grosso/especial-publicitario/rumo-malha-norte/noticia/2021/09/27/primeira-ferrovia-estadual-do-pais-deve-gerar-ciclo-de-expansao-socioeconomica-em-mato-grosso.ghtml>

²¹⁷ <https://www.oas.org/dil/port/1989%20Conven%C3%A7%C3%A3o%20sobre%20Povos%20Ind%C3%ADgenas%20e%20Tribais%20Conven%C3%A7%C3%A3o%20OIT%20n%20C2%BA%20169.pdf>

²¹⁸ <https://www.aosfatos.org/noticias/foto-nao-mostra-integrantes-do-mst-e-de-ongs-mas-madeireiros-presos-por-indios-em-2014/>

²¹⁹ <https://www.aosfatos.org/noticias/foto-de-madeireiros-presos-por-indios-volta-circular-fora-de-contexto/>

²²⁰ <https://www.aosfatos.org/noticias/como-bolsonaro-usa-teorias-da-conspiracao-ao-acusar-ongs-por-queimadas-na-amazonia/>



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“The main fake news for me is to say that agribusiness is feeding Brazil, within this viewpoint that it is necessary to flexibilize the environmental issue in order to produce more food. That’s a lie. Mato Grosso’s production is not linked to its people’s food security. **What is produced here are commodities, not food. Of course, at some point this commodity becomes food, but not here in Mato Grosso. With this, the debate to know what we are doing with the territory of Mato Grosso is neglected. 15% of the world’s soy comes from here. And yet we have a scenario of hunger and food insecurity.”**

Alice Thuault, executive director of Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV), Cuiabá/MT and Brasília/DF

Mato Grosso’s Agribusiness Greenwashing at COP26

On November 12, 2021, at the 26th UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26), held in Glasgow, Scotland, agribusiness representatives from Mato Grosso signed “commitments against global warming”. According to Ricardo Arioli, consultant to the Federation of Agriculture and Cattle Farming of the State of Mato Grosso (Famato) and president of the Confederation of Agriculture and Cattle Farming of Brazil (CNA), the issues of methane emissions and illegal deforestation in production chains is a “stain for Brazilian agribusiness”, according to an article²²¹ on the G1 portal. Arioli reported an “expectation that the problems will be solved by 2028”. On [Twitter](#), Famato highlighted Arioli’s comment: “They say that we, the producers, are the destroyers of the Amazon. On the contrary. We are helping to protect it in Brazil, and this message is not getting where it should.”

A month later, in December 2021, Normando Corral, Famato’s president, represented by Arioli at COP26, said in a press conference²²²: “Why not buy products from deforested areas? We have the right to use our natural resources, our soil, and rain. And if you don’t want us to use it, pay us, because this is a natural resource of the country. That [prohibition] would be taking away part of our heritage.” According to him, the relationship between agricultural production and the environment has become “a theater stage”; he states: “We are not afraid to show our production, which is done in an environmentally correct and socially fair way”. Corral has been an agriculture and cattle producer in Tangará da Serra (MT) since 1982 and took office as director of the CNA on the eve of this speech.²²³

²²¹ <https://g1.globo.com/mt/mato-grosso/maisagromt/noticia/2021/11/12/mt-assina-compromisso-de-combate-ao-desmatamento-ilegal-e-emissao-de-metano-na-cop-26.ghtml>

²²² <http://agroinforme.com.br/2021/12/15/ninguem-pode-impedir-o-produtor-de-mt-de-desmatar-porque-ele-ja-obedece-a-lei-diz-presidente-da-famato/>

²²³ <https://sistemafamato.org.br/blog/2021/12/14/normando-corrall-toma-posse-na-diretoria-executiva-da-cna/>



TIMELINE



AUGUST 2020: Covid-19: the death of Chief Aritana, indigenous leader of Alto Xingu²²⁴

Chief Aritana of the Yawalapiti people died at the age of 71 as a result of Covid-19. A historical Indigenous leadership of Alto Xingu (MT), Aritana was in hospital since July 19 and at the end of the month he was transferred to Goiás in a very serious condition. This was a reflection of the difficulty to access adequate care for Covid-19 in Mato Grosso, the subject of frequent complaints from indigenous people in the region. Alongside well-known leader Raoni, Aritana became known in Brazil for his engagement in the struggle for indigenous rights and land preservation. Environmentalists and Indigenous organizations paid tribute and mourned his death.



MARCH 2022: Ex-Navy man who worked for FUNAI arrested for illegal lease of indigenous land²²⁵

Inactive Navy member Jussielson Gonçalves Silva, regional coordinator of FUNAI in Ribeirão Cascalheira (Mato Grosso), was arrested by the Federal Police under suspicion of intermediating the lease of Xavante people land for cattle raising. Appointed by the Bolsonaro government, Silva had held the position since March 18, 2020. The military man received payments from landowners in the region for 15 leases within the Marãiwatsédé Indigenous Land, located in the municipalities of Alto Boa Vista, São Félix do Araguaia and Bom Jesus do Araguaia. The sums amounted to R\$ 900,000 per month. The arrest was the result of Operation Res Capta, triggered by the PF in cooperation with the Public Prosecutor's Office.



MARCH 2022: Territory of the last of the Piripkura people is still threatened^{226 227}

The Public Prosecutor's Office reaffirmed a request for the renewal of FUNAI Ordinance No. 1.201, of September 18, 2018 which provides for the restriction of use and protects the Piripkura Indigenous Land, located in the municipalities of Colniza and Rondolândia, in Mato Grosso. In September 2021, the validity of the Decree for the Restriction of Use of the Piripkura Indigenous Land, a device that assists uncontacted Indigenous people in territories not yet recognized and demarcated, was renewed for only six months, until March 2022. On average, this period is usually between two and three years. For indigenous and environmental entities, the deadline is insufficient to ensure the security of the territory and the removal of invaders.

[According to Amazônia Real²²⁸](#), the last renewal of the decree was published in the Government's Official Gazette (DOU) on April 4, valid until September 16, 2022. There is, however, a decision of the Federal Court in Mato Grosso on March 25 that determines that FUNAI renews the decree until the conclusion of the Mato Grosso Public Prosecutor's Office's Class Action that pleads for the definitive demarcation of the Piripkura Indigenous Land. That is, the decision does not establish a deadline for the FUNAI decree. Amidst the legal barriers and under the threats of mining, land grabbing and agribusiness, the territory is home to two of the last three of the Piripkura people, survivors of the near extermination of their ethnicity in the 1980s, perpetrated by loggers. According to a survey by the SocioEnvironmental Institute (ISA) and the Global Fire Emissions Database released in October 2021, Piripkura Indigenous Land had an area of 3,400 hectares affected by fires in August, equivalent to 4,200 football fields. The destruction is a product of the progress of land grabbing in the territory, which uses fire to prepare pastures, indicates the ISA.

224 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/08/05/covid-19-morre-cacique-aritana-lider-indigena-do-alto-xingu/>

225 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/03/17/pf-prende-militar-que-ocupava-coordenacao-regional-da-funai-por-arrendamento-ilegal-de-terra-indigena/>

226 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/03/22/mpf-pressiona-funai-para-renovacao-de-portaria-de-protecao-da-terra-indigena-piripkura/>

227 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/10/05/grilagem-queima-34-mil-hectares-do-territorio-piripkura-onde-vivem-indigenas-isolados/>

228 <https://amazoniareal.com.br/funai-renova-portaria-da-ti-piripkura-por-apenas-seis-meses-mas-justica-determina-que-seja-ate-julgamento-de-acao/>



STATE GOVERNMENT

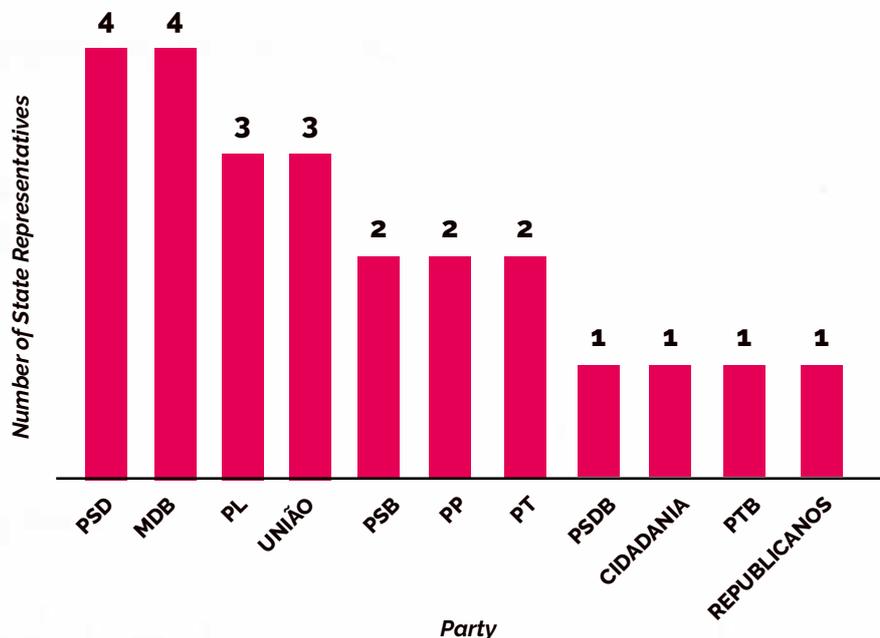
In 2018, Mauro Mendes (elected while in DEM party, currently in UNIÃO) won the run to governor of the state of Mato Grosso in the first round with 58,69% of the votes, alongside vice-governor Otaviano Pivetta (PDT)²²⁹. Born in 1964 in Goiânia, Mauro Mendes holds a bachelor's degree in engineering, is a businessman and was mayor of Cuiabá while in PSB between 2013 and 2016.

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“Projects that legalize what was illegal have, most of the time, been approved without discussions with civil society. This is the ‘cattle herd strategy’. Congress has acted cunningly against society. It should represent the people, but it creates laws that do not serve the people. I see that Mato Grosso has had an increase in deforestation by expanding its agricultural border. They are trying to exclude Mato Grosso from the Legal Amazon. The tributaries that supply the Amazon River are here, biomes that connect with the Amazon are here. This is impossible.”

Eliane Xunakalo, Institutional Advisor of the Federation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Mato Grosso (Fepoint), IT Bakairi, Cuiabá/MT

The State Congress of Mato Grosso²³⁰ has 24 state representatives, distributed as follows:



²²⁹ <https://g1.globo.com/mt/mato-grosso/eleicoes/2018/noticia/2018/10/07/mauro-mendes-do-dem-e-eleito-governador-de-mato-grosso-no-1o-turno.ghtml>

²³⁰ <https://www.al.mt.gov.br/parlamento/deputados>



The Supplemental Bill 17

On July 8, 2020, the State Assembly of Mato Grosso voted and approved the Supplemental Bill No. 17/2020, authored by governor Mauro Mendes (then with DEM), by 13 votes in favor, 4 against, 3 abstentions and 4 absences. The bill was not on the schedule and the vote wasn't broadcast through the digital channels of the House. The original version of the project authorized the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) to register properties overlapping with indigenous lands waiting for court approval, a device that was excluded after pressure from the indigenous movement and civil society. However, the approved version is considered worrying, especially due to the increase in deforestation rates in the state.²³¹

Bill no. 17 was voted without public contributions, since there were no hearings or the mandatory free, prior and informed consultation of Indigenous peoples, quilombolas and traditional peoples and communities affected by the legislative changes. The Environmental Council of the State of Mato Grosso (Consema) was also excluded from the process. Among the problems pointed out by experts, Bill 17 "allows the removal of vegetation in Permanent Preservation Areas (APP) if projects are considered to have 'low' environmental impact, social interest or in cases of intervention in the public's interest, without confirmation of CAR data". It also changes rules for environmental licensing, dispensing impact study analyses and allowing the State Department of the Environment to adopt the Simplified Environmental License, which skips important stages of licensing, and the License for Adhesion and Commitment, a self-declaration which dispenses on site verification by state inspectors. Finally, the law approved in Mato Grosso leaves quilombolas and other traditional communities helpless since it makes way for the environmental licenses to be issued for enterprises in these territories.²³²

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“An important point to take into account is that Mato Grosso is an exporter of ‘cattle herd strategy’. That means that a lot of things are tested here. When we look at the National Congress we see that many setbacks are driven and led by federal representatives from Mato Grosso. Here in the state we have had many attempts at ‘passing the cattle herd’ that were opposed by civil society in the Executive and Legislative branches. They wanted to remove several Indigenous Lands from the map in the Rural Environmental Registry; Bill no. 17; mining in legal reserve and Permanent Protection Areas (PPAs); the attempt to reduce Serra Ricardo Franco State Park, which is important in terms of conservation, in addition to attempts to change the Forest Code by the Executive.”

Alice Thuault, executive director of Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV), Cuiabá/MT and Brasília/DF

²³¹ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2020/08/degradacao-avanca-no-mato-grosso-e-faz-meta-de-desmatamento-ilegal-zero-fracassar/>

²³² <https://www.icv.org.br/2020/07/plc-que-flexibiliza-licenciamento-ambiental-em-mt-e-aprovado-as-presas-sem-participacao-da-sociedade-em-plena-pandemia/>



THE MATO GROSSO CAUCUS IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS: Representatives follow the pro-Bolsonaro agenda in at least 76% of votes (71% with abstentions); 87.5% are part of the Ruralist Caucus

Mato Grosso's legislative bench in the National Congress has eight federal representatives and three senators²³³. Most of the representatives voted with the Bolsonaro government in the key projects of the Destruction Package and were in favor of the 2022 Annual Budget which allocates record funds for the rapporteur's amendments (secret budget).

How the Federal Representatives of Mato Grosso voted on the Bolsonaro Destruction Package and the 2022 Annual Budget

Names highlighted in pink are members of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) - the Ruralist Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ^{234,235} House Floor	LICENSING ²³⁶ (Bill no. 3729/2004) House Floor	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ²³⁷ (Bill no. 191/2020) House Floor - Urgency	DEMARCATON OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (Bill no. 490/2007) ²³⁸ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021* (2022 Annual Budget Law) ²³⁹ House Floor
01	Dr. Leonardo (REPUBLICANOS)	x	In favor	In favor	x	x
02	Emanuel Pinheiro Neto (MDB)	Against	Against	In favor	x	Against
03	José Medeiros (PL)	In favor	In favor	In favor	Substitute - voted in favor	Against
04	Juarez Costa (MDB)	x	In favor	In favor	Title holder - Did not vote	In favor
05	Nelson Barbudo (PL)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	Against
06	Neri Geller (PP)	In favor	In favor / rapporteur of the PL in the Chamber	In favor	x	In favor
07	Prof. Rosa Neide (PT)	Against	Against	Against	x	In favor
08	Valtenir Pereira (MDB)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor / Substitute Carlos Bezerra (MDB)

Source: Organized by the guide based on web pages of the House of representatives and the [Agriculture and Livestock Farming Parliamentary Front](#)

233 <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/parlamentares/em-exercicio>

234 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?ideVotacao=9924>

235 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

236 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

237 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

238 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

239 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>

**MATO GROSSO IN THE SENATE²⁴⁰**

Mato Grosso has three representatives in the Federal Senate: Senator Jayme Campos (DEM/MT) - currently on leave and replaced by the first substitute Fábio Garcia (UNIÃO/MT); senator Carlos Fávaro (PSD/MT) — currently on leave and replaced by the first substitute senator Margareth Buzetti (PP/MT) — and senator Wellington Fagundes (PL/MT). Garcia and Fagundes participate in the Parliamentary Front of Agriculture and Cattle Farming. Wellington Fagundes voted in favor of the 2022 budget; Carlos Fávaro and Jayme Campos also voted in favor of the 19/2022 Budget Bill.²⁴¹

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“I expect candidates to submit sustainability proposals for the Amazon. I expect them to think about the traditional communities, about the populations that live there. That aims at something other than profit, other than transforming the forest into a concrete city. The Amazon is resisting everything, but for how long? The same thing with the Pantanal and Cerrado, and we just watch. Preservation, sustainable use, small farmers, I want them to have proposals for all of this.”

Eliane Xunakalo, institutional advisor of the Federation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Mato Grosso (Fepoimt), IT Bakairi, Cuiabá/MT

²⁴⁰ <https://www25.senado.leg.br/web/transparencia/sen/por-uf/-/uf/MT>

²⁴¹ <https://interativos.g1.globo.com/politica/2019/como-votam/senado/brasil/projetos/orcamento-da-uniao-para-2022>



8. PARÁ



AREA: 1.245.835,66 km²



8,690,745 inhabitants (2020)



144 municipalities



Capital: Belém, where over 1.5 million people live



**HDI*: 0.646
Ranking 24th in Brazil (2010)**



GDP: R\$ 161.3 billion (2018)



56% of the area demarcated as Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands



68,85% of the territory covered by forests (2020)



More than 34% of the state had been affected by deforestation by 2020



About 61,479 hotspots were detected in the state in 2020 and 2021



400.59 megatons of CO₂e emitted in 2019, most from deforestation and changes in land use

*Human Development Index
**Infographic created with data from [IBGE](#), [INPE](#), and "[Fatos da Amazônia Legal](#)" ([Legal Amazon Facts](#))



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“The current government’s environmental policy was one of total neglect for the Amazon.”

Marlon Rebello, journalist at Tapajós de Fato²⁴², Santarém (PA)

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“I can’t choose which bill or legislation is worse. I can only talk about issues such as Bolsonaro’s negotiations with Elon Musk on the internet that he wants to set up here in the region. This is to monitor the Amazon. To monitor our spaces so they can explore them later.”

Ravi Veiga, producer at the Miga Sua Lôca Cultura Diversidade collective²⁴³, Belém/PA

LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION: Forest destruction doubles in four years.

The study [Laws and Practices of Land Regularization in Pará state](#), released by Imazon in 2021, estimates that 73% of the land in Pará’s territory has already been designated (90.7 million hectares). Indigenous Lands occupy 25% of the state (30.7 million hectares), followed by 23% for Conservation Units (29 million hectares), 11% for settlement Projects (13.5 million hectares), 10.5% of titled private properties, 0.5% of quilombola territories and 1% of designated public forests (earmarked by state decrees for forest concessions or regularization of communities).

Public areas with no designation or information on destination represent 27% of the state, totaling 33.8 million hect-

With almost 163,000 km² accumulated deforestation up to 2022, Pará has been the leading state in forest destruction in the Amazon in the last 16 years.²⁴⁴

ares. Part of this area, 12% of the territory, is registered on the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). “Given the lack of information about the land situation of these properties, it is possible that many are unofficial occupations of public lands,” says the study. There is no data for 12% of the state, another 2% are in the process of regularization by the federal government and 0.5% are areas of possible demand for Indigenous Lands, according to the Technical Chamber for the Designation and Regularization of Federal Public Lands in the Amazon. There are also 766,000 hectares of interest for the creation of Conservation Units, as indicated by biodiversity conservation agency ICMBio (2016).

Of the public areas with no designation in Pará, 45% (15.2 million hectares) have priority for conservation and most are of extremely high biological importance, according to the Environment Ministry.²⁴⁵

²⁴² <https://linktr.ee/tapajosdefato>

²⁴³ <https://www.instagram.com/migasualocaculturadiversidade/>

²⁴⁴ http://terrabrazilis.dpi.inpe.br/app/dashboard/deforestation/biomes/legal_amazon/rates

²⁴⁵ https://imazon.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LeisRegularizacaoFundiaria_Para.pdf



Also according to Imazon, 57% of non allocated areas (19.4 million hectares) belong to the federal government and 43% to the state government (2017 data). Of the state's portion, the majority (11% of the territory of Pará) was not registered in a notary's office under the government of Pará, leaving these lands more vulnerable to invaders. Regarding the non allocated federal areas or those with no information on destination in the state's territory, 7% were awaiting a decision from the Technical Chamber; another 7% had already been reviewed by the Chamber and were allocated for land regularization through ownership titles.

LAND GRABBING

Imazon explains that the state's land legislation (Law No. 8.878/2019) allows for the sale and opening of public land for new agricultural activities and that the law requires "gentle and peaceful occupation", but "without specifying the starting date for occupation. This lack of clarity can lead to interpretations that allow regularization of areas occupied after 2014 (deadline for selling) (...) which would increase the risk of (...) giving titles for occupations by individuals or groups who appropriate public land in order to profit from the sale of the property". In general, land legislation in Pará continues to allow for regularization of properties deforested at any time, which can also work as an incentive for land grabbing public forests.

Pará, the most deforested state in the region, has a per capita GDP of only R\$ 19,000 per inhabitant, a little more than half of the national value (R\$ 33,600).²⁴⁶

TIMBER

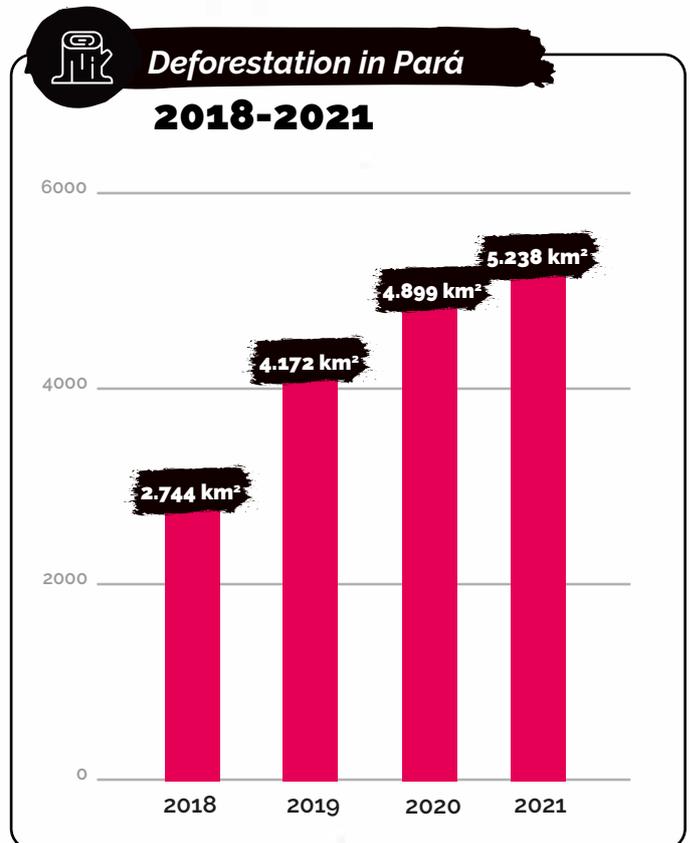
Approximately 10,000 km² of forests were hit by timber extraction in Pará between 2007 and 2018; of this total, around 7,155 km² were extracted without authorization. The municipalities of Pará most affected by logging in the period were Paragominas, Portel and Rondon do Pará. In 2019, the state produced 3.76 million m³²⁴⁷ of timber, a volume much lower than in 2010, when its output totaled 5.76 million m³. Even with the drop in production, illegal timber extraction in Pará is a cause of forest degradation and violence against communities; in the years of the Bolsonaro government, this type of environmental crime was favored by the dismantling of monitoring and control agencies.

On July 7, 2020, for example, military personnel in Operation Verde Brasil 2 left behind agents from environmental agency IBAMA, the Federal Police and the National Force who were combating illegal logging in the region of Uruará (PA), in the vicinity of the Transamazônica Highway. In an official statement, IBAMA stated that, without the support of the army, it was unfeasible to continue the operation and that suspending the monitoring would cause losses to public coffers and give illegal loggers the opportunity to take apart their equipment. The apprehension of machinery was the main goal of the operation; in June, IBAMA inspectors had already been attacked by environmental criminals in the same region.²⁴⁸

²⁴⁶ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

²⁴⁷ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

²⁴⁸ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/sdf-relatorio-pt-final-30em3.pdf>



Source: [INPE](#) - PRODES (Amazon Deforestation Monitoring Project by Satellite)



The smuggling of illegal timber from Pará and the fall of Ricardo Salles²⁴⁹

In December 2020, the Federal Police, together with IBAMA and the Armed Forces, seized more than 130,000 m³ of illegal timber in Operation Handroanthus GLO, in the region of the Arapiuns River, in Santarém (PA). The seizure resulted from investigations initiated when a raft was held after being grounded while carrying 2,700 m³ of native timber in the Mamuru river in Parintins, on the border between Pará and Amazonas, at the end of November that year. The origin of the load was stated as Juruti (PA), but the species of timber did not correspond to information on the identification documents known as Forest Guides. The diverging information on the load invalidated the guides, according to legislation that regulates the transportation of native timber. The Federal Police seized ten more rafts and four tug and barge boats with 7,300 m³ of timber in Mamuru and, from there, arrived at the geographic coordinates that led to the seizure in the Arapiuns river. In total, almost 200,000 m³ of timber were confiscated, worth hundreds of millions of reais.

After the seizure, the Armed Forces guarded the timber load. In a letter to the Federal Police on February 19, 2021, the chief of staff of the Army's Northern Joint Command informed that the military were leaving the location without explaining the reason. On February 25, the Amazonas Federal Police threatened to sue the military involved, drawing criticism from Vice President Hamilton Mourão and then Environment Minister Ricardo Salles. A month later, Salles traveled to the Arapiuns river, where he was greeted by the owners of the illegal timber seized. Salles defended their companies and publicly questioned the Federal Police operation. On April 7, traveling by helicopter, Salles visited Fazenda Francine II, suspected of land grabbing, and one of the suppliers of company Rondobel Madeiras Ltda, owner of part of the illegal timber seized in Handroanthus. In the following week, police chief Alexander Saraiva, head of the Federal Police in Amazonas state, requested an investigation against Ricardo Salles to the Supreme Court, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office and the General Office of the Federal Police. In the document, Saraiva framed Salles, senator Telmário Mota (Pros/RR) and the president of IBAMA, Eduardo Bim, in Art. 69 of the Environmental Crimes Law, Art. 321 of the Criminal Code and Art. 2, § 1º of the Criminal Organization Law, within the scope of Operation Handroanthus. Subsequently, Saraiva was dismissed from his post as head of Federal Police in the Amazon, but continued to lead the operation. Based on the crime report on June 2, Supreme Court judge Carmen Lucia accepted the request by the Federal Prosecution Office to open an investigation against Salles.

Parallel to the Handroanthus' outcomes, another complaint hit Ricardo Salles in full. On May 19, by order of Supreme Court judge Alexandre de Moraes, the Federal Police launched operation Akuanubá, targeting the Environment Minister, businessmen in the timber industry and public servants, including Eduardo Bim, president of IBAMA, on suspicions of illegal timber exports. Thirty-five search and seizure warrants were served at addresses in the Federal District, São Paulo and Pará. The minister also had his banking and tax privacy broken. The Federal Police investigations began in January 2021 after Brazilian authorities received documents sent by Bryan Landry, attache of the US Fishing and Wildlife Service. Landry reported on the seizure of timber cargoes from Pará retained without documentation at the port of Savannah, Georgia. The Supreme Court also suspended, by injunction, the Order No. 7036900/2020/GAB/IBAMA, signed by Eduardo Bim in February 2020, which authorized timber exports without inspection. The order had been published by IBAMA a few days after pressure from the Association of Timber Exporters of the State of Pará (Aimex) and the Brazilian Association of Forest Concessionaires (Confloresta), which operates in Pará and Rondônia.

Targeted by two investigations in the Supreme Court, the risk of arrest became real. On June 23, 2021, Bolsonaro dismissed Ricardo Salles from the Environment Ministry, claiming that he "had asked to leave". In the same decree, the president appointed Joaquim Álvaro Pereira Leite as new minister; until then, Leite had been secretary of the Amazon and Environmental Services of the Environment Ministry. Previously, he was an advisor to the Brazilian Rural Society (SRB), one of the organizations that represent big rural landowners in the country.

249 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/sdf-relatorio-pt-final-30em3.pdf>



“Due to the minimal labor needed, the ease of implementation and simple logistics demanded by its outflow, cattle became the ideal activity for the military regime’s integration policy in the Amazon. Historically, cattle has played an important role in the appropriation of land, taking public land and transforming it into private property, as well as being a mechanism of speculation”, said geographer Susanna Hecht of the Higher Institute for International Studies and Development (Geneva, Switzerland) to a [DW](#) article in 2020.

CATTLE

Pará has 21 million head of cattle, the second largest cattle herd in the Amazon (2020)²⁵⁰. According to Pará’s Federation of Agriculture and Farming (FAEPA), “in terms of health standards, Pará enjoys the status of international certification of foot-and-mouth free with vaccination. Pará also stands out in the exports of livestock, being the largest exporter in the country”.

The livestock sector in Pará boasts of being able to carry out sanitary control of its herd but flagrantly fails to trace the origin of pastures in violation of Indigenous, illegally occupied and deforested territories.

According to Imazon, between 1985 and 2019 the area occupied by pastures in the state jumped from 6 million hectares to about 20 million hectares. It is possible to associate this growth with the increase in forest devastation rates in Pará in the same period.

- During record fires in 2020, a [report](#) from NGO Global Witness (GW) showed that Brazil’s three largest beef companies — JBS, Marfrig and Minerva — bought cattle from 379 farms that illegally deforested territories in Pará, covering an area of 202 km², or 20,000 soccer fields. According to the investigation, the three companies failed to monitor “more than 4,000 farms in Pará in their production chains, with an estimated total of 140,000 deforested soccer fields, to prevent cattle from these farms from reaching their slaughterhouses”. Company JBS, for example, states that practically 100% of all its meat comes from farms that comply with legal commitments not to acquire cattle from areas where there has been recent deforestation²⁵¹. Two years later, a new study by the same entity called [Vacas à Venda \(Cows for Sale\)](#), exposed “a recurring pattern of land grabbing, slave labor and cattle laundering on the farms of one of JBS’s suppliers in the state of Pará, the Seronni family”. The GW investigation also found that, in 2020, JBS bought cattle from 144 farms that together correspond to the area of 10,000 illegally deforested soccer fields in Pará alone, going against non-deforestation agreements signed with the Public Prosecutor’s Office. The company also did not monitor the other 470 farms of ‘indirect suppliers’ involved in its supply chain.
- Another investigation released in July 2022, called [How Illegal Land Grabs in Brazil’s Amazon Feed the Global Beef Industry](#) conducted by OCCRP²⁵², [Piauí](#) magazine, Fiquem Sabendo and the Center for Climate Crime Analysis (CCCA) revealed that, between 2018 and the end of 2021, more than 91,200 head of cattle were removed from 213,000 hectares of grabbed/illegally occupied land in the state of Pará. The oxen were taken to farms in legal areas and from there sold to 129 slaughterhouses around Brazil. One of the farms identified, “Baixão Verde”, with 700 hectares, is located within the Cachoeira Seca Indigenous Land, in the Altamira region. Cachoeira Seca was the most deforested indigenous land in the country in 2020, says the study citing data from INPE, Brazil’s Space Research Institute.

²⁵⁰ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

²⁵¹ <https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-55177000>

²⁵² OCCRP - Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project - <https://www.occrp.org/en/>



SOY

Pará has a total of 18,202.67 km² of land which is cultivated or destined for harvesting, 30% of which is used for soybean cultivation. According to FAEPA, "the soybean complex is already the main item on the agribusiness export agenda, representing about 25% of the total exported by the sector. In fact, the area cultivated with soybeans in Pará (...) in the period between 2010 and 2017 expanded from 85,400 to 500,400 hectares". Soybean production in Pará is concentrated in three major hubs: Paragominas (northeast), Santana do Araguaia (south) and Santarém (west). FAEPA's²⁵³ ad states that "the expansion of soybeans has taken place in natural fields and previously altered areas (pastures) (...) and is not using native forest area, thus avoiding deforestation".

One example is the multinational Cargill's bulk port built nearly 20 years ago in Santarém in a process characterized by irregularities in environmental licensing. Located at the end point of highway BR-163 (read below), since its construction there's been over 1,000 km² of deforestation, or 140,000 football fields, in the municipality of Santarém alone. The negative effects of the projects' lack of compliance with socio-environmental constraints on the region's communities were documented in the study [No license for destruction - Cargill and violation of rights in Tapajós](#), prepared by organization Terra de Direitos, which also reports the struggle of those who suffered impacts to be compensated. Even with the socio-environmental liability linked to the soybean production chain, the company now intends to build a port terminal in Abaetetuba, in the northeast of the state. Announced as "Cargill's newest project in Brazil", it's "main goal is the outflow of grains (soybeans and corn) produced in the states of Pará, Rondônia and Mato Grosso to foreign markets by waterways (rivers and oceans) with no use of highways"²⁵⁴. The company expects the port to receive eleven ships per month.

In addition to opening up forest areas so that pastures can be occupied by new soybean crops, the impacts of grain expansion involve the logistics of storage and distribution of the commodity in silos, roads and export ports

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“In Bolsonaro’s administration, socio-environmental policies in the Amazon and in the whole country have only suffered setbacks. Starting with the hijacking of the State, at IBAMA, ICMBio, INPE, to the reduction of public policies aimed at preservation. Today the increase in deforestation, the incentive to prospect gold, including in Indigenous lands, the fires and the facilitation for companies to set up in the Amazon region, such as Cargill here in Abaetetuba, are explicit.”

Jucirlei Barbosa Rodrigues, member of the Association of Residents of the Abaetetuba Islands (AMIA)²⁵⁵ and social worker - Rural Zone, Abaetetuba/PA.

²⁵³ <http://sistemafaepa.com.br/faepa/agronegocio-paraense/>

²⁵⁴ https://www.cargill.com.br/pt_BR/abaetetuba

²⁵⁵ <https://m.facebook.com/Associa%C3%A7%C3%A3o-de-Moradores-das-Ilhas-de-Abaetetuba-AMIA-109974854507912/>



BR-163, THE SOY CORRIDOR IN THE AMAZON

The BR-163 highway, which runs across the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Paraná, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso and Pará, is the main land transportation route for agricultural products from central Brazil to the country's northern ports. A project of the military dictatorship, construction works started in 1971, under the government of general Emilio Garrastazu Médici. The opening took place five years later, when president Ernesto Geisel was in power. For almost five decades, sections of the more than 3,000 km-long route have been neglected by the government.

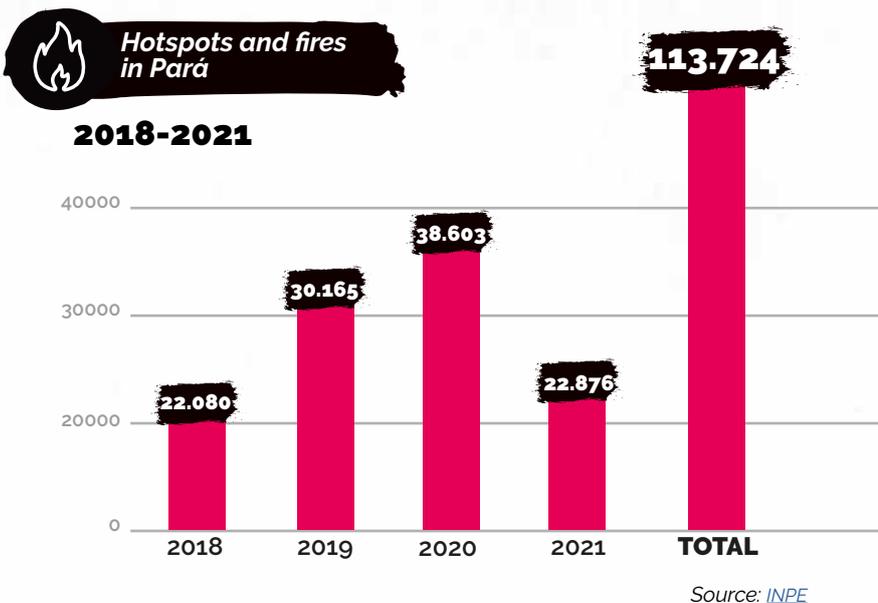
The segment between Cuiabá (MT) and Santarém (PA), coveted for the exportation of agribusiness commodities, is surrounded by several Indigenous Lands, Conservation Units and thousands of hectares of public forests. For years, environmentalists and local communities have tried to prevent the paving of the segment, predicting the increase in deforestation and other environmental crimes in the region. However, in September 2016, then president Michel Temer signed an agreement with the Brazilian Army and work resumed in 2017.

History of destruction - Since its implementation, highway BR-163 has generated violence in the Amazon. In 1973, as works advanced in the Cuiabá-Santarém section, two-thirds of the Panará indigenous population were decimated by contact with white men, through diseases and massacres, after the highway cut through their ancestral territory near the Peixoto Azevedo river (MT). At the time, the Panará were taken to the Xingu Indigenous Park. They only managed to return to their ancestral land more than 20 years later. In 2000, in an unprecedented decision, the Panará won an action for damages against FUNAI, Brazil's indigenous agency, and the Federal Government for material and moral damages caused by contact resulting from the project.

Sustainable? - In the mid-2000s, when the paving was discussed again, the federal government promised to implement the Sustainable BR-163 plan, which provided for land regularization in the surroundings of the road with the creation of Conservation Units and Extractive Reserves. The plan did not materialize and land grabbing, violence and deforestation exploded in the region. In 2019, the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) denounced that in the municipalities of Trairão, Rurópolis, Itaituba, Jacareacanga and Novo Progresso, in the road's vicinity, there were small farmers, Indigenous people, settlers and extractivists threatened with death. A [case study](#) produced by Greenpeace in 2020 indicated that the "low provision of resources, accompanied by insufficient supervision and an inadequate implementation of protected areas, resulted in the advance of the agricultural frontier, since the easier outflow serves as an incentive for the opening of new areas".

The Captain will finish it - In November 2019, at the end of the first year of Bolsonaro's administration and a few months after the event that became known in the region as 'Fire Day' (read below), the BR-163 was completely paved in the section that connects Mato Grosso to Pará. "This work is at the heart of agribusiness and will reduce export costs," Bolsonaro celebrated at the time. "What the General (Médici) started, the Captain (Bolsonaro) will finish", said Infrastructure Minister Tarcisio de Freitas at the time.

Since then, environmental degradation in the region has exploded. Between January and April 2020, there was a 359% increase in deforestation around the Pará section of the highway, compared to the same period in the previous year. According to data from Rede Xingu+, the area of destruction leaped from 591 to 2,717 hectares. In 2021, without consulting Indigenous peoples such as the Kayapó of the Baú and Menkragnoti Indigenous Lands, and the Panará, historically victimized by the highway, the federal government auctioned off another segment of the highway, connecting Sinop (MT) to Miritituba (PA).



Fire Day and Impunity²⁵⁶

On August 5, 2019, newspaper [Folha do Progresso](#), from Novo Progresso (PA), published stories about an organized act by rural producers who felt “emboldened by the words of President Jair Bolsonaro”. On the 10th, there was a coordinated burning of pastures and deforested areas in several municipalities around the BR-163 highway, in the segment that cuts through the south of Pará. The event became known as Fire Day. The episode was organized in a WhatsApp group and featured a ‘kitty’ to buy fuel and hire bikers to spread the flames. INPE’s monitoring registered an explosion of fire outbreaks in the region after that: In Novo Progresso they increased by 300% compared to the previous day’s fire outbreaks; in Altamira, there was a 179% jump in the number of fire outbreaks in the following three days; in São Félix do Xingu, there was a 329% hike in three days. Most of the fires affected protected areas, conservation units and public forests near BR-163.²⁵⁷

Until 2018, IBAMA maintained a base in Novo Progresso (PA) during the fires period; in 2019, the operation was suspended due to the lack of support from Pará’s Military Police and the National Security Force for the environmental inspection work.

After learning about Fire Day through the news, the Federal Public Prosecutor’s Office, via the Itaituba Prosecutor’s Office (PA), sent, on August 8, 2019, the day before the event, an “urgent” alert to IBAMA, asking for reinforcement in the inspection of preservation areas. The environmental agency, however, only responded to the Prosecutor’s Office on August 12, two days after Fire Day, alleging lack of support and threats to the agency’s servants. The Federal Police and the Federal Public Prosecutor’s Office opened an investigation to identify who participated in the joint action to burn forests. A year later, in August 2020, no one had been arrested or even indicted for the coordinated forest-burning action, despite suspicions about some local landowners²⁵⁸. In the following year, the level of destruction in the region got worse. According to a Socioenvironmental Institute (ISA) analysis, in the municipalities of Altamira, Novo Progresso and São Félix do Xingu, the deforestation alerts of the DETER satellite system (from space research institute INPE) registered increases of 48%, 15% and 60%, respectively, in deforestation alerts in 2020 compared to 2019.

²⁵⁶ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/dia-do-fogo/>

²⁵⁷ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2019/08/14/dia-do-fogo-e-organizado-por-proprietarios-rurais/>

²⁵⁸ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/08/10/dia-do-fogo-completa-um-ano-com-legado-de-impunidade-afirma-greenpeace/>



Between April and June 2021, Altamira, Novo Progresso and São Félix do Xingu cleared the equivalent of 9,516 soccer fields per day, which represents the removal of almost 340,000 mature trees daily over three months.²⁵⁹

In February 2022, more than two years after Fire Day, no one had been arrested and police investigations did not deliver results²⁶⁰. According to [Repórter Brasil](#), in one of the places most devastated by fire, the Terra Nossa Sustainable Development Project (PDS), there are land plots full of soybean crops, a type of cultivation not permitted in this modality of land reform. The report's findings, which cross-examined the geographic coordinates of soybean plantations with data from the 197 outbreaks recorded on Fire Day, proved that areas burned at the time today are covered by grain fields. "The aim of the group who put money in the kitty to burn down the forest has now become clear: opening up land for soybeans," Reporter Brasil revealed.

ORE

Pará is the state with the largest number of open-pit mines and the largest producer of ore in the Amazon, and one of the largest in Brazil. The activity takes place in 16 municipalities in Pará, mainly for the extraction of iron ore, bauxite, kaolin, limestone, nickel, manganese and gold. The mineral transformation process is done in Marabá and Barcarena. Pará accounts for more than 94% of the region's ore exports, with iron ore representing US\$ 14.34 billion, followed by copper ore, US\$ 1.94 billion, gold with US\$ 424 million, aluminum, US\$ 333 million and manganese ore, US\$ 236 million in 2020.²⁶¹

BARCARENA: The impacts of mineral activity on the soil, water and communities are felt throughout several municipalities in Pará. Barcarena, a large bauxite producer in the Metropolitan Region of Belém, is an exemplary case of repeated accidents involving leaks and environmental contamination by different companies. According to the [Movement for Popular Sovereignty in Mining \(MAM\)](#), "since 2004, the mining company Imerys has records of crimes against nature and the population of the municipality (...) on December 6, 2021, there was an explosion of a processing warehouse of the mining company that spread sodium dithionite, a highly toxic product". The mining company formed a monopoly in the extraction and processing of kaolin in the Amazon. Kaolin is an ore used in the manufacture of paper, ceramics and paints. Also in Barcarena, in February 2018, a leak of toxic mining debris from the Norwegian giant Hydro contaminated several communities. According to the [BBC](#), a dam with caustic soda and toxic metals overflowed after heavy rains in the region. The company attempted to deny what happened but during the investigation it was revealed that Hydro used a "clandestine pipeline for the discharge of untreated effluents" in a range of Muripi River nascents, according to a report by the Health Ministry's Evandro Chagas Institute.

CARAJÁS: the world's largest open-pit iron ore mine is in Carajás, in the Southeast of Pará. Discovered in the 1970s, the mine is operated by Vale. The Carajás Complex, the largest hub in the company's history²⁶², produced more than 85 million tons of iron ore between January and June 2021, 4.2% more than in the same period a year earlier. The company has announced plans to expand mining operations in the hub by 2025²⁶³. To outflow its production, Vale manages the Carajás Railway (EFC), which extends 892 kilometers, connecting the Carajás mine to the port of Ponta da Madeira, in São Luís (Maranhão state). EFC carries 120 million tons of cargo and 350,000 passengers per year. According to the [company](#), approximately 35 trains circulate simultaneously, among which one of the largest freight trains in regular operation in the world, with 330 wagons and 3.3 kilometers long. In recent years, more than 500 km of the railroad have been doubled to increase load capacity. At least 130 communities and villages are crossed by the Carajás corridor, according to a report by the Mining Observatory published in [Mongabay](#). Residents on the margins of the railroad report a long history of health problems, structural damages to their homes, people run over, deaths and lack of dialogue from the company. The Carajás railway also symbolizes the union of mining with agribusiness. In addition to iron ore, trains carry solid bulk (soybeans and other grains) and liquids (fuels and fertilizers, among others).

²⁵⁹ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/sdf-relatorio-pt-final-30em3.pdf>

²⁶⁰ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/02/08/no-para-mais-de-dois-anos-apos-dia-do-fogo-areas-queimadas-abrigam-campos-de-soja/>

²⁶¹ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

²⁶² <http://www.vale.com/hotsite/pt/paginas/Home.aspx>

²⁶³ <https://www.zedudu.com.br/vale-aumenta-producao-em-carajas-e-faz-previsoes-para-regiao-ate-2025/>



Massacre - Despite Vale's marketing efforts to present itself as a "model of sustainability", the operation in Carajás generates impacts on forest areas and contaminates the water with mining tailings — not to mention its history of land conflicts with communities in Pará. The company's relationship with Pará's iron ore extraction region became tragically known by the Eldorado dos Carajás massacre. In April 1996, 21 rural workers from the Landless Workers Movement (MST) died and more than 60 were injured after a brutal crackdown by the state's Military Police. Vale had provided buses to transport police troops, part of a support strategy developed in prior years by the company with the police in the region to prevent actions of the MST such as land occupations and roadblocks. "The then Companhia Vale do Rio Doce and the Military Police of Pará (PMPA) had an agreement: the company financed part of the police's expenses and that investment gave rise to the unit called First Independent Company of Environmental Policing of Parauapebas", according to an investigation for the book "Massacre Eldorado dos Carajás: A History of Impunity".²⁶⁴

GOLD MINING

The three cities with the largest gold prospected areas in Brazil are in the south of Pará: Itaituba, Jacareacanga and São Félix do Xingu, in first, second and third places, respectively, according to data from [MapBiomas](#). The largest gold mining areas in an Indigenous Land in the Amazon is also in the state: Kayapó Indigenous Land (7,602 hectares of mining) and Munduruku Indigenous Land (1,592 hectares of mining). Of the ten conservation units with the highest gold mining activity, eight are in Pará. The three largest are the Tapajós Environmental Protection Area (34,740 hectares), the Amaná National Forest (4,150 hectares) and the Rio Novo National Park (1,752 hectares).

Pará concentrates more than half of Brazil's gold mining area.²⁶⁵

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“The most striking fact is the approval of gold prospection sites upstate, with the miners' actions impacting the rivers' waters. The powerful want more ore, more money, while they destroy nature.”

*Ravi Veiga, producer in the collective Miga Sua
Lôca Cultura Diversidade, Belém/PA*

Gold Mining in the Tapajós

At the end of May 2021, the Federal Police carried out operations to fight illegal gold mining in the Tapajós River region, such as Operation Mundurukânia. In retaliation to the police action, prospectors threatened Munduruku indigenous leaders, burned down a house and attacked federal agents²⁶⁶. On the 28th, the Defense Ministry canceled the logistical support planned for the Federal Police operations in the Munduruku Indigenous Land, in Jacareacanga (PA), alleging lack of resources. The Federal Prosecutor's Office classified the maneuver as "premature withdrawal", as the action was scheduled to continue until June 10.

According to a survey carried out by the socio-Environmental Institute (ISA), between January 2019 and May 2021 the mine devastated a total of 2,264.8 hectares of the Munduruku Indigenous Land. In the municipality of Jacareacanga (PA), which overlaps with 98% of the Munduruku Indigenous Land, the increase of areas degraded by gold mining reached 269%²⁶⁷. In February 2022, in a new operation in the Indigenous Land, the Federal Police destroyed machinery but didn't manage to arrest any illegal miners. A report released after the operation stated that the illegal extraction of gold changed the color of the Tapajós River due to the use of mercury and cyanide for the separation of gold.²⁶⁸

²⁶⁴ <https://www.mamnacional.org.br/2021/04/17/25-anos-de-impunidade-da-vale-no-massacre-de-eldorado-dos-carajas/>

²⁶⁵ https://mapbiomas-br-site.s3.amazonaws.com/Fact_Sheet_1.pdf

²⁶⁶ <https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2021/05/27/casa-de-lideranca-indigena-munduruku-e-incendiada-por-garimpeiros-em-jacareacanga-mpf-investiga-o-caso.html>

²⁶⁷ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/sdf-relatorio-pt-final-30em3.pdf>

²⁶⁸ <https://noticias.r7.com/jr-na-tv/videos/garimpo-ilegal-faz-as-aguas-do-rio-tapajos-ate-mudarem-de-cor-no-para-08062022>



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“The proposal to reduce indigenous lands and quilombola areas is a major setback, along with the flexibilization of environmental licensing and changes in the structure of the supervisory bodies. The cancellation of the Amazon Fund, the increase in prospecting and the fake news created by the Bolsonaro government about the environment, mainly about the Amazon, have been striking facts in the last years.”

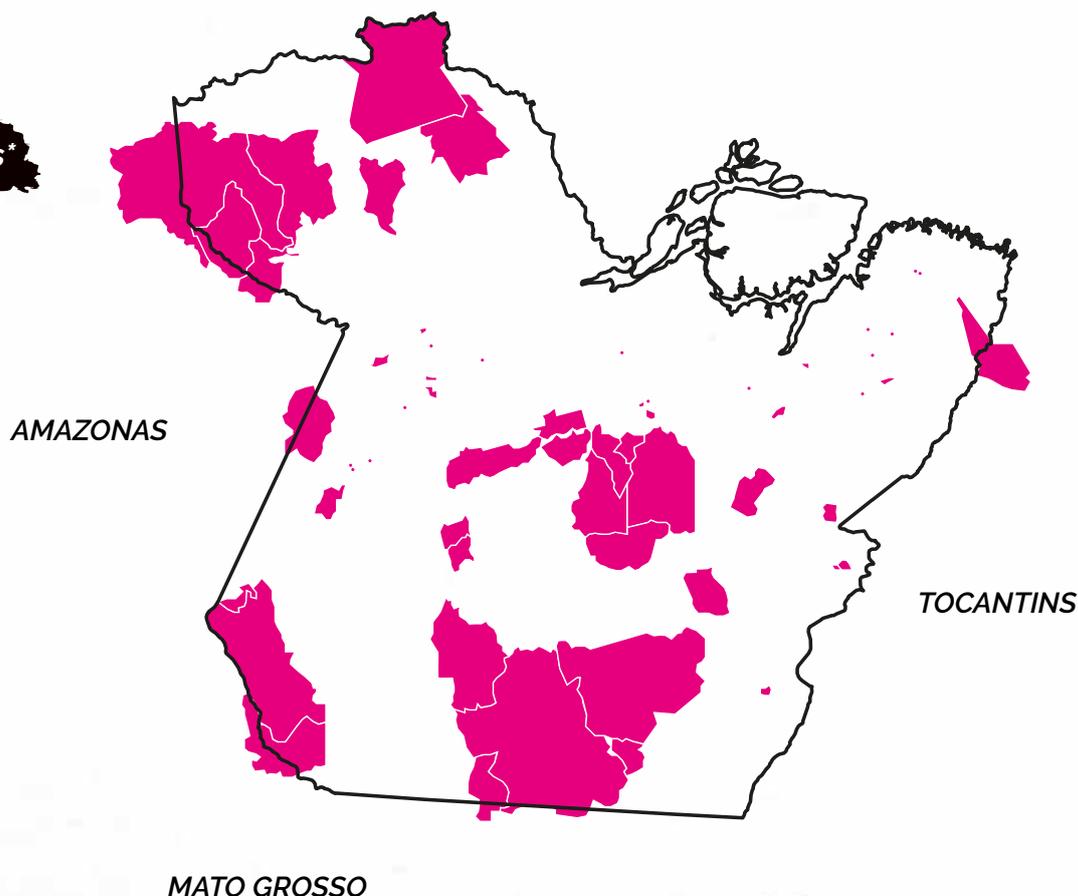
Jucirlei Barbosa Rodrigues, member of the Abaetetuba Islands Residents Association (AMIA) and social worker - Rural Sector, Abaetetuba/PA.

INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY

In Pará, there are 64 Indigenous Lands in different stages of demarcation and homologation, covering almost 31 million hectares, or 24% of the state area.²⁶⁹

Pará

Indigenous Territories*



*We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/brasil).



Given the depletion of timber stocks in most private properties, added to the expansion of cattle farming over new areas which is in turn driven by the demand for land for soybean cultivation, in addition to the political and financial incentives to mining, indigenous lands in Pará have been under increasing pressure and threats, with constant invasions of reserves and violations of peoples' rights.

According to the Deforestation Alert System (SAD) report for the January-March 2022 period, five of the ten Indigenous lands most threatened by deforestation were located in Pará, especially the Trincheira Bacajá, Baú, Apyterewa and Cachoeira Seca do Irii Indigenous Lands. Another critical case is that of the Ituna-Itatá Indigenous Land in the southwest of the state.²⁷⁰

Ituna-Itatá under attack - In early 2022, a [technical report](#) launched by the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) and the Organization of Isolated Peoples (OPI) showed that 84.5% of deforestation in the Ituna-Itatá Indigenous Land occurred between 2019 and 2021, during Bolsonaro's government. Based on INPE data, the survey shows that of the 22,000 hectares illegally deforested to date within the territory, 18,600 were chopped down in the last three years. Deforestation in areas with records of isolated groups has grown by 1,493% in the last three years. Other data of the report mentions 220 kilometers of roads and clandestine side roads opened inside the Ituna-Itatá Indigenous Land alone in 2019. That year, [Greenpeace](#) had already shown that 93% of the protected area was compromised by farmers who registered properties inside the Indigenous Land in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). The organization states that this territory acts as a "gateway" to the 24 million hectares of forests in the Terra do Meio Mosaic, located between the Xingu and Tapajós rivers. "In addition to isolated peoples, a number of other protected areas will also be vulnerable and exposed. If Ituna-Itatá succumbs to the interests of farming and the land market, we will see a brutal advance in land grabbing and deforestation across Terra do Meio," says Greenpeace.

Threatened Xingu - The [Xingu under Bolsonaro](#) analysis piece, elaborated by Rede Xingu+, details the impacts of the degradation in one of the main corridors of protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon, between the states of Pará and Mato Grosso. The last three years of monitoring revealed growing conflicts and disputes for lands and natural resources, making the region one of the epicenters of illegal deforestation in the Amazon. The technical note describes the dynamics of deforestation in the region, "from the explosion of land grabbing in the Apyterewa Indigenous Land and Trincheira Bacajá, where invaders threaten to 'hunt down' Indigenous people, to actions coordinated by the farmers who set fire to the forest and promote illegal virtual trades of lands located in Conservation Units".

In the last three years, the advance of deforestation in Novo Progresso and São Félix do Xingu threatens to cut the remaining forest in Irii State Forest (PA), which could interrupt connectivity of the Xingu Corridor, further weakening the last barrier between the new deforestation arc and the Eastern Amazon.

Between 2018 and 2020, a period that coincides with the election and first half of Bolsonaro's term, 513,500 hectares were deforested in the Xingu basin, or 149 trees felled every minute.

²⁷⁰ <https://amazon.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/AP-Janeiro-a-Marco-de-2022.pdf>



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“First priority: rivers need to be rescued. We live in the Amazon and we should be examples in this. River waters riddled with mercury are contaminating fish, children, and the elderly. Water is our highest priority, because our food comes from it.”

*Ravi Veiga, producer in the collective Miga Sua
Lôca Cultura Diversidade, Belém/PA*

Mercury in the rivers and attempts to silence the Munduruku - In addition to violence and conflicts over land, the strong expansion of illegal gold mining activities in the Tapajós River region has caused the contamination of traditional populations. In the municipalities of Itaituba and Trairão, the Munduruku indigenous people are suffering from the impact of mercury widely used in gold mining. A [study](#) conducted by Fiocruz health research institute and WWF-Brazil released in 2020 indicated that 90% of the indigenous population in villages on the riverbanks was impacted by the contaminant. Of every ten participants in the study, six had mercury levels above safe limits. About 15.8% of the Munduruku children assessed had issues in neurodevelopmental tests.

While indigenous peoples have had their health and territories compromised, those who denounce are the target of threats. In May 2022, according to a CPT [note](#), indigenous leader Alessandra Korap Munduruku suffered a wave of attacks in retaliation for her defense of indigenous lands, forests and rivers in the Amazon. Alessandra's social media profiles were successively hacked and her WhatsApp account cloned. The profiles were used to trigger messages of hate, defamation, threats, and attempts to intimidate friends and family in order to humiliate and demoralize the leader. Alessandra is the president of the Pariri Indigenous Association, which represents the eleven Munduruku villages in the middle Tapajós River, and vice-coordinator of the Federation of Indigenous Peoples of Pará (FEPIPA). In the last decade, she has been one of her people's voices in the struggle for demarcation and protection of indigenous lands and in resisting the expansion of predatory extractivism in these territories and of infrastructure, logistics and electricity generation projects that threaten the entire Tapajós basin. Due to the accumulation of threats and violence suffered by her - such as the two occasions when her home was invaded in 2019 and 2021 - today Alessandra is in Pará State's Human Rights Defenders Protection program.

VIOLENCE: Conflicts erupt under Bolsonaro

According to data from the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), Pará ranks second among the nine Amazon states in number of land conflicts with 963 recorded cases between 2010 and 2019

Conflicts and deaths in rural areas - Pará - 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	119	149	248	162
Personal violence**	122	80	82	55

*Relating to the total number of conflicts over land and actions of occupations/repossessions; **Relating to the total number of murders, attempted murders, death as a consequence, death threats, torture, imprisonment and assault

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021"- CPT



According to the [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), Pará recorded 13,974 intentional violent deaths²⁷¹ between 2018 and 2021. Between 2011 and 2021, the rate of violent deaths in the state increased by 98%.

**In the ranking of the 30 most violent cities in Brazil,
7 are located in Pará:**

Jacareacanga (2nd); Floresta do Araguaia (4th); Cumaru do Norte (14th), Anapu (18th); Senador José Porfírio (19th); Novo Progresso (21st) and Bannach (26th).²⁷²

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“Violence is frequent here. Brutal crimes take place. Violence against women, children, teenagers and homophobia, everything happens a lot. All this going on and people thinking it’s normal.”

Marlon Rebello, journalist from the Tapajós de Fato portal, Santarém (PA)

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“In terms of LGBT+, it went from bad to worse. As Bolsonaro facilitated access to guns, he likes to mimic guns, sexist bigots feel free to do what they want. Physical and verbal violence. This is a very violent city, state, where transvestites, transgender, LGBTs in general, are brutally killed by beatings, stoning, gunshots. Now anyone can come and shoot you.”

Ravi Veiga, producer at the Miga Sua Lôca Cultura Diversidade collective, Belém/PA

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“Most of the murders are caused by fire weapons, which is also the result of the measure adopted by the Bolsonaro government to ‘arm the population’”

Jucirlei Barbosa Rodrigues, member of the Association of Residents of the Islands of Abaetetuba (AMIA) and social worker - Rural Zone, Abaetetuba/PA.

²⁷¹ Intentional Violent Deaths include: intentional homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.

²⁷² <https://noticias.uol.com.br/cotidiano/ultimas-noticias/2022/06/28/anuario-brasileiro-de-seguranca-publica-2022.htm>



POINTS OF ATTENTION

Projects of high socio-environmental impact in the state and critical situations

THE BELO MONTE HANGOVER:

THE ASPHYXIATION OF THE XINGU RIVER AND MASSACRES IN ALTAMIRA

After six years of operation, [Belo Monte Hydroelectric Power Plant](#) continues to generate impacts in the Altamira region. All the political, economic and socio-environmental aspects involving the project, from its conception in the Brazilian military dictatorship in the 1970s to its inauguration in 2016, are problematic.

The damage caused by the dam to the indigenous and traditional populations of the Xingu River basin, which flooded more than 500 km² of Amazon rainforest, is considered irreparable. The eviction of approximately 30,000 people, including indigenous people and riverside dwellers, from the rural area of Altamira, where the hydroelectric plant is located, and the arrival of thousands of workers for its construction served exclusively the interests of Norte Energia, responsible for the project, and its political and economic allies.

The social collapse established in the region, with the escalation of armed violence, poverty and the lack of urban infrastructure in the city and its surroundings, is accompanied by the increase in diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and pneumonia, attributed to the change in the local ecosystem and in the diet of the population, who depended on the river's health for their traditional way of life and food security. As highlighted by the Socioenvironmental Institute (ISA) in the dossier [Belo Monte – There is no conditions for the Operation License \(2015\)](#), the dam practically dries up the Xingu River between the Arara da Volta Grande and Paraquimba Indigenous Lands. Following the "politics of the fait accompli", Belo Monte was built with no respect for the socio-environmental project's constraints. Therefore, to this day different groups, indigenous associations and sectors of the Public Prosecutor's Office still demand measures from the government and Norte Energia that can mitigate the damages from Belo Monte.

Dry Xingu authorized by IBAMA - Since the completion of the dam in 2015, a battle is fought for the company to increase the flow of its reservoir to the Xingu River. Riverside and indigenous people from 25 communities feel the impacts of the Xingu's flow reduction. According to the Public Prosecutor's Office, the problems worsened in early 2021, after a letter of engagement was signed between IBAMA and Norte Energia authorizing the company to control the flow and divert 80% of the waters of the Xingu River to the turbines of the plant. The decision by the IBAMA's administration went against an opinion of the institute itself who considered the technical report presented by the company to be insufficient.²⁷³

In June 2021, the justice system suspended the letter signed by IBAMA until "sufficient technical studies on the impacts"²⁷⁴ were presented. Analyses showed that the restriction of the volume of water in the river bed not only made it impossible for the population to pursue their fishing livelihood but also seriously compromises the biodiversity of the region, threatening 80% of local plants and fish²⁷⁵. Amid the water crisis that compromised the country's electricity supply in late 2021 and early 2022, Norte Energia continued to pressure the government to increase the volume of water in the Belo Monte reservoir.²⁷⁶

Massacres in the city - In the first half of May 2022, the city of Altamira experienced a series of murders that caused at least 12 victims. On the 10th, Carmen Lúcia Matos da Silva, 53, and daughter Lucyana da Silva Schuroff, 23, seven months pregnant, were murdered in front of the condominium where they lived. Earlier, an armed man killed 22-year-old Patrick Lima, who owns a barbershop, with at least five shots. In the same place, Francisco Simão Souza Lima, 24 years old, was executed while waiting to be served. In the early hours of Friday (13), criminals shot three times at Anderson Pereira da Silva, 27 years old, who died at the scene. On Saturday (14), Marcelino Souza, 31 years old, was shot dead inside his house. On the same day, gunmen attacked a bar, where four people died and four were injured.²⁷⁷

In June, the Civil Police of Pará announced that it had arrested three people involved in the massacre at the bar; according to the police chief in charge, the attack is directly linked to criminal gangs operating in the region²⁷⁸. The crimes happened in the context of the last years of social and environmental degradation directly associated with the works of the Belo Monte hydroelectric plant. In ten years, the local homicide rate has multiplied by ten. In an interview, journalist [Eliane Brum](#) believes that Altamira represents the vanguard of the destruction of the Amazon. "What happens here is a kind of localized climate crisis," says she, a resident of the city. **"I was able to understand that the refugees of Belo Monte, when converted into urban poor, were reduced to the territory of their own bodies"**.²⁷⁹

273 <https://g1.globo.com/fantastico/noticia/2021/03/21/usina-de-belo-monte-comunidades-indigenas-sentem-os-impactos-da-reducao-da-vazao-do-xingu.ghtml>

274 <https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2021/06/18/justica-cancela-termo-de-compromisso-do-ibama-com-a-norte-energia-por-falta-de-estudos-tecnicos.ghtml>

275 <https://brasil.elepais.com/brasil/2021-03-15/decisao-de-belo-monte-de-reduzir-vazao-do-rio-xingu-ameaca-80-das-plantas-e-peixes-locais-dizem-cientistas.html>

276 <https://oglobo.globo.com/economia/belo-monte-busca-apoio-do-governo-para-gerar-mais-energia-em-2022-mas-trava-queda-de-braco-com-ibama-por-ambiente-25331950>

277 <https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2022/05/15/ataque-a-bar-deixa-quatro-mortos-e-quatro-feridos-em-mais-uma-noite-de-violencia-em-altamira-sudoeste-do-para.ghtml>

278 <https://dol.com.br/noticias/policia/728606/guerra-entre-faccoes-criminosas-motivou-chacina-em-altamira?d=1>

279 <https://g1.globo.com/podcast/o-assunto/noticia/2022/05/19/o-assunto-709-altamira-crimes-e-ruinas-da-floresta.ghtml>



TAPAJÓS STATE? BILL CAN DIVIDE PARÁ

The Senate is working on a draft [Legislative Decree \(PDL\) 508/2019](#), aimed at calling a plebiscite or referendum on the creation of the State of Tapajós. Presented in 2019 by several senators, mostly from the Ruralist Caucus, the PDL 508 received a favorable opinion from the rapporteur, Senator Plínio Valério (PSDB/AM) and was included on the house's Constitution and Justice Committee's agenda (CCJ), but was not voted because of a review request from senator Jader Barbalho (MDB/PA) in 2021. Jader is the father of the current governor of Pará, Helder Barbalho (MDB/PA); both oppose the plan of dividing the state of Pará.

In July 2022, PDL 508 was still at CCJ. If it moves forward in the Committee and the Senate's floor, the project still has to be discussed in the Chamber of representatives. With a favorable appraisal from Congress, the projects' path foresees consultation with the population at the elections that follow its approval, whether national or municipal. According to the Constitution, the creation of new states can only be done by means of a complementary law, approved by an absolute majority of representatives both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, after hearing the population concerned via a plebiscite.²⁸⁰

What would it be like? - The State of Tapajós would become the 28th federative unit in the country. According to information by the portal [G1](#), if created, Tapajós will have:

- Santarém as its probable capital;
- 43.15% of the current territory of Pará, totaling 538,049 km² of the state's western part;
- 23 municipalities;
- 15% of Pará's population, equivalent to 2 million inhabitants;
- 11% of The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Pará, which would be almost R\$ 6.5 billion;
- Eight federal and 24 state representatives.

The concept and arguments for and against division are not new: they revolve around the management of natural resources (land and ores) and statements on the reduction of poverty in the region. In the first proposal, in December 2011, a plebiscite was held to consult the voting population at the time on the territorial division of Pará. The options were "yes" for the creation of the states of Tapajós and Carajás, and "no" for the creation of new states. At the time, more than 66% of voters in Pará decided to keep the state with its original territory.²⁸¹

In May 2022, a fake news item circulated on social media saying that the National Congress had approved the plebiscite for the creation of the Tapajós state. The false claim was refuted by the [House of Representatives](#).

²⁸⁰ <https://g1.globo.com/pa/santarem-regiao/noticia/2021/11/18/estado-de-tapajos-entenda-o-processo-de-criacao-e-o-plebiscito.ghtml>

²⁸¹ <http://g1.globo.com/politica/noticia/2011/12/em-plebiscito-eleitores-do-para-rejeitam-divisao-do-estado.html>



DISINFORMATION: **The plot against the volunteer firefighters of Alter do Chão (PA)**

The case where volunteer firefighters were wrongfully arrested in the Alter do Chão region involved police, the criminal justice system and even Hollywood celebrities, marking a new level in conspiracy theories that put at risk the safety of forest defenders throughout the Amazon region.

The case: On November 26, 2019, four firefighters from the volunteer brigade of Alter do Chão (PA) were preemptively arrested in a Civil Police operation called Fogo do Sairé, which investigated the origin of fires that hit the region in September that year. The fire consumed the equivalent of 1,600 soccer fields and took four days to be controlled. The volunteers were accused of burning the area to obtain financial benefits through donations. According to the Civil Police, the evidence that led to the arrest of the four suspects came from wiretapping carried out with judicial authorization. At the headquarters of NGO Projeto Saúde e Alegria, where one of the arrested volunteers worked, police seized materials such as computer equipment and documents.

The next day, the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Santarém (PA) reported that it was investigating the causes of fires in the Alter do Chão region since September and "that there were no elements that pointed to the participation of volunteers from civil society organizations." On the 28th, the pretrial detention of volunteers Daniel Gutierrez Govino, João Victor Pereira Romano, Gustavo de Almeida Fernandes and Marcelo Aron Cwerner was suspended; they complied with precautionary measures for the duration of the investigation.

The boldness: During a live transmission on the day of the volunteers' arrests, president Jair Bolsonaro blamed environmental NGOs for involvement in the flames without giving any evidence. "Obviously the world doesn't see what I'm talking about here, but do not give money to NGOs. NGOs are not there [in the Amazon] to preserve the environment, but to defend their interests," Bolsonaro said. The next day, talking to followers outside presidential residence Alvorada Palace, the president accused American actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio and the NGO WWF of financing criminal fires in Brazil.

At the end of August 2020, a Federal Police investigation that lasted four months concluded the inquiry on the September 2019 fires in Alter do Chão without charging or pointing to any culprits. According to the police, the inquiries had not led to a "significantly clear definition of authorship" and they presented no "element that proves the actions of some of those who were being investigated", definitively ruling out the participation of the four members of the Alter do Chão fire response team in any criminal fire action in the Amazon²⁸².

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“The most shocking fake news was the president himself saying that the Amazon does not burn.”

Marlon Rebello, journalist at Tapajós de Fato portal, Santarém (PA)

²⁸² <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/sdf-relatorio-pt-final-30em3.pdf>





”

“We can see that the ‘cattle herd’ is passing when the mayor of the city turns a blind eye to the president, both deceiving people with false politics.”

Marlon Rebello, journalist at Tapajós de Fato, Santarém (PA)

TIMELINE

In [Smoke Signal's](#) monitoring of the main socio-environmental events since the election of Jair Bolsonaro, we highlight two episodes in the state of Pará that reveal the nature and consolidate federal government policies executed with the support of members of Congress and local authorities.



AUGUST 2019: IBAMA agents are met with gunfire during an operation against gold miners in southern Pará²⁸³

During an inspection operation near the Ituna/Itatá Indigenous Land in Altamira (PA), prospectors fired at an IBAMA (Brazil's environmental agency) team. Members of the Federal Police and the National Public Security Force that were part of the operation fought back, and no one was injured. The attackers managed to hide in the forest and were not arrested. Hugo Loss, then the IBAMA coordinator responsible for the operation, said that despite the attack, agents were able to destroy two backhoes and three engines used in the mine. According to Loss, a significant increase in land grabbing in the region drove the increase in deforestation in the Ituna/Itatá Indigenous Land, located in the Belo Monte hydroelectric power plant's area of influence. Due to this and other operations to combat environmental crime in the Amazon, then Environment Minister Ricardo Salles²⁸⁴ dismissed environmental agent Hugo Loss from IBAMA in April 2020.



APRIL 2022: Owners of mining company donated more than R\$ 400,000 for candidates in the Tapajós region in 2020²⁸⁵

An investigation by the [Mining Observatory](#) revealed that mining entrepreneurs donated more than R\$ 400,000 to city councillor and mayor candidacies in the Tapajós region, southwest of Pará, in the 2020 elections. Five mining company owners are among the top donors: Valdinei Mauro de Souza, from Salinas Gold do Pará (R\$ 200,000), Dirceu Santos Frederico Sobrinho, from F.D'gold (R\$ 90,000), Marcio Macedo sobrinho, from Gana Gold (R\$ 67,000), Ubiraci Soares Silva, from USS Precious Metals (R\$ 27,000), and Valmir Climaco de Aguiar, owner of unregistered mines (R\$ 25,000). According to the investigation, the donations were directed to candidates vying for positions in Itaituba, Jacareacanga and Novo Progresso, cities that are at the center of illegal mining territory. In addition to being on the list of donors, Valmir Climaco de Aguiar, re-elected mayor of Itaituba, also received the largest donation from Valdinei Mauro de Souza, the “Nei Garimpeiro”. In February 2022, the cities were targeted by PF operation Caribe Amazônico, under protests from mayor Climaco, who even called for federal government intervention.

”

“The ‘cattle herd strategy’ ended up making it easier for the arrival of companies in the region, as well as the highjacking of local agencies in the state of Pará such as INCRA, SPU (Superintendência do Patrimônio da União - the organ responsible for the government’s property) and consequently, the paralyzation of rural settlement projects in the state, leaving the territories of traditional peoples and communities vulnerable to “suspicious transactions” between the government and big companies.”

Jucirlei Barbosa Rodrigues, member of the Association of Residents of the Islands of Abaetetuba (AMIA) and social worker - Rural Zone, Abaetetuba/PA.

²⁸³ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2019/08/29/agentes-do-ibama-sao-recebidos-a-tiros-durante-operacao-contr-garimpeiros-no-sul-do-para/>

²⁸⁴ <https://noticias.uol.com.br/colunas/rubens-valente/2020/04/30/ibama-exoneracoes-amazonia.htm>

²⁸⁵ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/04/25/donos-de-mineradoras-doaram-mais-de-r-400-mil-para-eleicoes-na-regiao-do-tapajoes-em-2020/>

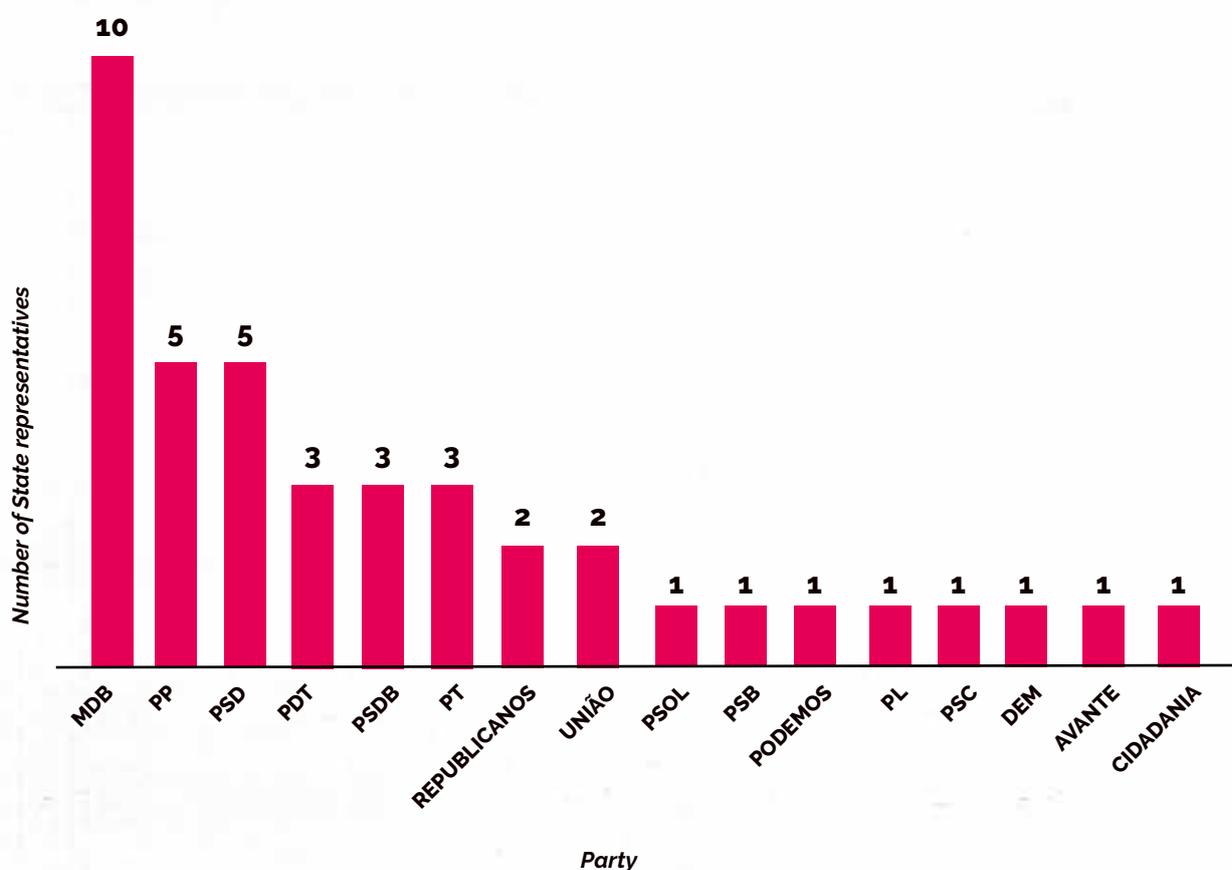


STATE GOVERNMENT

In 2018, Helder Barbalho (MDB) was elected governor of the state of Pará in the second round with 55% of valid votes. Born in Belém, Barbalho graduated in business administration and began his political career as a councilman in Ananindeua (2000), then was elected state deputy (2002) and mayor of Ananindeua (2004 and 2008). He was also Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture at the National Department of Ports and National Integration²⁸⁶.

Even with the high rates of greenhouse gas emissions derived from illegal deforestation and land use for agriculture and mining, and with the worsening of the socio-environmental crisis in the state from 2018, the government of Pará went to the Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow at the end of 2021 to show its “productive environmentalism”. Governor Barbalho presented the Amazon Now Plan, created in 2020 with the aim of bringing Pará to climate neutrality in land and forest use by 2036, and the Eastern Amazon Fund, created in 2019 to finance environmental preservation projects in the state²⁸⁷.

Pará's State Congress has 41 representatives, distributed as seen on the table below:²⁸⁸



²⁸⁶ <https://consorcioamazonialelegal.portal.ap.gov.br/conteudo/governadores/governador-do-para>

²⁸⁷ <https://www.cnnbrasil.com.br/internacional/governadores-assuem-compromissos-ambientais-e-representam-seus-estados-na-cop26/>

²⁸⁸ <https://www.alepa.pa.gov.br/deputados.asp>



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“It is essential that the natural resources of the Amazon are preserved, that traditional peoples and communities are respected in every way, that the country encourages sustainable practices. That the companies which try to establish themselves in the region go through a rigorous process of environmental licensing, that respects the life of those who live in the Amazon and that they do not leave any type of environmental degradation.”

Jucirlei Barbosa Rodrigues, Jucirlei Barbosa Rodrigues, member of the Abaetetuba Islands Residents Association (AMIA) and social-worker - Rural Area, Abaetetuba/PA.

**THE PARÁ CAUCUS AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:
Representatives followed the pro-Bolsonaro agenda
in 54% of the votes (41.24% with abstentions); 47.5%
are on the Ruralist Caucus**

Pará's legislative caucus in the National Congress has 17 federal representatives and three senators²⁸⁹. Despite its ambiguous and heterogeneous composition, most of the representatives voted with Bolsonaro's administration in key projects in the Destruction Package and were in favor of the 2022 Budget Law which allocates record funds for the rapporteur's amendments (the "secret budget").

When votes for the Destruction Package are analyzed, one thing that stands out is the high number of absences and disapproval votes among representatives from Pará in the floor session that approved the Land Grabbing Bill

²⁸⁹ <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/parlamentares/em-exercicio>



How Federal representatives from Pará voted on the Bolsonaro Destruction Package and the 2022 Annual Budget

Names highlighted in pink are members of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) - the Ruralist Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ²⁹⁰ 291 House Floor	LICENSING ²⁹² (Bill no. 3729/2004) House Floor	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ²⁹³ (Bill no. 191/2020) House Floor - Urgency	DEMARCATON OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (Bill no. 490/2007) ²⁹⁴ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021 (2022 Annual Budget Law) ²⁹⁵ Floor
01	Airton Faleiro (PT)	Against	Against	Against	x	In favor
02	Beto Faro (PT)	Against	Against	x	x	In favor
03	Cássio Andrade (PSB)	x	In favor	Against	x	In favor
04	Celso Sabino (UNIÃO)	x	x	In favor	x	In favor
05	Cristiano Vale (PP)	Against	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
06	Del. Éder Mauro (PL)	x	x	In favor	<i>Substitute - did not vote</i>	In favor
07	Eduardo Costa (PSD)	Against	Against	Against	x	In favor
08	Elcione Barbalho (MDB)	x	In favor	Against	x	x
09	Hélio Leite (UNIÃO)	x	In favor	x	x	In favor
10	Joaquim Passarinho (PL)	Against	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
11	José Priante (MDB)	x	x	In favor	x	In favor
12	Júnior Ferrari (PSDB)	Against	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
13	Nilson Pinto (PSDB)	In favor	x	In favor	x	In favor
14	Olival Marques (MDB)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
15	Paulo Bengston (PTB)²⁹⁶	In favor	x	Against	x	Abstention
16	Vavá Martins (REPUBLICANOS)	In favor	x	In favor	x	In favor
17	Vivi Reis (PSOL)	Against	Against	Against	x	Against

Source: Organized by the guide based on web pages of the House of representatives and the [Agriculture and Livestock Farming Parliamentary Front](#)

290 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?ideVotacao=9924>

291 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

292 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

293 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

294 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

295 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>

296 FPA Vice President in the North Region



PARÁ IN THE SENATE

Pará has three representatives in the Federal Senate: senator Jader Barbalho (MDB), senator Paulo Rocha (PT) and senator [Zequinha Marinho](#) (PL)²⁹⁷. Jader Barbalho and Paulo Rocha are part of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front. The three senators voted in favor of approving PL19/LOA 2022²⁹⁸.

”

“Thinking about the future, I hope that the Amazon will be seen as a source of life for the planet and not as a commodity to sustain capitalism.”

Marlon Rebello, journalist at Tapajós de Fato portal, Santarém (PA)

297 <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/parlamentares/em-exercicio>

298 <https://interativos.g1.globo.com/politica/2019/como-votam/senado/brasil/projetos/orcamento-da-uniao-para-2022>



9. RONDÔNIA



AREA: 237,765.37 km²



1,796,460 inhabitants (2020)



52 municipalities



Capital: Porto Velho, where more than 548 thousand people live



**HDI*: 0.690
15th in the Brazilian ranking (2010)**



GDP: R\$44.9 billion (2018)



42.41% of the area is demarcated as Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands



49.58 % of the territory is covered by forests (2020)



More than 39.42% of the state had been affected by deforestation by 2020



About 21,175 hot spots were detected in the state in 2020 and 2021



118.87 megatons of CO₂e were emitted in 2019, most from deforestation and changes in land use

*Human Development Index
**Infographic created with data from [IBGE](#), [INPE](#), and "[Fatos da Amazônia Legal](#)" ([Legal Amazon Facts](#))



”

“There were setbacks in environmental legislation, weakening of control bodies, incentive to land grabbing with the discourse of non-demarcation and review of Indigenous Lands, persecution of activists and indigenous people, impunity for environmental crimes and removal of civil servants, as well as lack of transparency and reduction of the budget for environmental actions. Apart from the review of 334 Conservation Units, a proposal made at the time of former minister Salles.”

Ivaneide Bandeira Cardozo, project coordinator, Associação de Defesa Etnoambiental Kanindé²⁹⁹ (Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association), Porto Velho (RO)

”

“The government's reckless position in regards to the socio-environmental issue is reflected in the increase in fires and deforestation, as well as in the high number of conflicts in rural areas, which resulted in the deaths of peasants and Indigenous people who fought against the advance of this economy of destruction and expropriation linked to agribusiness.”

Professor Amanda Michalski, SEDUC-RO (Rondônia Education Department), Master student at PPGG-UNIR (Post-graduation Geography Program at Rondônia Federal University) and advisor to the Pastoral Land Commission (Comissão Pastoral da Terra)³⁰⁰, Porto Velho (RO).

LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION

The [Laws and Practices of Land Regularization in the State of Rondônia](#) study, published by Imazon in 2021, estimates that 73% (around 17.4 million hectares) of the state's territory already has been designated, without considering overlaps. Conservation Units occupy 21.5% of the state, and Indigenous Lands, 21%. Then, Settlement Projects take 17.5% of the state (4.1 million hectares) and private properties account for 13%. 63,000 hectares of Public Forests were also identified, according to the Brazilian Forest Service (SFB), and 4,900 hectares of Quilombola territories. Another 8.5% would be mapped by Incra, Brazil's land reform agency, to receive deeds and 25,000 hectares are areas of interest for the creation of federal Conservation Units, according to data from ICMBio (2016). There is also an area of 215,000 hectares that could become Indigenous Land, according to data from the Technical Chamber for the Destination and Regularization of Federal Public Lands in the Legal Amazon (2017).

”

“The legalization of land grabbing stimulates intense speculation of rural land, which leads to the expropriation of family farmers and favors the expansion of agribusiness linked to an archaic model of land use, especially in relation to Amazonian soil.”

Professor Amanda Michalski, Seduc-RO, master's student of PPGG-UNIR and advisor to the Pastoral Land Commission, Porto Velho (RO)

299 <http://www.kaninde.org.br/>

300 <https://www.cptnacional.org.br/>



According to Imazon, 27% of the territory of Rondônia, the equivalent of 6 million hectares, is either non-designated or there is no information about its designation. Due to the predominance of federal areas, rural land regularization in Rondônia is a responsibility of the federal government.

The study noted that 42% of this area (or 11% of the state) was already recorded in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). "However, due to the lack of public information about the land situation of these properties (whether possession or ownership), we do not consider them to be in the category of private properties (when a title exists), because it is possible that many are occupations on public land without a deed", explain the authors. There is no data available about 6.5% of the state. Most of the non-designated area in Rondônia (90%) belongs to the federal government. Part of this territory, equivalent to 14.5% of the state, had been destined for regularization of possessions by the Technical Chamber for the Destination and Regularization of Federal Public Lands in the Legal Amazon; another 9% of the state was missing.

About 2.9 million hectares of the designated public areas have priority for conservation; most are classified as of extremely high biological importance by the Environment Ministry³⁰¹.

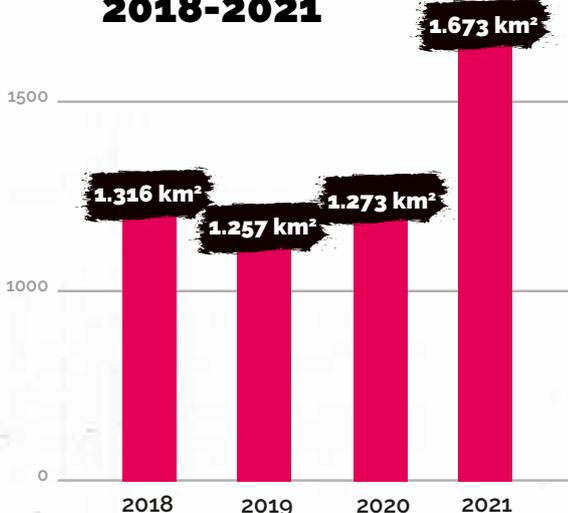
Land management under dispute in Rondônia

Imazon: "At the beginning of 2019, there was a dispute between the Legislative and Executive branches about the creation of a state land institute in Rondônia, to act in the areas that would be transferred from the Federal Government to the state. First, the State Assembly approved a bill authorizing the creation of a state land institute in December 2018. Subsequently, the governor vetoed the law. However, the State Assembly overturned the veto. We did not find information on the creation of this institute until 2020. The first land law in Rondônia was approved in 2020 (State Law No. 4.892/2020). Until then, the State's action for land regularization in federal areas occurred through an agreement with the federal government, following federal rules (Federal Law No. 11.952/2009 and regulations). Regarding the state land law, we recommend amendments providing for: a public consultation process to determine the destination of state public land, avoiding the privatization of areas with other demands whose regularization is priority by law; increase in the amount charged on the sale of public land; prohibition to regularize areas illegally deforested after the passage of the law." [excerpts edited from Imazon, 2021]³⁰²



Deforestation in Rondônia

2018-2021



The state of Rondônia lost more than 4,000 km² of Amazon rainforest from August 2018 to July 2021 [\[lpam\]](#)

Source: [INPE](#) – PRODES (Brazil Space Research Institute/Amazon Deforestation Satellite Monitoring Project)

301 https://imazon.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LeisRegularizacaoFundiar_Rondonia.pdf

302 https://imazon.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LeisRegularizacaoFundiar_Rondonia.pdf



The strong increase in deforestation rates in Rondônia became explicit between 2019 and 2020, when a growth of 29% was recorded in the first half of 2020, compared to the same period of the previous year. A study by the Laboratory of Geography and Cartography (LABCART) of the Federal University of Rondônia (UNIR), based on data from Deter/Inpe, indicated that “the population increase due to migratory movements enabled the expansion of the agricultural frontier and, consequently, became responsible for replacing the forest by agriculture, logging, road construction and pastures”³⁰³.

Thus, Rondônia became the second state in the Legal Amazon that most suffered from deforestation in protected areas and indigenous lands in recent years, according to information from a [survey](#) made by the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (Ipam), published in February 2022. The most affected areas are close to Porto Velho, São Francisco do Guaporé and Costa Marques, with emphasis on the Karipuna Indigenous Land and the Jaci-Paraná Extractive Reserve. Altogether, Rondônia concentrates 12% of the deforestation that occurred in the protected areas of the Amazon biome between 2020 and 2021. According to Ipam, the most deforested stretches are in the region known as AMACRO, on the border between Rondônia, Acre and Amazonas, mainly in non-allocated public forests and protected areas³⁰⁴.

”

“To waive the georeferencing process was undoubtedly one of the biggest errors of this government. Known as self-declaratory CAR, [the new process] contributes to the overlap of rural properties in protected areas in what we call ‘online land grabbing’, as has been happening in the extractive reserve Rio Cautário (Rondônia). Another factor is related to the possession of weapons in rural property, an expressive declaration that the struggle for land is to be criminalized, in which social movements are seen as terrorists, their struggles not resolved, while the social purpose of land continues to be neglected.”

Professor Amanda Michalski, Seduc-RO, mestranda of the PPGG-UNIR and advisor of the Commission Pastoral of the Land, Porto Velho (RO).

303 <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2020/09/08/desmatamento-em-rondonia-tem-aumento-de-29percent-no-primeiro-semester-de-2020-indica-unir.html>

304 <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/natureza/amazonia/noticia/2022/02/08/rondonia-e-o-20-estado-da-amazonia-legal-que-mais-perdeu-areas-protegidas-nos-ultimos-anos-diz-ipam.html>



Land grabbers sell protected lands of Rondônia on Facebook

In February 2021, a BBC [investigation](#) found dozens of Facebook ads in which land grabbers trade pieces of forest or newly deforested areas for millions of reais. According to the report, "groups of land grabbers organize themselves in associations registered as official companies, hire lawyers, maintain ties with politicians and pressure government agencies to grant them the invaded areas. As they do not have official land ownership, many invaders use an official register, the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR), to claim the grabbed areas and put it up for sale, trying to give a legal aspect to the transactions".

The use of Facebook for the sale of forest areas, with unrestricted reach of ads on the platform, the report pointed out, threatened to aggravate deforestation in the Amazon. The BBC identified illegally deforested stretches in 2020 for sale on the social network. The ads were in a section of Facebook's Marketplace called "Residential Real Estate Sale", open to all users.

According to the news story, "several sellers praised Bolsonaro in the recordings and expressed their hopes of regularizing the invaded areas during his tenure". One of the ads found on Facebook offered a plot measuring 21 "alqueires" (the equivalent of 57 soccer fields) "all in the woods, with all the wood still to be removed" in the municipality of Buritis (RO), for R\$ 126,000. Based on geographical coordinates quoted in the ad, it was found that the area is within the Uru Eu Wau Wau Indigenous Land (read more about the Indigenous Land below). In a meeting recorded with a hidden camera, the alleged owner of the plot for sale, Alvim Souza Alves, admitted that the area is inside the indigenous land, but said he was part of a group that seeks to regularize the occupation with authorities in Brasilia. The investigation gave rise to the documentary [Amazon for sale: the illegal market of protected areas on Facebook](#)

”

“Facebook publishes a lot of fake news.”

*Ivaneide Bandeira Cardozo, project coordinator, Kanindé
Ethno-environmental Defense Association, Porto Velho/RO*

CATTLE

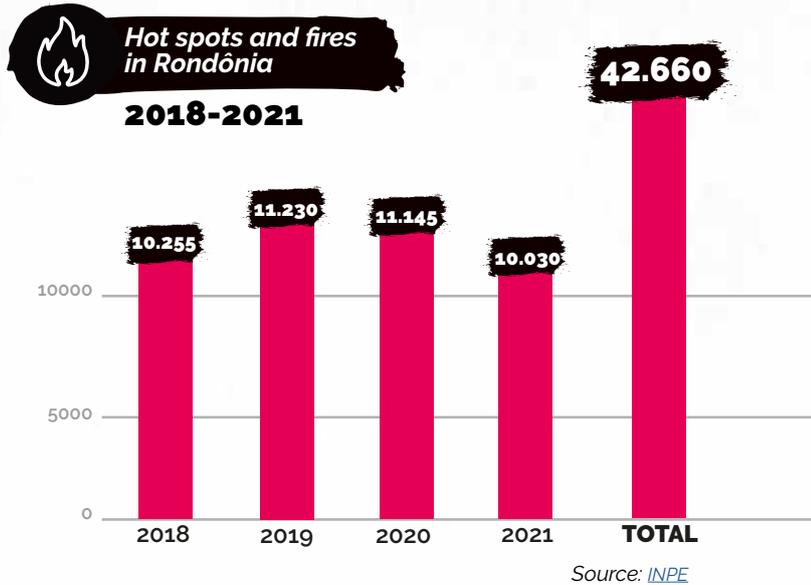
With more than 15.1 million head of cattle in its pastures, Rondônia has the third largest herd among the states of the Legal Amazon, exporting practically all of its production. The state makes about US\$ 1.3 billion with the export of 304 million tons of meat per year, according to data from the Agrodados Center of the State Department of Agriculture (Seagri)³⁰⁵.

TIMBER

In Rondônia, the amount of timber produced in the state reached 2.3 million m³ in 2012 and from then on the volume decreased to 1.3 million m³ in 2019³⁰⁶. The state ranks third among the largest producers of native wood in the Legal Amazon, with the third largest area occupied by the activity - 69,000 hectares, or 15% of the total in the region. An analysis of the [SIMEX](#) network informs that data on the authorizations of timber exploration in Rondônia are open but outdated and incomplete. Also, the state does not disclose information about the Document of Forest Origin, which is essential to determine the regular source of tree cutting.

³⁰⁵ <http://www.idaron.ro.gov.br/index.php/2021/07/28/rondonia-e-lider-em-producao-de-gado-dentro-das-areas-livre-de-aftosa-sem-vacinacao/>

³⁰⁶ <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>



More than 4,300 fire outbreaks were recorded in Rondônia in August 2021 (INPE). It was the second highest rate for the period in the last decade, only below August 2019 when more than 5,500 hot spots were documented. The number also was above the 4.198 average of forest fires registered in the past 23 years. Compared to August 2020, growth was 39.9%³⁰⁷.

”

“I expect candidates to submit proposals that guarantee the demarcation of Indigenous Lands and that cancel all Rural Environmental Registrations with an impact on Indigenous Lands and Conservation Units, in addition to strengthening FUNAI and environmental inspection agencies, among other measures to reduce deforestation and protect activists.”

*Ivaneide Bandeira Cardozo, project coordinator, Kanindé
Ethno-Environmental Defense Association, Porto Velho/RO*

307 <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2021/09/01/rondonia-encerra-agosto-entre-os-quatro-estados-com-mais-focos-de-queimadas-em-todo-o-pais.ghtml>



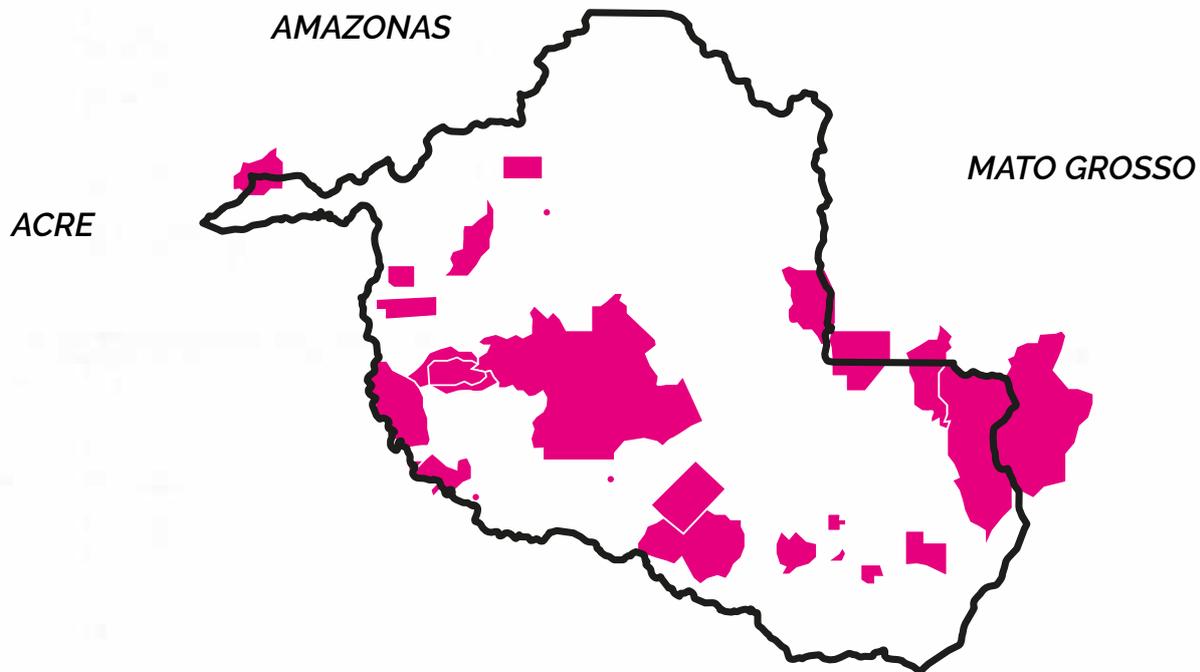
INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY

In Rondônia, there are 26 Indigenous Lands in different stages of demarcation and approval, covering more than 5 million hectares, corresponding to 21% of the total area of the state³⁰⁸. Indigenous Lands are inhabited by about 30 peoples, including uncontacted and recently contacted groups³⁰⁹. As in other states of the region, the Indigenous Lands of Rondônia have been the target of land grabbing via overlapping records in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR).

According to a [survey](#) conducted by the De Olho nos Ruralistas monitor in 2020, Rondônia is the state with the highest number of rural properties overlapping with Indigenous Lands in the CAR: 1,376 in total.

Rondônia

Indigenous Territories*



*We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](#).

308 <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/brasil>

309 https://pib.socioambiental.org/pt/Onde_est%C3%A3o%3F



Trail of deaths, threats and violence in the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau TI

The Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous Land is the largest demarcated and homologated area in Rondônia, with an additional 1.8 million hectares spread over 12 municipalities in the state. It is inhabited at least 200 indigenous people from the Amondawa, Bananeira Uncontacted, Cautário Uncontacted, Igarapé Oriente Uncontacted, Tiradentes Igarapé Uncontacted, Juma, Kawahiva Uncontacted from the Muqui River, Oro Win and Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau³¹⁰. Under pressure from loggers and land grabbers, the last few years have been a period of violence and resistance for the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous Land's inhabitants.

Ari - On April 18, 2020, 33-year-old Ari Uru-eu-wau-wau was found dead on Highway 625 of Tarilândia, Jaru district. At the crime scene, there were no signs of struggle; Ari was found with a blunt force injury to the neck region and died of acute hemorrhage. According to the Ethno-environmental Defense Association (Kanindé), Ari worked in the surveillance group of the indigenous people Uru-eu-wau-wau, which records and denounces illegal exploitation of wood within the Indigenous territory³¹¹. In December 2019, two Uru-eu-wau-wau indigenous people, who also participated in the Indigenous Land surveillance actions, had already escaped an attack.

According to Awapu and his wife, Juwi Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau, men sought out the couple in the village, but the two were out at an exercise for the use of drones to control invasions within the Indigenous Land. The threats were reported at the time to the Federal Police in Porto Velho³¹². Ari was Awapu's cousin.

Rieli - A few months after Ari's murder, in September 2020, 56-year-old indigenist Rieli Franciscato died from an arrow wound in the chest while monitoring a group of uncontacted indigenous people³¹³. Rieli was one of the main active Indigenous experts in the country, with more than 30 years of service at FUNAI, Brazil's indigenous agency. He worked to avoid conflicts between non-Indigenous people and a group known as Cautário Uncontacted, which started to appear in the region of Seringueiras (RO) in June; he also took preventive action to avoid exposing uncontacted people to the coronavirus pandemic. That day, Rieli went to the area with two military police officers and an Indigenous colleague. The team found and followed footprints that led to the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous Land; inside the indigenous territory, Rieli was hit in the chest by an arrow and was taken to hospital but did not resist the injury. Rieli's death shocked sertanistas³¹⁴, indigenous experts and Funai employees, and exposed the situation of precariousness and vulnerability of uncontacted peoples.

Ethnocide - Ivaneide Bandeira, coordinator at the Kanindé Ethno-environmental Defense Association, which she co founded with Rieli in 1992 to protect the Indigenous peoples of Rondônia, drew attention to the risk of silent ethnocide of uncontacted peoples amid the fires. "With the dismantling of the Madeira River teams and the entire FUNAI structure, we don't even know if they're alive," he said. Two weeks later, on September 22, the Public Prosecutor's Office of Rondônia recommended that Funai and the Special Department for Indigenous Health (SESAI) set up sanitary and safety barriers on the access routes to the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous Land to protect the uncontacted peoples of the Cautário³¹⁵ River region.

Omission - The [annual report](#) of the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI) published in October 2021 recalled Ari's murder: "For years the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous Land has been suffering invasions, deforestation, land grabbing and forest fires. As a result of the omission of the State in protecting the Indigenous Lands, leaving all the weight of land defense on the people themselves, another leadership was cruelly killed. The young professor and environmental agent Ari Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau, of only 33 years of age, was found dead with signs of aggression".

Prison - "For us, it is shocking that it has been two years since the murder of Ari Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau and there is still no response from public agencies", said Ivaneide Bandeira in a statement to Smoke Signal a few weeks before the police arrested a murder suspect on July 13 2022. At the time of the arrest, a [note](#) was published with the following excerpts:

"The Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous People's Association – Jupaú and the Ethno-Environmental Defense Association – Kanindé await new details about the temporary arrest carried out by the Federal Police of the main suspect of having murdered our relative Ari Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau two years ago. Details such as the identity of the man and the motive are of fundamental importance for the family and other Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people. The crime occurred amid the lack of inspection and invasions by land grabbers, miners and loggers. We also hope that the Operação Guardião Uru (Operation Guardian Uru), named after Ari, will help solve other crimes committed in the region. We will continue to follow the case until there is effective punishment with the rigor of law of those involved in the death of our relative and until the thousands of invaders have left the Uru-eu-wau-wau Indigenous Land (...) We know that the current government enforces a policy of death, genocide, threatening the lives of Indigenous peoples. The difficulties faced by the people and the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous Land have been widely denounced by the community to the competent bodies, but no action has been taken."

310 <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/terras-indigenas/3891#demografia>

311 <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2020/04/18/indigena-uru-eu-wau-wau-e-encontrado-morto-em-distrito-de-jaru-ro.ghtml>

312 <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/natureza/amazonia/noticia/2019/12/13/liderancas-indigenas-escapam-de-ataque-em-aldeia-de-ro-querem-tirar-a-gente-do-caminho.ghtml>

313 https://noticias.uol.com.br/colunas/rubens-valente/2020/09/09/ingigenista-indios-isolados-funai.htm?fbclid=IwAR1a_M4EQFfpYXKro1yoS-vVr1u4BOISSKBrWFZoPmc91nX5mLa2OP2MpNE&cmpid=copiaecola

314 A person who is knowledgeable about the territory and culture of the "sertão", a term that can be used more specifically to refer to rugged regions of northeastern Brazil or, in a more general way, to the country's hinterlands

315 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/09/09/indigenista-da-funai-morre-com-flechada-de-povo-isolado-que-ajudava-a-proteger/>



Illegal logging and reduction of protected areas put Karipuna Indigenous Land at high risk

With 153,000 hectares, the Karipuna Indigenous Land is home to the Karipuna people of Rondônia³¹⁶. Although demarcated and homologated, the Indigenous Land suffers from several pressure fronts. It is surrounded by cattle pastures and soybean crops and is a constant target of wood theft, according to [Amazônia Real's](#) verification. "The Karipuna were almost exterminated by contact with white people, in the first decades of the last century, during the occupation process of what is now Rondônia. Now they have managed to reorganize themselves. Out of the 8 surviving Karipunas at the time of contact, today there are just over 60," says the report. The Karipuna Indigenous Land is bordered to the east by the Jaci-Paraná Extractive Reserve (RESEX), and they are separated by the Jaci-Paraná River. To the south, it shares the border with Guajará-Mirim State Park. The two Conservation Units would serve, in theory, as a buffer zone for land grabbing pressures, but they have suffered an attempt to be reduced by the state government, increasing the risks on the Karipuna (*read more below*).

Also in early 2018, a FUNAI base was set on fire inside the Indigenous Land. Suspecting loggers, the Indigenous people denounced what happened to the Federal Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office³¹⁷. In June of the same year, an injunction by the Federal Justice, at the request of the Public Prosecutor's Office, determined the preparation of a security plan for the area; subsequently, three inspection operations were carried out, which included arrests and the burning of equipment. The invasions, however, continued³¹⁸. In the past three years, the Karipuna Indigenous Land has become one of the most deforested protected areas in the Legal Amazon, according to Ipam.

VIOLENCE: Disputes skyrocket under Bolsonaro

Rondônia's territory recorded 678 events of agrarian conflicts between 2010 and 2019³¹⁹, the third among the states of the Legal Amazon.

Conflicts and deaths in Rural Areas - Rondônia - 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	65	82	133	67
Personal violence**	172	40	64	126

*Relating to the total number of land conflicts and actions of occupations/repossessions; **Relating to the total number of murders, attempted murders, death as a consequence, death threats, torture, imprisonment and assault

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021" - CPT

77

"Strong retaliation against social movements and organizations struggling for land has also intensified. Rondônia was the scene of a new massacre in 2021 and the deaths in rural areas continue to occur, as well as the arrest of people who fight alongside the small guys, as is the case of popular lawyer Lenir Correia Coelho. This is the scenario of the last three years: reduction of conservation units, encouragement for land grabbing and strong criminalization of the struggle for land."

Professor Amanda Michalski, Seduc-RO, master's student of the PPGG-UNIR and advisor of the Pastoral Land Commission, Porto Velho (RO).

³¹⁶ <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/terras-indigenas/3723>

³¹⁷ <https://amazoniareal.com.br/madeireiros-sao-suspeitos-de-incendio-a-posto-da-funai-na-terra-dos-karipuna-em-rondonia/>

³¹⁸ <https://amazoniareal.com.br/ameacas-aos-karipuna-nao-cessam-mesmo-com-liminar-que-deveria-protge-los/>

³¹⁹ <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2021/06/06/rondonia-e-o-terceiro-estado-da-amazonia-legal-com-mais-conflitos-no-campo-aponta-estudo.ghtml>



According to the [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), Rondônia counted **1,700 intentional violent deaths³²⁰ between 2018 and 2021.**

Slaughter in rural areas... On the 13th of October 2021³²¹, five people were murdered by gunshots in a farm about 70 km of Vilhena, in the south of the state, a region known for land conflicts. A woman and some of the children survived and walked for 15 km in the countryside until they were able to call the police. According to investigations, the family was having dinner when the house was attacked. The owner of the farm was taken to a separate room, where he was tortured. The farmer's wife and the three employees were executed with shots in the back of the head. After executing the five victims, the criminals fled with the farmers' truck and other family objects. It was the second massacre in the same place in little more than five years. In 2015, five people were also killed on the farm³²³.

... and in urban areas. In São Miguel do Guaporé, in January 2022, four victims were murdered in a single hour, in the so-called Seringueiras street slaughter. On January 6, three men and a woman were beaten to death and stabbed after their house was invaded³²⁴. In the state capital Porto Velho, a sequence of crimes that began on May 29 caused six deaths in less than 24 hours. In most cases, witnesses reported that two men on a motorcycle came shooting.

”

“According to data from G1's Monitor of Violence³²⁵, Rondônia was the state that registered the biggest increase in murders in the first trimester of this year: 48%.”

Ivaneide Bandeira Cardozo, project coordinator, Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association, Porto Velho/RO

POINTS OF ATTENTION

Projects of high socio-environmental impact in the state: Maneuvers to reduce Conservation Units encourage land grabbing

In April 2021³²⁶, the State Assembly of Rondônia voted and approved the [Supplemental Bill \(PLC\) 08](#), which changed the limits of the Jaci-Paraná Extractive Reserve (Resex) and the Guajará-Mirim State Park, reducing the areas of the two Conservation Units by approximately 220,000 hectares. The law provided for the removal of about 170,000 hectares from the Jaci-Paraná Resex area – almost 90% of the total – and another 50 thousand hectares, approximately, from the Guajará-Mirim State Park. In practice, the proposal regularized the territory's invasion by land grabbers without any financial compensation and paved the way for the legalization of

thousands of deforested hectares for cattle raising. For 20 years, the Resex and the Park have been the targets of invasions for illegal logging and cattle raising.

Authored by governor Colonel Marcos Rocha (PSL/RO), Bill no. 80's rapporteur was state representative Jean Oliveira (MDB), investigated by the Federal Police for attempted land grabbing in a Conservation Unit. During the process in the Assembly, the project received five amendments of collective authorship by state representatives that were approved by majority; not one of them was debated in public hearings³²⁷.

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“The ‘cattle herd’ has passed and continues to pass. Here we have a pro-Bolsonaro government that promotes the disallocation of Conservation Units and with its discourse encourages the invasion of protected areas. You just have to look at the fact that, along with the State Assembly, they tried to extinguish eleven Conservation Units.”

Ivaneide Bandeira Cardozo, project coordinator, Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association, Porto Velho (RO)

³²⁰ Intentional Violent Deaths include: intentional homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.

³²¹ <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2021/10/14/cinco-pessoas-sao-mortas-a-tiros-em-chacina-em-fazenda-de-vilhena-ro.ghtml>

³²² <https://www.sinpolro.com.br/policia-civil-conclui-1a-fase-da-investigacao-de-chacina-com-cinco-mortos-em-fazenda-de-ro/>

³²³ <http://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2015/10/cinco-homens-sao-assassinados-durante-chacina-em-vilhena-ro.html>

³²⁴ <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2022/01/06/quatro-pessoas-sao-mortas-em-chacina-em-sao-miguel-do-guapore-ro.ghtml>

³²⁵ <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2022/05/19/rondonia-registra-maior-aumento-nos-assassinatos-do-pais-48percent-no-primeiro-trimestre.ghtml>

³²⁶ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/04/22/assembleia-legislativa-de-rondonia-altera-limites-de-duas-unidades-de-conservacao/>

³²⁷ <https://oeco.org.br/noticias/procuradoria-geral-de-rondonia-aponta-ilegalidades-em-projeto-que-reduz-ucs-no-estado/>



According to an investigation by [Amazônia Real](#), Bill no. 80 was unanimously approved by the 17 state representatives, including a representative of the Green Party. "In the same session that approved the disallocation [reduction] of the Jaci-Paraná Resex and the Guajará-Mirim Park, state representatives created [six protected areas](#), whose sizes do not amount to the loss of reduced Conservation Units. It was done grudgingly, as Mr. Jean Oliveira (MDB) admitted: 'No member here is in favor of the creation of a Conservation Unit, but unfortunately it is necessary to compensate, to have the balance'. Oliveira is vice-president of the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee of the State Assembly of Rondônia".

After the approval of Bill 80 in Rondônia's State Assembly, the State Attorney General's Office (PGE) of Rondônia issued a report pointing out the unconstitutionality of the project. According to a report by [O Eco](#), "the PGE's report instructed the governor to veto the reduction of the extractive reserve and the state park, as well as the recognition of possession to those who today illegally occupy lands within the two protected areas." The text of the prosecutor's office listed a number of unconstitutionality, such as not presenting previous technical studies to support the decision to reduce protected areas and harm the principle of prevention of environmental damage.

The Frente Ampla de Defesa das Áreas Protegidas em Rondônia (Broad Front for the Defense of Protected Areas in Rondônia), a social movement composed of 65 organizations, institutions and environmentalists, sent a representation to the State Prosecutor's Office (MPE) of Rondônia listing irregularities in the project and in the processing in Rondônia's State Assembly. Environmentalists warned that the proposal has direct impacts "on the Uru-eu-wau-wau Indigenous Lands, Karipuna, Igarapé Lage, Igarapé Ribeirão, Karitiana and communities in voluntary isolation in the region, which were not consulted at any time on changes in protected areas". Also according to [O Eco](#), the MPE itself sent an administrative recommendation on 26 April to the governor for the proposal to be vetoed.

Even with all the opposition, governor Colonel Marcos Rocha [sanctioned](#) Bill 80 on May 21 2021, accepting all the state representatives' amendments, transforming it into Supplemental State Law 1.089. The decision was celebrated by the president of the Assembly as a "victory for the productive sector". Following that, the State Prosecutor's Office filed a Direct Action of Unconstitutionality³²⁸ and, on November 22 2021, Rondônia's Court of Justice ruled that Law 1089, which changed the limits of the Jaci-Paraná Extractive Reserve and the Guajará-Mirim State Park, was unconstitutional³²⁹. To news portal [G1](#), the government of Rondônia stated, on the occasion, that it respected the Court of Justice's decision.

Amid legislative and juridical comings and goings, violence has increased around the affected protected areas. In May 2021, inspectors from the Department of Environmental Development of Rondônia (Sedam) were doing routine work in the Guajará Mirim Park when they were ambushed by dozens of armed and hooded men. In December, a Sedam driver was shot in conflict with land grabbers in the region. In February 2022, two Sedam inspectors and eight military police officers were shot with a firearm on the road that gives access to the Conservation Unit, the third attack in three months³³⁰.

DISINFORMATION: Hate speech against environmental agents and fake news about Indigenous Lands

In Rondônia, disinformation strategies included the criminalization of land struggle movements and attacks towards environmental inspection agencies.

Indigenous land bought by foreigners - In October 2019, fact-checking initiative [Comprova/Estadão](#) flagged as false a Facebook post that stated that indigenous lands in Rondônia had been sold to an organization in Ireland, and that the negotiation had been voided by Justice. "In reality, a contract for the sale of carbon credit, signed by an Irish company and an indigenous association was suspended in 2012 by a provisional court decision filed by the Attorney General's Office (AGU)", affirmed the fact-checkers about the post. According to verification, the contract was suspended due to abusive and illegal terms, according to the judicial interpretation from ten years ago. Comprova's verification analyzed a text published by pro-Bolsonaro website [Terça Livre](#) which was shared on a Facebook page supporting former minister Sérgio Moro and on the República de Curitiba profile.

328 <https://amazonia.org.br/mp-entra-na-justica-contra-lei-que-mutilou-ucs-em-rondonia/>

329 <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2021/11/22/justica-declara-inconstitucional-lei-que-altera-limites-de-reserva-extrativista-e-parque-estadual-em-rondonia.ghtml>

330 <https://amazoniareal.com.br/atentado-em-rondonia/>



Representative encourages setting fire to environmental inspection vehicles - During a public hearing conducted by Rondônia's State Assembly (ALE-RO) in Jacinópolis, a district of Nova Mamoré, on May 1, 2022, state representative Geraldo de Rondônia (PSC) openly attacked environmental inspection agencies that act in the state. The purpose of the meeting was to debate land regularization in the region. In his speech, the representative said: "Let's do the following. When [inspection] comes around, use my name. Call me, I'll help you burn down their vans. Let's set fire to their trucks, [the environmental inspection agent's] cars. And let's do something else. Let's make a manifesto to prevent them from getting into this region", according to a [video](#) published by the portal G1. The state representative also expressed opposition to burning and destroying machines seized in operations against environmental crimes, supporting the law approved by the state government (*read next*).

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"I believe that the most striking fake news was that state media contributed to propagate the criminalization of the struggle for land. When referring to peasants as invaders, in the case of occupations of the Santa Carmen farm, that belonged to a man known as Galo Velho, renowned for being the largest land grabber in the state. As well as the occupation of the Vilhena farm, which culminated in the death of peasants and the farmer and his wife, the accused was known as Nego Zen, known for organizing contract killings in the area of the Southern Cone of Rondônia."

Professor Amanda Michalski, Seduc-RO, master's student of the PPGG-UNIR and advisor of the Pastoral Land Commission, Porto Velho (RO).

TIMELINE



DECEMBER 2018: ICMBio agents threatened. Attackers demonstrate confidence in Bolsonaro³³¹

Bridges were destroyed to block the action of civil servants from ICMBio, Brazil's biodiversity agency, as well as Military and Civil Police in the Jacundá National Forest. Federal agents also reported receiving death threats. The invaders show confidence that they will be regularized by the Bolsonaro government in 2019, according to ICMBio servants interviewed by Folha de S. Paulo newspaper³³². During a visit to the state during the presidential campaign, Bolsonaro promised to review the Conservation Units of Rondônia.



JULY 2019: Salles visits and supports loggers who set fire to Ibama's truck³³³

Minister of Environment Ricardo Salles visited loggers in Espigão d'Oeste (RO) and gave a speech "to the good people who work in this country"³³⁴. Two weeks before Salles' visit, local loggers who rely on illegal timber extraction from Zoró and Sete de Setembro Indigenous Lands had set alight a tanker truck employed by IBAMA. The truck was burned down two weeks after the Federal Police had arrested nine loggers and seized two trucks with timber in the Sete de Setembro Indigenous Land, neighboring the Zoró Indigenous Land, where the criminal attack took place. The IBAMA team had to be removed from the region. During the operation, loggers destroyed bridges and felled trees over the clandestine roads.

331 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2018/12/14/agentes-do-icmbio-sao-ameacados-agressores-demonstram-confianca-em-bolsonaro/>

332 <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ambiente/2018/12/instituto-chico-mendes-enfrenta-invasoes-e-ataques-em-rondonia.shtml>

333 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2019/07/19/salles-visita-e-apoia-madeireiros-que-atearam-fogo-a-caminhao-do-ibama/>

334 <https://climainfo.org.br/2019/07/19/salles-visita-madeireiros-em-rondonia-apos-ataque-do-ibama-na-regiao>



FEBRUARY 2021: Last elder of the Juma people dies of Covid-19³³⁵

Aruká, recognized as the last man of the Juma people, died on June 17 due to complications of Covid-19. The elder left three daughters, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As his successors married men of the Uru-eu-wau-wau people, the descendants of Aruká carry the blood of the two ethnic groups, but under the patrilineal system, they are not Juma, hence the title of the last representative. "The government was reckless and now we have to keep my grandfather's legacy," said Bitaté Uru-eu-wau-wau, one of his grandchildren. He was one of the seven survivors of the Assuã River massacre in the south of the Amazon, in 1964, when an attack by Tapauá traders, interested in the rowan berry and chestnut of the Juma territory, claimed 60 lives. In a [note](#) about his death, received with dismay by indigenous entities, the Socioenvironmental Institute (ISA) recalled his history of struggle, decisive for the guarantee of his people's rights. Due to their extreme vulnerability and risk of disappearance, the Juma people are considered to be of recent contact and should have been protected from the Covid-19 pandemic by sanitary barriers, according to a Supreme Court ruling. This did not happen, as denounced in a [complaint](#) from the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB).



FEBRUARY 2022: Peasant leader and husband murdered in Rondônia³³⁶

Peasants Ilma Rodrigues dos Santos, 45, and her husband Edson Lima Rodrigues, 43, residents of the Thiago dos Santos Camp, were shot in the head in the region known as the 8th Ribeirão Line, in the District of Abunã, near Porto Velho, in Rondônia, on February 17. Ilma served as treasurer of the League of Poor Peasants (LCP), a movement that emerged in the state after what became known as the Corumbiara Massacre on the Santa Elina farm in 1995. Interviewed by news website Amazônia Real³³⁷, Major Adenilson Silva Chaga, commander of the Environmental Military Police of Porto Velho, said that the double homicide may have been a response to the attack on military inspectors and police, which occurred the day before, in the Guajará-Mirim State Environmental Park. Chaga attributes the shots against the agents to the LCP. However, for the coordinator of the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) of Rondônia, Maria Petronila, it is an attempt to criminalize social movements. In November 2021, 26 people from the LCP were targeted by the Civil Police of Rondônia, including the lawyer representing the movement, Lenir Correia Coelho, leader of the Brazilian Association of People's Lawyers (ABRAPO)³³⁸.

STATE GOVERNMENT: Military Police Officer, and Bolsonaro ally, helps to pass the 'cattle herd'

Colonel Marcos Rocha (PSL/RO) was born in Rio de Janeiro (RJ) in 1968. He holds degrees in data system analysis and business administration and a postgraduate degree in education and teaching techniques. He joined the Brazilian Army in 1986 and in 1990 was approved by Rondônia's Military Police to be a candidate officer; later he became deputy director of education of the Military Police and military director in schools. He has been municipal secretary of Education of Porto Velho and state secretary of Justice³³⁹. In 2018, he was elected governor of the state of Rondônia in the second round with 66.34% valid votes³⁴⁰.

335 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/02/21/ultimo-anciao-do-povo-juma-morre-de-covid-19/>

336 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/02/21/lideranca-camponesa-e-seu-marido-sao-assassinados-em-rondonia/>

337 <https://amazoniareal.com.br/liga-dos-camponeses-pobres>

338 <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2021/11/em-escalada-de-tensao-policia-de-rondonia-faz-operacao-na-casa-de-advogada-que-defende-liga-dos-camponeses-pobres/>

339 <https://rondonia.ro.gov.br/portal/o-governador/>

340 <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/eleicoes/2018/noticia/2018/10/28/coronel-marcos-rocha-do-psl-e-eleito-governador-de-rondonia.ghtml>



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“The governor, an ally of the president, has neglected the environmental issue in every way. The attempt to reduce Conservation Units, to favor and legalize land grabbing, not only in Rondônia but also in the new agricultural frontier with the south of Amazonas and eastern Acre. In my view, Rondônia has literally let the ‘cattle’ pass, with strong criminalization of the struggle for land via the presence of the National Force in the state.”

Professor Amanda Michalski, Seduc-RO, master's student of the PPGG-UNIR and advisor to the Pastoral Land Commission, Porto Velho (RO).

Government and State Congress in favor of environmental criminals

In December 2021, state representatives of Rondônia approved a bill that bans the destruction and impairment of machines, vehicles and other items seized during operations against environmental crimes in Rondônia. The project, authored by the deputy and president of the State Congress of Rondônia, Alex Redano, met requests from miners³⁴¹. The following month, January 2022, governor Colonel Marcos Rocha sanctioned the law³⁴². A few days later, the Public Prosecutor's Office of Rondônia filed a Direct Action of Unconstitutionality (ADI) against the rule³⁴³.

The State Congress of Rondônia has **24** state representatives, distributed as follows:³⁴⁴



³⁴¹ <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2021/12/15/deputados-de-ro-aprovam-projeto-que-proibe-destruicao-e-inutilizacao-de-bens-apreendidos-por-crimes-ambientais.ghtml>

³⁴² <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/noticia/2022/01/15/governo-de-ro-proibe-destruicao-ou-inutilizacao-de-maquinaros-apreendidos-em-operacoes-contra-crimes-ambientais.ghtml>

³⁴³ <https://g1.globo.com/ro/rondonia/natureza/noticia/2022/01/18/mp-ro-pede-inconstitucionalidade-de-lei-que-proibe-destruicao-de-maquinas-usadas-em-crimes-ambientais.ghtml>

³⁴⁴ <https://www.al.ro.leg.br/institucional/parlamentares-2>



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“In relation to general data on the Amazon, it is evident that throughout this government there was a greater invasion of indigenous lands, a greater attack on traditional communities, as well as denial of their existence, as is the case of the quilombola territories, not to mention the strong tendency to misrepresent rubber tappers, in order to suppress the collective struggle.”

Professor Amanda Michalski, Seduc-RO, master's student of the PPGG-UNIR and advisor of the Commission Pastoral of the Land, Porto Velho (RO).

THE RONDÔNIA CAUCUS IN NATIONAL CONGRESS: Representatives follow pro-Bolsonaro agenda in 41% of votes (37.5% with abstentions); 50% are in the Ruralist Caucus

The legislative caucus of Rondônia in the National Congress has eight federal representatives and three senators³⁴⁵. More than a third of the representatives voted in line with the Bolsonaro government in the key projects of the Destruction Package and were in favor of approving the 2022 Budget Law with the allocation of record funds for the rapporteur's amendments ("secret budget"). Rondônia has a more heterogeneous base than the average of the Legal Amazon states' caucuses, with most being against the Land Grabbing Bill and Mining in Indigenous Lands.

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“The worst are Bill 490/7 and 191/20, which allow large developments on Indigenous Lands and affect the demarcation of territories. The Temporal Milestone proposal that is in the Supreme Court is also a flagship, as it endangers both the environment and the lives of Indigenous peoples and, mainly, disrespects the Federal Constitution. A government and a Congress that do not respect its own Constitution promote insecurity throughout the country.”

Ivaneide Bandeira Cardozo, project coordinator, Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association, Porto Velho/RO

345 <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/parlamentares/em-exercicio>





How the Federal Representatives of Rondônia voted on the Bolsonaro Destruction Package and the 2022 Annual Budget

Names highlighted in pink are members of the Agriculture and Cattle Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) - the Ruralist Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ³⁴⁶ House Floor	LICENSING ³⁴⁸ (Bill no. 3729/2004) House Floor	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ³⁴⁹ (Bill no. 191/2020) House Floor - Urgency	DEMARICATION OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (Bill no. 490/2007) ³⁵⁰ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021 (2022 Annual Budget Law) ³⁵¹ House Floor
01	Coronel Chrisóstomo (PL)	x	In favor	In favor	x	x
02	Expedito Netto (PSD)	Against	In favor	Against	Substitute - did not vote	Against
03	Jaqueline Cassol (PP)	Against	In favor	Against	x	In favor
04	Léo Moraes (PODEMOS)	Against	In favor	Against	Substitute - did not vote	Against
05	Mariana Carvalho (REPUBLICANOS) - on leave since June/2022 Acting substitute: Lucas Follador (PSC) ³⁵²	A favor	Against	In favor	x	In favor
06	Lucio Mosquini (MDB)	A favor	x	In favor	x	In favor
07	Mauro Nazif (PSB)	Against	Against	Against	x	Against
08	Silvia Cristina (PL)	Against	Against	Against	x	In favor

Source: Organized by the guide based on the House of Representatives and the [Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front](#) websites

346 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?ideVotacao=9924>

347 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

348 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

349 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

350 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

351 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>

352 <https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/deputado/suplenteEmExercicio.asp>

**RONDÔNIA IN THE SENATE**

Rondônia has three representatives in the Federal Senate: Acir Gurgacz (PDT); Confúcio Moura (MDB) and [Marcos Rogério \(PL\)](#). Confúcio Moura and Marcos Rogério are part of the Parliamentary Front of Agriculture and Cattle Farming. Regarding the vote on Annual Budget Law, Gurgacz voted in favor, Marcos Rogério was absent, and Moura was on leave³⁵³.

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“The priorities for the next governments should be respect for the Federal Constitution and environmental laws, demarcation of Indigenous Lands and Conservation Units; programs aimed at defending the lives of human rights and environmental activists; combating deforestation, climate change and the implementation of Territorial and Environmental Management Plans for Indigenous Lands. Freedom and support for the press to work.”

Ivaneide Bandeira Cardozo, project coordinator, Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association, Porto Velho/RO

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“I certainly expect greater commitment to the socio-environmental issue, encouraging sustainable activities based on valuing environmental services, as well as valuing the way of life of the traditional peoples and communities of Rondônia. The agribusiness expansion needs to be understood as a failed model, which carries a history of denial and prevents other directions that are in agreement with the Amazon.”

Professor Amanda Michalski, Seduc-RO, Master's student of the PPGG-UNIR and advisor of the Commission Pastoral of the Land, Porto Velho (RO).

353 <https://interativos.g1.globo.com/politica/2019/como-votam/senado/brasil/projetos/orcamento-da-uniao-para-2022>



10. RORAIMA



AREA: 224,273.66 km²



631,181 inhabitants (2020)



15 municipalities



Capital: Boa Vista, where more than 428,000 people live, almost 80% of the state's population



**HDI*: 0,707
ranking 13th in Brazil (2010)**



GDP: R\$13.4 billion (2018)



54.41% of the area is demarcated as Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands



67.18% of the territory covered by forests and 27.06% by non-forest native vegetation (2020)



More than 5% of the state had been affected by deforestation by 2020



About 2,919 hot spots were detected in the state in 2020 and 2021



67.07 megatons of CO₂e emitted in 2019, most from deforestation and changes in land use

*Human Development Index
**Infographic created with data from [IBGE](#), [INPE](#), and "[Fatos da Amazônia Legal](#)" ([Legal Amazon Facts](#))



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“The implementation of socio-environmental public policies has worsened a lot with budget cuts for agencies such as FUNAI, IBAMA, ICMBio and with the appointment of military personnel with no administrative ability to coordinate some of these public agencies.”

For private reasons, the person interviewed asked not to be identified; they have been working on socio-environmental issues in Roraima for 30 years.

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“The most relevant fact is the incentive to environmental crime, land invasion, land grabbing, deforestation, mining, illegal fishing. In fact, to all kinds of illegal activities in the Amazon. Investment in associations that promote the value chain, forest products or other forms of adding value to sustainable production, such as agricultural extractivism and agroforestry in Amazon communities, has also declined. There is no money to encourage good policies.”

Ciro Campos³⁵⁴, Instituto Socioambiental (ISA), Roraima

LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION

The [Laws and Practices of Land Regularization in the State of Roraima](#) study, published by Imazon in 2021, estimates that 66% (around 17.1 million hectares) of the state's territory already has agrarian designation, excluding overlapping. A highlight are Indigenous Lands, which occupy 46% (10.3 million hectares) of the state's area. Private properties cover 5%, excluding data from the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). Conservation Units total 8.5%. Areas not designated or with no information on destination represent 34% of the state, spanning 7.5 million hectares. Most are located in border regions and therefore require authorization from the National Defense Council for land regularization. For 56% of the non-designated area, or 19% of the state, there is no information available on regularization processes. About 5% of the

unallocated land was registered on CAR as private property. 10% were mapped out for titling by Incra, Brazil's land reform agency, and an area of 69,000 hectares was deemed of interest for the creation of a Conservation Unit (ICMBio/2016).

Almost half (46%) of non-designated land in Roraima belongs to the federal government; part of this area, which represents 7.5% of the state, has already been registered by the Technical Chamber for Designating and Regularizing Federal Public Lands in the Brazilian Amazon. Of the portion under state management, 10% has already been claimed but not allocated; another 8.5% are possibly state lands that have not yet been reclaimed and registered as state land.

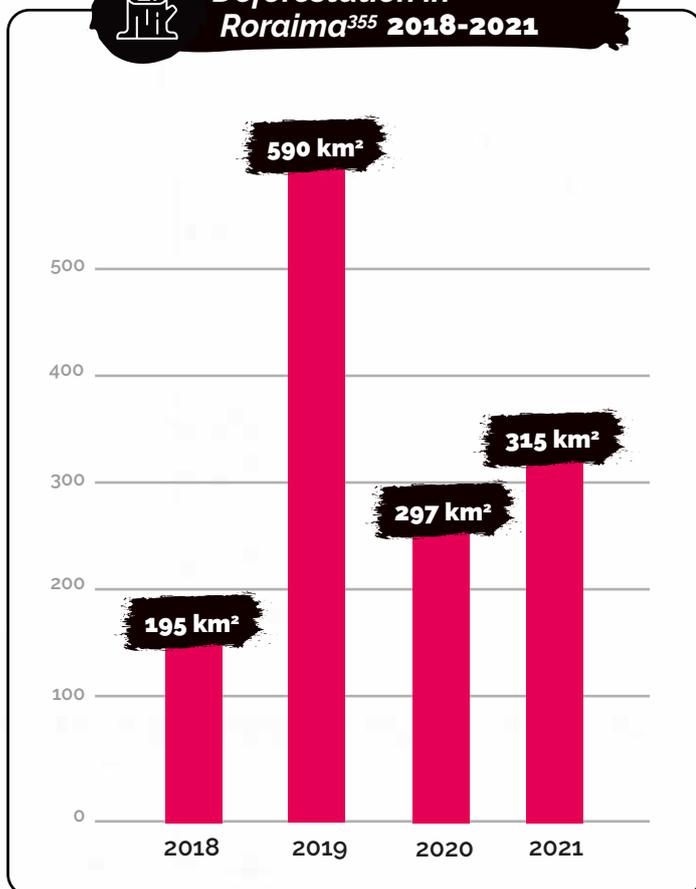
Imazon also detailed that 31% of the area without designation, equivalent to 2.3 million hectares, has priority for conservation and environmental services, according to the Environment Ministry, with almost all classified as of extremely high biological importance.



The administration of state areas in Roraima state is a responsibility of the Institute of Lands and Colonization of Roraima (Iteraima), created in 1992 to control rural and urban land regularization. The agency was targeted by a Federal Police operation in 2011, which resulted in the arrest of public servants from Iteraima, Incra and the state's environmental agency due to evidence of fraud involving land regularization and the supply of documents for illegal logging. In addition, there were reports of irregularities in the issuance of land titles for individuals who did not comply with legal requirements.



Deforestation in Roraima³⁵⁵ 2018-2021



Source: [INPE](#) - PRODES (Amazon Deforestation Monitoring Project by Satellite)

The land legislation of Roraima does not require that a property's environmental problems be resolved before titling; nor does it prevent the regularization of recently deforested properties (Imazon).

According to a [technical note](#) from the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (Ipam) from February 2022, the state of Roraima registered an 122% increase in the annual average deforested forests between 2019 and 2021, compared to the previous three years (2016-2018). It was the largest increase among Amazonian states in the period analyzed. The data collected shows that the critical deforestation fronts are concentrated near Alto Alegre, Iracema, Mucajaí and Caroebe, in the southeastern region of the state, and in Rorainópolis, along the BR-174 highway.

The [bulletin](#) of deforestation alerts in Protected Areas for the January-March 2022 period pointed to the Waimiri Atroari Indigenous Land, which extends through Roraima and Amazonas, as the third area most threatened by deforestation in the Amazon, including loss of forest within the territory. The Trombetas/Mapuera (Roraima/Amazonas/Pará) Indigenous Land comes eight on the list.



“The president's encouragement of deforestation, mining and other types of predatory and illegal activity in the Amazon has contributed greatly to expand these agents' funds, increasing their capacity and courage to act. The situation faced by several Conservation Units here and throughout the Amazon includes the reduction in the number of employees and contractors as well as the structure to work on site. In the case of Roraima, an important Conservation Unit is located exactly in an area of mining-related conflict: the Maracá Ecological Station had no personnel until recently, due to lack of security. Even environmental agents had all their equipment stolen.”

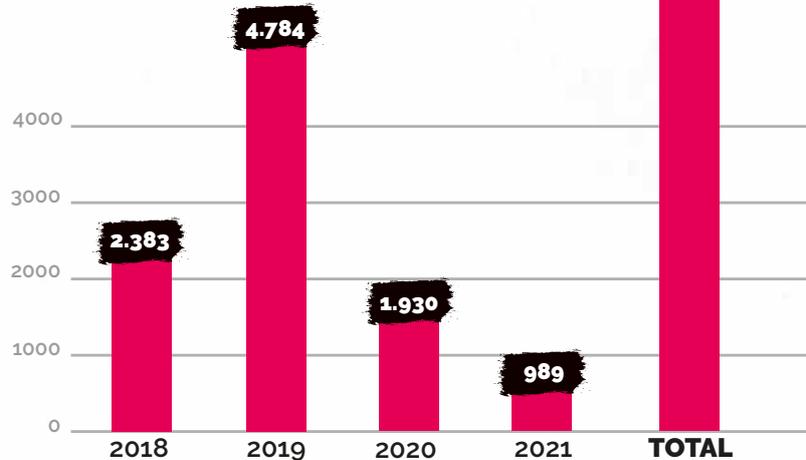
Ciro Campos, Instituto Socioambiental (ISA), Roraima

³⁵⁵ PRODES Amazônia does not consider the mapping of deforestation in areas of non-forest vegetation such as campinaranas, mined and other types of savanna or rural vegetation that occur in the states of Amapá and Roraima in a more prominent way.



Hot spots and fire occurrences in Roraima

2018-2021



Source: INPE

A [study](#) by the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) calculated the economic losses resulting from forest fires between 2016 and 2021, including issues such as civil defense and disaster prevention. The state of Roraima appears fifth in the ranking of states most impacted by the fires, with a loss of R\$ 47 million in five years. In January 2022, Roraima had three times more forest fires than in the same month of the previous year³⁵⁶. By July 2022, the state already had 637 hot spots; throughout 2021, 989 were recorded³⁵⁷.

TIMBER

The first logging activity [mapping](#) carried out in Roraima, disclosed by the SIMEX timber exploration monitoring initiative in 2021, revealed that an area greater than 5,000 soccer fields had been impacted by illegal logging between August 2019 and July 2020, representing more than half of all timber extraction carried out in the state in the period. Based on satellite images, the study details that, over a year, 9,458 hectares of forests had logging, of which 5,217.01 hectares (55%) were unauthorized and 4,240.89 hectares (45%) had permission from the State Foundation for the Environment and Water Resources of Roraima (Femarh/RR).

Of the 15 municipalities in the state, Rorainópolis and Amajari accounted for 44.75% and 40.3%, respectively, or 95% of the total timber extraction. The research highlights that "all logging in the municipality of Amajari occurred in an unauthorized manner". Of the total area illegally logged in the state, approximately 2,955 hectares are located in registered property, 1,338 hectares in mapping gaps, 717 hectares in settlement projects, 163 hectares in Indigenous Lands, 25 hectares in non designated lands and 19 hectares in Conservation Units.

In the two indigenous territories, the Waimiri-Atroari Indigenous Land and the Trombetas/Mapuera Indigenous Land, illegal logging took place in a forest area equivalent to more than 160 football fields.

³⁵⁶ <https://folhabv.com.br/noticia/CIDADES/Capital/Focos-de-calor-triplicam-em-janeiro-de-2022-em-comparacao-com-2021/83488>

³⁵⁷ Verified on July 21, 2022 - https://queimadas.dgi.inpe.br/queimadas/portal-static/estatisticas_estados/



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“The increase of invasions of Indigenous Lands by criminal organizations operating in mining, drug trafficking, deforestation and illegal fishing and the consequent deaths of indigenous peoples and environmental defenders has been the most representative fact of the last three years.”

For private reasons, the person interviewed asked not to be identified; they have been working on socio-environmental issues in Roraima for 30 years.

GOLD MINING

The expansion of illegal gold mining in Roraima and other areas of the Amazon can be credited to a combination of several factors, including the increase in the price of gold in the international market and the lack of control in the metal production chain, with loopholes that facilitate fraud in the declaration of origin of illegally extracted gold. In addition, the weakening of policies for the protection and inspection of Indigenous Lands and to fight environmental crime, combined with the government's policy of encouraging the activity despite its illegal nature, guarantees the impunity of the various actors involved in gold mining the Amazon.

According to the NGO Socioenvironmental Institute (ISA)³⁵⁸, mining requests for areas overlapping Indigenous Lands in Brazil cover 28.7 million hectares, representing 25% of the country's Indigenous Lands; 15% of these mining requests affect Indigenous Lands in Roraima alone. The three Indigenous Lands with the highest number of overlaps are located in the state: 453 mining requests overlap in 35% of the territory of Yanomami Indigenous Land; in Raposa Serra do Sol, there are 103 requests that correspond to nearly 38% of the Indigenous Land, and, in Waimiri Atroari territory, 61 requests on almost 15% of the Indigenous Land.

According to a [BBC](#) report from 2019 citing the National Mining Agency (ANM), the body responsible for granting and monitoring licenses for miners, none of the gold mines in Roraima that year were operating legally, information that was confirmed by the Mines and Energy Ministry. However, gold sales from Roraima from September 2018 yielded US\$ 7.8 million (equivalent to R\$ 30.2 million) and skyrocketed from January 2019, after Jair Bolsonaro became president and the Army deactivated bases that made it difficult for prospectors to access Yanomami territory. Sales to India in 2019 totaled 194 kg, valued at US\$ 6.5 million, making gold Roraima's second most exported commodity in the period, only behind soybeans. Authorities heard by the BBC at the time claimed that the gold exported was being illegally removed from the indigenous territory. The Yanomami Indigenous Land concentrates the metal's largest reserves in the region.

MapBiomias data indicate that mining in Yanomami Indigenous Land increased by 3,350% from 2016 to 2020.

The report [Yanomami Under Attack](#), prepared by the Hutukara Yanomami Association and the Wanasseduume Ye'kwana Association with technical advice from the Socioenvironmental Institute and published in April 2022, describes the context of illegal mining in Yanomami Indigenous Land as “the worst situation of invasion since the Indigenous Land was demarcated and approved 30 years ago”. When monitoring by the organizations began in October 2018, the area destroyed by mining totaled just over 1,200 hectares, most of which were concentrated in the Uraricoera and Mucajai rivers' channels. Since then, the area impacted has more than doubled, reaching a total of 3,272 hectares in December 2021. In addition to deforestation and the destruction of rivers, the illegal extraction of gold and cassiterite has led to an explosion in cases of malaria and other infectious diseases plus a frightening increase in violence against the Yanomami, says the document (read more below). It estimates a total of 273 communities directly impacted, with more than 16,000 people, or 56% of the population of the Yanomami Indigenous Land.

Another point worth mentioning is the evidence of organized crime getting closer to areas affected by illegal mining. In one of the most terrifying incidents of 2021, the series of attacks on the Palimiu communities, the involvement of members of the criminal First Capital Command (PCC) in the illegal extraction of gold became evident in the Yanomami context for the first time³⁵⁹.

³⁵⁸ <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/brasil>

³⁵⁹ https://acervo.socioambiental.org/sites/default/files/documents/provo491_0.pdf



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“We have had cases of murders, sexual violence and various types of violence against the Yanomami people. It is important to highlight the violence suffered by the leaders of the Indigenous Council of Roraima, who tried to defend the land against the entry of supplies to the mines. The Military Police arrived to open up the road and there was a conflict with many injured, where people were shot. The criminal gangs that operate in Roraima, according to public security agencies, operate in conjunction with mining. Environmental crime is also serving to enrich other sectors of organized crime.”

Ciro Campos, Instituto Socioambiental - ISA, Roraima

INDIGENOUS EMERGENCY

There are 33 Indigenous Lands in Roraima, in different stages of demarcation and homologation, occupying more than 5 million hectares, or 46% of the state's area, with at least 9 groups. Roraima is the state with the largest indigenous population in the country: of the 631,000 inhabitants, more than 50,000 declare themselves Indigenous, according to IBGE, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics³⁶⁰.

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“The government's failure to respond to the seriousness of complex crimes against the Yanomami people, the environment and the Union is alarming. The government downplays, ignores and doesn't act adequately to solve the problem“

For private reasons, the person interviewed asked not to be identified; they have been working on socio-environmental issues in Roraima for 30 years.

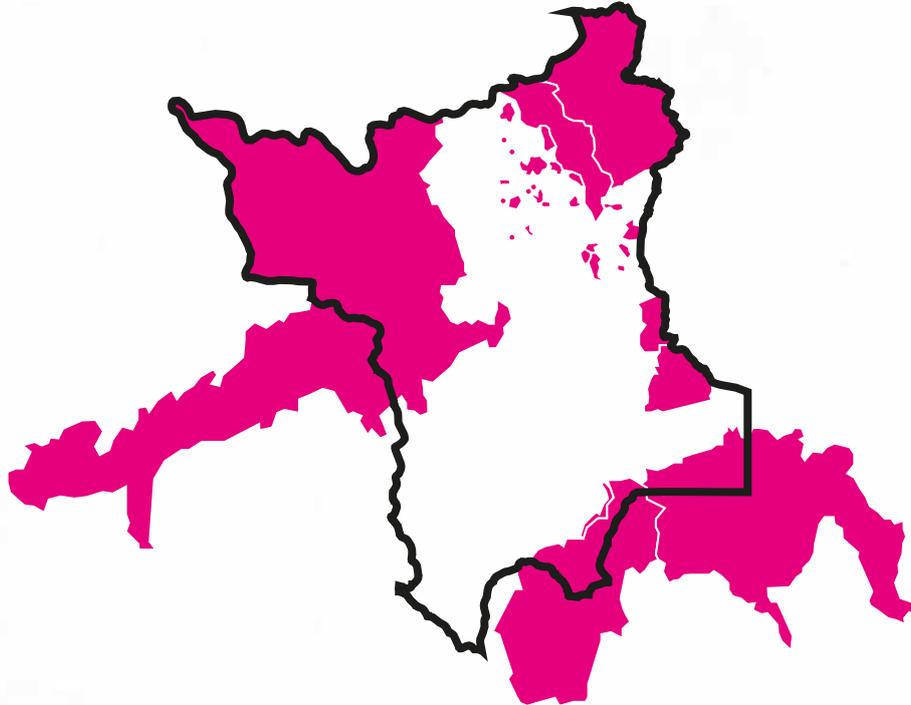
³⁶⁰ <https://folhabv.com.br/noticia/CIDADES/Capital/Roraima-possui-a-maior-populacao-indigena-do-pais/75168>





Roraima

Indigenous Territories*



AMAZONAS

*We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](#).

SOS YANOMAMI

There are more than 350 indigenous communities in the Yanomami Indigenous Land, with a population of approximately 29,000 people³⁶¹.

On March 16 2021, after a new [request](#) from the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, the 2nd Federal Court of Justice of Roraima determined that the Federal Government had ten days to present a schedule for the removal of miners from the Yanomami Indigenous Land³⁶², or face a daily fine as a penalty. It was another decision, within the scope of the Federal Justice, which was added to the [Claim of Noncompliance with Fundamental Precept - ADPF 709](#), filed by [Brazil's Articulation of Indigenous Peoples \(APIB\)](#) and other organizations in the Supreme Court in 2020. The claim mandated that the federal government adopt all appropriate measures to immediately and completely withdraw prospectors from the Yanomami Indigenous Land and protect this and other indigenous territories. In June 2021, the Federal Supreme Court (STF) unanimously confirmed³⁶³ an injunction by Justice Luis Roberto Barroso issued in May³⁶⁴ that ordered the federal government to immediately adopt all necessary measures to ensure the protection of the life, health and safety of Indigenous peoples in the Yanomami and Mundurucu lands (PA).

The decisions of the highest courts in the country, however, were not enforced, with devastating consequences for the Yanomami and other indigenous peoples of the region.

361 <https://cimi.org.br/2022/04/yanomami-sob-ataque/>

362 <https://conexaoplaneta.com.br/blog/justica-intima-governo-federal-a-retirar-garimpeiros-da-terra-indigena-yanomami-sob-pena-de-multa-diaria/>

363 <https://cimi.org.br/2021/06/por-unanimidade-stf-determina-imediata-protecao-para-povo-mundurucu-e-yanomami/>

364 <https://g1.globo.com/politica/noticia/2021/05/24/barroso-manda-governo-tomar-medidas-para-protetger-terras-yanomami-e-mundurucu.ghtml>



CHRONOLOGY OF VIOLENCE

2020-2021

The report [Scars in the Forest - Evolution of illegal mining in the Yanomami Indigenous Land \(TIY\) in 2020](#), produced by the Hutukara Yanomami Association (HAY) and the Wanasseduume Ye'kwana Association (SEDUUME) and launched in March 2021, highlighted the increase in conflicts as one of the effects of the greater presence of miners in the Yanomami Indigenous Land, such as the murder of two young Yanomami in the Parima River region in July 2020. Then in February 2021, indigenous people from the Helepe community suffered an attack that resulted in a severely injured Indigenous person and the death of a miner.

In mid-April, it was reported that the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Health Ministry were investigating the diversion of vaccines destined to indigenous people in exchange for gold illegally extracted from Yanomami Land, with at least two public servants suspected of giving covid-19 jabs to miners. In a letter sent to the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Special Department for Indigenous Health (SESAI), HAY's vice-president, Dário Kopenawa, reported that a nursing technician, who worked at the Humuxi base, was exchanging vaccines with invaders of the Indigenous Land, in addition to diverting gasoline and an energy generator also in exchange for gold. In the Uxiu region, an agent was suspected of diverting medications destined for indigenous people to treat miners.

On May 11 2021, miners fired shots at Federal Police officers who were in the Palimiú Community (part of the Yanomami Indigenous Land) to investigate an attack against Indigenous people that had happened the day before and left four Indigenous people and one miner injured. Indigenous Health Professionals from the community base were removed and the medical post was closed for safety reasons. A month later, the siege continued. On June 5, criminals who were mining in the Yanomami Land dropped bombs on the Maikohipi village, also in Palimiú. Dário Kopenawa told Amazônia Real that the criminals arrived in four boats and threatened the 580 residents of the village with firearms. The Hutukara Yanomami Association sent an official letter to the authorities communicating the attack and asking, once again, for help. At the end of July, an indigenous man died after being hit by a miners' plane on a runway in the Homoxi community in the TIY in Roraima³⁶⁵.

In November 2021, a report by the [Fantástico](#) TV program showed the death of Yanomami children due to malnutrition, lack of assistance and the impacts of mining activity. In the same week, based on the report, the Rede Sustentabilidade political party went to the Supreme Court to request that the federal government be investigated for neglecting the Yanomami. In response, Justice Luis Roberto Barroso ordered the federal government to report within a period of five days on the situation of the indigenous population. "Issues related to the nutrition of peoples and access to drinking water, medicines and health services should be clarified," said the decision³⁶⁶.

2022

Another case shocked Brazil on April 25 with [news](#) that a 12-year-old girl had been raped to death and a child went missing after being thrown into a river as a result of yet another attack by miners against the Aracaçá community, in the Waikás region of the Yanomami Indigenous Land. The information was given by the president of the Yanomami and Yek'wana District Indigenous Health Council (OONDISI-YY), Junior Hekurari, on social media. According to the Amazônia Real news website, Junior Hekurari sent a letter to the Special Indigenous Health District (DSEI), the Special Department for Indigenous Health (SESAI), FUNAI, the Federal Police and federal prosecutor Alisson Marugal. Amazônia Real also [revealed](#) that the girl's body was cremated, according to the Yanomami tradition. According to the website, this is why both the Federal Public Prosecution Office and the Federal Police alleged that "no material evidence of the practice of homicide and rape crimes was found".

On the 27th day, COIAB sent a [letter](#) to the Federal Prosecution Office requesting urgent measures to set up an investigation of the rape and disappearance of children in the Indigenous Land. When the entourage formed by members of the Public Prosecution Office, Federal Police and government indigenous agency FUNAI arrived at Aracaçá, where the girl lived, the community was empty. According to G1, no indigenous people were found and a house was burned down. "The community was burned down and there was no one there. Nobody", Hekurari told the news website. The people responsible for burning the place down have not been found. However, a statement from CONDISI-YY cites that "according to custom and traditions, after the death of a loved one the community in which they reside is burned and everyone moves to another place". The news of the "disappearance" of the community gained national repercussions, mobilizing indigenous leaders, authorities, politicians, artists and influencers asking on social media ["CADÊ OS YANOMAMI \(WHERE ARE THE YANOMAMI\)"](#).

³⁶⁵ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/sdf-relatorio-pt-final-30em3.pdf>

³⁶⁶ <https://www.poder360.com.br/brasil/barroso-da-5-dias-para-governo-federal-esclarecer-situacao-do-povo-yanomami/>



On May 18 2022, it was reported that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) requested the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to intervene with provisional measures to protect the Yanomami people's rights to life due to "a situation of extreme gravity and urgency in the face of irreparable damage to their rights in Brazil". In June, after a new petition from APIB, Justice Luís Roberto Barroso (STF) determined that the Federal Government should respond within ten days to the "non-compliance with the provisional decisions determined by the STF in ADPF 709, aiming at the protection of the Yanomami people". APIB asked for a plan to be elaborated in 60 days to expel invaders and destroy irregular airstrips, among others measures³⁶⁷.

ISOLATED AND THREATENED: THE CASE OF THE PIRITITI PEOPLE

Official deforestation data in the Amazon released by INPE show that until July 2021 502.4 hectares were deforested inside the Pirititi Indigenous Land, the equivalent of about 300,000 felled trees. "The high-resolution images of the Planet satellite show several areas opened up illegally, all located very close to the borders of the indigenous territory. The deforestation detected suggests the opening of an illegal side road which has already destroyed approximately 72 hectares of forest and was making inroads to the Indigenous Land. Another source of pressure for the Pirititi Indigenous Land is the irregular registration of properties on the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). Currently, there are 40 irregular registrations in the CAR system classified as 'active' which cover an area equivalent to 54% of the Indigenous Land"³⁶⁸.

The Indigenous Land is entirely located in the municipality of Rorainópolis (RR). Demarcation process began in 2012, when FUNAI regulated the first Restriction of Use Ordinance in the area of 43,404 hectares for a period of three years. The

ordinances were consecutively renewed for three years until December 2021, when the last ordinance was issued with a term of only six months. The information is contained in a [technical note](#) released by the Socioenvironmental Institute (ISA) in June 2022, just before the expiry of the Restriction of Use Ordinance that guarantees the protection of the isolated peoples of Pirititi Indigenous Land. According to the analysis, "the last ordinance proved that six months is not enough time to ensure effective protection, since the advance of loggers and land grabbers continues at full speed towards the inner regions of the area". The ISA report confirms that invasions and deforestation increased in the most critical moments of the pandemic and continued to develop exponentially. The problem coincides with the period just before the ordinances expire and results from the lack of inspection operations as well as expectations and speculation from invaders that the rule, a mechanism of legal protection for isolated indigenous groups issued by FUNAI, will not be renewed.

FREE LAND CAMP BOA VISTA - 2022

With "Retaking Brazil: To demarcate Territories and Indigenize Politics" as its main theme, the [16th Free Land Camp - 2022](#) happened at the beginning of April in Boa Vista, capital of Roraima state. Concentration was at the Centro Cívico square and followed the Indigenous movement's national mobilization, which took place in Brasília until April 14. According to information from the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), "in Boa Vista, on the first day of mobilization alone, about 400 indigenous leaders from the regions of Raposa, Serras, Baixo Cotingo, Murupú, Tabaio, Amajari, Surumú, Serra da Lua, São Marcos, Yanomami and Wai Wai were present. The movement relies on solid participation from traditional leaders, youngsters, women and children". There was also an act in front of the miner monument, when leaders made strong statements against draft bills PL191 and PL490 and the Time Limit Thesis. The Indigenous people also protested against other situations that violate and disrespect the rights of traditional peoples of Brazil.

³⁶⁷ <https://portal.stf.jus.br/noticias/verNoticiaDetalhe.asp?idConteudo=488324&ori=1>

³⁶⁸ <https://www.socioambiental.org/noticias-socioambientais/desmatamento-e-vencimento-de-portaria-ameacam-povos-isolados-pirititi-rr>



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“I think it is important to mention that the ‘cattle herd’ did not pass if you look at Indigenous affairs. There were several attempts to change the legislation to make it more flexible and to allow several activities in Indigenous Lands that faced very strong resistance from the Brazilian indigenous movement. The indigenous movement of Roraima was very active, even though it suffered a lot from the invasion of its lands, both in forest areas, in the case of Yanomami land, where mining returned in the intensity of the late 1980s, and in the savannas and in the Raposa Serra do Sol mountains, where a new mining invasion is taking place.”

Ciro Campos, Instituto Socioambiental - ISA, Roraima

VIOLENCE: Driven by mining activity, aggressions against indigenous peoples in the state explodes

According to data from the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), Roraima was the state with the lowest number of conflicts in rural areas in the last ten years in the Amazon. There were 84 conflicts identified between 2010 and 2019³⁶⁹.

In 2021, there was a 71% increase in land conflicts in the state, largely related to the mining boom in indigenous areas. Of the 48 conflicts identified by CPT in Roraima, 41, or 85%, happened in Indigenous Lands, with emphasis on the Yanomami Indigenous Land.

Conflicts and deaths in rural areas - Roraima - 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	17	28	28	48
Personal violence**	3	1	4	130

*Relating to the total number of conflicts over land and actions of occupations/repossessions; **Relating to the total number of murders, attempted murders, death as a consequence, death threats, torture, imprisonment and assault

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021"- CPT

The [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), recorded 1,047 intentional violent deaths between 2018 and 2021 in Roraima. The study also points out that "Roraima reported having only 56 civil police chiefs to take care of all criminal investigations in the state".

³⁶⁹ https://amazon.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LeisRegularizacaoFundiaria_Roraima.pdf

³⁷⁰ Intentional Violent Deaths include: intentional homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.



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“In November 2019, three committees in the House of Representatives held a hearing to discuss the role of the state in confronting mining in Yanomami Indigenous Land. The head of the Crime Enforcement Service against Indigenous Communities, representing the Justice Ministry, said that “it is not organized crime like the PCC and CV gangs, but the organized crime of a specific network working to launder the gold and take it abroad, legalize receipts and convert it into pieces of art or bars. It involves goldsmiths, aircraft, pilots, government-authorized companies to trade gold. A company was closed and people were arrested in São Paulo and Goiânia”³⁷¹. Two years later, headlines in the press reported that the PCC was working in the Yanomami Indigenous Land. There is a huge lag, purposeful or not, between the crimes committed and the federal government’s actions. The problem is increasing terribly and results, in practice, in the Yanomami genocide, the destruction of the Amazon and the murder of those who confront this situation.”

For private reasons, the person interviewed asked not to be identified; they have been working on socio-environmental issues in Roraima for 30 years.

POINTS OF ATTENTION

High socio-environmental impact projects in the state: local laws enable illegal mining in Roraima

After an unsuccessful attempt to legalize mining (read below), Roraima state government made another attempt with a new legislative proposal to encourage the activity. In less than two months, the State legislature of Roraima analyzed, voted and approved, and governor Antonio Denarium sanctioned, [Law 1.701/2022](#), with the following wording: “Forbids environmental inspection agencies and the Military Police of Roraima to destroy and disable private property seized in environmental operations/inspections in the state and makes other provisions”.

Bill 233/2022 was presented in early June 2022 by state deputy George Melo (PODEMOS/RR), who took office in place of Jalser Renier, who lost his mandate in February for breach

of parliamentary decorum³⁷². During his few months in office, congressman George Melo, according to news website [G1](#), “declared himself in favor of the legalization of mining and has acted in favor of miners”. In Roraima there are no legal mines; those that exist function illegally. Large equipment seized in operations to combat environmental crime, such as dredges, rafts, tractors and other machinery, are usually destroyed in loco to prevent them from being used again by miners, loggers and land grabbers. By prohibiting such practice and penalizing enforcement agencies, the government of Roraima gives another green light to the mining that has devastated the Yanomami Indigenous Land and other protected areas in the state.

³⁷¹ <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/618192-debatedores%20apontam-risco-de-genocidio-dos-yanomami/>

³⁷² <https://g1.globo.com/rr/roraima/noticia/2022/02/28/suplente-de-jalser-renier-empresario-george-melo-toma-posse-na-ale-rr-apos-cassacao.ghtml>



Bill 233 was approved in an extraordinary session at the State Congress of Roraima on June 27. The text was approved by 14 of the 24 representatives in the House. On the 30th, it was sent to the state's executive branch. According to press reports, there was intense mobilization by supporters of mining in social media for the bill to be sanctioned during this period. On July 5, while supporters of the project were having a barbecue outside the government palace to celebrate, the bill was approved in full, without vetoes, as Law 1.701/2022 by governor Antonio Denarium. Denarium and George Melo, the author of the bill, met behind closed doors before the governor's sanction and stated that the law excludes Indigenous lands; in practice, however, none of the four paragraphs of the new legislation specifically cites such a restriction. "We opted for the sanction because in Roraima there are more than 50,000 families who depend on this activity," said Denarium, calling the gold diggers "mining entrepreneurs"³⁷³.

Soon after the vote on June 28 the Federal Public Prosecution Office in Roraima issued a [statement](#) positioning itself against the bill, which it classified as unconstitutional. The Public Prosecution Office pointed out that "the actions of defacement, destruction or impairment of seized equipment are provided for in Law 9.605/1998 and Decree 6.514/2008, noting that such rules have already been recognized by the Federal Supreme Court as essential to fight illegal mining and that the measure was "clearly unconstitutional" and contributed to deepen the "ongoing humanitarian tragedy".

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“State Congress has already tried to enact two laws that favor mining on Indigenous Lands. The first was barred in the Supreme Court, the second is still being questioned. This was done following the president's encouragement who aims to legalize the crime of mining in Indigenous Lands, with terrible consequences in Roraima, mainly in the Yanomami Indigenous Land.”

For private reasons, the person interviewed asked not to be identified; they have been working on socio-environmental issues in Roraima for 30 years.

DISINFORMATION: Fake news disrupts vaccination among indigenous people and contributes to genocide

As occurred in other Amazon³⁷⁴ states, indigenous peoples of Roraima were targeted by disinformation campaigns relating to vaccination against Covid-19.

In a [report](#) on the precarious situation of Indigenous health in the Yanomami Indigenous Land at the peak of the pandemic in April 2021, the Hutukara Yanomami Association (HAY) reported that nine villages refused to take the vaccine influenced by lies spread by miners. According to Dario Kopenawa, from HAY, the message "you, Yanomami, cannot take these vaccines because the government wants to kill you" was spread by the invaders, damaging the immunization campaign within the Yanomami land. Radio information collected by HAY made it possible to find out that in the localities of Hokolasi and Pewau Indigenous people refused the vaccine after the spreading of false news by miners. In addition to fake news, HAY denounced the exchange of vaccines for gold involving health workers and miners, and the absence of health teams in parts of the Indigenous Land. "Particularly worrying is the fact that in some communities, no Indigenous people had been vaccinated," said the organization.

³⁷³ <https://g1.globo.com/rr/roraima/noticia/2022/07/05/governador-de-roraima-sanciona-lei-que-proibe-destruicao-de-equipamentos-de-garimpeiros.ghtml>

³⁷⁴ <https://site-antigo.socioambiental.org/pt-br/noticias-socioambientais/mais-vacinacao-menos-fake-news-vacina-parente>



Resisting with information

Concerned about the impact of fake news on the coronavirus vaccine among Indigenous peoples of Roraima, Indigenous journalists Ariene Susui and Nailson Almeida, both from the Wapishana people, worked on the creation of information folders about the Covid-19 vaccine as a way to fight disinformation. According to a [report](#) by the Indigenous Council of Roraima, a partner in the project, 6,000 folders were produced for distribution in nine regions of Roraima. In addition to the Portuguese version, the copies were translated into five indigenous languages: Wapishana, Macuxi, Wai-Wai, Yanomami and Taurepang. According to the project's coordinator, Ariene Susui, it brings clear and factual information, organized as dialogue based on an interview with an indigenous doctor. "Our great concern since the beginning of the pandemic has been with the news coming from within our communities, both about Covid-19 and vaccination. A large part of the communities in the beginning were afraid of getting the vaccine and were impacted by fake news. Unfortunately, this was a great barrier inside the communities causing many leaders, elderly and young people to refuse the vaccine".

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“During the Covid-19 pandemic, the position of the president and some evangelical churches against vaccination led many members of indigenous communities to refuse the vaccine.”

For private reasons, the person interviewed asked not to be identified; they have been working on socio-environmental issues in Roraima for 30 years.

In [Smoke Signal's](#) monitoring of the main socio-environmental events since the election of Jair Bolsonaro, we highlight three episodes in Roraima that reveal the nature and consolidate federal government policies executed with the support of members of Congress and local authorities.

TIMELINE



APRIL 2019: Covid-19: Yanomami teen is first victim among indigenous people³⁷⁵

Yanomami Alvanei Xirixana Pereira, 15, died of Covid-19, in the municipality of Alto Alegre (RR). The Health Ministry stated that it did not receive confirmation of what caused Xirixana's death and that there were no records of Covid-19 deaths among indigenous people in Brazil. The Yanomami Sanitary District believes that the Yanomami population is at high risk of infection due to close contact with non-indigenous society. The young man lived in the village of Rehebe, where large numbers of non-indigenous people were trespassing due to mining activity. Indigenous organization Hutukara Yanomami Association highlighted the presence of miners in the region and pointed to the state's carelessness in the treatment of Alvanei. "He was admitted to the General Hospital of Roraima with respiratory symptoms on March 18 but was only diagnosed with Covid-19 on April 7. During all that time he was infected and did not receive the necessary care", said the statement.



OCTOBER 2021 AND MAY 2022: The “big power line” moves ahead inside Waimiri Atroari Indigenous Land³⁷⁶

In October 2021, Waimiri Atroari leaders denounced the lack of dialogue with the federal government in regards to the beginning of construction works for the Linhão Tucuruí, which will cross the indigenous territory. Works on the power transmission line, which will connect Manaus (AM) to Boa Vista (RR). Of the line's 720-kilometer extension, 123 kilometers pass through Waimiri Atroari Indigenous Land. According to the Socio-environmental Institute (ISA), the community learned about the beginning of the works through the press because of the repercussions generated by an authorization letter sent by the president of FUNAI, Marcelo Xavier, to environmental agency IBAMA on September 27. On August 11, the Waimiri-Atroari Association delivered a compensation proposal to the government for socio-environmental damages foreseen by the work during a meeting between IBAMA, Federal and State Public Prosecution Offices and Indigenous leaders, but it got no answer. In May 2022, according to a report by [Amazônia Real](#), the Waimiri Atroari Indigenous people decided to accept

³⁷⁵ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/04/10/covid-19-adolescente-yanomami-e-primeira-vitima-do-coronavirus-entre-indigenas/>

³⁷⁶ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/10/01/governo-inicia-obra-de-linhao-em-terra-waimiri-atroari-sem-avisar-nem-ouvir-indigenas/>



the proposal for environmental compensation made by the federal government for the construction of the Tucuruí Line, despite the environmental damages considered irreversible, as stated in the 2021 Environmental Plan for the Indigenous Element (PBA-CI). The report said that the transmission line is a project of the Transnorte Energia (TNE) consortium, formed by companies Alupar and Eletronorte, and will connect the state of Roraima to the national energy grid. Harilson Araújo, lawyer for the Waimiri-Atoari Association, said that, after two days of meetings with leaders of all villages, 450 indigenous people approved the counter proposal presented by the federal government and the consortium.



MARCH 2021: Indigenous people trapped by coal-fired thermoelectric hub in Roraima³⁷⁷

Indigenous people from the Macuxi and Wapishana ethnic groups claim to have "never been consulted" about the construction of the Serra da Lua coal-fired thermoelectric hub, launched by the administration of governor Antônio Denarium. The project is located on the borders of the Tabalascada, Malacacheta and Canaunim Indigenous Lands, where 16 communities with more than 3,000 indigenous people live. The project, which has been called the "death plant" by the indigenous people, received tax incentives from the Denarium administration. Controlled by OXE Energia, the plants were auctioned in May 2019, in the first energy bidding session promoted by Bolsonaro's government.

STATE GOVERNMENT

In 2018, [Antonio Denarium](#) (at the time in the PSL, then over a year without a party and since 2021 a member of PP³⁷⁸) was elected governor of Roraima in the second round with 53,34% of votes³⁷⁹. He was born in 1964 in Goiás and became an entrepreneur, passing through the banking, real estate and farming sectors of Roraima. It is his first public post.

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“The state executive branch has handed over to the environmental council for evaluation, but not yet for deliberation, a proposal to automatically reduce the legal reserve in forest areas from 80% to 50% in the entire state. This automatic reduction is a problem, because instead of promoting equality it will make Roraima the state where landowners will be entitled to the highest deforestation allowance in Brazil. Ideally, this reduction would be based on technical criteria established by the Ecological-Economic Zoning (EEZ).”

Ciro Campos, Instituto Socioambiental - ISA, Roraima

³⁷⁷ <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/03/28/indigenas-sao-encurralados-por-complexo-de-termeletricas-a-carvao-em-roraima/>

³⁷⁸ <https://g1.globo.com/rr/roraima/noticia/2021/09/15/governador-de-roraima-se-filia-ao-pp-apos-1-ano-e-3-meses-sem-partido.ghtml>

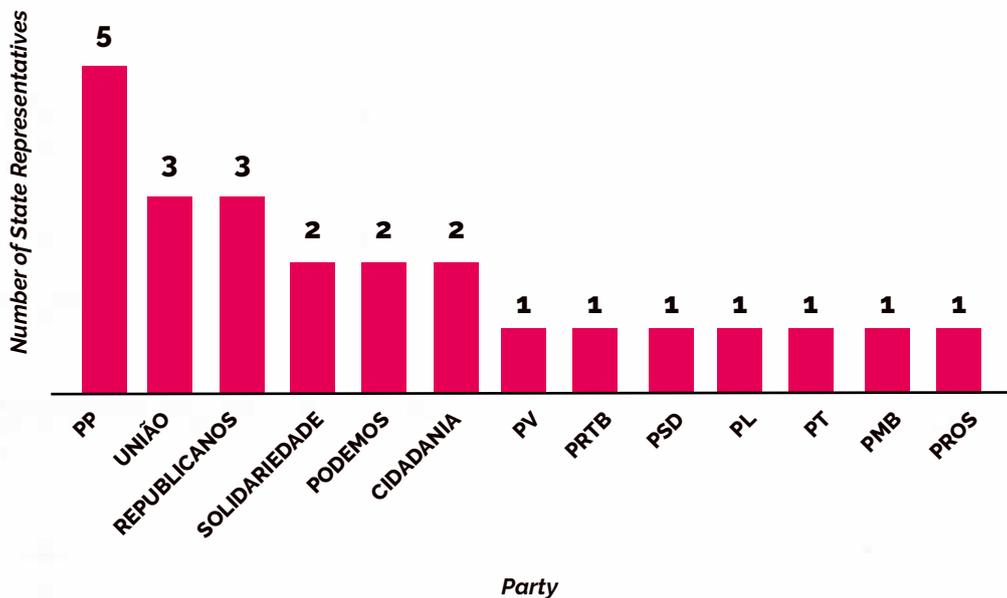
³⁷⁹ <https://g1.globo.com/rr/roraima/eleicoes/2018/noticia/2018/10/28/antonio-denarium-psl-e-eleito-governador-de-roraima.ghtml>



Supreme Court suspends state law that tried to legalize gold mining

In January 2021, state representatives approved mining licensing rules in Roraima based on a proposal by governor Antonio Denarium (PP). The proposal allowed for extraction "without previous impact study", the use of mercury and with no details about territories and ores. A month later, Justice Alexandre de Moraes from the Federal Supreme Court ordered the suspension of State Law 1.453/2021, which tried to institute the Mining Activity Licensing in the State. The injunction was taken in [Direct Action of Unconstitutionality \(ADI\) 6672](#), filed by the Rede Sustentabilidade party. In September 2021, the state law that tried to legalize gold mining in Roraima was definitively annulled by STF³⁸⁰.

The State Congress of Roraima has 24 state representatives, distributed as follows:³⁸¹



“The House of Representatives approved PL 3.729/2004, which flexibilizes environmental licensing, one of the most important instruments to assess and mitigate social and environmental impacts. It still has to be analyzed by the Senate and sanctioned by the President, but the approval in the Chamber was very serious. The processing of Bill 191/2020, which regulates the research and mining of mineral resources such as gold and iron ore, and hydrocarbons such as oil and natural gas, in addition to the use of rivers to generate electricity on Indigenous lands is also very harmful, especially due to governments that do not invest in sustainability initiatives from the indigenous communities themselves.”

For private reasons, the person interviewed asked not to be identified; they have been working on socio-environmental issues in Roraima for 30 years.

380 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/09/15/stf-derruba-lei-estadual-que-libera-garimpo-em-roraima/>

381 <https://al.roraima.br/deputados-estaduais-2019/>



RORAIMA'S CAUCUS IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:

74.83% representatives voted in favor of the anti-environmental agenda (62.5% with abstentions); 75% are part of the Ruralist Caucus

The legislative caucus of Roraima in the National Congress has eight federal representatives and three senators³⁸². Most of the representatives voted in line with the Bolsonaro government in key projects from the Destruction Package and favored the approval of the 2022 Annual Budget with the allocation of record funds for the rapporteur's amendments ("secret budget").

How Federal representatives from Roraima voted on Bolsonaro's Destruction Package and the 2022 Budget Law

Names highlighted in pink are members of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) - the Ruralist Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ³⁸³ House Floor	LICENSING ³⁸⁵ (Bill no. 3729/2004) House Floor	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ³⁸⁶ (Bill no. 191/2020) House Floor - Urgency	DEMARICATION OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (Bill no. 490/2007) ³⁸⁷ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021 (2022 Annual Budget Law) ³⁸⁸ House Floor
01	Edio Lopes (PL)	In favor	x	x	Substitute - voted against	In favor
02	Haroldo Cathedral (PSD) <i>*currently licensed but participated in all votes listed here - Substitute: Renato Queiroz (PSD)</i>	In favor	In favor	Against	x	In favor
03	Hiran Gonçalves (PP)	In favor	In favor	In favor	Incumbent - voted in favor	In favor
04	Jhonathan de Jesus (REPUBLICANOS)	In favor	x	In favor	x	In favor
05	Joenia Wapichana (REDE)	Against	Against	Against	Substitute: Vote not counted for exceeding caucus limit per party	Against
06	Nicoletti (UNIÃO)	In favor	In favor	In favor	x	In favor
07	Ottaci Nascimento (SOLIDARIEDADE)	In favor	x	Against	x	In favor
08	Shéridan (PSDB)	In favor	In favor	In favor	Did not vote	In favor

Source: Organized by the guide based on the Chamber of representatives and the [Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front](#) websites

382 <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/parlamentares/em-exercicio>

383 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?ideVotacao=9924>

384 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

385 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

386 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

387 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

388 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>



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“Changes in environmental licensing, as well as land regularization, impact Roraima a lot because it is an area of recent expansion. These amnesties, facilitations or simplifications contribute to the land grabbing of large areas that until recently were public. The Forest Code left a legacy for Roraima in its Article 12 that is being consolidated now. It is important to highlight this point. The legal reserve in the entire Amazon is 80%, but according to article 12 it can be reduced to 50%. That is, those who have 100 hectares today and can deforest 20, will be able to deforest 50.”

Ciro Campos, Instituto Socioambiental - ISA, Roraima

RORAIMA IN THE SENATE

Roraima has three Senators elected for the state: senator Chico Rodrigues (UNIÃO), senator Mecias de Jesus (REPUBLICANOS) and senator Telmário Mota (PROS). Mecias and Chico make up the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front; the three senators of Roraima voted in favor of the LOA 2022 Budget Law³⁸⁹.

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“Roraima has half of its lands committed to the physical and cultural survival of the Indigenous peoples who live in it and to environmental protection. It is necessary to invest in science and technology that value the knowledge of the indigenous population and the sustainable use of natural resources. We have a lot of potential for using solar and wind energy, but the federal and state governments are encouraging the use of gas, which comes from the Amazon; another plan is to dam the state’s main river, which would be a disgrace. Indigenous peoples have the largest cattle herd in Roraima and there is no policy to improve production and certify organic meat, produced with no enslaved labor and deforestation. There is also no utilization of bovine leather. Most of the population live in the capital, working in public offices and services; it is necessary to support and value those who live in the rural area and are family farmers.”

For private reasons, the person interviewed asked not to be identified; they have been working on socio-environmental issues in Roraima for 30 years.

11. TOCANTINS



AREA: 277,720.39 km²



1,590,248 inhabitants (2020)



139 municipalities



Capital: Palmas, where more than 300,000 people live



**HDI*: 0.699
14th in the Brazilian ranking (2010)**



GDP: R\$35.7 billion (2018)



**13.25% of the area is demarcated as
Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands**



**3.61% of the territory covered by
forests and 84.85% by non-forest
native vegetation (2020)**



**More than 10.99% of the state had been
affected by deforestation by 2020**



**About 22,100 hot spots were detected in
the state in 2020 and 2021**



**32.48 megatons of CO₂e emitted in
2019, most from deforestation and
changes in land use**

*Human Development Index
**Infographic created with data from [IBGE](#),
[INPE](#), and "Fatos da Amazônia Legal" (Legal
Amazon Facts)



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“During the Bolsonaro administration, issues related to the environment only got worse. From the moment Bolsonaro as president gave his approval for farmers to deforest, illegal mining increased too much.”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of the Quilombolas Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO)³⁹⁰, Arraias/TO.

In Tocantins, almost 90% of the territory is occupied by the Cerrado Biome and about 10% by the Amazon Biome.³⁹¹

LAND USE AND DEFORESTATION

The study [Laws and Land Regularization in the State of Tocantins](#), published by Imazon in 2021, estimates that 66% of Tocantins' lands already have their use designated, not considering overlaps. Most are occupied by private properties, which cover 48.5% of the territory, without considering records in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). Indigenous Lands occupy 9% and Conservation Units, 4%. Another 34% of the state, equivalent to 9.45 million hectares, consists of unallocated areas or areas with no information available. More than half of this area (18.5% of the state) was already registered in the CAR, but this registration is insufficient to certify the titling of the land and is often used to give the appearance of legality to unlawful occupations (land grabbing) of public lands. No record of any kind was found on 14% of the state, identified as non-designated areas. Another 357,000 hectares were earmarked for assignment of deeds by INCRA, Brazil's agrarian reform agency.

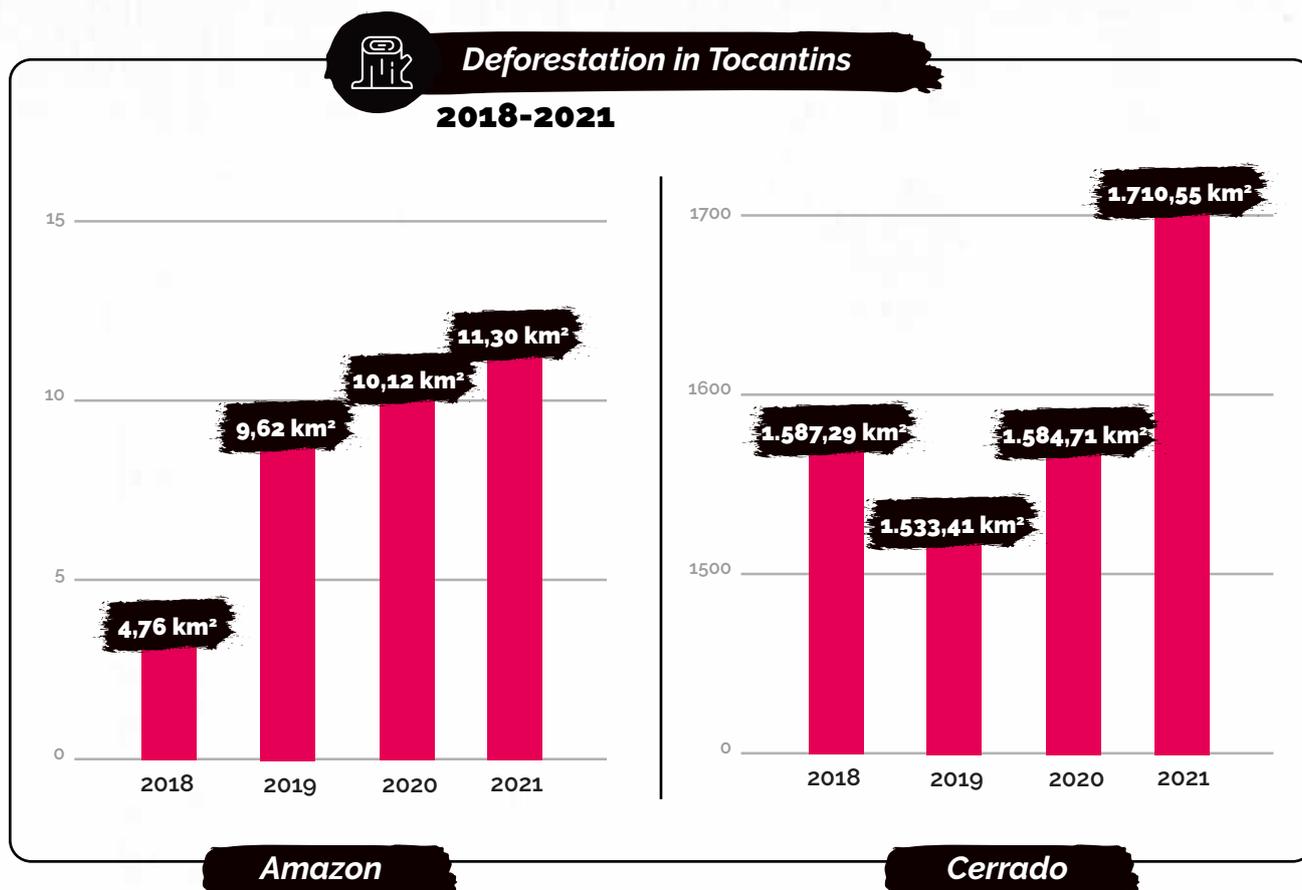
According to Imazon, Tocantins' land legislation allows for the regularization of recently deforested areas.

Of all areas without designation, 90% should be the state government's responsibility, however they were not registered in a notary's office so did not collect tax. "This data is relevant because tax collection is the first step necessary for designating an area, whether for private ownership or other use", explains Imazon. The remainder of the territory not yet designated or with no information available falls under federal competence (9% of the state), and more than half is available for land regularization according to the decision from the Technical Chamber for the Allocation and Regularization of Federal Public Lands in the Legal Amazon.

More than 160,000 hectares of unallocated land in Tocantins are of extremely high biological importance, according to a survey by the Ministry of the Environment. They are priority areas for conservation, sustainable use and distribution of biodiversity benefits.

³⁹⁰ <https://www.coeqto.com.br/>

³⁹¹ <https://www.to.gov.br/semarh/combate-ao-desmatamento/79lqw8guq3w>



Source: [INPE](#) - PRODES (Amazon Deforestation Monitoring Project by Satellite)

Until 2020, the Cerrado portion of Tocantins state had accumulated deforestation of 72,160 km² ³⁹².

In April 2022, the [Tocantins State Prosecutor's Office \(MPE-TO\)](#) announced it would investigate "the more than 20,500 hectares throughout the state that had deforestation alerts issued by the Annual Mapping Project for Land Use and Coverage in Brazil (MapBiomas)". The area corresponds to more than 28,000 soccer fields. "In all, alerts of deforestation above 20 hectares were recorded in 249 rural properties in Tocantins that did not have authorization to get rid of vegetation."

About a month later, a [Globo TV report](#) showed the results of the work of the State Public Prosecutor's Office: eight out of ten landowners who deforested in Tocantins last year were not authorized. The technicians compared alerts from Mapbiomas satellites with data from rural registers, which indicate the location of the farms and also with environmental agencies systems. With this information it is possible to know when and where there was deforestation and who is the landowner. 775 properties with deforestation points were identified. They are concentrated on three fronts: the Bico do Papagaio region, the Área de Proteção Ambiental do Cantão (Cantão Environmental Protection Area), and specific points in the southeast region such as São Valério, Natividade and Paranã. According to the Public Prosecutor's Office, at least one third of the areas where there are possible irregularities are declared as legal reserves, which makes the situation even more serious.

392 <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>



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“In the region where I live, in Arraias, in recent years, deforestation has been absurd. Farmers come into the woods using tractors with big chains attached to them, ripping everything off. This is inside quilombola communities. Even though the area is invaded, they get a license to deforest. And when they can’t, they deforest anyway, since they have a government on their side, fighting for them.”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO), Arraias/TO.

Cerrado is the second largest biome in Brazil, with 198 million hectares. It presents different types of native vegetation. It is the most biodiverse savannah in the world and under a high degree of threat. Almost half of it has already been deforested: 54.5% of its territory is still covered by native vegetation, 44% precisely in Matopiba (Ipam).³⁹³

SOY

In 2019, soybean cultivation occupied an area of more than 74,000 km² in the Brazilian Cerrado³⁹⁴. In Matopiba, soy is one of the main drivers of deforestation. The region – which comprises part of the states of Bahia, Maranhão, Piauí and Tocantins – boasted record rates of accumulated deforestation in the Cerrado Biome in 2020-2021, according to Ipam’s study. Tocantins comes second in the Matopiba destruction ranking, with 1,710.55 km² knocked down in the period, behind only Maranhão.

With more than 14,000 km², Tocantins has the fourth largest area that is cultivated or intended for harvest among the states of the Legal Amazon.³⁹⁵

The environmental protection area of Ilha do Bananal/Cantão, in Tocantins, saw the biggest destruction among the conservation units located in the Cerrado in 2020. The largest unit in the state is in a soybean-producing region and has experienced economic, social and environmental conflicts³⁹⁶. A [survey](#) by the Federal University of Tocantins (UFT) pointed out that grain cultivation has grown more than 1,700% in the region since 2010 and that about 25% of the planted area is illegal.

The Gross Value of Agricultural Production (VBP) of Tocantins in 2021 was R\$18.8 billion. The products with the best results were soybeans, with R\$ 9.6 billion, followed by beef, with R\$ 5.1 billion.³⁹⁷

393 <https://ipam.org.br/matopiba-bate-recorde-historico-de-desmatamento-no-cerrado/>

394 <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

395 <https://amazonia2030.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AMZ2030-Fatos-da-Amazonia-2021-3.pdf>

396 <https://www.dw.com/pt-br/desmatamento-no-cerrado-volta-a-crescer-em-2020/a-56016083>

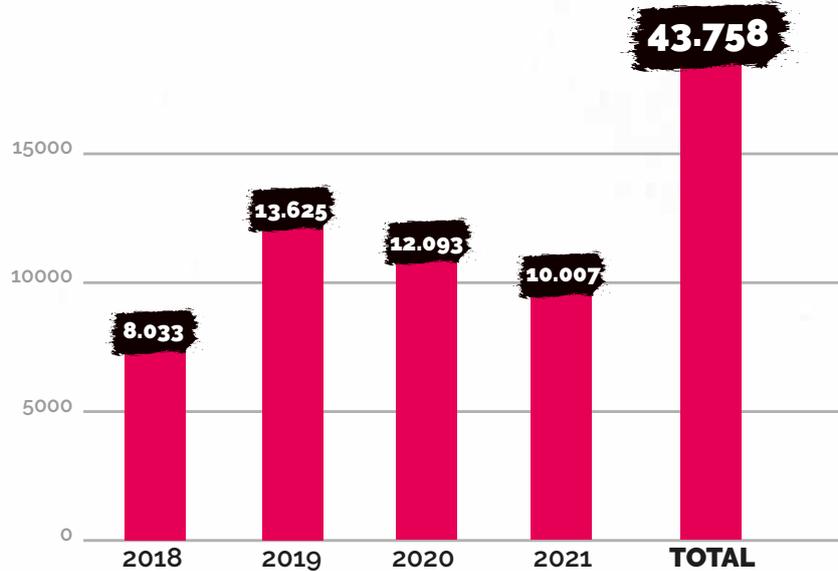
397 <https://clebertoleado.com.br/negocios/puxado-pela-soja-valor-da-producao-agropecuaria-do-tocantins-em-2021- chega-a-r-188-bilhoes-30-maior-do-norte-do-brasil/>



Hot spots and fires in Tocantins

2018-2021

(Amazon and Cerrado biomes)



Source: [INPE](#)



“Our greatest struggle is to guarantee the land. If we have land, we can work. And if we can work, we can produce and have our livelihoods.”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO), Arraias/TO.

Between January and July 2021, Tocantins state recorded the second highest number of fires in the country, according to INPE, accounting for 3,683 hot spots. Compared to the same period in 2020, the data indicated an increase of 16%. The state was behind Mato Grosso only, which recorded 6,822 outbreaks in the first six months of last year³⁹⁸. In 2022, the situation looks even worse. Until July 21, [INPE's](#) panel of fires showed 3,920 hot spots in Tocantins this year, up 21% compared to 2021.

INDIGENOUS AND QUILOMBOLA EMERGENCY

In Tocantins, there are 15 Indigenous Lands in different stages of demarcation and homologation, occupying an area of more than 2.5 million hectares, or 9% of the state and in which ten indigenous peoples⁴⁰⁰ live. The state's indigenous population is estimated at more than 11,000 people living in rural and urban areas, according to IBGE (Brazil's Geography and Statistics Institute)⁴⁰¹. Aware of the last presidential election's impact on the future of traditional peoples, in December 2018 more than 200 indigenous Apinajé, Krahô, Krahô-Kanela, Xerente, Krahô Takaywrá, Javaé and Avá-Canoeiro leaders met at the Indigenous Peoples Assembly of Tocantins, in the village of Brejinho (Apinajé Indigenous Land), to deepen the debate regarding the national scenario, the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI) reported⁴⁰². The meeting resulted in the document [Indigenous resistance to threats and setbacks to rights guaranteed in the Federal Constitution of 1988, in the current context.](#)

³⁹⁸ <https://g1.globo.com/to/tocantins/noticia/2021/07/26/tocantins-ocupa-20-lugar-no-ranking-nacional-com-3683-focos-de-queimada-registrados-desde-janeiro.ghtml>

³⁹⁹ <https://terrasindigenas.org.br/pt-br/brasil>

⁴⁰⁰ https://pib.socioambiental.org/pt/P%C3%A1gina_principal

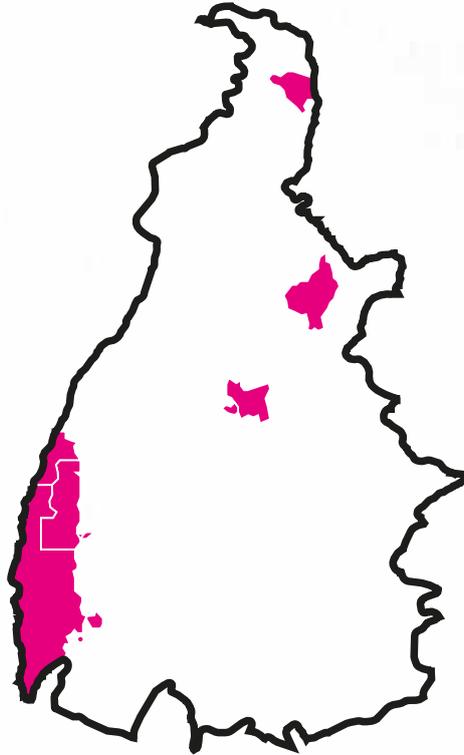
⁴⁰¹ <https://indigenas.ibge.gov.br/graficos-e-tabelas-2.html>

⁴⁰² <https://cimi.org.br/2018/12/assembleia-dos-povos-indigenas-de-tocantins-reune-mais-de-200-liderancas-na-luta-contr-o-retrocesso/>



Tocantins

Indigenous Territories*



**We chose to use data from Indigenous Territories (TI) from indigenous and indigenist organizations as they more adequately reflect these territories, regardless of their land status with the State. As for the map, we used the most up-to-date available version from FUNAI to offer an overview. Even if imprecise, regarding the TIs in each state and region, understanding that it is the one that best reflects the reality among those available. To see the full map in high resolution, [click here](#).*

ILHA DO BANANAL - Uncontacted peoples threatened by forest fires: According to news from [Agro é Fogo](#), in September 2020, a major fire lasted several days and devastated an area known as Mata do Mamão, in inner Ilha do Bananal (TO). "The island [Ilha do Bananal] is one of the most important conservation areas in Brazil, housing the Utaria Wyhyna/Irôdu Irâna Indigenous Land, which already has been recognized by decree and awaits approval, and the Inawebohona Indigenous Lands and Araguaia Park, both already demarcated and homologated. Together, they have an approximate population of 3,500 indigenous people from the Javaé and Karajá peoples and 42 indigenous people from the Avâ-Canoeiro people," the report says. In addition to these peoples, a group of Avâ-Canoeiro Indigenous people lives in voluntary isolation in Mata do Mamão, their last refuge and the area most affected by the fires of 2020. The area also includes the southern part of the Inawebohona Indigenous Land and the Araguaia Park Indigenous Land.

APINAJÉ INDIGENOUS LAND - Increasing tension in the long wait for demarcation: A special report by [Infoamazônia](#), published in July 2022, describes the long history of violations and struggles of the peoples of the Apinajé Indigenous Land, cut in half during the construction of the Transamazonian highway during the military dictatorship. According to the report, the indigenous people understand that only part of their territory in the north of Tocantins (at the time it was the state of Goiás), is demarcated (the current Apinajé Indigenous Land, with 140,000 hectares). They fight for the recognition of the other half (Apinayé II), to the west and south of the Transamazonian highway. In 2019, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office of Tocantins filed a Class Action against FUNAI and the federal government requesting that the expansion of the Apinajé Indigenous Land be concluded within two years. Infoamazônia explains that, in August 2021, federal judge Victor Curado Silva Pereira determined the conclusion of the demarcation process for the Apinajé Indigenous Land extension in up to two years, but FUNAI argued that the expansion was not necessary. In June 2022, FUNAI was ordered to pay a fine for not complying with the judicial decision regarding the expansion of the Apinajé territory. For Carlos Augusto C. Almeida, of the Indigenous Missionary Council of Tocantins (CIMI-TO), heard by the report, the decision of the justice system that ruled that the Federal Government and FUNAI must wrap up the demarcation of the territory in two years intensified the climate of threats and violence in the region. Carlos Augusto warns of a worse scenario due to the Bolsonaro government's firearms policy: "We are seeing armed militias being set up and experiencing an imminent period of bloodshed". He said that ruralists incite the city's population against the Apinajé and local FUNAI officials. He points out that many conflicts would already be resolved if Apinajé Indigenous Land had been established completely right from the start.



QUILOMBOLAS

According to data from the state government⁴⁰³, of the 2,474 certified quilombola communities in the country, 39 are in Tocantins, contributing to the state's cultural heritage. Data from the National Coordination of Quilombos (CONAQ) informs that the quilombola and remnant population is estimated at 9,680 people (2,420 families), who live in 46 communities located in 26 municipalities⁴⁰⁴.

ADOPT A PARK: State Bill threatens quilombolas of the Jalapão

In August 2021, the Legislative Assembly of Tocantins approved [Bill no. 5/2021](#), by 16 votes to 4. It was proposed by former governor Mauro Carlesse to grant concession to the private sector of four state Conservation Units, among them the Jalapão State Park, the most visited in the state. The vote – and the approval of 16 votes to 4 – was received with surprise and indignation, since the State Congress itself had informed that it would not vote on the project before holding public hearings with the traditional communities of the region, a [Class Action](#) filed by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office against the Bill⁴⁰⁵.

In the month following the vote, the State Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO) issued a public letter requesting support from the Palmares Foundation, the federal agency that promotes and protects afro-Brazilian culture, and state agencies. The letter stated that the concessions in Jalapão threatened the five quilombos of the area: Povoado do Prata; Boa Esperança; Carrapato, Formiga, Mata and Ambrósio; Povoado do Mumbuca; and Comunidade Quilombola das Margens do Rio Novo, Rio Preto and Riachão. "Jalapão is in a state of agony and despair because of the state park privatization," says Maria Aparecida Ribeiro de Sousa, executive coordinator of quilombola associations COEQTO and CONAQ, according to [Alma Preta](#). In November, COEQTO, representing ten quilombola communities affected by the privatization of the Jalapão State Park, [met](#) with the Chief of Staff and the Attorney General's Office of the state of Tocantins to demand the right to regularize their territories and and in the consultation protocol prepared by the quilombolas, already approved by Tocantins' Public Prosecutor's Office". A few days later, a public hearing was held⁴⁰⁶ in the House of Representatives in Brasília to discuss the project.

In the meantime, then governor and bill author Mauro Carlesse was removed from office by the Superior Court of Justice (*read more below*). Vice-governor Wanderlei Barbosa, in office, attended, on November 30 2021, the first public hearing to discuss the privatization of Jalapão, organized in the municipality of Mateiros. On the occasion, Barbosa announced the cancellation of the concession of Jalapão State Park, apparently due to political and popular pressure, a decision later confirmed by the state government's Twitter account. The Bill, however, continued to apply to the other three parks that were included in the original proposal.⁴⁰⁷

VIOLENCE : Government's endorsement is perceived as cause of increase in rural conflicts

According to data from the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), Tocantins ranks seventh among the nine states of the Legal Amazon in the number of rural area conflicts in the last ten years. There were 309 conflicts identified between 2010 and 2019. According to the [Public Security Annual Report 2022](#), Tocantins recorded 1,659 intentional violent deaths⁴⁰⁸ between 2018 and 2021, or more than one murder a day in the period.

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“The Bolsonaro government has brought out the worst side of people. There were cases here of people who in political debates found themselves entitled to stick a knife in each other. In the rural context, when farmers and land grabbers had the approval of the federal government to move forward with the invasions they had been making in indigenous and quilombola territories, this intensified the conflicts. These conflicts occur in three ways: in the judicial system, where communities are being prosecuted by farmers; threats to leaders or groups; and attacks and massacres against traditional and indigenous communities.”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO), Arraias/TO.

403 <https://www.to.gov.br/sector/comunidades-quilombolas/6njfrsueivpa>

404 <http://conaq.org.br/noticias/pela-primeira-vez-tocantins-traca-mapas-turisticos-para-rotas-indigenas-e-quilombolas/>

405 <https://site-antigo.socioambiental.org/pt-br/blog/blog-do-monitoramento/quilombolas-do-jalapao-to-contestam-concessao-de-unidades-de-conservacao-a-iniciativa-privada>

406 <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/828598-comissao-debate-ameaca-a-quilombolas-em-tocantins>

407 <https://g1.globo.com/to/tocantins/noticia/2021/11/30/governador-em-exercicio-paralisa-audiencia-publica-e-cancela-concessao-do-jalapao.ghtml>

408 Intentional Violent Deaths include: intentional homicide; robbery followed by murder; bodily injury followed by death; death by police intervention.



Conflicts and deaths in rural areas - Tocantins - 2018-2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Land conflicts*	37	45	55	56
Personal violence**	3	6	1	13

*Relating to the total number of conflicts over land and actions of occupations/repossessions; **Relating to the total number of murders, attempted murders, death as a consequence, death threats, torture, imprisonment and assault

Source: "Conflitos no campo 2018"; "Conflitos no Campo 2019"; "Conflitos no Campo 2020"; "Conflitos no Campo 2021"- CPT

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“One of the worst projects we ever got, which was really serious, was the project that aimed to achieve maximum productive capacity in Matopiba. Outside countries invested money in this project for agribusiness to produce in these areas. The country’s three largest river basins are located in this region. They play a key role in the climate issue. The Cerrado plays an important part in offering a large amount of water to the Amazon. The Cerrado is the mother of other biomes and has been attacked with tremendous force.”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO), Arraias/TO.

POINTS OF ATTENTION

[Supplemental Bill \(PLC\) 246/2020](#) is proceeding in the National Congress. It was authored by representative Pastor Gil (PL/MA) and establishes the Geoeconomic and Social Complex of Matopiba. The project was presented to the House of Representatives in October of 2020. According to [Agência Câmara](#), the PLC 246/20 proposal originally established for administrative purposes the Geoeconomic and Social Complex of Matopiba, defined by the Executive Branch as a polygonal including the south of Maranhão, the north of Tocantins, the south of Piauí and the west of Bahia. A board would be responsible for the implementation and management of this complex, including measures for institutional strengthening and modernization of agriculture while ensuring environmental and social sustainability.

Projects of high socio-environmental impact in the state: Matopiba is the focus

The region covers remaining parts of the Cerrado in these four states whose acronyms form the name Matopiba. It is considered the frontier of agricultural expansion in Brazil – by the end of 2022, according to projections, it will represent 16.4% of the cultivated area in the country.



The project was approved after debates with a substitute by the rapporteur, Federal Representative Captain Fábio Abreu (PL/PI), on September 22 2021 in the [Commission for Economic Development, Industry, Trade and Services](#). The main modification to the original proposal made in the [substitute](#) by the rapporteur was the inclusion of part of the state of Pará in the project. "(...) There has been an understanding that part of the region in the state of Pará needs to be included, which justifies the change of the acronym from the geoeconomic region to Mapatopiba — comprising the states of Maranhão, Pará, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia. The entire region of Pará that shares land and agriculture borders with the states of Maranhão and Tocantins should be part of the geoeconomic complex of Mapatopiba. With this addition, (...) approximately 39 more municipalities in the state of Pará to a region of 732,000 km² (...) Comprises 376 municipalities, in 39 microregions, with a population of approximately 7.5 million inhabitants. No less than 91% of its territory is home to the last large remnants of Cerrado, the most biodiverse savannah on the planet," says the report approved by the Economic Development Commission.

In the following month, Bill 246 was sent to the Commission for National Integration, Regional Development and the Amazon (CINDRA), where Representative Colonel Chrisóstomo (PSL/RO) was appointed as rapporteur. According to a consultation on the website of the House of Representatives held on July 22 2022, Bill 246 is still under analysis at CINDRA. If it is approved in this committee, it needs to be processed by the Committee on Constitution and Justice (CCJ) to then be voted by the House's floor.

DISINFORMATION

The Indigenous peoples and communities of Tocantins were also affected by the wave of misinformation about Covid-19 vaccination in 2021. The impact was such that the state created a law to fine those who spread fake news related to public health.

Turning into an alligator - Although Indigenous peoples were listed as a priority in the state plan of vaccination against the coronavirus, lies spread by social media hindered their immunization process. In an interview with news website [G1](#), singer and activist Narúbia Werreria, from the Karajá ethnic group, from Ilha do Bananal's Iny people, said that false information about the vaccine's efficiency led many Indigenous people to avoid getting a jab. "We get the most absurd ones. That it is a chip implanted by China to control people; that people will turn into alligators, and even that you would die if you got the vaccine [...] Instead of having a pro-vaccine campaign, raising awareness, here it is the opposite. And the government is silent", she said. The state coronavirus vaccination plan provided for vaccinating almost 7,500 Indigenous people, but in August 2021, seven months after the start of the campaign, less than 5,000 had been fully immunized.

A fine to curb fake news - In July 2022, the State Congress' floor passed a [law](#) that established "a fine for those who pass on by false news or fake news about epidemics, endemics and pandemics by electronic media in the state of Tocantins". Congresswoman Luana Ribeiro (PCdoB), author of the bill, justified it saying that "the publication of fake news as if it were real information spreads quickly, causing great concern and commotion throughout society". The text creates sanctions, such as fines, to discourage the spread of untrue information and promote greater awareness among the population. According to the law, the amount of the fine was set between 50 and 500 UFIRs (Reference Tax Units of the State of Tocantins).

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“In a WhatsApp group chat, I was sent a speech from a politician who said that climate change had nothing to do with deforestation and that such a practice did not affect this issue at all. They present deforestation as a good thing that fights the climate issue. They said that ‘in such and such region’ after the advance of agricultural production, agribusiness, despite deforestation, it started to rain even out of the rainy season. In his view, ‘it unlocked the rainy season’”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO), Arraias/TO.



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“This [‘passing of cattle herd’] effort by them shows what the Bolsonaro government is about as well as the importance it gives to people’s lives. Since this was said at a time when people were dying of coronavirus. The disease was used as a political instrument to pass laws of personal interest.”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO), Arraias/TO.

In [Smoke Signal's](#) monitoring of the main socio-environmental events since the election of Jair Bolsonaro, we highlight three episodes in Tocantins that reveal the nature and consolidate federal government policies executed with the support of members of Congress and local authorities.

TIMELINE



MARCH 2021: Covid-19: In an open letter, Indigenous people from Tocantins demand prevention plan⁴⁰⁹

Twenty leaders of the Indigenous Peoples of Tocantins published a letter to demand that the authorities go ahead with “the expansion and implementation of the Plan to Prevent and Combat the New Coronavirus (Covid-19) for the Indigenous Peoples of Tocantins”⁴¹⁰, prepared by the indigenous activist Narúbia Silva Werreria based on the national guidelines for Indigenous health during the pandemic period. The group highlighted the Indigenous population’s vulnerability in relation to the virus and stressed the need for “urgent and effective prevention action” to battle the coronavirus in Indigenous areas.



NOVEMBER 2021: Xerente Women create the first women volunteer fire brigade⁴¹¹

In the municipality of Tocantinia (TO), Indigenous women of the Xerente people created the first female volunteer brigade to fight forest fires in Brazil. The initiative came from Cachoeirinha village residentes. In August, the community hosted a formative course for 29 women, with support of the City Hall, the American Forest Service and FUNAI, Brazil’s indigenous agency. In addition to the fire-fighting work, the group also promotes environmental education initiatives in the region. “It’s a job that all of us brigade members enjoy. It is an apprenticeship through direct contact with the elderly, young people and children. In this face-to-face work, we show the reality of what happens to nature when there is a fire,” said Vanessa Xerente, 33, a resident of the Cachoeira Brejo de Ouro Village and head of the Xerente Women’s Brigade Squadron.



JANUARY 2022: Indigenous leader of the Karajá Xambioá people, Josué Borori Txebuare Karajá dies⁴¹²

The Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) reported the death of Josué Borori Txebuare Karajá, 75 years old, indigenous leader of the Karajá Xambioá people⁴¹³. According to the association, Borori was the victim of a flu outbreak that affected several indigenous communities. He was a chief of the Hawa-Tymara Settlement, located in the Xambioá Indigenous Land, municipality of Santa Fé do Araguaia (TO), strongly affected by an outbreak of influenza and Covid-19 cases at the beginning of the year. His son and successor, Rubens Karajá reported⁴¹⁴ that the flu outbreak reached 90% of the community, which was left without medicines or assistance from the Indigenous Health Department (SESAI) and could only count on one car in need of maintenance to seek medical assistance in the city. As a retired servant of FUNAI, Chief Borori “had an important role in several historical and political movements of his people, including the struggle for demarcation of the Xambioá Indigenous Land,” COIAB said in a statement.

409 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2020/03/31/covid-19-em-carta-aberta-indigenas-do-tocantins-reivindicam-plano-de-prevencao/>

410 <https://gazetadocerrado.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/plano-de-acao-preventiva-e-combate-do-covid-19-nos-povos-indigenas-to.pdf>

411 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2021/11/01/mulheres-xerente-criam-primeira-brigada-de-mulheres-contra-incendio/>

412 <https://www.sinaldefumaca.com/2022/01/05/morre-josue-borori-txebuare-karaja-lideranca-indigena-do-povo-karaja-xambioa/>

413 <https://www.instagram.com/p/CYXZVCfMQEz/>

414 <https://www.cartacapital.com.br/sociedade/novo-surto-de-influenza-e-covid-19-coloca-indigenas-da-regiao-norte-em-risco/>



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“The regularization of quilombola and Indigenous communities must be a priority. The government needs to discuss the responsibility of environmental liabilities everywhere. People need to be held accountable for this. The areas of environmental preservation need to be kept intact; to make progress, it will also be necessary to think about how to guarantee land ownership, we only move forward if people have what is theirs.”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO), Arraias/TO.

STATE GOVERNMENT: Resignation of pro-Bolsonaro governor marks troubled period in Tocantins

In 2018, Mauro Carlesse (former-PSL, currently in AGIR) was re-elected governor of Tocantins with 57.27% of the valid votes. Mauro Carlesse is an agribusiness entrepreneur; he began his political career in the Green Party (PV) in 2011, when he was president of the Rural Union of Gurupi (TO)⁴¹⁵. According to the news website [G1](#), “Mauro Carlesse took over the executive branch of Tocantins unexpectedly in June 2018, without ever having been considered as a candidate for the position of governor. He was president of State Congress and ended up in the governor’s chair because Marcelo Miranda (MDB) and Claudia Lelis (PV), then governor and vice-governor, were suspended by decision of the Superior Electoral Court. The two had been condemned for using undeclared funds in the electoral campaign of 2014. After the suspension, Carlesse took office on an interim basis and managed to stay in office in a by-election and then again in that year’s general election. His administration was rife with controversy, the most significant of which was the change in the Civil Police’s manual of conduct. The document became known as the ‘gag order’ for prohibiting the disclosure of names of suspected criminals and criticisms to authorities.”

On October 20 2021, the Special Court of the Superior Court of Justice (STJ)⁴¹⁶ unanimously ordered that Mauro Carlesse step down from the position of governor for six months due to suspicion of bribes related to the health plan of state servants, obstruction of investigations and diversion of public resources. From this decision of the Supreme Court of Justice in March 2022 Tocantins’ State Congress approved in the first round the opening of impeachment proceedings against Mauro Carlesse. Two hours before the second round vote that would confirm the impeachment’s next stage, Carlesse resigned from office⁴¹⁷. After the resignation, vice-governor Wanderlei Barbosa (Republicanos) effectively took over the position he had held temporarily since October 2021. Governor-in-Office Wanderlei Barbosa began his career as a city councilor in Porto Nacional (TO) and then in the capital, Palmas, a position he held for successive terms until 2010. He was elected state representative twice before running with Carlesse in the troubled change of government in Tocantins in 2018.

415 <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/politica/noticia/2018-10/eleicoes-estaduais-mauro-carlesse-e-reeleito-governador-do-tocantins>

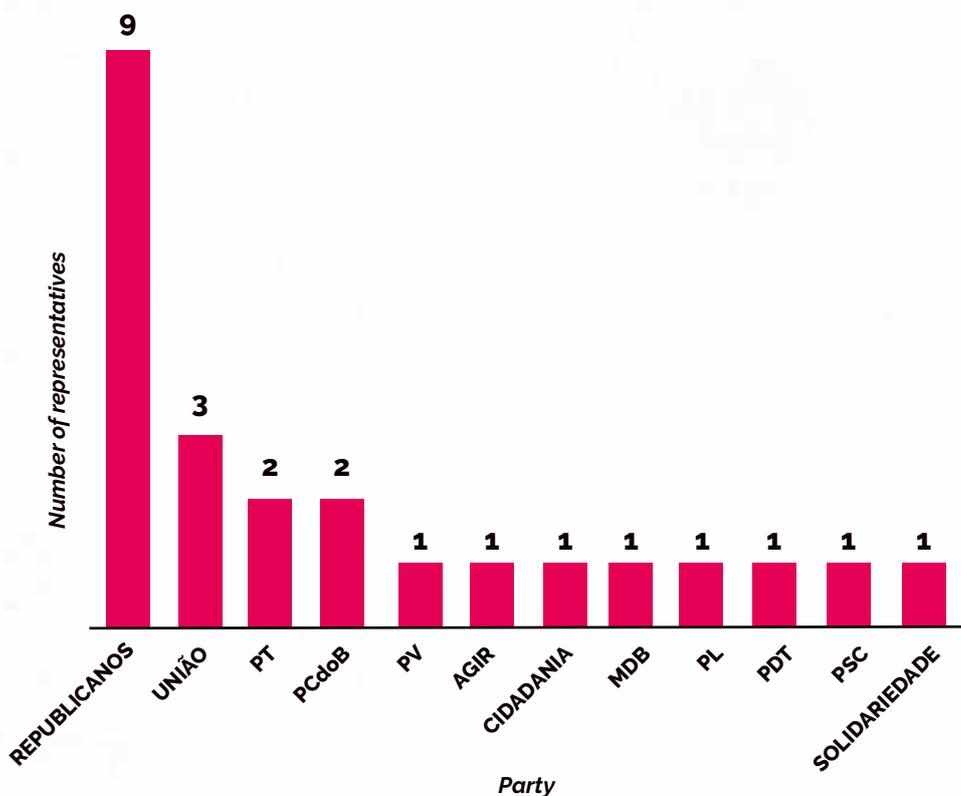
416 <https://g1.globo.com/to/tocantins/noticia/2021/10/20/stj-confirma-afastamento-do-governador-do-tocantins-por-seis-meses.ghtml>

417 <https://g1.globo.com/to/tocantins/noticia/2022/03/11/governador-afastado-do-tocantins-mauro-carlesse-renuncia-ao-cargo.ghtml>

418 <https://g1.globo.com/to/tocantins/noticia/2021/10/20/saiba-quem-e-wanderlei-barbosa-vice-que-assume-o-governo-do-tocantins-durante-o-afastamento-de-carlesse.ghtml>



The State Congress of Tocantins has **24** state representatives⁴¹⁹, distributed as follows:



”

“The most striking fact was to see the state and federal governments’ neglect towards nature. There are studies that talk about climate change, that point to the issue of deforestation, and the government tries to disqualify this idea. This is very symbolic, it is scary. I don’t know what these people think, but of course they neglect the environmental issue. Even though their lives are also affected, they do not value preservation.”

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins (COEQTO), Arraias/TO.

THE TOCANTINS CAUCUS IN NATIONAL CONGRESS:

The proportion of votes in favor of environmental destruction was 78.75% (75% with abstentions); 62.5% of the representatives are in the Ruralist Caucus

The legislative caucus of Tocantins in National Congress has eight federal representatives and three senators⁴²⁰. Most of the representatives voted with the Bolsonaro government in key projects of the Destruction Package and were in favor of the 2022 Annual Budget which allocates record funds for the rapporteur’s amendments (“secret budget”).

419 <https://al.to.leg.br/perfil>

420 <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/parlamentares/em-exercicio>



How the Representatives of Tocantins voted on the Bolsonaro Destruction Package and the 2022 Annual Budget

Names highlighted in pink are members of the Agriculture and Cattle Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) - the Ruralist Caucus

Federal Deputy	NAME/PARTY	LAND GRABBING (Bill no. 2633/2020) ^{421,422} House Floor	LICENSING ⁴²³ (Bill no. 3729/2004) House Floor	MINING IN INDIGENOUS LANDS ⁴²⁴ (Bill no. 191/2020) House Floor - Urgency	DEMARICATION OF INDIGENOUS LANDS (Bill no. 490/2007) ⁴²⁵ CCJ	Bill no. 19/2021 (2022 Annual Budget Law) ⁴²⁶ House Floor
01	Carlos Henrique Gaguim (UNIÃO)	In favor	In favor	In favor	X	In favor
02	Célio Moura (PT)	Against	Against	Against	X	In favor
03	Prof. Dorinha Seabra Rezende (União)* *currently on leave but participated in all votes listed here; substitute: Lazaro Botelho (PP)	In favor	X	Against	X	In favor
04	Dulce Miranda (MDB)	In favor	In favor	Against	X	In favor
05	Eli Borges (PL)	In favor	In favor	In favor	X	Against
06	Osires Damaso (PSC)* *currently on leave but participated in all votes listed here; substitute: Tiago Andrino (PSB)	In favor	In favor	In favor	X	In favor
07	Tiago Dimas (PODEMOS)	In favor	In favor	In favor	X	In favor
08	Vicentinho Júnior (PP)	In favor	In favor	In favor	X	In favor

Source: Organized by the guide based on the Chamber of representatives and the [Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front](#) websites

TOCANTINS IN THE FEDERAL SENATE

The representatives of Tocantins in the Senate are senator Irajá (PSD), senator Kátia Abreu (PP) and senator Eduardo Gomes (PL)⁴²⁷. The three voted in favor of Bill 19/2022 Annual Budget⁴²⁸ and make up the Parliamentary Agricultural Front.

421 <https://www2.camara.leg.br/atividade-legislativa/plenario/chamadaExterna.html?link=https://www.camara.leg.br/internet/votacao/mostraVotacao.asp?ideVotacao=9924>

422 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/temas/meio-ambiente/veja-como-cada-deputado-votou-no-pl-da-grilagem/>

423 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=61505&itemVotacao=9604&ordenacao=UF>

424 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=64734&itemVotacao=10597&ordenacao=UF>

425 <https://www.camara.leg.br/presenca-comissoes/votacao-portal?reuniao=62049&itemVotacao=46481>

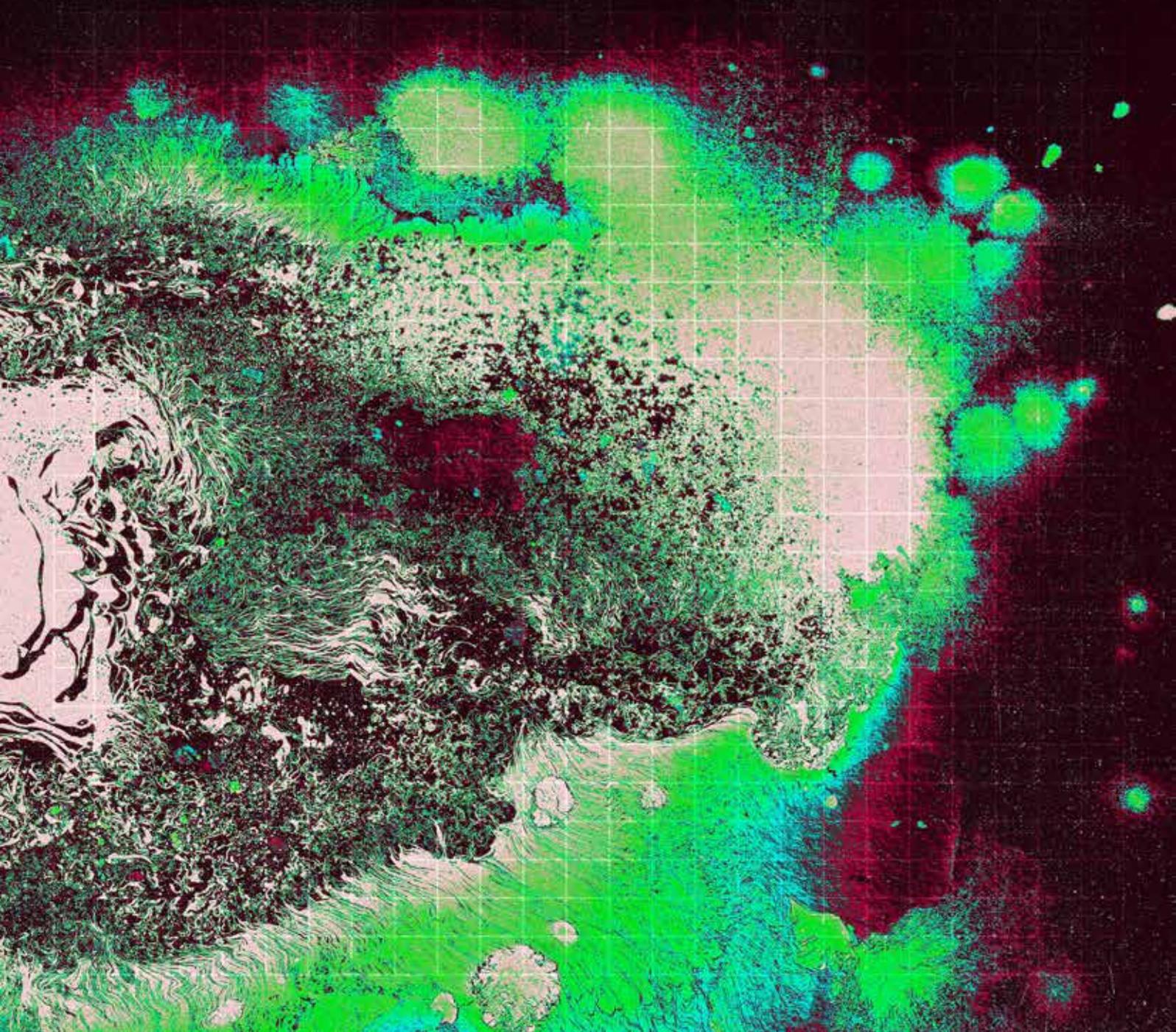
426 <https://congressoemfoco.uol.com.br/area/congresso-nacional/confira-como-cada-parlamentar-votou-no-orcamento-de-2022/>

427 On leave; acting alternate Senator Ogari Pacheco (UNIÃO)

<https://www25.senado.leg.br/web/senadores/em-exercicio>

428 <https://interativos.g1.globo.com/politica/2019/como-votam/senado/brasil/projetos/orcamento-da-uniao-para-2022>

12. CONCLUSION





Smoke Signal's monitoring in the last four years describes a picture of socio-environmental collapse in the Amazon, accelerated monthly since Jair Bolsonaro's victory.

The destruction was carried out with the help of national congress, governors, state representatives and the big buyers of minerals, timber and agricultural & farming products.

The content curation of *The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide - An examination of the region's nine states between 2018 and 2022* lays out how the 'cattle herd strategy' promoted by the federal government materialized thanks to its political supporters in the the Legal Amazon states through political cronyism, environmental crimes, fake news and legislative proposals.

By no means aiming to cover all the problems and projects that impact the region, this overview uses the best available data to reveal the disastrous consequences faced by the forest's peoples, rural and urban areas, the Amazon's biodiversity and the planet's climate balance. It also shows how important the work of social movements, added to the generation of information from civil society and research institutes, has been to prevent the situation from being even worse — the [Resistance](#) desk in our timeline ties in with this statement. Finally, our research brings emblematic cases that illustrate how Bolsonaro's policy for land use, driven by disinformation and hate speech, is at the root of the explosion of violence against traditional communities in their territories.

Indigenous, social and land struggle movements have been at the front line of resistance against fascism in the Amazon. Despite threats and violence, the strategies of public mobilization, association with the Congress opposition and initiatives in the courts reduced the damage and delayed legislative plans of the alliance between the ruralist majority in Congress and the Bolsonaro government.

Elections 2022: Land use destination and climate justice in Brazil

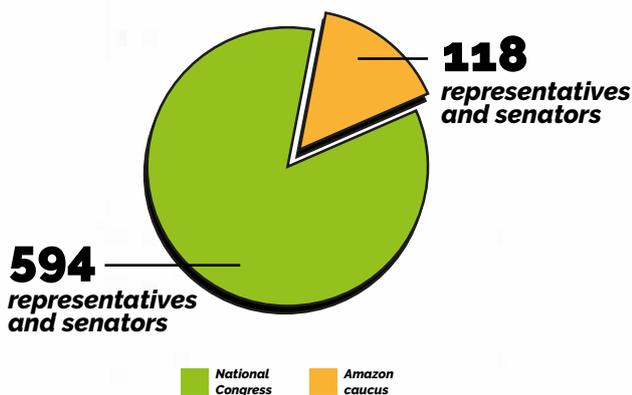
Before and after the ballot result, this guide presents a sample of what is at stake in terms of Brazil's socio-environmental wealth in the Amazon. Until the October elections, it might serve as reference for journalists, members of civil society organizations and voters in general to confront candidates for the National Congress and the federal government, as well as demand urgent measures to reverse the lack of control over environmental crime in the region and guarantee the territorial rights of threatened communities. After the elections, several of the plans and public policies based on federal budgets and laws will remain on the negotiating table — which is to say they will be moving along in Congress and potential targets for shady negotiations and bargains between the Executive, congresspeople and state and local political forces.

Once the caucuses of representatives and senators take office, it is important to keep questioning representatives from all the federation's states about proposals that impact the Legal Amazon, since it is in the National Congress that they are effectively voted and enabled. The guide is also useful for analyzing regional policies of land use and how the election of governors and state congresses impact the states and the Amazon's traditional peoples. The cases of bills and state projects reported in this publication, and in several other surveys by researchers and journalists, indicate that the spaces of institutional power in the region are increasingly dominated by actors directly involved in the deforestation cycle.

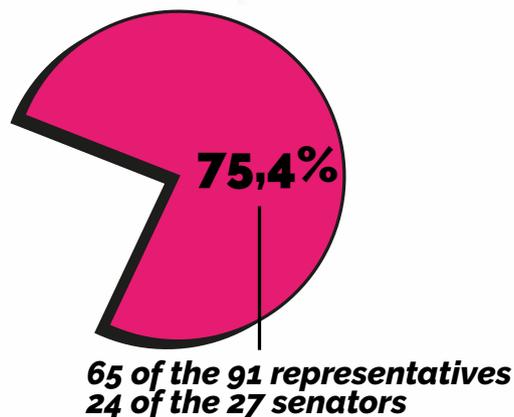


Although they are a minority and have not approved the Destruction Package projects alone, in 8 of the 9 Amazon states, most federal representatives voted in favor of laws that encourage socio-environmental destruction.

Amazon caucus in the National Congress



Representatives of the Legal Amazon who voted in favor of the 2022 Budget Law



Despite the serious impact of speedy processing in the House of Representatives and the fact that some projects reached the Senate, none of the four draft bills of the Destruction Package analyzed in this Guide had effectively become legislation by July 2022.

Reminder: Monitor [De Olho nos Ruralistas](#) showed that, in April 2016, 83% of 155 members of the Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front (FPA) voted in favor of the impeachment of Dilma Roussef. In August 2017, 72% of FPA members supported keeping Michel Temer in the presidency. This and other data shows that the influence of the ruralist caucus began well before the Bolsonaro administration. Under the current government, however, the group seems to have taken full control over the country's budget and development. In July 2022, the [Agriculture and Farming Parliamentary Front](#) had 280 members.



Surveys confirm most politicians support environmental dismantling

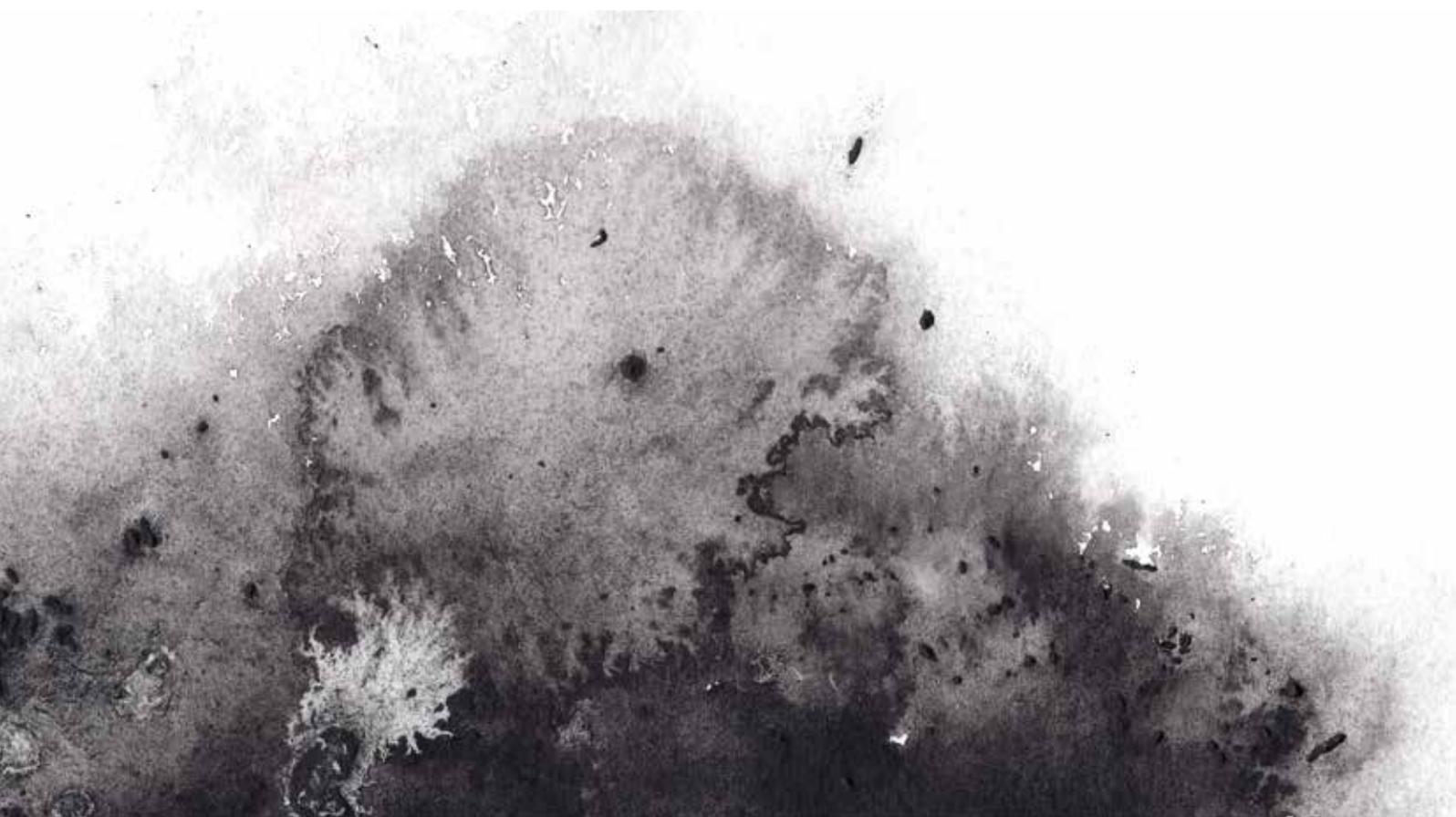
* A survey from website [eco](#) released in July 2022 assessed how federal representatives from the nine Legal Amazon states voted on five proposals to flexibilize socio-environmental laws pending in Congress: fast track on Draft Bill 191/2020 (Mining in Indigenous Lands), Draft Bill 6299/2002 (Poison bill), Draft Bill 2510/2019 (hands over to municipalities the prerogative of defining environmental protection zones in urban areas); Draft Bill 2633/2020 (Land Grabbing bill) and Draft Bill 3729/2004 (environmental licensing). The report shows that in all five projects more than half of parliamentarians voted in favor of easing environmental laws.⁴²⁹

* In April 2022, [research](#) by Rede de Ação Política pela Sustentabilidade - Raps (Political Action Network for Sustainability) in partnership with the Uma Concertação pela Amazônia (Amazon Concertation) initiative analyzed the votes of 91 representatives from the Amazon in seven socio-environmental bills, including Draft Bills 191, 3729, 2633 and proposals for regulation of the carbon market. The survey attributed a positive point to each vote in favor of better laws and a negative point to those against environmental protection. Averages per party were calculated. REDE and PSB came with the best scores; the worst came from Avante, PP and PL.

* In 2021, according to [Climainfo](#), a poll heard 114 representatives and 17 senators, as well as advisors from other 23 members of the House of Representatives and 5 from the Senate, to map out the Legislative's position on the climate issue. Although 94% of respondents said they had "a lot of interest" in the topic, only 29% defended deforestation surveillance as a priority measure to combat climate change in Brazil. Among the supporters of the Bolsonaro government, only 42% said they were concerned about these issues versus 68% recorded among the president's opponents in the Legislative.

* In the 2020 municipal elections, 118 candidates for mayor and vice-mayor for municipalities in the Amazon were on IBAMA's "dirty list" for breaches such as deforestation and fires, according to research by Agência Pública. Of the city administrators in office at the time, 51 had already been fined for breaching environmental laws and 28 were running for reelection. After the elections, [Agência Pública](#) released a new [survey](#) indicating that 85 Brazilian municipalities elected mayors or representatives fined for breaching environmental laws. About a third of the mayor and vice mayor candidates with fines were elected.

⁴²⁹ This survey was released on the same day we completed the survey for this Guide. We use a different methodology to perform calculations, including absences and abstentions.



THE AMAZON AND THE FUTURE OF BRAZIL



Legal Amazon states' caucus in National Congress:

118 parliamentarians = 91 representatives + 27 senators



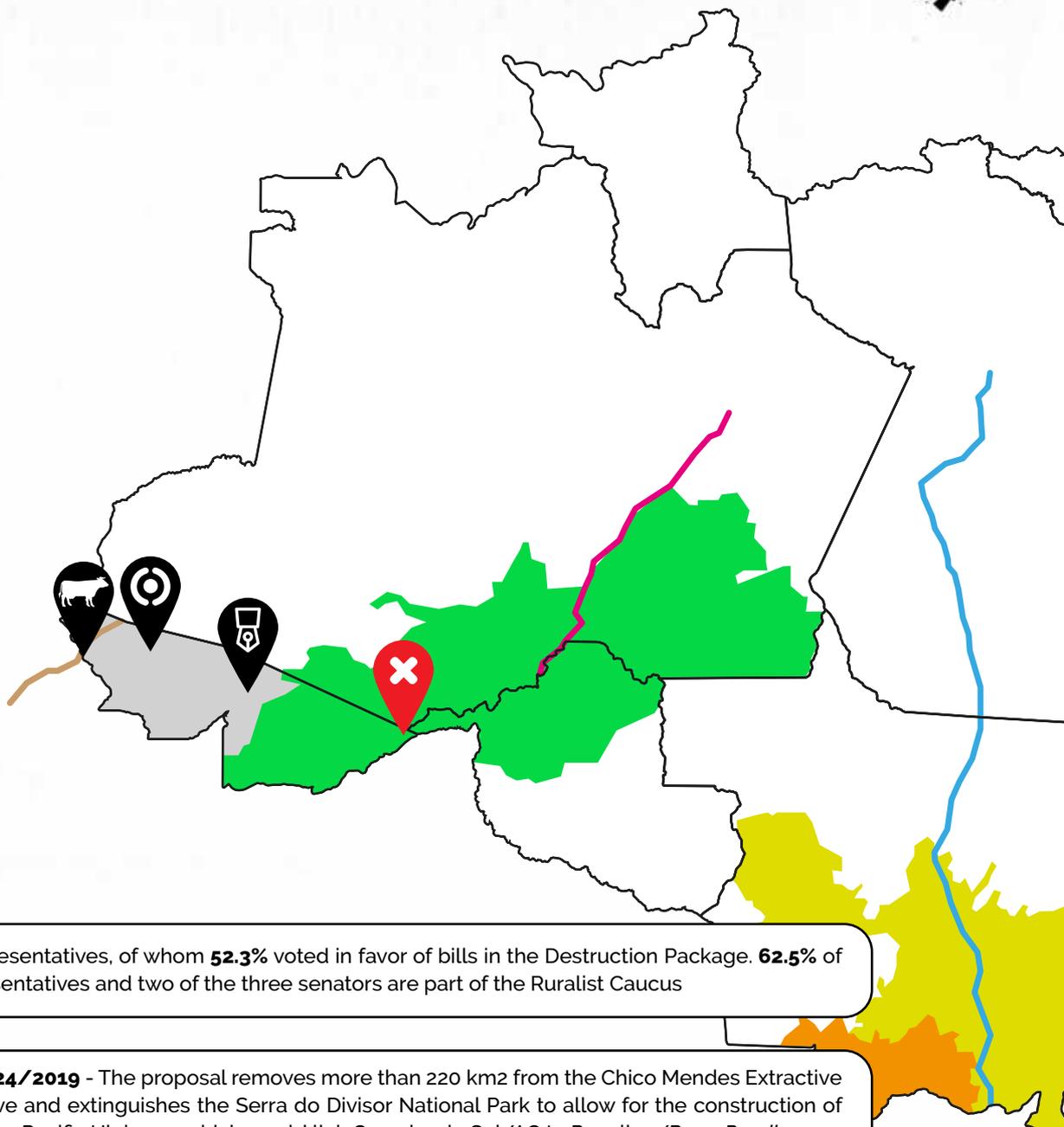
POINTS OF ATTENTION





ACRE

Deforestation in 2022: 392 km²



8 representatives, of whom **52.3%** voted in favor of bills in the Destruction Package. **62.5%** of representatives and two of the three senators are part of the Ruralist Caucus



PL 6024/2019 - The proposal removes more than 220 km² from the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve and extinguishes the Serra do Divisor National Park to allow for the construction of the new Pacific Highway, which would link Cruzeiro do Sul/AC to Pucallpa/Peru. *Pending.*



AMACRO - Land grabbing and deforestation advance in an area coveted by agribusiness between the south of Amazonas, east of Acre and northwest of Rondônia.



Indigenous Emergency
Nukini and Nawa Indigenous Lands - Living around the Serra do Divisor National Park, communities are threatened by the possible construction of the Pacific Highway, that would cut through the Conservation Unit and increase environmental invasions and crimes in their territories;
Ashaninka People and 30 other communities that inhabit the border area are threatened by the illegal reopening of the Nueva Italia - Puerto Breu Highway (UC-105) in Peru.

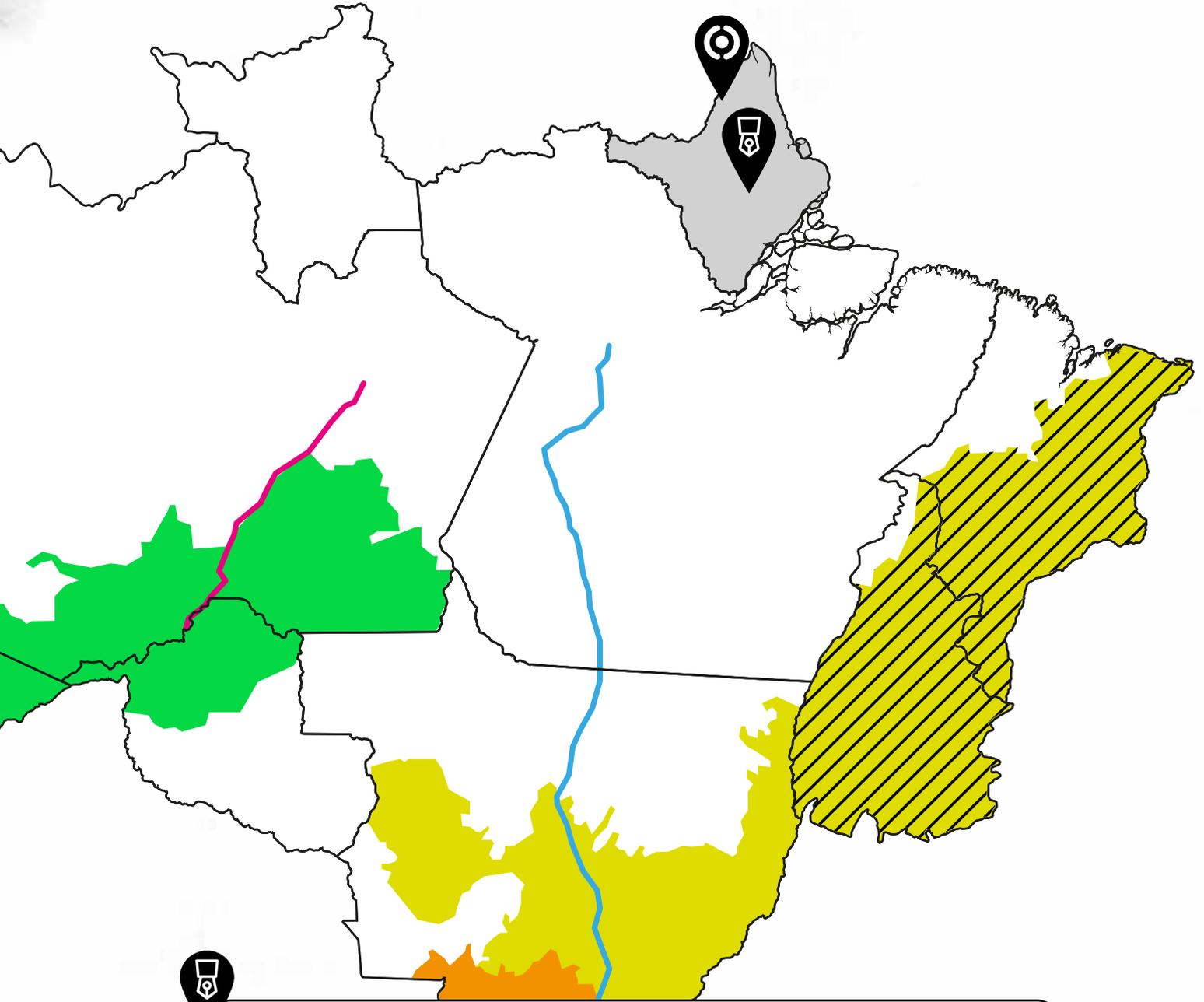
The cases cited here are detailed and referenced throughout the chapters of *The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide*. See respective state for more information.

[Area under deforestation alert by August 5 2022 - DETER - Inpe.](#)



AMAPÁ

Deforestation in 2022: 5.08 km²



8 representatives, of whom **62.5%** of the votes were in favor of bills in the Destruction Package. **25%** of representatives and two of the three senators are part of the Ruralist Caucus



Indigenous Emergency in Oiapoque and Tumucumaque
Contamination of rivers and fish by mercury used in illegal mining causes food insecurity and impacts on the health of indigenous communities in the region.

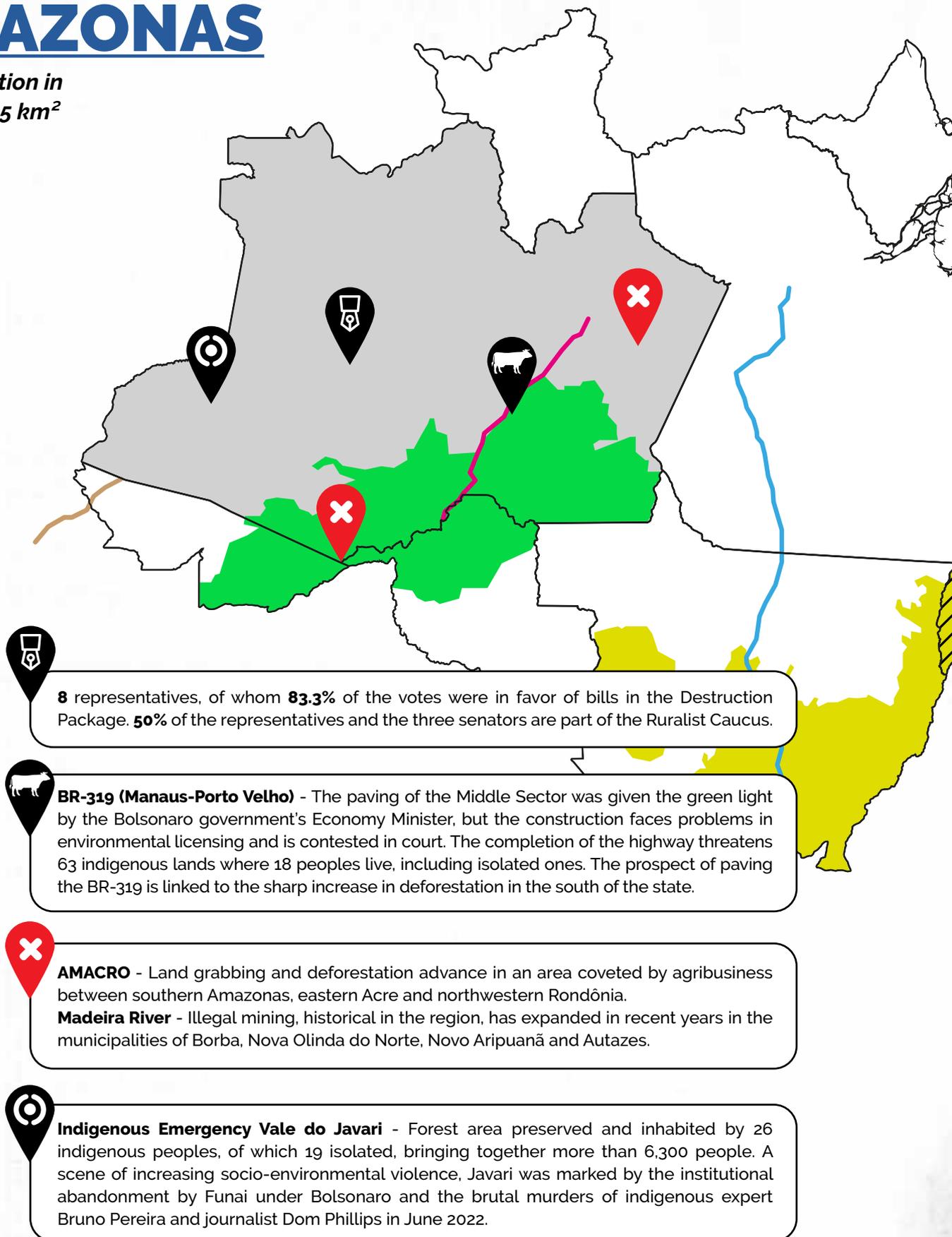
The cases cited here are detailed and referenced throughout the chapters of The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide. See respective state for more information.

[Area under deforestation alert by August 5 2022 - DETER - Inpe.](#)



AMAZONAS

Deforestation in
2022: 2,285 km²



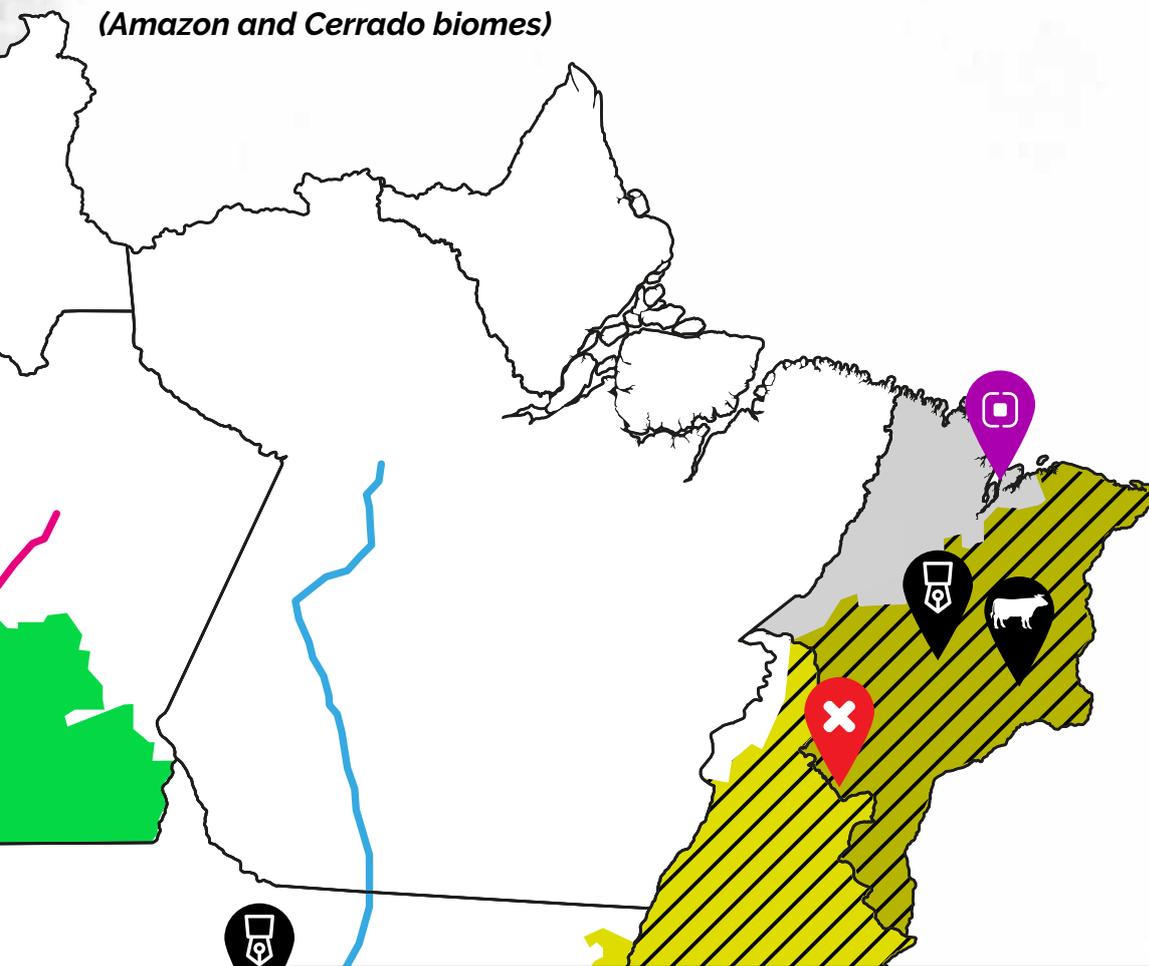
The cases cited here are detailed and referenced throughout the chapters of *The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide*. See respective state for more information.

[Area under deforestation alert by August 5 2022 - DETER - Inpe.](#)



MARANHÃO

Deforestation in 2022: 1,353 km²
(Amazon and Cerrado biomes)



18 representatives, of whom **72.25%** voted in favor of bills in the Destruction Package. **50%** of representatives and two of the three senators are part of the Ruralist Caucus

Supplementary Law Bill 246/2020 - institutes the Geoeconomic and Social Complex of Matopiba, which could bolster agribusiness onslaught in the territory. *Pending.*

MATOPIBA - region that includes parts of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia that accounted for more than 61% of all the deforestation in the Cerrado biome between 2020 and 2021. Maranhão was the state with the largest deforested area (2,281 km²), followed by Tocantins (1,710 km²). It is considered the frontier of agricultural expansion in Brazil.

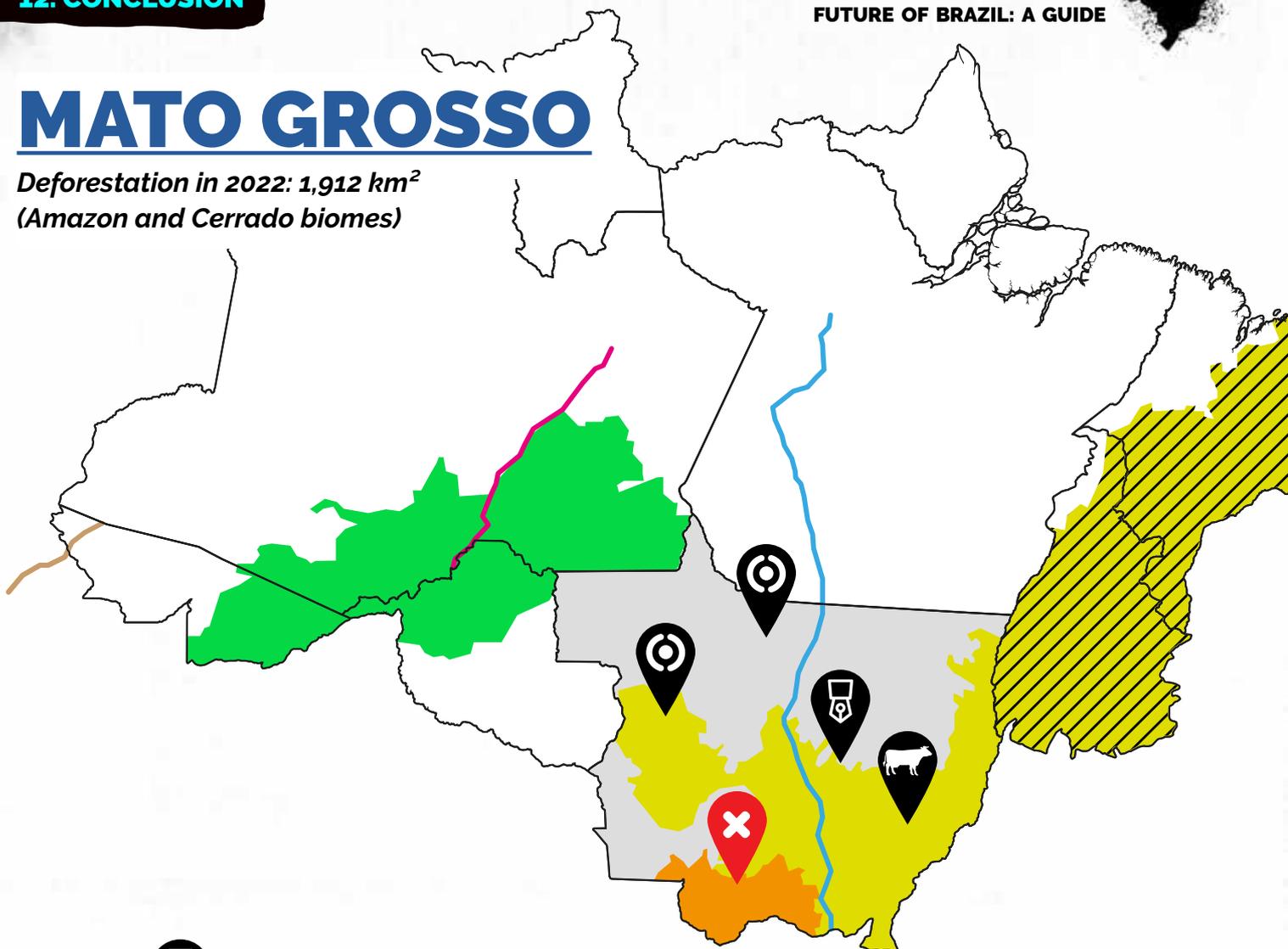
Quilombola Emergency - Expansion of the aerospace base at Alcântara Launch Center (CLA), a partnership with the US, may imply the forced removal of 30 Quilombos affecting around 2,000 people.

The cases cited here are detailed and referenced throughout the chapters of The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide. See respective state for more information.

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MATO GROSSO

Deforestation in 2022: 1,912 km²
(Amazon and Cerrado biomes)



8 representatives, of whom **76%** voted in favor of bills from the Destruction Package. **87.5%** of representatives and 2 of 3 senators are part of the Ruralist Caucus



Draft Bill 337/2022 - The proposal formally excludes Mato Grosso from the Legal Amazon area. If this happens, the state can modify Forest Code rules and expand the area to be deforested "legally". *Pending.*



Cerrado and Pantanal - Accumulated deforestation in the state reached 139,504 km², equivalent to 58% of the total for both biomes within the Legal Amazon (2020).



Indigenous Emergency

Batelão and Enawenê-Nawê Indigenous Lands - Listed among the 10 Indigenous Lands most threatened by deforestation in the country in the first quarter of 2022.

Piripkura Indigenous Land - The last Piripkura survivors continue to be under threat due to the delay in definitive demarcation. Temporary ordinances from FUNAI do not protect the territory from land grabbing and criminal fires.

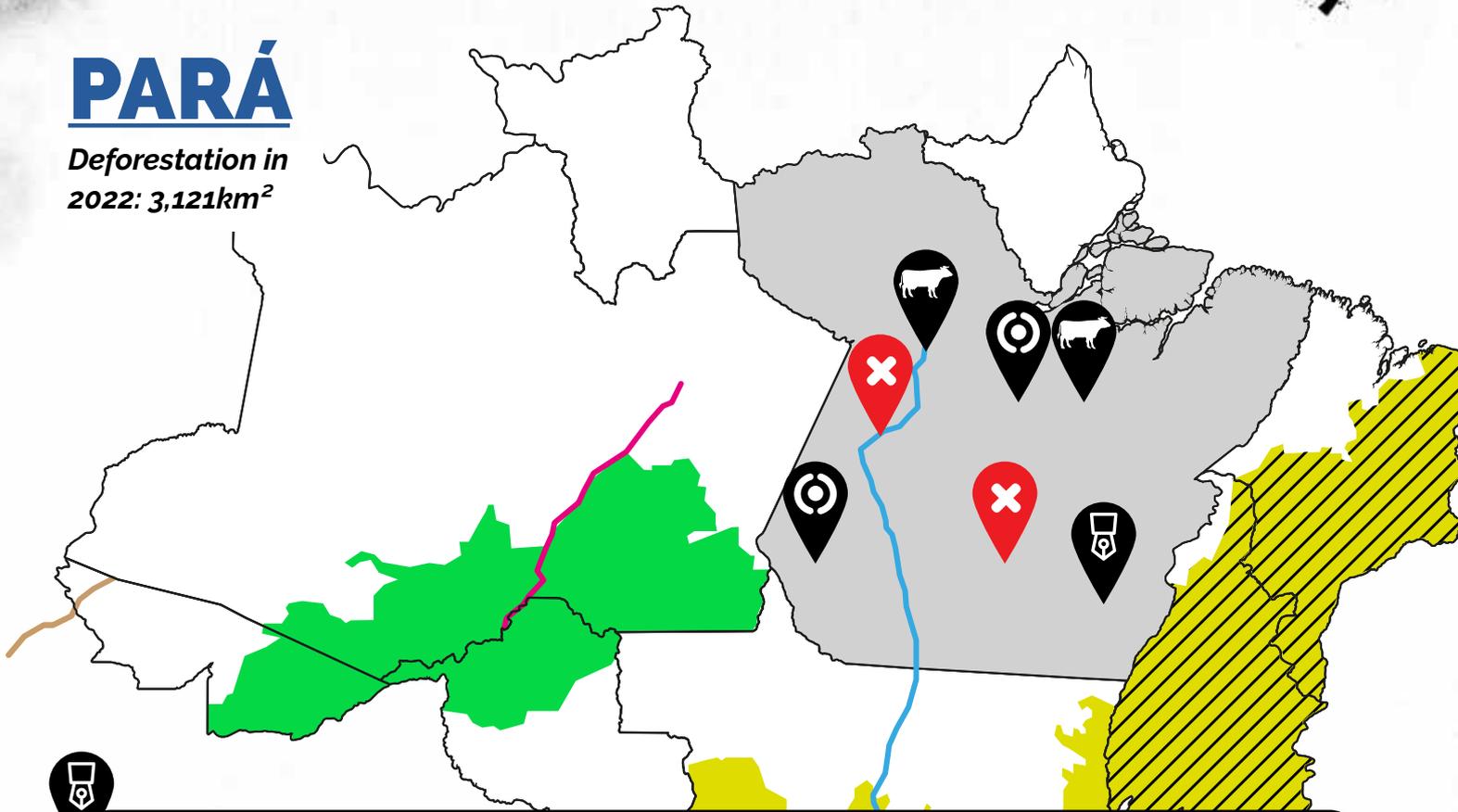
The cases cited here are detailed and referenced throughout the chapters of *The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide*. See respective state for more information.

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PARÁ

Deforestation in
2022: 3,121km²



17 representatives, of whom 54% voted in favor of bills in the Destruction Package. 47.5% of representatives and two of the three senators are part of the Ruralist Caucus

Draft Legislative Decree 508/2019 - presented by a large group of senators, it proposes to hold a plebiscite for the creation of the state of Tapajós, which would divide Pará, its residents and its natural resources. *Pending.*

Environmental Commitment Agreement between Norte Energia and Ibama/UHE Belo Monte - An agreement that restricts the volume of water in the Xingu River to increase the level of the Belo Monte Plant reservoir. The reduction in river flow makes subsistence fishing for indigenous and urban communities unfeasible and threatens 80% of the region's plants and fish. *In court dispute.*

BR-163 - Fire Day took place here in 2019. Deforestation around the highway increased 359% in the following year. No one was arrested for the coordinated and illegal burning of forests in the region. In 2021, without consulting peoples like the Kayapó and the Panará, directly impacted by the work, the federal government auctioned the Sinop (MT) - Miritituba (PA) section.

Xingu under attack - In three years, 149 trees per minute were cut down in the region. The advance of forest destruction in Novo Progresso and São Félix do Xingu threatens to rupture the connectivity of the Xingu Protected Areas Corridor, breaking down the last barrier between the new deforestation arc and the Eastern Amazon.

Indigenous Emergency

Munduruku Indigenous Land: Between 2019 and 2021, mining devastated 2,264 hectares of Indigenous Land, a 269% increase in areas degraded by illegal activity. In some villages, six out of ten Munduruku indigenous people show levels of mercury contamination above safe limits.

Ituna-Itatá Indigenous Land: 84.5% of deforestation recorded within the Indigenous Land occurred between 2019 and 2021. About 93% of the area is registered as private property in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR). This Indigenous Land is an important access to the 24 million-hectare forest range of the Terra do Meio Mosaic, located between the Xingu and Tapajós rivers.

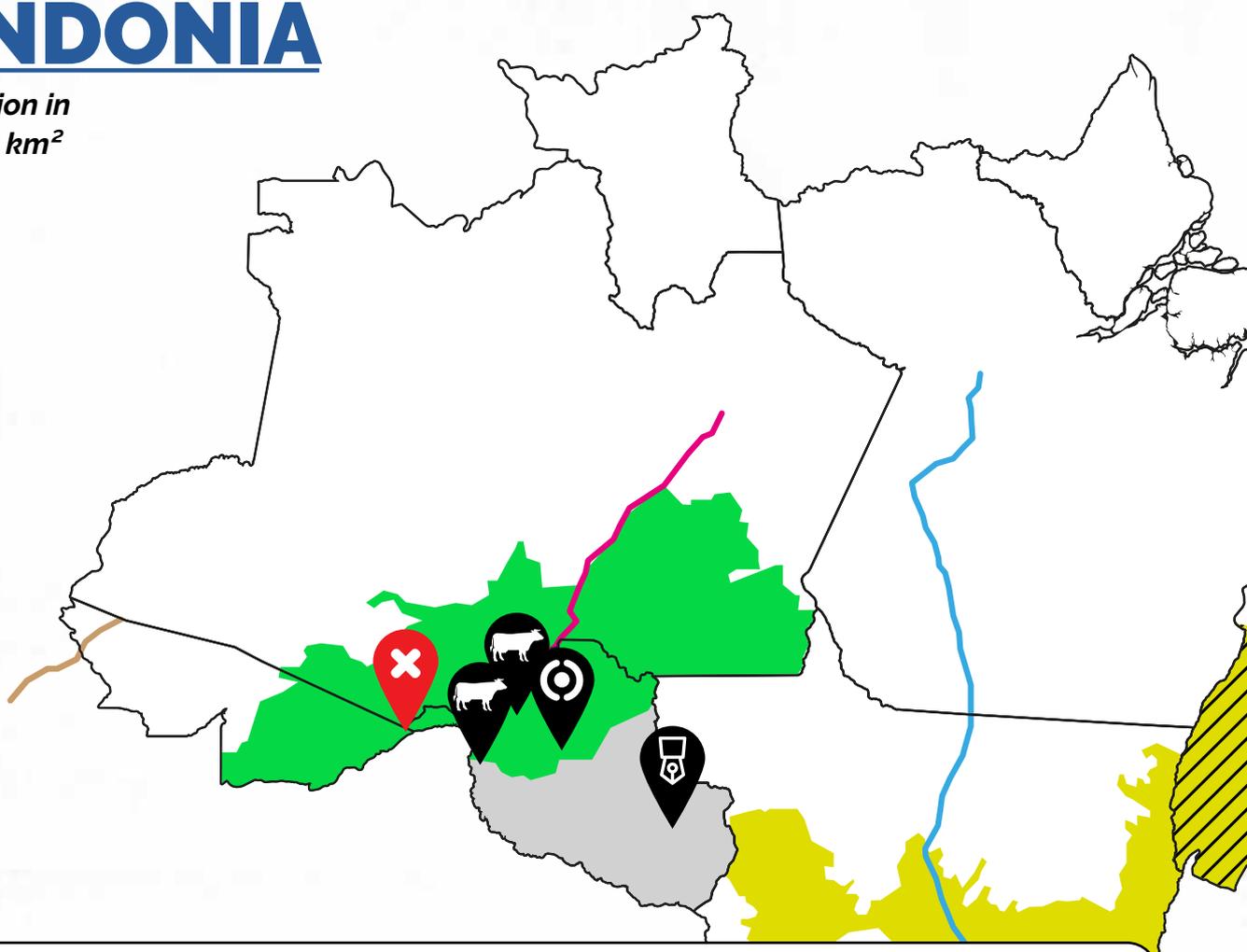
The cases cited here are detailed and referenced throughout the chapters of *The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide*. See respective state for more information.

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RONDÔNIA

Deforestation in
2022: 1,185 km²



8 representatives, of whom **41%** voted in favor of bills in the Destruction Package. **50%** of representatives and two of the three senators are part of the Ruralist Caucus

Complementary Law 1089/2021 - Approved in April 2021 by the State Congress, it reduces by almost 220,000 hectares the Jaci-Paraná Resex and the Guajará-Mirim State Park, regulating land grabbing and illegal deforestation for cattle raising. In November of the same year, the Court of Justice of Rondônia ruled the law unconstitutional after being sued by the State's Public Prosecution Office.

Law 5299/2022 - Sanctioned by governor Colonel Marcos Rocha (PSL) in 2022, the law prohibits the destruction and disabling of machinery, vehicles and other items seized in actions against mining and environmental crimes in the state. *In court dispute.*

AMACRO - Land grabbing and deforestation advance in an area coveted by agribusiness between southern Amazonas, eastern Acre and northwestern Rondônia.

Indigenous Emergency Uru Eu Wau Wau - With over 1.8 million hectares, the territory is home to nine indigenous peoples, including isolated groups. Under increasing pressure from loggers and land grabbers, the last few years have been of violence and threats against indigenous leaders and local social movements. Forest guardian Ari Uru Eu Wau Wau was killed in an ambush in 2020.

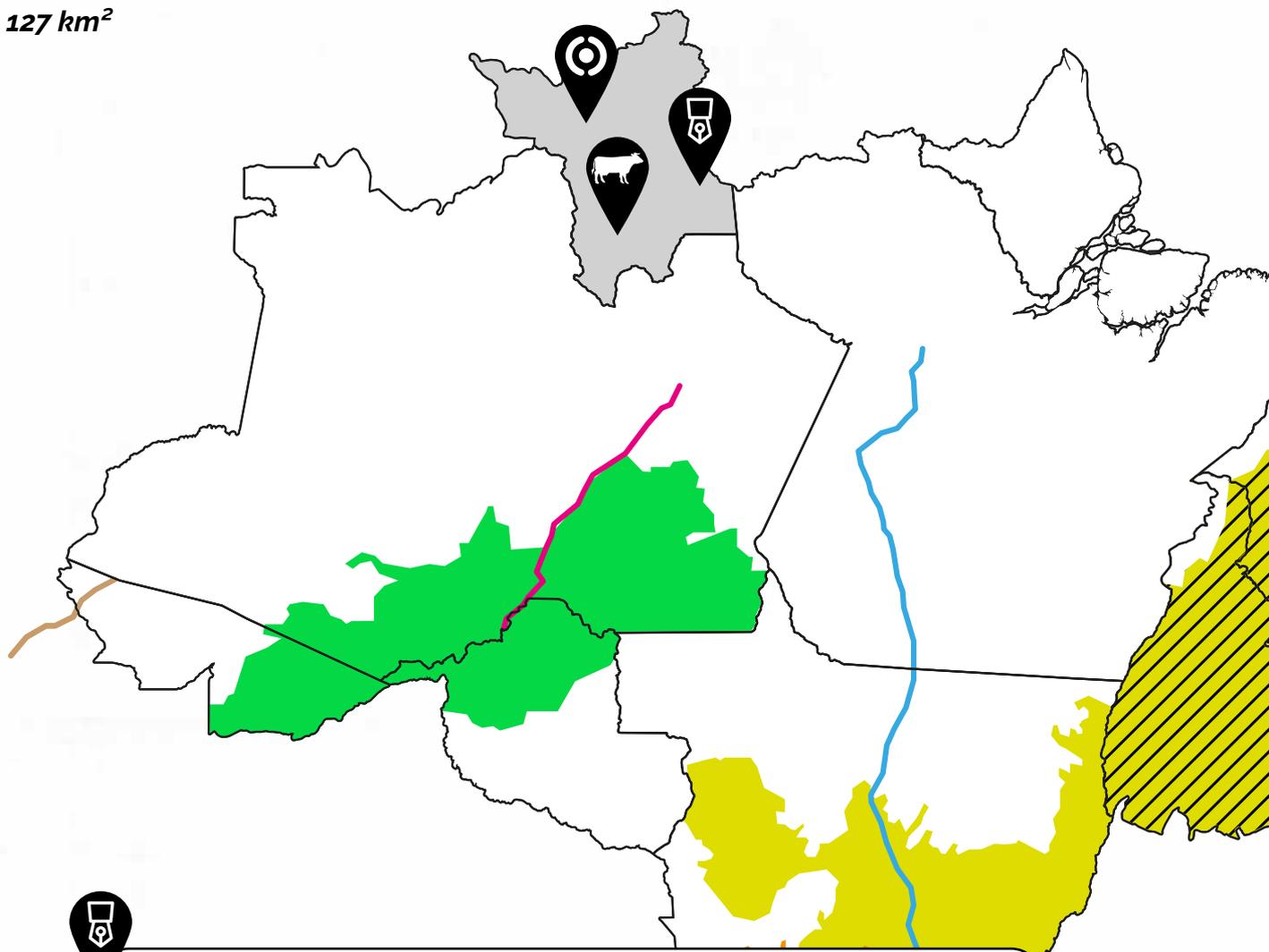
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RORAIMA

Deforestation in
2022: 127 km²



8 representatives, of whom **74.8%** voted in favor of bills in the Destruction Package. **75%** of representatives and two of the three senators are part of the Ruralist Caucus



Law 1.701/2022 - State Congress of Roraima approved and Governor Antonio Denarium (PP) sanctioned a law that prohibits the surveillance agencies and the Military Police from destroying private assets seized in operations to combat environmental crime. *In court dispute.*



Yanomami Indigenous Emergency - Between 2018 and 2021, the area impacted by illegal mining in TI doubled in size, reaching 3,272 hectares. In addition to deforestation and the destruction of rivers, the invasion of miners has led to an explosion in cases of malaria and other diseases and a frightening increase in violence against the Yanomami. The number of directly affected communities comes to 273, with more than 16,000 indigenous people, or 56% of the TI's population.

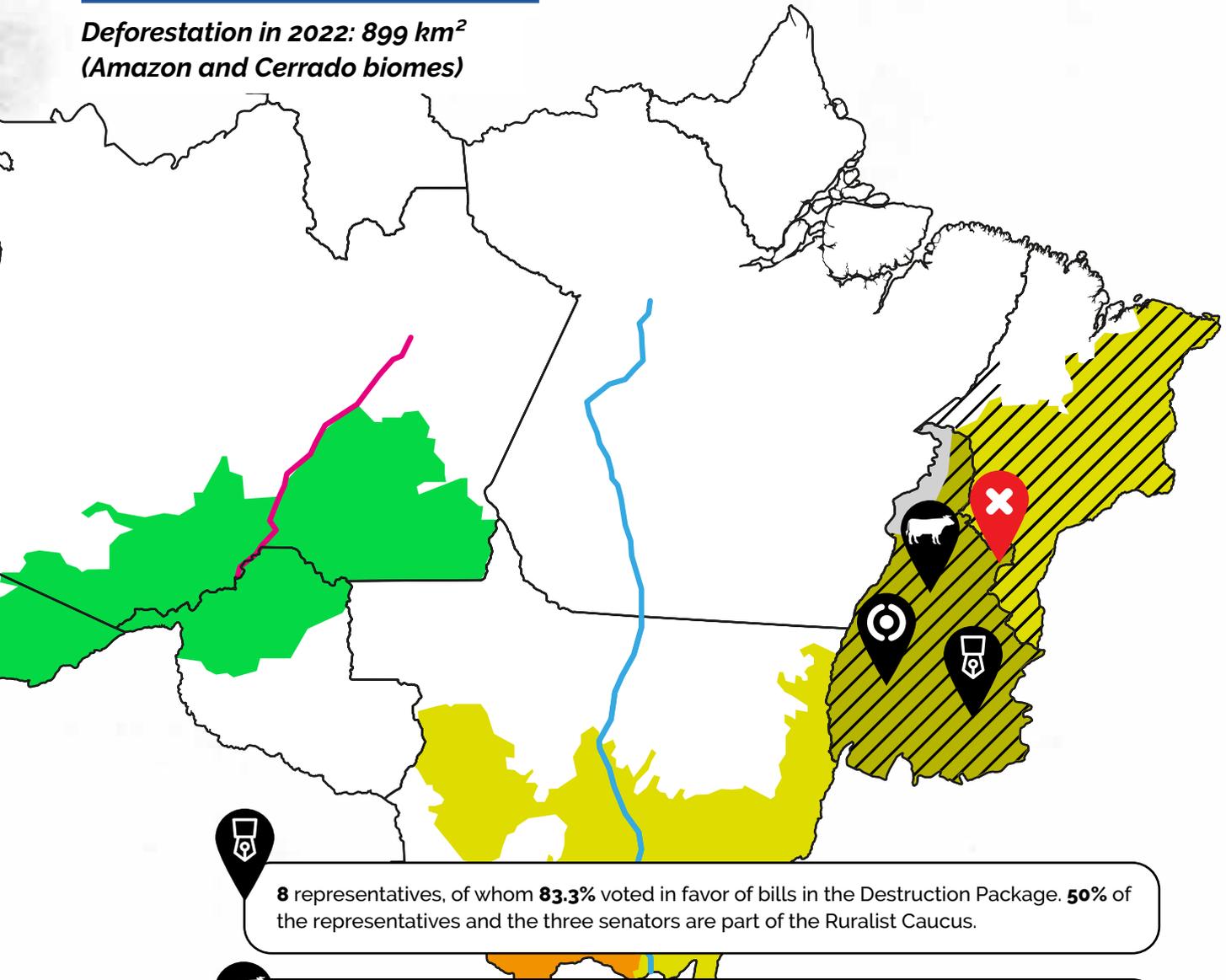
The cases cited here are detailed and referenced throughout the chapters of *The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide*. See respective state for more information.

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TOCANTINS

Deforestation in 2022: 899 km²
(Amazon and Cerrado biomes)



8 representatives, of whom **83.3%** voted in favor of bills in the Destruction Package. **50%** of the representatives and the three senators are part of the Ruralist Caucus.



Supplementary Law Bill 246/2020: creates the Geoeconomic and Social Complex of Matopiba, which should massify the agribusiness onslaught in the territory. *Pending.*



MATOPIBA - region that includes parts of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia and accounted for more than 61% of all the deforestation in the Cerrado biome between 2020 and 2021. Maranhão was the state with the largest deforested area (2,281 km²), followed by Tocantins (1,710 km²). It is considered the frontier of agricultural expansion in Brazil.



Ilha do Bananal Indigenous Emergency - Pressured by the advance of soybeans, the area was one of the most devastated among the Cerrado conservation units and suffered major fires in 2020. Bananal Island is home to the Utaria Wyhyna/Iròdu Iràna, Inawebohona and Parque do Araguaia Indigenous Lands, with a population of approximately 3,500.

The cases cited here are detailed and referenced throughout the chapters of *The Amazon and the Future of Brazil: a guide*. See respective state for more information.

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EDITORIAL

Amazon: Knowing and understanding to support and protect

Throughout Smoke Signal's monitoring, we realized how the media coverage of the Amazon ends up being disproportionate and fragmented. As the crisis in the region deepened during the Bolsonaro administration, we noticed that on the one hand, there was a greater volume of reports and news on the subject in all media and platforms, but on the other, the dismantling of socio-environmental governance added fuel to the fire of disinformation and denialism, creating an environment where crimes in the Amazon spiraled out of control. Despite the increasing press coverage, we mostly still learn about the facts when it's too late, as chronicles of announced tragedies that happen in a supposedly "lawless land".

As this Guide demonstrates with data and testimonials, the Amazon, which occupies more than half of the national territory, is not a "distant imagination", a "wild place" and even less a "lawless land". It is an immense and diverse region, with a heterogeneous population and enormous potential for sustainable and egalitarian development but invaded and plundered by a colonial extractive model of production. The laws actually exist but have never been fully regulated and respected. The Amazon is home to almost 30 million Brazilians who need access to health, education, sanitation, mobility, housing, internet and citizen security. It is the very life of hundreds of indigenous peoples and traditional communities whose right to land is enshrined in the 1988 Federal Constitution — and who should never, ever, be targeted by dirty tricks disguised as random temporal theses. The Amazon is also one of the last great strongholds of biodiversity with the possibility of saving thousands of species from the silent mass extinction that devastates the planet. It is above all the collective responsibility of all the people in all the places for the sake of global climate stability.

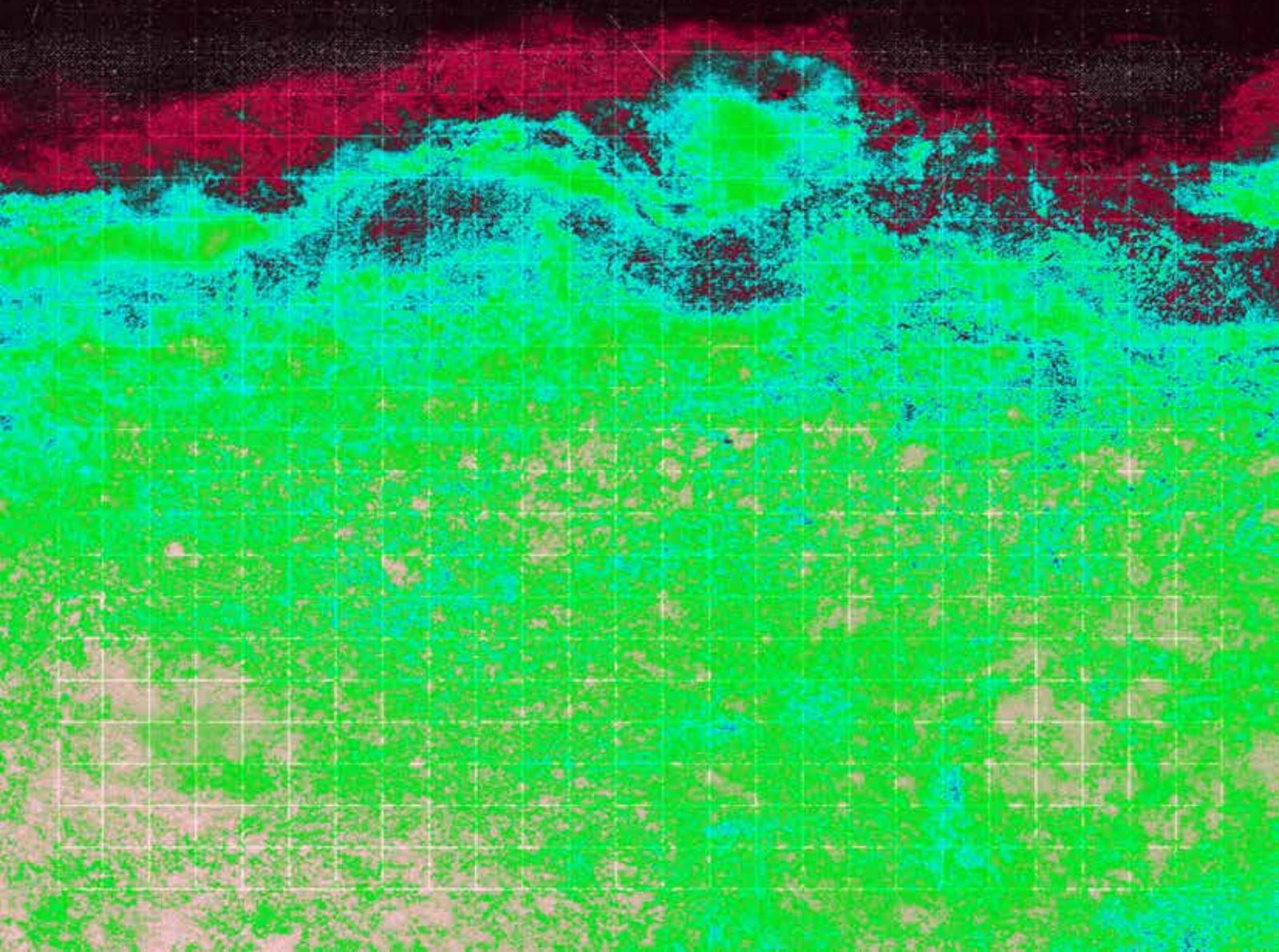
We urgently need to place the debate on the Amazon at the center of the country's public and political agenda. This affirmative path involves listening to and prioritizing what social organizations and Amazonian communities, with their wide ancestral knowledge and contemporary experiences, have to denounce and propose. The 19 interviews conducted to produce this Guide guided our research and served as an axis in the construction of each of the chapters. Only by actively listening to those who work in the region in defense of forests and their peoples will we face environmental racism and the climate emergency, two unavoidable challenges for Brazil to be truly democratic.

We offer this Guide as a small contribution for people who are interested in knowing about and understanding the multiple threats and potentialities of the Amazon, so they can support and protect what remains of the great forest. This is the most important mission of our generation.

*Rebeca Lerer,
coordinator of Smoke Signal*



13. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS





TESTIMONIALS

The round of interviews in the nine states was conducted remotely by journalist [Leandro Barbosa](#) between May and July 2022, exclusively for Smoke Signal. The list of questions is at the end of this Guide. To all the people who were willing to answer our questions and guide our research, our gratitude for your time, confidence and fundamental work.

ACRE

Sarah Soares, data engineer with [Política por Inteiro](#), Rio Branco/AC

Tarisson Nawa, of the Nawa people from the Indigenous Land in Serra do Divisor National Park (PNSD), journalist and press officer to [Podáali - Brazilian Amazon Indigenous Fund. Social Anthropology](#) (PPGAS/MN-UFRJ), Juruá/AC

AMAPÁ

Gil Reis, communications director at [Instituto Mapinguari](#), Macapá/AP

Isis Tatiane da Silva dos Santos, president of the [Mãe Venina Women's Association in Quilombo Curiaú \(AMMVQC\)](#), activist of the Black, cultural and environmental movement in Amapá .

AMAZONAS

Carlos Durigan, geographer and director at [Wildlife Conservation Society Brasil](#), Manaus/AM

Cláudia Baré, indigenous educator, Manaus/AM.

Armando Soares Filho, retired indigenous expert at Funai with 38 years of experience, Lábrea/AM + **Marcelo Horta**, sociologist, PhD student in geography (Federal University of Rondônia), specialist in indigenous affairs (Positivo University/ Opan), master in rural extension (Federal University of Viçosa), researcher at IFAM (Federal Institute of Amazonas), Lábrea/AM.

MARANHÃO

Karoline Ramos, coordinator and legal advisor of [Coletivo Re\(o\)cupa](#), São Luís/MA

Diogo Cabral, civil rights [lawyer](#), São Luís/MA



MATO GROSSO

Eliane Xunakalo, Institutional Advisor of the [Federation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Mato Grosso FEPOIMT](#), TI Bakairi, Cuiabá/MT

Alice Thuault, executive director of [ICV - Instituto Centro de Vida](#), Cuiabá/MT e Brasília/DF

PARÁ

Marlon Rebello, journalist at [Tapajós de Fato](#), Santarém/PA

Ravi Veiga, producer at [Miga Sua Lôca Cultura Diversidade collective](#), Belém/PA

Jucirlei Barbosa Rodrigues, member of the [Abaetetuba Islands Residents Association \(AMIA\)](#) and social worker - Zona Rural, Abaetetuba/PA

RONDÔNIA

Ivaneide Bandeira Cardozo, project coordinator, [Associação de Defesa Etnoambiental Kanindé \(Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association\)](#), Porto Velho (RO)

Professor Amanda Michalski, Seduc-RO, master's student at PPGG-UNIR and advisor at the [Pastoral Land Commission](#), Porto Velho/RO

RORAIMA

Ciro Campos, [Instituto Socioambiental - ISA](#), Roraima

The other person interviewed in Roraima did not want to identify themselves for private reasons. They have been working with socio-environmental issues in the state for more than 30 years.

TOCANTINS

Evandro Moura Dias, coordinator of the [Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Tocantins \(COEQTO\)](#), Arraias/TO

SOURCES

*In addition to the official websites of the federal government, National Congress and state governments, we perform our monitoring and part of the research and content curation that based this Guide on national, regional, international, community and independent press outlets; reports and articles are cited directly in the text or indicated in footnotes/ hyperlinks. The Smoke Signal timeline is also a way of promoting journalistic production on the Brazilian socio-environmental crisis. We thank you for the hundreds of articles that help to document and build collective memory about this period in the country.

*We consulted more than one hundred studies, dossiers, reports, technical notes and analyses produced by research institutes, most of which are referenced and cited throughout the guide. We highlight in particular [Fatos da Amazônia 2021](#), launched by the [Amazon 2030](#) initiative, which crossed the best available data and served as a reference for several of the infographics in this publication; the detailed research work carried out by [Imazon](#) and mapping of [MapBiomias](#), plus reports and technical notes produced by civil society organizations such as [CPT \(Comissão Pastoral da Terra\)](#) and [Brazilian Public Security Forum](#), as well as all NGOs and researchers who generate quality data in a constant fight against disinformation about the region. Your work is indispensable and priceless.

*Our deep respect, gratitude and solidarity to the movements, organizations and networks of indigenous peoples, quilombolas, rural workers, riverside dwellers, feminists, LGBTQIA+, grassroots media, anti-racism and anti-violence, and so many local and regional social collectives that are organized in resistance to narrate their realities and denounce the systematic attacks against their rights which have worsened in recent years. We lend here our full support for the fight for land, biomes, human rights and climate justice.



CREDITS

Creator, organizer and writer: Rebeca Lerer

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Interviews: Leandro Barbosa

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Graphic production: Julia Alves

Graphic Design and layout: Gabriel Pasin

English version: Coordinator and editor - Camilo Rocha; translation - Ali Rocha e Maira Silva; proofreading - Marianna Ollinger

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Media: Daniela Alves

Business Intelligence: Luis Sorroche

General management: Leticia Zioni

Project Management: Guilherme Rocha

Realization

LEMA+



Special thanks: Elaíze Farias, Tica Minami, Délcio Rodrigues, Daniela L., Leandro Matulja, Márcio Rodriguez, Renata Neder, Serena Lerer, Renata Simões.

ABOUT SMOKE SIGNAL AND OUR INTERNATIONAL WORK

[Smoke Signal – Socio-environmental Monitor](#) is an interactive and bilingual timeline focused on government actions and civil society responses on issues related to Brazil's socio-environmental crisis. The project was launched two years into the Bolsonaro government with the aim of helping to monitor and understand federal and state governments acts and omissions in regards to the socio-environmental agenda. The content curation is done by an independent team of journalists and communication professionals who draw from news published in regional, national and international press outlets, official internet channels of congresspeople and government agencies and on social media, NGOs, research institutes and civil society movements' websites, in addition to the Federal Government's Official Journal. Each post on the timeline gives the original source of the information. It is updated weekly. The tool also allows the creation of custom timelines from editorials, themes and characters selected by users. This feature helps to connect facts, decisions and consequences on specific subjects. When presenting such monitoring in a categorized and referenced manner, Smoke Signal acts as a place for bearing witness and fighting fake news.

International outreach: From the very start, the monitoring done by Smoke Signal is available in Portuguese and English, as it's important to keep international audiences updated on the Brazilian socio-environmental crisis. Since May, 2021, our correspondent based in New York (USA), Marianna Ollinger, covers the main issues on Smoke Signal's twitter channel, outreaches and networks with civil society organizations, research institutions and advocacy groups working on related issues.



Interview questions:

- 1- In your view, what has worsened and what has improved in relation to socio-environmental policy in the Amazon during the Bolsonaro administration?
- 2- What is the worst bill or legislation, with regard to the socio-environmental issue, approved in the last 3 years?
- 3- Which fact do you consider the most symbolic within the socio-environmental issue in the last 3 years?
- 4- From your point of view, how did the so-called "cattle herd" happen in your state?
- 5- How do you assess the issue of violence in your state/city in the last 3 years? (here you can report organized crime or other types of violence)
- 6- What political proposals do you expect candidates to present in the next election in relation to the socio-environmental agenda in your state?
- 7- What was the worst and most striking item of fake news related to socio-environmental policy that you came across in your state? On which media outlet did you have access to it?
- 8- Which influencer/media do you follow in your state?
- 9- What priorities do you expect from the next governments in relation to the socio-environmental agenda?
- 10- Thinking about the future, how do you imagine would be the ideal socio-environmental policy for the Amazon?

