

The background of the cover features a high-angle aerial photograph of the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. The landscape is a dense expanse of green trees, with several clusters of vibrant pink flowers, likely from ceiba trees, adding a splash of color. The terrain appears slightly hilly or undulating. The top portion of the image has a teal overlay, and the bottom portion has a brown overlay, creating a layered effect.

**executive
summary**

A Pathway to Zero Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon

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There are several ways to answer why Brazil needs to achieve zero deforestation (ZD) urgently. The simplest answer is: because this is the right thing to do. There is no longer any justification for the destruction of the native vegetation of the country. Continuing devastation results in an imbalance in global and national climate, affects biodiversity and water resources, and undermines the health and well-being of the population. In addition, deforestation does not help the competitiveness of agriculture and livestock; on the contrary, it puts it at risk. To extinguish illegal and legal deforestation once and for all is, in the end, an ethical imperative - a debt that the current generation has with itself and with the next generations.

The Brazilian Amazon has been, paradoxically, the icon of control and lack of control of tropical deforestation. It is there that there are experiences that demonstrate that environmental destruction can be overcome, but it is also there that this destruction continues at a frightening speed and explodes under any distraction, victimizing the people of the Amazon, the country and the world.

The document indicates the possible ways to end deforestation in the region, with environmental, economic and social benefits for the country. Prepared by the Zero Deforestation Working Group - composed of experts from the organizations Greenpeace Brazil, ICV, Imaflora, Imazon, IPAM, Instituto Socioambiental, WWF Brazil and TNC Brazil -, it has the most current scientific literature on forests, climate and agriculture. In the following sections, the main reasons why ZD is, more than possible, an inescapable need.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



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Brazil has no reason to deforest anymore

In the Amazon alone, the area of forest lost is twice the size of Germany. Of this deforested total, 65% is used for low-efficiency pastures - less than one cow per hectare. The additional contribution of each year of deforestation to the economy is insignificant: between 2007 and 2016 (7,502 km²) it had the potential of contributing only 0.013% of the Brazilian GDP annually.

Agriculture can continue contributing to the economy by producing in areas that have already been deforested

In the Amazon alone, there are 10 million hectares of abandoned or poorly used pastures, which could be used to expand the production of beef and grains. Since 2006, for example, the area planted with soy has increased almost fourfold in the Amazon, due to expansion over pastures.

Deforestation is bad for health and climate

Every year, hundreds of early deaths occur in the Amazon due to the pollution generated by the fires. Deforestation is also damaging the global climate - land use changes accounted for 51% of Brazil's greenhouse gas emissions in 2016 and have kept the country as the seventh largest polluter in the world. Temperatures in the Xingu basin have risen 0.5°C as a result of forest loss in recent years, and this may be due to droughts that have hampered production in the region. Deforesting the Amazon is destroying the agriculture's irrigator, causing damage to agribusiness.

Brazil already knows the path towards zero deforestation

Measures implemented in recent years (2005-2012) have cut deforestation rates in the region by about 70% and indicate that the elements needed to achieve ZD are present.

But deforestation persists and may increase

The average rate between 2013 and 2017 was 38% higher than in 2012, the year with the lowest rate recorded. The increase recorded since 2012 - and is likely to continue - is due to impunity for environmental crimes, setbacks in environmental policies, failures in cattle agreements, encouragement of illegal grabbing of public land and the resumption of large infrastructure projects. In addition, Brazil's goal of zeroing illegal deforestation in the Amazon only in 2030 is insufficient. Uncontrolled, the rate of deforestation could reach annual levels between 9,391 km² and 13,789 km² until 2027, if the same historical relation between cattle herd and total deforested area is maintained - considering that cattle farming is one of the main drivers of deforestation.

In order to end deforestation in the Amazon, we will need to adopt four lines of action

- 1 | the implementation of effective and perennial environmental public policies
- 2 | support for sustainable forest uses and improved agricultural practices
- 3 | the drastic restriction of the market for products associated with new deforestation
- 4 | the engagement of voters, consumers and investors in efforts to eliminate deforestation

One of the most urgent actions is to curb illegal grabbing of public land

In 2016, at least 24% of deforestation was concentrated in public areas that had not been allocated for use. Today there are 70 million hectares not allocated in the Amazon, which need to be converted into indigenous lands and conservation units to curb speculative deforestation.

Incentives for a forest economy through government programs also need to be expanded

Extraction of forest products yielded an average R\$ 3 billion between 2015 and 2016, of which R\$ 1.8 billion comes from logging and 537 million açaí extraction.

Ending deforestation requires improvements in cattle ranching production

Assuming an average rate of 11,600 km² deforested in future projections of cattle herd growth, it would be necessary to produce R\$ 700 million of gross revenue per year in the Amazon to avoid deforestation of new areas. This could be achieved by increasing livestock productivity from 80 kg to 300 kg per hectare per year, restoring 391 thousand hectares of pasture annually. The investment needed would be equivalent to 15% of the R\$ 5 billion that the government offers in rural credit for livestock annually. In addition, permanently ending deforestation also involves reducing animal protein consumption and food waste.

The global commodities Market has already been pushing for deforestation-free supply chains

The policies adopted by the companies have a significant impact in the fight against deforestation. To get an idea, about 100 companies account for 93% of cattle slaughter in the Amazon. By restricting the purchase of products from deforested areas, many companies have already contributed to the reduction of deforestation, however, it is still essential to overcome the challenges faced in the implementation of current agreements and to guarantee the adhesion of all companies to commitments with ZD. Ending deforestation also depends on the engagement of consumers and civil society, exposing companies that disregard government agreements and policies, stimulating the purchase of products and supporting sustainable policies, and electing politicians committed to ending deforestation.

How to get there

Summary of the proposals

What do we win with Zero Deforestation?

1 | Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Brazil, contributing to the NDC

2 | Reduction of diseases and deaths from fire pollution

3 | Reducing the risk of climate change and consequent impacts on agricultural production

4 | Opening new commodity markets and sustaining more demanding markets

5 | Reduction of legal risk for companies and rural producers (fines, embargos)

6 | Diversification of revenue sources in protected forests (tourism, timber, non-timber products, environmental compensation)

7 | Reduction of income concentration and violence in the field associated with land grabbing

8 | Reduction of slave labor

9 | Preservation of rights of traditional and indigenous peoples

Effects expected from these actions on rural producers and illegal land grabbers

ZERO DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON

GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

1 | Effective and perennial public policies

- Increase the effectiveness of environmental monitoring
- Curb illegal land grabbing (Allocate public forests for conservation, monitor payment of Rural Territorial Tax, fight irregular settlement occupations)
- Resume the creation of Conservation Units and the demarcation of Indigenous Lands
- Do not reduce area or degree of protection of Conservation Units
- Adopt an end to deforestation in its goals and act in coordination with the States
- Promote total and active transparency of data that helps in the control of productive chains (CAR, GTA, DOF)

2 | Support sustainable forest use and best farming practices

- Strengthen plans that increase income associated with forest conservation
- Create programs that compensate the producer who conserves areas beyond what is required by legislation
- Increase financial transfers to municipalities and states that reduce deforestation and maintain greater forest stock
- Prioritize rural credit to municipalities that have reduced deforestation
- Establish that in a maximum of ten years, all rural credit will go to low carbon agriculture
- Supervise compliance with the resolution to grant rural credit only to legal producers
- Support capacity building to increase productivity in areas already deforested

BUSINESS AND INVESTORS ACTIONS

1 | Monitor product origin

- Demand from governments transparency of socio-environmental data that are fundamental to the monitoring of supply chains
- Slaughterhouses and supermarkets already committed should monitor the entire cattle supply chain - including indirect suppliers
- Committed supermarkets should intensify the implementation of the agreements, including also the monitoring of indirect slaughterhouse suppliers

2 | Boycott producers that deforest

- Supermarkets should require slaughterhouses to commit to controlling deforestation
- Supermarkets and slaughterhouses not yet involved in agreements should immediately commit to zero deforestation

3 | Strengthen production without deforestation

- Support producers in environmental regularization and increase in productivity

4 | Publicly report the results of audits and progress in the implementation of zero deforestation agreements

- Corporate consumers and countries that invest in Brazil have to establish criteria aligned with ZD and environmental compliance, observing respect for local communities

1 | Increasing costs and risks associated with speculative deforestation (illegal grabbing of public land)

2 | Reduction of market and revenues for products associated with new deforestation

3 | Increased capacity to increase productivity in areas already deforested

4 | Increased support from entrepreneurs and politicians for zero deforestation, given the support of more sustainable activities

SOCIETY | Action towards government

1 | Demand the end of public subsidies for deforestation

2 | Demand protection of public lands

3 | Demand support for sustainable production

4 | Mobilize against measures that increase deforestation

5 | Vote on representatives who support conservation

SOCIETY | Actions towards the private sector

1 | Invest and buy from companies that avoid deforestation

2 | Carry out and support campaigns against companies that promote deforestation





READ THE FULL REPORT AT:

<http://act.gp/zerodeforestation> (English)
<http://act.gp/desmatamentozero> (Portuguese)

ZERO DEFORESTATION WORKING GROUP



SUPPORT

