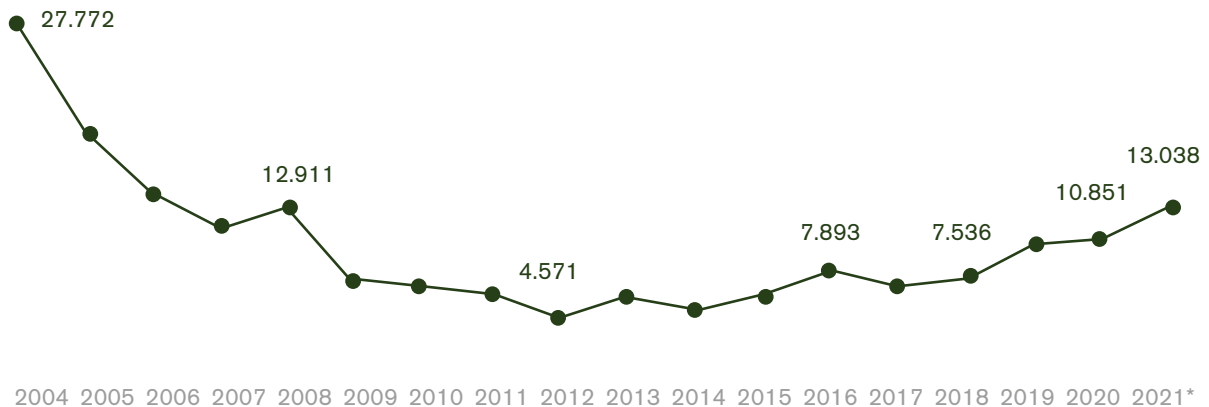




CONTROLLING ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION

According to the National Institute for Space Research (Inpe), which monitors deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest by satellite, in 2021, the annual deforestation rate in the Amazon region was 13,038 km², which was 73% higher than in 2018, and 185% higher than the 2012 rate, the lowest in the series.

Figure - Annual deforestation rate in the Amazon region



Source: TCU, based on data from Inpe¹

Given the Legal Amazon's ongoing and increasing deforestation, between 2010 and 2022, the TCU conducted inspections and monitoring in protected areas and conservation units. It also discussed preventing and fighting illegal deforestation in the Legal Amazon region.

TCU's findings

The TCU identified structural problems in the illegal deforestation control policies governance, such as:

- absence of fundamental elements in the current deforestation control plans;
- no clear definition of the roles of the main agents involved in policy creation and coordination, in addition to the progressive reduction in the participation of stakeholders in this policy over time;
- reduction of inspection capacity of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama) throughout the years; and
- need to improve the regulatory-institutional framework of the policy to control deforestation in the Amazon.

¹ <http://www.obt.inpe.br/OBT/assuntos/programas/amazonia/prodes>

Why are these findings relevant?

Deforestation in the Legal Amazon, which had decreased significantly between 2004 and 2012, has increased since then, especially from 2019 to 2021. The area deforested in 2021 (13,038 km²) almost tripled compared to the area deforested in 2012 (4,571 km²).

Deforestation and wildfires have a number of negative consequences. First, there is the social impact – the air pollution caused by smoke from forest fires causes health problems in Brazil's population or those of neighboring countries. There are also economic consequences, such as increased spending on public health and damage to agriculture and livestock, which are affected by uncontrolled fires. In addition, products from illegal deforestation areas have limited export access, such as soy and meat.

Land grabbing, which is linked to deforestation, causes violence in the countryside due to conflicts over land ownership and loss of national heritage. Without the intention of exhausting the losses caused by deforestation, there are still significant environmental impacts, including loss of biodiversity and ecosystem imbalance, which negatively affect the rainfall regime.

Another significant negative impact is the release of greenhouse gases, which cause climate change. In Brazil, this factor is particularly relevant. According to data from the Climate Observatory, in 2018, 44% of Brazilian emissions came from land use changes, mainly deforestation in the Amazon and Cerrado regions.

What must be done

The TCU recommended the Ministry of the Environment (MMA) and the National Council for the Legal Amazon (CNAL) improve the regulatory-institutional arrangement of the control policy regarding illegal deforestation in the Amazon.

The TCU also suggested that the MMA, CNAL, and Ibama take steps to address and/or mitigate other identified flaws, such as those related to the carrying of guns, appointment deficiencies, inspection capacity, and social communication.

Therefore, TCU's actions sought to improve regulatory, institutional, and operational conditions related to the

illegal deforestation prevention and control policy. This initiative aims to reduce illegal deforestation to the levels provided for in the international commitments assumed by Brazil and to avoid several negative environmental, social, and economic consequences caused by deforestation.

Recent Decisions

Court decisions 2,516/2011, 1,382/2013, 627/2015, 213/2016, 727/2020, 1,840/2020, 1,383/2021, and 1,758/2021, all rendered by the TCU Full Court.

COURT DECISIONS:

Court decision: 2516/2011 - PLENÁRIO

Session date: xxx

TC: 028.459/2010-5

Court decision: 1382/2013 - PLENÁRIO

Session date: xxx

TC: 038.494/2012-4

Rapporteur Minister: Minister Aroldo Cedraz

Court decision: 627/2015 - PLENÁRIO

Session date: xxx

TC: 015.859/2014-2

Rapporteur Minister: Minister Weder de Oliveira

Court decision: ACÓRDÃO DE RELAÇÃO 213/2016 - PLENÁRIO

Session date: xxx

TC: 017.347/2015-7

Rapporteur Minister: Minister Augusto Nardes

Court decision: 727/2020 - PLENÁRIO

Session date: xxx

TC: 031.961/2017-7

Court decision: 1840/2020 - PLENÁRIO

Session date: xxx

TC: 031.961/2017-7

Rapporteur Minister: Minister ANA ARRAES

Court decision: 1383/2021 - PLENÁRIO

Session date: xxx

TC: 023.646/2018-7

Rapporteur Minister: Minister Weder de Oliveira

Court decision: 1758/2021 - PLENÁRIO

Session date: xxx

TC: 038.045/2019-2

Rapporteur Minister: Minister André de Carvalho

Technical Unit Responsible: xx