



A RAIA profile on: **President of Brazil**

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Fifth part of a five-series on climate leaders ahead of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference

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Introduction

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (commonly known as “Lula” da Silva) is the President of Brazil, a widely popular figure who has played a significant role in the political landscape of the country. This report will explore Lula da Silva's policies and efforts to address the pressing challenges of deforestation and climate change in Brazil. Furthermore, we will address the question of whether Lula is a global climate leader. One who ensures that climate action is taken into consideration in every decision is referred to as a climate leader, although leadership is a responsibility shared by all. Throughout Lula's career, he captured the attention and trust of millions of Brazilians. Lula's story is one of resilience and determination. He is familiar with the fate of the Nordestinos, as the people in Brazil's poor Northeast are called.¹ He was born in Sertão but grew up in São Paulo's industrial suburbs. Lula's biographer believes “those hard-knock experiences were – and continue to be – what made millions of Brazilians place their trust in a leader whose own life story reflected their own”.²

The labour movement's influence on Lula's life and career was crucial in determining his political path. During his teenage years in São Paulo, Lula worked various jobs including as an office boy and lathe operator.³ During the military dictatorship in Brazil, he led major workers' strikes between 1978 and 1980 and helped start the Workers' Party in 1980. He was propelled to the forefront of Brazil's labour movement by his unceasing efforts and charismatic leadership, which resulted in historic strikes in 1979 and made him the most well-known union leader in the country.⁴ Lula co-founded the Workers' Party (PT), a political party that sought to represent the interests of the working class, spurred both by his personal experiences and a desire to create a more equitable society.⁵

Looking back to Lula's presidency from 2003 to 2010, there was a period that propelled Brazil into the global spotlight. Brazil was one of the founding members of the G20, developed ties with other developing nations through the

¹ Glüsing, Jens. 2009. “A-42f844bd-0001-0001-0000-000000662917.” *DER SPIEGEL, Hamburg, Germany*, November 24, 2009.

<https://www.spiegel.de/international/world/brazil-s-president-lula-father-of-the-poor-has-triggered-economic-miracle-a-662917.html>.

² Phillips, Tom 2022b. “Lula: The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of Brazil's President-Elect.” *The Guardian*, October 31, 2022.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/31/luiz-inacio-lula-da-silva-brazil-presidency-election-profile>.

³ Rohter, Larry. 2002. “Man in the News; Workingman President, Maybe -- Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva.” *The New York Times*, October 8, 2002.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/08/world/man-in-the-news-workingman-president-maybe-luiz-inacio-lula-da-silva.html>.

⁴ Moscufo, Michela. 2022. “Who Is Lula? Winner of Brazil's Presidential Election.” *ABC News*, November 2, 2022.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/lula-winner-brazils-presidential-election/story?id=92443979>.

⁵ Phillips, “Lula: The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of Brazil's President-Elect.”



BRICS alliance (then Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), and nominated Brazilians to head global institutions like the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) under his direction.⁶

Under Lula's leadership, more than 29 million Brazilians joined the middle class. He steered Brazil towards becoming a key player on the world stage by establishing alliances with other developing economies and gaining esteem overseas.⁷ The first eight years of Lula's presidency have seen at least 20 million Brazilians lifted from poverty, due to Lula's anti-hunger and income-transfer programmes.⁸

In July 2017, Lula faced a turning point in his political career when he was convicted on charges of money laundering and corruption. The trial was highly controversial, with supporters arguing it was politically motivated, while others saw it as a necessary step to address corruption in Brazil. When the Supreme Court Justices overturned the conviction in April 2021, the controversial trial exposed deep divisions within the country, with public opinion sharply divided along political lines. While many viewed the Supreme Court's decision as a triumph for justice and democracy, others perceived it as a setback in the fight against corruption and eroded confidence in the judicial system. As Lula resumed his political engagements, the nation awaited his next moves with anticipation.

Lula began a tireless campaign, travelling the entire country and connecting with younger voters.⁹ The Brazilian people responded favourably to Lula's message of hope and unification.¹⁰ With a clear vision for a more united and affluent Brazil, Lula seeks to heal divisions and inspire in the people a sense of renewed pride and optimism.

Brazil, with its vast Amazon rainforest and remarkable biodiversity, stands at the forefront of global environmental concerns. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Lula placed a strong emphasis on addressing these. Lula's environmental agenda encompasses a range of initiatives, particularly in the Cerrado ecosystem¹¹ and the Amazon rainforest, which have major environmental implications. Lula plans to end illegal deforestation in the Amazon by 2030,

⁶ Phillips, "Lula: The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of Brazil's President-Elect."

⁷ Agence France-Presse. 2022. "Brazil's New Leader Lula Rises From Ashes at 77." VOA, October 31, 2022.

<https://www.voanews.com/amp/brazil-s-new-leader-lula-rises-from-ashes-at-77/6812392.html>.

⁸ Phillips, Tom. 2017. "Lula Era Comes to an End in Brazil." *The Guardian*, November 26, 2017.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/dec/31/brazil-lula-era-ends>.

⁹ Frontline News Desk. 2022. "Brazil President-Elect Lula Da Silva Rises from the Ashes at 77." October 31, 2022.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/brazil-election-2022-president-elect-lula-da-silva-rises-from-ashes-at-77/article66076262.ece>.

¹⁰ Phillips, "Lula: The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of Brazil's President-Elect."

¹¹ Savannas and grasslands are found among humid and dry woods in the large tropical biome known as the Cerrado.



though he faces the opposition of strong lobbies from the mining and agriculture industries.¹² According to the president, efforts will be undertaken to stop the destruction of the Amazon under his direction, including stepping up law enforcement, boosting monitoring, and establishing protected zones. The Cerrado has experienced significant land conversion and agricultural growth, which has led to habitat loss and degradation. In the Cerrado region, Lula aims to encourage sustainable agriculture methods, safeguard surviving natural areas, and repair damaged landscapes.¹³

Lula is a climate leader because his most important priorities are promoting environmentally friendly agricultural methods and assisting innovative strategies for greenhouse gas emission reduction. His participation at COP27 demonstrates his desire to be held accountable for Brazil's accomplishments in climate policy.

In this report, we will delve deeper into Lula's environmental agenda, exploring the specific policies and initiatives implemented during his presidency, and evaluating their impact on Brazil's environmental challenges. Additionally, Lula's defining moment as a climate leader will be examined, a pivotal moment that showcases his commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. By examining key events and decisions, the report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of his leadership and its lasting impact on Brazil's environmental landscape and on the global community.¹⁴

Lula's Stake

This section explores the different climatic challenges Brazil is facing. To better understand Lula's incentives to push for climate policies, analysing the reality of deforestation in the legal Brazilian Amazon is crucial. Firstly, the Amazonian 'tipping point' is discussed as a motivator towards Lula's pressure to achieve positive climatic reductions. Furthermore, the section covers an investigation into water conservation, including droughts and precipitation, to understand their effects on the deforestation of the Amazon. To end, the stake concentrates on the impact of illegal mining and other activities in protected areas perpetuating the deforestation arc that threatens Lula's presidency.

¹² ———. 2022b. "Analysis: Brazil's Green New Deal: Lula Promises Environmental Policy Overhaul." *Reuters*, October 27, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazils-green-new-deal-lula-promises-environmental-policy-overhaul-2022-10-27/>.

¹³ POLITICO. 2023. "Brazil's Lula Lays out Plan to Halt Amazon Deforestation." 2023. POLITICO. June 6, 2023.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/06/06/brazils-lula-lays-out-plan-to-halt-amazon-deforestation-00100342>; Sherburne, Lennon. 2023. "Can Brazil's Lula Save the Amazon?" *NPR*, January 7, 2023. <https://www.npr.org/2023/01/07/1147721017/can-brazils-lula-save-the-amazon>.

¹⁴ Andreoni, Manuela. 2022. "What Lula's Victory in Brazil Means for Climate." *The New York Times*, November 1, 2022.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/31/climate/brazil-election-lula-bolsonaro-climate.html>.



The Brazilian Amazon covers more than 5 million km² or 60% of the country's total area.¹⁵ The Amazon ecosystems shelter about 10 to 15% of global biodiversity.¹⁶ The region lost 10,781 km² of its forest between August 2021 and July 2022.¹⁷ The Environmental Conservation Journal calculations predict a significant reduction of over 60% in the forest area in the Amazon by 2050, taking into account the combined effect of climate change scenarios, regional climate change as a result of large-scale deforestation, and the effect of forest fires making tropical forests more vulnerable.¹⁸

During Lula's first years in trade unions and development into a national figure, poor treatment by the military dictatorship and the post-democratic era shaped Lula into the responsive leader he is today. Due to the conceivable triumphs in climate policies, Lula's agenda fulfilment can increase diplomatic relations, draw in foreign investment, and foster international collaboration for reducing deforestation in the Amazon, which translates to a better economic opportunity for Brazil.

Amazonian "Tipping Point"

Through model studies by Carlos Nobre, a Brazilian climate scientist, the Amazon currently confronts two "tipping points." The first is a temperature increase of 4 °C of the rainforest, and the latter is deforestation exceeding 40% of the forest area. Over the past 60 years, the rainforest has warmed by around 1°C, and total deforestation reaches 20% of the forested area.¹⁹

Estimates put the amount of carbon stored in the Amazon at 150–200 billion tons.²⁰ In 2019, Brazil generated 82% of its energy from renewable sources, more than the global average of 29%.²¹ Agriculture is the main contributor to its carbon

¹⁵ Pires, Mauro Oliveira, Ana María Majano, and María José Gutiérrez. "Implementing Prevention and Control Policies for Reducing Deforestation." Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, October 2, 2018.

https://transparency-partnership.net/system/files/migrated_document_files/20042013deforestationreduction_brazil_en.pdf.

¹⁶ Nobre, Carlos A., Gilvan Sampaio, Laura S. Borma, Juan Carlos Castilla-Rubio, José S. Silva, and Manoel Cardoso. "Land-Use and Climate Change Risks in the Amazon and the Need of a Novel Sustainable Development Paradigm." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 113, no. 39 (2016): 10759–68. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1605516113>.

¹⁷ Machado Vilani, Rodrigo, Lucas Ferrante, and Philip M Fearnside. "The First Acts of Brazil's New President: Lula's New Amazon Institutionalality." *Environmental Conservation*, 2023, 1–4. doi:10.1017/S0376892923000139.

¹⁸ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

¹⁹ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

²⁰ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

²¹ Friedrich, Johannes, Mengpin Ge, Andrew Pickens, and Leandro Vigna. "This Interactive Chart Shows Changes in the World's Top 10 Emitters." World Resources Institute, March 2, 2023. <https://www.wri.org/insights/interactive-chart-shows-changes-worlds-top-10-emitters>.



emissions.²² With over 70% of Brazil's emissions coming from the agriculture sector, it is the nation's largest producer of greenhouse gases.²³

With a considerable economic reliance on the agricultural industry, Brazil's Lula has to find financial sources to avoid reaching these "tipping points" while going against one of Brazil's most influential industries. During dry seasons, deforested areas used for pastures are sensitive to higher temperatures, especially since they can reach average increases of 1 °C and 1.5 °C.²⁴ A 50% decrease in tropical forest deforestation and degradation is expected to provide a net economic impact of US \$3.7 trillion.²⁵

By 2030, a Brazilian green economy has the potential to create 9.5 million jobs by embracing a set of about 30 measures.²⁶ Through adopting climate policy that leads to a changed economic landscape, investments in science and technology, the creation of higher-quality and more productive jobs, income redistribution, regenerative and sustainable monetary arrangements, assured access to adequate public services, biodiversity preservation, and greenhouse gas emissions neutrality by 2050 are all included in this course of action.²⁷

Twelve million people lacked employment by the end of 2021, which is 11% of the population that Lula can influence through a sustainable economy.²⁸ Long-term sustainability requires recruiting human capital and building a local research capability for innovation.²⁹ The potential size of this new economy is significantly greater than the one that exists and is based on the unsustainable exploitation of Amazonian natural resources. If Lula succeeds in restoring his reputation and uses this gain towards investing in more jobs for the Brazilian people in a transformed green economy, then the success of his promised policies will allow him to gain more popularity in the next elections.

Water Conservation

The Amazon is a crucial heat source for the world's atmosphere because of the fertile rainfalls which account for 15% of the freshwater input into the oceans. Through evapotranspiration (ET) recycling and evaporation in the tropical Atlantic

²² Molon, Alessandro. "Taking Back Our Future: For a Green and Just 'New Normal.'" Progressive International, July 28, 2020. <https://progressive.international/blueprint/bfd75a57-0893-4f38-97c0-3de9640b7da6-molon-taking-back-our-future-for-a-green-and-just-new-normal/en>.

²³ Tiseo, Ian. "Brazil: GHG Emissions by Sector." Statista, March 28, 2023. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1331595/greenhouse-gas-emissions-brazil-by-sector/>.

²⁴ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

²⁵ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

²⁶ Teixeira, Fabio. "Could Ex-President Lula's Return Mean a Green New Deal for Brazil?" Reuters, March 4, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/brazil-climate-change-election-idUKL8N2US7UY>.

²⁷ Molon. "For a Green and Just 'New Normal.'"

²⁸ Teixeira. "Green New Deal for Brazil?"

²⁹ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"



Ocean, the high precipitation rates harbour the water's significance of the world's reliance on the rainforest.³⁰ Except for Chile, every nation in South America benefits from the Amazon's wetness.³¹

The mortality of the Amazon decreases from extreme drought events such as the droughts of 2005, 2010, and 2015 and the 2009 and 2012 floods, which show an unusual pattern in the climatic changes of the region that have long-term implications. The severe droughts, deforestation, and fires that all occur together confirm deleteriousness to the Amazon's natural state.³²

The average annual precipitation over the whole basin is approximately 2,200 mm, ranging from values around 1,700 mm across the southeast, areas of intense land-use and land-cover change (known as the "deforestation arc"), to 3,000 mm in the west owing to the effect of the Andes.³³ If complete deforestation were to occur, temperatures would rise by 3°C, impacting precipitation rates from July to November by a 40% reduction.³⁴

As these reduced precipitation rates, fires, droughts and floods become more common in the Amazon, Lula confronts the possibility of becoming the Brazilian leader to deter the Amazon's fate. If Lula's climate mitigation policies succeed at the same rate during his first and second terms, he will be remembered as a leader who protects and serves the Amazon and the domestic and global community contributing to a flattering historical reputation. The accomplishments Lula aspires to make through environmental policies cause concrete improvements in economic prosperity, social welfare, and public health.

Criminal Activity in the Amazon

Alarming deforestation rates motivated Lula's administration, but after some years without assured protection for the populations living in rural areas, he implemented policies to protect Indigenous Territories (ITs) and Protected Areas (PAs) intended to reduce illegal activities. In 2023, forest loss hit the highest numbers seen within the decade. Higher than the rise in non-PAs (1.6 times), the yearly gross forest area loss rates in ITs/PAs grew 3.6 times between 2018 and 2021, showing a worrisome signal and escalating deforestation pressure. Rebuilding the community and environment was prioritised by Lula after March and September 2020, when Brazil passed 27 pieces of legislation that depleted environmental security. Fines for violation of environmental and conservation

³⁰ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

³¹ Lovejoy, Thomas E., and Carlos Nobre. "Amazon Tipping Point: Last Chance for Action." *Science Advances* 5, no. 12 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aba2949>.

³² Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

³³ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

³⁴ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"



laws also dropped by 72% from March to August 2020, despite increases in deforestation.³⁵

From 2000 to 2021, there has been a significant decrease in the total forested area of the Brazilian Amazon, a loss of 28×10^6 ha. During the same time, the number of ITs/PAs increased due to Lula's previous policies with collaboration from Marina Silva, another environmental leader in Brazil. By the end of Lula's second administration, the ITs/PAs enjoyed half of the total forested area and regarded 43 of the total Amazonian land area. For the specific forest loss seen by ITs/PAs, monitors reveal a 5.9×10^6 ha gross forest area loss from 2002 to 2021, accounting for around 12% of total forest area loss. These numbers indicate that Amazonian protected land is crucial in conservation.³⁶

Brazil's mining activity on ITs increased by 625% between 2010 and 2021.³⁷ In these ITs, annual deforestation grew by 458% between 2017 and 2019, according to the Amazon Deforestation Monitoring Program (PRODES). The amount of ITs covered by the current mining requests is 176,000 km², which is 3000 times larger than the area currently mined illegally. The mining requests for ITs represent 6.7% of the total 41,413 existing requests or 17% of indigenous territory covering the entire Amazon.³⁸

Lula's Personal Stake

By 2030, a Brazilian green economy has the potential to create 9.5 million jobs by embracing a set of about 30 measures.³⁹ Through adopting climate policy that leads to a changed economic landscape, investments in science and technology, the creation of higher-quality and more productive jobs, income redistribution, regenerative and sustainable monetary arrangements, assured access to adequate public services, biodiversity preservation, and greenhouse gas emissions neutrality by 2050 are all included in this course of action.⁴⁰

After Bolsonaro's administration's inimical global impression, Lula wants to promote a favourable international image for more international investment into improved employment rates and human capital. Through his success, he can encourage other potential Brazilian leaders who would emphasise the welfare of

³⁵ Qin, Yuanwei, et al. "Forest Conservation in Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas in the Brazilian Amazon." *Nature News*, January 2, 2023.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-022-01018-z#citeas>.

³⁶ Qin, et al. "Forest Conservation in Indigenous Territories"

³⁷ "91,6% Da Área Garimpada No Brasil Ficam No Bioma Amazônia." *Map Biomas Brasil*, 2022.

<https://mapbiomas.org/916-da-area-garimpada-no-brasil-ficam-no-bioma-amazonia>.

³⁸ Rorato, C. et al. "Brazilian Amazon Indigenous Peoples Threatened by Mining Bill." *Environmental Research Letters* 15, no. 10 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/abb428>.

³⁹ Teixeira, Fabio. "Could Ex-President Lula's Return Mean a Green New Deal for Brazil?" *Reuters*, March 4, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/brazil-climate-change-election-idUKL8N2US7UY>.

⁴⁰ Molon. "For a Green and Just 'New Normal.'"



the population they serve and seek comparable objectives. The democracy of Brazil has shaped Lula's upbringing, which he would connect to the importance of Brazilian democracy. After the influence of a military dictatorship, Kubitschek and other leaders served as inspiration for Lula. After Kubitschek's election in 1956, when Lula was ten, he witnessed the optimism of the Brazilian leader, especially since, during his presidency, Brazil was titled "the country of tomorrow."⁴¹ With the inspiration of Kubitschek, Lula wants to continue the optimistic international perspective of Brazil and to have future leaders carry on this hope.

Twelve million people lacked employment by the end of 2021, which is 11% of the population that Lula can influence through a sustainable economy.⁴² Long-term sustainability requires recruiting human capital and building a local research capability for innovation.⁴³ The potential size of this new economy is significantly greater than the one that exists and is based on the unsustainable exploitation of Amazonian natural resources. If Lula succeeds in restoring his reputation and uses this gain towards investing in more jobs for the Brazilian people in a transformed green economy, then the success of his promised policies will allow him to gain more popularity in the next elections. More than this, his climate leadership will likely restore and rewrite Lula's legacy in Brazil; and not only his, but the PT's legacy, too. Following a decade of scandal, the green transformation has the potential to ensure the continuity and restoration of the name of the workers' movement nationwide.

Lula's Defining Moment

In the pursuit of a transformational leader development, it is of great value to reflect on specific points of moments in life, illustrating the essence of who Lula, in this case, aspires to be as a leader. A climate leader recognizes the urgency of addressing climate challenges and strives to infuse sustainability and environmental consciousness into every choice they make. By embodying this approach, leaders can drive positive change and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Lula's defining moment as a climate leader was throughout his speech at the COP27 summit in Egypt. Lula vowed to end illegal deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and to make his country a leader in the global fight against climate change. The statements, which came two weeks after Lula won the Brazilian election, signalled a departure from the policies of Jair Bolsonaro. The speech resonated with attendees and garnered international attention, solidifying his

⁴¹ Bourne, Richard. *Lula of Brazil: The story so far*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2008, p. 12.

⁴² Teixeira. "Green New Deal for Brazil?"

⁴³ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"



position as a prominent advocate for climate action. One of the notable highlights of Lula's speech was his assertion that "spaces of power can still be occupied by those who seek fair solutions to the problems that humanity faces together".⁴⁴

Moreover, Lula said that climate change would have the highest profile in his government.⁴⁵ Upon arrival, he "received a superstar welcome at the COP27"⁴⁶ just a week after his electoral victory at home. At the summit, he declared that "Brazil is back in the world". As Brazil is home to 60% of the Amazon, Lula says that "there is no climate security for the world without a protected Amazon",⁴⁷ stating that Brazil is prepared to address the climate crisis and underline the country's dedication to environmental stewardship.

Among the pledges he made, Lula recommended to the United Nations to host the 2025 climate conference in the Amazon. Additionally, Lula challenged wealthy nations to honour their pledge of providing \$100 billion annually to assist developing countries in adapting to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.⁴⁸ Brazil's current era is marked by numerous crises, including escalating geopolitical conflicts, the resurgence of nuclear warfare threats, shortages in food and energy supplies, the decline of biodiversity, and an unacceptable surge in disparities.

Lula's speech concluded with an exceptional message of hope, emphasising the critical need for united and resolute action, both in the present and the future, to safeguard both the planet and humanity. In Brazil, deforestation rates have reached alarming levels, learning of concerns about the loss of biodiversity and contributing to climate change. However, deforestation in Brazil's Amazon fell by 33.6% in the first six months of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's term compared with the same period in 2022.⁴⁹ The significance of Lula's speech extends beyond his world alone. Even before reentering office, Lula's attendance at and involvement in the COP27 summit showed his sustained influence and leadership in international climate discussions.

⁴⁴ "Lula's Speech at COP27 Is a Breath of Hope." n.d.

<http://youthpressagency.org/lulas-speech-at-cop27-is-a-breath-of-hope/>.

⁴⁵ ——. 2022c. "At COP27, Brazil's Lula Vows Halt to Rampant Deforestation." *Climate Crisis News* | *Al Jazeera*, November 17, 2022.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/16/at-cop27-brazils-lula-vows-halt-to-rampant-deforestation>.

⁴⁶ Spring, Jake. 2022. "COP27: Greeted like a Rock Star, Brazil's Lula Promises to Protect Amazon." *Reuters*, November 16, 2022.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/brazils-lula-put-climate-center-first-post-election-speech-abroad-2022-11-16/>.

⁴⁷ Al Jazeera. 2022c. "At COP27, Brazil's Lula Vows Halt to Rampant Deforestation."

⁴⁸ Spring. "COP27: Greeted like a Rock Star, Brazil's Lula Promises to Protect Amazon."

⁴⁹ BBC News. 2023. "Amazon Deforestation down by a Third in 2023, Says Brazilian Government." *BBC News*, July 7, 2023. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-66129200>.



Moreover, Lula's COP27 speech marked a defining moment for Lula, encapsulating his vision for a greener planet and a fairer world. He emphasised the necessity of all nations working together to address the climate catastrophe in a way that echoed a call to action for global solidarity. As Lula positions Brazil as a willing and active participant in international efforts, he aims to demonstrate the country's commitment to environmental protection and its pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future.

The COP27 speech clearly solidified Lula's position as a climate leader. The timing of the event was very important, as he used the summit to take a few swipes at Bolsonaro, whom he defeated in a runoff election shortly before in October, giving Lula a tactical chance to control the narrative surrounding his campaign. As a prospective leader, Lula's robust commitment to addressing environmental issues showcased his capacity to drive meaningful change, unequivocally positioning him as the candidate best equipped to prioritise and effectively tackle environmental concerns.⁵⁰ Lula, then president-elect, delivering a strong and compelling speech at a major international climate conference like COP27 enhances his image as a leader, showing his commitment to global climate action. It allows him to address climate challenges in Brazil and beyond, demonstrating his understanding of the urgency of the climate crisis. By addressing climate issues on the international stage, Lula presents himself as a statesman with a global perspective, capable of representing Brazil's interests in the international arena.

Moreover, the COP27 speech by Lula emerged as a defining moment due to a combination of factors. During his first two consecutive terms, Lula has had some main proposals in his government plan including the reconstruction of the country facing the economic crisis; with democracy, and peace, the fight against poverty, with education, and the implementation of housing programs.⁵¹ While environmentalism was a priority for his administration back then, it was not his flagship policy among the others.

Importantly, Lula's defining moment captures two significant changes. First, there has been a tremendous shift in international attitudes towards climate change and global governance. When he was last president, in 2004, the Kyoto Protocol was implemented. This introduced the concept of financial contribution for climate change initiatives overseas. However, not many recognised the importance of its implementation. One reason could be attributed to the challenges faced in enforcing emissions reduction targets among participating countries, as well as concerns about the economic impact of compliance, which

⁵⁰ ———. 2022b. "COP27: Brazil Is Back on the World Stage, Lula Tells Climate Summit." *BBC News*, November 16, 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-63625698>.

⁵¹ Leite, Hellen (15 August 2022). "Conheça o programa de governo dos 12 candidatos à Presidência". *R7* (in Portuguese). Archived from the original on 21 September 2022.



led to scepticism and limited enthusiasm for the agreement. Today, environmental policies are more important due to the increased awareness of the impacts of climate change, including the economic and social benefits.

Second, Lula's position as a political leader and his motivations contribute to the significance of the COP27 speech. In the first 100 days of Lula's presidency, Brazil faced a whirlwind of challenges that tested its leader's resolve. The political agenda of Lula confronts a difficult battle. In order to further his policy objectives and bring about significant change, the president will now need to navigate this complicated legislative environment with skill.⁵² The president will have to exhibit tactful political manoeuvring to build consensus and push through his agenda. It's been a period of transition as the nation deals with the fallout from the Bolsonaro administration and works to reestablish itself on the international stage.

Lula's Solutions

Reinstating the Amazon Fund

Lula's most impactful solution regarding international involvement is that he decided to reinstate the Amazon Fund. During the second term of his first presidency, he created this initiative which became the world's most significant REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) project.⁵³ In 2008, the Brazilian National Bank of Social and Economic Development (BNDES) established the Fund intending to gain financial support for the Plan of Action for Protection and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon (PPCDAm), which will be discussed in detail later.⁵⁴ After three years of inactivity, the Amazon Fund is back as Brazil's most prominent source for international climate financing, supporting 102 conservation projects.⁵⁵ Conservative associations and the Brazilian Central Bank are concerned that Lula's environmental measures, which aim to increase foreign investment, may lead to potential financial mismanagement and new opportunities for corruption. The measures taken to resolve corrupt practices and ensure ethical foreign investment management will ultimately have a big impact on the effectiveness and integrity of Lula's climate efforts.

Initially, the Fund planned to raise US\$21 billion over 13 years. The method of financial support takes the form of a rewarding mechanism, one that grants the

⁵² "Navigating the Crossroads: Lula's First 100 Days." n.d. Wilson Center.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/navigating-crossroads-lulas-first-100-days>.

⁵³ Forstater, Maya, Smita Nakhooda, and Charlene Watson. "The Effectiveness of Climate Finance: A Review of the Amazon Fund." ODI, March 2013. <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/8340.pdf>.

⁵⁴ Castro, Fábio de, Barbara Hogenboom, Michiel Baud, Mariel Aguilar-Støen, Fabiano Toni, and Cecilie Hirsch. "Forest Governance in Latin America: Strategies for Implementing REDD." Chapter. In *Environmental Governance in Latin America*, 205–33. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

⁵⁵ Forstater, Nakhooda, and Watson. "The Effectiveness of Climate Finance."



Brazilian government foreign monies investments in exchange for decreases in the rate of deforestation in the Amazon. The process includes an indicated value at a fixed price of 5 USD per tCO₂ as a donation's carbon dioxide equivalent. Afterwards, a certificate granted to the donor proves their support as tons of averted carbon reductions.⁵⁶

Furthermore, the Amazon Fund runs through a multi-stakeholder Guidance Committee called the COFA, which brings actors like civil society, expert stakeholders and the government to guarantee inclusive and strategic administration of the Fund along with a committee that provides technical guidance. It operates with projects that concentrate on managing forests on public lands, overseeing protected areas, maintaining the schedule of and enforcing environmental laws, making sustainable use of forest resources, zoning and regularising land use, conserving biodiversity, and restoring degraded areas. One of the more significant undertakings is the "Going Green Project," which worked within the states of Para and Mato Grosso and 12 of their municipal governments to advance institutional capabilities. With The National Conservancy, the project used the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) to encourage rural properties to adjust environmentally accordingly.⁵⁷

The investors and program coordinators are considered inclusive of national NGOs, universities, state government institutions, and municipal government institutions, amongst others, to collaborate.⁵⁸ The Fund influences national opinion towards positive sentiments as it is community-based with capacity-building activities through community involvement.⁵⁹ It contributes to establishing opportunities for marginalised populations by fostering income-generating enterprises through activities that encourage technical and instructing support, which further assists the communities and local producers. The projects that the Fund engages with can decrease inequalities while strengthening livelihoods that influence the general population's view on conservation.

Lula intends to promote the reinstatement of the Fund as a method to transform Brazil into greater economic prosperity while reducing socioeconomic inequalities.⁶⁰ Lula seeks to find a balance between economic growth and environmental preservation by attracting foreign investment and using his new government to repair his reputation. Although he insisted that Brazil had

⁵⁶ Forstater, Nakhooda, and Watson. "The Effectiveness of Climate Finance."

⁵⁷ "Environmental and Social Assessment of Brazil's Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon (PPCDAm)." United Nations Development Program, August 2018. <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/br/ESA-Brasil-Final.pdf>.

⁵⁸ Forstater, Nakhooda, and Watson. "The Effectiveness of Climate Finance."

⁵⁹ "What Is the Amazon Fund?" Amazon Fund. <https://www.amazonfund.gov.br/en/amazon-fund/>.

⁶⁰ Hurrell, Andrew. "Lula's Brazil: A Rising Power, but Going Where?" *Current History* 107, no. 706 (2008): 51–57. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45318500>.



undisputed sovereignty over the Amazon, he conveyed the impression that his government would welcome outside help in the effort to stop deforestation.⁶¹ This approach propels Brazil into transforming international investment into a greener economy for the nation through income-generating opportunities for rural communities, manipulating the economy to focus on the product value of commodities that support sustainable production and help transition the Brazilian agricultural sector to more sustainable practices.

However, Brazilians continue their polarisation through the nationalistic deep-rooted general belief that Lula's approach to engaging in this type of financial climate foreign affairs creates more constraints for Brazil than opportunities. As Brazil relies on international investment, it reinforces the power imbalances in the current competition between developed and developing states causing more instability.⁶²

Lula is a frontrunner in the debate for climate responsibility as the Amazon Fund represents shifting the focus of accountability onto a globally shared issue where the notion of burden must fall on developed and developing nations accordingly.⁶³ He advertises collaboration between emerging states with shared information and technologies for a network that reduces emissions and fortifies against climate change according to each's unique concerns. This strategy enables Brazil to take on a position that leads a South-South partnership.

Combating Deforestation in the Amazon and Cerrado Biome.

Lula has announced his goals for restoring and reforesting 12 Mha of forests by 2030,⁶⁴ with the probability of increasing the goal to 17 Mha to achieve its Paris Agreement responsibilities.⁶⁵ The global community is concerned about the majority of deforestation, around 38%, in Brazil occurring in the Amazon, which threatens biodiversity as it begins to reach a tipping point.⁶⁶ In light of the predicted 39% increase in deforestation rates, Lula's administration also pays attention to the Cerrado ecosystem, implementing similar policies. The largely

⁶¹ Philips, Tom. "Lula Vows to Take on Amazon Crime If Returned to Power in Brazil Elections." *The Guardian*, August 22, 2022.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/22/brazil-election-lula-da-silva-protect-amazon-president>.

⁶² Hurrell. "Lula's Brazil: A Rising Power"

⁶³ Hurrell. "Lula's Brazil: A Rising Power"

⁶⁴ Bustamante, Mercedes M. C., et al. "Ecological restoration as a strategy for mitigating and adapting to climate change: Lessons and challenges from Brazil." *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* 24, (7) (10): 1249-1270, 2019.

<https://ie.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/ecological-restoration-as-strategy-mitigating/docview/2215418241/se-2>.

⁶⁵ Teixeira. "Green New Deal for Brazil?"

⁶⁶ Spencer, Matthew. "Here's How the EU's New Rules Could Finally Turn the Tide on Tropical Forest Loss." *Reuters*, January 3, 2023.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/comment-heres-how-eus-new-rules-could-finally-turn-tide-tropical-forest-loss-2023-01-03/>.



exploited biome is a tropical savanna and a significant player in global biodiversity.⁶⁷

There are multiple steps in place to achieve this goal. First, Lula wants to continue with the Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon (PPCDAm). Initially implemented in 2004, it intends to reduce illegal activity in the Amazon by creating a "Green Wall".⁶⁸ There are three pillars to the PPCDAm, including adapting more sustainable usages to territorial and land-use planning, controlling and monitoring and stimulating sustainable production. During the first phases of the PPCDAm of Lula's first presidency, it concluded tasks like creating more protected lands, battling "illegal occupation" of public land, widely called land grabbing, developing transparency in monitoring and governments, and improving existing satellite systems.⁶⁹ Through the support of the police and fifteen government ministries' collaboration, the plan encouraged improvement in documenting and monitoring techniques used in the Amazon.⁷⁰ Despite these efforts, catching climate criminals is not an easy task and accelerating technology is a priority to better find and prosecute those who engage in these activities.

Significant funding for the plan comes from the national budget, but additional resources for international collaboration come from Germany, Norway, the European Commission, and global organisations like the GEF to help support PPCDAm.⁷¹ Degraded forests can regenerate, and natural vegetation will increase in size thanks to financial incentives for conservation and sustainable forest management. The international community will be looking for progress on Lula's watch because the world's positive impression will allow Lula to gain more international investment into his climate policy which he can reinvest into jobs in green industries. To illustrate, replanting trees might provide up to 2 million jobs in underdeveloped areas affected by deforestation.⁷²

Furthermore, the plan to combat deforestation includes a transformation in the Brazilian tax system that inflicts more expensive levies on polluting sectors to encourage the transition into a green economy. With the higher taxes, reducing

⁶⁷ Império, Mariana, Marluce Scarabello, Nathalie Seddon, Michael Obersteiner, Pedro Rochedo, Roberto Schaeffer, Pedro Andrade, et al. "Nature-Based Solutions Are Critical for Putting Brazil on Track towards Net Zero." Preprints.org, November 2, 2022.

<https://www.preprints.org/manuscript/202211.0054/v1>

⁶⁸ Pires, Majano, and Gutiérrez. "Implementing Prevention and Control Policies"

⁶⁹ United Nations Development Program. "Environmental and Social Assessment of PPCDAm."

⁷⁰ Al Jazeera. "Brazil's President Lula Unveils Plan to End Deforestation by 2030." Environment News | Al Jazeera, June 6, 2023.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/6/6/brazils-president-lula-unveils-plan-to-end-deforestation-by-2030>.

⁷¹ Pires, Majano, and Gutiérrez. "Implementing Control Policies Deforestation."

⁷² Teixeira. "Green New Deal for Brazil?"



taxes for other sectors will be in order if they are considered "green" activities like electric automobiles and sustainable agribusiness.

The agricultural sector would be subject to these taxes, especially considering that the first-quarter GDP of 2023 figures released show the agribusiness sector is 18% larger than in the same period last year. Using a deforested area of roughly 750,000 km², the gross agricultural product of the Amazon constitutes 14.5% of Brazil's agriculture sector GDP.⁷³ The GDP share of the industry, including forestry and fishing, rose from 4% in 2010 to 7% in 2021. The transition will not be an easy one considering the agribusiness also lobbies 347 out of 594 seats across both houses of Congress.⁷⁴

Continued industrial activity with assistance from the agricultural industry has expedited development in Brazil's rural areas, but it is still unsustainable and has low productivity, according to Harvard's Economic Complexity Atlas.⁷⁵ Lula has to decouple economic growth and deforestation and take action to transition to sustainable practices despite fears of loss in profit and GDP. Data proves this through the reduction of deforestation rates between 2005 and 2014, which contradicts the expansion of northern Brazil's agriculture's gross value added (GVA), which about tripled during this duration. A crucial point of this movement is the focus towards moving to products that generate more profit with less negative ecological impact. For example, priority on açai and similar products would create the jobs that the agriculture sector needs, but allow Brazil to move away from hazardous products and gain the export profits needed to invest in socio-economic development. A product like açai makes five times the profit of soybeans, which is ten times greater than cattle raising.⁷⁶

Other products the Brazilian economy can take advantage of include essential oils from species like copaiba, rosewood, and andiroba, which are suitable for end-to-end processing in the Amazon and can serve as alternatives in the creation of a hub for fluorine-xylo chemical production of cosmetic and pharmaceutical goods.⁷⁷ The use of a novel idea to create high-value products, services, and platforms for both existing markets and new ones, such as a high-tech innovation plan that views the Amazon as a global public good with privileged biological assets, can lead to a green economy switch influencing deforestation patterns.⁷⁸

⁷³ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

⁷⁴ "Lula's Ambitious Plans to Save the Amazon Clash with Reality." The Economist, June 13, 2023. <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2023/06/13/lulas-ambitious-plans-to-save-the-amazon-clash-with-reality>.

⁷⁵ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"; Harvard Growth Lab. "Brazil." The Atlas of Economic Complexity. Accessed July 26, 2023. <https://atlas.cid.harvard.edu/countries/32/market-share>.

⁷⁶ Teixeira. "Green New Deal for Brazil?"

⁷⁷ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"

⁷⁸ Nobre, et al. "Land-Use and Climate Change"



The plan to work towards these anti-deforestation projects leads to new jobs. Initiatives like reforestation, forest management, and sustainable agriculture practices are a few examples of trades that need specialised labour and may be able to be employed in rural areas. Employment in rural areas encourages Lula's agenda for closing socioeconomic gaps through job creation and putting in place regulations that protect the rights of the communities impacted by deforestation, motivate sustainable development and offer lucrative conservation-related jobs. In his pursuit of global leadership on climate change, Lula is aware of the necessity for fair development in order to protect the Brazilian people from the adverse repercussions of environmental deterioration.

The final step involves an OPEC for Rainforests. During COP27, Brazil and the other major rainforest countries, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, instituted an agreement.⁷⁹ This agreement aims to advance the interests of developing nations by encouraging other countries to finance their efforts against deforestation. The union of these states indicates the potential for an increase in international climate funding that can become a greener economy that moves away from the most polluting industries and addresses the unique situations they face.⁸⁰ Although this deal holds potential, it is unlikely that these countries will carry through with their promises.

These, and similar, policies and agreements could improve the image of Brazil internationally as a nation that takes responsibility and cares for the environment, boosting investor confidence. As environmental regulations become increasingly stringent in various states and trading blocs, such as the European Union, Lula is pressured to take action against deforestation and implement sustainable practices.⁸¹ By doing so, he can attract investments from foreign businesses prioritising sustainable sourcing criteria, and improving trade relations and market access.

Annuls Mining in Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas by 2030

Other than the Brazilian Amazon, there is no higher concentration of the indigenous population as it is home to about 355 thousand people of more than 150 ethnic groups.⁸² The Yanomami area, specifically, has 20,000 illicit mining

⁷⁹ Spencer. "EU's New Rules on Tropical Forest Loss."

⁸⁰ Taylor, Michael. "Analysis: Brazil's Lula Hopes to Unite Rainforest Nations, Tap Funding at COP27." Reuters, November 6, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/brazils-lula-hopes-unite-rainforest-nations-tap-funding-cop27-2022-11-06/>.

⁸¹ Abnett, Kate. "EU Lawmakers Back Ban on Goods Linked to Deforestation." Reuters, April 19, 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/eu-parliament-approves-law-banning-imports-deforestation-linked-goods-2023-04-19/>.

⁸² Rorato, et al. "Indigenous Peoples Threatened by Mining."



operations and 27,000 indigenous peoples.⁸³ This indigenous territory is where illegal mining is most prevalent. Illegal mining endangers their well-being and the wildlife in the region, especially those crucial for seed dispersal and pollination processes.⁸⁴ The challenge comes from gold mining accounting for over 64% of the total mining area requested inside indigenous territories, with copper (3.7%), columbite (3%), wolframite (2.4%), and cassiterite (2.2%) following.⁸⁵

Gold mining, which annually releases up to 1000 tonnes of dangerous contamination into the atmosphere, is the largest single source of airborne mercury pollution in the whole globe. Through mercury moving up into the food chain, all inhabitants, including ecosystems, are harmed during the gold mining process. Mercury that reaches water transforms through waterborne bacteria into a different form, methylmercury, which becomes dangerous to the surrounding environment.⁸⁶ In 2020, WWF-Brazil and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) focused on a study about mercury exposure. They found that two hundred members of the Mundurucu people suffer from mercury found in their bodies.⁸⁷ Other threats from illegal mining include technology like hydraulic excavators. These advancements are so damaging that within 24 hours, it does the work that would have taken three days. The efficiency means more mercury in water systems and other chemicals.⁸⁸

To better protect these areas, Lula intends to use technologies like satellite images to track criminal activity and use comparative practices from the banking system with rural registration and others. The rural registry will become an asset to monitor forest management and aid the land titles regularisation to increase its service.⁸⁹ Also, to ensure the activities halt, Lula will reinforce Brazil's federal police and borders to regain control of the outlying Amazon regions.⁹⁰

Since the main intention of illegal miners is to create profit, if Lula can fortify the rule of law, the miners would be influenced into not carrying out their activities because the severe fines would be more expensive than carrying out operations. By 2030, Brazilian states might receive between \$13 billion and \$48 billion from illegal mining fines, providing an unheard-of chance to fund the Amazon's shift to

⁸³ Greenberg, Chris. "Inside the Fight against Illegal Mining in the Amazon." Greenpeace International, April 10, 2023.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/59123/amazon-rainforest-mining-illegal/>.

⁸⁴ Gonzaga, Diego. "How Illegal Gold Mining Threatens Biodiversity in the Amazon." Greenpeace International, May 22, 2023.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/59869/illegal-mining-amazon-threat-biodiversity/>.

⁸⁵ Rorato, et al. "Indigenous Peoples Threatened by Mining."

⁸⁶ Cornwall, Warren. "Illegal Gold Mines Flood Amazon Forests with Toxic Mercury." Science, January 28, 2022.

<https://www.science.org/content/article/illegal-gold-mines-flood-amazon-forests-toxic-mercury>.

⁸⁷ Greenberg. "Illegal Mining in the Amazon."

⁸⁸ Gonzaga. "Gold Mining Threatens Biodiversity."

⁸⁹ Al Jazeera. "Plan to End Deforestation by 2030."

⁹⁰ Philips. "Lula Vows to Take on Crime"



a carbon-positive, socially inclusive economy. By fortifying the legal layout of Brazil and encouraging sustainable practices, Lula begins to send out the powerful message that Brazil is back and intends to take action on those threatening the well-being of Brazilians and the international community.

Additionally, the anti-deforestation plan comprises instating the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples that satisfies a persistent desire that includes indigenous peoples' aspirations, opinions, histories, and land-management methods in decision-making processes.⁹¹ By establishing the Ministry and appointing Sônia Guajajara, a well-known national figure, Lula's administration has shown that it would uphold the rights of Brazil's indigenous peoples and traditional communities.⁹² The ministries involved in environmental conservation, including the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples', highlight constitutional prerogatives such as the protection of native vegetation, agricultural reform, and the preservation, conservation, and sustainable use of ecosystems, forests, biodiversity, and other natural resources. This approach can potentially revive Lula's reputation as the successor of socioeconomic equality for all as the policy demonstrates his priority for all Brazilians, rural or urban.

However, as the agricultural industry marks a significant aspect of Brazil's economy, Lula potentially threatens output by providing more power to ministries. In an economy centred on agricultural goods that are environmentally dangerous, Lula is supposed to create jobs. However, giving authority to indigenous people and ministries puts him in a difficult situation. Enhanced environmental bodies offer stricter rules and enforcement methods to protect ecosystems and natural resources. The result may be less agricultural land accessible, and some farming methods may also be prohibited, which could affect agricultural output. Tighter prohibitions may restrict some agricultural activities but also encourage long-term productivity increases through sustainable techniques. Agri-production may be maintained or improved over time by including sustainable procedures like soil conservation, water management, and biodiversity preservation. Environmental ministries may support sustainable agriculture techniques, including agroecology, organic farming, and reduced chemical inputs. During this period, farmers may need to make adjustments and expenditures and spend some time adjusting to these new methods, which might influence agricultural productivity.

On the other hand, Lula's intentions for this diversification in Brazil's economy possess benefits such as increased access to financial resources and markets for ecosystem services for farmers, increased supply of drinking water to urban centres, reduction of risks associated with natural disasters and extreme weather

⁹¹ Vilani, Ferrante, and Fearnside. "Lula's New Amazon Institutionalilty."

⁹² Greenberg. "Illegal Mining in the Amazon."



events like floods and landslides, improved biodiversity conservation, and poverty reduction by direct creation of 112,000 to 191,000 rural jobs.⁹³

Lula's Impact

As Lula's new presidency takes centre stage, one finds themselves reflecting on the potential impact of his policies. While concrete evidence of his past achievements is given, such as the successful reinstatement of the Amazon Fund, there are also promising prospects for the future, like the implementation of policies aimed at combating deforestation and annulling mining in protected areas by 2030. Delving into these significant changes that define Lula's moment as a transformative leader with the potential to shape Brazil's environmental landscape, gives a potential outlook on what the impacts of the given policies could be.

Reinstating the Amazon Fund

Lula's decision to reinstate the Amazon Fund has had a significant impact on Brazil's efforts to combat deforestation and promote sustainable development. The Amazon Fund, which had been idle for three years, has now replaced other sources of funding for Brazil's worldwide efforts to combat climate change. It currently provides funding for a wide range of conservation initiatives focused at managing forests, upholding environmental laws, and protecting biodiversity.⁹⁴ The Amazon Fund, which was first established under Lula's first term and now supports 102 conservation projects, has once more emerged as Brazil's key international source of climate money. This reintroduction has had a number of beneficial effects. Germany and Norway have both resumed their contributions to the Amazon Fund since Lula's return to office, and US climate envoy John Kerry hinted in March that the US would also begin making contributions to the fund.⁹⁵ In more than 10 years, the fund has helped 103 projects and disbursed nearly \$1.3bn,⁹⁶ based on the achievements in reducing deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon.

Firstly, the Amazon Fund plays a crucial role in reducing deforestation rates in the Amazon.⁹⁷ Amazon deforestation falls over 60% compared with last July, says

⁹³ Bustamante, et al. "Ecological Restoration for Mitigating."

⁹⁴ "———" n.d. Yale E360.

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/lula-da-silva-brazil-amazon-deforestation-climate>.

⁹⁵ Driver, Tom. 2023. "A Look at Lula's First 100 Days in Office in Brazil - Brazil Reports." Brazil Reports. April 11, 2023.

<https://brazilreports.com/a-look-at-lulas-first-100-days-in-office-in-brazil/4429/>.

⁹⁶ Alberti, Mia, and Teresa Bo. 2019. "Brazil NGOs Must Search for Alternative Funds to Save the Amazon." *Environment News | Al Jazeera*, September 9, 2019.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/9/9/brazil-ngos-must-search-for-alternative-funds-to-save-the-amazon>.

⁹⁷ Wilson Center. "Lula's Race to Cut Deforestation."



Brazilian minister. Marina Silva welcomes progress but says the climate crisis means the upcoming regional summit needs to produce real action.⁹⁸

The Fund helps to conserve public lands' forests, protected regions, and degraded areas by encouraging sustainable practices and upholding environmental regulations. These initiatives have aided in slowing down deforestation rates in Brazil, protecting crucial ecosystems and preserving priceless species.⁹⁹ After four years of rising destruction, deforestation dropped by 33.6 per cent during Lula's first six months in office.¹⁰⁰ Also, the Amazon Fund has several effects on Brazil. The country received more than USD \$1bn through the Amazon Fund during Lula's first term as president. The policy is also expected to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with deforestation.¹⁰¹

Although this mechanism is crucial to pulling in international climate funding, the amount used to reduce emissions at the agreed-upon price is insufficient. Therefore, reinstating the Amazon Fund provides a source of income for Lula to promote his ideal green economy while maintaining the status of an influential leader in Latin America's fight against climate change.¹⁰² Still acknowledged is that Lula's foreign policy overestimates the willingness of Latin America to follow in its footsteps and assert Brazil as the global representative of the region and of developing economies.¹⁰³

Combating Deforestation in the Amazon and Cerrado Biome

First, a coordinated strategy across more than a dozen ministries is established by the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon (PPCDAm) until the end of Lula's presidency in 2027. It aims to create a green economy that will support the Amazon region without causing deforestation. This economy will include ecotourism promotion, certification of forest products, technical support for farmers, and provision of infrastructure, energy, and internet connections.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁸ Watts, Jonathan. 2023. "Amazon Deforestation Falls over 60% Compared with Last July, Says Brazilian Minister." *The Guardian*, August 3, 2023.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/02/amazon-deforestation-falls-over-60-compared-with-last-july-says-brazilian-minister?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other.

⁹⁹ Wilson Center. "Lula's Race to Cut Deforestation."

¹⁰⁰ Maisonave, Fabiano. 2023. "In Lula's First Six Months, Brazil Amazon Deforestation Dropped 34%, Reversing Trend under Bolsonaro | AP News." *AP News*, July 6, 2023.

<https://apnews.com/article/brazil-amazon-deforestation-lula-climate-change-2fe225f71a8f484e8d365ea641acd65e>.

¹⁰¹ Araujo, Heriberto. 2023. "Opinion | For Lula and the World, the Tough Job of Saving the Amazon Begins." *The New York Times*, January 5, 2023.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/31/opinion/brazil-elections-amazon-rainforest.html>.

¹⁰² Forstater, Nakhooda, and Watson. "The Effectiveness of Climate Finance."

¹⁰³ Hurrell. "Lula's Brazil: A Rising Power"

¹⁰⁴ Paraguassu, Lisandra. 2023. "Brazil's Lula Unveils Plan to Stop Deforestation in Amazon by 2030." *Reuters*, June 5, 2023.



Second, the policies implemented by Lula to combat deforestation in the Amazon and Cerrado biomes have shown positive impacts in Brazil. By addressing deforestation and promoting sustainable practices, Lula aims to win broad support from lawmakers, especially in the powerful farm caucus, which holds considerable influence in Congress. Lula's political aspirations may also be aided by how well the policies safeguard livelihoods and lessen the damage brought on by deforestation. When conservation initiatives have less of a negative impact on Brazilians' livelihoods, it may help Lula and his party perform better in future elections by influencing public opinion and gaining support for their political programme.

A report from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE)¹⁰⁵ states that between May 2022 and May 2023, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest declined by about 10% while land clearing decreased by 31%. Numerous reasons, such as the employment of tens of thousands of environmental agents, the use of satellite technology to identify deforestation, and the 30% increase in protected areas, can be ascribed to the policy's effects.¹⁰⁶ Between 2004 and 2012, the rate of deforestation was reduced by 83 per cent as a result of these actions. The decline in deforestation rates is evidence of how well Lula's initiatives have protected the Cerrado and Amazon biomes, preserved important ecosystems, and lessened the effects of global warming.¹⁰⁷

Lula's political ambitions may also be aided by the measures' success in preserving livelihoods and minimising the damage brought on by deforestation. Conservation measures could potentially alter public opinion and win support for Lula's political agenda if fewer Brazilians' livelihoods are adversely affected. This would strengthen Lula and his party's standing in future elections.¹⁰⁸ Lula's policies to combat deforestation in the Amazon and Cerrado biomes have had an impact on Brazilian society, economy, and business. For instance, soybeans and beef were two of the most popular agricultural exports from Brazil in 2020, when they reached a record-high value of \$100.8 billion. Maintaining Brazil's

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazils-lula-launches-plan-stop-deforestation-amazon-by-2030-2023-06-05/>.

¹⁰⁵ Frontini, Peter. 2023. "Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon Falls Nearly 10% in May." *Reuters*, June 7, 2023.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/deforestation-brazils-amazon-falls-nearly-10-may-2023-06-07/>.

¹⁰⁶ NASA Earth Observatory. n.d. "Tracking Amazon Deforestation from Above."

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/145988/tracking-amazon-deforestation-from-above>.

¹⁰⁷ Mendez, Karla. "President Lula's First pro-Environment Acts Protect Indigenous People and the Amazon." *Mongabay Environmental News*, January 4, 2023.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/01/president-lulas-first-pro-environment-acts-protect-indigenous-people-and-the-amazon/>.

¹⁰⁸ The Economist. 2023. "The Biggest Obstacle to Saving Rainforests Is Lawlessness." *The Economist*, March 2, 2023.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2023/02/27/the-biggest-obstacle-to-saving-rainforests-is-lawlessness>.



competitive advantage in the international market depends on the sustainable management of the Cerrado and Amazon biomes. Also, according to a study by the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development, over 60% of Brazilian companies have adopted sustainability practices, including commitments to zero-deforestation supply chains.

Annuls Mining in Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas by 2030

Under Lula's leadership, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples created a policy to stop mining in indigenous territories and protected areas, and this policy has advanced significantly. This includes the appointment of Sonia Guajajara, a well-known national figure, and the identification of 13 indigenous territories to be protected by the state. Lula's ministry launched an operation to remove over 20,000 illegal miners from Brazil's largest indigenous territory, which is home to the Yanomami tribe.¹⁰⁹

This policy has many different repercussions on the nation. The European Union (EU), which aligns with the policy's goal of protecting indigenous lands and the environment, has made a decision to refrain from trading with any commodities linked to deforestation, which is one noticeable result. This illustrates how the policy has worldwide repercussions and how it might affect trade and economic ties.¹¹⁰ The policy has nevertheless encountered opposition and difficulties, particularly from right-wing elements. They advocate for policies that would legalise earlier land seizures, reduce environmental licensing, and permit mining on native lands.

Ultimately, Lula's ability to navigate these challenges and build a compelling case for his policies will determine their overall impact on his popularity and support among the Brazilian populace.

Conclusion

Overall, this report covered five stages of Lula's climate policy as he enters his first year back into presidency: a synopsis of environmental challenges Brazil faces, Lula's defining moment with his presence at COP27, his policies that address the conservation of the Amazon and the impact contribution these policies are making towards alleviating climate challenges. With these five sections, Lula's intentions are clearer, which demonstrates his position as a climate leader in the international scene.

¹⁰⁹ Boadle, Anthony. 2023. "Brazil Readies Task Force to Expel Miners from Yanomami Lands, Officials Say." *Reuters*, February 1, 2023.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-prepares-task-force-expel-miners-yanomami-lands-indigenous-leader-says-2023-01-31/>.

¹¹⁰ Abnett. "EU Lawmakers Ban on Goods."



Through examining Lula's efforts, it becomes evident that they are a component of a worldwide effort to protect the future of our planet. Even though we may not personally know him, his commitment to safeguarding the Amazon exemplifies humanity's environmental conscience. He is responsible for protecting the Amazon rainforest, one of the planet's most vital ecosystems, since he is aware that his actions have an impact beyond Brazilian territory.

However, it is noted that conservative groups and the Brazilian Central Bank are worried about possible financial mismanagement and additional prospects for corruption as a result of Lula's environmental initiatives, which aim to boost foreign investment. The high spending in his last administration for social welfare programs surfaces these actors' worries as well. Concerns regarding the effective administration and deployment of these resources arise from the possibility that the flood of foreign capital may serve as a seductive platform for financial wrongdoing and theft. To make Brazil more desirable to potential investors, pursuing foreign investment may result in looser environmental restrictions or less rigorous supervision, compromising the integrity of the conservation and sustainability goals, similar to Lula's second term where he prioritised agribusiness rather than his climate promises. Ultimately, the steps adopted to eliminate corruption issues and guarantee responsible international investment management will significantly impact the efficacy and integrity of Lula's climate initiatives.

At this time, it is difficult to say how the future of Brazilian climate policy will impact the decrease of climate effects for Brazil and the world. Through analysing his past administrations, the concern of corruption swaying the Workers Party again is reasonable, but it is too early on into Lula's current administration to make claims as to how impactful his policies and promises will actualize. Therefore it is crucial to stay updated on the challenges and solutions Lula presents and executes, especially in regard to international funds.

Analysing Lula's climate efforts is significant to environmentalism since Lula demonstrates the significance of climate accountability in the international system. Brazil holds the most Amazonian territory and Lula wants to contribute to its preservation, but his intentions for international investments, trades, and alliances push forward the South-South collaboration while redirecting income from climate efforts to support rural and urban development in an economy that has unique struggles compared to the developed states with the higher greenhouse gas emissions.

Lula is a climate leader because he displays that economic advancement can not come at the expense of the environment or the welfare of its people. His priorities include encouraging sustainable agricultural practices, funding defensive technology investments, and supporting creative approaches to reducing



greenhouse gas emissions. He shows his desire to be held accountable for Brazil's climate policy advancements by his attendance at COP27. Lula understands the need for equitable development in his pursuit of global leadership on climate change to prevent leaving the Brazilian people susceptible to the vulnerable effects of environmental deterioration. Through accumulating international investment and utilising his new administration to restore his reputation, Lula aspires to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental preservation. He highlights the essential need to halt deforestation through mitigation and defend the rights and way of life of indigenous groups that live in the rainforest by concentrating on protecting the Amazon. By assuring the protection of their rights and means of subsistence, Lula works to strengthen underprivileged communities, particularly those in the Amazon territory. He does not forget the current economic diversification of Brazil, by intending to reshape the economy rather than lose jobs and industries to satisfy the international community's urgency for climate action. His determination to include everyone in the search for a sustainable future is highlighted by his commitment to social inclusion and environmental justice.

To conclude, Lula's current and previous climate efforts establish Brazil as a key player in the international system regarding conservation and allow for the people to reap the benefits of investments and a green economy to potentially propel Brazil and the Amazon as inspiration for other developing countries.



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