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Please cite as:  
Favor citar como:

Ferrante, L. & P.M. Fearnside. 2022.  
**Countries should boycott Brazil over  
export-driven deforestation.** *Nature* 601:  
318:<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-00094-7>

[correspondence]

ISSN: 0028-0836

DOI: 10.1038/d41586-022-00094-7

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Limited.

The original publication is available at  
O trabalho original está disponível em:

<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-00094-7>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00094-7>

## **Countries should boycott Brazil over export-driven deforestation**

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Deforestation in Brazil is now threatening the last major block of intact Amazon rainforest. We urge countries that import large amounts of Brazilian soya beans and beef to take action to halt this destruction. About 9.5% of Brazil's exported soya beans and 5.3% of its beef goes to European countries, with another 79% and 52%, respectively, going to China [1]. Importers should switch to other exporters until Brazil eliminates export-driven deforestation.

Brazil's deforestation has reached a 15-year high, with a 22% jump in the annual rate [2]. For years, cattle ranchers in the state of Mato Grosso have been selling their pasture for high prices to soyabean growers and buying cheap land farther north to deforest for beef production.

The practice is now moving west to the state of Amazonas, where the BR-319 (Manaus–Porto Velho) highway is making inroads into a vast area of rainforest [3]. Soya-bean planters from Mato Grosso are already buying out ranchers in Rondônia, who then acquire cheap land on this new frontier.

Amplifying this cycle of deforestation runs counter to Brazil's undertaking to mitigate carbon emissions [4].

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