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Paper Title: AVOIDED DEFORESTATION IN AMAZONIA AS A GLOBAL WARMING MITIGATION MEASURE: THE CASE OF MATO GROSSO

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Controlling deforestation in Brazil's Amazon region has long been illusive despite repeated efforts of government authorities to slow the process. Now, a licensing and enforcement program in the state of Mato Grosso appears to be having a significant effect. Clearing rates of Amazonian forest and of the "transition" between forest and cerrado (central Brazilian savanna) have declined since the program began in 1999, while deforestation in the rest of Brazil's nine-state "Legal Amazon" region has continued to increase. Examination of trends at the county (município) level help separate the effects of frontier aging and repression. In new frontiers, clearing rates were increasing before the enforcement program, but decline sharply after 1999. Clearing rates declined more sharply where enforcement is concentrated. The assumption that deforestation in Amazonia is uncontrollable is at the root of Brazil's traditional resistance to international monetary flows to reward avoided deforestation, as through the Kyoto Protocol. The recent events in Mato Grosso indicate that this assumption is flawed, and that deforestation can be controlled. Assuming 1999 as the baseline, reduced deforestation in Mato Grosso over the 2000-2001 period avoided 43 million tons of carbon emission annually, equivalent to about half of Brazil's current emissions from fossil fuels.

KEYWORDS: Avoided deforestation, Deforestation control, Tropical forests, Amazonia, Avoided emissions, Forestry, Brazil, LULUCF

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