



Top Stories: Wildfire blankets U.S. states | Lindsay Clancy on trial | Seattle shooting | Iran war casualty count

[Follow](#)

Collapse of Amazon soy pact to unleash new deforestation: study

Issam AHMED

Thu, July 16, 2026 at 1:53 PM CST · 3 min read



This aerial view shows deforested areas in the Amazon rainforest in the municipality of Nova Esperanca do Piria, Para State, Brazil (Mauro PIMENTEL)

The collapse of a landmark Amazon soy pact will drive at least 1.4 million hectares (3.5 million acres) of extra deforestation in Brazil over the next decade,

releasing carbon emissions equal to Canada's annual output, according to an analysis published Thursday.

The paper, published in Science, examined the rise and fall of the Amazon Soy Moratorium -- one of the world's most successful voluntary deforestation commitments -- under which soy traders agreed not to source or finance soy grown on land deforested after July 2008.

When the Moratorium began in 2006, nearly a third of annual soy expansion came from deforestation. After it took effect, deforestation linked to new soy fields fell to nearly zero.

ADVERTISEMENT

"It generated very positive effects and results," not only environmentally but also by opening new markets, co-author Tiago Reis of World Wildlife Fund-Brazil, told AFP.

"It gave the assurance that soy was not causing more Amazon deforestation."

But the agreement came under attack starting three years ago, driven by lobbying from soy farmers, who filed a \$200 million lawsuit against the traders.

Brazilian antitrust authorities also investigated the Moratorium's signatories over allegations they were behaving like a cartel.

Finally, laws passed by Mato Grosso and other soy-producing states stripped tax breaks from companies that adopted eco-friendly sourcing commitments beyond what the law required.

ADVERTISEMENT

Though those laws are being challenged in Brazil's Federal Supreme Court, they have effectively dealt the agreement a death blow, with the moratorium abandoned in January.

The forecast is grim, according to the authors, who included researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, DePaul University and the University of

Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

They project 1.4 million hectares of additional deforestation by 2036 -- roughly two million soccer pitches -- equivalent to 745 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, which is comparable to Canada's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

That's also roughly 17 percent of the total area deforested across the Brazilian Amazon over the past decade.

ADVERTISEMENT

Such outcomes would seriously undermine progress since leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva returned to power in 2023, with deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon falling to its lowest level in a decade in the first half of the year, according to figures released last week.

Beyond legal deforestation, the report's authors estimate tens of millions more hectares of "undesignated" public forest -- land that is neither protected nor privately or Indigenous held -- could come under pressure from land grabs, given its suitability for soy.

Reis explained that while cattle farming is often the initial method of claiming ownership of such land, soy is actually the strongest indirect driver of Amazon deforestation "because it's the most valuable commodity that can be produced."

The authors recommend a combination of stronger deforestation enforcement in Brazil and more ethical sourcing by soy importers, including the EU and China. Companies, banks and financial institutions, they say, also need to demand deforestation-free soy more forcefully.

ADVERTISEMENT

"It's outrageous if we consider that we are living in a climate crisis with heat waves, super El Nino coming up," said Reis.

The weather pattern, compounded by climate change, is set to bring severe drought and wildfire risks to northern South America, imperiling the rainforest further.

ia/acb

 [View comments](#)

[Terms and Privacy Policy](#) [Privacy Dashboard](#) [About Our Ads](#)

 Recommended articles



New technical education routes to be offered at 14 in England
BBC



Number of suspects in fatal Seattle food festival shooting rises to three
BBC



US mother's mental health spiralled before her children's murders, ex-husband says
BBC



McConnell out of hospital but not yet cleared to return to work, doctors say
BBC

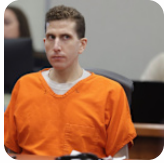


Shots fired at US consulate in Toronto for a second time this year

BBC



[Redacted text]



Kohberger seeks to withdraw guilty plea in University of Idaho murders

ABC News



Suspect among 3 killed in Seattle shooting; teen arrested, 3rd suspect sought

CBS News

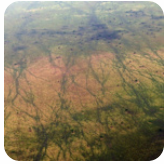


Biden tapes released after legal battle, with references to classified material

CBS News



[Redacted text]



UN lists South Sudan antelope route as heritage in danger

AFP



Jackie the eagle 'more feisty' as caregivers share treatment video

USA TODAY



Hundreds of thousands of women get morning-after pill via free pharmacy service
BBC



[Redacted text]



U.S. mom and kids trapped by French wildfire: "Such an unstable situation"
CBS News



A weeks-old Gen-Z protest group managed to get India's Modi to blink. What's next?
CNN



Todd Blanche's AG prospects uncertain as 2 key GOP votes hold out
ABC News



[Redacted text]



Company at center of US cyclospora outbreak complained to White House, source says
Reuters

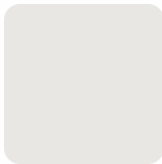


Wildlife face 'catastrophic' losses as France's forests burn
AFP



'Do the right thing': Savannah Guthrie makes another plea to mother's kidnappers

BBC



[Redacted text]



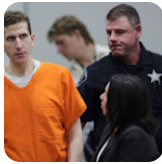
The biggest weather risk for homeowners? It's no longer hurricanes.

CBS News



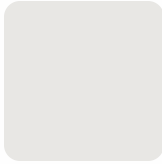
Brazil's Amazonia theaters earn UNESCO World Heritage status

AFP



Kohberger says he wants to withdraw plea and face trial for murder of Idaho college students

CNN



[Redacted text]

yahoo!news

Yahoo!

US

Politics

2024 Election

- [World](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Science](#)
- [The 360](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Originals](#)

- [Terms and Privacy Policy](#)
- [Privacy Dashboard](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Share Your Feedback](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [About Our Ads](#)
- [Site Map](#)



© 2026 Yahoo. All rights reserved.