

Summary

SAD detected 230 square kilometers of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon in October 2015. That represented a 5% reduction in relation to October 2014 when deforestation totaled 244 square kilometers. It was possible to monitor 98% of the forest area in the Brazilian Amazon while in October 2014 monitoring covered a smaller area (72%) of the territory.

In October 2015, deforestation was concentrated in Mato Grosso (29%), Pará (24%) and Amazonas (16%), with a lower occurrence in Roraima (2%), Tocantins (2%) and Acre (1%).

Degraded forests in the Brazilian Amazon totaled 1.009 square kilometers in October 2015. In relation to October 2014, when forest degradation totaled 468 square kilometers, there was a 115% increase.

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(Imazon)

Deforestation Statistics

According to SAD, deforestation (total suppression of the forest for other alternative land uses) affected 230 square kilometers in October 2015 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

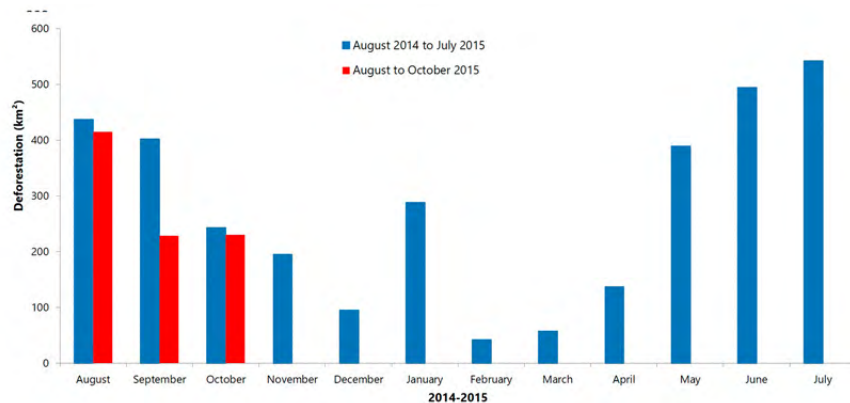


Figure 1. Deforestation from August 2014 to October 2015 in the Brazilian Amazon (Source: Imazon/SAD).

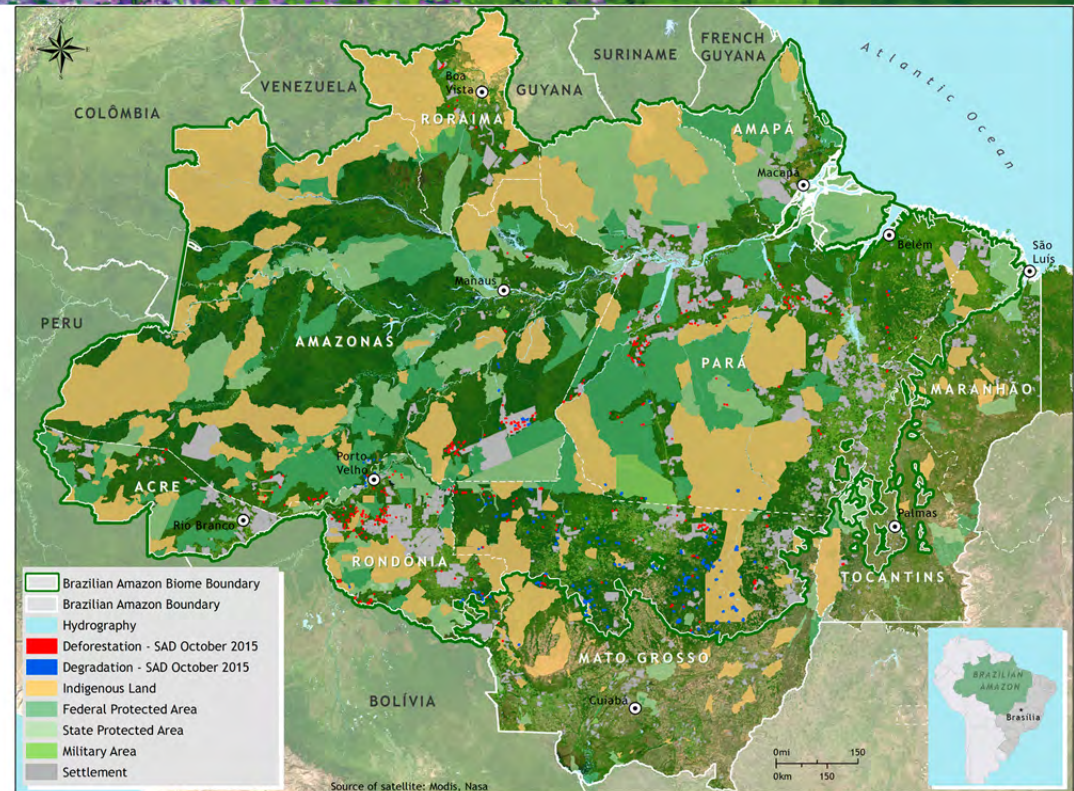


Figure 2. Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Brazilian Amazon in October 2015 (Source: Imazon/ SAD).

In October 2015, deforestation was concentrated in Mato Grosso (29%), Rondônia (26%), Pará (24%) and Amazonas (16%), with a lower occurrence in Roraima (2%), Tocantins (2%) and Acre (1%) (Figure 3). The accumulated deforestation for the period from August to October 2015, corresponding to the first three months of the official calendar for measuring deforestation, affected 875 square kilometers. There was a 19% reduction in deforestation in relation to the previous period (August 2014 to October 2014) when it affected 1,082 square kilometers.

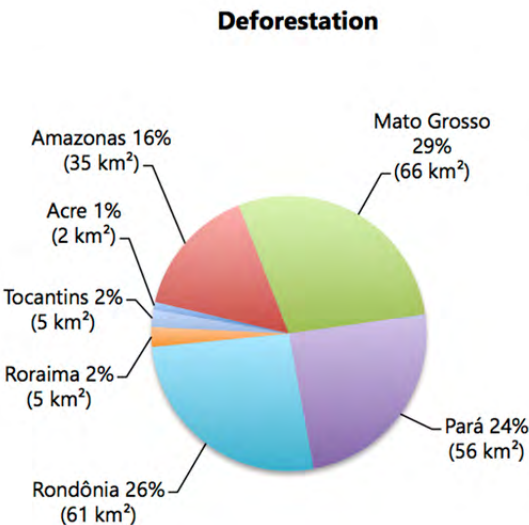


Figure 3. Percentage of deforestation in States of the Brazilian Amazon in October 2015 (Source: Imazon/SAD).

Considering the first three months of the current deforestation calendar (August 2015 to October 2015), Mato Grosso leads the ranking with 35% of the total deforestation for the period. Next com Pará (31%) and Rondônia (14%). In relative terms, there was a significant increase of 2,400% in Tocantins and 30% in Pará. In absolute terms, Mato Grosso leads the ranking of accumulated deforestation with 309 square kilometers, followed by Pará (269 square kilometers) and Amazonas (114 square kilometers) (Table 1).

Table 1. Evolution of deforestation among States of the Brazilian Amazon from August 2014 to October 2014 and August 2015 to October 2015 (Source: Imazon/SAD).

State	August to October 2014	August to October 2015	Variation (%)
Pará	206	269	+30
Mato Grosso	277	309	+11
Rondônia	326	120	-63
Amazonas	164	114	-31
Roraima	43	27	-37
Acre	65	11	-84
Tocantins	1	25	+2,400
Amapá	-	-	-
Total	1,082	875	-19

* Os dados do Maranhão não foram analisados.

Forest Degradation

In October 2015, SAD recorded 1,009 square kilometers of degraded forests (forests intensely exploited by logging activity and/or burned) (Figures 2 and 4). Of that total, the great majority (91%) occurred in Mato Grosso, followed by Pará (4%), Rondônia (3%) and Amazonas (2%).

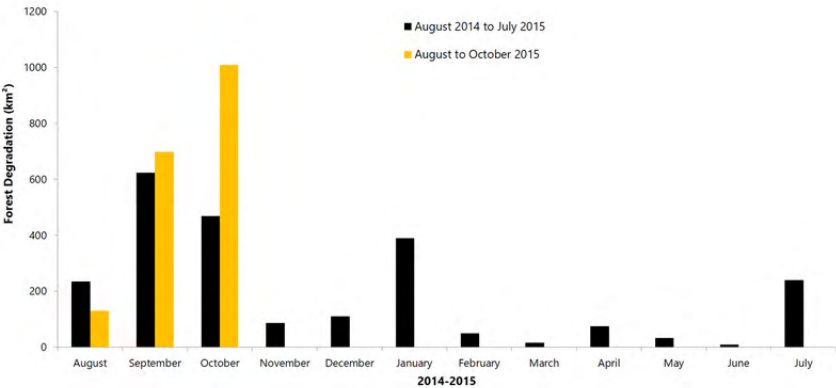


Figure 4. Forest Degradation from August 2014 to October 2015 in the Brazilian Amazon (Source: Imazon/SAD).

Table 2. Evolution of forest degradation among States in the Brazilian Amazon from August 2014 to October 2014 and August 2015 to October 2015 (Source: Imazon/SAD).

State	August to October 2014	August to October 2015	Variation (%)
Mato Grosso	1,073	1,642	+11
Pará	64	124	+63
Rondônia	35	54	+93
Amazonas	7	15	+58
Roraima	-	4	-
Acre	-	-	-
Tocantins	-	-	-
Amapá	-	-	-
Total	1,179	1,839	+16

Geography of Deforestation

In October 2015, the majority (72%) of deforestation occurred in areas that were private or under various stages of possession. The remaining deforestation was recorded in Land Reform Settlements (19%), Conservation Units (8%) and Indigenous Lands (1%) (Table 3).

Table 3. Deforestation by land title category in October 2015 in the Brazilian Amazon
(Source: Imazon/ SAD).

Category	October 2014	
	km ²	%
Land Reform Settlements	43	19
Conservation Units	18	8
Indigenous Lands	1	1
Private, Possession & Untitled Public Lands	168	72
Total (km ²)	230	100

Land Reform Settlements

SAD recorded 43 square kilometers of deforestation in Land Reform Settlements in October 2015 (Figure 5). The Settlements most affected by deforestation were PA Rio Juma (Apuí; Amazonas), PA Santa Cruz (Ariquemes; Rondônia) and PDS Boa Vista do Caracol (Trairão; Pará).

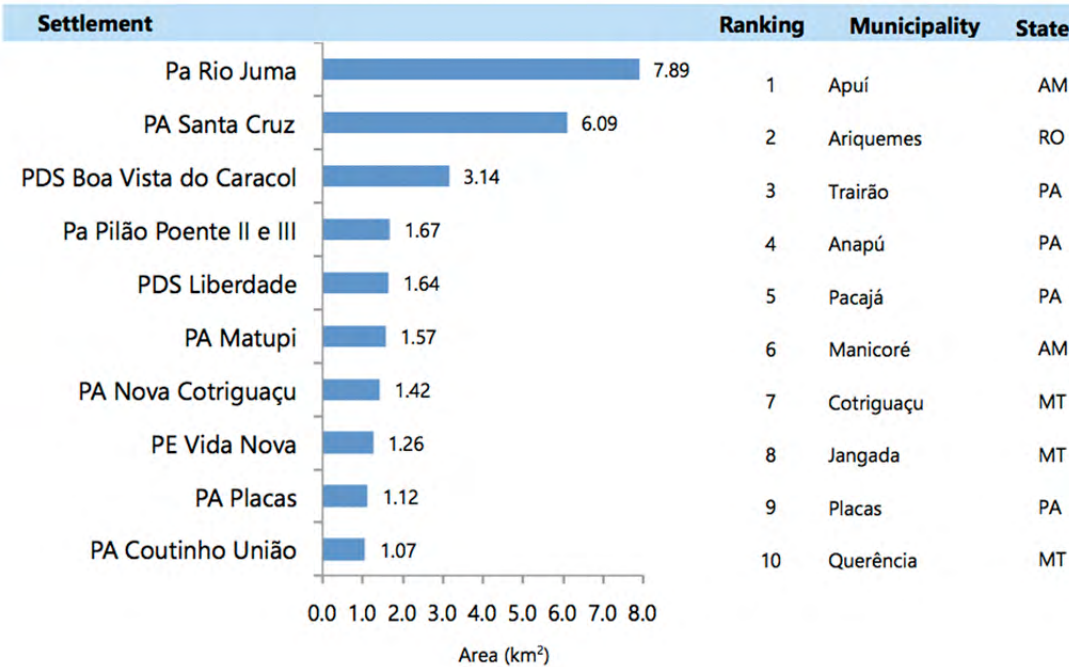


Figure 5. Most deforested Land Reform Settlements in the Brazilian Amazon in October 2015
(Source: Imazon/SAD).

Protected Areas

During the month of October 2015, SAD detected 18 square kilometers of deforestation in Conservation Units (Figure 6). In the case of Indigenous Lands, in October 2015 only 1 square kilometer of deforestation was detected (Figure 7).

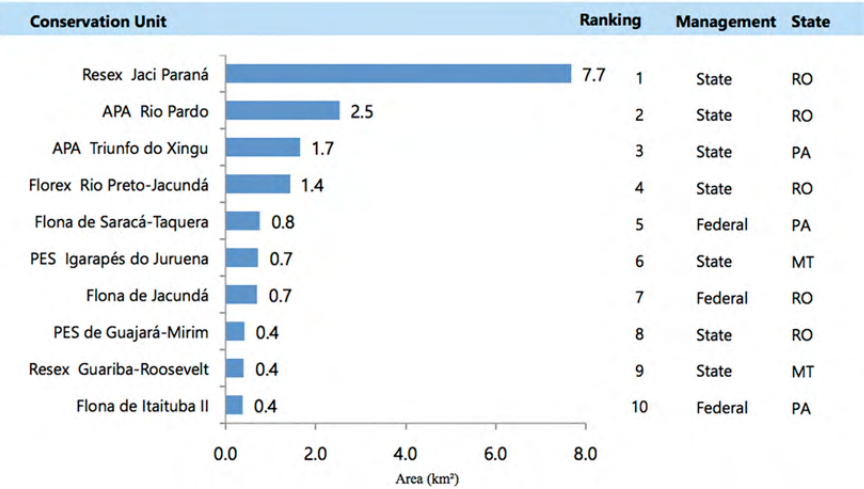


Figure 6. Most deforested Conservation Units in the Brazilian Amazon in October 2015 (Source: Imazon/SAD).

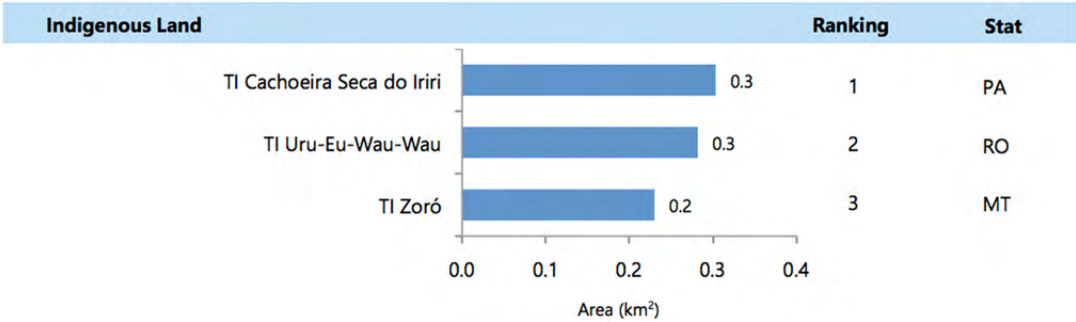


Figure 7. Most deforested Indigenous Lands in the Brazilian Amazon in October 2015 (Source: Imazon/SAD).

Critical Municipalities

In October 2015, the most deforested municipalities were: Querência (Mato Grosso) and Porto Velho (Rondônia) (Figure 8 and 9).

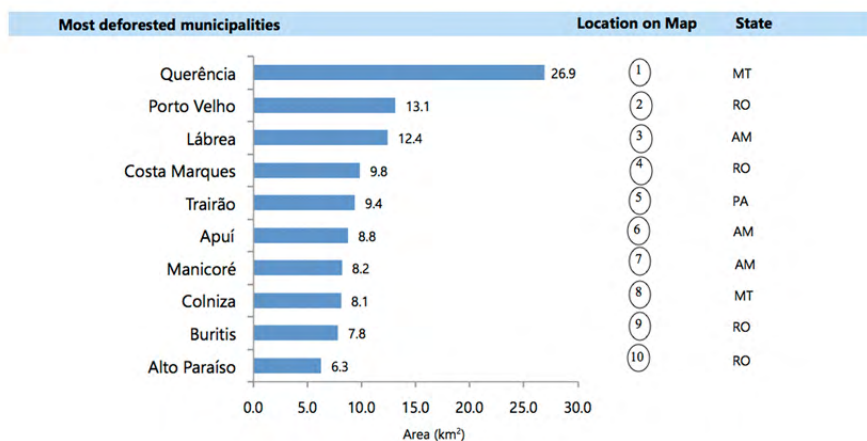


Figure 8. Most deforested Municipalities in the Brazilian Amazon in October 2015
(Source: Imazon /SAD).

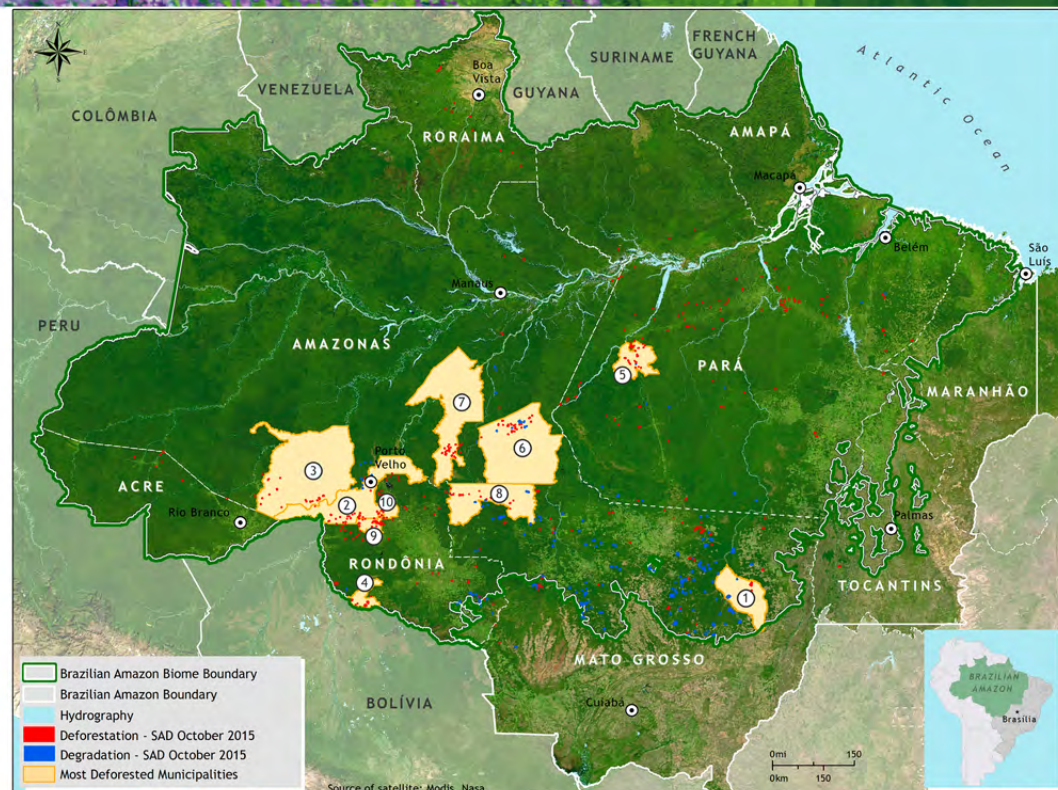


Figure 9. Municipalities com largest areas deforested in the Brazilian Amazon in October 2015
(Source: Imazon/SAD).

Cloud and Shadow Cover

In October 2015, with SAD it was possible to monitor 98% of the forest area in the Brazilian Amazon. The other 4% of forest territory was covered by clouds, which made detection of deforestation and forest degradation difficult. The State with the largest cloud cover was Pará (4%). Because of that, the data for deforestation and forest degradation in October 2015 may be underestimated (Figure 10).

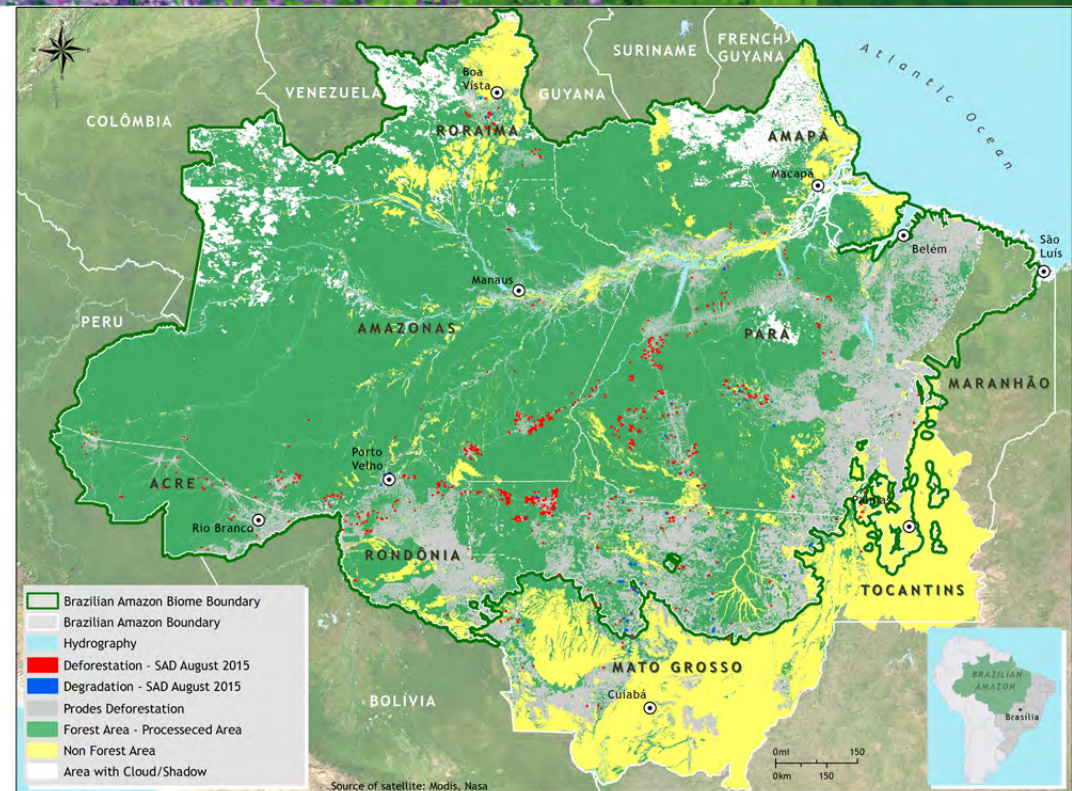


Figure 10. Area with cloud and shadow in October 2015 in the Brazilian Amazon

SAD-EE

Since August 2012 deforestation and forest degradation detection alerts have been performed using the Google Earth Engine (EE), platform (EE), with the new SAD EE version. That system was developed in collaboration with Google and uses the same process already employed by SAD 3.0 (Box I), with reflectance images from MODIS for generating deforestation and forest degradation alerts.

* The part of Maranhão that belongs to the Brazilian Amazon was not analyzed.

Box I: SAD 3.0

Since August 2009, SAD has had some new features. First, we created a graphic interface to integrate all of the image processing programs used in SAD. Next, we began to compute deforestation in areas that were covered by clouds in the previous months in a new class. Finally, deforestation and degradation are detected with pairs of NDFI images using a change detection algorithm. The principal method continues to be the same as with SAD 2.0 as described below.

SAD generates a temporal mosaic of daily MODIS images from the MOD09GQ and MOD09GA products for filtering clouds. Next, we use a technique for fusing different spectral resolution bands, i.e. with pixels of different sizes. In this case, we made a change in scale from 5 bands with 500 meter pixels in MODIS to 250 meters. That allowed us to improve the spectral mixture model and provided the capacity for estimating the abundance of Vegetation, Soils and Non-Photosynthetic Vegetation (NPV) components (Vegetation, Soil and Shadow) to calculate the NDFI, with the following equation:

$$\text{NDFI} = \frac{\text{VGs} - (\text{NPV} + \text{Soil})}{\text{VGs} + \text{NPV} + \text{Soil}}$$

Where VGs is the Vegetation component normalized for shadow given by:

$$\text{VGs} = \text{Vegetation} / (1 - \text{Shadow})$$

The NDFI varies from -1 (pixel with 100% of exposed soil) to 1 (pixel with > 90% of forest vegetation). Thus, we have a continuous image that shows the transition from deforested areas, going through degraded forests, until reaching forest without signs of disturbances.

Detection of deforestation and degradation this month involved a difference in the NDFI images from consecutive months. Thus, a reduction in the NDFI values of from -200 to -50 indicates possible deforested areas and from -49 to -20 indicates signs of degradation.

SAD 3.0 Beta is compatible with previous versions (SAD 1.0 and 2.0), because the threshold for detecting deforestation was calibrated to generate the same type of response obtained by the previous method.

SAD has been in operation in the State of Mato Grosso since August 2006 and in the Brazilian Amazon since May 2008. In this bulletin, we present the monthly data generated by SAD from August 2014 to October 2015.

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Data Source:

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Data from INPE - Deforestation (PRODES)
<http://www.obt.inpe.br/prodes/>

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<http://earthengine.google.org/>

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State Secretariat for the Environment of Mato Grosso (SEMA)
Secretariat for the Environment of Pará (SEMA)
Federal Public Prosecution Service in Pará
State Public Prosecution Service of Pará
State Public Prosecution Service of Roraima
State Public Prosecution Service of Amapá
State Public Prosecution Service of Mato Grosso
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Apoio

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