

## Brazil

**Population:** 211m<sup>1</sup>

**GDP:** \$1.84trn<sup>2</sup>

**Percentage of population using the internet:** 67.5%<sup>3</sup>

**Number of social media users:** 332m<sup>4</sup>

Yale Environmental Performance Index –

**Biodiversity & Habitat Ranking:** 38/180<sup>5</sup>

### Awareness, engagement and action for nature, 2016–2020

- Brazil produced the largest number of signatures for biodiversity and nature campaigns of any country in the world, contributing 23m signatures—14% of global signatures.
- On average, 96% of Globescan survey respondents saw the loss of animal and plant species as a serious global problem.
- The number of nature-loss and biodiversity-related Tweets grew by 82%.
- The volume of news stories about nature loss and biodiversity increased by 60%.
- News articles about nature protests peaked in 2019, following a 79% increase since 2016.

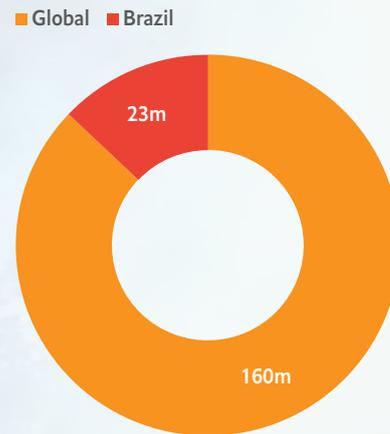
### Recent actions by civil society and key decision-makers

Brazil’s president, Jair Bolsonaro, was accused of crimes against humanity in 2021. Indigenous leaders and human rights groups urged the International Criminal Court to investigate what they say amounts to ecocide.<sup>6</sup>

Since Mr Bolsonaro took office in 2019, biodiversity loss and deforestation have soared. Environmental policies and agencies—Ibama, ICMBio and Funai—have been systematically dismantled, indigenous

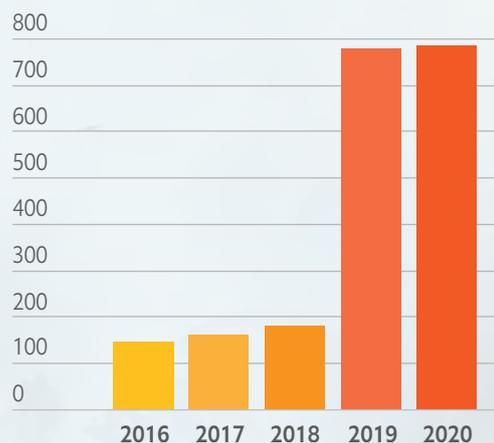
### Stand up and be counted

Number of signatures for nature-loss and biodiversity campaigns, compared to all campaigns (Brazil)



Source: Avaaz

### Twitter mentions Brazil '000



Source: The EIU. Meltwater

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/country/brazil>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

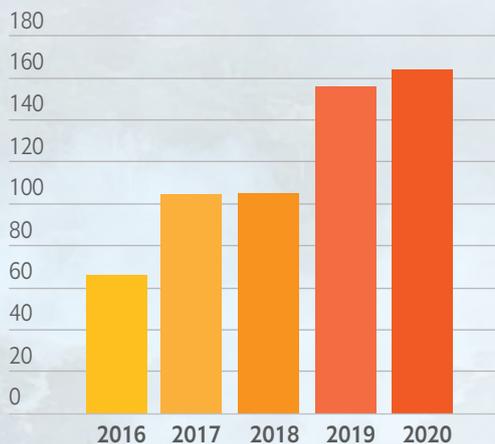
<sup>4</sup> <https://napoleoncat.com/stats/social-media-users-in-brazil/2020/01>

<sup>5</sup> <https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2020/component/bdh>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/23/jair-bolsonaro-could-face-charges-in-the-hague-over-amazon-rainforest>

## News media coverage

Brazil '000



Source: The EIU. Meltwater

communities have been threatened, and vast stretches of the rainforest have been destroyed. Deforestation has risen by almost 50% in just two years, with no action taken to combat the forest fires of 2020<sup>7</sup> in the Amazon and Pantanal regions.

In June 2020 seven major European funds threatened to withdraw their US\$2trn worth of investments from the country unless the surging destruction of the Amazon rainforest decreased.<sup>8</sup> The Brazil Climate, Forests and Agriculture Coalition then sent the government its own proposals to halt deforestation.<sup>9</sup> The coalition consists of an unprecedented 230 environmental groups and businesses, such as JBS, Klabin, Marfrig, Amaggi, Basf, Danone, Natura and Unilever.<sup>10</sup>

In December 2020 Brazil presented an updated climate plan to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that is notably less ambitious than the 2015 version. Using procedural and legal manoeuvres, Brazil has weakened its existing climate change commitments by violating the spirit, if not the letter, of the Paris Climate Agreement. This has reduced its credibility on the global stage and further affected investor confidence and the possibility of future trade agreements.<sup>11</sup>

If passed, two bills currently (as of publication) on the floor of the House and Senate, would further enable the privatisation of public lands that have been illegally deforested. This would result in further occupation and deforestation of public land and accelerate destruction of the Amazon.<sup>12</sup>

On a more positive note, Brazil's indigenous people and non-governmental organisations have been working at the local level to expand representation in government to meet their communities' needs and protect the lands they inhabit. At the 2020 national municipal election, the number of indigenous voters rose by 27% compared with the 2016 turnout, and more indigenous people than ever before in Brazil's history were elected: ten mayors, 11 deputy mayors and 213 councillors, of whom 13% were women.<sup>13</sup> Candidates from all parties acknowledged the need to recognise, strengthen and protect indigenous territories.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-environment-divestment-exclusi/exclusive-european-investors-threaten-brazil-divestment-over-deforestation-idUSKBN23Q1MU>; <https://www.brasilagro.com.br/conteudo/como-as-empresas-se-uniram-contra-as-polemicas-do-governo-bolsonaro.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1986951/environmental-groups-big-ag-unite-for-amazon-in-brazil>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.brasilagro.com.br/conteudo/como-as-empresas-se-uniram-contra-as-polemicas-do-governo-bolsonaro.html>

<sup>11</sup> [https://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_news/?1173241/WWF-Brazil-NDC](https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?1173241/WWF-Brazil-NDC)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.americasquarterly.org/article/brazils-amazon-is-under-threat-from-proposed-land-use-laws/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://apiboficial.org/2020/11/17/eleicoes-2020-em-contagem-parcial-apib-mapeia-159-candidatos-indigenas-eleitos/>

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