

As you may recall, Brazil's NAMAs are to cut emissions by 2020 between 36.1% and 38.9% in relation to BAU. A substantial part is reflected through the country's consistent reduction of emissions from land use and forestry. In this workshop, we would like to highlight some selected policies and their mitigation results, as well as point some challenges for the future.

The Plan to Prevent and Control Deforestation in the Amazon is among the main actions contributing to considerable and consistent mitigation results. By 2004 deforestation in the Amazon reached almost twenty-eight thousand square kilometers. Land use and forestry accounted for more than 70% of our CO₂ emissions. That is why deforestation was the center of national and international attention to our emissions. In 2012, deforestation rate dropped by approximately 83% in relation to 2004. In 2012, deforestation was equivalent to four and a half thousand square kilometers (4.500 sq km), in comparison to six and a half thousand square kilometers (6.500 sq km) in 2011 - a 27% reduction in one year. 2012 was the lowest rate since we started to systematically measure deforestation in the 80's.

The reduction is the result of specific policies towards fulfilling our NAMAs and national legislation. The Brazilian strategy to tackle the causes of deforestation is comprehensive and crosscutting. It is based on three axis: territorial planning, robust monitoring and control, as well as promotion of sustainable activities, after consultation and with the participation of local communities. It ranges from diverse monitoring systems of the Amazon forest cover, concessions and forest management operations, to the creation of protected areas and Indigenous Lands. Between 2004 and 2010, Brazil established formally the equivalent to 500 thousand sq km of protected areas in the Amazon region, and recognized 100 thousand sq km of Indigenous land. This brings the total of protected areas and indigenous lands to more than 2.2 million sq km in the Amazon, equivalent to more than 50% of the Amazon territory. The protected areas correspond to the combination of the territories of France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Germany and Norway and a little more....

To monitor and control deforestation activities, Brazil relies upon an efficient combination of satellite systems, providing information on a daily basis to enforcement authorities distributed strategically close to the so-called "deforestation hotspots". After almost 10 years of implementation, the Plan now enters a third phase. To achieve our NAMAs, we must not only further reduce the deforestation rates, but also keep them low and avoid some of the reversals we have seen in the past. In order to do so, the challenge is to address effectively new deforestation dynamics and promote sustainable activities, particularly in agriculture.

Brazil is optimistic also on that front. Between 2004 and 2012, national crop production increased by 28%. However, the area used for agriculture increased only by 5%. We are collecting the benefits from over 40 years of R&D in tropical agriculture, in search of innovative ways to increase production within systems that effectively minimize environmental impacts, addressing food production, sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation of biological diversity.

On agriculture, we would like to highlight the National Plan on Mitigation and Adaptation in Agriculture ("Plan ABC"). The major focus of the Plan is to promote the adoption of agricultural production systems known for its potential of carbon removal, with special emphasis on techniques such as Recovery of Degraded Pastures, Integrated Agricultural Systems (Crop-

Livestock-Forest/agroforestry), no-Tillage System, Biological Nitrogen Fixation, Planted Forests and Animal Waste Treatment for biogas generation.

Within its operative strategy, as a motivational tool to the adoption of those technologies, the plan offers tailored credit lines. Since 2010, with an exponential growth of demand year by year, around 12 thousand properties received financing of approximately USD 2 billion, 75% of it to recovery of degraded pastures. A rough estimate indicates 30 thousand sq km were benefited from this activities so far, which represents about 10% of the area to be transformed by 2020.

To conclude. Brazil has showed significant results in reducing deforestation rates, demonstrating that it is possible to achieve a fairer and more balanced development, increasing food production without giving up the conservation and sustainable use of its natural resources. These results, however, cannot be taken for granted, the challenge before us is still large - to promote sustainable activities in order to build a robust forest economy.

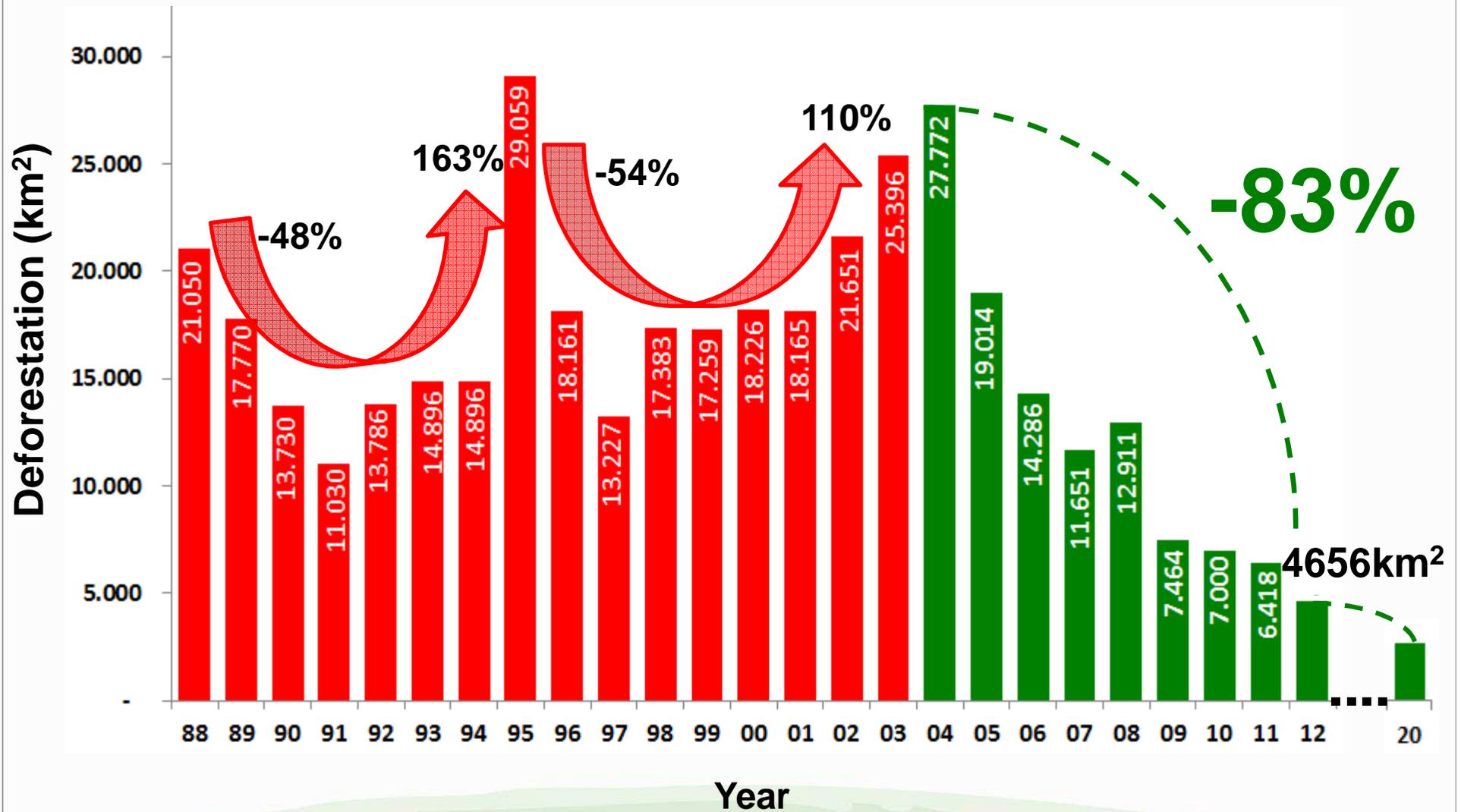
These results were achieved in part with contributions from international cooperation, which is very important, but the national budget is the source for the overwhelming majority of the financial resources necessary to elaborate, implement and enforce the policies and actions responsible for such results. One must also account for the recurrent costs for monitoring and controlling deforestation, which are a national responsibility. Despite the false belief that it is a cheap option, combating deforestation is a constant, daily, effort. If a country mitigates in the industrial sector, such as closing a factory, the results are given, they are permanent. In forestry, however, the mitigation results may not be permanent, unless you have a constant national effort.

To preserve what we have achieved - I repeat 83% reduction on deforestation rate in the Amazon compared to 2004 - is going to be difficult and expensive. Therefore, our national effort does not at all minimize the need for means of implementation from developed to developing countries as the main source of funding to support developing countries' actions on climate change. On the contrary, the results verified in Brazil could benefit significantly if there were adequate, predictable and sufficient international resources.

We believe the UNFCCC has a very important role to play here, through the provision of international means of implementation and financial resources, as well as fostering international cooperation.

Thank you

Brazilian Amazon Deforestation rates (1988-2012)



Ministério do
Meio Ambiente