

ANALYSIS OF AGREEMENTS MADE BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF GOIÁS REGARDING THE MEIA PONTE RIVER:

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF LEGAL RESERVE AREAS AND PERMANENT PRESERVATION AREAS IN THE CERRADO



INTRODUCTION

Brazil is a country proud of its agriculture. Yet, it has major problems balancing agribusiness with attention to the Environmental Law. Due to pressures made by farmers, the new president, **Bolsonaro**, elected in 2018, promised to reduce legal hurdles in order to exempt those who deforest areas protected by the Brazilian Forest Code from being punished. The Law has not changed yet, but many farmers already fail to comply with regulations in hopes these will change soon. Public Prosecutors work to make it possible for farmers to adjust their activities so that protected areas may remain covered with forest. To do so, Brazilian's Environmental Law allows out-of-court agreements in order to prevent new lawsuits, provide for a faster response and ease an otherwise lengthy procedural system. This research aims to question the effectiveness of the environmental settlements by systematizing the information already collected by the Public Ministry, considering the changes in the Brazilian government and the difficulties in enforcing the settlements.



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RESULTS

- The Public Ministry has a central catalog that could help the population verify if the agreements are effective or not. Despite the fact that there is legislation mandating that this date was made available to the public and that the system was supposed to have been running since 2011, no one can access it yet.

- Brazilian farmers have increased deforestation ever since Bolsonaro's election. Data about Amazon shows that deforestation has increased considerably in 2019.

- Even though farmers say it's difficult to meet Environmental Law requirements, Brazilian agribusiness representatives and union leaders have started to ask the Presidency and the Environment Ministry to enforce the Law so that climate change can be contained. Former Agriculture Ministry, Katia Abreu, who used to be called Miss Deforestation, said that protecting the environment is important because otherwise it will be impossible to produce food.



CONCERNING SITUATION: DEFORESTATION IN AMAZON FOREST HAS INCREASED IN CURRENT GOVERNMENT

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

01

Identify the number of environmental crimes registered in each one of the 246 cities in Goiás from 2017 to 2019.

02

Select the study area considering its importance for human consumption of water within the state.

03

Select five cities with a higher number of registered environmental crimes from 2017 to 2019.

04

Identify the amount of agreements signed in selected cities.

05

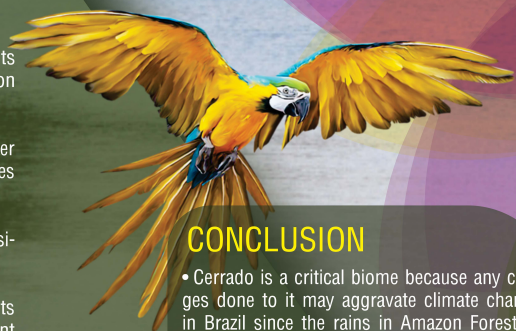
Select 10 per cent of the agreements in each city. Verify the enforcement of selected deals by visiting the properties or, in case farmers deny the researchers entrance to the property, it's possible to use satellite images to check if the agreements have been successful or not.

06

Interview farmers to identify the reasons that have lead to a(n) (un)successful agreement.

07

Discuss strategies to make agreements effective and the role public policies may have on farmers' response to the Rule of Law.



CONCLUSION

- Cerrado is a critical biome because any changes done to it may aggravate climate changes in Brazil since the rains in Amazon Forest depend on the rivers located in the Cerrado, the same happens to other Brazilian forests. Climate change consequences can reduce soil fertility, production and reduce food sovereignty.

- Making information available could help researchers and public servers check whether people are complying with the Law.

- Rumors about the non-existence of climate change legitimate the narrative in which people blame the Environmental Law for their economic woes.

