

Livestock and REDD+ in the Brazilian Amazon: the global context of progress

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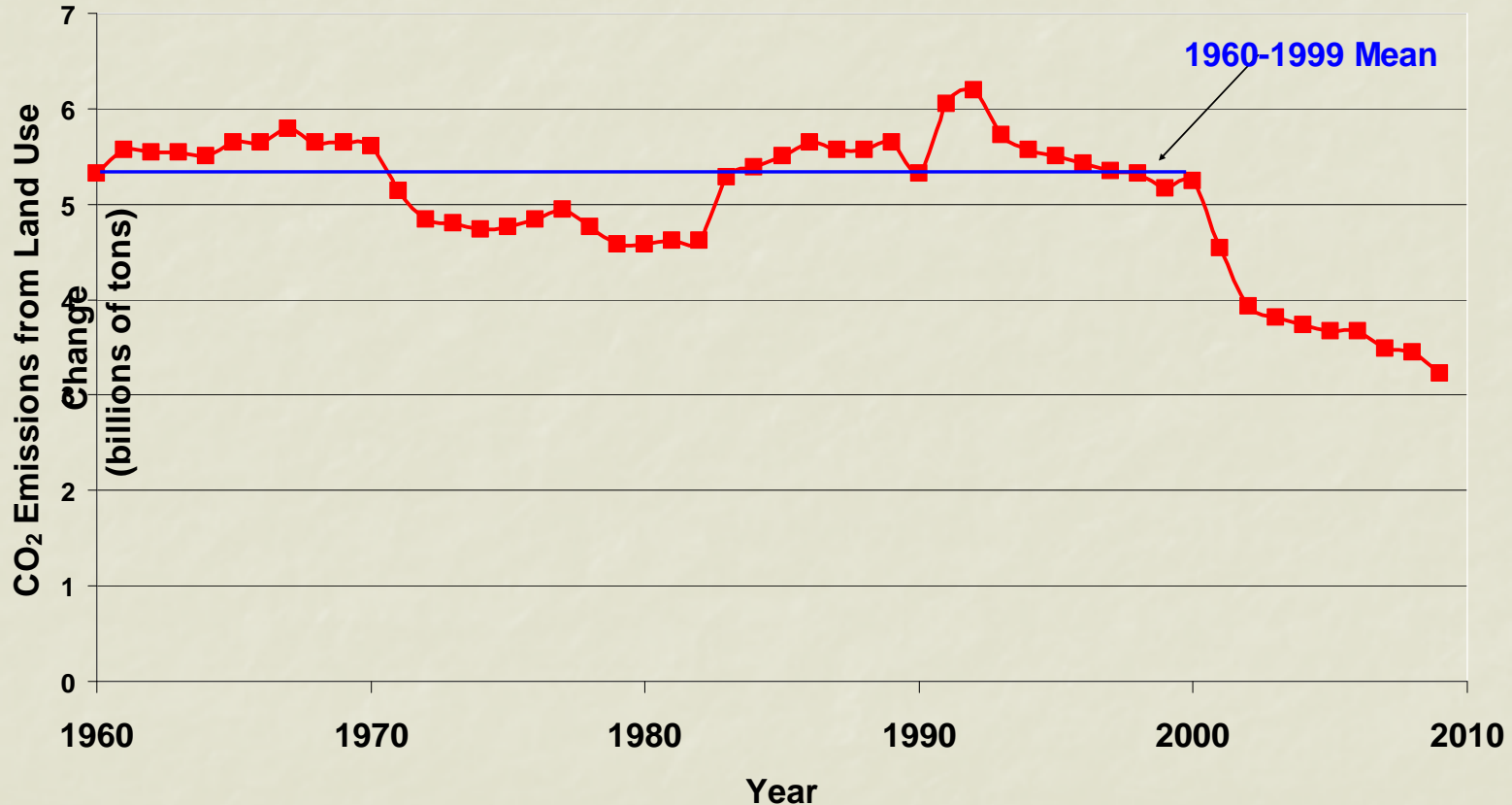
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Side Event – 9 December 2010

UNFCCC COP16, Cancun, Mexico

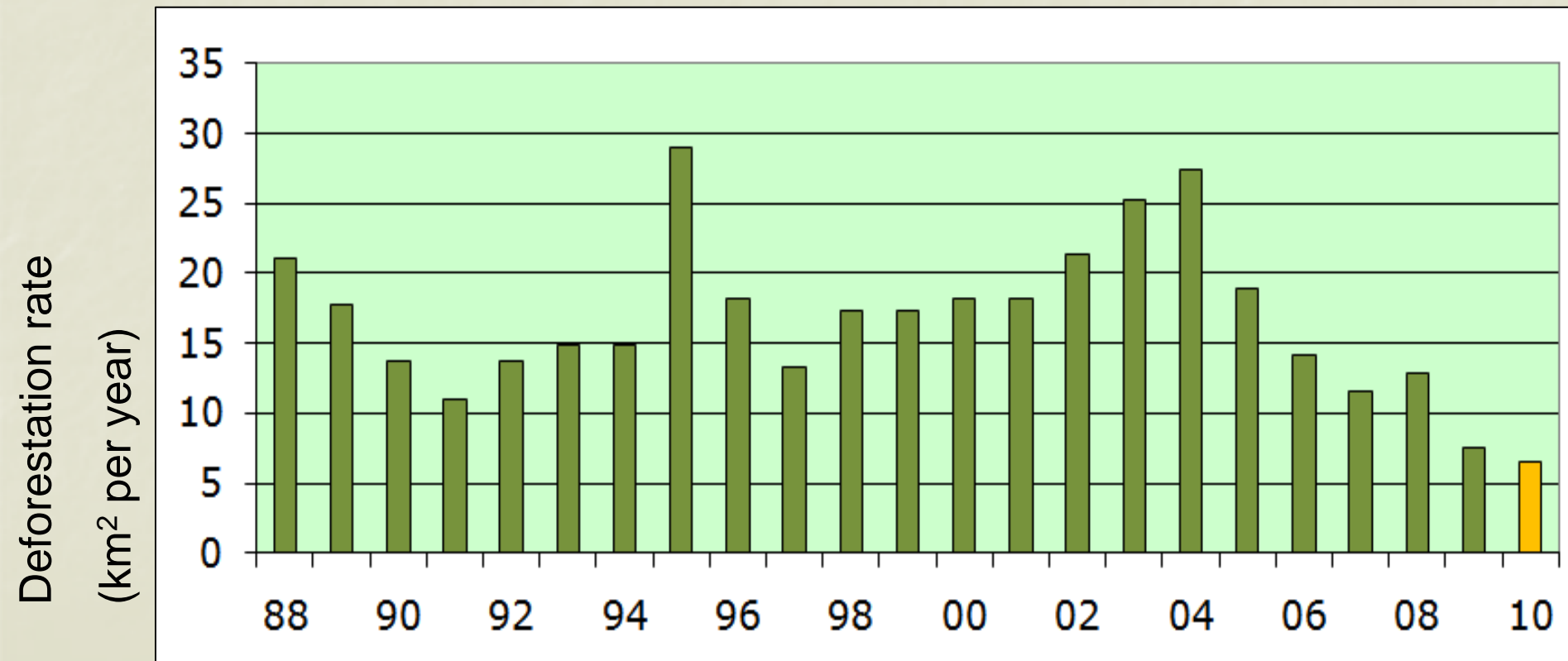
Deforestation globally is down

Global Emissions from Land Use Change over the past Half-Century



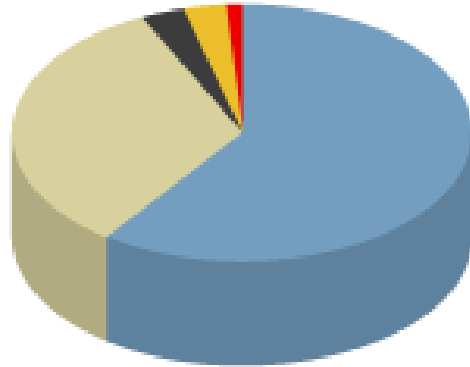
**Data from the Global Carbon Budget
(Friedlingstein et al. 2010, *Nature Geoscience*)**

Much of this progress is due to the recent drop in the Brazilian Amazon



Although estimates vary, cattle pasture has clearly been the main driver

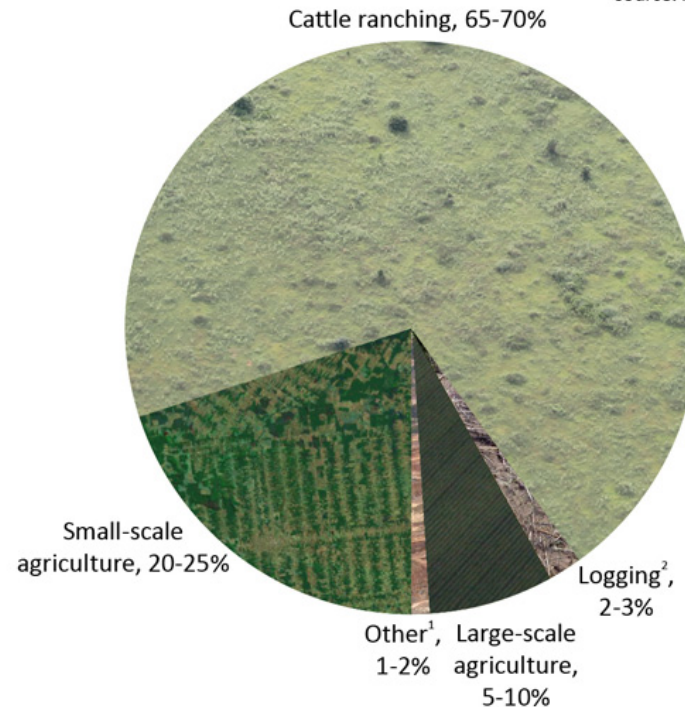
CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON, 2000-2005



- Cattle ranches 60%
- Small-scale, subsistence agriculture 33%
- Fires, mining, urbanisation, road construction, dams 3%
- Logging, legal and illegal 3%
- Large-scale commercial agriculture including soybeans 1%

SOURCE: Mongabay.com

Causes of Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, 2000-2005
source: mongabay.com



Share of deforested land ultimately converted for extensive agriculture³

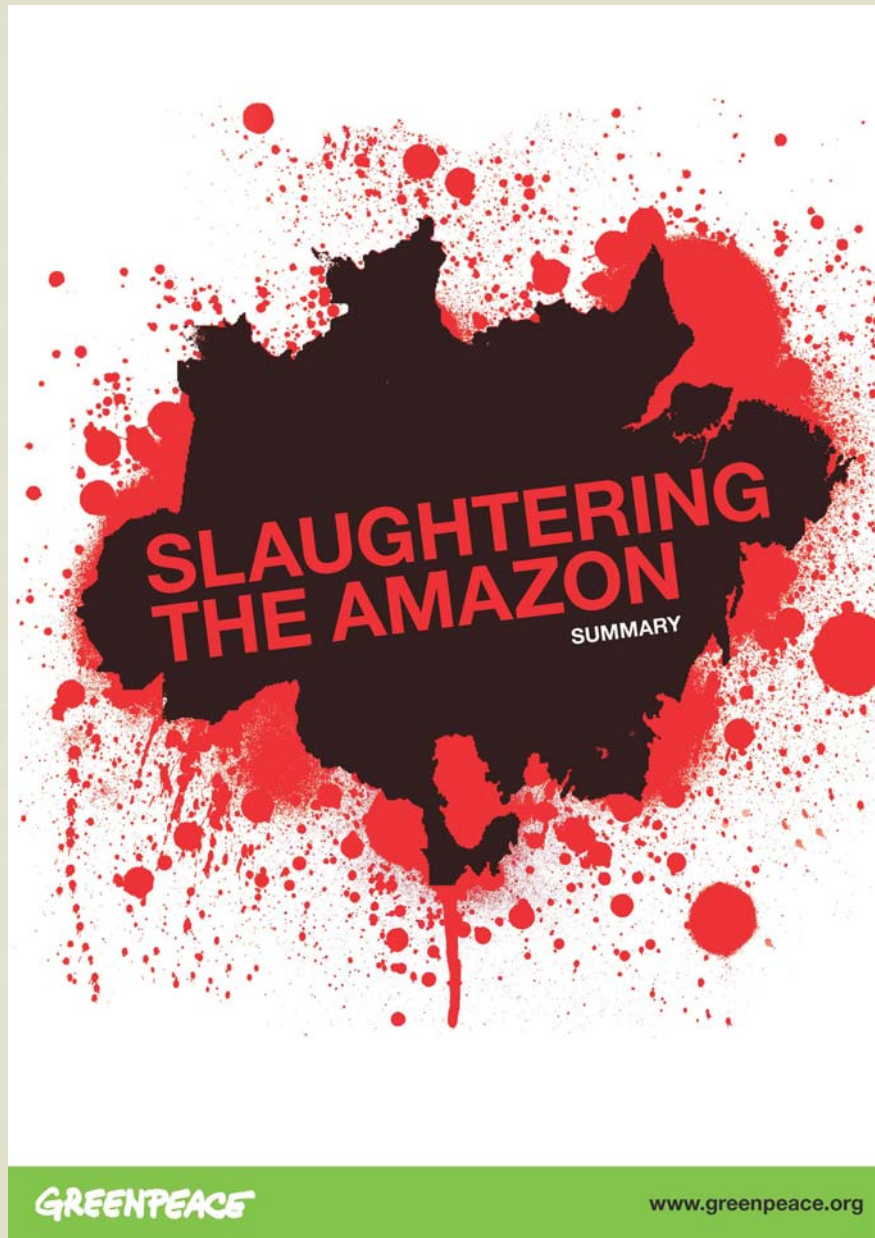
1980s	80%
1990s	60%

1) Other includes fires, mining, urbanization, road construction, dams; 2) Logging generally results in degradation rather than deforestation, but is often followed by clearing for agriculture; 3) Data from Holly Gibbs 2009

The drop in Amazon deforestation has several causes

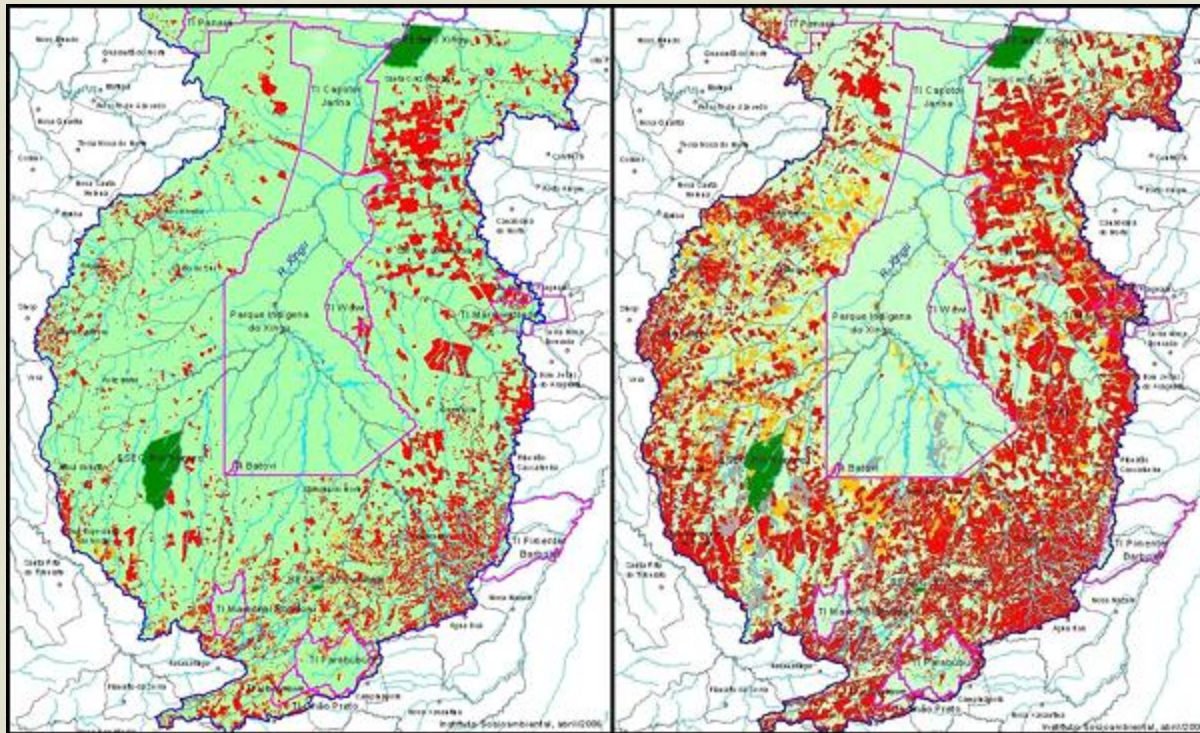
- Government policies (both federal and state)
- International support, especially from Norway through the Amazon Fund
- A strong, coordinated effort by Brazilian civil society (environmentalists, indigenous peoples, rubber-tappers, etc. – the Zero Deforestation campaign)
- A positive response by the beef and soy industries

Pressure from Civil Society has been key



An important part of Brazil's national effort has been the establishment of indigenous reserves, which have been very effective at reducing deforestation

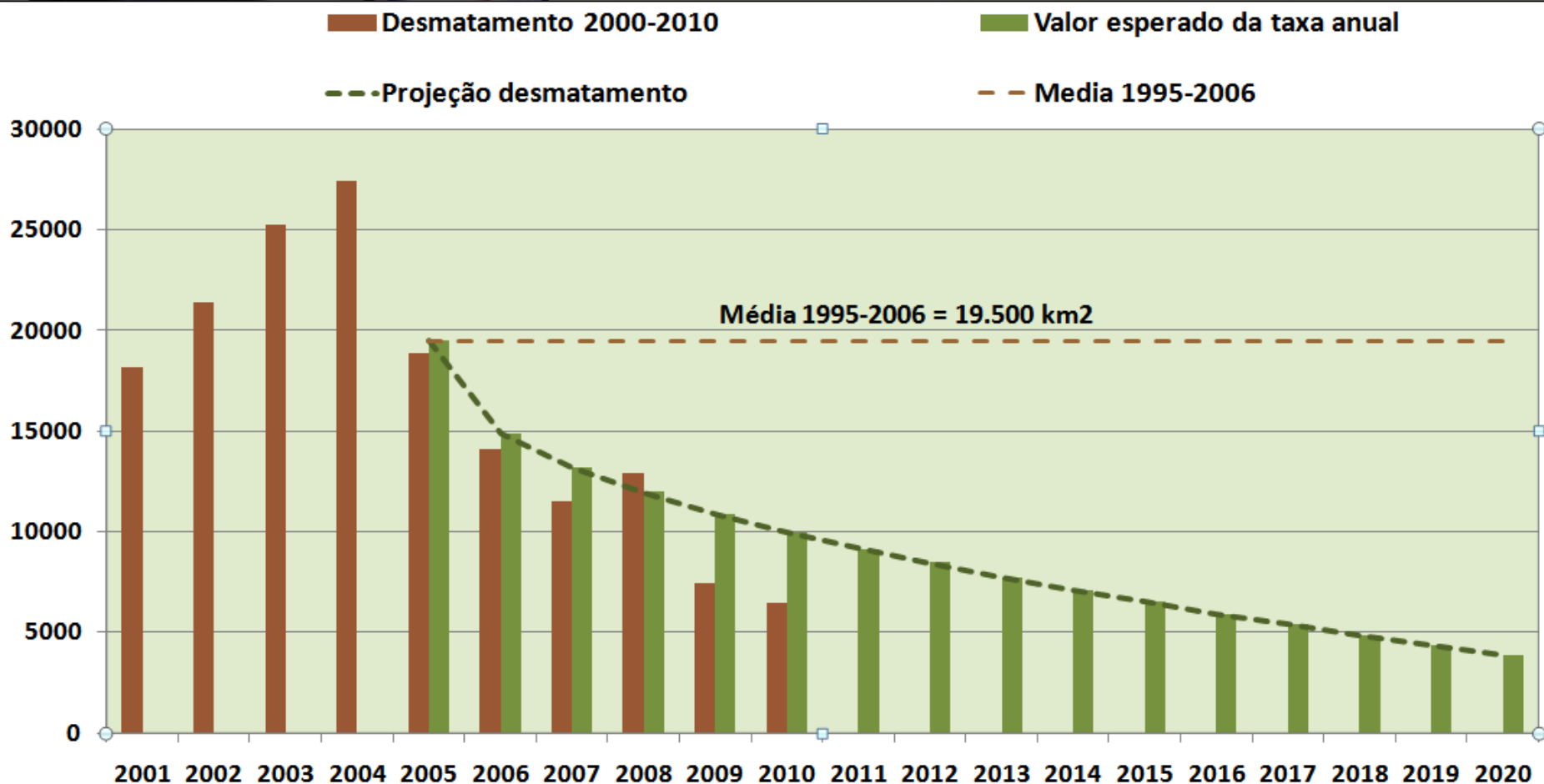
20% of the Brazilian Amazon is now controlled by indigenous peoples



Deforestation around the Xingu reserve, Brazilian Amazon, in 1994 (left) and 2005 (right). Source: Instituto Socioambiental (ISA)

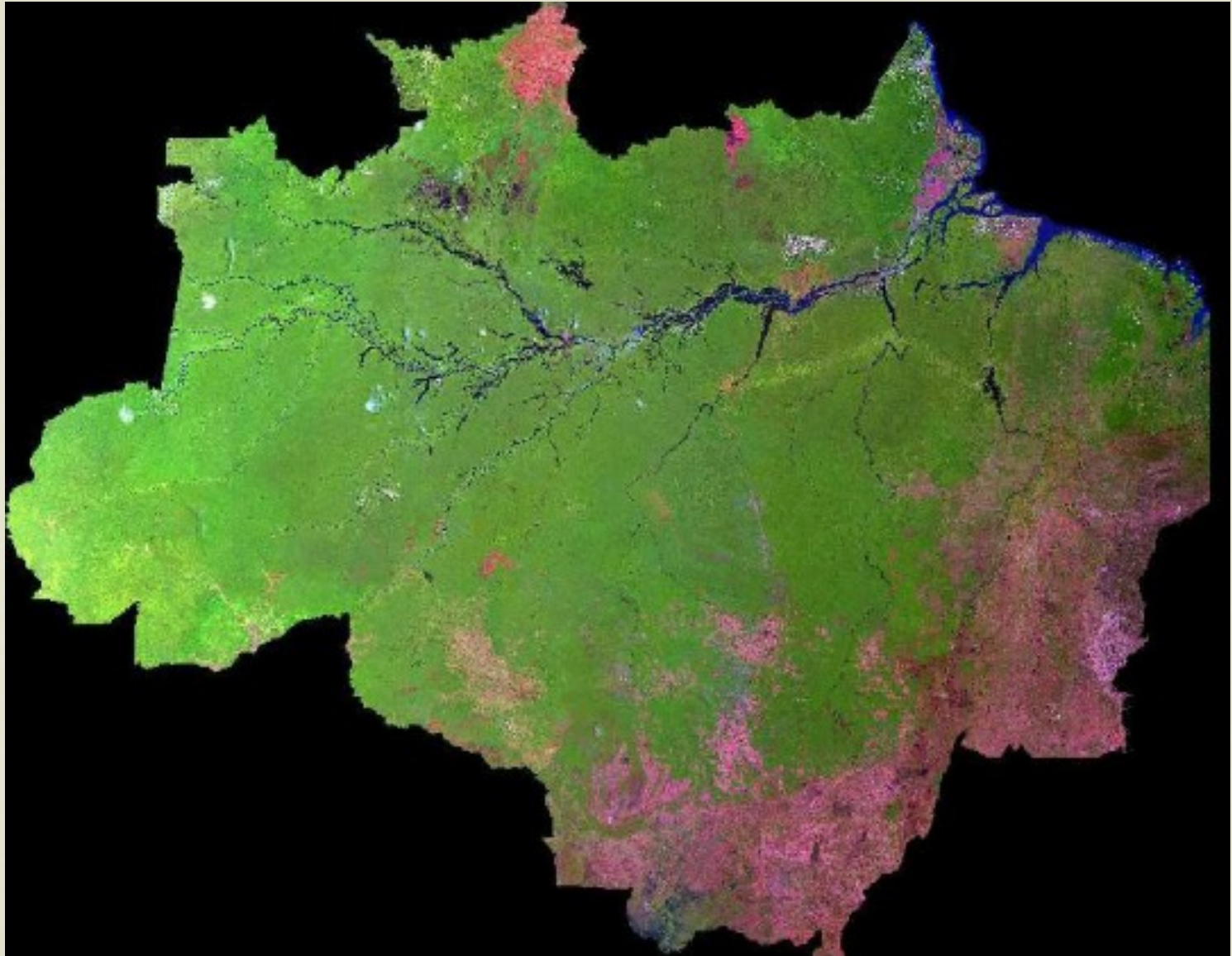


“Assumimos o compromisso de reduzir o desmatamento da Amazônia em 80% até 2020”
(pres. Lula na COP-15)



The Brazilian cattle industry has been able to increase production without increasing land use

- Since 1975, production is up 227% while pasture area is up only 4%
- However, there have been major geographic shifts (overall, northward)
- Overall, the industry is extensive, not intensive: average stocking rate is about 1.2 head/ha



Source: INPE

Conclusions

- Deforestation has decreased substantially in the Amazon and globally
- It can decrease more without impeding the growth of the beef and leather industries
- The challenge is to transform the industry from extensive to intensive production
- The backlash against strong policies (e.g. the Forest Code debate in the Congress) must be turned back

Thank you!



For further information:

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AMAZON RAINFOREST

