

1. Campo Novo de Rondônia, Brazil, 1991-06-28. Image taken by Landsat 5 shows the “fishbone” structures during the initial phase of deforestation.

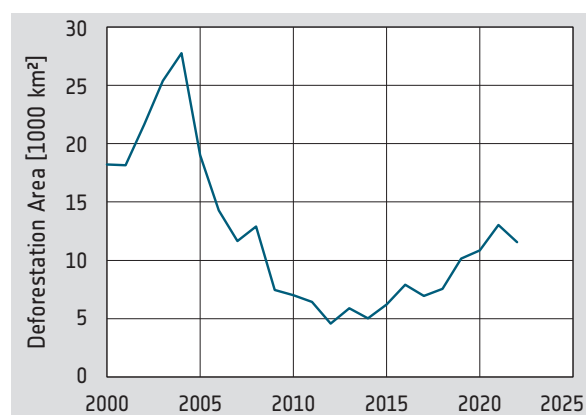


2. Campo Novo de Rondônia, Brazil. Aerial view of fires during deforestation.

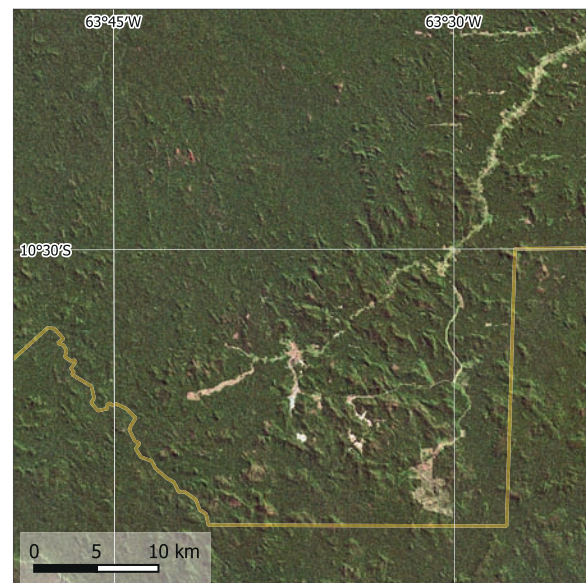
Rondônia, Brazil

Rondônia is one of the states of Brazil, located in the southwestern part of the Amazon basin. The state has seen a population increase from about 40,000 inhabitants in 1950 to more than 1.8 million in 2021. This development went hand in hand with a change in the vegetation cover. Originally almost 90% of the surface was covered by rainforest. By now it has become one of the best known examples of deforestation in the Amazon basin. About one third of the area is still covered by forests.

The satellite maps show the development around Campo Novo de Rondônia, which in 2020 had 14,200 inhabitants. The image series shows how the deforestation is initiated with the construction of roads, along which settlers start to clear the forests to gain agricultural land. Only in the southern part of the area shown in the satellite maps forests have remained – this is a part of the Uru-Eu-Uaw-Uaw Indigenous Territory, established by the government of Brazil to protect the indigenous population. First contact with one of the tribes living here, the Uru-Eu-Uaw-Uaw people, happened as late as 1981.



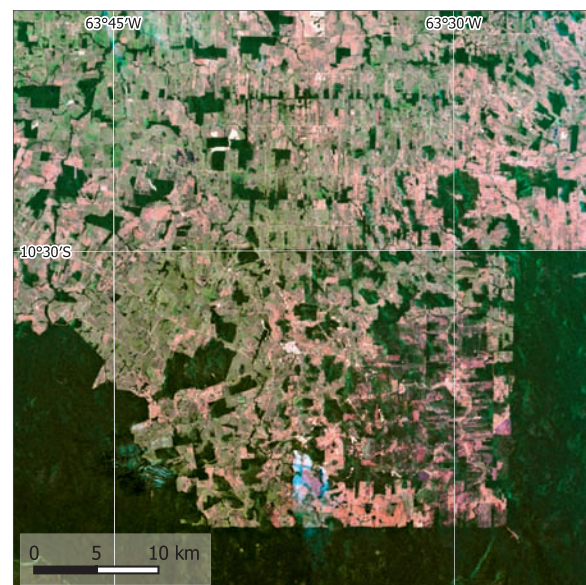
3. Area deforested in Brazil per year.



4. Campo Novo de Rondônia in 1984. Yellow line: border of the Uru-Eu-Uaw-Uaw Indigenous Territory. Data: Landsat 5, 1984-06-24.



5. Campo Novo de Rondônia in 2010. Large parts of the area have been deforested to develop agricultural land. Data: Landsat 5, 2010-05-15.



6. Campo Novo de Rondônia in 2023. Most of the forest in the north has been removed, only in the Uru-Eu-Uaw-Uaw Indigenous Territory a large and mostly homogeneous forest area has remained. Data: Sentinel-2, 2023-10-07.