



Diário Oficial

IMPrensa Nacional

BRASÍLIA – DF

REPÚBLICA
FEDERATIVA
DO BRASIL

ANO CXXXVI - Nº 169

WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE, 2011

DECREE Nº 1.234, 15 JUNE, 2011

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
Civil House
Subchief for Juridical Subjects

Change the Forest Code and institutionalize Zero Deforestation and other initiatives.

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, recognising the critical role that Brazil plays in the fight against climate change, remembering that Brazil has internationally committed to reduce their rate of forest loss, recognising the possibility and necessity of ending deforestation decrees:

Art. 1º That Brazil will fulfill their commitments to reduce deforestation and the associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as announced at the COP 15 in Copenhagen 2009.

Art. 2º The veto of any changes to the Forest Code that signifies amnesty to environmental crimes.

Art. 3º The veto of any changes to Brazilian environmental legislation that reduces the protection of forests, the environment or stimulates deforestation such as:

I – Reduction of the size of protected areas required within private properties compared with the current Forest Code.

II – Delegation from the Federal Government to States the ability to define areas for protection and areas available for deforestation.

The contents of this decree are priorities in Brazil, and the implementation of these measures are part of the implementation of a Zero Deforestation policy, for the benefit of all Brazilians and global citizens.

This decree enters into force on the date of its publication.

Brasília, 15 June, 2011, 190th year of Independence and 123rd year of the Republic.

DILMA ROUSSEFF

This is not real, but should be. The threat to the Forest Code and tens of millions of hectares of Amazon rainforest is real. Greenpeace is calling on President Dilma to take immediate action.

At the end of May, the lower house in Brazil approved a project of Law to change the Forest Code which will greatly reduce the protection of the Brazilian rainforests. The text will now be debated in the Senate and if the changes are approved will go to President Dilma Rousseff for a final decision.

Created in 1934 and amended in 1965 to protect Brazilian biomes in private properties and public lands, the Forest Code is being transformed to encourage the expansion of agri-business at the expense of Brazilian forests.

The text grants amnesty to those who have deforested, reduces the areas required to be protected within rural properties and passes to the State Governments the power to define areas that can be deforested in the future. These promises have already turned on the chainsaws.

After the trend of decreasing deforestation over the past few years, forest loss has begun to climb. The Brazilian institute responsible for monitoring deforestation, INPE, confirmed that in March and April this year there was a

570% increase in deforestation compared with the same timeframe last year.

The approval of Forest Code changes in the lower house focuses the environmental spotlight on President Dilma. She promised during her election campaign last year that she would not accept any legislation that increased deforestation or granted amnesty to forest criminals. She also gave reassurances that the commitment made by former President Lula to reduce deforestation in the Amazon by 80% would be fulfilled.

Right now, the capacity for Brazil to lead global action against deforestation and climate change is under serious doubt. If President Dilma does not step in and influence parliamentary decisions to ensure the protection of Brazilian biodiversity, her government will have succumbed to narrow agri-business interests, compromising Brazil's international role and the future of the planet.