

This file has been cleaned of potential threats.

If you confirm that the file is coming from a trusted source, you can send the following SHA-256 hash value to your admin for the original file.

339ebed8d5a650a51da0143cb5d465aa629f412b5ffcfe26f2435810571d7c84

To view the reconstructed contents, please SCROLL DOWN to next page.

**The text that follows is a PREPRINT.
O texto que segue é um PREPRINT.**

Please cite as:
Favor citar como:

Ferrante, L. & P.M. Fearnside. 2021.
**Brazil's political upset threatens
Amazonia.** *Science* 371: 898-899.
<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abg9786>

ISSN: 0036-8075

DOI: 10.1126/science.abg9786

Copyright: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

The original publication is available at
O trabalho original está disponível em:

<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abg97>

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6532/898.full>

Brazil's political upset threatens Amazonia

L. Ferrante^{1,*} & P. M. Fearnside²

¹*National Institute for Research in the Amazon (INPA), Ecology Graduate Program, 69060-001, Manaus, AM, Brazil.*

²*National Institute for Research in the Amazon (INPA), 69067-375 Manaus, AM, Brazil.*

* Corresponding author. Email: lucasferrante@hotmail.com

On 1 February, the Centrão coalition of political parties in Brazil, supported by President Jair Bolsonaro, gained control of both houses of Brazil's National Congress (1). Bolsonaro has a record of destructive environmental policies (2), but some of the pending bills that he supports were blocked by the former president of the Chamber of Deputies, Rodrigo Maia (3). Arthur Lira has now taken his position, and the legislature will now likely move to approve the bills that Maia had been blocking. This shift in power has ominous implications for Brazil's environment and Indigenous peoples.

Shortly after the new presidents of the two houses of Congress took office, Bolsonaro sent them a list of 35 bills that he wants passed but that Maia had indicated he would block (4). Many of these bills threaten the environment. Among them is a notorious bill that would allow mining in Indigenous lands and in protected areas for biodiversity (PL 191/2020). Also included were bills to reduce environmental-licensing requirements (PL 3729/2004), offer public forest concessions to private initiatives (PL 5518/2020), reward land grabbers by promoting the legalization of illegal land claims (PL 2633/2020), and modify sharing arrangements to promote oil and gas extraction (PL 3178/2019).

Other bills on this list are likely to exacerbate Amazonian land conflicts and attacks on Indigenous and other traditional peoples. For example, PLC 119/2015 would alter the implementation of Indigenous people's constitutional rights. PL 6438/2019 and PL 3723/2019 would further weaken gun-control laws. PL 6125/2019 would effectively give law-enforcement agents a "license to kill" by barring charges for excessive use of force.

These bills are expected to come up for a vote this year (5), at which point they are likely to pass. If they become law, they will exacerbate the effects of wood, mineral, meat, soy, natural gas, oil, and biofuel exports on deforestation in the Amazon and its associated loss of biodiversity and violation of Indigenous rights. Major importers of products from the Brazilian Amazon, such as the United States and China (6), cannot turn a blind eye to the impact of their trade with Brazil. President Bolsonaro and his supporters in the National Congress do not give much weight to the concerns of scientists and environmentalists, but they are very sensitive to international decisions that affect Brazil's exports. Global partners should consider their trade policies accordingly.

References and Notes

1. M. Schreiber, “Arthur Lira eleito presidente da Câmara: como líder do Centrão se tornou aliado fundamental de Bolsonaro,” *BBC News Brasil* (2021). <http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-55897146>
2. L. Ferrante, P.M. Fearnside, Brazil’s new president and "ruralists" threaten Amazonia’s environment, traditional peoples and the global climate. *Environ. Conserv.* **46**, 261-263 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0376892919000213>
3. A. Vital, “Maia diz a Raoni que não vai pautar projeto sobre mineração em terras indígenas,” *Câmara dos Deputados* (2019); <http://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/590576-maia-diz-a-raoni-que-nao-vai-pautar-projeto-sobre-mineracao-em-terras-indigenas/>
4. R. Agostini, “Bolsonaro entrega a Pacheco e Lira lista com 35 projetos prioritários,” *CNN* (2021); <http://www.cnnbrasil.com.br/politica/2021/02/03/bolsonaro-entrega-a-pacheco-e-lira-lista-com-35-projetos-prioritarios>
5. D. Menegassi, “Mineração em Terras Indígenas, regularização fundiária e mais, entenda as prioridades de Bolsonaro para 2021,” *OEco* (2021); <http://www.oeco.org.br/noticias/mineracao-em-terras-indigenas-regularizacao-fundiaria-e-mais-entenda-as-prioridades-de-bolsonaro-para-2021/>
6. Trading Economics, *Brazil Exports by Country* (2021); <https://tradingeconomics.com/brazil/exports-by-country>