

THE EU-MERCOSUR AGREEMENT

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FOSTER TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FACTSHEET 3.1 LAND USE, NATIVE VEGETATION AND THE FOREST CODE LAW IN BRAZIL

Brazil has been adopting measures to regulate environmental issues since 1934, when the first Forest Code was established, and the country is part of all relevant international treaties .

Brazilian policy on conservation of native vegetation in private areas is more advanced when compared to other main economies, such as Germany, Canada, China, France and the United States.



The Brazilian Forest Code Law

It disciplines the conservation of native vegetation on private areas, stimulates the conservation and production in the same area, and promotes sustainable production of food, renewable energy, fibers and planted forests.



Extension of native forests

62% of Brazil's territory is covered by native vegetation. The country is the 2nd with the greatest extension of native vegetation in the world. It has 27% of the total tropical forests worldwide, and 12% of the total forest area of the world.



What is Brazil's main public policy to conserve native vegetation?

The new Forest Code (Law on the Protection of Native Vegetation and Protected Areas Law nº 12.651/2012), approved in 2012, is the Brazilian environmental regulatory framework. Its full implementation will contribute towards native vegetation restoration, mapping and monitoring the conservation of native vegetation on rural areas through an efficient system called CAR.

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The Rural Environmental Registry (CAR)

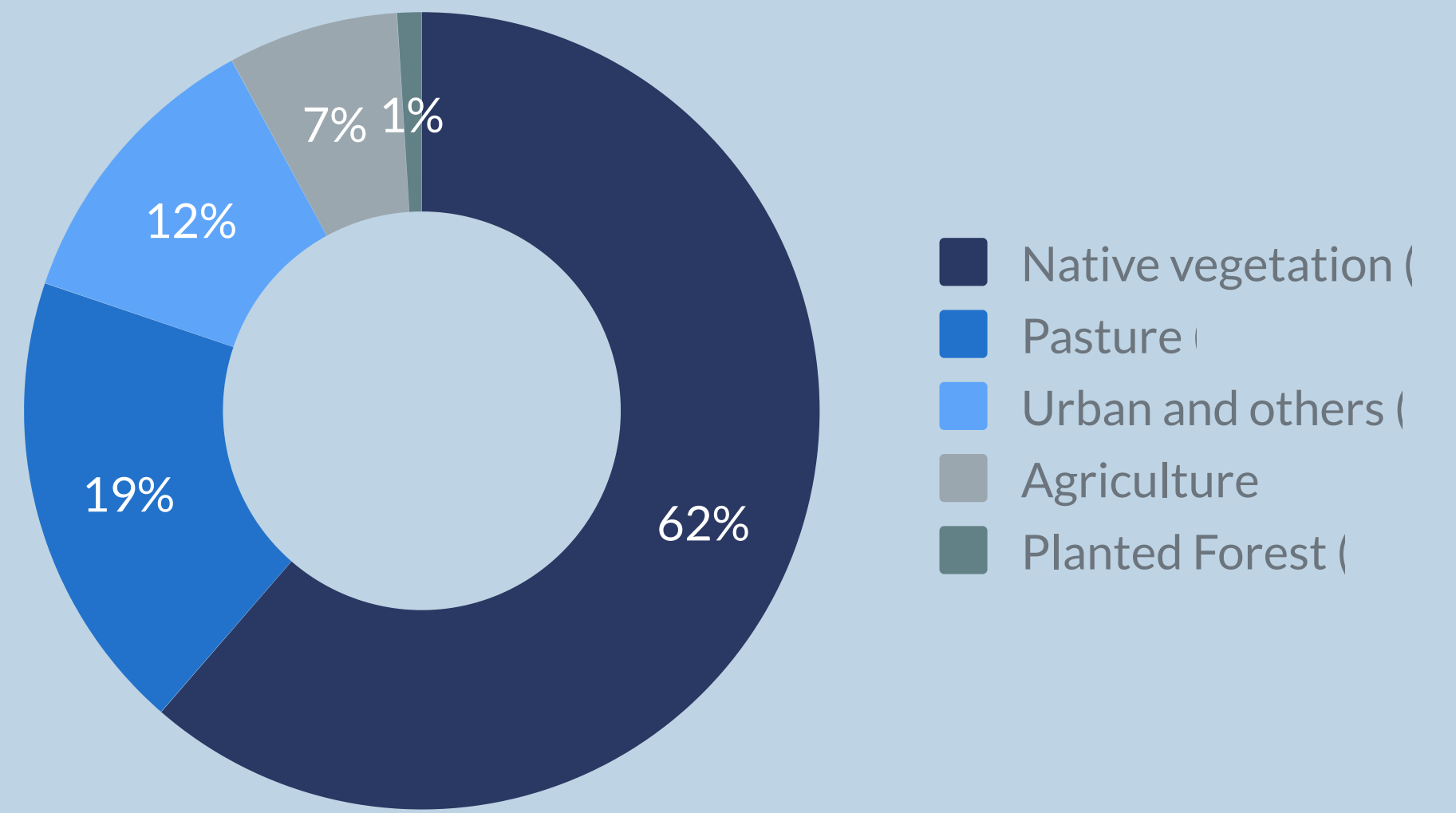
It is an instrument to register information about rural areas, protected areas, areas to be restored and areas used for production.

The registration is a requirement to access public credit, and, by January 2020, 543.7 million hectares were already registered and being monitored.



How is the land used in Brazil?

Brazil has 62% of its territory covered with native vegetation, summing 523 million hectares. This is equivalent to 10 times the area of Spain, the 2nd largest EU country in territory extension.



Source: Agroicone based on data from IBGE (2017) and Projeto MapBiomass (2021).

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Conservation in private areas

Brazil has an approach to conserve and produce in the same area. There are around 121 million hectares of native vegetation in private areas, plus remaining native vegetation up to 72 million hectares, along with agriculture and pasture areas.

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Natural regeneration in the Amazon

There are 14 million hectares of forests on a secondary stage of natural regeneration in the Amazon. Illegal activities, such as illegal logging and land grabbing, respond to the abandonment of areas that in some years begin to regenerate.



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