

# BRAZIL NEEDS TO RESTORE 1 MILLION HECTARES IN RURAL SETTLEMENTS

## The good results from forest recovery

About 1 million hectares of forests must be restored in Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) of rural agrarian reform settlements. Said restoration would contribute to meeting the goal undertaken by Brazil in the Paris Agreement to restore 12 million hectares of forests. As shown below, forest restoration within the 1 million hectare-area can also include food production.

Instituto Escolhas reviewed 7,884 rural settlements, totaling 45.11 million hectares, where 809.4 thousand families are registered. The number of reviewed settlements accounts for 83.4% of the total area in the country<sup>1</sup>. The data is provided in the study The good results from forest recovery: from investment to benefits\*, which calculated the investment required to restore native vegetation on a large scale to allow the achievement of the Brazilian forest restoration goal.

\* This and other data from the study and the complete Technical Report can be viewed at escolhas.org

The Forest Code (Law 12651/2012) allows the restoration of Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) with agroforestry production combined with natural regeneration on small properties, including settlements. Based on this law, the following would be feasible<sup>2</sup>:



Deployment of Agroforestry Systems (SAFs) in **500 thousand hectares of APPs** with low and medium potential for natural regeneration, stimulating diversified food production; and

Passive restoration of **500 thousand hectares of APPs** with high potential for natural regeneration.

### THE FIGURES

The investment of **USD 11.7 billion** in SAFs in the settlements over 30 years should yield **USD 32.2 billion** in net revenue\*\*.

**238.1 thousand new jobs** during the implementation and management stages of SAFs.

**99.6 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> will be removed from the atmosphere**, with an average of 200 tons per hectare removed and stored by these Systems over 30 years.

**43.1 million tons of food**, namely:

• **7.77 million tons** of short- and medium-cycle crops, such as beans, corn, cassava, and bananas, were produced during the first three years of the Systems.

• **36.10 million tons** of species with a longer cycle, such as palm hearts, coffee, cocoa, and açai.

\*\* USD 1 = BRL 5.0194 (Source: Brazilian Central Bank, 11/01/2023)



THE SURVEYED AREAS OF SETTLEMENTS WITH RESPECTIVE TOTAL AND DEFORESTED PERMANENT PRESERVATION AREAS (HECTARES)



TOTAL SETTLEMENT AREA

45,114,919

PERMANENT PRESERVATION AREAS WITHIN SETTLEMENTS

3,778,455

PERMANENT PRESERVATION AREAS DEFORESTED IN SETTLEMENTS

998,795

63%

OF THE AREAS THAT MUST BE RESTORED ARE IN THE NORTH REGION

1. There are 9,447 rural settlements in Brazil across 87.9 million hectares, according to *Incra* (National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform). This study did not consider Sustainable Use Conservation Units, Quilombola Territories and settlements without information on hydrography.  
2. Data on *Incra* settlements were considered (available [here](#)), as well as the limits of Permanent Preservation Areas in water (Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development, 2013) and native vegetation (Mappiomas Collection 7, 2021).