AUGUST | 2024

FOREST RESTORATION ON INDIGENOUS LANDS: a strategy for income generation, food production and forest expansion

For centuries, Indigenous territories have been resisting to invasions and ongoing pressure at their borders, but nevertheless, still hold the best-preserved areas of the country. According to Mapbiomas data, *from 1990 to 2023, Indigenous territories lost less than 1% of their native vegetation, while in the same period that figure reached 28% in privately owned areas.*

Despite protected by law, Brazil already has 2.4 million hectares of Indigenous territories that can receive forest restoration projects.

This study conducted by Instituto Escolhas evaluated how the restoration of this area can be carried out, considering the potential for natural regeneration of native vegetation in each biome, and presents ways for its implementation to strengthen already existent initiatives in the region, encouraging the adoption of agroforestry systems with focus on food production.

Check out the data at the side.

The full technical report of this study is available at **escolhas.org.**

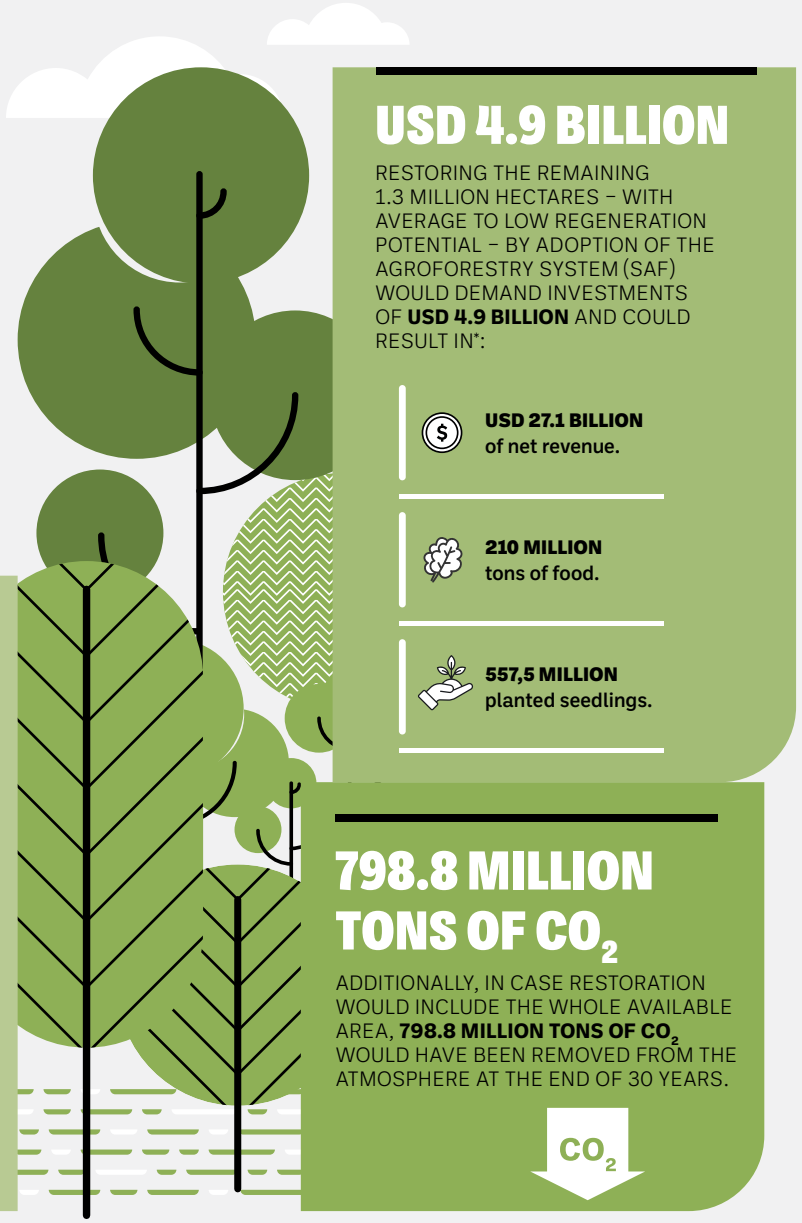
INDIGENOUS LANDS

2.4 MILLION

PRESENTLY BRAZIL HAS AN AREA OF **2.4 MILLION HECTARES** LOCATED WITHIN INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES AVAILABLE TO BE RESTORED.

1.1 MILLION

OF THIS TOTAL AREA, **1.1 MILLION HECTARES** PRESENT HIGH POTENTIAL FOR AUTO-REGENERATION. THE STUDY'S PROPOSITION IS NOT TO CARRY OUT ANY INTERVENTION IN THIS CASE, ALLOWING FOR THE NATURAL RECOMPOSITING OF THE VEGETATION. IT IS CRUCIAL HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT THOSE AREAS ARE KEPT PERMANENTLY FREE OF INVADERS.



USD 4.9 BILLION

RESTORING THE REMAINING 1.3 MILLION HECTARES – WITH AVERAGE TO LOW REGENERATION POTENTIAL – BY ADOPTION OF THE AGROFORESTRY SYSTEM (SAF) WOULD DEMAND INVESTMENTS OF **USD 4.9 BILLION** AND COULD RESULT IN*:

- **USD 27.1 BILLION** of net revenue.
- **210 MILLION** tons of food.
- **557,5 MILLION** planted seedlings.

798.8 MILLION TONS OF CO_2

ADDITIONALLY, IN CASE RESTORATION WOULD INCLUDE THE WHOLE AVAILABLE AREA, **798.8 MILLION TONS OF CO_2** WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE END OF 30 YEARS.

CO_2

1990 **LOSS OF NATIVE VEGETATION** **28%** | PRIVATELY OWNED AREAS **1%** | INDIGENOUS LANDS 2023

* 30 years is the time required to fully implement the proposals contained in the study. ** USD 1 = BRL 5,65 (Source: Brazilian Central Bank, 30/08/2024).

A look at Amazonia and Cerrado

The Indigenous territories of **Amazonia** – due to their large territorial extension – include most of the areas subject to restoration (1.2 million hectares). On the other hand, Indigenous lands comprise almost all areas with high potential for natural regeneration.

The Amazonian biome also concentrates 98.9% of all Indigenous lands with degraded areas from mining activities: 25,044 hectares were mapped with this kind of exploited areas on Amazonian Indigenous lands of a total area of 25,310 hectares with mining activities mapped on all Indigenous territories in Brazil.

Second only to Amazonia (107 million hectares), the **Cerrado** is the biome with the highest concentration of Indigenous lands (9 million hectares): 650 thousand hectares, or 96% of the areas subject to recovery in this biome, present reduced potential for regeneration of the natural vegetation, and therefore, would require heavy investments in forest restoration projects.

TECHNICAL EXECUTION BIODENDRO CONSULTORIA FLORESTAL

REALIZATION INSTITUTO ESCOLHAS