



DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

The Amazon Rainforest is one of the Earth's most vital natural resources. Its forest cover absorbs 25% of CO₂ emissions and provides a home to 10% of global species. However, deforestation has increased exponentially over the past two decades, sparking concern across the world for its protection.

The Amazon spans over **2.7 million square miles**, across **nine countries**.

- Brazil
- Bolivia
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- French Guiana
- Guyana
- Peru
- Suriname
- Venezuela



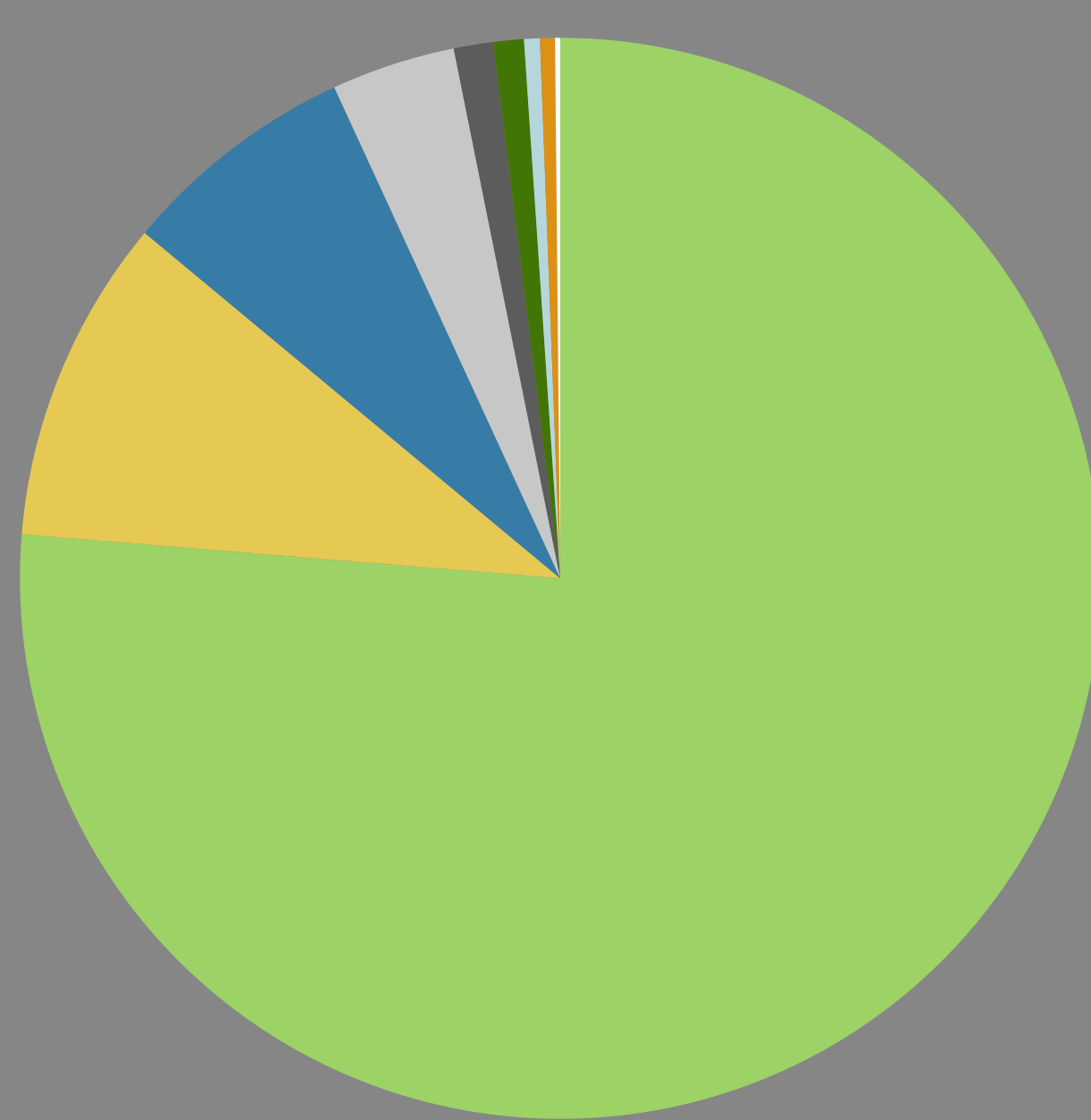
That is **1.5 times** the size of the entire **European Union**.



64% of the Amazon falls within Brazil, placing most of the responsibility for protection on a single country.

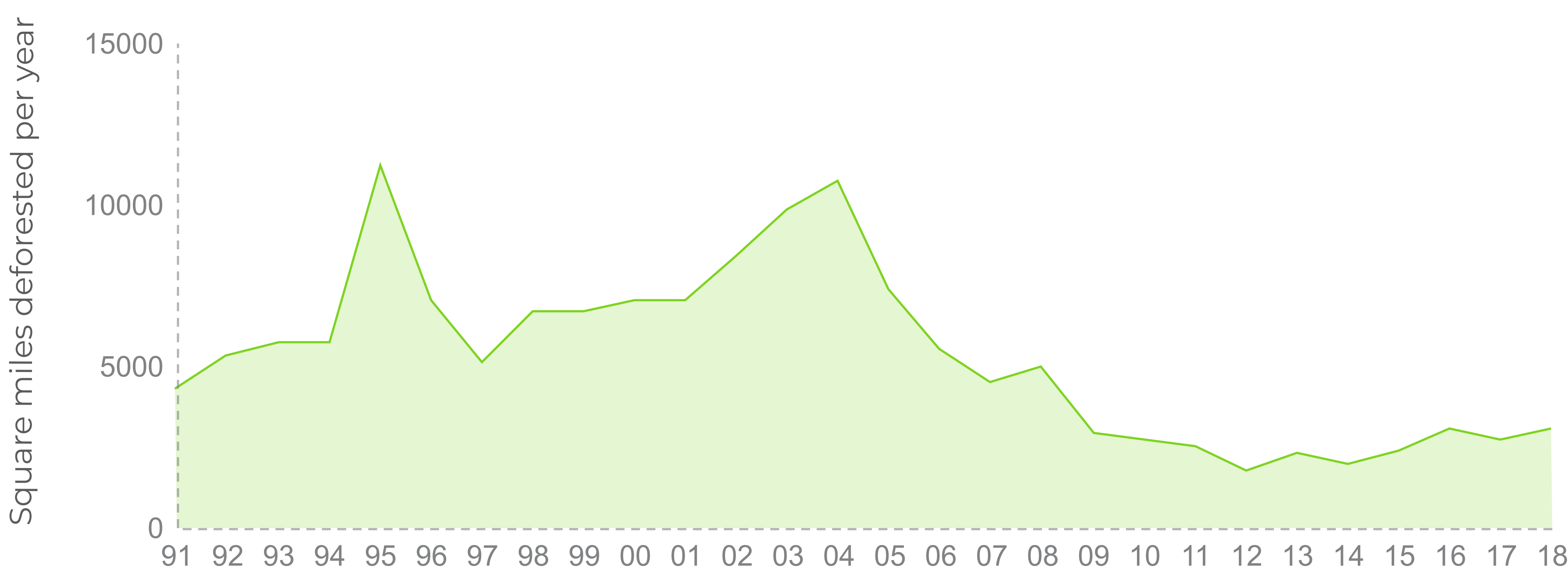
Brazil contributes the most to deforestation, even when forest cover is accounted for.

Share of forest loss by square mile, 2010 to 2017



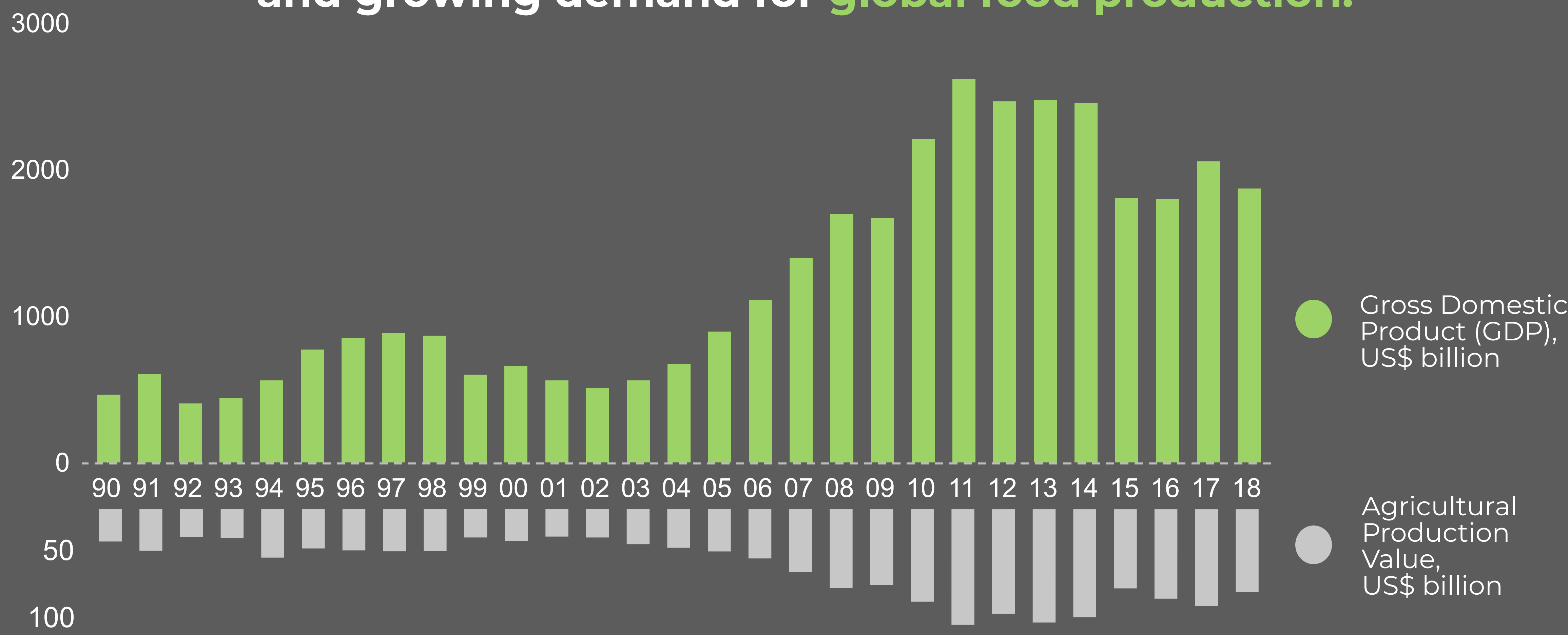
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Average deforestation rates decreased most **between 2004 and 2012**, with Lula as president.

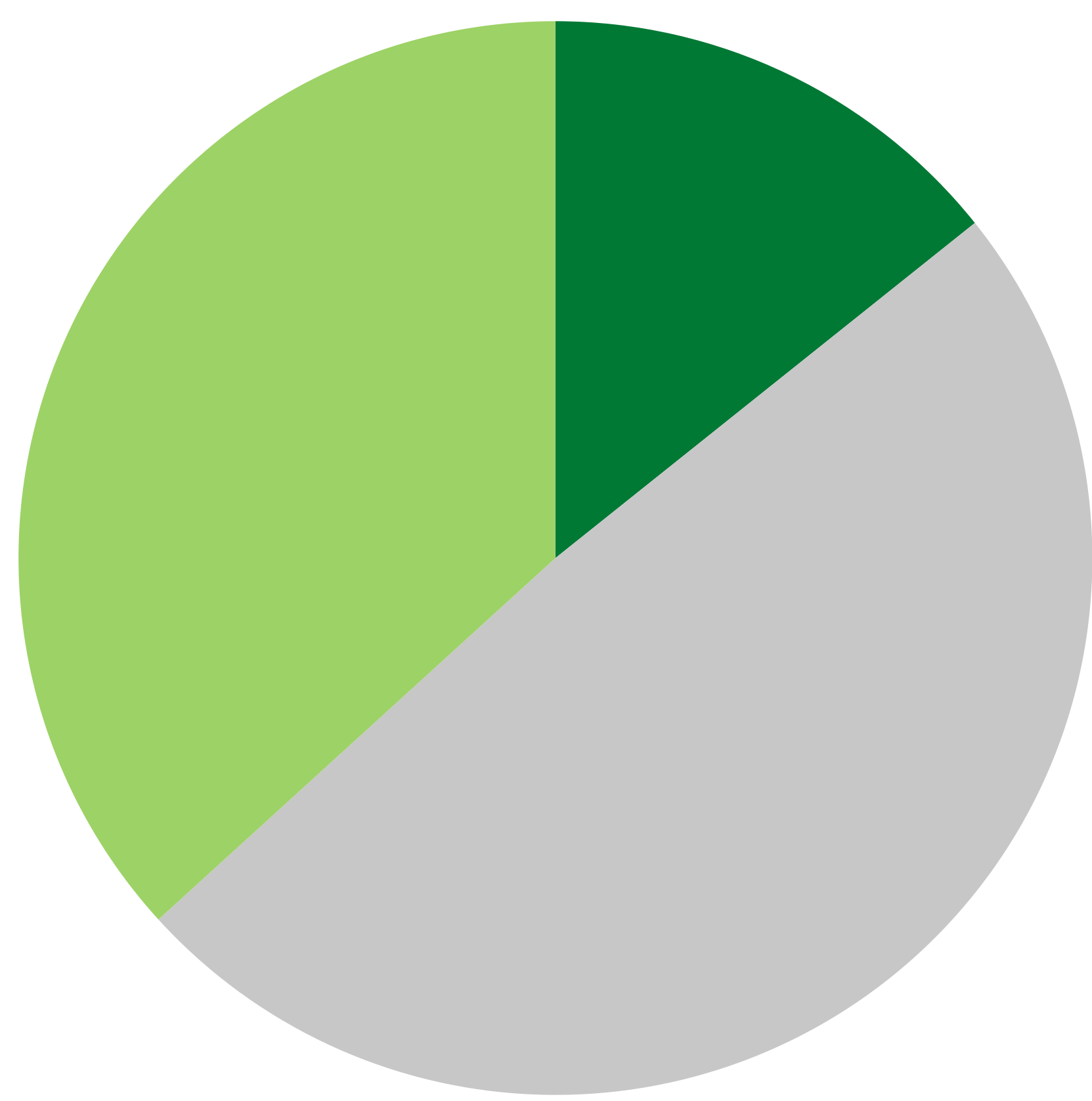


Declining deforestation after 2004 coincided with **positive economic growth and agricultural production**.

Much of this is attributed to Lula-era **conservation policies** and growing demand for **global food production**.



Sources of Forest Clearing, 2011



- Small properties (under 100 hectares)
- Large properties (under 500 hectares)
- Very large properties (under 2,500 hectares)

Did you know?

Deforestation from **large and very large properties** has declined by **63%** since 2011.

However,

Small properties contributed **69% more** to deforestation rates than large properties during the same period.

Under the new Bolsonaro administration, deforestation is expected to increase even further, with recent approvals of pesticides, cuts to the budget for the Ministry of Environment, and proposals to eliminate indigenous reserves in the Amazon Rainforest.