



**PRECIOUS WOODS**

## FLIGHT OVER THE AMAZON-RAINFOREST

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22 January 2003

How forests are converted into stock-pastures The following series of photos was taken in autumn 2002 on the occasion of a flight from Itacoatiara to Belém in a low flying sporting aeroplane. The pictures document the transformation of forest into cattle-pastures and agricultural land, typical in the proximity of roads. Wood becomes a cheap by-product. Many trees are not even used, but burned. For the majority of the population forest has no economic value, which why it is destroyed in favour of agricultural space.

The non-sustainable forestry plays a key role in the tragic development in that the lumberjacks often build the streets through the forest themselves. After extracting the valuable species of trees they move on and leave the forest and the street to their destiny. Old lumber-roads often act as passageways to settlers and farmers. The gravest of engagements to date was the construction of the Transamazonica, leading to massive deforestation inside its sphere of influence. Also see “interactive map of Precious Woods Pará”

Precious Woods practices sustainable forestry in its own forests. Trees are felled here, but only a limited number so gently that the forest is held as intact as possible. After the harvest the forest is watched, so that no settler or illegal lumberjack can intrude. Precious woods has created over 1000 jobs in the forestry and stored wood industry.

Since the pictures were taken by an amateur through an aeroplane window they are not professional. Sometimes reflections interfere with the image.