



## INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

### [Brazil: Reducing Deforestation at the National and Local Levels](#)

Since 1970, nearly 20 percent of the Amazon rain forest has disappeared, jeopardizing efforts to mitigate global climate change. A new [ISS case study](#) documents Brazil's national and local initiatives to control the rate of deforestation in the Amazon.

In the early 2000s, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Marina Silva, his minister of the environment, sought to arrest the country's rapid increase in deforestation. Working with other ministers, they designed and implemented a national plan that significantly reduced the rate at which loggers, ranchers, and farmers cut trees.



*Photo by Olan Jaeger*

In late 2007, however, the rate of deforestation rose again, leading Silva to shift tactics and target the municipalities that accounted for most of the problem. Silva placed 36 municipalities on a blacklist, made them the focus of intensive law enforcement strikes, and restricted residents' access to markets and credit. The policy improved compliance with the forest protection laws and contributed to a decline in the

#### New Online Course

##### [Making Government Work in Hard Places](#),

a free online Princeton University course, began on January 25, 2015. Participants will explore solutions to governance challenges as they discuss the work of reform leaders featured in ISS case studies. Registration is still open.

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#### Featured ISS Interview

[Luiz Carlos Bresser-Pereira](#) served as Brazil's Minister of Federal Administration and State Reform, among other ministerial positions. In an interview with ISS, Bresser-Pereira describes his efforts to strengthen the strategic core of the state. He improved the entrance system for careers in public service and advocated for greater flexibility for tenure in civil service. He helped win the passage of an amendment that

national rate of deforestation.

## ISS: Improving Government Accountability and Leading Reform

Innovations for Successful Societies (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. Interview-based case studies facilitate these exchanges and provide a basis for scholarly research.

To date, ISS has published more than 140 case studies and 370 interviews, all of which are available free online. Governments use the materials to learn from each other, inspire discussion in their ranks, and recall the steps they took to implement a reform. Universities and training programs use the case studies in the classroom to engage students in the operational and strategic aspects of public sector reform.

enshrined some of the principles of his reform in the Constitution.

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