



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Protecting Forests, Mitigating Climate Change

With deforestation and forest degradation accounting for nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, preserving tropical woodlands will be critical to the [Paris climate talks](#). A [series of ISS case studies](#) explores successful efforts to control deforestation in Latin America.



Deforestation in Costa Rica. Photo by Piccaya.

Brazil: Reducing Deforestation at the National and Local Level

In 2003, [Brazil](#) launched an effort to address the rapid increase in deforestation, cutting the rate by nearly 75% over a decade. Two additional ISS case studies focus on the municipalities of [Dom Eliseu](#) and [Alta Floresta](#) and explore the successful local strategies used to stem forest loss.

Costa Rica: Creating a Green Republic

In 1997, Costa Rica launched the world's first national system of payments for environmental services, designed to reduce the destruction of primary forest and promote the reforestation of degraded land.

Mexico: Payment for Environmental Services

Natura Mexicana, an NGO led by former environment minister, Julia Carabias, joined with local communities to enroll participants in a National Forestry Commission program that compensated landowners who preserved their trees. Natura Mexicana's work in environmental education, land planning, and ecotourism development helped change farmers' attitudes about the importance of rain

forest protection.

ISS Featured Interview

[Luciano Evaristo](#), Director of IBAMA, the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, explains how his organization monitors both legal and illegal deforestation in the Amazon rain forest.

Civilians at the Helm of Chile's Defense Ministry

Twenty years after the end of Augusto Pinochet's military regime, Chile transformed its defense sector, restructuring the Ministry of National Defense and placing responsibility for planning and strategy in the hands of civilian leaders. Sebastián Piñera, who became president in March 2010 just as the new laws took effect, faced the task of implementing the massive shift in expectations, norms, culture, and the chain of command. A new [ISS case study](#) describes how his administration navigated this transition.

About Innovations for Successful Societies

[Innovations for Successful Societies](#) (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. ISS has published more than [150 case studies](#) and [380 interviews](#), all of which are available free online. These materials describe reform efforts in more than 60 countries, attracting more than 40,000 visits to the program's website from people in 195 countries last year. ISS is a joint program of Princeton University's [Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs](#) and [Bobst Center for Peace and Justice](#).

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