

Preface

Brazil has made considerable progress in aligning its economic growth and poverty reduction efforts with the advancement of environmental sustainability. Natural resources are essential to the country's development: Brazil is the world's fourth-largest agricultural producer and a major global player in mining and oil production, and hydropower generates most of its electricity. However, economic growth, urbanisation, agricultural expansion and infrastructure development have also meant increased energy consumption and environmental pressures. Brazil now needs to recover growth while continuing to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and social exclusion, and ensure a sustainable use of environmental assets.

This is the first *OECD Environmental Performance Review* of Brazil. It assesses the country's progress in achieving its environmental policy objectives, focusing on the period since 2000. The *Review* provides 53 recommendations to help Brazil green its economy and improve its environmental governance and management, with a strong emphasis on fostering biodiversity policy and managing protected areas.

A megadiverse country, Brazil hosts the largest rainforest in the world. Progress in reducing deforestation in the Amazon has been impressive, as a result of resolute government efforts and the expansion of protected areas over thousands of square kilometres. Indeed, Brazil's comprehensive strategy for deforestation control can serve as a model for other countries. The new Forest Code and its innovative implementation and enforcement instruments are expected to greatly help further reduce illegal forest clearing and reconcile the objectives of agricultural development and biodiversity conservation. Still, Brazil needs to remain vigilant and thoroughly implement all the environmental programmes that it has put in place. It is a matter of securing sufficient financial and human resources, improving co-ordination across levels of government and ensuring effective policy implementation at the subnational level.

This *Review* is the result of a constructive policy dialogue between Brazil and the countries participating in the OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance. We stand ready to support Brazil in the implementation of the recommendations outlined in this study. I am confident that this collaborative effort will be useful to improve our understanding of how to tackle our many shared environmental challenges.



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