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Brazil's top court set to rule in favor of Amazon Fund revival

Reuters



A tractor unloads a truck at a wood company warehouse in the Amazon rainforest, inside Jamari National Forest Park in the County of Itapua do Oeste, Rondonia state, Brazil September 28, 2021. Picture taken September 28, 2021. REUTERS/Adriano Machado/File Photo

BRASILIA, Oct 27 (Reuters) - Brazil's Supreme Court is set to demand that the government

reactivate a billion-dollar international fund aimed at protecting the Amazon rainforest as the nation faces rampant deforestation, according to a court statement on Thursday.

A majority of the top court's justices decided that the government must take steps within 60 days to reactivate the Amazon Fund, frozen in 2019 when the President Jair Bolsonaro's administration decided to change its governance structure.

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Norway paid \$1.2 billion into the fund between 2008 and 2018, resources that were intended to finance sustainability projects and help reduce deforestation in the world's largest rainforest. Germany also donated more than \$68 million.

The fund was frozen after Bolsonaro took office in 2019 and weakened environmental protection measures in the Amazon, arguing that commercial farming and mining were needed in the region to reduce poverty. Deforestation has surged since

then, driven by illegal logging and gold mining. [read more](#)

Seven of the judges on the 11-member court determined that changes made to the governance format of the fund were unconstitutional and they ruled that the previous model should be reinstated, according to a statement on the court's website.

The case will continue to be heard on Nov. 3, when a final ruling is expected.

The government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.