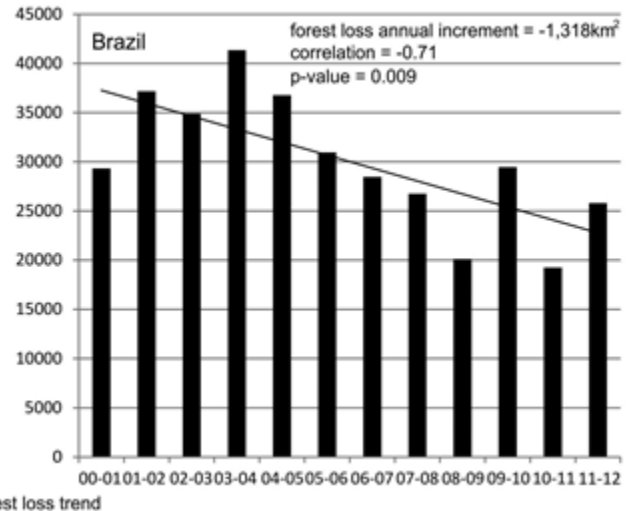
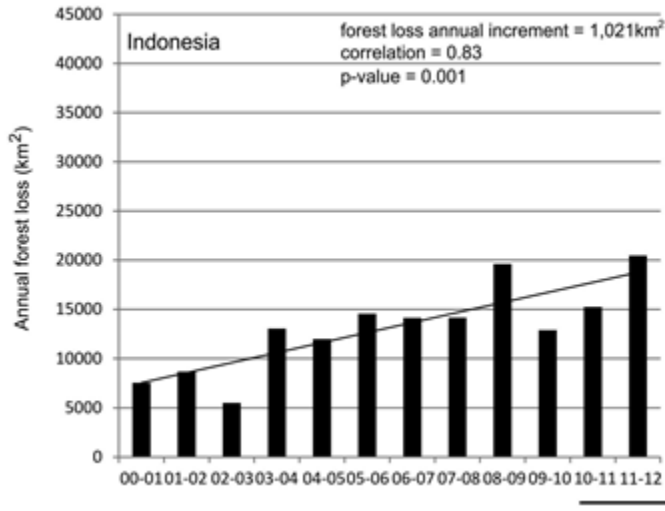




Tracking Global Changes in Forest Cover



Caption: The figures show forest loss in Indonesia (left) and Brazil (right) each year from 2000 to 2012. The x-axis shows the year ranges, beginning with 2000-2001 (abbreviated as 00-01), and the bars represent the amount of forest lost (km²) during that time period. Forest loss annual increment (a measure of the trend line's slope), correlation, and p-value describe various aspects of the trend line.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

From 2000 to 2012, high-resolution satellite imagery captured evidence that 2.3 million square kilometers (km²) of forest were lost globally. Countries near the equator, known as the tropics, have been the hardest hit. Researchers used satellite imagery to analyze the amount of forest that was lost annually across the globe between 2000 and 2012. While the study revealed an overall increase in annual forest loss globally, the above figures illustrate two tropical countries—Indonesia and Brazil—which experienced opposite trends in annual forest loss over the 12-year study period. Indonesia has only just begun considering policies aimed at reducing forest loss, whereas Brazil has implemented strong policies. Government policy is one of several reasons cited for Brazil's slowing rate of forest loss. The differences in forest loss trends between Indonesia and Brazil demonstrate the effectiveness of policy decisions on protecting global forests, which are an important source of ecosystem services including climate regulation, biodiversity, and fresh water.