

Saída de Marina reduz credibilidade ambiental do Brasil, sugere Economist

A revista britânica Economist diz que a saída de Marina Silva do Ministério do Meio Ambiente tornará mais difícil para o governo Lula "convencer os observadores da Amazônia de sua determinação de reduzir o ritmo de desmatamento."

A publicação atribui o pedido de demissão de Marina Silva ao fato de ela ter se tornado "farta" de tantas perder em disputas com seus colegas de ministério.

A reportagem é ilustrada por uma foto de Marina Silva com a legenda: "A campeã da floresta tropical derrotada".

Entre as derrotas que a revista atribui à ex-ministra, estão a disputa com Dilma Rousseff (Casa Civil) em torno das licenças ambientais para as hidrelétricas do rio Madeira e a polêmica com o Ministério da Agricultura sobre uso de terras amazônicas para plantação.

O texto menciona ainda como fatores que contribuíram para demissão de Marina Silva a aprovação do plantio de vegetais transgênicos e a indicação de Roberto Mangabeira Unger (Assuntos Estratégicos) como coordenador do Programa Amazônia Sustentável.

Na avaliação da revista, ao deixar o governo neste momento, Marina Silva "mantém sua reputação intacta".

O artigo – escrito antes da confirmação da escolha de Carlos Minc para o cargo vago – termina afirmando que ela é uma figura difícil de substituir.

Leia o artigo da revista The Economist a respeito da saída de Marina Silva (em inglês)

Marina marches off From The Economist print edition

Brazil's minister for the Amazon resigns in frustration.

WHEN Marina Silva was appointed minister responsible for preserving the Amazon five years ago, she gave a big boost to Brazil's standing among the world's environmentalists. All her adult life, she had been a prominent and uncompromising activist for the preservation of the rainforest, so the choice was a bit like picking a human-rights lawyer to run the police. But on May 14th she resigned—out of sheer frustration. Her departure will now make it a lot harder for President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's government to convince Amazon-watchers of its determination to slow the rate of deforestation.

Brazil has so many ministries—35—that tussles between them are endemic. But Ms Silva had become increasingly fed up with losing so many of her own. She lost out to Dilma Rousseff, Lula's chief-of-staff, in a row over environmental licences to build hydroelectric power plants on the Madeira river, the Amazon's longest tributary. She lost out to the agriculture ministry over the use of land in the Amazon region for farming. She was overruled in her opposition to the licensing of genetically-modified crops and again in her bid to quell the government's enthusiasm for nuclear power.

Then, in a move that was even more galling, Ms Silva was elbowed aside by Roberto Mangabeira Unger, a Harvard philosophy professor turned minister for long-term planning, who is sometimes gently mocked as Minister for the Future. Mr Unger, who is enthusiastic about big infrastructure projects in the Amazon, was handed the task of co-ordinating the government's plan for development in the region. "She accumulated so many defeats that she reached her limit," says Roberto Smeraldi of Friends of the Earth in Brazil.

By getting out now, Ms Silva keeps her reputation intact and can return to the Senate, where she may say what she likes. She is such a well-known figure that finding a replacement will be

hard. She grew up in the forest, where her parents were rubber-tappers. It was not until she was a teenager that she learned to read, going on to win a university degree before becoming Brazil's youngest senator when she was elected in 1994 at the age of 36.

The front-runner to replace her is Jorge Viana, a former governor of Acre, one of the states that make up the Amazon region. But Mr Viana is understandably nervous about taking over a ministry that appears to have been sidelined, particularly at a time when the rate of deforestation has speeded up. If Lula fails to talk a good candidate into accepting the job, Ms Silva's resignation will become an even bigger blow to his claimed good stewardship of the Amazon.

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