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Autore	Andersen Lykke E.
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 241-256) and index.
Nota di contenuto	; 1. Introduction -- ; 2. Development of the Brazilian Amazon -- ; 3. The municipal database -- ; 4. The sources and agents of deforestation -- ; 5. Alternatives to deforestation: extractivism -- ; 6. Modeling deforestation and development in the Brazilian Amazon -- ; 7. Carbon emissions -- ; 8. The costs and benefits of deforestation -- ; 9. Conclusions and recommendations.
Sommario/riassunto	A multi-disciplinary team of authors analyze the economics of Brazilian

deforestation using a large data set of ecological and economic variables. They survey the most up to date work in this field and present their own dynamic and spatial econometric analysis based on municipality level panel data spanning the entire Brazilian Amazon from 1970 to 1996. By observing the dynamics of land use change over such a long period the team is able to provide quantitative estimates of the long-run economic costs and benefits of both land clearing and government policies such as road building. The authors find that some government policies, such as road paving in already highly settled areas, are beneficial both for economic development and for the preservation of forest, while other policies, such as the construction of unpaved roads through virgin areas, stimulate wasteful land uses to the detriment of both economic growth and forest cover.

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