The following maps illustrate the geography of the Cerrado, in particular how deforestation is playing out across Matopiba. They draw heavily upon data generated or hosted by LAPIG Maps.
The Cerrado is a tropical savanna that occupies the central part Brazil, north of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and south and east of the Amazon. Matopiba is an economic zone in the north of the biome.

Note: the Cerrado is an ecosystem type characterized by mosaic savanna that can be found across central Brazil, as well as in parts of Rondônia, Pará, Paraná, and Roraima. These maps show the official boundaries of the political Cerrado rather than the extent of cerrado ecosystem.

Sources:
Reference layers: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/
Matopiba: http://www.ibge.gov.br/eng/geo/transport/default_prod.htm
Cerrado Biome: http://maps.apig.iesa.ufg.br/lapiq.html
The Cerrado contains part of nine states. Much of the southern Cerrado has been deforested for crops and pasture, while the north has more intact savanna.
Northern parts of the Cerrado, near the Amazon, tend to have more carbon-dense, rainforest-like vegetation.
Conservation areas can be broadly divided into federal and state protected areas and indigenous lands. In total, Brazil recognizes 12 different types of conservation units, with varying levels of protection.
The Cerrado is home to many indigenous people, quilombola communities, extractivistas, geraizeiros, ribeirinhos, and family farmers, who live throughout the region. This map shows those community lands that are formally recognized. Efforts are underway to better map community lands that are not yet formally recognized.
Brazil's Cerrado
Protected Areas & Priorities

Protected Area
Priority I
Priority II
Priority III
Urban Areas
States
Cerrado
Matopiba

Across the Cerrado, only 8% of land is in protected areas. WWF has prioritized additional areas for conservation, shown here.
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identified by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) are strategic locations for the conservation of globally important biodiversity in the Cerrado.
Corridors, also identified by CEPF, allow for ecological connectivity between fragmented regions of biodiversity. They are essential for ecological resilience in the face of stressors like agricultural expansion and climate change.
Cropland and pasture already exists within some priority KBAs—but large swaths of KBAs still remain in native vegetation.

Sources:
Reference layers: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/
Matopiba: http://www.ibge.gov.br/english/geociencias/default_prod.sh.tm
Cerrado: http://maps.lapig.iesa.ufg.br/lapig-maps/
Cropland and Pasture: http://www.dpi.inpe.br/tccerrado/
field work in August 2005; Successional habitat translation not final
Cerrado Deforestation

- The Cerrado has experienced significant, ongoing deforestation in the last decade.
- Municipalities in Mato Grosso, western Bahia, and Piauí have consistently been the areas with the most deforestation from 2002-2014.
- Deforestation in Mato Grosso has decreased over that period.
In Piauí, which is relatively rugged, deforestation is mostly occurring on flat plateaus. Generally, fires are most common in the areas experiencing high deforestation, though burned area is very high in the northwest boundary of the Cerrado, even though the deforestation rate is not as high in that area as in other parts of the biome and much of this area is protected.

Sources:
Reference layers: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/
Cerrado: http://maps.lapig.iesa.ufg.br/lapig-maps/
Burned by County: http://maps.lapig.iesa.ufg.br/lapig-maps/
Protected area status is no guarantee against deforestation; some protected areas, such as Ilha do Bananal, have experienced high rates of deforestation in recent years.
• Expansion of cropland in western Bahia, northern Mato Grosso, Piauí, and Maranhão appears to be driving much recent deforestation.
• Deforestation occurs in a more piecemeal manner around pasturelands.
Soy expansion has driven native vegetation conversion in Bahia and Piauí, hotspots for deforestation over the past decade.

Pastureland expansion in Tocantins has expanded into natural vegetation, including in the Ilha de Bananal State protected area.
Pasture and slaughterhouses in Matopiba

Although pastureland is found across Matopiba, it is more densely concentrated along the eastern edge of Matopiba, in Tocantins and Maranhão. Slaughterhouses are also concentrated in this part of the region.
Crop and Silos in Matopiba

Cropland is centered in Western Bahia, and scattered throughout the other Matopiba states. For the most part, silos are as located in the same areas.
A recent analysis by Agrosatélite identifies areas of native vegetation with the soil, climate, altitude, and slope characteristics that make it suitable for cropland (dark green and dark orange). Most existing cropland falls in areas with these characteristics, and such areas may be at high risk of future deforestation.

Data produced by Agrosatélite with support from the Moore Foundation.
One analysis from Ferreira et al., (2013), which assumes that deforestation will continue at the same rate as 2002-2007, projects that much future deforestation will occur in Western Bahia.
Although large swathes of deforestation are expected across Bahia and Piauí, deforestation in high carbon stock areas is expected mainly in Maranhão and Tocantins.

In the northern Cerrado, municipalities like Baixa Grande do Ribeiro, Balsas, Urucui, and Mirador face the prospect of high deforestation in the coming years, according to one model.

Sources:
Reference layers: http://www.naturalearthdata.com/
Matopiba: http://www.ibge.gov.br/english/geociencias/default_prod.shtm
Cerrado: http://maps.lapig.lesa.ufg.br/lapig-maps/
Deforestation: http://maps.lapig.lesa.ufg.br/lapig-maps/
Both Western Bahia and Western Tocantins face significant risk of further native vegetation loss. Formosa do Rio Preto in Western Bahia is one important municipality to watch: it is at risk of losing more than a hundred thousand hectares of native vegetation, according to one model.
Continued high deforestation is a risk across much of northern Mato Grosso, including in Luciara, Paranatinga, Nova Mutum, and Campo Novo do Parecis.
The Cerrado is often called the birthplace of the waters, because it contains the headwaters of the Tocantins, La Plata, and São Francisco rivers.
The Cerrado lies on top of important aquifers. These aquifers are not yet stressed, but pollution and over withdrawals may become an issue as development continues.

The Cerrado has a mix of large and small dams, ranging from 7.2 KWh to more than a MW. Many of these dams are in the south and west, with fewer in the drier, less-developed north.