

MANIFESTO FOR THE IMMEDIATE END OF DEFORESTATION AND CONVERSION, FOR OUR 1.5o FUTURE

November 07th, 2022

As our planet is rushing towards an apocalyptic 2,5° globally heated future, just a handful of global companies bear an overwhelming responsibility to decide and significantly influence, for better or much worse, the fate of all mankind.

Almost a year ago, in Glasgow, 12 among the largest global agricultural commodity companies committed¹ to present a shared roadmap at the COP 27, for “enhanced supply chain action consistent with a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway”, including “enabling policy environments, transparency on scope 3 GHG (GreenHouse Gas) emissions and indirect supply chains and improving livelihoods for farmers (...)

This Roadmap, supported by the Tropical Forest Alliance, housed by World Economic Forum, was signed by ADM, AMAGGI, BUNGE, CARGILL, COFCO International, GOLDEN Agri-Resources, JBS S.A, LOUIS DREYFUS Company B.V, MARFRIG, OLAM International, VITERRA and WILMAR International. This Roadmap potentially could move the needle of global deforestation, conversion and of global climate change, as these 12 companies represent together a dominant share of the global forest and ecosystem-risk commodities’ trade.

The global food system contributes to at least 1/3 of total net global GHG emissions^{2,3} and these would need to decline by over 80% by 2050 for any chance of a 1.5-degree future. Globally traded forest and ecosystem-risk commodities, such as soy, cattle, leather, palm oil, cocoa and rubber are by far the largest contributors of these emissions through deforestation and ecosystem destruction.

A recent study⁴ demonstrates that natural habitat conversion of the soy, beef and palm oil sectors is responsible for between 40-50% of all agricultural land-conversion GHG emissions. It also shows that without strong deforestation and conversion-free policies, global GHG emissions reduction of the soy, beef, and palm oil sectors will not have significant impacts compared to business as usual. These findings are clear: **to decrease global GHG emissions sufficiently and reach the 1.5- target, deforestation and conversion must be cut immediately out of the commodities supply chains.** These findings also reinforce the urgent need of strong, binding, and comprehensive regulations on deforestation and conversion-free products.

¹ <https://ukcop26.org/agricultural-commodity-companies-corporate-statement-of-purpose/>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>

³

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349903586_Food_systems_are_responsible_for_a_third_of_global_antropogenic_GHG_emissions

⁴

https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/dcf_commodities_are_critical_for_a_1_5_pathway_overview.pdf

Incremental change will not suffice, and deep and urgent supply-chain transformation is needed. Steep decrease in deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems until its total elimination, as well as traceability and monitoring to the farm level are at the heart of this transformation. Companies must bring total levels of habitat destruction to zero urgently, considering an explicit immediate target date and a cutoff date⁵ no later than 2020, critical to any meaningful commitment and respecting all previously set sectoral agreements.

Considering the current pace, extension, and trend of global commodity-related deforestation⁶ and conversion⁷, any meaningful and credible 1.5 – roadmap must at least include:

- **Full deforestation and conversion-free (DCF) commodity supply chains**, without any delay (immediate **target date**), with 100% sourcing from land that was deforested or converted no later than 1st January 2020 (**cutoff date**).
- **Pre-existing commitments** with a cutoff date that was earlier than 2020, such as the Amazon Soy Moratorium and others, must be maintained.
- **All natural ecosystems**, considering above and below ground carbon to estimate CO2 emissions
- **Full transparency and traceability to farm level** (for all direct and indirect suppliers)
- Requirement and support of **direct and indirect suppliers to take equivalent action across their entire operations**
- Mechanisms to **verify on DCF commitments implementation**
- **Public disclosure** of the implementation plan
- **Monitoring and reporting with public disclosure on progress** towards meeting 100% DCF supply chains twice a year

These requirements are in accordance with the Accountability Framework⁸ and/or coherent with the civil society asks and recommendations to the European Union and its member states related to the European Union proposed regulation on deforestation-free products⁹. Considering all natural ecosystems are critical¹⁰ for

⁵ <https://accountability-framework.org/operational-guidance/cutoff-dates/>

⁶

https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/deforestation_fronts_drivers_and_responses_in_a_changing_world_summary_english.pdf

⁷ https://resources.trase.earth/documents/Greens_Proposed-EU-regulation-on-deforestation-&-forest-degradation.pdf

⁸ <https://accountability-framework.org/the-afi-recommends-a-target-date-of-2025-or-sooner-to-eliminate-deforestation-and-conversion-in-supply-chains/>

⁹ <https://corporatejustice.org/news/civil-society-statement-on-draft-eu-regulation-on-deforestation-free-products/>
<https://www.oc.eco.br/en/posicionamento-sobre-a-proposta-da-comissao-europeia-para-uma-regulamentacao-sobre-produtos-livres-de-desmatamento/>

https://redecerrado.org.br/docs/Letter_Together_for_Cerrado.pdf

protecting the highly threatened Cerrado¹¹, world's oldest and most biodiverse savannah which is highly threatened, as well as the South American Pampas and North American Great Plains¹². All also store huge carbon stocks, deep in their roots and soils¹³.

Each of these elements is critical for a meaningful 1.5-roadmap and at reach today. Full traceability to the farms of origin is feasible and has already been implemented across different commodity supply chains¹⁴, even for cocoa 100% smallholder supply chains¹⁵.

Many of the Roadmap signatories have made public commitments and reported the progress towards achieving full traceability in their direct and indirect supply chains¹⁶. Powerful and accurate monitoring tools for forests and other natural ecosystems are available in most deforestation and conversion-risk regions¹⁷.

Also, ending deforestation and conversion does not necessarily mean restricting food production. Global commodity production for export does not insure, and often even competes with local food security. While traditional food systems tend to be resilient, ongoing large scale land use approach degrades soils and land worldwide, with a total estimated in between 1 and 6 giga hectares¹⁸. In Brazil, there is existing degraded land that allows large scale commodity production, without needing to cut one more single tree or bush nor to compete for space with local food production¹⁹. This situation is often seen on other commodity-producing

<https://accountability-framework.org/clear-definitions-the-core-of-a-strong-eu-regulation-to-address-deforestation-and-related-impacts/>

¹⁰ https://mapbiomas-br-site.s3.amazonaws.com/Nota%20T%C3%A9cnica/Nota_T%C3%A9cnica_UE_07.07.2022.pdf

¹¹ [Moment of truth for the Cerrado hotspot | Nature Ecology & Evolution](#)

¹² <https://www.worldwildlife.org/projects/plowprint-report>

¹³ https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/beyond_forests_en.pdf

¹⁴ https://www.clientearth.org/media/mdzplo2q/getting-to-deforestation-free_clarifying-the-traceability-requirements-in-the-eu-deforestation-regulation_clientearth.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/initiative/cocoa-forests-initiative/>

¹⁶ <https://www.marfrig.com.br/en/Lists/CentralConteudo/Attachments/3/Sustainability%20Report%20202021.pdf>
<https://investors.adm.com/news/news-details/2022/ADM-Makes-Earth-Day-Pledge-to-Protect-Forests/default.aspx>
<https://www.ldc.com/press-releases/ldc-commits-to-zero-deforestation-native-vegetation-conversion-in-its-supply-chains-by-end-2025/>

<https://www.amaggi.com.br/en/interna/innovative-and-sustainable-performance/commitments-to-forests/>
<https://www.bunge.com/news/bunge-launches-unprecedented-program-monitor-soybean-crops-its-indirect-supply-chain-brazilian> <https://www.wbcsd.org/Overview/News-Insights/Member-spotlight/COFCO-partnership-traces-and-screens-all-direct-soy-supplies-in-Brazil-s-Matopiba>

<https://www.olamgroup.com/news/all-news/press-release/olam-cocoa-hits-100-percent-traceability-target-across-its-direct-global-supply-chain.html>

<https://www.cargill.com.br/en/protecting-our-planet>

¹⁷ <http://terrabrasilis.dpi.inpe.br/en/home-page/>

https://mapbiomas.org/en?cama_set_language=en

<https://chaco.mapbiomas.org/en>

https://pampa.mapbiomas.org/en?cama_set_language=en

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/plowprint-report-map>

<http://maps.eyesontheforest.or.id/>

<https://www.globalforestwatch.org/blog/commodities/improved-universal-mill-list-expands-partnerships-improves-transparency-in-palm-oil-industry/>

¹⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0143622814002793>

¹⁹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378014001046>

landscapes. Also, deforestation/conversion is usually concentrated to small proportion of producers and areas, as compared to the entire supply chain^{20,21}. Avoiding these at the source does not threaten the availability nor costs of commodities.

Sustainable solutions for food production, with adequate support and incentives, can also rehabilitate degraded regions and key ecosystem services while ensuring food security and the wellbeing of those people who live in those lands, promoting the respect/value of local livelihoods, and promoting natural ecosystems preservation and restoration. Finally, around a third of all food is lost or wasted globally²² and that in the global North, healthier diets could drastically reduce the global food system footprint²³.

The Amazon Soy Moratorium²⁴ provides a good benchmark of affordable and efficient large-scale monitoring and verification at the farm level, contributing to a sharp reduction²⁵ in soy-driven deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon. In the meantime, soy production increased 450% in the region, mostly on degraded pastures. Similar mechanisms could be implemented in many other landscapes immediately.

To make it short, fast elimination of all deforestation and conversion from supply chains is technically and economically²⁶ feasible, and largest traders and meatpackers have know-how, capacity and access to the tools to do it. Do they have the will?

There is no livable future²⁷ for mankind without immediate elimination of all deforestation and conversion of the last remaining natural ecosystems worldwide for ever expanding commodity production.

Also, to be clear, ecosystem destruction is not just an issue of climate change, it is also directly responsible of at least 70% of global biodiversity loss, widespread human rights abuses and land encroachment^{28,29}, and the emergence or outbreak of vector-borne diseases as zoonoses³⁰.

²⁰ http://biomas.agrosatelite.com.br/img/Geospatial_analyses_of_the_annual_crops_dynamic_in_the_brazilian_Cerrado_biome.pdf

²¹ https://www.inputbrasil.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/The-expansion-of-soybean-production-in-the-Cerrado_Agroicone_INPUT.pdf

²² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335433977_Soy_expansion_in_Brazil's_Cerrado

²³ <https://insights.trase.earth/yearbook/highlights/hotspots/>

²⁴ [The rotten apples of Brazil's agribusiness | Science](https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-food-waste-day)

²⁵ <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-food-waste-day>

²⁶ <https://eatforum.org/eat-lancet-commission/eat-lancet-commission-summary-report/>

²⁷ <https://www.imaflora.org/public/media/biblioteca/IMF-10-years-of-soy-moratorium-WB.pdf>

²⁸ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-020-00194-5>

²⁹ <https://wwf.be/fr/publication/limited-extra-cost-deforestation-and-conversion-free-soy-supply>

³⁰ <https://www.ifrc.org/document/extreme-heat-preparing-heat-waves-future>

²⁸ <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/global-commodity-traders-are-fuelling-land-conflicts-in-brazils-cerrado/>

²⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/09/23/when-we-lost-forest-we-lost-everything/oil-palm-plantations-and-rights-violations>

³⁰ [Why deforestation and extinctions make pandemics more likely \(nature.com\)](https://www.nature.com/article/m501376)

Any incremental profit of further destruction would be ridiculously insignificant, in comparison to the non-refundable impacts to so many vulnerable people today, and to our vulnerable humanity as a whole.

There is **not one single excuse for the agricultural commodity companies 1.5-roadmap to sustain, even as a “transition”, any further ecosystem destruction** at the expense of so many losses, so much suffering and of the future of all. The same is valid for regulations on deforestation (and conversion!) -free products.

Any roadmap, any legislation with lower scope, ambition and accountability would just be another disastrous “bla bla bla”.

Signatories of this Manifesto:

350.org

Alberta Wilderness Association - AWA

Associação Alternativa Terrazul

Associação Amigos do Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros - AVE

Associação Amigos dos Mananciais - AAMA

Associação Brasileira de Combate ao Lixo no Mar Projeto Verde Mar - ABLM

Associação Civil Projeto Hospitais Saudáveis (Healthy Hospitals Project)

Associação de Moradores e Amigos de Vargem Grande

Associação de Pesquisa e Preservação de Ecossistemas Aquáticos - AQUASIS

Associação de Preservação do Meio Ambiente e da Vida - APREMAVI

Associação de Promoção do Desenvolvimento Solidário e Sustentável - 10envolvimento

Associação Ecocidade

Associação em Áreas de Assentamento no Estado do Maranhão - ASSEMA

Associação Onça D'água

Associação para a Gestão Socioambiental do Triângulo Mineiro - Angá

Associação Profissional dos Sociólogos do Estado do Rio de Janeiro - APSERJ

Associação Stella4Praias

Associação Xavante Warã

Canopée

Centro de Coleções Taxonômicas da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - CCT UFMG

Centro Universidade de Brasília Cerrado - UnB Cerrado

Climate Observatory (Observatório do Clima - OC)

Coalizão Ciência e Sociedade

Coletivo Martha Trindade

Comissão Pró Índio do Acre - CPI-Acre

Conselho Nacional das Populações Extrativistas - CNS

Defensores do Planeta

Earthsight

Environmental Exchange of Rio de Janeiro (Bolsa Verde do Rio de Janeiro - BVRio)

Envol Vert

Fórum Brasileiro de Ongs e Movimentos Sociais pelo Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento - FBOMS

Forum de Mudancas Climaticas e Justiça Social - FMCJS

Fórum dos Atingidos pela Indústria do Petróleo e Petroquímica nas cercanias da Baía de Guanabara

Fórum Socioambiental da Zona Oeste e da Articulação Carioca por Justiça Socioambiental

Fundação Bento Rubião

Global Canopy

Global Forest Coalition - GFC

Grupo Ambientalista da Bahia - GAMBÁ

Grupo de Estudos em Educação e Meio Ambiente do Rio de Janeiro - GEEMA

Instituto 5 elementos

Instituto Aldeias

Instituto Bioregional do Cerrado - IBC

Instituto Biotrópico

Instituto Centro de Vida - ICV

Instituto Cerrados

Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola - IMAFLORA

Instituto de Pesquisa e Formação Indigena - IEPÉ

Instituto de Referência Negra Peregum

Instituto ECOS

Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil - IEB

Instituto Mamirauá

Instituto Mão da Terra

Instituto MIRA-SERRA

Instituto Rosa e Sertão

Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza - ISPNA

Instituto TodaVida

Instituto Walden-tempo, homem e natureza

Laboratório de Fauna e Unidades de Conservação da Universidade de Brasília - LAFUC UnB

Laboratório de Gestão de Serviços Ambientais da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - LAGESA

Laboratório de Processamento de Imagens e Geoprocessamento da Universidade Federal de Goias - LAPIG UFG

Mighty Earth

Movimento Baía Viva

Movimento Jaguaribe Vivo e Fórum Permanente de Itapuã

Movimento SOS Vargens

Núccleo Ecológico Pedras Preciosas - NEPP

Nucleo Gestor da Cadeia Produtiva do Pequi e outros Frutos do Cerrado

Núcleo Terranias de Pensamento Ecológico

Observatório do Código Florestal - OCF

Observatório dos Conflitos Socioambientais do MATOPIBA (Observatory of Social and Environmental Conflicts in Matopiba)

Organização de Desenvolvimento Sustentável - ODS

Plantlife International

Plataforma CIPÓ

Pro REGENWALD

Programa de Pesquisa em Biodiversidade Rede Mata Atlântica da Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro - PPBio MA UERJ

Projeto Saúde e Alegria - PSA

Rainforest Foundation Norway - RFN

Rede Cerrado

Rede de Cooperação Amazônica - RCA

Rede de Educação Ambiental do Rio de Janeiro - REARJ

Rede de Educadores Ambientais da Baixada de Jacarepaguá

Rede de Educadores Ambientais do Grande Méier

Rede de Mulheres Ambientalistas da América Latina - Elo Brasil

Rede de Sementes do Cerrado

Revista Brejeiras

Semeia Cerrado

Sociedade Brasileira de Herpetologia - SBH

Society for Threatened Peoples Switzerland - STP

The Climate Reality Projects Brasil, Rede São Paulo

WeMove Europe

World Animal Protection (Proteção Animal Mundial)

WWF-Brasil