



CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE | 2018-2022

Brazil Initiative

GOAL

We support efforts to mitigate climate change by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and by capturing and storing carbon in intact forests in Brazil's Amazon and Cerrado biomes, while promoting biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and equity and rights for indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

WHY BRAZIL?

The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest as well as the world's largest river basin, supplying 20% of the planet's surface freshwater. Though the basin extends through nine South American countries, the majority lies within Brazil. The region houses a wealth of biodiversity and is home to thousands of indigenous and traditional peoples who have lived in forest communities for centuries. Globally, the Amazon is critically important to the Earth's climate—both for the role it plays in removing carbon from the atmosphere, and in regulating rainfall patterns.

The Brazilian government has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 37% in 2025 and 43% by 2030. Until recently, the country made significant progress in reducing forest loss while also increasing production of agricultural commodities. Unfortunately, deforestation is once again on the rise in the Amazon, driving biodiversity loss and carbon emissions. And yet the Amazon is no longer the hotspot for land conversion

in the country. Brazil's agricultural frontier is advancing fastest in the Cerrado, a global biodiversity hotspot and home to indigenous peoples, *quilombolas* (communities established by Afro-Brazilians), and other traditional communities. Between 2008 and 2012, the rate of conversion of the Cerrado was more than double that of the Amazon. Illegal timber, beef and soy production, mining, and infrastructure continue to drive rural conflict and threaten the traditional rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, while the current political and economic situation undermines prior gains in environmental protection.

Despite the threats, the opportunities for climate change mitigation and social and economic progress are very real. Protecting and restoring Brazil's natural areas offers an opportunity for the country to provide leadership at the forefront of the global response to climate change.

The Brazil Initiative

We focus on inclusive growth, land rights, good governance, and legality in our support of efforts to achieve the Brazilian government's climate and land use commitments, including low-emissions agriculture and an end to illegal deforestation. We also support indigenous and traditional peoples' land rights, strengthening their management of forests,

and stimulating sustainable economic activities that positively impact these communities' livelihoods. We support efforts to help make beef and soy production free of deforestation and social conflict, and to guarantee the rights of communities impacted by infrastructure and extractive industries.

WE SUPPORT

We support efforts in the following areas:

1 Policy and Governance Reforms

Helping Brazil deliver on forest and climate commitments in the Paris Agreement and fully implement its Forest Code in the Amazon and Cerrado.

2 Community Land Rights and Management

Encouraging increased formal recognition of indigenous and traditional community lands and resource rights, and sustainably operating community management systems in the Amazon and Cerrado.

3 Conflict- and Deforestation-Free Beef and Soy

Ensuring beef and soy in the Amazon and Cerrado are legally sourced and verified as deforestation- and conflict-free.

4 Addressing Impacts of Infrastructure and Extractives

Avoiding negative environmental and social impacts, decreasing the risk of corruption, and guaranteeing indigenous and traditional peoples' rights in policies, investments, and infrastructure and extractives projects.



1

WE SUPPORT

Policy and Governance Reforms

Achieving Brazil's emissions reductions targets under the Paris Agreement lays the groundwork for social, environmental, and economic benefits. Unfortunately, Brazil's previous gains in progressive environmental and human rights policies have lost traction in recent years.

The Alliance will support the effective implementation of Brazil's forest protection laws in the Amazon and Cerrado while also focusing on securing the land rights of traditional and indigenous communities.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Clear Land Ownership

Supporting transparent registration and compliance with environmental laws in the Amazon and Cerrado, with particular attention to traditional peoples and family farmers.

Preventing Additional Deforestation

Stimulating innovative approaches for valuing standing forests, including encouraging restoration.

Public Support

Building support for the implementation of Brazil's forest and climate commitments, including through citizen engagement and reporting by independent media.

2

WE SUPPORT

Community Land Rights and Forest Management

Robust evidence demonstrates that indigenous territories with secure tenure and land management rights have lower deforestation rates. Yet thousands of indigenous and traditional peoples await review of their land claims by Brazilian land management agencies. Although the number of Community Forest Management projects has grown in the Amazon and Cerrado over the last decade, these projects face legal, financial, and policy barriers to reach markets and flourish.

The Alliance supports efforts to strengthen institutions that monitor rural land rights, and work to solve land tenure disputes and conflicts. We also encourage an inclusive and sustainable framework for community forest management, recognizing the need for enhanced social control, finance, and access to markets.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Supportive Land Policies and Community Mapping

Promoting designation of public lands, improved geographic land registry databases and social mapping systems, and official designation of indigenous and other traditional peoples' land claims and protected areas in the Amazon and Cerrado.

Protection of Environmental and Human Rights Defenders

Exposing and seeking to eliminate attacks on environmental and human rights defenders.

Increased Investments in Community Land Rights and Management

Securing and leveraging robust domestic and international funding to strengthen indigenous and traditional peoples' organizations to advance land-titling processes and strengthen sustainable community enterprises.



3

WE SUPPORT

Conflict- and Deforestation-Free Beef and Soy

Over the course of a decade, Brazil reduced deforestation in the Amazon by 80% while increasing agricultural production. The country has already proven that economic growth and sustainability can advance together. Yet two of Brazil's most lucrative agricultural exports—beef and soy—are also the chief drivers of the country's deforestation and resulting rural conflicts. Although the decade-old soy moratorium was largely successful in deterring expansion into new areas in the Amazon, it has led to leakage into the Cerrado—where between 11-23% of annual agricultural production now occurs over native vegetation. At a time when global demand for food—especially beef—is expected to skyrocket, it's more important than ever for Brazil to encourage more sustainable methods of production in both the beef and soy supply chains.

The Alliance advances deforestation- and conflict-free beef and soy by promoting supply-chain transparency, shifting capital away from destructive practices, and by engaging with international retailers to promote responsible sourcing. We also work with the agribusiness sector to create the necessary conditions for companies and investors to comply with these commitments in their supply chains.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Verifiable Corporate Commitments

Ensuring international and domestic retailers, traders, and brands have access to transparent supply chains and source only deforestation- and conflict-free beef and soy from the Amazon and Cerrado.

Increased Resources

Shifting funding from public and private international and national donors to incentivize low-carbon agricultural production.

4

WE SUPPORT

Addressing Impacts of Infrastructure and Extractives

In September 2016, the Brazilian government announced a new Investment Partnerships Program—bids for a package of infrastructure projects in the areas of transport, energy and sanitation, mining, airports, railways, highways, ports, and oil and gas exploration. As the Government moves to restore investor confidence and attract capital through this new program, it has a unique opportunity to ensure that adequate participation, planning, and environmental licensing is secured, and that local communities and protected areas are not negatively impacted by these policies, plans, and projects.

To this end, the Alliance supports efforts to develop monitoring and information sharing systems, encourage financial institutions to adopt social and environmental standards, and ensure companies uphold environmental laws and respect the rights of indigenous and traditional peoples and local communities.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Avoiding Negative Social and Environmental Impact

Promoting analysis and transparency over the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts of infrastructure and extractive projects to inform their planning, licensing, and implementation, and improve social and environmental outcomes.

Investment in Local, Sustainable Development

Increasing financial institutions' and investors' adoption of social and environmental standards for investments and maximizing financial support to local, sustainable development plans and projects.

Participation and Advocacy

Supporting indigenous and traditional communities, as well as civil society and social movements, in their ability to engage with and respond to proposed infrastructure and extractives policies, plans, and projects.



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