

A Grain of Truth

Report Appendices: Deforestation and Human Rights Abuses Since 2014

Appendix A - Analysis by Repórter Brasil

Appendix B - Analysis by AidEnvironment

Appendix C - Compiled Analyses by Other Organizations



Where There's Smoke...

Case studies: Deforestation and Human Rights Abuses Since 2014

The following Case Studies, provided by AidEnvironment, Repórter Brasil, Mighty Earth, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, OXFAM, Global Witness, and others are meant to serve as examples.

They are by no means exhaustive.

They are merely those uncovered through independent investigations by non-profit organizations.

They are likely only the tip of the iceberg.



Appendix A - Analysis of Deforestation and Human Rights Abuses Since 2014

by Repórter Brasil

The largest privately held company in the United States,¹ Cargill began doing business in Brazil in 1965. Today, the company's Brazilian subsidiary has become Brazil's largest agribusiness company,² leads the country in soybean and corn exports³ and has manufacturing plants and offices in 17 states within the South American country.⁴

The company has been repeatedly denounced for several problems in its supply chain within Brazil. Among them are cases of deforestation in the Amazon and Cerrado, human and labour rights violations, land grabbing and land conflicts. These problems have been demonstrated by several Brazilian and international civil society organisations.

Repórter Brasil has been investigating Cargill's activities in Brazil since 2003. In that year, the organisation cooperated with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to identify companies involved in slave labour and socio-environmental crimes. The studies served as a starting point for the creation of the National Pact for the Eradication of Slave Labour in Brazil in 2005, still in force today.⁵ Initially, Cargill refused to sign the agreement.⁶ However, after public pressure, the board of directors changed its position a year later and decided to support the pact.⁷

The following is a summary of the history of grievances reported about the company in Brazil, with emphasis on recent years.



Credit: Fernando Martinho

1 <https://www.forbes.com/lists/largest-private-companies/?sh=9d24c77bac44>

2 <https://infograficos.valor.globo.com/valor1000/rankings/ranking-das-1000-maiores/2022>

3 <https://globo rural.globo.com/especiais/melhores-do-agronegocio/noticia/2022/11/maior-entre-as-500-empresas-do-agro-cargill.ghtml>

4 https://www.cargill.com.br/pt_BR/sobre

5 <https://inpacto.org.br/sobre-nos>

6 <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2006/05/mesmo-pressionada-cargill-nao-assina-pacto-contra-escravidao/>

7 <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2006/06/sob-pessao-cargill-admite-que-vai-assinar-pacto-contra-escravidao>



Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

Deforestation in the Amazon

Under pressure from civil society organisations, Cargill and other grain trading companies signed the Amazon Soy Moratorium in 2006, a voluntary agreement to achieve zero deforestation in the Amazon region.⁸ Despite the commitment to reduce the deforestation rate,⁹ investigations have shown several flaws and violations of Cargill's commitment not to buy soy linked to forest destruction in the Amazon region.

In May 2021, a joint investigation by Repórter Brasil, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism and Greenpeace showed a scheme to "clean up" grains planted illegally in the north of Mato Grosso, allowing soybeans from deforested areas to enter international supply chains that claim to be deforestation-free. In this case, soybeans produced by a farmer in recently deforested areas entered the chain of Aliança, a company that supplies Cargill and other trading companies.¹⁰

In February 2022, an investigation by Repórter Brasil showed that Cargill bought soy and corn from a farm in São José do Xingu (MT), also in the Amazon biome, which lost approximately 800 hectares of forest between 2013 and 2015. The negotiations between Cargill and the farm occurred despite soybean planting in areas of recent deforestation having been confirmed by the Soy Working Group (GTS), the entity responsible for monitoring the Amazon Soy Moratorium.¹¹

In October 2022, research by Repórter Brasil pointed out to the lack of transparency in the biofuel that Cargill trades in Europe.¹² The European Union imports biofuel to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its transport sector. However, the product contains beef tallow in its composition, and thus ends up encouraging precisely the sector that most contributes to deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions in Brazil, livestock. A report by Repórter Brasil showed that Cargill imported, through its Belgian arm in October 2021, almost 5 million litres of biodiesel made with beef tallow linked to deforestation, produced by the Brazilian company BSBios.¹³

In April 2023, Repórter Brasil showed that Cargill and other agricultural traders bought soy from a family of farmers with interdicted and burned areas in Mato Grosso. The soybean production took place in areas of adjoining farms, where Brazilian environmental agencies found illegal deforestation (aka without federal authorisation). The family supplying the company is being investigated by the Federal Prosecution Service and the Mato Grosso State Prosecution Service and has also been fined by the State Environment Secretariat.¹⁴

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

9 <https://imazon.org.br/imprensa/estudo-aponta-que-moratoria-da-soja-ainda-e-necessaria-para-preservar-amazonia/>

10 <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2021/05/soja-pirata-cultivada-na-amazonia-acelera-desmatamento-e-tem-participacao-de-gigantes-do-agro/>

11 <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2022/01/cargill-compra-soja-de-fazenda-que-desmatou-na-amazonia-e-descumpre-pacto-do-setor/>

12 <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2022/10/europe-buys-green-fuel-from-brazil-but-ignores-deforestation-connection/>

13 https://reporterbrasil.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Monitor_SeboBovino_ENGLISH.pdf

14 <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2023/04/cargill-amaggi-e-cofco-compram-soja-de-familia-com-area-embargada-e-incendiada-no-mato-grosso/>

Deforestation and Land Conflicts in the Cerrado



Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

The expansion of grain cultivation in the Cerrado followed the commodity boom in the 2000s, and grew intensely after the Soy Moratorium in the Amazon biome. With more difficulty in expanding its activities in the Amazon, part of the agribusiness sector focused its activities on a new region. A number of studies have shown Cargill's connection not only with deforestation, but also with the rise of land conflicts in the biome, where soy plantations have occupied the lands of peasant communities and Indigenous Peoples with the monoculture.¹⁵

In 2018, a report by Repórter Brasil showed that a Cargill supplier with farms in Piauí and Maranhão is accused of illegally appropriating land, as well as being pointed out by small farmers to have threatened and ordered the killing of those who opposed him in the process.¹⁶

In 2019, Greenpeace research showed that Cargill buys grain from a large farm in Bahia involved in deforestation and intimidation of traditional communities,¹⁷ in a place where two leaders had been shot that year. The company that owns the farm is suspected of buying favourable rulings from judges in the region.¹⁸

In November 2021, Global Witness' research showed that Cargill operated businesses with soy producers involved in conflicts with small farmers in Correntina, western Bahia. This includes cases of intimidation, destruction of community property and death threats to members of traditional communities.¹⁹

A subsequent 2022 investigation into the case by Repórter Brasil revealed new connections between trading companies operating in the European market and land conflicts in the region, including Cargill itself. The local community reports that coexistence with the agribusinesses includes constant threats made by private security teams hired by the companies to guard the area. The soybean produced by Agrícola Xingu, a company linked to the conflict in the region, was later acquired by ALZ Grãos, which has Cargill among its clients.^{20/21} Other studies and research have also connected Cerrado deforesters to Cargill's supply chain.

In May 2021, Dutch organisation AidEnvironment showed that Palmeira Farm, owned by the SLC Agrícola group, had 4,700 hectares of Cerrado consumed by fire. The deforestation occurred legally, after environmental permits were issued.²² Reports produced by Chain Action Research point to a large loss of forest cover occurring in areas owned by SLC Agrícola between 2015 and 2020, close to 210 km².^{23/24} SLC Agrícola is one of Brazil's largest producers of soy, corn, and cotton,²⁵ and Cargill is one of their main traders of their produce.²⁶

In 2022, another study by Repórter Brasil showed that part of the production from farms with interdicted areas in the Cerrado was bought by Cargill and financed by BNDES (Brazil's National Bank for Economic and Social Development). One of them was banned by Ibama for "not having an environmental permit granted by the competent environmental authority". Even so, its owner took out three millionaire loans indirectly operated by the banks Santander, Sicredi and Bradesco. The grain from the Lucas do Rio Verde property was purchased by Cargill in 2018, after the environmental violation, but before the producer was added to Ibama's list of violators.²⁷

Cargill and 13 other agribusiness giants signed a commitment at COP27 in Egypt in December 2022 to eliminate deforestation by 2025. As demonstrated by Repórter Brasil, however, the companies cannot even meet their own environmental conservation goals and help export soy produced in deforested areas to Europe.²⁸

Labour Rights Violations

Investigations by the press and civil society have also shown links to labour rights violations among Cargill's suppliers.

In 2018, labour inspectors found workers on two cocoa farms subjected to precarious housing conditions, paid less than the minimum wage and without access to mandatory protective equipment or drinking water. The workers on both farms traded the cocoa harvested with the same intermediary, who said he sold the product directly to Cargill and other companies.²⁹

A 2021 investigation by Repórter Brasil showed that Cargill's grain transport down the Madeira River in Rondônia has been linked to a series of serious injuries resulting from labour accidents and violations of safety standards. Employees and former employees of a company hired by Cargill to transport soybeans have suffered serious labour accidents, most often after irregular journeys of over 30 hours without rest. Workers also complain about exposure to the grain's pesticide-laden dust and the company's omission.³⁰



Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

¹⁵ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/comunidade-tradicional/camponeses-da-serra-do-centro/>

¹⁶ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2018/09/empresario-euclides-de-carli-acusado-mortes-roubo-terras-nordeste/>

¹⁷ <https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/27560/greenpeace-report-brazil-agronegocio-estrondo-fast-food-deforestation-violence/>

¹⁸ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2019/12/bunge-e-cargill-compram-soja-contaminada-por-violencia-e-desmatamento-do-agronegocio-estrondo-diz-greenpeace/>

¹⁹ <https://www.globalwitness.org/pt/global-commodity-traders-are-fuelling-land-conflicts-in-brazils-cerrado-pt/>

²⁰ https://reporterbrasil.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Monitor_Cerrado_NOV_V3.pdf

²¹ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2022/06/soy-produced-by-company-involved-in-a-land-conflict-in-matopiba-supplies-the-industrys-multinationals/>

²² https://reporterbrasil.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Monitor_Cerrado_NOV_V3.pdf

²³ <https://chainreactionresearch.com/the-chain-active-fires-detected-in-slc-agricolas-fazenda-perdizes-property-in-the-amazon>

²⁴ <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2020/11/25/brazil-fires-deforestation-tesco-nandos-mcdonalds/>

²⁵ <https://www.slacagricola.com.br/quem-somos/>

²⁶ <https://www.aidenvironment.org/2021/05/28/aidenvironment-deforestation-system-detects-fire-in-top-cerrado-deforester-slc-agricolas-fazenda-palmeira/>

²⁷ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2022/12/bndes-aproveita-brecha-legal-e-financia-infratores-ambientais-no-cerrado/>

²⁸ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2022/12/at-cop27-agribusiness-giants-pledge-to-end-environmental-destruction-while-they-keep-buying-soy-from-deforesters/>

²⁹ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2021/04/cicatrizes-da-soja-trabalhadores-de-porto-em-rondonia-relatam-lesoes-e-abusos-em-empresa-contratada-pela-cargill/>

³⁰ <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Monitor-6-Cacau-PT.pdf>



Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

aidenvironment

Appendix B - Analysis of Deforestation and Human Rights Abuses Since 2014

by AidEnvironment

This analysis focuses on Cargill's operations from 2014, when Cargill expanded its zero-deforestation commitment to all commodities¹.

Chain Reaction Research (CRR)

Chain Reaction Research² is a consortium between AidEnvironment, Profundo, Climate Advisers, and Green Century, operating since 2014. The CRR analyzes sustainability and financial risks linked to commodity production in the global south, mainly focusing on Palm Oil in Southeast Asia and beef and soy in Latin America.

The study analyzed data from publications by the CRR consortium between 2014 and 2022 directly or indirectly linked to Cargill's global trading links.

Realtime Deforestation Monitoring System (RDM) & Rapid Response (RR)

The "Realtime Deforestation Monitoring System" (RDM)³ and the "Rapid Response" (RR)⁴ publish case studies linking recent deforestation and fire events visually confirmed to soy traders and meatpackers in Latin America.

The RR initiative was a partnership between AidEnvironment and Mighty Earth. For this analysis, we considered the **21 RR reports** published between 2019 and 2021. The RDM program is an AidEnvironment program established in January 2022. For this analysis, we considered the **11 RDM reports** published during 2022 and 2023.

For this analysis, we only included cases with potential links to Cargill under the "High" and "Medium" levels of certainty. The "high" level of certainty of links to soy traders is chosen when soy traders confirm trading links with the property or vice-versa, and when the trader has assets within the property. The "medium" level of certainty of links to soy traders is chosen when soy traders confirm trading links with the producer/company or vice-versa, and when traders do not confirm but neither deny the trading links with the property/producer.

¹ <https://news.mongabay.com/2014/09/cargill-commits-to-zero-deforestation-across-entire-global-supply-chain-all-commodities/>

² <https://chainreactionresearch.com/>

³ <https://www.mightyearth.org/rapidresponse/>

⁴ <https://aidenvironment.org/project/real-time-deforestation-monitoring/>

Chain Reaction Research

We analyzed **135 publications** by the Chain Reaction Research (CRR) consortium. These publications are either “chains” or “reports.” The CRR “chains” usually present a short analysis of relevant facts or comments on third-party analysis and reports. The CRR “reports” are an extended analysis focused on a company, commodity, sector, or specific theme. The analysis focused on giving each of the publications **one or more keywords** to classify the content. Then, after indexing the publications, we analyzed if Cargill was directly or indirectly linked to the reported case involving: deforestation, fires, and Human Rights violations.

CRR	#	Relevant keywords*	Only other keywords
Chains	92	57	35
Reports	43	17	26
	135	74	61

*Deforestation, fires, Human Rights violations

Around 55% of the analyzed publications are linked to the selected relevant keywords. Among these publications, we found:

50 cases linked to deforestation

15 cases linked to fires

9 cases linked to Human Rights violations

Human Rights Violations

Among the nine cases linked to Human Rights violations, five are related to **Palm Oil production in Southeast Asia**. These cases are linked to Felda Global Ventures (FGV), Indofood, Sime Darby, and Fagiono family-linked companies (First Resources, FAP Agr, Ciliandry Angky Abadi). All these companies were on Cargill’s palm oil supplier list at the time of the analyzed publications.

- **Felda Global Ventures:** in 2015, an article from the Wall Street Journal reported labor abuses in Felda’s palm oil plantation in Malaysia. At the time, Cargill and RSPO said they were unaware of the violations and would investigate them. In 2020, the US government published a “Withhold Release Order (WRO)” on palm oil products produced by Felda Global Ventures.
- **Indofood:** was sanctioned by the RSPO for labor conditions violations. At the time of the report, Cargill had cut ties with the company after that.
- **Sime Darby:** after the alleged forced labor conditions in Palm Oil plantations in Malaysia, Sime Darby was banned from the US market. At the time of the ban, Sime Darby was still on Cargill’s Palm Oil supplier list.
- **Fagiono family-linked companies** (First Resources, FAP Agr, Ciliandry Angky Abadi-CAA): FAP and CAA are linked to several social conflicts in Palm Oil concessions. Although there is evidence of ownership overlap between the three companies, First Resources denied any ownership link with FAP or CAA. First Resources is on Cargill’s supplier list at the time of the report.

There are also three cases linked to **Palm Oil production in Latin America**. These are linked to two companies: Agropalma and BrasilBioFuels (BBF, former Biopalma). Cargill is a relevant buyer of palm oil from both companies.

- **Agropalma:** linked to Human Rights violations through social conflicts, land-grabbing cases, and poor labor conditions.
- **BrasilBioFuels** (former Biopalma): established in 2007 by the mining company Vale, also linked to a series of environmental impacts and Human Rights violations.

There is one case linked to **soy production in Latin America**. An investigation by “De Olho nos Ruralistas” and EarthSight revealed that Cargill exported soy to the UK from the property “**Brasília do Sul**” (Mato Grosso do Sul). The farm is under an ownership dispute impacting the **Guarani Kaiowá** Indigenous population.

The list of the analyzed publications can be viewed at www.burninglegacy.org/Aidenvironment and is organized by date, type (chain/report), commodity, geography, title, target company/theme, keywords, mention to Cargill, and the link to the publication.

Deforestation and Fires in Southeast Asia

Among the 55 cases linked to deforestation and/or fire events, those linked to **Palm Oil production in Southeast Asia** are related to deforestation in the Palm Oil concessions of 18 different companies in Southeast Asia. Below is a summary of the amount of deforestation linked to each of these companies potentially linked to Cargill’s Palm Oil suppliers at the time of the report.

Company (Palm Oil production in Southeast Asia)	Estimated deforestation (hectares)	Period*
Varia Mitra Adalan (Eagle High Plantations)	1,000	2015
Gama plantations	21,500	2015-2018
Jhonlin Group	11,900	2018-2020
Bintulu Lumber Development	3,000	2018
Bewani Oil Palm Plantation	20,000	2010-2018
Mulia Sawit Agro Group	2,600	2018
Punti Lahan Khatulistiwa	900	2018
Mulia Sawit Group	2,600	2018
Indonusa	1,930	2019
Tunas Baru Lampung	1,350	2019
Peputra Group	2,100	2019
Best Group	1,280	2019
Tabung Haji Plantations	2,500	2016-2018
First Resources	100	2020
Ciliandry Angky Abadi	3,200	2020
Sumber Tani Agung Resources	270	2021
Permata Sawit Mandiri	2,450	2020-2021
Sawit Rokan Semesta	600	2022



Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

We also found cross-commodities cases linked to forest plantations operated by Palm Oil suppliers to Cargill. These cases are linked to five companies: Indofood, United Malacca Berhad, Djarum, Astra Agro Lestari, and FAP Agr. Cargill also had potential links to fire events in Palm Oil concessions in Indonesia between 2014 and 2018.

Deforestation and Fires in Latin America

Among the 55 cases linked to deforestation and fire events, those linked to **soy and Palm Oil production in Latin America** are related to four soy producers and two palm oil producers in Brazil. Cargill is among the largest soy buyers of SLC Agrícola Brasil Agro. CRR reports also link Cargill to exposure to deforestation risk in municipalities where Cargill is the leading soy exporter. Below is a summary of estimated deforestation in properties of Cargill's soy and palm oil suppliers in Brazil.

Cargill's soy and palm oil suppliers in Brazil		Estimated deforestation (hectares)	Period*
Soy	SLC Agrícola	39,000	2011-2017
		17,000	2018
		1,350	2019
		6,550	2019-2020
		10,150	2020
	Brasil Agro (Agrifirma)	21,690	2012-2017
		5,070	2018
		1,200	2018
		11,900(*)	2020
	JJF Holding	10,000(*)	2022
26,840		2013-2019	
Aliança Agrícola do Cerrado (Sodrugestvo)	2,500	2020	
	830	2018-2022	
Palm Oil	Agropalma	50	2008-2021
	BrasilBioFuels (BBF)	730	2008-2021

In 2018, Cargill, Bunge, and three other soy traders received a collective environmental fine of USD 6.7 million from IBAMA (Federal Environmental Agency) for links to illegal deforestation in the Cerrado biome. IBAMA stated, "during the investigation, it was verified that the anticipated purchase of grains financed the illegal activity."

Fires

In 2019, CRR found 13,300 fire alerts close to Cargill's facilities in Brazil (within a 25 km radius of Cargill's silos) and 12,078 fire alerts in 2020.



Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

Cases Linked to Cargill Since 2019 Realtime Deforestation Monitoring System & Rapid Response

Deforestation and Fires in Latin America

Among the 32 reports considered in this analysis (21 Rapid Response reports and 11 Realtime Deforestation reports), we found **35 cases** covering **48,913 hectares of deforestation** in Amazon and Cerrado biomes that are potentially linked to Cargill. Cargill had confirmed trading links with 14 of these cases. On the right is a summary of the data related to these 35 cases and the deforested area linked to the detailed information. On the next page (page 7-8), we present the details of the 14 cases with which Cargill confirmed trading links in different levels.

The detailed list of the analysed cases is in the separate file ("Cases - Cargill") and includes: the type and report number (access link), biome, municipality, state, visually confirmed deforestation (hectares), number of fire alerts (with comments), ownership, property name, land tenure registration code, CAR registration number (Forest Code), area property (hectares), coordinates property and deforestation, period of deforestation, the area inside Legal Reserve or APP (Forest Code) (hectares), type of vegetation, level of priority for biodiversity conservation, vicinity to conservation unities and Indigenous territories, embargoed areas and environmental fines linked to the property or owner, companies or corporations linked to the property or owner, other linked properties, presence of recent soy cultivation, the main commodity produced, level of certainty of connection to traders (High or Medium), municipality soy trade and production data, warehouses (50 km), soy supply chain details, other supply chain information, general comments about the cases, sources, and Cargill replies.

Data linked to the reported deforested area	Hectares	# Cases
Total Deforestation reported	48,913	35
Inside Legal Reserve (Forest Code)	13,948	12
Amazon biome	9,996	11
Cerrado biome	38,917	24
Extremely high priority (biodiversity conservation)	23,235	11
Overlapping Conservation Areas	16,189	6
Close by Indigenous Territories	5,978	4
Fire alerts	287 (alerts)	5
Confirmed relationship by Cargill (in different levels)	29,786	14

The list of the analyzed case studies can be viewed at www.burninglegacy.org/Aidenvironment

List of the Analyzed Cases with Trading Links Confirmed by Cargill

Date	# Report	Biome	Municipality	State	Deforested area (hectares)	Name property
May-19	RR-2	Cerrado	Formosa do Rio Preto	Bahia	1,355	FAZENDA PARCEIRO
Nov-19	RR-8	Amazon	Canarana	Mato Grosso	1,145	Fazenda Cocal
Mar-20	RR-11	Cerrado	Formosa do Rio Preto	Bahia	5,200	Fazenda Bom Jardim e Outras (Fazenda Parceiro)
May-20	RR-13	Cerrado	Luís Eduardo Magalhães	Bahia	3,634	Fazenda Bananal VIII - Parcela 2
May-10	RR-13	Amazon	Santa Carmem	Mato Grosso	496	Fazenda Soledade
Jun-20	RR-14	Cerrado	Tasso Fragoso	Maranhão	4,667	Palmeira
Jun-20	RR-14	Cerrado	Luís Eduardo Magalhães	Bahia	1,579	Fazenda Bananal and Bananal X (Fazenda Sertimob)
Aug-20	RR-17	Amazon	União do Sul	Mato Grosso	1,468	Fazenda Floresta Ramada I, II, III, IV and V (Fazenda Califórnia)
Sep-20	RR-18	Cerrado	Luís Eduardo Magalhães	Bahia	3,634	Fazenda Bananal, Fazenda Bananal VII, IX, and X
Oct-20	RR-20	Cerrado	Formosa do Rio Preto	Bahia	777	Fazenda Santo Cristo II
Feb-22	RDM-1	Cerrado	Jaborandi	Bahia	360	Fazenda Roberta
Apr-22	RDM-2	Cerrado	Santa Filomena	Piauí	1,976	Fazenda Ad Rubi
Jun-22	RDM-3	Cerrado	Barreiras	Bahia	1,747	Fazenda Santa Rosa I, II, and III
Sep-22	RDM-5	Cerrado	São Desidério	Bahia	1,748	Fazenda Santa Maria



Appendix C - Sampling of Cargill Deforestation and Human Rights Abuses

Documented by Other Organizations Since 2014

“We can all be reasonable people and see that we have significantly more work to do.”

Ruth Kimmelshue, Cargill's head of supply chain and chief sustainability officer¹

Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

2015

- In a report by Greenomics Indonesia, Cargill is found to be purchasing palm oil linked to deforestation in Papua New Guinea.²

2016

- Cargill abandons a no-deforestation private agreement in Indonesia, saying the government's recent efforts to strengthen its certification standards were sufficient.³

2017

- In a report by Mighty Earth, Cargill found to be one of the two largest customers of industrial-scale deforestation in Bolivia.⁴ Months after the deforestation was exposed, investigators re-visited the sites and found Cargill still driving deforestation. Between Cargill and Bunge, they had cleared the equivalent of 10,000 football fields for soy.⁵
- In a report by Mighty Earth, Cargill is found to help drive the destruction of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire's forests— buying cocoa grown through the illegal clearing of protected forests and national parks as a standard practice. In Côte d'Ivoire, where Cargill is the largest trader, an estimated 40% of the cocoa came from inside national parks and other protected areas.⁶
- Cargill joins other chocolate and cocoa companies and the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana in the Cocoa and Forests Initiative, committing themselves to immediately end sourcing from national parks and protected areas, to restore forests, and to shift to more responsible practices. But a report by Mighty Earth shows that a year later, deforestation had increased.⁷

2018

- Along with four other traders, Cargill is fined 29 million dollars by the Brazilian government for purchasing soy connected to the illegal deforestation in the Cerrado.⁸
- In a report by Mighty Earth, Cargill is linked to the destruction of the Gran Chaco in Argentina and Paraguay.⁹

2019

- In a report by Greenpeace International, Cargill is found to be exporting soy from an agricultural estate in Brazil with a long record of violence, illegality, and environmental destruction. Cargill supplier Estrondo had recently renewed a permit to deforest more than 60,000 acres of land in the rapidly-disappearing Cerrado. Members of traditional geraizeira communities have reported being detained, abducted, shot, and having access to communal lands restricted by Estrondo's private security force.¹⁰
- Following a season of record fires in the Amazon—nearly all due to intentional land clearings for industrial agriculture—a report by Mighty Earth finds that the majority of fires are found to have been set along BR-163, which leads to Cargill's port at Santarem.¹¹
- According to the Stockholm Environment Institute and Trase, Cargill along with ADM and Bunge found to be exporting 13 million tons of soy from the Cerrado,– the production of which was associated with the clearance of 648 square miles of Cerrado vegetation.¹²

¹ <https://www.startribune.com/cargill-puts-up-30-million-to-end-forest-destruction-in-brazil/511237702/>

² https://www.greenomics.org/docs/IPOP_Implementation_Report-05_Greenomics.pdf

³ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-palmoil/palm-oil-firms-ditch-no-deforestation-pact-in-indonesia-idUSKCN0Z105G>

⁴ https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/MightyEarth_MysteryMeat.pdf

⁵ <https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/StillAtIt.pdf>

⁶ https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/chocolates_dark_secret_english_web.pdf

⁷ https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/Chocolate-Report_english_FOR-WEB.pdf

⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-deforestation-bunge-carg-idUKKCN1101NV>

⁹ https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ME_DEFORESTATION_EU_English_R8.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-international-stateless/2020/04/86b5fe06-greenpeace_underfire_artwork_pages.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.mightyearth.org/2019/08/29/the-companies-behind-the-burning-of-the-amazon/>

¹² <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/04/brazil-soy-trade-linked-to-widespread-deforestation-carbon-emissions/>



Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

2020

- According to a collaborative investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, Greenpeace Unearthed, ITV News, and the Guardian, 66,000 tons of soy beans tracked from Cerrado's Matopiba region, including some from Formosa do Rio Preto, the Cerrado's most heavily deforested community, were loaded aboard a Cargill-leased bulk tanker to Cargill's Seaforth soya crush plant in Liverpool. At least nine of Cargill suppliers in the Cerrado were found to have been involved in recent land clearance. Of the land owned or used by these companies since 2015, researchers found 309 square miles of deforestation and 12,397 recorded fires.¹³
- Mighty Earth report finds Cargill to be buying soy from suppliers that have cleared and deforested at least 65,000 acres across 10 farms in the Brazilian Cerrado since August 2020.¹⁴

"When it comes to soy, what we see is deforestation increasing more and more to make way for [the crop]. As a result, our rivers, our streams are drying up. We Indigenous people do not make soy soup, do not feed our children soy. We see many soy plantations; sometimes, there are 100 thousand hectares per owner.... More and more land and deforestation—they seek more and more land. All over the region where Cargill operates, they are destroying the environment around them and driving out or threatening the Indigenous people that live there."

-Alessandra Munduruku, a leader of the Amazonian Munduruku People.

¹³ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/25/revealed-uk-supermarket-and-fast-food-chicken-linked-to-brazil-deforestation-soy-soya>
¹⁴ <https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/Mighty-Earth-Soy-tracker-Promises-Promises-V6.pdf>
¹⁵ <https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2021-05-19/loophole-lets-soya-farmers-tear-down-the-amazon>
¹⁶ <https://www.ft.com/content/5c44969c-b3a4-4a47-963a-b0b8300ffb2a>
¹⁷ <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=25180>
¹⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jan/14/feed-supplier-to-uk-farm-animals-still-linked-to-amazon-deforestation>

2021

- The Bureau of Investigative Journalists finds Cargill found to be sourcing soy from Chinese-owned Fiagril and the multinational Aliança Agrícola do Cerrado, both of which have allegedly been supplied by a farmer fined and sanctioned multiple times after destroying swathes of rainforest.¹⁵
- France names Cargill as one of two leading importers of soybeans from areas at risk of deforestation.¹⁶
- According to a report by Rainforest Action Network, Cargill resumed business with Guatemalan palm oil supplier REPSA (Reforestadora de Palma S.A.), whose links to corruption, bribery, violence, and intimidation forced them to suspend business ties in 2018. United Nations bodies cautioned the Guatemalan government that actions by REPSA and several other firms, 'could be constitutive of indicators of human trafficking and forced labor and other severe forms of labor exploitation.'¹⁷

2022

- An investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, Greenpeace Unearthed, Repórter Brasil and Ecostorm uncovered Cargill's links with the Brazilian supplier farm, Fazenda Conquista. The farm in the Brazilian Amazon was responsible for eight sq km of deforestation since 2013, with multiple forest fires recorded in 2020. Its trading with Cargill includes supplying soya, and the farm has signed a deal to deliver 5,700 tons of corn to the company this year.¹⁸
- A report by Earthsight finds Cargill sourcing from 24,000-acre soy farm in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul that operates on the ancestral land of the Guarani Kaiowá, an Indigenous group that has spent the last several decades fighting violence and forced eviction.¹⁹
- A study by Unearthed and The Bureau of Investigative Journalism finds Cargill to be sourcing soya from cleared Amazon land in Mato Grosso state, Brazil, Fazenda Conquista. The farm has been linked to an estimated 3 sq miles of destruction in the Amazon since 2013, with multiple fires recorded in 2020. Conquista's trading with Cargill has included supplying soya and the farm has signed a deal to deliver 5,700 tons of corn to the company this year.²⁰
- Global Canopy, the Stockholm Environment Institute, and Trase find Cargill linked to regions in Brazil with the most deforestation and conversion.²¹

2023

- An investigation by Mighty Earth, Repórter Brazil and Ecostorm combining satellite data with observations on the ground shows evidence of a direct link between illegal deforestation in the Amazon and supplies of soya beans shipped from Brazil to the UK by US commodities giant Cargill. The report identifies the Santa Ana farm in Brazil's Mato Grosso state on which thousand acres of forest were burned in 2022.²²



Credit: Victor Moriyama / Rainforest Foundation Norway

¹⁹ <https://www.earthsight.org.uk/news/US-agribusiness-soy-linked-to-stolen-indigenous-land>
²⁰ <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2022/01/14/agribusiness-giant-cargill-amazon-deforestation/>
²¹ <https://www.sei.org/about-sei/press-room/tougher-action-needed-to-stop-soy-deforestation-in-brazil/>
²² <https://news.sky.com/story/uk-meat-industry-and-supermarkets-including-tesco-asda-sainsburys-and-morrisons-causing-illegal-deforestation-in-the-amazon-12856107>

A Grain of Truth

burninglegacy.org

A Grain Of Truth and burninglegacy.org are projects of **STAND**.earth

For questions, email cargill@stand.earth