

BEEF, BANKS AND THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

How Brazilian beef companies and their international financiers greenwash their links to Amazon deforestation





Tapajós river basin, next to Sawré Muiybu indigenous land, is home to the Munduruku people, Pará state, Brazil. The Brazilian government plans to build 43 dams in the region. The largest planned dam, São Luiz do Tapajós, will impact the life of indigenous peoples and riverside communities. Dams like these threaten the fragile biome of the Amazon, where rivers are fundamental to regeneration and distribution of plant species and the survival of local flora. Renewable energy, such as solar and wind, holds the key to Brazil's energy future. © Rogério Assis / Greenpeace

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➤ In just one Amazon state over three years, beef giants JBS, Marfrig and Minerva bought cattle from a combined 379 ranches containing 20,000 football fields worth of illegal deforestation, a Global Witness investigation reveals.

➤ The companies failed to monitor other ranches with an estimated total of 140,000 football fields worth of deforestation, to check if they complied with their no-deforestation pledges.

➤ Flawed assessments by international auditors DNV-GL and Grant Thornton claimed compliance with the companies' pledges, but Global Witness can disclose serious doubts about their findings.

➤ World-famous financial institutions such as Deutsche Bank, Santander, Barclays, BNP Paribas, ING and HSBC continue bankrolling the firms despite many warnings of their failures.

Described as the most primitive mammal on Earth and unchanged in millions of years,¹ the Amazon tapir is known as the 'gardener of the forest'.² It eats vegetation and deposits seeds miles away, enabling trees to spread.³ As the trees grow they connect to an underground network of roots, fungi and bacteria,⁴ a wood-wide-web developed over almost half a billion years to⁵ exchange nutrients and antibiotic protection and store carbon in the trees' trunks and the soil.⁶ The trees branches provide homes to a myriad of species,⁷ while their leaves release vapour that forms huge rivers of water in the air, creating clouds that drop rainfall thousands of miles away.⁸ Some scientists estimate the geological history of the Amazon is 25 million years old.⁹ Yet now this immensely complex and ancient ecosystem is threatened by an animal vastly more populous than the tapir: the common cow.¹⁰



The Amazon Tapir is known as the "gardener of the forest" because of its ability to spread seeds. © Greenpeace / John Novis

A cattle ranch in the Amazon, dividing up its cows. © Fábio Nascimento / Greenpeace



Stopping the conversion of rainforests into pasture for beef production could reduce Brazil's agricultural carbon emissions by 69%,¹¹ help slow¹² the sixth mass extinction of species¹³ and maintain a crucial carbon sink, vital for cooling our climate.^{14,15} But as a new Global Witness investigation now shows, a chain of actors from cattle ranchers through to multinational beef traders, their US and European auditors, international financiers and the governments that regulate them, are either destroying the Amazon, not doing enough, or looking the other way. Worse, some of this devastation also involved human rights abuses against indigenous and landless peoples. Unless these issues are confronted, the world's biggest rainforest could face an irreversible tipping point¹⁶ that might destroy its ecology and the communities that live in and rely on it.

Brazil's three largest beef companies¹⁷ are JBS, Marfrig and Minerva. In the 1990s they were relatively small businesses¹⁸ but emerged as global giants in the late 2000s with the support of extensive handouts from the Brazilian government.¹⁹ In 2017, executives of Marfrig and JBS²⁰ became embroiled in the sprawling Car Wash affair, one of the biggest corruption scandals of all time. A JBS executive admitted to bribing 1,829 politicians to the tune of over \$100 million.²¹ Meanwhile, Marfrig owner Marcos Molina paid \$19 million in compensation after a staff member from his company was accused of bribery.²² A Minerva slaughterhouse was investigated in 2017 for allegedly bribing Ministry of Agriculture inspectors – the company says there was no complaint made against its staff²³ and it collaborated fully with investigations.²⁴ Yet seemingly, none of this dented their business.

Combined, in 2017 alone, they slaughtered more than 18 million cattle.²⁵ They account for more than 40% of the slaughter capacity in the Amazon²⁶ and 64% of total Brazilian beef exports, reaching markets in the EU, US and China.²⁷ And this is a cash-cow business. The companies' combined gross profit for 2018 amounted to over \$8 billion.²⁸ Rather than rearing their own cattle, they source cows from thousands of independent ranches. It can now be revealed some of this network is deeply implicated in tropical deforestation.

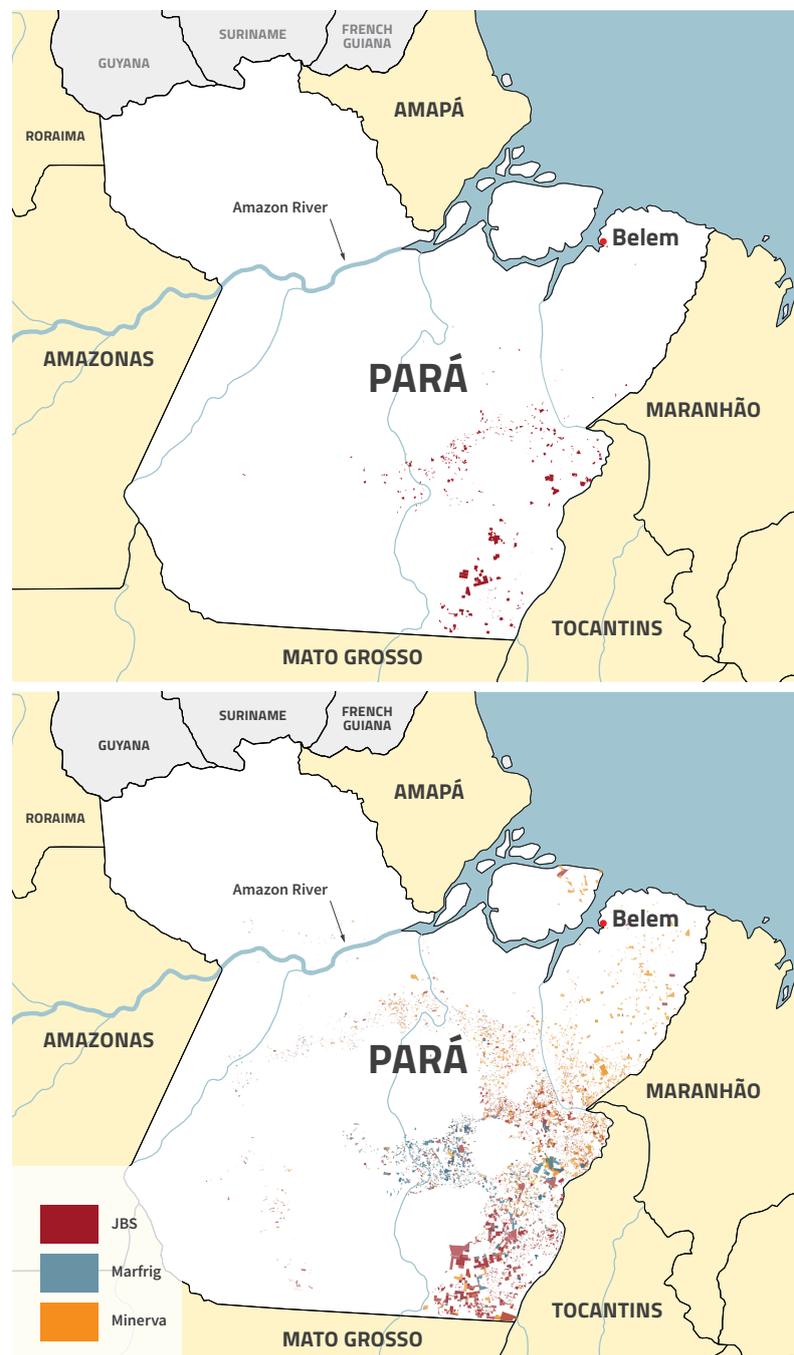
Swathes of deforestation

Global Witness investigated the three companies' operations in Pará, the second-largest Amazon state – greater in size than France, Spain and Portugal combined.^{29,30,31} Between 2017 and 2019, JBS bought cattle from at least **327 ranches** in which deforestation occurred, Marfrig **from 89** and Minerva **from 16**. Brazilian government satellite data shows a forested area of over 20,000 football fields was cleared in these ranches,³² all of it illegal.³³ This breached the companies' legal obligations to not purchase

from such ranches, where these did not have the relevant permits that authorised the deforestation.

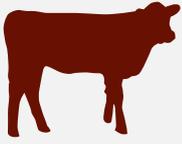
Worse, the companies' direct suppliers bought cattle from other ranches, so-called 'indirect suppliers'. Of these, at least 4,000 contained almost 140,000 football fields worth of deforestation, satellite data shows.³⁴ According to their legal obligations, the beef companies should have monitored them for deforestation and blocked them if their cattle ended up in their slaughterhouses, but failed to.

Top: The location of the combined 379 ranches in the state of Pará that JBS, Marfrig and Minerva purchased from between 2017 and 2019 and which contained illegal deforestation. **Bottom:** The location of the "indirect suppliers" linked to the beef companies' supply chains between 2016 and 2019.



INDIRECT SUPPLIERS

Cows that are bred can be kept for 8-10 months



Cows can be reared for up to 16 months



DIRECT SUPPLIERS

Cows can be fattened for 6 months to 2 years



Six case studies in this report illustrate how JBS, Marfrig and Minerva bought cattle in multiple years from ranches with illegal deforestation. Some were accused by state agencies of environmental crime, land grabbing, illegal use of indigenous land and even violence. The beef companies denied all of the allegations.

Global Witness's investigation also casts doubt on the veracity of audits done by mammoth Norwegian auditor DNV-GL and its American rival Grant Thornton, which variously claimed JBS, Marfrig and Minerva were compliant with their commitments. Yet they failed to spot a vast number of cases of sourcing from deforested areas. The auditors deflected blame by claiming they are bound by methodologies given to them to carry out the audits.

Meanwhile, iconic banks with no-deforestation commitments continue backing these beef companies - despite multiple warnings of their failures.³⁵ JBS, Marfrig and Minerva received over \$9 billion in investments and loans between 2017 and 2019, which was either facilitated or provided by 250 financial institutions, Global Witness research has previously found - 41% of this from banks and investors with headquarters in the US and the EU. Household names like Deutsche Bank, Barclays,

Santander, HSBC and Morgan Stanley all rode the wave of the beef companies' global rise.³⁶ And in March 2020 alone, 30 importers from China and Hong Kong, 11 from the EU and one from the US bought beef products from the companies.³⁷ Walmart,³⁸ Carrefour³⁹ and Burger King⁴⁰ are recent customers. The continued connection of these companies to deforestation highlights their failure to do adequate due diligence and is especially egregious given the record of the beef giants and the well-known deforestation risks linked to Brazilian beef exports. Far away consumers and bank account holders are thus exposed to these Amazon tragedies.

Worse, an absence of laws in Europe and the US means banks, investors, credit rating agencies, importers and supermarkets are not legally required to carry out any due diligence on deforestation before servicing or doing business with the beef companies.

The exposé you are about to read shows how relying on an unregulated private sector with voluntary no-deforestation policies has failed to tackle forest destruction and could contribute to the permanent loss of the Amazon rainforest.⁴¹ There is an alternative. The UK and EU member states are currently considering new laws

Forest burning in the Amazon has reached record levels in 2020 according to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE). Photo: Lalo de Almeida





There are more cows in Brazil than people. © Greenpeace / Daniel Beltrá

to end their complicity in deforestation by requiring their companies, including financiers, to remove deforestation from their supply chains and portfolios. This is also sending a clear market signal to beef companies, and their financiers, that expectations are changing, developments which governments like China and the US will also be watching with interest. The Amazon, and the people and species that rely on it, deserve this alternative.

Destroying the Amazon

It is estimated 70% of cleared lands in the Brazilian Amazon are now populated by cattle,⁴² leading Brazil to have the second largest herd in the world.⁴³ There are more cows in Brazil than people,⁴⁴ 40% of them in the Amazon,⁴⁵ all bred, bought and sold by some 390,000 ranches.⁴⁶ Beef production in Brazil alone is reported to be the leading driver of deforestation emissions across Latin America.⁴⁷ Between 2002 and 2018, the World Resources Institute calculates more than 20 million hectares of primary tropical forest were lost in the Brazilian Amazon. This destruction is equivalent to a forest almost the size of the UK, millions of years old, being cleared in just 16 years.⁴⁸ Last year, marked by Amazon fires that disturbed global audiences, saw Brazil's largest area of deforestation since 2008⁴⁹ - with 2020 shaping up to be worse.⁵⁰ The Bolsonaro government has cut funding for forest conservation and environmental law enforcement and is rolling back the recognition of indigenous lands, undermining efforts to preserve the forests.⁵¹

In 2009, Greenpeace Brasil revealed how Brazilian beef companies frequently bought cattle from ranches linked to deforestation.⁵² As a result, JBS, Marfrig

and Minerva⁵³ pledged not to purchase cattle from ranches that contained any deforestation that occurred after October 2009, that were embargoed by Brazil's environmental inspection agency Ibama, or that overlapped with protected or indigenous community lands. They also promised not to buy from ranchers accused by prosecutors of land-grabbing operations.⁵⁴ The agreements aimed to force the trio to use their commercial muscle to stop any suppliers from clearing forests.

The same year, beef companies began signing parallel agreements with Federal prosecutors in the Amazon state of Pará, expanding to other states like Mato Grosso and Acre,⁵⁵ in exchange for escaping prosecution over their lawbreaking.⁵⁶ These agreements required JBS, Marfrig and Minerva⁵⁷ not to buy cattle from ranches that contained any illegal deforestation after July 22nd 2008. Thus for more than a decade, these three beef traders have two similar sets of deforestation commitments in place, one voluntary and the other legally binding. This arrangement provided JBS, Marfrig and Minerva with a perfect riposte to importers or financiers.

But how to verify if the companies comply with their commitments? Step forward the auditors, typically international accountancy or compliance firms. These corporate giants would provide a Western stamp of approval that the three were not buying tainted cattle.

Global Witness now lifts the lid on the reality of the giant companies' supply chains – and the flawed auditing giving it a clean bill of health, none of which the beef companies' financiers sufficiently scrutinised or questioned.

JBS: BREACHING ITS COMMITMENTS



JBS is one of the biggest beef companies in the world.
Luke Sharrett/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JBS is thought to be the biggest beef company in the world,⁵⁸ accounting for 30% of all the cattle slaughtered in Brazil in 2017⁵⁹ and sourcing its herd from thousands of Amazon ranches each year.⁶⁰ Its reported gross profits for 2019 amounted to over \$5.6 billion,⁶¹ and it has over 200,000 employees worldwide.⁶² It plays an important role in ensuring ranchers conserve their forests. At first, the company's commitments seemed to be working,⁶³ with Amazon deforestation reaching an eight-year low in 2012, which coincided with various government initiatives to tackle the problem.⁶⁴ When the agreements were signed, 36% of JBS's suppliers had recent deforestation - but this fell to 4% by 2013.⁶⁵ By 2014, JBS reported it had blocked 2,259 ranches from its list of suppliers.⁶⁶ Audits by the UK accountants BDO found that between 2011 and 2015, an average of just 0.27% of its cattle purchases violated the Greenpeace agreement.⁶⁷ When Norwegian auditor DNV-GL took over the auditing contract, it found only four of 26,306 analysed cattle purchases were non-compliant between 2016 and 2018.⁶⁸ In its 2018 Annual Sustainability Report, JBS proclaimed: "The company obtained the best result since auditing began in 2014, with 99.99% of purchases in compliance."⁶⁹ Even better, in its 2019 Sustainability Report it claimed it was "100% compliant" with its Greenpeace commitment.⁷⁰

On DNV-GL's own website, a headline read: "Report by DNV-GL attests that the company [JBS] follows its responsible purchase of raw materials in compliance with the Greenpeace agreement."⁷¹ In 2018, the Federal Prosecutors Office of Pará published the results of DNV-GL's audits for 2017, finding JBS was 100% compliant.⁷²

But Global Witness's investigation raises serious doubts about JBS's claims of compliance. The findings also

raise questions over the audits carried out by DNV-GL and of the failures of banks, investors, supermarkets and importers to insist on the supply chain transparency necessary for adequate due diligence.

What we did

Global Witness obtained all JBS's cattle transport permits from Pará for 2017, 2018 and 2019. The Federal Government requires these documents for sanitary control as cattle are transported around the country. They show the movement of cattle from birth to slaughter. Global Witness used these publicly accessible documents to determine the ranches of origin of all JBS cattle, then obtained boundaries for those ranches using state databases. These were overlaid with government satellite data to check for deforestation.

Working with Brazilian NGO Imazon, Global Witness investigators analysed whether the deforestation took place *after* the July 2008 and October 2009 cut-off point agreed with the Pará prosecutor and Greenpeace respectively.⁷³ Landsat and Sentinel satellite imagery were then used for further checks that deforestation occurred, and to remove any false positives. Finally, Pará state and Federal databases that publish deforestation permits were verified by Global Witness and with help from Imazon, to see whether the deforestation in the ranches was legal or illegal. This permit (called *Autorização de Supressão de Vegetação*) is required for rural producers that want to deforest in their property under Brazil's Forest Code - its main forest law. Under [Chapter 5 of the law, article 26 states](#): "The suppression of native vegetation for the alternative use of land, both on public and private land, depends ... on prior authorisation from the competent state organ." The competent state organ in Pará [authorised to issue such permits is the Environmental Secretariat \(SEMAS\)](#). The term native vegetation is defined in article 1, para A1 of the law as "forests and other forms of native vegetation." Additionally, Brazil has a [Federal Decree](#) on infractions related to the environment, Article 43 of which makes it an administrative infraction to: "Destroy, damage forests, or other forms of vegetation without authorisation from the competent authority." Thus, if no authorisation for deforestation is granted, it is considered an infraction under this law (see methodology for more details).

This investigation revealed that in 2017 alone, JBS purchased from at least 177 ranches that contained deforestation,⁷⁴ all of which Imazon and Global Witness found to be illegal.⁷⁵ Yet not one of these cases appeared in DNV-GL's audits as non-compliant under the prosecutor's or the Greenpeace agreement.⁷⁶ In 2018, JBS purchased from 231 ranches with deforestation,



Image from Brazil's Forest Inspection Agency (Ibama) at the frontline of Amazon deforestation. *Ibama*

all of it illegal according to Imazon and Global Witness. Again, DNV-GL's auditing had found the purchases were 100% compliant with the Greenpeace agreement.⁷⁷ (The prosecutor's audits have not yet been published for that year.) Audits for 2019 for either agreement have not been published yet. But Global Witness can reveal that in 2019 JBS purchased cattle from at least 204 ranches containing deforestation, all of it illegal.⁷⁸ An estimated 17,000 hectares of rainforest was lost in these ranches.⁷⁹ For evidence of the deforestation found in each ranch please access this [link](#).

When these allegations were put to JBS, it replied stating that in all of the cases the company was justified in purchasing from these ranches. In 40% of the 327 cases, JBS alleged the ranches were on the way to becoming compliant with Brazil's Forest Code, therefore able to be purchased from according to their agreements. In 22% of the cases, the company claims the deforestation identified by Global Witness was lower than 6.25 hectares and therefore suitable for purchasing from according to protocols set up in 2020 to implement the prosecutor's agreement. In 21% of the cases, JBS alleged that land boundary modifications of the ranches in question made them compliant with its agreements, while for a further 6% of cases the company claims its internal systems did not register purchases from those ranches. JBS also alleges that in 6% of the cases, its cattle purchases preceded the deforestation identified by Global Witness. In the remaining cases, it seeks to justify its cattle purchases by claiming these refer to a protocol set up in 2020 for monitoring the ranches compliance with its agreements that were not in place over the period contemplated (2017 to 2019). Only in one case did the company acknowledge they purchased

from a ranch that was not compliant but blamed this on errors in Brazil's forest inspection agency Ibama's website.

Global Witness, in turn, evaluated every one of these explanations and found JBS's claims were not justified for any of them, and stands by the initial allegations. Many of the justifications provided by JBS lacked coherence and were contradictory. For a more detailed analysis of JBS's justifications and Global Witness's counterclaims to each of these, please access this [link](#).

One handshake away

But these are merely the ranches JBS bought from directly. There are other farms it is supposed to be monitoring that breed and raise cattle, before selling them to JBS's direct suppliers, who fatten the cows and then sell them to the company. Within two years of signing the 2009 Greenpeace agreement, JBS was obliged to demonstrate⁸⁰ no such 'indirect suppliers' that contained deforestation were in its supply chain. The prosecutor's agreement also requires JBS to not purchase cattle from breeding, rearing and fattening ranches with illegal deforestation.⁸¹ But as DNV-GL's Greenpeace audits note, JBS failed to monitor these suppliers, and were unable to show they were deforestation-free.⁸² Global Witness has done their job for them.

Of all the indirect suppliers selling cattle to JBS's direct suppliers between 2016 and 2019, some 3,270 contained an estimated 98,000 hectares of deforestation after January 2009 (see methodology for details). They should have been monitored by JBS and removed from its supply chain if found to not comply with its prosecutor's

agreement. JBS should also have monitored 2,940 of their indirect suppliers to check if they complied with its Greenpeace agreement, as these ranches contained over 80,000 hectares of deforestation after October 2009.⁸³ But as stated by DNV-GL, this did not happen.⁸⁴ These findings make JBS's claims of 99% and 100% compliance with its Greenpeace and prosecutor's agreements seem risible.

When these allegations were put to the company, it stated that on the 23rd of September 2020 it announced its Green Platform initiative which it claims is groundbreaking in the use of "blockchain technology that will allow socioenvironmental monitoring to be extended to the other links in the production chain", including indirect suppliers. Yet upon reviewing the initiative, the company claims this monitoring will be complete only by 2025. Given JBS should have been monitoring all its indirect suppliers since 2011⁸⁵ this is essentially an admission of 14 years of failure. Worse, the initiative was short on detail and lacked clarity on whether the company will block or not indirect suppliers it finds do not comply with its commitments. The initiative also lacks transparency, since civil society was not invited to access the system JBS will use to monitor indirect suppliers to see if it is complying with its agreements or not. Finally, the company wants others to contribute to the financing it pledged to spend on the initiative, expecting them to pay for something it could and should have acted on a decade ago.⁸⁶

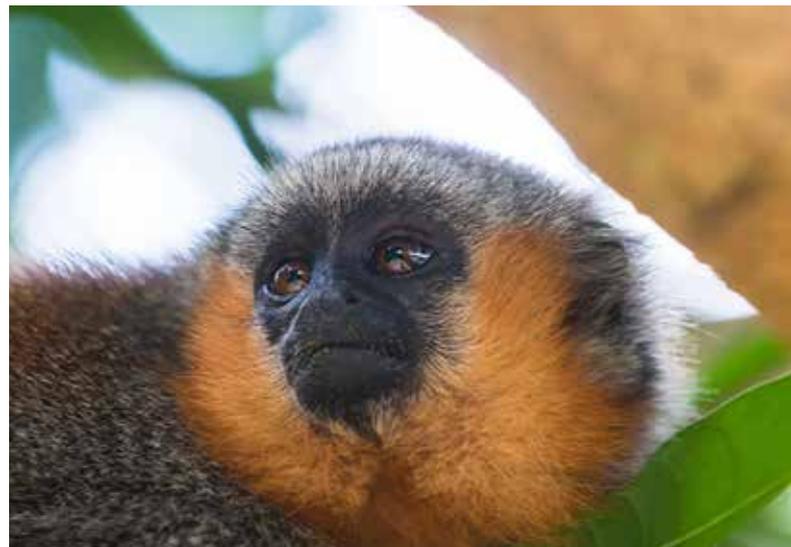
JBS also uses claims of a lack of transparency in the supply chain to defend its failure to monitor indirect suppliers. In 2018, DNV-GL reproduced JBS's claims that it was unable to monitor indirect suppliers because this "is only possible with full access to all [cattle transport permits]". The company also claimed these are "not public documents and are for the sole use of the Ministry of Agriculture".⁸⁷ Yet a legal analysis commissioned by Global Witness found that cattle transport permits are publicly accessible (see methodology for details). A leaked HSBC document, detailing the bank's concerns with JBS's failure to monitor indirect suppliers, also cites similar legal opinions commissioned by an American conservation group called the National Wildlife Federation. It states cattle transport permits "are public information systems and there are no restrictions on using these information systems to help improve supply chain traceability and deforestation monitoring in the cattle sector in Brazil."⁸⁸

Thus, according to various legal opinions, JBS could access and use cattle transport permits to monitor its indirect suppliers for deforestation if it chose to, and could have required its direct suppliers to provide these permits to it as a condition of purchasing from them. Brazilian NGOs like Imazon have also called for

the state to make it as easy as possible for third parties to access these documents so there can be improved accountability.⁸⁹ When these issues were put to JBS, it denied the permits were publicly accessible, stating they "are not, and have never been, publicly available", concluding that the website used by Global Witness to access the permits to monitor its indirect suppliers cannot be used by the company. It appears to undermine the importance of cattle transport permits as a public data source, yet for a decade failed to put forward any alternatives to gather its own data and commit to full supply chain transparency.

The effect of this has been to allow JBS to effectively greenwash its harmful behaviours, without any accountability for a decade-long failure to monitor indirect suppliers.

The Amazon is one of the most biodiverse rainforests in the world, with many more species not yet documented. © Valdemir Cunha / Greenpeace



CASE STUDY

BREAKING THE AMAZON'S HEART

The Amazon rainforest is a biological wonderland harbouring mind-bendingly bizarre and wonderful creatures, as noted by the renowned ethnobotanist Mark J Plotkin. It is home to tree-eating cat fish, vampire bats and vampire fish, pink dolphins, four-foot-long earthworms, monkeys the size of mice, monkey eating fish, lizards that run on water, sloths that swim, giant legless amphibians, insects that resemble half-eaten leaves and frogs flat as a pancake.⁹⁰

Yet this unparalleled biodiversity is now threatened by a manmade monoculture of pasture. The Pará municipality of São Félix do Xingu is one such place. The area is bigger than Austria and⁹¹ contains Terra do Meio, a densely forested region⁹² known as “the heart of the Amazon”.⁹³ Its medley of protected areas and rivers is home to many indigenous peoples, and little is known about the ecology of this area by outsiders.^{94,95} Yet the area is also notorious for deforestation,⁹⁶ containing one of the biggest cattle herds in Brazil,⁹⁷ with ranches littered along the borders of its protected areas.⁹⁸

Between 2017 and 2019, JBS purchased cattle from at least 109 ranches with deforestation present in São Félix do Xingu, all of it illegal under Imazon’s and Global Witness’s analysis.⁹⁹ Among them is the 4,355 hectare cattle ranch Fazenda El Shadai (also spelt as El Shaday), near the southern border.



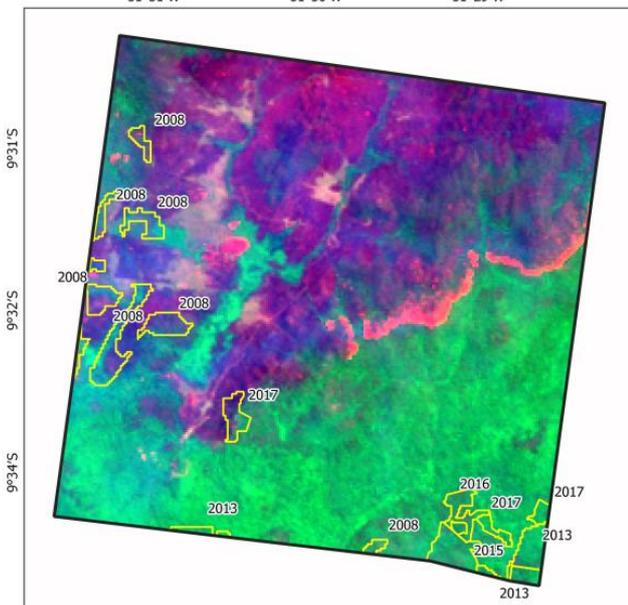
Sao Felix do Xingu in the Amazon state of Pará

A JBS slaughterhouse purchased 398 cattle from this ranch throughout 2017. Yet satellite data from Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research (INPE)¹⁰⁰ indicated two hotspots of deforestation carried out in 2015 and 2016 approximating 44 hectares – or 52 football fields. This was illegal, according to Imazon and Global Witness. Worse, midway through 2017 in May, Fazenda El Shadai was placed on Ibama’s map of embargoed areas¹⁰¹ for having 112 hectares of illegally cleared forests reserved for conservation.^{102,103} These are areas where Brazil’s environmental agency Ibama has inspected and found illegal activity, which they place on a blacklist that JBS

Fazenda El Shadai before deforestation

Data 1 - 04/09/2007

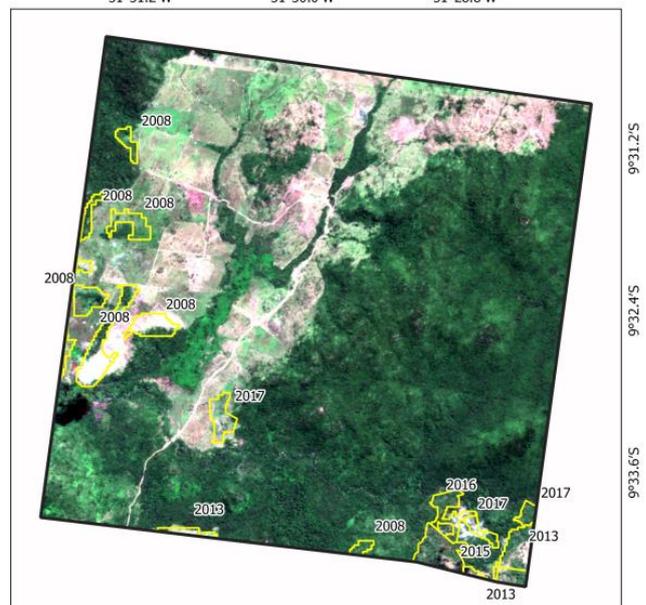
51°31'W 51°30'W 51°29'W



Fazenda El Shadai after deforestation

Data 2 - 07/05/2018

51°31.2'W 51°30.0'W 51°28.8'W



is supposed to check before buying from there - the rancher even appealed against Ibama's findings, but a judge found it had no merit.¹⁰⁴ Yet the beef company failed to spot this and bought from the ranch in December that year, contrary to its agreements.

In 2018, JBS bought another 366 cattle from the ranch and then another 762 cows in 2019, repeatedly breaching its agreements over multiple years, none of which was picked up on by DNV-GL's audits.¹⁰⁵ JBS even awarded a prize to the ranch in 2019 for the quality of cattle it produced – no matter that it was at the expense of the Amazon.¹⁰⁶

Not only that, but over the period Fazenda El Shadai was selling cattle to JBS, the ranch received cattle from three indirect suppliers that had a combined total of 285 hectares of deforestation.¹⁰⁷ These cattle could have ended up in JBS's supply chain, and it should have monitored these ranches for compliance with its agreements, but failed to. As of June 2018, one of these indirect suppliers was on Ibama's embargo list.¹⁰⁸

Another of these indirect suppliers, Fazenda Nova Alianca, had been a direct supplier to JBS from 2014 to 2018, containing 121 hectares of illegal deforestation, breaching the company's agreements. As of 2018 JBS appeared to stop buying from there. Yet in 2019 this ranch sent cattle to Fazenda El Shadai, which JBS failed to monitor to ensure cows from Nova Alianca did not enter into its supply chain. Thus what was once a non-compliant supplier that sold cattle directly to JBS, then became an indirect supplier whose cattle may have again ended up in JBS's slaughterhouse.

In response to this case, the company admitted the ranch El Shadai was on Ibama's website for embargoed areas but said it was not included in an excel sheet available on the webpage, which the company uses to block such ranches. Yet this ignores the fact that illegal deforestation occurred in the ranch *prior* to Ibama inspecting it and which the company could and should have detected using satellite data from Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), but failed to. Additionally, the ranch was in fact on a list in a [PDF document](#) on Ibama's website¹⁰⁹ that JBS should and could have consulted, but again failed to.

This is a litany of failures in the heart of the Amazon.

DNV-GL - A question of conduct

In 2016 and 2017, DNV-GL was carrying out audits on JBS on behalf of Greenpeace *and* the Pará prosecutor (both paid for, ultimately, by JBS itself). DNV-GL's Code of Conduct states it must avoid "any combination of roles and services that could be perceived as representing a threat to the impartiality and independence [of its] services. In particular, we do not classify, certify or verify our own work."¹¹⁰

DNV-GL has questions to answer about whether it complied with its code of conduct in relation to these audits.

DNV-GL's audits for the Greenpeace agreement claimed JBS's cattle purchases were 99.97% compliant for 2016¹¹¹ - yet its audits for the Pará prosecutor's agreement the same year showed almost 20% of JBS's purchases were not compliant.¹¹² There was thus a large discrepancy in two audits carried out by the firm on JBS's supply chain in the same year. At the time, JBS was widely criticised in the media for failing to comply with its prosecutor's agreement.¹¹³ It claimed DNV-GL had adopted a "conservative" view of what constituted non-compliance.¹¹⁴

In 2017, DNV-GL again audited JBS, finding it was now 100% adherent to the prosecutor's settlement too.¹¹⁵ In the space of one year, JBS had appeared to dramatically improve its compliance. Yet Global Witness found this not to be the case for 2017.

When this was put to DNV-GL, it responded suggesting the audit methodology given to it may account for these discrepancies. This methodology, according to the auditors, required that for 2017, DNV-GL only analyse 50% of JBS's biggest cattle suppliers, whereas in the previous year 100% of the cattle purchases were

Auditors play a crucial role in verifying that cattle bought by the beef companies does not originate from a ranch with deforestation. © Marizilda Cruppe / EVE / Greenpeace



audited. Yet Global Witness’s investigation shows at least 17 of the ranches analysed for illegal deforestation were in the top 50% of JBS’s biggest suppliers in 2017, accounting for almost 20% of the beef company’s total audited purchases that year. These were not registered as non-compliant by DNV-GL’s audits.¹¹⁶ This percentage amounts to the entire audited purchases of some other beef companies analysed in the initiative.¹¹⁷ Furthermore, following the previous year’s audits for 2016, **DNV-GL was the party that recommended** reducing the audit sample size from 100% of a beef company’s cattle purchases to a lower amount.¹¹⁸ This recommendation had the consequence of benefitting JBS, since many non-compliant cases were thus never audited for 2017. When these allegations were put back to DNV-GL it failed to respond. The firm may also have breached its code of conduct when carrying out this combination of roles and services while auditing the same company for compliance with two different agreements.

The auditor is also a member of the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF),¹¹⁹ a global initiative adopted by big retailers, manufacturers and service providers that aimed to achieve zero net deforestation by 2020 through the “responsible sourcing” of commodities, so they do not “deplete tropical rainforests”.¹²⁰ By any measure, DNV-GL’s audits of JBS’s compliance cannot be said to have supported this commitment.

In a letter to JBS this July, DNV-GL distanced itself from the beef company after its contract was terminated. It said: “It has been brought to our attention that JBS is using the [audit] report as proof its total cattle sourcing practices are deforestation free [for the Greenpeace agreement]. DNV GL therefore sees it necessary to issue a disclaimer.”

The auditor explained that JBS failed to monitor its indirect suppliers, audits of the company’s direct suppliers were limited to 10% of its Amazon cattle purchases, it did not include checks on cattle laundering, and DNV-GL relied on information provided by JBS to carry out the audits.

The assessments “cannot under any circumstances be used as evidence of JBS being completely deforestation free,”¹²¹ it concluded.

This would appear to contradict a December 2017 statement that DNV-GL reproduced on its website about JBS’s compliance with the Greenpeace agreement: “Report by DNV-GL attests the company [JBS] follows its responsible purchase of raw materials in compliance with the Greenpeace agreement.”¹²²

Banking on JBS



Banks play a crucial role in enabling beef companies like JBS to secure huge sums of money. Photography via Getty Images: Luke MacGregor/Bloomberg; Budrul Chukrut/SOPA Images/LightRocket; Alex Gottschalk/DeFodi Images; Dinendra Haria/SOPA Images/LightRocket; Erik McGregor/LightRocket

As revealed in Global Witness’s September 2019 report *Money to Burn*,¹²³ iconic banks and investors such as Deutsche Bank, Santander and Blackrock were involved in financing JBS, and failed to carry out adequate due diligence on the beef giant’s exposure to deforestation.

A Deutsche Bank tweet in response to the publication insisted it would “not finance activities where there is clear and known evidence on clearing of primary forests, areas of High Conservation Value or peatlands, illegal logging or uncontrolled and/or illegal use of fire”.¹²⁴

In January¹²⁵ this year, Blackrock announced it would make sustainability central to its management of \$7 trillion¹²⁶ worth of assets, also publishing an investment strategy for engaging with agribusinesses, wherein it asks these to disclose any commitments made on “deforestation-free supply chains [...] and to report on outcomes, ideally with some level of independent review”.¹²⁷

Yet as of February, March and April 2020, Blackrock, Deutsche Bank and Santander still held shares in JBS,¹²⁸ collectively worth over \$270 million.¹²⁹ When asked if Deutsche Bank still felt its financial involvement with JBS was justified given Global Witness’s new allegations, it replied that its financing of JBS is on behalf of others and that it would not choose to invest in the company, stating

it “can confirm that JBS is not eligible for investment in DWS’ actively managed retail mutual funds which maintain a minimum ESG investment standard”.

However, Deutsche Bank, along with others, actively **financed JBS through two loans** provided to one of the company’s American subsidiaries in 2017 and 2018, amounting to a combined \$2.8 billion, both of which mature in 2022 and 2023 respectively. When asked if its choice to not actively invest in JBS covered its contribution to these loans, the Bank failed to reply.

Santander stated that it had engaged with JBS on these issues, and was monitoring the company’s plan to deal with indirect suppliers. It also added that in “the event that any illegality is verified, Santander Brasil has the contractual power to declare the early maturity of the debt and demand its payment”.

Earlier in 2020, a spokeswoman for Blackrock said the company had engaged “with JBS and others to discuss their policies and practices on issues specific to operating in the Amazon Basin”.¹³⁰ Asked if in response to Global Witness’s allegations the fund had engaged with JBS again, a spokeswoman replied: “We have engaged with JBS three times in the first six months of the year, and each of these engagements covered Operational Sustainability.” Blackrock also stated that if JBS did not progress on environmental issues, it would express its dissatisfaction “by voting against the re-election of those directors with oversight responsibility for the issue of concern”.

Meanwhile, Barclays provides financial services to JBS,¹³¹ yet along with Deutsche Bank and Santander is also a member of the Banking Environment Initiative (BEI) that aims to “Mobilise the banking industry to direct capital to business models ... achieving zero net deforestation by 2020”.¹³² Barclays’ membership did not stop it underwriting four overseas bond deals for JBS since 2017 totalling \$2.75 billion.¹³³

Barclays and Santander also acted as book-runners for a September 2019 JBS bond issuance worth over \$120 million dollars.¹³⁴ The preliminary prospectus for the deal states JBS must “comply with all laws, rules, regulations and orders issued by competent authorities and judicial sentences in force in the Brazilian territory, including environmental legislation”.¹³⁵ The findings presented in this report question whether JBS complied with its legal obligations. Barclays and Santander should have undertaken rigorous due diligence on deforestation risks before determining if it was appropriate to take part in this deal.

When this was put to Barclays, the bank said it was unable to share the detail of its due diligence procedures and engagement with JBS “for confidentiality reasons”, adding that it was “committed to understanding

the environmental and social risks associated” with its financing activities and that it applies “stringent environmental and social impact assessments”. Santander said it had “told JBS and the Brazilian public (in printed advertisements) that we want zero deforestation in the beef supply chain as a whole”.

‘Close attention’

In its Soft Commodities Sector policy, Santander states it will pay “particular attention” when providing financial services to clients involved with “High-Risk Geographies” in the cattle sector.¹³⁶ Meanwhile Barclays’ claims in its Forestry and Palm Oil Statement that its clients will be subject to “enhanced due diligence”.¹³⁷ The banks’ behaviour completely contradicts these fine words and risks misleading the public and the banks’ shareholders of the actual steps they take to mitigate their exposure to deforestation. They appear to have prioritised profit over Amazon conservation, while voluntary policies – often not implemented – are used to greenwash their reputations. Worse, an absence of regulation requiring these banks to consider or report on JBS’s deforestation risk, means they can continue to ineffectively assess the deforestation risks in their supply chains and investments.

When this was put to the banks, Santander replied stating it “has set out specific sectoral policies for analysing social and environmental risks in our customers’ activities within sensitive sectors, including soft commodities”. Barclays stated it had updated its policies in August 2020 and that it was committed to helping its “corporate clients achieve zero net deforestation”. The updated policy makes no mention of the commodity of beef, yet the bank stated that “other commodities are a significant and growing concern”.

Unlike the aforementioned financiers, some have taken action and publicly criticised JBS. In July 2020, Nordea Asset Management, part of Northern Europe’s largest financial services group¹³⁸ and with \$261 billion under management, dropped JBS from all its funds. Its head of environmental responsibility noted: “After a period of engagement with the company ... we did not feel we were seeing the response that we were looking for.”¹³⁹

A leaked HSBC document seen by Global Witness on its financial exposure to JBS also heavily criticised the company, stating: “We have asked multiple times for clarity on how traceability of original provenance on cattle could be solved, but JBS has no vision, action plan, timeline, technology, or solution.”¹⁴⁰ However, in the same document, HSBC then recommended that investors buy shares in JBS. It remains to be seen what further action HSBC will take on JBS now the company has announced some action on indirect suppliers.

CASE STUDY

THE LAWLESS AND THE LANDLESS

“Pará is not a lawless land. It’s a land where the law works for the few.”¹⁴¹

Not only are banks exposed to deforestation in JBS’s supply chain, but also to human rights abuses linked to ranchers the company buys from.

Rafael Saldanha is reported to be among the most influential¹⁴² cattle ranchers¹⁴³ in the south of Pará and owns various businesses that cost millions of dollars to establish.¹⁴⁴ Yet he is accused of environmental crimes,¹⁴⁵ land-grabbing¹⁴⁶ and even murder.¹⁴⁷

He stands accused by prosecutors of being involved in the killing, in 1998, of two representatives of a national organisation that campaigns for land rights, called the landless rural workers’ movement (Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra - MST),¹⁴⁸ in an ongoing criminal investigation.¹⁴⁹ He claims the allegations are false.¹⁵⁰ In 2003, his ranch Fazenda Vale Verde was reported to have been inspected by the Ministry of Work, finding slave labour, freeing 16 people and fining Saldanha over \$4500¹⁵¹ - a decision Saldanha and his lawyers are still contesting. Ibama then inspected the ranch in 2005, discovering illegal deforestation and placing it on their blacklist.¹⁵²

In 2009, he acquired another ranch, Fazenda Santa Tereza.¹⁵³ In April 2019 Pará prosecutors charged him of illegally obtaining public land in this deal, in an ongoing case.¹⁵⁴ He denies the charges and claims the ranch was bought in accordance with Brazilian law.

In 2008, a community that describe themselves as landless peoples made the same argument by occupying the area to force authorities to investigate the legality of the ranch owner’s land claim.¹⁵⁵ They aimed to show it was public land, could not be bought or sold by ranchers, and should be redistributed to the families of the landless.¹⁵⁶ They left the area after guarantees the rule of law would be upheld but returned in 2014 after they suspected foul play in Saldanha’s acquisition of the area.¹⁵⁷

Violence, threats and intimidation followed these events.

In 2016 a local news outlet reported the landless people were shot at and their plantations and huts burnt down by people they said were employees of the ranch.¹⁵⁸ Global Witness obtained a police witness statement of the 2016 event that claimed men from the ranch started a fire that burned down the witnesses’ hut, and that as they



Top: Example of a hut in the landless peoples’ settlement in Fazenda Santa Tereza. Bottom: The landless peoples’ houses and settlements have been subjected to numerous fire incidents. *Brasil de Fato*

were trying to put the fire out, employees of the ranch shot at their settlements.¹⁵⁹

In 2017, an investigation by the parliamentary committee of human rights of the State of Pará interviewed landless people occupying the area days after another incident. They documented testimonies from four witnesses that claimed they were shot at and their plantations once again burned down.¹⁶⁰

One witness recounted to the committee how, before these events, a manager of Fazenda Santa Tereza had turned up threatening to kill them by setting fire to them. Other witnesses also told of how the manager intimidated and harassed them.¹⁶¹ The manager publicly denied causing the fires and alleged the accusations against him were lies.¹⁶²

The committee’s investigation, which was accompanied by police, took photos of bullet holes in a building by the gate of the landless peoples’ area, noted bullet casings collected by the community and took pictures of their burnt plantations and a burnt school roof.¹⁶³ In the report, the parliamentarians recommended prosecutors investigate the manager of Fazenda Santa Tereza for his alleged conduct against the landless peoples.¹⁶⁴

Then again in 2018, local and national media reported how late one night in July armed men rounded up the landless people from their huts, firing their guns as they

CASE STUDY

did so.¹⁶⁵ One witness recounted how “they laid us down on the floor and shot close to our feet. They made us run away and then started burning our cars, motorbikes and huts, even throwing dogs alive into the fire, and then shooting toward us as we fled the scene.”¹⁶⁶

Global Witness interviewed two representatives of the landless people present during the incident, who repeated the above claims that armed men working for the ranchers entered the area the night of July 28th 2018, harassing them and setting fire to their belongings.¹⁶⁷ As yet Global Witness understands no police investigations have been finalised on these events nor charges brought against anyone.

It was after this torrid period, in April 2019, that prosecutors in Pará accused Saldanha of illegally acquiring Fazenda Santa Tereza – the same arguments the landless people and their lawyers used¹⁶⁸ – in an ongoing case.¹⁶⁹ When all these allegations were put to Rafael Saldanha via his lawyers, they replied claiming the opposite was true, stating the ranch was the target of “invasion, with various pregnant cows tortured and killed, areas of pasture burned by the invaders, and forested areas reserved for conservation deforested, with ranch staff threatened and not permitted to enter the ranch”.

Despite this history of accusations and court cases, Global Witness research found JBS repeatedly purchased cattle from Saldanha, contrary to its commitments. The Greenpeace agreement states signatories must stop buying from any ranchers *accused* by prosecutors of land grabbing or agrarian conflicts once they become aware of these issues.¹⁷⁰ As seen above, Saldanha stands accused by prosecutors of both, in ongoing cases, all of which has been well reported for years in the press and which JBS could and should have known about.

JBS purchased from Saldanha through his Fazenda Santa Tereza ranch in 2015 – despite the fact that Ibama had reportedly found illegal deforestation in the ranch.¹⁷¹ The company then stopped buying from there, yet continued buying from another of Saldanha’s ranches between 2015 and 2019: Fazenda Primavera.¹⁷²

A Global Witness analysis can reveal that Fazenda Santa Tereza is included in the list of cattle suppliers to Fazenda Primavera, supplying 3066 cattle to it between 2015 to 2019.¹⁷³ The ranch, therefore, remained in JBS’s supply chain as an indirect supplier and it failed to monitor this case to see if it complied with the Greenpeace agreement.

Worse still, according to government satellite data of August 2008, Fazenda Primavera had deforestation in it, which, according to official permit data, was illegal, contravening JBS’s prosecutor’s agreement.¹⁷⁴ Saldanha denies any of this took place.

JBS thus bought cattle from a rancher accused by prosecutors in ongoing cases of land grabbing and of murdering two landless workers movement representatives, and from ranches with illegal deforestation and slave labour, all of it contrary to the voluntary and legal agreements. Yet all of this went un-monitored by the audits.

When these allegations were put to JBS, it replied stating it had “received no notification or complaint from the Prosecution Office or from Federal or State Land Institutes containing information about those cases,” and that it was therefore not possible “to proceed with the procedure for blocking the supplying farms on its system.”

Children’s school in the landless peoples’ settlement in Fazenda Santa Tereza. *Brasil de Fato*



MARFRIG: GREENWASHING A GREENWASHER

Marfrig describes itself as the world's second-largest beef producer,¹⁷⁵ with a workforce of over 30,000 employees¹⁷⁶ and reporting a gross profit of over \$1 billion in 2019.¹⁷⁷ As with JBS, DNV-GL also audits Marfrig's adherence to the Greenpeace agreement. In five successive audits between 2015 and 2019, DNV-GL found Marfrig was fully compliant.¹⁷⁸ In 2019, the company claimed it was the "only company to be certified 100% in compliance" by all Greenpeace agreement audits.¹⁷⁹ Marfrig has used these audits to promote its green credentials to financial backers that often fail to ask enough questions about the validity of the audits.¹⁸⁰

In a July 2019 press release trumpeting its record, Marfrig announced the issue of half a billion dollars in so-called 'Transition Bonds'.¹⁸¹ The proceeds would be used to invest in "sourcing cattle from the Amazon Biome, more specifically from the Brazilian states of Mato Grosso, Pará and Rondônia".¹⁸² The company also published a 'Sustainable Sourcing Protocol' for these bonds, wherein it claimed: "Marfrig remains in conformity with the [Greenpeace] commitment for the fourth consecutive year," again citing DNV-GL audits as proof.¹⁸³

Despite civil society pressure, Marfrig does not have a prosecutor's agreement in Pará, though it does for other Amazon states.¹⁸⁴ Nonetheless, Brazilian law requires Marfrig not to purchase from ranches that caused illegal environmental degradation, at risk of being subjected to civil or criminal proceedings by prosecutors if they do.¹⁸⁵ (see methodology for details)

To find out whether Marfrig complied with these legal requirements, Global Witness obtained the company's cattle transport permits for 2017, 2018 and 2019 in Pará and subjected them to the same analysis that was done for JBS. During this period, Marfrig purchased from 89 ranches with over 3,300 hectares of deforestation,¹⁸⁶ all illegal according to Amazon and permit data consulted by Global Witness.¹⁸⁷ Of these cases, 39 correspond to the period of time covered by the Greenpeace agreement. Yet none appeared in DNV-GL's audits in 2017, 2018 and 2019.¹⁸⁸ Marfrig's failure to do proper checks is then rewarded by financiers that fail to do adequate due diligence and that buy the company's allegedly 'sustainable' Transition Bonds. Those that clear forests are thus emboldened to deforest again. For access to each ranch please use this [link](#).

When these allegations were put to Marfrig, it denied any of its purchases from the aforementioned ranches



Amazon cows being taken to slaughter. © Ricardo Funari / Lineair / Greenpeace

breached its agreements. It claimed that 42 of the 89 ranches contained deforestation that preceded the cut off date for its Greenpeace agreement (October 2009), but failed to reply to the legal arguments Global Witness sent them showing why they should not be purchasing from ranches with illegal deforestation that occurred after July 22nd 2008. The company also claimed 15 cases contained deforestation that happened after it had purchased from them, that 11 cases contained deforestation polygons by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research that were false positives. It also claimed that 14 cases contained deforestation that was below 6.25 hectares and five cases where the company was unable to identify the ranches in its internal databases. Global Witness in turn, evaluated all of these explanations and found each justification to be invalid, standing by the initial allegations. In two cases the company claimed it had blocked the suppliers and that no slaughter had been registered, but failed to provide information on whether it did this after we had informed them or during the period considered by our investigation (2017 to 2019). For a detailed analysis of Marfrig's justifications and Global Witness's counterclaims, please access this [link](#).

CASE STUDY

DEFRAUDING THE AMAZON

The municipality of São Felix do Xingu in Pará contains a famous protected area called Triunfo do Xingu of more than a million hectares.¹⁸⁹ Studies claim it is facing higher deforestation compared to other areas, threatening the survival of its remarkable species.¹⁹⁰ These include the rarely sighted spotted tiger cat¹⁹¹ and the tapir. Both are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list of threatened species.¹⁹² But thousands of cattle ranches are encroaching closer to its forests threatening its unique biodiversity. Between 2017 and 2019 Marfrig purchased cattle from at least 71 ranches with illegal deforestation in the municipality¹⁹³.

One such ranch was Fazenda Espora de Ouro II. Marfrig purchased cattle from it in consecutive years despite illegal deforestation.¹⁹⁴ Additionally, the ranch was fraudulently declared on the government's land registry as belonging to an individual who could not have been its owner. That 'owner' then appeared to deceitfully modify the ranch's boundaries to remove evidence of illegal deforestation. Global Witness outlines the details of this case below:

In January 2016, the rectangular ranch¹⁹⁵ contained two remnants of Amazon forest looking like two lonely lungs:

FAZENDA ESPORA DE OURO II PROPERTY BOUNDARIES IN 2016¹⁹⁶



DigitalGlobe

But by July that year, these trees – equivalent to 36 football fields –¹⁹⁷ had disappeared:

FAZENDA ESPORA DE OURO II – PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AS OF 2016



Planet Labs

Marfrig purchased from the ranch in October 2016 and again in 2017¹⁹⁸ contrary to its Greenpeace agreement and none of which appeared in DNV-GL's audits.¹⁹⁹ With an audacious sleight of hand, the property boundary was modified in 2018, so it no longer included the illegally deforested area²⁰⁰:

MODIFIED PROPERTY BOUNDARIES FOR FAZENDA ESPORA DE OURO II IN 2018



Planet Labs

Marfrig continued purchasing from the modified ranch in 2019, now compliant with the company's commitments – on paper, at least.²⁰¹ Between 2017 and 2019 Global Witness found Marfrig was the ranch's only slaughterhouse customer,²⁰² raising suspicions the ranch owner modified their boundaries to get round Marfrig's Greenpeace agreement. One of Brazil's Environmental Federal State Prosecutors, Daniel Azeredo, has stated that

modifying the boundaries of ranches in the CAR database to exclude deforestation is one of the causes of fraud in the cattle supply chain.²⁰³

But there was further trickery.

All rural properties must be registered on an electronic database called the Cadastro Ambiental Rural (CAR),²⁰⁴ detailing the owner, boundaries and forest cover.²⁰⁵ Owners²⁰⁶ face criminal or civil sanctions for any false or partial information they self-declare.²⁰⁷ Yet Global Witness has learned the declared titleholder could not have been its true owner.

The ranch is overlapped by a large settlement of landless families in the process of claiming land.²⁰⁸ This is managed by the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA),²⁰⁹ which can assign small lots to occupying families²¹⁰ for farming.²¹¹ Family heads are then listed in a public database as beneficiaries.²¹² But they are not permitted to sell, rent or donate them to anyone but fellow settlers until they receive an official land title.²¹³

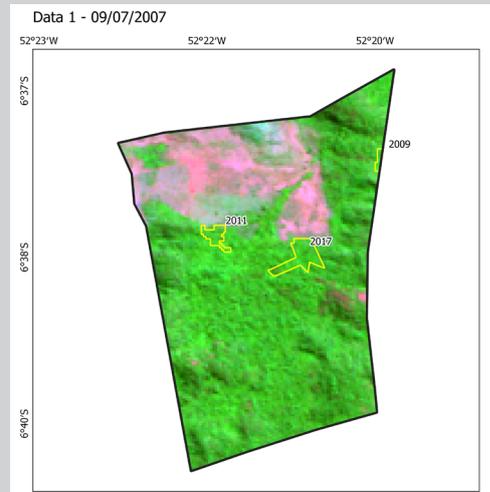
Global Witness consulted INCRA's database of registered settlers for the project, but the alleged owner of Fazenda Espora de Ouro II was not a beneficiary.²¹⁴ Yet a Freedom of Information request to INCRA revealed no land has been titled nor beneficiary registered in the vicinity.²¹⁵ This means the declared owner cannot be its legal holder.

Pará prosecutors have previously warned criminals fraudulently exploit landless peoples' areas for cattle production.²¹⁶ The audits have nothing to say about such cases.

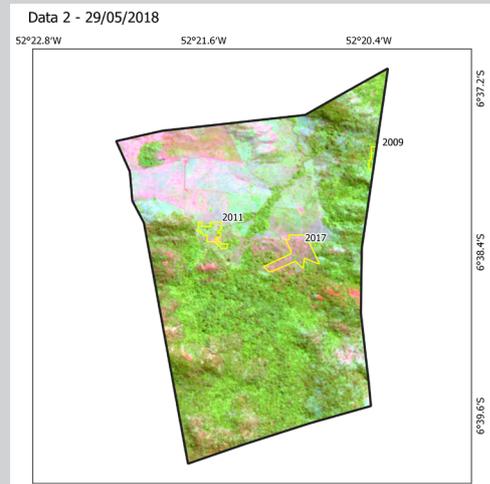
When asked about all these allegations, the alleged ranch owner did not reply. When these allegations were communicated to Marfrig, it justified the purchase claiming that two polygons of deforestation overlapping within the ranch by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) were lower than 6.25 hectares. Yet the overlap of these two polygons of deforestation identified by INPE in the ranch were of 7 hectares for one polygon, and 13 hectares for the other, well over the amount stated by Marfrig. The company said nothing about the allegations of fraud, or about the fraudulent modification of the ranch's land boundaries that removed a further two polygons of illegal deforestation from within it.

Marfrig also purchases from ranches accused by state agencies of committing environmental crime, contrary to its Greenpeace agreement. Fazenda MD, also in Sao Felix do Xingu, contains forests within its 1,247 hectares. Yet 23 hectares was²¹⁷ illegally deforested in 2011 and 2017, as no permits authorised the clearance.²¹⁸

FAZENDA MD BEFORE DEFORESTATION



FAZENDA MD AFTER DEFORESTATION



Marfrig should thus have blocked it as a supplier. Yet it purchased 216 cattle from the ranch. Worse, this was followed by 140 more cattle being purchased by Marfrig up to June 2018, despite the farm being blacklisted in May that year by Ibama²¹⁹ after inspections found illegal deforestation in the ranch. Marfrig should have checked this on Ibama's list of embargoed areas but failed to do so, and was exempted from any accountability by flawed audits that also did not catch the case. When this was put to the company, it alleged the two polygons of deforestation found by INPE within the ranch in 2011 and 2017 were false positives and were below 6.25 hectares. Yet INPE's polygons of deforestation in both cases exceeded 6.25 hectares and were illegal, which was then validated by Ibama through its field inspections, resulting in the ranch being placed on its list of embargoed areas, which the company simply ignored.

This is one of the biggest beef companies in Brazil failing to abide by its commitments, not held to account due to flawed audits, and as a result, encouraging fraud and deforestation.

Marfrig and the 'sustainable' bonds

Like JBS, Marfrig failed to monitor indirect suppliers, despite its Greenpeace commitments. DNV-GL's audits²²⁰ concluded: "Indirect suppliers are not systematically verified yet."²²¹

Global Witness's analysis shows between 2016 and 2019 in the state of Pará, 1,160 of the company's indirect suppliers contained over 34,000 hectares of deforestation that occurred after January 2009. Marfrig failed to monitor them to check if they complied with its legal obligations. Nor did it check whether 1,030 indirect suppliers' adhered to its Greenpeace agreement, containing more than 27,000 hectares of deforestation that occurred after October 2009.²²²

Marfrig told financiers of its 'Sustainable Transition Bonds' it would send a Request for Information (RFI) form to direct suppliers, requesting information on who they buy cattle from to check for deforestation.²²³ The three banks leading on the sale of Marfrig's Transition Bonds were BNP Paribas, ING Bank and Santander.²²⁴ Marfrig claims by 2025 it will aim to cover 100% of indirect suppliers using these RFIs. But these tools are voluntary, relying on the goodwill of direct suppliers to report back and do not specify what Marfrig will do with that information to ensure its indirect suppliers with deforestation are blocked.

The environmental research agency Vigeo Iris, with offices in South America, Europe the US and Asia,²²⁵ analysed Marfrig's 'Sustainable Transition Bonds'. It stated: "We consider the identification and management of the risks linked to deforestation to be limited... due to the lack of access to registration documents for properties where indirect suppliers operate."²²⁶

Other big investors doubted whether Marfrig's bonds could be labelled as sustainable. PGGM is a Dutch investment group that manages pension assets worth 252 billion Euros.²²⁷ In August last year, they publicly stated that Marfrig's so-called sustainable bonds could "not qualify as a sustainability bond" because it wasn't "financing new sustainable activities or investing in a climate solution."²²⁸

Another global investor, Insight Investments, responsible for managing over £620 billion in assets,²²⁹ decided against investing in the bonds,²³⁰ stating they did not "go beyond business as usual spending" and that the "impact indicators will not really give us much sense of how this has led to improvements".²³¹

Their concerns are valid. Global Witness investigated one of Marfrig's biggest direct suppliers in the Amazon state of Pará, Sitio Nacional. This ranch supplied it with more than 3,590 cattle up to July 2019. The farms that supplied cattle to Sitio Nacional were then analysed for deforestation. Of all its suppliers, deforestation of more than six hectares occurred in at least eight. These contained more than 300 hectares of deforestation.²³² Yet somehow these actions are rewarded as "sustainable" by the financiers that bought the bonds and by those that facilitated the sale.

Like JBS, Marfrig also appears to detract from its legal obligation to have adequate checks in place to ensure the cattle it purchases via indirect suppliers complies with the law. The company argues the "lack of an official traceability system makes it difficult" to monitor indirect suppliers,²³³ thus seeking to justify a decade of inaction. This only serves to embolden indirect suppliers involved in illegal deforestation. In addition, as stated above, the legal analysis commissioned by Global Witness shows there is publically accessible data that Marfrig could use to monitor indirect suppliers.

When these claims were put to the company, it acknowledged that it needs to do more on indirect suppliers. A spokesperson said: "Marfrig knows that it is necessary to go further and since last year it has been working on an ambitious plan in partnership with the IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative, to implement its commitments."

The company added it was important to "highlight the principle of inclusion, as the exclusion strategy does not solve the problem, as excluded producers continue to produce in unsustainable conditions, putting the conservation of biomes at risk". It also stated it was "building innovative financial mechanisms and partnering with banks operating in the Brazilian agricultural sector", outlining its "Request for Information tool (RFI)" and a "Indirect Suppliers Mitigation Risk Map" which it claims will "mitigate risks associated with indirect suppliers". The company did not explain why these efforts could not have been initiated a decade ago, and it did not reply to the problems Global Witness highlighted concerning the RFI tool, nor justify why it would take five years to do something it had committed to doing ten years ago. Nor did it dispute the failure to monitor indirect suppliers over the period Global Witness considered, or the deforestation therein.

Marfrig's bankers

As revealed in Global Witness's September 2019 report *Money to Burn*, well-known banks like Santander and Morgan Stanley have financed Marfrig's activities.²³⁴ At that time, a spokesman for Santander said: "At the time of our analyses, Marfrig was in compliance with these agreements, which involved third-party audits of ranchers," citing the problematic DNV-GL audits as proof. Asked whether Santander would pressure Marfrig over its indirect suppliers, Santander replied: "We will take it into account in our environmental and social risk assessments."²³⁵



Banks have been key in enabling Marfrig to develop its operations in the Amazon. PHILIPPE HUGUEN/AFP via Getty Images; Budrul Chukrut/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images; Mario Tama/Getty Images

Yet Global Witness has learned that as of March 2020, Santander still held over \$3 million of shares in Marfrig while as of April 2020 BNP Paribas held \$3.25 million.²³⁶ Santander, alongside BNP Paribas and ING Bank were also lead arrangers for Marfrig's "transition bond" – announced at the height of the media coverage of the 2019 Amazon fires.²³⁷

Santander and BNP Paribas are also founding members of the Banking Environment Initiative that aims for zero deforestation by 2020.²³⁸ The banks appear to have failed to do adequate due diligence on the deforestation risks posed by Marfrig, or to scrutinise how their financing is compatible with their zero-deforestation commitments.

Santander has also faced other accusations of financing companies linked to deforestation. In 2016 it was issued a \$15 million fine by Ibama after they accused the bank of financing agricultural production in a protected area. The bank claimed their financing had nothing to do with seed production, and that if Ibama did not agree they might take the case to the courts.²³⁹ When all these issues were put to Santander, it replied stating that in "the event that any illegality is verified, Santander Brasil

has the contractual power to declare the early maturity of the debt and demand its payment", adding that "it is essential that measures to protect the Amazon rainforest be intensified, coordinating the actions of the banks with the government and public initiatives." ING did not reply despite offers to comment.

In February this year, BNP Paribas told Global Witness it stood by its decision to participate in Marfrig's transition bond, stating that "the use of proceeds of this bond is strictly focusing on reducing deforestation and land rights issues within Marfrig's cattle supply chain". This response did not address the fact that Marfrig had ten years to monitor and remove indirect suppliers with deforestation from its supply chains, but failed to. Only through a financial instrument a decade later did it begin to consider possible solutions like the RFI, which other investors like PGGM and Insight Investments rejected as insufficient. When Global Witness's new allegations were put to BNP concerning Marfrig's purchase of cattle from 89 ranches with illegal deforestation, contrary to the company's legal and voluntary agreements and which were not picked up on by successive audits, the bank did not reply to these specific points. It did, however, state that it "can decide to put a company under monitoring or terminate the relationship" in the event it breaches the bank's commitments. It also elaborated on Marfrig's Transition Bonds, stating that the "bond framework adheres to the best principles" and was subject to a "third-party review" by Vigeo Eiris prior to the bond issuance.

Last year a Morgan Stanley spokeswoman **conceded** the bank had financed Marfrig, but noted it had not done so in 2018 or 2019. She insisted deforestation risks are analysed carefully. Yet as of March 2020 the bank held over \$41 million in shares in Marfrig.²⁴⁰ Once again, there appears to have been a failure to undertake adequate due diligence on deforestation risks. When this was put to Morgan Stanley, the bank replied stating that its shares in Marfrig were "held on behalf of clients or are attributable to other client-related activities in the ordinary course of trading activity and are not held as a strategic or proprietary investment on behalf of Morgan Stanley".

Like JBS, Marfrig seems to be greenwashing its image, using flawed audits to secure huge sums in supposedly "sustainable" financing from an unquestioning financial sector with inadequate due diligence on deforestation risks.

These banks appear not to ask for any detailed information on Marfrig's supply chain so they can assess the company's exposure to deforestation, highlighting shortcomings in their due diligence practices.

CASE STUDY

MARFRIG, LANDGRABBERS AND INDIGENOUS LAND

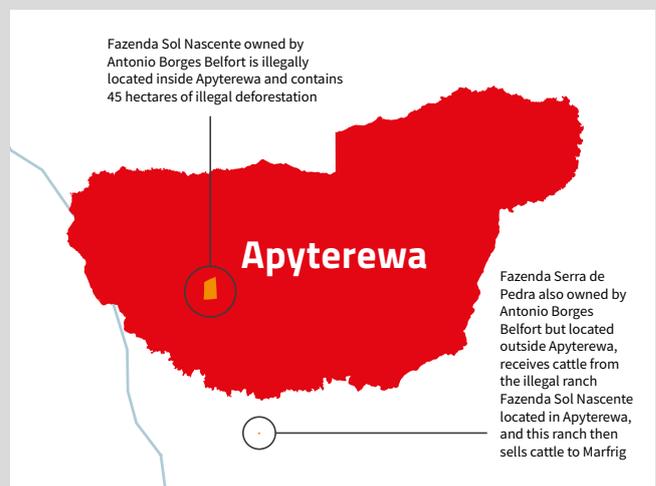
Various studies show protecting indigenous lands correlates with improved forest conservation,²⁴¹ reflecting the skill and leadership of indigenous peoples in environmental stewardship.²⁴² Yet these are under threat from a hostile new president. This despite Brazil being a signatory to the International Labour Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, which should guarantee the human rights of indigenous peoples to their land.²⁴³

In 1998, Jair Bolsonaro called the Brazilian cavalry incompetent compared to their American counterparts who almost eliminated indigenous peoples.²⁴⁴ In 2016, he said “giving” them land was a ploy to make agribusiness unviable, that he would reduce such areas,²⁴⁵ also threatening to arm ranchers with guns in an Amazon state where indigenous peoples were having their land demarcated.²⁴⁶ In 2017 he said if it were up to him, he would make it easier for people to carry guns and that he would not give one centimetre of land to indigenous peoples.²⁴⁷ This rhetoric has added fuel to a violent land dispute in Apyterewa - one of the Amazon’s most biodiverse indigenous areas.²⁴⁸ Marfrig has sourced cattle from ranchers involved in the dispute.

Apyterewa, more than five times the size of Mexico City,²⁴⁹ is home to the Parákanã indigenous peoples.²⁵⁰ After a long struggle, in 2007 the Ministry of Justice finally recognised the land as their territory. A task force was set up to remove non-indigenous occupants,²⁵¹ leading to reduced deforestation.²⁵² But the cattle raisers did not give up. In 2013 the Brazilian government’s indigenous institute (FUNAI) accused rancher Orcimar Arantes do Prado, and other ranchers, of land grabbing in Apyterewa and of plotting to bomb an area inside the territory, according to a leaked official document seen by Global Witness.

Yet between 2014 and 2017 cattle transport permits show Mr do Prado sent 744 cows to Marfrig,²⁵³ contrary to its Greenpeace commitments not to source from alleged land-grabbers.

Two years after these purchases Mr do Prado was accused of ordering the murder of a high profile trade unionist,²⁵⁴ Carlos Cabral Pereira, himself allegedly involved in land grabbing there.²⁵⁵ Mr do Prado’s lawyers deny the accusations and speculated others were responsible for the alleged murder.²⁵⁶ In 2018, Mr Pereira had reportedly campaigned for Bolsonaro’s election because of his rhetoric, hoping he would legalise land ownership in Apyterewa by non-indigenous occupants.²⁵⁷ The same year, the Ruralistas, a congressional block supportive



of agribusiness, lobbied the Temer government to delay removing land-grabbers from Apyterewa.²⁵⁸ After Bolsonaro’s victory, some of Mr Pereira’s land in the indigenous area reportedly tripled in value.²⁵⁹ Following the subsequent dispute, he was shot in the head, allegedly by hitmen.²⁶⁰ There is no suggestion Marfrig was in any way involved in the murder or that Marfrig bought cattle from Mr do Prado after the accusation, but this illustrates the violent



Mugshot of Orcimar Arantes do Prado by Brazilian police after he was accused of authoring the murder of Carlos Cabral Pereira over land grabbing in Apyterewa. Agência Para

context in which these land-grabbers operate within the supposedly protected indigenous area.

Marfrig's links to Apyterewa do not end there. Another ranch illegally located inside the Parakana's land²⁶¹ was an indirect supplier linked to the company's supply chain.²⁶² A rancher by the name of Antonio Borges Belfort, illegally reared cattle in Apyterewa between 2016 and 2019 in his ranch Fazenda Sol Nascente, containing over 45 hectares of illegal deforestation, sending the cows to a legal farm he owned, Fazenda Serra de Pedra, from which the beef giant then bought 274 cattle between 2018 and 2019. The investigative journalist outlet Reporter Brasil unearthed further evidence the ranch was being used as a laundering vehicle.²⁶³ This contravenes Marfrig's commitment to Greenpeace to ensure their supply chain does not impinge on indigenous lands. It also breaches the company's commitment to monitor indirect suppliers with deforestation, to ensure cattle from these suppliers does not enter its slaughterhouses.²⁶⁴ When these allegations were put to Antonio Borges Belfort through an intermediary contacted by Reporter Brasil, he said he would not comment.²⁶⁵ When these allegations were put to Marfrig, the company claimed the Serra de Pedra ranch was fully compliant with its agreements at the time of purchase.²⁶⁶

Antonio Borges Belfort is an old acquaintance of alleged murderer Orcimar Arantes do Prado, the two having

legally challenged the decision to create Apyterewa in 2007, participating in the case all the way to its end in 2014.²⁶⁷

None of the land-grabbing ranchers was picked up on by DNV-GL's audits.²⁶⁸ Meanwhile, Marfrig's many financial backers are exposed to these environmental and human rights abuses of indigenous lands and peoples.

The Parakana indigenous peoples had their land recognised in 2007.
© Marizilda Cruppe / EVE / Greenpeace



Deforested area for cattle ranching in Apyterewa's land. Cattle ranching is the primary driver of forest destruction in the Brazilian Amazon. © Marizilda Cruppe / EVE / Greenpeace



MINERVA: THE 'POSTER CHILD' FOR DEFORESTATION-FREE INVESTMENTS

Minerva is the third-largest beef trader in Brazil,²⁶⁹ able to slaughter over 3.5 million cattle every year,²⁷⁰ exporting meat products to over 100 countries.²⁷¹ The company hired US accounting giant Grant Thornton,²⁷² which operates in 140 countries²⁷³ with a global revenue of \$5.72 billion,²⁷⁴ to monitor its compliance with the Greenpeace agreement. In 2017, it found Minerva was 100% compliant with the agreement.²⁷⁵ The same year, Federal Prosecutors in Pará audited Minerva's purchases of cattle, finding only 0.26% of irregular purchases that could not be justified by the company.²⁷⁶ In its Annual Sustainability Report that year, Minerva claimed its products "are not associated with non-responsible socio-environmental practices" and "the percentage of regulated purchases, based on the use of maps and perimeters, rose from 92% to 99%".²⁷⁷

The good news did not stop there. In 2018, Grant Thornton found Minerva was again 100% compliant with the Greenpeace agreement.²⁷⁸ The company itself claims to analyse 100% of its direct suppliers to screen out deforestation.²⁷⁹ A 2019 statement claimed its operation guarantees Minerva's products are not associated with "embargoed areas nor with deforested areas in the Amazon biome".²⁸⁰ This impressive series of audits portray Minerva as a paragon of responsibility. But does this stand scrutiny?

Global Witness analysed Minerva's cattle purchases for 2017, 2018 and 2019 in Pará and subjected them to the same analysis as those of JBS and Marfrig. The research found at least 16 direct suppliers contained over 680 hectares of deforestation, all illegal, according to Imazon and permit data consulted by Global Witness.²⁸¹ Grant Thornton's Greenpeace agreement audits for 2017 and 2018 did not pick up any cattle purchases from non-compliant ranches over that period,²⁸² despite Global Witness finding eight ranches with deforestation that sent cattle to Minerva in those years (audits for 2019 have not yet been published).²⁸³ Once again, an elite firm of international auditors failed to identify non-compliance.²⁸⁴ Yet it is clear Minerva is leagues ahead of JBS and Marfrig in its compliance with its agreements, given the low number of cases. For access to each ranch please use this [link](#).

When asked for comment on the aforementioned allegations, Minerva claimed six of the ranches had deforestation that preceded July 22nd 2008, four of the



Minerva is one of the biggest beef companies in Brazil. Dado Galdieri/Bloomberg via Getty Images

ranches have since been blocked as suppliers, and two of the farms which had deforestation identified by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research were false positives. Of the remaining four ranches, the company says it did not register purchases from two of them, another had deforestation that was lower than 6.25 hectares, while it claims the last ranch had overlapping land boundaries that made monitoring its compliance difficult. Global Witness in turn evaluated all the justifications, and found them to be invalid, standing by the initial allegations. For a more detailed description of Minerva's claims and Global Witness's counter claims, please access this [link](#).

When Grant Thornton was asked for comment on why these 16 cases were missing from its audits, it replied stating "our work is limited to the scope under the related" agreements, and that "for reasons of professional confidentiality" it is not allowed to "provide detailed information on the work performed". It failed to mention that it provided several recommendations on how the prosecutor's agreement could be reformed, which then influences the scope of the very audits it carries out.²⁸⁵

Auditors are crucial in verifying Minerva's cattle purchases comply with its agreements. © Bruno Kelly / Greenpeace



CASE STUDY

TRIUMPH INTO TRAGEDY

Birds are vital in removing waste from forests, controlling insect populations and helping pollinate and disperse seeds.²⁸⁶ The armadillo is also an ‘ecosystem engineer’,²⁸⁷ its burrows offering shelter and protection for myriad species.²⁸⁸ But in the protected area of Triunfo do Xingu, which means ‘Triumph of Clean Water’²⁸⁹, they are under threat. It has been one of the most deforested protected areas in Pará,²⁹⁰ home to various threatened species.²⁹¹ Last year’s Amazon fires badly impacted the area.²⁹²

Within this region are vast ranches belonging to Agropecuária Santa Barbara (AGROSB).²⁹³ It was founded in 2005,²⁹⁴ and claims to be one of the biggest cattle and agriculture companies in Latin America.²⁹⁵ AGROSB is owned by a company co-founded by controversial Brazilian billionaire,²⁹⁶ Daniel Dantas.²⁹⁷ Investigative journalism outlet Reporter Brasil²⁹⁸ and NGO Mighty Earth²⁹⁹ reported last year that JBS, Marfrig and Minerva all bought cattle from the company.

Complementary research by Global Witness shows that AGROSB moved cattle from six indirect suppliers it owns³⁰⁰ - with over 4,400 hectares³⁰¹ of deforestation³⁰² to another of its ranches, Fazenda Espirito Santo. This ranch then sold cattle to Minerva in 2018 and 2019.³⁰³ Yet according to government satellite data, Fazenda Espirito Santo also contained deforestation, amounting to 10 hectares, for which, according to Imazon, it did not appear to have state or federal permits.³⁰⁴ Deforestation is thus embedded across multiple ranches that are involved in Minerva’s supply chain. None of this appeared in Grant Thornton’s 2018 audits. Once again, an apparent triumph of supply chain due diligence masks deforestation.

When these allegations were put to AGROSB, it replied stating that Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research (INPE) deforestation data should not be taken as evidence that forest clearance occurred in the ranch, and that instead it “should be used as a supplementary tool for the environmental agencies”. It added that remote analysis carried out by the Environmental Secretariat of the State of Pará (SEMAS) of Fazenda Espirito Santo’s land boundaries did not find any indication of deforestation in the area identified by INPE, determining the area was apt for pasture. Minerva agreed with AGROSB’s assessment and claimed all the deforestation that happened in the farm preceded 22nd July 2008, making the ranch suitable to purchase from. Global Witness in turn disputes these claims. For a more detailed assessment of these issues, please access this [link](#).



The great unknown

Minerva’s exposure to indirect suppliers is far more extensive. Grant Thornton admitted in its audit report Minerva “does not have systems or controls that allow for the monitoring of the totality of cattle purchases in the Amazon biome”³⁰⁵ from indirect suppliers. That alone breaches the Greenpeace agreement. Of all the indirect suppliers sending cattle to Minerva’s direct suppliers between 2016 and 2019, some 1,660 contained deforestation - totalling 43,000 hectares that occurred after January 2009. A total of 1,480 indirect suppliers should have been monitored to comply with the Greenpeace agreement, yet were not.³⁰⁶ This fundamentally undermines Minerva’s claims of environmental responsibility.

Unlike JBS and Marfrig, Minerva does not blame its failure to monitor whether its indirect suppliers are legally compliant on the lack of an official traceability system or on a lack of transparency. Instead, it argues a “lack of government subsidies” means it cannot trace and monitor its indirect suppliers.³⁰⁷ Yet this company made over \$800 million in gross profits in 2019.³⁰⁸

When all these allegations were put to Minerva, a spokesperson said: “Minerva Foods has been pioneering the monitoring of its indirect suppliers through a partnership with the National Wildlife Federation and Wisconsin-Madison University.”

The company said that the first report on its progress on monitoring indirect suppliers “is expected by late December 2020.” It failed to explain why this was not done almost a decade ago. However, unlike its competitors JBS and Marfrig, Minerva does at least promise to report on progress by the end of 2020, rather than 2025.

CASE STUDY

A SILENT FOREST

Rondon is in the top 10 most deforested municipalities in³⁰⁹ the infamous ‘Arc of Deforestation’³¹⁰ that spreads from the mouth of the Amazon south-west across Pará.³¹¹³¹² Scientists call these areas a “silent forest”, as they have been denuded of their species.³¹³ Partly deforested ranches in this devastated area are the source of some of Minerva’s cattle.

Minerva purchased cattle directly from Fazenda São Vicente³¹⁴³¹⁵ from 2017 to 2019, despite the ranch containing 170 hectares of illegal deforestation.³¹⁶³¹⁷ At least 10 other ranches containing deforestation totalling 264 hectares supplied Fazenda Sao Vicente between 2016 and 2019, almost all in Rondon.³¹⁸ Two of these ranches have areas embargoed by Ibama.³¹⁹ Minerva claimed deforestation within Fazenda São Vicente preceded July the 22nd 2008 and was therefore compliant with its prosecutor’s agreement, which Global Witness disputes – for more details please access this [link](#).

Minerva also bought cattle from another non-compliant ranch, Fazenda Imperador,³²⁰ which contained 70 hectares of illegal deforestation.³²¹ Ten of Fazenda Imperador’s suppliers contained over 300 hectares of deforestation



that Minerva failed to monitor.³²² Minerva claims it has since blocked the ranch.

That amounts to over 900 football fields of forests cleared in just two supply chains among the thousands of farms that directly or indirectly are involved with the company.³²³

A burnt forest area in Rondon do Pará. © Greenpeace / Daniel Beltrá



Minerva's Bankers



Banks that have provided financing or financial services to Minerva.
Photography via Getty Images: Luke MacGregor/Bloomberg; Beata Zawrzel/NurPhoto; Nicolas Economou/NurPhoto; Alex Tai/SOPA Images/LightRocket

In September 2019, Global Witness **exposed** Bank of America and the World Bank's financing of Minerva.³²⁴ The World Bank stated then that all Minerva's direct purchases were from zero deforestation areas.³²⁵

Yet this report illustrates that was not the case. The case studies appear to breach the World Bank's Forest Action Plan aimed at "ensuring investments related to forests contribute to sustainable management of forests and value chains".³²⁶ Regarding Minerva's indirect suppliers, the World Bank last year insisted further progress depends on government legislation and law enforcement in Brazil,³²⁷ implying it was beyond Minerva's capacity to monitor these supply chains.³²⁸ The work of civil society now shows monitoring indirect suppliers was possible throughout the period Minerva claimed a lack of government subsidies stopped it from being able to do this. In relation to Global Witness's claims that Minerva purchased from 16 ranches that were not compliant with its agreements, the World Bank said geospatial analysis carried out by the company has "clarified the status of the ranches" and that as a result it was applying "a strict purchase policy to its direct suppliers". Global Witness disputes these claims – for a more detailed analysis of these disputes please access this [link](#).

Other banks are exposed to Minerva's behaviour. HSBC underwrote almost \$1 billion in bonds for the company throughout the period it failed to monitor its indirect suppliers.³²⁹ In 2016, HSBC won the Best Corporate High-Yield Bond award of Latin Finance Deals for its services to the beef company.³³⁰ This contradicts the bank's forest policy, which states it "will not knowingly provide financial services to customers involved directly, or indirectly via the supply chain, in ... forests being

converted to non-forest use".³³¹ When Global Witness's allegations were put to the bank it replied that it welcomed "well-researched, informative contributions from civil society organisations" but that "client confidentiality prevents us from commenting on specific companies". In HSBC's Agricultural Commodities Policy, in the section that deals with palm oil, it states that "new customers are required to consent, before financial services are provided, to HSBC being able to disclose publicly whether the customer is or was a customer of the bank".³³² Yet in the same document it fails to make this commitment for the cattle sector in the Amazon, despite the industry's links to large-scale deforestation.

In January this year, JP Morgan acted as a manager of a share issuance for Minerva worth almost \$300 million.³³³ In its environmental policy, the bank claims it carries out "enhanced reviews" of clients with operations in "critical habitats".³³⁴ If such a review was carried out it was deficient. The bank is also a member of the Soft Commodities Compact³³⁵ – a global initiative of multinational companies linked to commodities involved in deforestation that aimed to achieve "zero net deforestation" by 2020.³³⁶ JP Morgan appears to have failed this goal as well. The bank is also exposed to JBS, holding \$1.27 million in shares as of March 2020. The bank did not respond to the offer of a comment.

As Global Witness has repeatedly highlighted, banks and investors seem ready to break their deforestation policies at will, with little evidence of rigorous due diligence on deforestation risks.

The unparalleled biodiversity of the Amazon is being imperilled by cattle ranching. © Alois Indrich / Greenpeace



HOW CREDIBLE ARE THE CREDIT RATING AGENCIES?

A company's credit rating shows investors it is a safe bet. Three credit rating agencies dominate the industry: Moody's, Standard & Poor's (S&P) and Fitch.³³⁷ So important are they, that when they gave their highest ratings to three trillion dollars worth of bad credit, it helped crash the global economy in 2008.³³⁸ Now their ratings could be contributing to another crisis: the destruction of tropical forests.

As the devastation of the Amazon escalated, these three agencies failed not only to downgrade the ratings of JBS and Marfrig for their links to deforestation but gave them more favourable ones, despite promising to take into account the environmental performance of companies.³³⁹ As of May 2020, S&P upgraded JBS's credit rating, without mentioning its links to deforestation.³⁴⁰ In a 2020 report, S&P described Marfrig's credit rating as "stable". Once again, deforestation was not mentioned.³⁴¹

The agency Fitch also upgraded JBS's credit rating in June 2020.³⁴² Yet reviewing the last three years of Fitch's reporting on JBS's ratings shows deforestation was simply not a consideration.³⁴³ Fitch also recently upgraded Marfrig's credit rating. Deforestation was again not considered.³⁴⁴ Neither did Moody's recent credit upgrades for JBS and Marfrig include deforestation as a risk.³⁴⁵

Some agencies evaluate a company's environmental performance separately from its credit rating. S&P, for example, said: "There is no link between an ESG Evaluation and a credit rating – they are two separate opinions. When assigning an ESG Evaluation to a rated entity, we do not expect to learn any new ESG-related information material enough to affect the credit rating."³⁴⁶ Thus, if a company is linked to environmental damage, this, according to S&P, should not impact its credit rating.

Even when ESG risks were highlighted, these had little to do with environmental issues and rarely impacted

a rating. In Moody's upgrade of JBS's ratings for example, they only highlighted "judicial processes" and "litigations" against the company as risks for investors, but despite this upgraded the rating anyway.³⁴⁷ In S&P's credit upgrade for JBS they stated the only ESG risks for investors related to official investigations of the company's "major shareholders for corruption"³⁴⁸ – but again this did not stop the upgrade.

ESG issues are thus ignored, or seen exclusively as governance risks. Meanwhile, JBS and Marfrig are rewarded for their failures by investors that do inadequate due diligence, encouraged by credit ratings and agencies that do not sufficiently factor in the companies' links to the destruction of the Amazon.

When these allegations were put to the credit rating agencies, Moody's replied stating its "credit ratings reflect the likelihood that entities will meet their debt obligations on time and in full, and incorporate ESG and climate risks to the extent that they are material to credit. Beyond credit ratings, Moody's and its affiliates offer a variety of tools for evaluating companies on the basis of ESG and climate factors."

Fitch replied stating it had registered our allegations "as a complaint for review by Fitch Ratings' control function". It added: "JBS scores five under one of its ESG Relevance Score risk elements, which means that this ESG element has a significant impact on its rating and acts as a constraint on its speculative grade rating. Marfrig, also speculative grade, has a score of 4 under a similar ESG risk element that also impacts its ratings." Standard and Poor's did not respond to our requests for a comment.

AN ABSENCE OF LAWS, AN ABSENCE OF FORESTS

It is not just banks, investors and credit rating agencies failing to tackle deforestation. Governments allow financial institutions to do billions of dollars worth of business with the beef giants, without requiring due diligence on deforestation risk or human rights abuses.

Banks and investors' headquartered in Brazil, the EU and the US either provided or facilitated over \$9 billion in investments and loans received by JBS, Marfrig and Minerva between 2017 and 2019.³⁴⁹ Of this, \$4 billion - or 44% of the total - were from EU and US-headquartered backers.³⁵⁰ Yet of these jurisdictions, only France has a law requiring large businesses, including banks, to identify and prevent serious environmental and human rights harms - which covers the need to act on forest destruction.³⁵¹

Then there are credit rating agencies. Yet as previously mentioned, over the last two years they have upgraded JBS, Marfrig and Minerva's ratings without sufficiently taking into account or mentioning the companies' links to deforestation. This shows the inadequacy of leaving it to business to combat forest destruction. Governments are effectively complicit in the destruction of the Amazon by failing to require deforestation-free supply chains and finance as the market norm.

As Amazon deforestation rises³⁵² - casting the failure of voluntary commitments into sharp relief - there is

a growing debate on the need for new laws requiring businesses, including banks and investors, to undertake due diligence on deforestation and forest-related human rights abuses. Each year, the environmental organisation Global Canopy Project, assesses the voluntary no-deforestation commitments of major companies and financial institutions. In 2019 its Forest 500 list concluded "voluntary commitments to end tropical deforestation by 2020 have failed",³⁵³ claiming the financial sector is "ignoring the problem".³⁵⁴

Joint briefings published by Global Witness and the environmental legal specialists Client Earth detail the measures that would enable the UK and EU to "tackle deforestation, environmental harm and human rights abuses by introducing mandatory due diligence".³⁵⁵

These ideas appear to be gaining traction. In March 2020, a UK government-taskforce - the Global Resources Initiative - recommended that the government 'urgently' adopt a mandatory due diligence obligation so that businesses and financial institutions avoid deforestation in their supply chains and portfolios respectively.³⁵⁶ In September 2020, the UK government undertook a public consultation on a potential law to address its role in imported deforestation.³⁵⁷ The EU is also contemplating new laws to tackle deforestation associated with EU imports and financing. In the latter half of 2020 the European Parliament put out a landmark report³⁵⁸ citing the need for new laws, including on finance. Over a million people also made submissions to an EU consultation³⁵⁹ on deforestation which also put the possibility of new laws on the table.³⁶⁰ Key companies like Nestle³⁶¹ and Tesco³⁶² are also backing calls for regulation.

Investments and loans received by the three beef companies between 2017 and 2019		
Beef traders	Amount of investments and loans received between 2017 and 2019 in USD	% share of finance by jurisdiction of origin (according to the headquarters of the financier facilitating or providing the finance)
	\$4.8 billion	Brazil - 59% US - 34% EU - 2% (excluding UK) UK - 1% Others - 1% (of which Canada accounted for 50%)
	\$3.5 billion	Brazil - 45% EU - 14% (excluding UK) UK - 14% US - 12% Others - 14% (of which Japan accounted for 65%)
	\$1.3 billion	Brazil - 45% US - 30% UK - 14% EU - 9% (excluding UK) Others - 1.5% (of which Switzerland accounted for 33%)



Major retailers and brands are exposed to cattle related deforestation in the Amazon through their relationships to the beef companies that fail to screen out deforestation. © Greenpeace / Daniel Beltrá

SHOP TILL YOU DROP

Faraway consumers are exposed to deforestation in the beef companies' supply chains. In 2019, Mighty Earth exposed how Walmart, Carrefour, Sainsbury's and Marks and Spencers were all buyers of JBS products.³⁶³ Yet Sainsbury's recently signed an open letter by more than 40 leading companies, threatening to boycott products from Brazil if its congress approves a bill they warned would "encourage further land grabbing and widespread deforestation which would jeopardise the survival of the Amazon."³⁶⁴ Global Witness contacted Sainsbury's and asked if they still sold JBS beef, to see if their concern for the Amazon extended to their current products, yet received no reply.

Another NGO, Chain Reaction Research, assesses the risks major corporations face sourcing from or financing companies linked to deforestation. Last year it investigated Carrefour, the French supermarket with over 12,000 stores across Europe, South America, Africa, Middle-East and Asia. Some of Carrefour's beef products originated from Amazon-based slaughterhouses operated by JBS and Marfrig, despite the supermarket's promise to eliminate deforestation risk from its products by 2020. Chain Reaction also reported that Carrefour's policy "does not apply to processed or frozen beef products". Neither does it publish progress reports or a list of its beef suppliers.³⁶⁵

Mighty Earth also alleged McDonald's, Subway and Nestle bought from Marfrig,³⁶⁶ while the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) reported Burger King was

a major Marfrig customer.³⁶⁷ The BIJ also reported that JBS, Marfrig and Minerva exported beef worth nearly £1 billion to the UK in recent years.³⁶⁸ Export data obtained by Global Witness shows that in March 2020 alone, the three companies shipped more than \$44 million-worth of beef to global markets, including EU, US and Chinese importers. Companies in China like Sunlon Supply Chain Service Dalian and Wuhu Shuanghui Import & Export Trade dominated imports, accounting for a combined 50% of the total from the country. In 2017, the supply chain data experts TRASE found JBS, Marfrig and Minerva's beef exports to more than 400 importers were worth more than \$4 billion.³⁶⁹ China, the EU and the US accounted for 51% of this sum.³⁷⁰

Top 10 importing jurisdictions of JBS, Marfrig and Minerva beef products (TRASE data 2017)		Amount in USD	% of total
1	CHINA	1,386,770,301	34.40%
2	IRAN	470,210,221	11.66%
3	EUROPEAN UNION (excluding the UK)	442,811,235	10.98%
4	EGYPT	377,066,530	9.35%
5	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	268,056,830	6.65%
6	CHILE	263,220,292	6.53%
7	UNITED STATES	141,484,576	3.51%
8	UNITED KINGDOM	116,362,948	2.89%
9	SAUDI ARABIA	105,367,676	2.61%
10	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	71,781,431	1.78%

CASE STUDY

TOO MANY SIGNS, TOO MANY WARNINGS

For years, Brazilian civil society has repeatedly flagged the beef companies' exposure to deforestation.

➤ In 2017, Imazon warned Amazon slaughterhouses owned by JBS, Marfrig and Minerva were at risk of buying from cattle ranches with deforestation.³⁷¹ That same year, Greenpeace Brasil suspended its agreement with JBS after an Ibama investigation accused the company of purchasing cattle from ranches with illegal deforestation.³⁷² The NGO called the “illegal practices” a “blatant violation” of the prosecutor’s agreement, saying it would suspend negotiations with the company until it could prove its supply chain was deforestation-free.³⁷³ A few months later, Greenpeace Brasil also suspended its agreements with Marfrig and Minerva, stating: “No slaughterhouse can guarantee its production is not linked to the destruction of forests.”³⁷⁴

➤ Also in 2017, Reporter Brasil reported Brazilian prosecutors had accused JBS of buying cattle from an alleged illegal land grabber they claimed responsible for illegal deforestation.³⁷⁵

➤ In 2018, Brazilian NGO Oeco reported on the failure of JBS to comply with its prosecutor’s agreement, after the Federal Prosecutor’s Office in Pará revealed 19% of all JBS’s cattle purchases in 2016 were non-compliant.³⁷⁶

➤ In 2019, an [investigation](#) by Repórter Brasil, the Guardian and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) alleged JBS was purchasing cattle from embargoed areas.³⁷⁷ JBS denied the claim.

➤ Also in 2019, following the public outrage at the Amazon fires, Reporter Brasil and the Bureau reported Marfrig “bought cattle from a farm using deforested land in a part of the Amazon ... ravaged by forest fires”³⁷⁸

➤ In March 2020, Reporter Brasil accused JBS and Marfrig of purchasing cattle from ranches that had, in turn, bought cattle from an Amazon rancher accused of a massacre.³⁷⁹ JBS denied the rancher was on their list of suppliers while Marfrig claimed they were tackling the problem of indirect suppliers in a new partnership with WWF.³⁸⁰

➤ In June 2020, Greenpeace Brasil accused JBS, Marfrig and Minerva of purchasing thousands of cattle linked to ranches with deforestation in the state of Mato Grosso.³⁸¹

This July, Amnesty International released a [report](#) claiming cattle illegally grazed in the Amazon ended up in JBS’s supply chain. The company said it was dealing with issues raised in the report through numerous initiatives.

➤ In September the sustainability risk analyst [Chain Reaction Research](#) (CRR) published a report exposing how in 2019 JBS purchased from 983 Amazon ranches with 20,296 hectares of deforestation and had over 1,800 indirect suppliers with over 50,000 hectares of deforestation in its supply chain. Yet these were only samples. Using these cases, CRR estimated that in 2019 JBS may have purchased from direct suppliers with 200,000 hectares of deforestation, with indirect suppliers linked to its supply chain containing over 1.5 million hectares of forest clearance.

Burning of a forested area in a ranch that Greenpeace Brasil claim was linked to JBS’s supply chain. © Christian Braga / Greenpeace



THROUGH THE HAZE

Between 2005 and 2013, state interventions helped bring about an unprecedented 70% drop in Amazon deforestation,³⁸² making Brazil a world leader in the reduction of harm to rainforests.³⁸³ The Greenpeace and the prosecutor's agreements were essential advances in this effort. Yet the consistent exposure by Greenpeace Brasil, Reporter Brasil, Imazon, Amnesty International, Chain Reaction Research, as well as others, and now Global Witness, question the extent to which JBS, Marfrig and Minerva are willing to go to fully abide by their commitments. The election of President Jair Bolsonaro has made the situation worse, with the safeguards and agencies that protect the Amazon coming under ferocious attack.³⁸⁴ As a result deforestation of the most climate critical forest on earth is rising steeply, and all the progress made between 2005 and 2013 is being lost.³⁸⁵

In the middle of this crisis, the beef companies are continuing to purchase cattle without effective measures in place to ensure compliance with their agreements, while also failing to make their supply chains fully transparent, trackable and accountable. They are also standing by as independent and publicly available cattle transport permits are, in some Amazon states, becoming increasingly difficult for civil society organisations to access. Worse, the companies are even claiming that accessing these permits is not legal, contradicting various legal analyses commissioned by Global Witness and others which shows accessing these documents was and is possible. The time has come for them to act. Yet their responses to the allegations inspire little confidence they are fully complying with their commitments.

And the audits carried out by DNV-GL and Grant Thornton – which play such a crucial role in verifying the beef traders' compliance – are, in our view, deficient. Too many cases of ranches with deforestation have escaped their attention. There are also questions of conduct in the



The EU needs to step up and ensure its companies remove deforestation from their supply chains/portfolios

case of DNV-GL. Both firms must account for the failings exposed in this investigation.

JBS, Marfrig and Minerva flaunt these flawed audits to assure the financial world their credit and investments are not linked to deforestation, while their banks and lenders fail to scrutinise and hold them to account for their failures. Worse, as banks compete to carve out their share in the niche 'green finance' markets to show off their environmental credentials, they fail to address concerns raised about deforestation in their much larger 'non-green' financial portfolios. Despite civil society repeatedly exposing deforestation and human rights violations in Brazil – including those linked to the beef giants – banks and their home stock exchanges have not fully grasped there will be little trust in 'green finance' products if the same banks offering them are making headlines for their exposure to large-scale environmental destruction in crucial ecosystems like the Amazon. All the while credit rating agencies encourage the financial sector to carry on investing and lending to the beef companies, without sufficiently prioritising environmental concerns in their credit scores.

Supermarkets, fast food outlets and importers profit from the beef companies' failures by buying their tainted beef. Aside from France, governments do not require any of these actors to carry out due diligence before buying from or investing in the beef giants, with no laws in place to hold them to account. The result is a perfect storm. Every player from the ranches that raise cattle, to the goliaths of Brazil's beef industry, international auditors, iconic financial backers, supermarkets, importers and fast-food chain stores, are either destroying rainforests directly, complicit in their destruction or not doing enough.

Companies and finance are failing to take the action necessary to ensure they are not fueling deforestation. Governments must now take action commensurate with the urgency of the situation and introduce regulation obliging banks, investors, supermarkets and importers to ensure they undertake rigorous checks on deforestation and forest-related human rights abuses.

Financial institutions and others now need to put their money where their mouth is to ensure they are not complicit in forest destruction, and withdraw their backing from the beef giants if they are unable to verifiably show they are not involved in the destruction of the Brazilian Amazon.

The future of this climate critical rainforest, its biodiversity and local communities now depend on companies, financiers and governments taking urgent action to ensure they are not complicit in this irreversible destruction.

Anything else is just greenwashing.



Protestors calling for Amazon deforestation to be stopped. Horacio Villalobos#Corbis/Corbis via Getty Images

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governments in countries whose businesses import, finance or invest in forest-risk commodities should:

- introduce legislation requiring businesses, including finance, to identify, prevent, mitigate and report on deforestation risk and forest-related human rights risks.
- ensure that trade negotiations with Brazil do not increase the pressure on Brazil's forests by promoting trade in beef and other commodities linked to the deforestation of the Amazon.

The financial actors, importers and supermarkets exposed to the beef companies should:

- immediately suspend any services, financing or contracts with JBS, Marfrig and Minerva and all meat traders sourcing in the legal Amazon until, at minimum, the conditions are in place to undertake basic due diligence on the companies, including full supply chain transparency.
- clearly signal what they will do if JBS, Marfrig and Minerva fail to acknowledge and act on the facts of this report and other civil society exposés- including on the evidence of deforestation and human rights abuses in their supply chain in breach of their own policies and legal requirements.
- investigate and report on whether they have legally misled their shareholders or clients as to their due diligence processes, including any potential exposure to handling the proceeds of crime.

- adopt a zero tolerance policy for threats and attacks on environmental and human rights defenders.
- call for Brazilian state authorities to ensure that publicly available and independent data that tracks the lifecycle of cattle, such as cattle transport permits, are easily accessible.

Credit Rating Agencies should:

- immediately suspend ratings services to JBS, Marfrig and Minerva if they are unable to address the methodological issues that perversely incentivise deforestation.

JBS, Marfrig and Minerva should:

- ensure full, accessible and publicly available data on their supply chain which would allow independent scrutiny, including by civil society, of their entire supply chain and any actions taken against non-compliant suppliers identified.
- create a more detailed, time-bound plan to remove all non-compliant indirect suppliers from their supply chains that is appropriate to the urgency of Amazon deforestation.
- require suppliers, at point of purchase, to provide full documentation that tracks the cattle's lifecycle and owner throughout the supply chain as well as proof of full compliance with Brazil's Forest Code.
- immediately commit to a mandatory reporting policy, which requires staff if they become aware of any suspected breach of Brazilian law or human rights abuses by their suppliers to report this to relevant authorities.

➤ make it a formal condition of entering into business with them, that ranches are required to comply with legislation and company policies. If ranchers breach these conditions take legal action against them.

DNV-GL, Grant Thornton and future auditors

➤ DNV-GL and Grant Thornton should investigate and publicly report on why their auditing of JBS, Marfrig and Minerva failed to identify the cases uncovered by Global Witness. Do not take on any further audits related to the companies until this is done and until the necessary measures to address these issues are adopted.

➤ Other auditors considering taking on future audits should require these follow a methodologically robust process. This should include analysis based on 100% of cattle purchases, and that company data is cross-checked against independent and public data, and full company clarifications or comments appear in an annexed document to the audits.

Environmental Federal Prosecutors should:

➤ strengthen the audit methodologies to monitor the beef companies' compliance with their non-prosecution agreements. This should include requiring that 100% of their cattle purchases are audited and that the audit's initial findings are available in full.

➤ ensure that company comments provided to auditors to clarify or justify purchases from non-compliant ranchers be published in full and separately to the audits.

➤ review whether the current margin of error provided to beef companies for monitoring deforestation within ranches to check on their compliance with the non-prosecution agreements should be updated. This should consider the progress that has been made in satellite technologies that now permits identifying deforestation that is lower than 6.25 hectares.

➤ write into non-prosecution agreements a requirement for the beef companies to suspend cattle purchases from ranchers that are under investigation by prosecutors or that face legal action related to allegations of agrarian related violence and/or landgrabbing and/or human rights abuses.

The Brazilian government should:

➤ reverse the recent de-funding of forest enforcement and protection agencies and fully implement Brazil's Forest Code.

➤ ensure that the rights of indigenous and forest communities are met.

➤ ensure that publicly available and independent data that tracks the lifecycle of cattle, such as cattle transport permits, are easily accessible.

The Amazon captures 5% of global annual carbon emissions, and is home to an estimated 390 billion individual trees. *Vinícius Mendonça, Ibama*



METHODOLOGY

Wherever deforestation amounts, or numbers of cattle, or ranch name or rancher from which JBS, Marfrig and Minerva purchased cattle, is mentioned in the report, these were the result of this methodology. It describes the method through which Global Witness was able to make those claims.

Global Witness obtained cattle transport permits (GTA) for the years 2014 to 2019 from the website of the Sanitary Agency of the State of Pará (Agência Sanitária do Estado do Pará - Adepará)³⁸⁶ to identify the cattle suppliers to JBS, Marfrig and Minerva over the 2017 to 2019 period.

The Federal Government requires these documents for sanitary control as cattle are transported around the country. They show movements of cattle from birth to slaughter.³⁸⁷ Legal research commissioned by Global Witness shows these are publically accessible documents (this analysis can be found below).

The data were filtered using the information in the GTAs that permitted to see the destination of the cattle to slaughterhouses owned by JBS, Marfrig and Minerva between 2017 and 2019. In the case of JBS and Marfrig, only GTAs that indicated the end-use of the cattle as “for slaughter” were used, while for Minerva the filters “quarantine” and “export” were used, given the company only exports livestock from Pará and does not have a slaughterhouse there. The aim of this was to ensure only these cattle would be considered in the analysis and not others that may not have been slaughtered, quarantined or exported on/from the premises of the beef companies. Additionally, Global Witness only used GTAs with the status “in transit” and “arrived at destination”, excluding those with the status “cancelled”. Cancelled GTAs are when a GTA was issued but then subsequently cancelled, thus indicating the cattle never went to the slaughterhouse.

Global Witness then downloaded all ranch boundaries from a publically available website of the State of Pará - the rural environmental registry (SICAR).³⁸⁸ SICAR is a rural environmental property registry that requires all cattle ranchers to upload information on: the size of the ranch, the owner of the ranch and the shapefile of the ranch, among other details.³⁸⁹

We then matched the SICAR data with the GTA data. This was done through an automatic process which matched GTA and SICAR data on the following:

➤ the CPF/CNPJ (unique tax code for individuals/companies in Brazil) of the rancher/company in the GTA and SICAR

➤ the name of the ranches on the GTA and SICAR

➤ the name of the ranch owners on the GTA and SICAR

➤ the establishment code named in the GTA with a unique code for rural properties on SICAR called the “numero de recibo”. Part of these codes identifies the ranches’ location in a municipality.

The first selection concerned the ranches where there was zero name difference between the names on the GTA and the SICAR. Subsequently, there was a second selection of names that did not exactly match between the GTA and the SICAR. This was done to select those cases where the differences were exclusively due to:

➤ capital letters versus smaller letters on the GTA and the SICAR respectively

➤ differences between accents in one name but not the other (for example *São* and *Sao*)

➤ slight variations in spellings, but where the owner of the ranch and its municipality were the same, and wherein no other ranches with that spelling owned by that rancher were found

➤ where in the GTA the name of the owner was placed in brackets next to the name of the ranch, which apart from that coincided precisely with the ranch name and owner on the SICAR

Apart from matching ranch names, the CPF/CNPJ of the ranch owner had to coincide, the name of the owner had to coincide, as well as the rural establishment code on the GTA with the first digits of the “numero de recibo” on the CAR data set.

The shapefiles of these ranches were then visualised in a software tool called QGIS. Global Witness then obtained official Amazon deforestation data from the Brazilian Government’s National Institute for Space Research (**INPE-PRODES**) and overlaid that with the land boundaries of the ranches that supplied to the beef companies over the period.

Once this process was done, deforestation polygons were then checked to see if they complied with the beef companies’ Greenpeace and prosecutor’s agreements:

The criteria used for this process was:

➤ Deforestation identified in a ranch after July 22nd 2008 – the date that the prosecutor’s agreement contemplates

➤ Deforestation identified in a ranch after October 2009 – the date that the Greenpeace agreement contemplates

➤ Deforestation in a ranch that exceeded 6.25 hectares

➤ Deforestation that preceded the date of purchase on the GTA

➤ Deforestation where 10% or more of the official deforestation polygon was within the ranch. This was an additional criterion used according to a protocol recently developed by the NGO Imaflora, which aims at unifying the different methodologies for the Greenpeace and prosecutor's agreement and in which the beef companies participate. This did not apply to the period we contemplated - nonetheless we applied this filter to reduce the number of cases.

Some ranches with deforestation overlapping inside its boundaries by less than 6.25 hectares were analysed and validated by Global Witness. This was done since the Greenpeace Agreement does not have a minimum requirement for deforestation size and nor did the prosecutor's agreement over the period analysed.

Subsequent to this analysis, a further process of validating the deforestation identified by Global Witness was done on a platform of a company used to visualise deforestation: TERRAS³⁹⁰/BusCar³⁹¹.

The criteria used by TERRAS were the following:

1. Polygons of deforestation identified after 22/07/2008;
2. Waste class deforestation polygons identified subsequent to 22/07/2008;
3. Deforestation polygons under cloud cover identified subsequent to 22/07/2008;
4. Deforestation polygons bigger than 6,25 hectares (not added up);
5. Only that deforestation that was at least 60 meters from the border of the ranch was considered, which was equivalent to two land pixels on Landsat imagery.

Once these filters had been applied, each deforestation polygon was then subjected to visual validation by TERRAS on the 1:50.000 scale using Sentinel and Landsat imagery, with before and after images, to remove false positives.

This process produced two lists of ranches:

1. The first list where the deforestation found by Global Witness was validated and confirmed
2. The second list where deforestation found by Global Witness did not adhere to the criteria stipulated above

For each of these cases a PDF was produced with before and after imagery of deforestation, with an outline of the methodology. (See this [link](#) for these PDFs)

Global Witness then replicated the visual validation that TERRAS carried out on the same ranches, using Landsat and Sentinel imagery and using the methodology of the Brazilian Government's National Institute for Space Research for visual validation of deforestation ([INPE-PRODES - Metodologia PRODES - DETER \(Edição revisada\)](#) – page 17 onwards).

During this process, some of the ranches on list 2 were re-included into list 1, and PDFs were produced for these using QGIS imagery.

Once a final list had been developed, Global Witness then obtained from the NGO Imaflora historic land boundaries for those ranches as they were in 2017 and 2018, already having downloaded the ranch boundaries as they were in October 2019 from the environmental rural registry mentioned above (SICAR). Imaflora downloads the land boundaries of rural producers across the Amazon every year from official state websites. They do this since those same websites do not keep historic land boundary data sets for rural producers, yet these do change their boundaries on SICAR. It is thus important to see if these modifications impacted or not the ranches compliance with the beef companies legal and voluntary agreements.

Having obtained historic land boundaries for the selected ranches, Global Witness then checked them all to see if there had been changes to the ranch boundaries during the 2017 and 2019 period, in order to remove those instances where boundaries were modified to entirely exclude deforestation – barring one case study, which we placed in the report (Fazenda Espora de Ouro II) as an example of what Global Witness alleges was an act of fraud. Of all the ranches analysed, 68 modified their boundaries over the period, a modification which either excluded or included deforestation.

This process permitted us to arrive at a combined final list of 379 ranches, within which we were able to discern over 17,000 hectares of deforestation that occurred after July 22nd 2008.

Methodology for arriving at the illegality of the deforestation in the 379 ranches

Global Witness accessed publically available deforestation permits from the relevant Pará state entity SEMAS (<https://www.semas.pa.gov.br/>) and federal deforestation permits from the relevant federal forest inspection agency - Ibama (<http://www.ibama.gov.br>). This was done to see if the deforestation identified in the 379 ranches had the legally required permit or not.

This permit (called Autorização de Supressão de Vegetação) is required for rural producers that want to deforest in their property under article 26 of Brazil's Forest Code - its main forest law. Under [Chapter 5 of the law, titled "Of vegetation suppression for alternative use of land"](#), article 26 states: "The suppression of native vegetation for the alternative use of land, both on public and private land, depends on the property being registered in the Environmental Rural Registry (CAR) mentioned in article 29, and on prior authorisation from the competent state organ." The competent state organ in Pará [authorised to issue such permits is the Environmental Secretariat \(SEMAS\)](#). The term native vegetation is defined in article 1, para A1 of the law as "forests and other forms of native vegetation."

Additionally, Brazil has a [Federal Decree](#) on infractions related to the environment, Article 43 of which makes it an administrative infraction (not a crime) to: "Destroy, damage forests, or other forms of vegetation,....without authorisation from the competent authority." Thus, if no authorisation for deforestation is granted, this is considered an infraction under this law. [*Criminal offences against the environment are found in Law 9,605, from article 38 onwards*].

It is possible to download the SEMAS Pará state permits from the following link: <https://monitoramento.semas.pa.gov.br/simlam/index.htm>

To access the permits click on "Licenciamento", then on "Listar AUAS". Then click on "Busca Avançada" and a further click on "Filtrar Busca", which brings up the list of permits. At the time of access (March 2020) there were 122 registered permits, for which the following information is available:

Nº Título/Nº Processo/Modelo/Empreendimento/
Município/Ações

These contained the following information, which permitted a cross-check with the 379 ranches previously identified:

➤ Geographic coordinates for the permitted deforestation, which were overlaid onto the 379 ranches to see if these coordinates coincided within the boundaries of the ranches – none did. Where there were errors in the data, such as geographic coordinates where the longitude was placed where the latitude should be placed or vice versa, resulting in coordinates that were not in the state of Pará, Global Witness corrected these as much as possible.

➤ "Numero de recibo" – these are unique codes assigned to rural properties and which appear on some of the permits. These codes were also compared to the equivalents for the 379 ranches - none coincided.

➤ Name of the Producer/the ranch/the company permitted to deforest, which were compared to the equivalents on the list of 379 ranches - none coincided.

➤ CPF-CNPJ – unique tax codes for individuals, companies and rural property owners, which were compared to the equivalents of the 379 ranches – none coincided.

Of the 122 permits subjected to the above comparisons, 43 could not be downloaded and could not be subjected to that analysis due to problems with the state database. Nonetheless, information could be seen on the database that permitted further analysis. As a result, these 43 ranches were subjected to the following analysis:

➤ 31 of the 43 permits had the names of companies available on the SEMAS database. It was possible, using the companies' names, to find the CNPJ (individual tax code) of the company through the official site of the Brazilian government (<http://receita.economia.gov.br/>), and compare these to the CNPJs of our list of 379 ranches – none coincided.

➤ 8 of the permits were for 7 individuals named on the SEMAS database. The names of these individuals were compared against the list of property owner names for the 379 ranches – none coincided.

➤ 2 of the permits were for rural properties named on the SEMAS database. These were searched on the SICAR database using the municipality of the location of the ranch detailed on the SEMAS database, then finding the declared owner of the ranch and their CPF. This was then compared to the 379 ranches – none coincided.

➤ 2 of the permits were of settlements where landless families reside - none of which coincided with the 379 ranches.

As a precaution, Global Witness did a freedom of information request to the Pará state entity SEMAS for the deforestation permits, and asked if any were missing, and received a reply stating all permits were on the publically accessible database. Additionally, Global Witness requested if any smaller state entities at the municipal level were able to provide these permits, and received a reply saying that for cattle grazing related deforestation, municipalities were not able to provide these permits.

As a result of this analysis, Global Witness concluded that none of the deforestation in the 379 ranches had the legally required permits, breaching the Forest Code and the Federal Decree, being therefore illegal. Furthermore, a Brazilian environmental lawyer specialist in the area validated the legal analysis and agreed with the findings.

Nowhere do we make the claim that the owners of the 379 ranches were responsible for the illegal deforestation. The only claim is that illegal deforestation happened within the boundaries of the relevant ranch contrary to the beef companies' prosecutor's agreement, as referenced in the report.

This analysis was replicated for the same permits as stored on the federal database, and the same result was obtained.

As a result, Global Witness concluded that the deforestation in the 379 ranches that sold to the beef companies between 2017 and 2019 did not have such permits, and was therefore illegal, breaching the cited part of the company's prosecutor's agreement.

Methodology for the identification of deforestation in the beef companies' indirect suppliers

The GTAs permit the analysis of which ranches all of the beef companies' total direct suppliers (with and without deforestation) buy their cattle from – so called indirect suppliers - to check if deforestation occurred in them. The beef traders should be monitoring deforestation in these ranches according to both agreements, and should be blocking those where cattle go from an indirect supplier to one of their direct suppliers and then to the slaughterhouse.

Global Witness quantified the amount of deforestation in the beef companies' indirect suppliers by following the same methodology for the direct suppliers, but without the validation done in coordination with Imazon. The minimum 6.25 hectare filter for deforestation polygons was not applied, due to the fact that smaller deforestation in ranches is substantial and the agreements did not stipulate a minimum size of deforestation over the period contemplated.

The deforestation found in the indirect suppliers was subject to the following analysis:

➤ Deforestation after January 2009 for the prosecutor's agreement. This date was selected rather than the 22nd of July 2008 date stipulated by the prosecutor's agreement, to remove any instances of possible deforestation that may have preceded the 22nd of July 2008 date, but which could only be verified through the kind of visual validation carried out for the direct suppliers. Due to the sheer number of indirect suppliers with deforestation, it was not possible to subject them to this same level of additional validation. Thus this extra precaution.

➤ Deforestation after October 2009 as per the Greenpeace agreement requirements.

➤ Deforestation that preceded the date of purchase of the cattle by the beef companies on the GTA.

➤ Only direct suppliers that received cattle from indirect suppliers, and then sold cattle within 15 months of the arrival of that cattle to the beef companies, were considered. This was done to avoid those instances where an indirect supplier provided cattle to a direct supplier, which then only sold to the beef companies some years later, since this exceeds the average fattening period for cattle. Global Witness used a "fattening" period for cattle in direct supplier's ranches of 15 months, to determine this filter. This period was based on an academic study by the Federal University of Minas Gerais, found [here](#) (page 35, para 3).

➤ More than 10% of the deforestation polygon had to overlap inside the ranch (we used the protocol coordinated by Brazilian NGO Imaflores to apply this filter – a protocol recently agreed on by the beef companies).

Wherever deforestation amounts, or numbers of cattle, or ranch name or rancher is mentioned in the report, these were the result of this methodology. Please contact Global Witness for any further information requests.

Further documentation and code for obtaining the relevant data and performing the analysis described above can be found [here](#).

Argument for Marfrig's legal responsibilities

Marfrig should not be purchasing cattle with illegal deforestation as per Brazilian law, as laid out by Federal Prosecutor's in Marfrig's [prosecutor's agreement](#) for other Amazon states – laws which apply nationally.

Prosecutor's cite [Law no 6.938/81](#) (National Policy on the Environment), Article 2, number IV, which defines a polluter as "a legal or physical person, as a public or private legal entity, responsible, directly or indirectly, for activities that cause environmental degradation" while [article 14 of the same law](#) and [article 225 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic](#) state that the "causer of environmental damage, even indirectly, will be made responsible for that damage without the necessity of proving guilt, by virtue of the precautionary duty imposed on all in relation to the environment." Law no 6.938/81 also states, in Article 14 §1, that the polluter "is obligated, independently of the existence of guilt, to repair or provide indemnity for damage caused to the environment and third parties,

that are affected by its activities. The Public Prosecutor's office has the legitimacy to propose civil and criminal punishments for any damage to the environment."

Federal Prosecutors also argue, through Articles 4.3 and 6.2 of the Law for Consumer Defence that "measures must be adopted for the identification and provenance, of quality and legality, of all products provided to consumers".

Thus, when Marfrig buys cattle from ranches (directly or indirectly) with illegal deforestation, Federal Prosecutors argue it is failing in its precautionary duty to the environment, being thus a polluter that is responsible for causing environmental degradation (even if indirectly), failing to ensure the legal provenance of the products it then makes available for consumers, subjecting it to possible civil and criminal proceedings for breaking the aforementioned laws.

Global Witness used the date of 22nd of July 2008 as the date from which Marfrig should not be purchasing from ranches with illegal deforestation due to the revised Forest Code of [2012, article 59](#) of which states that "rural property owners cannot be penalized for infractions committed prior to July 22nd 2008", provided they adhere to a "program for environmental regularization." Thus we followed the date set by the Forest Code in this instance.

Extracts of the legal arguments for the public accessibility of the cattle transport permits commissioned from legal experts

1. GTAs e e-GTAs.

The Guia de Trânsito Animal (Animal Transit Certificate, hereinafter referred to as "GTA") was introduced by Portaria 22/95 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (hereinafter referred to as "Ministry of Agriculture"). It is an official public document issued by the Brazilian State through a federal representation office in some states of our Federation, mandatory for the transit of livestock, fertile eggs and other materials concerning animal breeding within our borders³⁹². It brings information on the origin, destination, sanitary conditions (health issues, vaccination) and the purposes of the displacement. It is issued and signed by veterinarians habilitated by the Federal Superintendence of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, the local representation of the Ministry of Agriculture in each state.

Normative Instruction 18/06, issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, brought the official model of GTA to be followed in all states of the Federation. According to its article 4, it is incumbent to each state the issuance of the GTA, through its official department of animal sanitary defence, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Normative Instruction 19/11, also issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, introduced the electronic format of the GTA, the so-called e-GTA. It stated that the e-GTA's system must comply with the Brazilian Electronic Government Program, introduced by Decree 8,638/16, which is for the full disclosure and accessibility of online public information to civil society, aiming to stimulate social control and citizen's participation in public matters. Nowadays, it is possible, in various states of our Federation, for anyone to access online the contents of any active e-GTA.

2. Regarding the public character of the GTA.

Since it is filled in, issued and kept by public officers in the performance of their duties, the GTA may be deemed a public document³⁹³. A very relevant part of the legal literature and court precedents support this conclusion, as below described.

The information shall be deemed public whenever it has been produced, kept or guarded by any public entity and official, and is of evident public interest, except for a small group of documents and information classified as restricted, secret or confidential, upon justification by the competent authority, according to the law³⁹⁴.

There are some court precedents in Brazil which have expressly declared the GTA a public document, including one recent manifestation by Supreme Court's Minister Edson Fachin³⁹⁵.

The GTA is an open document in the sense that our law does not specify or limit the reasons why and situations in which it should be disclosed, accessed and used. Notwithstanding being mandatory for purposes of animal transit, the law does not limit its use for such purpose, nor expressly forbids its consultation and use for other purposes.

In Brazil the general legal principle of constitutional and administrative law is that public officers and entities may only perform those acts expressly demanded from them by the law, while private citizens and legal entities are free to perform any acts not expressly forbidden by the law. Article 5, II, of the Brazilian Federal Constitution, sets forth that "no one shall be obliged to do or refrain from doing something except by virtue of law".

Prominent professor of law Mr Hely Lopes Meirelles compares the activities of a public administrator with those of a private one as follows:

*"In Public Administration there is neither freedom nor personal will. While in private administration everything the law does not forbid is allowed, in Public Administration it is allowed only what the law expressly allows."*³⁹⁶

Under Brazilian law, everything must always be in accordance with our main law: the Federal Constitution. All legal matters emanate from the Constitution and must be in harmony with it. Even the behaviours of our President, Ministers, Governors, Congressmen, judges, prosecutors and even police authorities are subject to the Constitution. Also, any type of existing law and regulation below the constitution (law, decree, act, normative instruction, ordinance etc.) must be in accordance with the Constitution, reflecting and emanating the principles established therein. Therefore, any law, public act, order or decision, including sentences passed by judges, must necessarily comply with all articles of the Constitution, especially those setting forth the so-called fundamental rights and guarantees of individuals. These rights and guarantees are so relevant that they are deemed *cláusulas pétreas*, meaning “clauses that can never be suppressed, amended or modified”.

All issues submitted to the appreciation of our Judiciary could end up in the Constitutional Court, the actual summit of our legal system: the Supreme Court of Justice (*Supremo Tribunal Federal*). Also, any type of law issued by the two houses of our National Congress, or by the Executive Power (presidency, ministries, state governs) are also subject to the ultimate validation of the Supreme Court.

With regard to the publicity of public documents, the Brazilian Constitution is very clear: the general rule is for publicity of any information of private, collective and general interest, excepting those which secrecy might be deemed indispensable for some very relevant and lawful reason, such as the security of the civil population and of the State. However, those exceptions must be expressly predicted by the law and openly declared by a competent authority.

Article 5 of the Brazilian Constitution (establishing the individual fundamental rights), includes the publicity of public information:

Art. 5. All persons are equal before the law, with no distinction whatsoever, Brazilians and foreigners residing in the country being ensured of inviolability of the right to life, liberty, equality, security and property, on the following terms:

(...)

XXXIII – all persons have the right to receive, from the public agencies, information of private interest to such persons, or of collective or general interest, which shall be provided within the period established by law, subject to liability, except for the information whose secrecy is essential to the security of society and of the State;

Meanwhile, article 37 of the Constitution mentions the publicity principle among the guiding principles of the public administration:

Art. 37. The governmental entities and entities owned by the Government in any of the powers of the Union, the states, the Federal District and the Municipalities shall obey the principles of legality, impersonality, morality, publicity, and efficiency, and also the following:

(...)

Paragraph 3. The law shall regulate the forms of participation of users in governmental entities and in entities owned by the Government, especially with regard to:

(...)

II - the access of users to administrative records and to information about Government initiatives, with due regard for article 5, X e XXXIII;

Item X of article 5 referred to in the final part of item II above refers to the protection of intimacy, private life and image of individuals as another principle of similar constitutional status. However, this constitutional provision does not apply to information of undeniable public interest, such as, for instance, any information on goods to be traded in the market, with possible impacts on public health, consumers’ rights, environment and so on. Or in cases in which a commercial activity or individuals are infringing some law. Wherever there is a crime or illegality being committed, the competent authorities should be notified to be able to do something to stop, investigate and prosecute it. Therefore, the right to intimacy or confidentiality of private data or image might always be weighed against other principles which, sometimes, will prevail.

The General Law for Protection of Personal Data (Law 13,709/18, which will only be in full effect next year) in its article 7 sets forth some circumstances in which there is no need of the owner’s consent for a third party to use its information, amongst which we underline the following: in studies and researches carried out by a research centre, respecting anonymity whenever possible and in the exercise of rights in judicial, administrative and arbitral proceedings. And then there is paragraph 3 of said law, stating: “*the treatment of personal data the access of which is public must consider the purpose, the good faith and the public interest justifying its publicity*”.³⁹⁷

Therefore, even the specific law on the matter of protection of personal and sensitive information recognises the prevalence of the principle of publicity in certain cases and situations.

A Brazilian prominent constitutionalist, Mr José Afonso da Silva, reminds us that the publicity principle is one of the fundamental guiding principles of the Public Administration, and applies to any type of document kept, concluded or under elaboration by public officers of any kind, and thus should be made available to anyone interested in examining them at any time.³⁹⁸

Another prominent Brazilian professor of constitutional law, Mr Celso Antônio Bandeira de Melo, points out that it is an administrative duty to keep its actions and behaviours in full transparency, for any citizen may be informed of public matters.³⁹⁹

In compliance with the Constitution, Law 12,527/11 (known in Brazil as “LAI”, meaning “Law of Access to Information”) institutes the Brazilian FOI system and regulates the constitutional right of citizens to access any and all public non classified information. It applies and must be observed by the three Powers of the Union⁴⁰⁰. It reflects and reinforces the constitutional principle of publicity of all public information, except when secrecy is expressly declared by one of the very few authorities entitled to do so, and only in situations authorized by the law. This law also regulates the constitutional principle for protection of information of individuals, however limiting its scope and range with regard to the general principle for disclosure of any information of public interest.

Article 23 of the above mentioned Law 12,527/11 provides the hypothesis in which it is possible the declaration of secrecy. The list is both exceptional and exhaustive:

Art. 23. It is deemed indispensable for the security of the society and of the State, and, therefore, subject to classification as information which free disclosure and access may:

- I – endanger the defence and national sovereignty or the integrity of the national territory;
- II – harm or endanger the development of negotiations and international relations of the Country, or those secretly transmitted by other States and international bodies;
- III – endanger the life, security or the health of the population;
- IV – offer substantial risk to the financial, economic and monetary stability of the Nation;
- V – harm or endanger the plans or strategic operations of the Armed Forces;
- VI – harm or endanger research projects and the scientific and technological development, as well as systems, goods, facilities or areas deemed nationally strategic;
- VII – endanger the security of institutions or national or international high authorities and its family members;

or

VIII – compromise intelligence activities, as well as investigation, ongoing inspection, regarding the prevention and repression of infractions.

According to article 23 above, it looks clear that none of the exceptions to the general rule for publicity seem to apply to GTAs. If there was any reason to believe that the free access and use of GTAs by the general public should be restricted because it would actually constitute some of the above situations, then some competent authority would have to expressly classify the GTAs, justifying and exposing its reasons. The competent authorities entitled to do so are very few, and the procedure to be followed for classification is detailed by Law 12,527/11.⁴⁰¹

The general rule for publicity expressed in the Federal Constitution and in Law 12,527/11 means that all information produced and kept by any public authority should be public and open to general consultation. In case some public information was not classified but, for some reason, is not yet open to public access, then it is subject to the so-called FOI request, also predicted and regulated by said law. It does not seem to apply to the GTAs though, since they are, or used to be, already open for public consultation at the proper governmental websites, in due observance of the general principle for publicity.

One of the reasons of existence of the GTA seems to be to assure to the civil society the access to relevant information on animals in transit within the country. It is clearly comprehended in one of the most fundamental principles of any democracy, which is the social control of all public matters. It is evident and even intuitive, and consequently a legal value consolidated as a constitutional principle (the principle of publicity), that any information on relevant matters such as health conditions, origin and destination of animals in transit within our borders should be always open and accessible to the population.

Under another point of view, no other interest or reason of the State, such as the general safety of the population, or protection of private data or image, seem to be higher than the type of public interest contemplated by this document. Therefore, nothing really seems to justify any type of secrecy covering the information contemplated in the GTAs. In reality, it is quite the opposite: the safety of the population is better served if GTAs are fully accessible by all citizens at any time.

The Ministry of Transparency, Supervision and General Controller’s Office of the Union, by means of a publication on the application of the law on general access to information in the Federal Public Administration, disposes:

“The access to information is understood as a right which strengthens the participation of the civil society in matters of the State and the collectiveness, and which contributes to the accomplishment of other rights by the citizens. The importance of the accessibility of information for the enforcement and defence of rights is an issue contemplated in article 21 of Law No. **12,527/11**, which emphasizes the **guarantee of access to information necessary for the judicial and administrative protection of fundamental rights.**”⁴⁰²

The Manual on Access to Information for States and Municipalities, issued by the Controller’s General Office of the Union, states:

“The guarantee of access to information brings advantages to the society and to the Public Administration. In general, the access to public information is an important requirement for the battle against corruption, the improvement of public management, social control and citizenship. The access to public information turns the active participation of civil society in governmental actions possible and, therefore, brings many gains, such as the accomplishment of fundamental rights.”⁴⁰³

This has been the understanding adopted by many Brazilian courts of law when deciding in lawsuits dealing with issues involving the publicity of public and administrative acts:

“The principle of publicity of administrative acts honours the control and knowledge by all those interested and any and all persons, of documents existing in public bodies which demonstrates the accomplishment of administrative acts of the interest of the collectiveness.”⁴⁰⁴

“The publicity and right to information should not be restricted based on discretionary act, except when justified, in exceptional cases, for the defence of the honour, image and privacy of third parties or whenever the measure is essential for the protection of the public interest.”⁴⁰⁵

“The right of receiving information of private, general and collective interest from the public entities, excepting those which secrecy is deemed indispensable for the security of society and of the State, is safeguarded in the Federal Constitution (art. 5, XXXIII), and it constitutes abuse of power the violation of such norm, which may be corrected by this *mandamus*.”⁴⁰⁶

As pointed out by the Ministry of Transparency, Supervision and General Controller’s Office of the Union, in a publication on the “application of the law of access to

information of the Federal Public Administration”:

“The information produced and kept by the public sector must be made available to society, except for the exceptions provided in the law. In this sense, it is a basic principle found in Law 12,527/11 the so-called maximum disclosure, in which the publicity is the rule and secrecy the exception. The behaviour of disclosing data by initiative of the public administration itself not only imply on a reduction in the number of accesses, but suggests the perspective in which it is incumbent to the government solely the possession of such documents, being the people the real owner of the public information.”⁴⁰⁷

Thus, it is possible to conclude that the public access and consultation of GTAs, as well as the subsequent analysis, systematization and careful disclosure of information therein contemplated, or any opinion based on their analysis, is in consonance with a series of very relevant rights and guarantees consecrated in our Federal Constitution, reflected in lower legislation, and widely recognized by some of our most prominent legal scholars and courts of law.

From yet another angle, the legal reason behind the access and use of GTAs’ information may reinforce the legality of its very access and use, as well as its full conformity with the constitutional order. For instance, in case the person, entity or organisation accessing and subsequently disclosing some of the data contained in the GTAs do so for the purpose of protecting the environment will be acting in strict obedience of another duty imposed to the public authorities, individuals or organisations forming the collectiveness referred to in article 225 of the Federal Constitution:

Article 225. All have the right to an ecologically balanced environment, which is an asset of common use and essential to a healthy quality of life, and both the Government and the community shall have the duty to defend and preserve it for present and future generations.

Also, the consumers’ right provided by article 5, XXXII, of the Federal Constitution, and articles 6, II and III, and 31 of the Consumers’ Defence Code, assure to all Brazilian consumers the full access to any type of information on the products they might acquire. According to the Constitution, the State shall promote the consumers’ defence, another principle found in the list of fundamental rights and guarantees of individuals.

It is evident and intuitive that any type of information on the origin, sanitary conditions and destination of animals in transit within our borders, as well as on the

state of the facilities in which the animals are dealt with, and finally on any possible environmental impact of livestock activities, will always be of very high public interest, not only for possible consumers, but for the entire population.

Also, Article 57 of Decree 7,724/12 allow access to private information in cases of statistics and scientific research of obvious public or general interest, and of other people's human rights' defence. It is a growing sense that the environment is a modern type of human rights. These provisions and the Brazilian FOI (*Lei de Acesso à Informação*) may certainly be invoked and sustain one of the many legal justifications for accessing, using and even disclosing the information found on the GTAs. Even if they do not seem to apply to the GTA access, since they refer to personal information not open to the public and accessible through a FOI request. The information found on GTAs is – or should be - metaphorically already in the middle of the street, wide open and fully accessible on the Internet to anyone, at any time.

At this point, it is instructive to note that FOI dates back to 2011 and Decree 7,724 is from 2012. Evidently, since then the world has changed and evolved considerably, especially with regard to the kind of technology available to access information on the Internet. Legally speaking, it means that the interpretation of these laws should also evolve to consider this new era where all information - public and private - is much more open and accessible to anyone than before. The general constitutional principles mentioned above are especially appropriate to help in this necessary process of updating the so-called spirits of laws passed in older times.

Therefore, under all angles, from the constitutional law to consumers' law, passing through the environmental and criminal law, it is always possible to argue and defend that any person is entitled to access information on the sanitary conditions of animals in transit within the Nation and which may possibly end up in their fridges and on their tables. Also, they have the right to know if their production involves any type of environmental harm, deforestation or other illegalities such as frauds and modern slavery.

As for the later disclosure or publication of information found on GTAs in the context of reports of social and political importance, this is clearly covered by the freedom of speech constitutional provision, another fundamental right foreseen in article 5. Especially if the aim of this disclosure is as relevant as human rights' or environmental protection, which are not only relevant but also legal values equally protected by the same Constitution.

3. On the bulk access to GTAs using the latest software

The Brazilian FOI imposes on our Public Powers the obligation to make all public information accessible to the general public, in a clear, transparent and easily reachable way to any citizen. Paragraphs 2 and 3, and items II and III of article 8, disposes:

Article 8. It is incumbent to public entities to promote, independently from any request, the disclosure in a site of easy access, within the scope of its duties, information of collective and general interest produced and kept by them.

(...)

Paragraph 2. For the accomplishment of the provided for in the caput, public entities must use all legitimate means and instruments within their reach, being mandatory the disclosure in official websites.

Paragraph 3. The websites mentioned in paragraph 2 above, in the form of the regulation, must observe the following requirements, amongst others:

(...)

II – enable the recording of reports, including those open and not owned, such as spreadsheets and texts, for the purpose of facilitating the analysis of information;

III – enable the automated access by external systems in open format, structured and readable by machine;

The combined reading of the above dispositions is clear: public entities have the duty to promote and disclose information of general and collective interest produced and kept by them, enabling the automated access by external systems in open formats, structures and readable by machines, in official websites.

Notwithstanding, article 8 of Decree 7,724/12, reproduces and thus reinforces the provisions of the FOI:

Article 8. The websites of public entities, in compliance with the norms set forth by the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management, must meet the following requirements, among others:

(...)

III – enable the recording of reports, including those open and not owned, such as spreadsheets and texts, for the purpose of facilitating the analysis of information;

IV – enable the automated access by external systems in open format, structured and readable by machine;

Besides, Law 12,965/14 which institutes the so-called Internet Civil Framework (*Marco Civil da Internet*), sets forth principles, guarantees, rights and duties for the use of Internet within the country, providing that:

Article 4. The discipline of the use of internet in Brazil aims to promote:

(...)

III - innovation and promotion of the wide diffusion of new technologies and models of use and access; and
IV - adherence to open technological standards that allow communication, accessibility and interoperability between applications and databases.

Article 24. The guidelines of the action of the Union, the States, the Federal District and the Municipalities in the development of the internet in Brazil are:

(...)

III - promotion of the rationalization and technological interoperability of electronic government services, among the different branches and levels of the Federation, to allow the exchange of information and the speed of procedures;

IV - promotion of interoperability between different systems and terminals, including between different federative levels and various sectors of the society;

V - preferential adoption of open and free technologies, standards and formats;

The combined analysis of the above legislation, in light of the constitutional principle of publicity of public information, clearly indicates that the whole public legal system regulating the inclusion, disclosure and accessibility of information produced and kept by any official legal entity, points to the absolute openness, interoperability of systems and terminals, preferably by means of adoption by the public bodies of open and free technologies, standards and formats. Therefore, if there is no hacking activities involved in the access of GTAs, but solely the use of high-tech instruments and equipment matching the standards and formats of our official websites, then there seems to be no way to call it illegal.

Under Brazilian law, in fact every legal provision we could find seem to go towards the fulfilment of the constitutional principle of publicity and transparency of any and all public information, meaning all information produced or kept by any public entity, servant, officer or worker.

Disclosure of partnerships developed with landless and indigenous peoples

In this report Global Witness highlights the plight of landless peoples in the case study “The Lawless and the Landless”, and of indigenous peoples in the case study “Marfrig, Landgrabbers and Indigenous Land”. After having researched and reported on these cases, Global Witness is developing partnerships with a civil society organisation that is helping the landless peoples in their struggle for land, and with an indigenous organisation that represent the Parakanas. It should be noted that these partnerships are being developed after these investigations, and were not used to exchange information for the case studies reported on in this publication, and will begin subsequent to the report being published.

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IMPETRANTE: MARIA LUCIENE COSTA AMORIM RABELO
Advogado do(a) IMPETRANTE: RODRIGO SILVEIRA COSTA - GO24601
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PROCESSO: 1000253-44.2017.4.01.3901
CLASSE: MANDADO DE SEGURANÇA (120)
IMPETRANTE: MARIA LUCIENE COSTA AMORIM RABELO
Advogado do(a) IMPETRANTE: RODRIGO SILVEIRA COSTA - GO24601
IMPETRADO: INSTITUTO BRAS DO MEIO AMBIEN E DOS REC NAT RENOVAVEIS - IBAMA, PRESIDENTE DO INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE MEIO AMBIENTE (IBAMA), 9/4/2019

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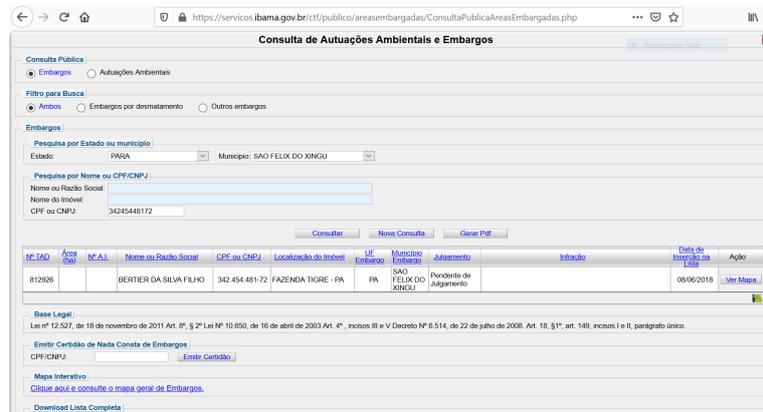
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12ª PROMOTORIA DE JUSTIÇA DE MARABÁ
Promotoria de Justiça da Região Agrária de Marabá/PA

5.2.4) A condenação do réu RAFAEL SALDANHA DE CAMARGOS por dano moral coletivo causado à sociedade paraense em decorrência da prática de grilagem de terras públicas, tendo em vista os graves prejuízos econômicos, sociais e ambientais que tal prática ocasiona, no valor de 10 % (dez) por cento do valor da causa.

155 Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST “HUGO CHAVES” NA FAZENDA “SANTA TEREZA” E “FREI HENRY” FAZENDA “FAZENDINHA”, NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, page 7: “Há que se ressaltar a legitimidade dos acampados, pois mostraram-se firmes de propósito, mas cientes de que a colaboração com a justiça lhes beneficiaria, ao ponto de decidirem retirar-se da fazenda, deslocando o acampamento para as imediações da mesma, a fim de permitir a vistoria do INCRA fixada pelo juízo em audiência de justificação realizada em 15 de dezembro de 2008, permanecendo fora da área até 2014, quando indevidamente toma posse da fazenda, depois convertida em propriedade pelo ITERPA, o SR. RAFAEL SALDANHA DE CAMARGOS.” DOCUMENT SEEN BY GLOBAL WITNESS

156 Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST “HUGO CHAVES” NA FAZENDA “SANTA TEREZA” E “FREI HENRY” FAZENDA “FAZENDINHA”, NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, page 7: “Há que se ressaltar a legitimidade dos acampados, pois mostraram-se firmes de propósito, mas cientes de que a colaboração com a justiça lhes beneficiaria, ao ponto de decidirem retirar-se da fazenda, deslocando o acampamento para as imediações da mesma, a fim de permitir a vistoria do INCRA fixada pelo juízo em audiência de justificação realizada em 15 de dezembro de 2008, permanecendo fora da área até 2014, quando indevidamente toma posse da fazenda, depois convertida em propriedade pelo ITERPA, o SR. RAFAEL SALDANHA DE CAMARGOS.” DOCUMENT SEEN BY GLOBAL WITNESS

157 Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST “HUGO CHAVES” NA FAZENDA “SANTA TEREZA” E “FREI HENRY” FAZENDA “FAZENDINHA”, NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, page 7: “Há que se ressaltar a legitimidade dos acampados, pois mostraram-se firmes de propósito, mas cientes de que a colaboração com a justiça lhes beneficiaria, ao ponto de decidirem retirar-se da fazenda, deslocando o acampamento para as imediações da mesma, a fim de permitir a vistoria do INCRA fixada pelo juízo em audiência de justificação realizada em 15 de dezembro de 2008, permanecendo fora da área até 2014, quando indevidamente toma posse da fazenda, depois convertida em propriedade pelo ITERPA, o SR. RAFAEL SALDANHA DE CAMARGOS.” DOCUMENT SEEN BY GLOBAL WITNESS

158 Brasil de Fato, November 2016, “Por dois dias seguidos, 320 famílias foram vítimas de tiros e tiveram roças destruídas e barracas queimadas, <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2016/11/03/pistoleiros-atacam-o-acampamento-hugo-chaves-em-maraba-pa/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://servicos.ibama.gov.br/ctf/publico/areasembargadas/ConsultaPublicaAreasEmbargadas.php>. The page title is 'Consulta de Autuações Ambientais e Embargos'. There are search filters for 'Estado' and 'Município'. Below the filters is a table with columns: 'NF/IAU', 'Data', 'NF/AL', 'Nome ou Razão Social', 'CNPJ ou CNEF', 'Localidade do Imóvel', 'UF', 'Município', 'Autuação', 'Infrator', and 'Valor de Imposição em R\$'. One row is visible with the following data: '353571', '1734', '413474', 'RAFAEL SALDANHA DE CAMARGOS', '123131791600', 'FAZENDA VALE VERDE E ESTRADA DA CENTRAL, 600/91', 'PA', 'SÃO FÉLIX DO SORUÁ', '18/03/2016', 'Infrator de Resoluções, Resoluções de Diretoria, Resoluções de Conselho, Resoluções de Comissão e Resoluções de Conselho de Administração', '28/11/2005', and 'Ver Mapa'. At the bottom, there is a 'Bases Legal' section with a list of laws and decrees.

TERRA - MST “HUGO CHAVES” NA FAZENDA “SANTA TEREZA” E “FREI HENRY” FAZENDA “FAZENDINHA”, NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, page 9.

159 Governo do Estado do Para, Policia Civil do Estado do Para, Numero 00201/2016/.000185-7:

A relatora juntamente com o nacional FRANCISCO PEREIRA DO NASCIMENTO vieram até essa delegacia especializada para comunicar; QUE, estão acampados na Fazenda Santa Tereza há dois anos e quatro meses; QUE, existe um acordo entre o proprietário da fazenda, o INCRA e os acampados que prevê uma boa convivência entre as partes até o final do processo de desapropriação da fazenda para fins de reforma agrária; QUE, segundo a relatora todos os anos o proprietário da fazenda põem fogo no pasto, mas até o dia 10/09/2016 esse fogo ainda não teria atingido os barracos dos acampados; QUE, no dia 10/09/2016 por volta das 11:00hs iniciou-se um foco de incêndio a certa distancia do acampamento; QUE, esse incêndio teria sido provocado por funcionários da Fazenda Santa Tereza; QUE, por volta das 17:00hs, devido a aproximação do incêndio ao acampamento os trabalhadores sem-terras se mobilizaram para combater-lo, porém foram impedidos por funcionários da Fazenda que estavam armados; QUE, os funcionários da Fazenda Santa Tereza ameaçaram atirar nos acampados caso os mesmos tomassem a iniciativa de combater o fogo; QUE, os trabalhadores sem-terras saíram daquele local, pois ficaram com medo das ameaças; QUE, até então o fogo não estava direcionando-se ao acampamento; QUE, o fogo estava apenas queimando o pasto da fazenda; QUE, segundo a relatora como essa pratica de queimar o pasto todos os anos é utilizada pelo proprietário da fazenda os acampados não se preocuparam até que por volta das 01:00 da madrugada do dia 11/09/2016 o fogo atingiu o barraco da relatora e de outros acampados; QUE, os acampados se mobilizaram com intenção de controlar o incêndio; QUE, por volta das 04:30hs do dia 11/09/2016 o fogo foi controlado; QUE, segundo a relatora enquanto os trabalhadores sem-terras estavam tentando controlar o fogo, foi possível ouvir vários disparos de arma de fogo supostamente realizados pelos funcionários da Fazenda Santa Tereza, informando ainda que esses disparos foram direcionados para o acampamento. Registra-se para fins de direito.

160 Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST "HUGO CHAVES" NA FAZENDA "SANTA TEREZA" E "FREI HENRY" FAZENDA "FAZENDINHA", NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, DOCUMENT OBTAINED BY GLOBAL WITNESS FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

161 Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST "HUGO CHAVES" NA FAZENDA "SANTA TEREZA" E "FREI HENRY" FAZENDA "FAZENDINHA", NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, DOCUMENT SEEN BY GLOBAL WITNESS

162 Globo, Gerente da Fazenda Santa Tereza nega envolvimento com incêndio no acampamento do MST

<http://g1.globo.com/pa/para/jornal-liberal-2edicao/videos/vj/gerente-da-fazenda-santa-tereza-nega-envolvimento-com-incendio-no-acampamento-do-mst/6016360/>

163 Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST "HUGO CHAVES" NA FAZENDA "SANTA TEREZA" E "FREI HENRY" FAZENDA "FAZENDINHA", NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, page 15:

Ouvidas as testemunhas e encerrada a audiência pública, os deputados constatarem a presença de perfurações nas paredes da casa ao lado da guarita na entrada do acampamento, viram a cobertura de palha da escola queimado, presenciaram a apresentação dos cartuchos recolhidos pelos acampados que afirmam terem sido disparados contra o acampamento, registraram em fotos imagens da pastagem queimada no entorno do acampamento, finalizando a diligência e seguindo rumo ao município de Curionópolis a fim de realizar a segunda diligência no acampamento "Frei Henry", também coordenado pelo MST

164 Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST "HUGO CHAVES" NA FAZENDA "SANTA TEREZA" E "FREI HENRY" FAZENDA "FAZENDINHA", NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, DOCUMENT SEEN BY GLOBAL WITNESS

165 Brasil de Fato, Pará: Sem terra relatam noite do atentado contra o acampamento Hugo Chávez, 2018, <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2018/08/16/para-sem-terra-relatam-noite-do-atentado-contra-o-acampamento-hugo-chavez>

AND

Globo, Polícia investiga suposto ataque em fazenda reocupada por trabalhadores rurais em Marabá, <https://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2018/07/28/policia-investiga-suposto-ataque-em-fazenda-reocupada-por-trabalhadores-rurais-em-maraba.ghtml>

166 Brasil de Fato, Pará: Sem terra relatam noite do atentado contra o acampamento Hugo Chávez, 2018, <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2018/08/16/para-sem-terra-relatam-noite-do-atentado-contra-o-acampamento-hugo-chavez>

167 Interviews done by Global Witness – for the safety of the sources their identities are not being revealed.

168 Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST "HUGO CHAVES" NA FAZENDA "SANTA TEREZA" E "FREI HENRY" FAZENDA "FAZENDINHA", NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, DOCUMENT SEEN BY GLOBAL WITNESS

169 Tribuna de Justiça do Estado de Para, Processo Judicial Eletrônico, Número: 0802823-96.2019.8.14.0028, <https://pje-consultas.tjpa.jus.br/pje-1g-consultas/ConsultaPublica/listView.seam>:



12ª PROMOTORIA DE JUSTIÇA DE MARABÁ
Promotoria de Justiça da Região Agrária de Marabá/PA

5.2.4) A condenação do réu RAFAEL SALDANHA DE CAMARGOS por dano moral coletivo causado à sociedade paraense em decorrência da prática de grilagem de terras públicas, tendo em vista os graves prejuízos econômicos, sociais e ambientais que tal prática ocasiona, no valor de 10 % (dez) por cento do valor da causa.

170 Greenpeace Cattle Agreement, Clause 4, <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/wp-content/uploads/legacy/Global/usa/report/2010/1/minimum-criteria-for-i.pdf>

171 See METHODOLOGY for JBS's cattle purchases from Santa Tereza in 2015, and for the Ibama fine see: Assembleia Legislativa do Estado Pará Comissão de Direitos Humanos e Defesa do Consumidor, RELATÓRIO DE DILIGÊNCIA DOS DEPUTADOS MEMBROS TITULARES DA COMISSÃO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEFESA DO CONSUMIDOR - CDHEDC DA ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO PARÁ AOS ACAMPAMENTOS DO MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA - MST "HUGO CHAVES" NA FAZENDA "SANTA TEREZA" E "FREI HENRY" FAZENDA "FAZENDINHA", NOS MUNICÍPIOS DE MARABÁ E CURIONÓPOLIS RESPECTIVAMENTE, (page 10, para 2 states: "Parte desse desmatamento (308,47ha) ocorreu no período de 13.07.2008 a 05.09.2010, em floresta primária e secundária em estágio de regeneração conforme noticiado pelo IBAMA, fl. 364", PUBLIC OFFICIAL DOCUMENT SEEN BY GLOBAL WITNESS

172 See methodology for how we arrived at these conclusions. Data extracted from Global Witness' analysis of Rafael Saldanha cattle transport permits

173 See methodology for how we arrived at these conclusions. Data extracted from Global Witness' analysis of Rafael Saldanha cattle transport permits

174 See methodology for how we arrived at these conclusions. Data extracted from Global Witness' analysis of Rafael Saldanha's cattle ranch Fazenda Primavera, overlaying official government satellite imagery of the shapefile for Saldanha's ranch on the SICAR website and consulting deforestation permit data.

175 Marfrig, Corporate Profile and History, <https://ir.marfrig.com.br/en/marfrig-group/corporate-profile-and-history>

176 Marfrig, Corporate Profile and History, <https://ir.marfrig.com.br/en/marfrig-group/corporate-profile-and-history>

177 Statista, Gross profit of Marfrig Global Foods from 2012 to 2019, "6.5 billion Reais Gross profit in 2019 converted to USD in August 2020 amounts to 1,158,277,315.00 USD, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/809460/gross-profit-marfrig/>

178 DNV-GL, Compliance Assessment of Public Commitment on Amazon Cattle Ranching, MARFRIG GLOBAL FOODS S.A., 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019:

2015: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=2ahUKewidhuC89crjAhV0ShUIHQcdBtYQFjABeg-QIAxAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2Fuploads%2FArquivos%2FReport-Audit-Marfrig-Greepace-Format-Greenpeace.pdf&usq=AOvVaw0EaSnkmD84AxfTfCuKpQo>,

2016: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKewidhuC89crjAhV0ShUIHQcdBtYQFjAAeg-QIABAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2FArquivos%2FCompliance_Assessment_Public_Commitment_onAmazon_Cattle_Ranching.pdf&usq=AOvVaw3Wo1slmvGZB2v9lhmNeDvg,

2017: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=2ahUKewidhuC89crjAhV0ShUIHQcd-BtYQFjACegQIAhAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2FArquivos%2FCompliance_Assessment_of_Public_Commitment_onAmazon_Cattle_Ranching_en.pdf&usq=AOvVaw2wYjqUdpdGXs9q_MQcj35q,

2018: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=19&ved=2ahUKewis49SgInkAhXPPsAKHZOSCsaAQFJAseg-QICBAJ&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrigbeef.com%2Fuploads%2Ffarquivos%2FCompromisso-em-relacao-ao-Bioma-Amazonia.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3nTFp2eaPX8BxqnXyVsMLl>

2019: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewiHn57E_K7qAhVKTsAKHQImB-VoQFJAJegQICRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2Fuploads%2Ffarquivos%2FAvaliacao_ao_Atendimento_do_Compromisso_Publico_da_Pecuarria_na_Amazonia_EN.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0ccE-K1ZHuiNn-ZfVeereg9

179 MARFRIG, For the seventh straight year, audit confirms MARFRIG's compliance with Amazon conservation practices, 2019 <http://www.marfrig.com.br/en/documentos?id=833>

2019: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewiHn57E_K7qAhVKTsAKHQImB-VoQFJAJegQICRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2Fuploads%2Ffarquivos%2FAvaliacao_ao_Atendimento_do_Compromisso_Publico_da_Pecuarria_na_Amazonia_EN.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0ccE-K1ZHuiNn-ZfVeereg9

180 Marfrig Global Foods, Marfrig issues sustainability bonds, July 30, 2019 <https://www.marfrig.com.br/en/documentos?id=839>

181 Bloomberg, Barclays Steps In as JBS Scandal Drives Away Wall Street Banks, February 2019, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-28/barclays-steps-in-as-jbs-scandal-drives-away-wall-street-banks&clint=firefox-b&dhl=en&gl=uk&strip=1&vwsrsc=0>

182 Marfrig issues sustainability bonds, July 30th 2019, <https://www.marfrig.com.br/en/documentos?id=839>

183 MARFRIG SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION BOND, FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW JULY 2019, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKewiW17ihmP7IAHWIY8AKHSN_AVkQFJAegQIBxAc&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2Ffarquivos%2FMarfrig_Sustainable_Transition_Bond_Framework.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1fGIN22K5FLZ0SBvpUdvbo

184 Oeco, TAC da Carne no Pará: MPF diz que ninguém está livre do desmatamento, Nov 2019, <https://www.oeco.org.br/reportagens/tac-da-carne-no-para-mpf-diz-que-ninguem-esta-livre-do-desmatamento/>, "Do outro lado, a Marfrig segue sem assinar o TAC da Carne no Pará, e por isso não entregou sua auditoria ao MPF".

185 Ministério Público Federal, Termos de Ajuste de Conduta, pages 2 and 3 set out the legal arguments. LEI N° 6.938, DE 31 DE AGOSTO DE 1981, Art 14, Para 1, § 1°: "Sem obstar a aplicação das penalidades previstas neste artigo, é o poluidor obrigado, independentemente da existência de culpa, a indenizar ou reparar os danos causados ao meio ambiente e a terceiros, afetados por sua atividade. O Ministério Público da União e dos Estados terá legitimidade para propor ação de responsabilidade civil e criminal, por danos causados ao meio ambiente. http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/LEIS/L6938.htm

186 Global Witness analysis of Marfrig's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Para based cattle purchases cross checked with SICAR and then PRODES, where the CAR and PRODES areas overlapped by at least 10 hectares and where deforestation occurred after 2010 but before the date of purchase on the cattle transport permit.

187 Please see Global Witness' methodology for how we arrived at these claims

188 DNV-GL, Compliance Assessment of Public Commitment on Amazon Cattle Ranching, MARFRIG GLOBAL FOODS S.A., 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019:

2015: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=2ahUKewidhuC89crjAhV0ShUIHQCDbtYQFJAeg-QIAxAc&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2Fuploads%2Ffarquivos%2FReport-Audit-Marfrig-Greepace-Format-Greepace.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0EaSnkmD84XfTFcuKpQuo>

2016: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKewidhuC89crjAhV0ShUIHQCDbtYQFJAeg-QIABAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2Ffarquivos%2FCompliance_Assessment_Public_Commitment_onAmazon_Cattle_Ranching.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3Wo1slmvGZB2v9lhmNeDvg

2017: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=2ahUKewidhuC89crjAhV0ShUIHQCDbtYQFJAeg-QIAxAc&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2Ffarquivos%2FCompliance_Assessment_of_Public_Commitment_on_Amazon_Cattle_Ranching_en.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2wYjqUdpdGxs9q_MQcj35q

2018: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=19&ved=2ahUKewis49SgInkAhXPPsAKHZOSCsaAQFJAseg-QICBAJ&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrigbeef.com%2Fuploads%2Ffarquivos%2FCompromisso-em-relacao-ao-Bioma-Amazonia.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3nTFp2eaPX8BxqnXyVsMLl>

2019: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewiHn57E_K7qAhVKTsAKHQImB-VoQFJAJegQICRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marfrig.com.br%2Fuploads%2Ffarquivos%2FAvaliacao_ao_Atendimento_do_Compromisso_Publico_da_Pecuarria_na_Amazonia_EN.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0ccE-K1ZHuiNn-ZfVeereg9

189 Área de Proteção Ambiental Triunfo do Xingu (APA) Triunfo do Xingu internet site, <https://ideflorbio.pa.gov.br/unidades-de-conservacao/regiao-administrativa-do-xingu/apa-triunfo-do-xingu/>

190 André Luis Sousa da Costa and Laura Ribeiro Reis, Amazonia Journal of Agriculture and Environmental Science, The contribution of APA Triunfo do Xingu for land planning in the Terra do Meio region, State of Pará, <http://ajaes.ufra.edu.br/index.php/ajaes/article/view/2692/914>, page 97, AND ISA, Na Amazônia, a floresta está à venda, "Na porção paraense da Bacia do Rio Xingu, está a UC com a mais alta taxa de desmatamento no período: a Área de Proteção Ambiental (APA) Triunfo do Xingu, <https://www.socioambiental.org/pt-br/noticias-socioambientais/na-amazonia-a-floresta-esta-a-venda>

191 <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/10/witnessing-extinction-in-the-flames-as-the-amazon-burns-for-agribusiness/>

192 International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, Leopardus tigrinus, Vulnerable, <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/54012637/50653881> AND, Tapirus terrestris, Vulnerable, <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21474/45174127>

193 SEE METHODOLOGY FOR HOW WE ARRIVED AT THESE CONCLUSIONS

194 According to article 26 of the Forest Code (<https://www.cpt.com.br/codigo-florestal/codigo-florestal-brasileiro-da-supressao-de-vegetacao-para-uso-alternativo-do-solo>) a permit is required to deforest within a public or private property. Through a partnership with the Brazilian CSO IMAZON, Global Witness checked whether the property Fazenda de Espouro II had this authorization, using a data set that IMAZON use in a partner program they have with the Federal State Prosecutor's Office of Para called Amazonia Protégé (<http://www.amazoniaprotege.mp.br/>), and found it did not.

Global Witness, through partner organisation IMAZON, checked a database

195 See methodology for how we arrived at these conclusions. Global Witness analysis of Marfrig's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Cattle Transport Permits for Para, cross-checked for individual tax code and name of ranch alignment with the Rural Land Registry for Para: SICAR (<http://car.semas.pa.gov.br/>), to identify ranches that are Marfrig suppliers.

196 Image is from the 2016 Rural Land Registry database (SICAR: <http://car.semas.pa.gov.br/>) for the property Fazenda Espora de Ouro II, located in São Félix do Xingu / Pará, with Numero de Recibo: PA-1507300-DF013010BC1648B6902E511E-B22EFDB1 and Numero de Protocolo: PA-1507300-C8917757509D2D55137AC-9596CDD9550, provided by the Brazilian civil society organisation Imaflora and their Department for Geospatial monitoring Analysis, that download these rural property boundaries year on year to check on any boundary changes. Please ask Global Witness for the specific documents, which are also available on our website.

197 Global Witness analysis of Marfrig's 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 Cattle Transport Permits, cross-checked with the Rural SICAR database (<http://car.semas.pa.gov.br/>) to ensure the property owners individual tax code (CPF) and ranch name and location coincided on both data sets. The property boundaries were then downloaded from the SICAR database in October 2019 and visualised on a GIS platform and then overlaid with downloaded official Brazilian government deforestation data from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE, PRODES: <http://www.obt.inpe.br/OBT/assuntos/programas/amazonia/prodes>). This provided the date of deforestation shown on the PRODES data set, ensuring the deforestation occurred after August 2008 (to ensure the deforestation occurred within the time period the beef traders agreed not to purchase cattle from ranches with deforestation).

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200 The image is from the 2017 Rural Land Registry database (SICAR: <http://car.semas.pa.gov.br/>) for the property Fazenda Espora de Ouro II, located in São Félix do Xingu / Pará, with Numero de Recibo: PA-1507300-DF013010BC1648B6902E511E-B22EFDB1 and Numero de Protocolo: PA-1507300-C8917757509D2D5137AC-9596CDD9550, provided by the Brazilian civil society organisation Imafloira and their Department for Geospatial monitoring Analysis, that download these rural property boundaries year on year to check on any boundary changes. Please ask Global Witness for the specific documents, which are also available on our website.

201 Global Witness analysis of Marfrig's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Cattle Transport Permits, cross-checked with the Rural SICAR database (<http://car.semas.pa.gov.br/>) downloaded in October 2019, to ensure the property owners individual tax code (CPF) and ranch name coincided on both data sets. The property boundaries were then visualised on a GIS platform and then overlaid with official Brazilian government deforestation data from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE, PRODES: <http://www.obt.inpe.br/OBT/assuntos/programas/amazonia/prodes>) in October 2019, which provided the date of deforestation shown on the PRODES data set, ensuring the deforestation occurred after October 2009 (to ensure the deforestation occurred within the time period Marfrig agreed not to purchase cattle from ranches with deforestation as per their Greenpeace agreement) and also ensuring the purchase of cattle happened after the date of deforestation on the PRODES data set. See methodology for how we arrived at these details.

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735788			ANTONIO MORAES DOS SANTOS	130.330.131-72	FAZENDA MD - SÃO FELIX DO XINGU PA	PA	SÃO FELIX DO XINGU	Pendente de Julgamento		29/05/2018	Ver Mapa

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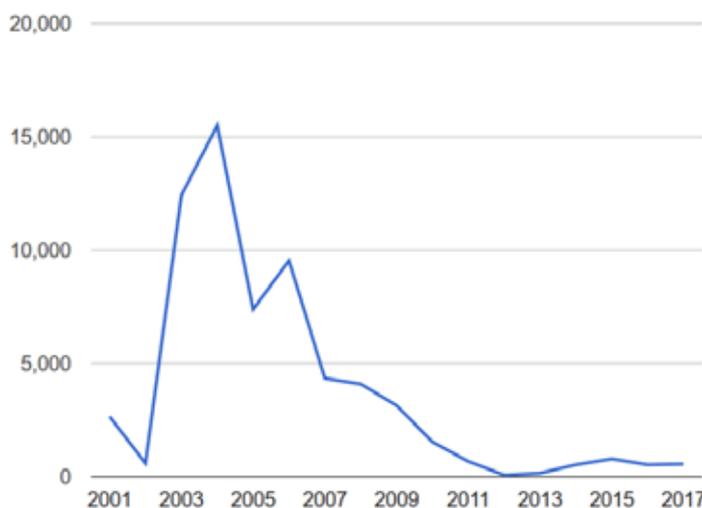
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- Then, enter in first option of menu "Consulta"
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398 "Abrange toda atuação estatal, não só sob o aspecto de divulgação oficial de seus atos como também de propiciação de conhecimento da conduta interna de seus agentes. Essa publicidade atinge assim, atos concluídos e em formação, os processos em andamento, os pareceres dos órgãos técnicos e jurídicos, os despachos intermediários e finais, as atas de julgamento das licitações e contratos com quaisquer interessados, bem como os comprovantes de despesas e as prestações de contas submetidas aos órgãos competentes. Tudo isto é papel ou documento público que pode ser examinado na repartição por qualquer interessado e dele obter certidão ou fotocópia autenticada para fins constitucionais." SILVA, José Afonso da. Curso de Direitos Constitucional Positivo. 24ª edição. São Paulo: Malheiros Editores, 2005. p. 670.

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400 Art. 1º Esta Lei dispõe sobre os procedimentos a serem observados pela União, Estados, Distrito Federal e Municípios, com o fim de garantir o acesso a informações previsto no inciso XXXIII do art.5º, no inciso II do § 3º do art. 37º e no § 2º do art. 216 da Constituição Federal.

Parágrafo único. Subordinam-se ao regime desta Lei:

I - os órgãos públicos integrantes da administração direta dos Poderes Executivo, Legislativo, incluindo as Cortes de Contas, e Judiciário e do Ministério Público;

II - as autarquias, as fundações públicas, as empresas públicas, as sociedades de economia mista e demais entidades controladas direta ou indiretamente pela União, Estados, Distrito Federal e Municípios.

401 Art. 27. A classificação do sigilo de informações no âmbito da administração pública federal é de competência:

I - no grau de ultrassecreto, das seguintes autoridades:

- Presidente da República;
- Vice-Presidente da República;
- Ministros de Estado e autoridades com as mesmas prerrogativas;
- Comandantes da Marinha, do Exército e da Aeronáutica; e
- Chefes de Missões Diplomáticas e Consulares permanentes no exterior;

II - no grau de secreto, das autoridades referidas no inciso I, dos titulares de autarquias, fundações ou empresas públicas e sociedades de economia mista; e

III - no grau de reservado, das autoridades referidas nos incisos I e II e das que exerçam funções de direção, comando ou chefia, nível DAS 101.5, ou superior, do Grupo-Direção e Assessoramento Superiores, ou de hierarquia equivalente, de acordo com regulamentação específica de cada órgão ou entidade, observado o disposto nesta Lei.

§ 1º A competência prevista nos incisos I e II, no que se refere à classificação como ultrassecreta e secreta, poderá ser delegada pela autoridade responsável a agente público, inclusive em missão no exterior, vedada a subdelegação.

§ 2º A classificação de informação no grau de sigilo ultrassecreto pelas autoridades previstas nas alíneas "d" e "e" do inciso I deverá ser ratificada pelos respectivos Ministros de Estado, no prazo previsto em regulamento.

§ 3º A autoridade ou outro agente público que classificar informação como ultrassecreta deverá encaminhar a decisão de que trata o art. 28 à Comissão Mista de Reavaliação de Informações, a que se refere o art. 35, no prazo previsto em regulamento.

Art. 28. A classificação de informação em qualquer grau de sigilo deverá ser formalizada em decisão que conterá, no mínimo, os seguintes elementos:

I - assunto sobre o qual versa a informação;

II - fundamento da classificação, observados os critérios estabelecidos no art. 24;

III - indicação do prazo de sigilo, contado em anos, meses ou dias, ou do evento que defina o seu termo final, conforme limites previstos no art. 24; e

IV - identificação da autoridade que a classificou.

Parágrafo único. A decisão referida no caput será mantida no mesmo grau de sigilo da informação classificada.

Art. 30. A autoridade máxima de cada órgão ou entidade publicará, anualmente, em sítio à disposição na internet e destinado à veiculação de dados e informações administrativas, nos termos de regulamento:

I - rol das informações que tenham sido desclassificadas nos últimos 12 (doze) meses;

II - rol de documentos classificados em cada grau de sigilo, com identificação para referência futura;

III - relatório estatístico contendo a quantidade de pedidos de informação recebidos, atendidos e indeferidos, bem como informações genéricas sobre os solicitantes.

§ 1º Os órgãos e entidades deverão manter exemplar da publicação prevista no caput para consulta pública em suas sedes.

§ 2º Os órgãos e entidades manterão extrato com a lista de informações classificadas, acompanhadas da data, do grau de sigilo e dos fundamentos da classificação.

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ISBN: 978-1-911606-44-4
December 2020

Global Witness is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England (No.2871809)

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