

WHAT IS CARGILL

DOING FOR THE AMAZON?

Learn how the world's #1 agribusiness corporation has violated rights, impacted traditional communities, and contributed to the planet's climate crisis.

With three ports in the Brazilian Amazon, Cargill has significantly operationalized the production chain of agricultural commodities such as soy and corn from Brazil to the world. Since 2003 – when the first port began operating in the town of Santarem in the state of Pará – Cargill has presented annual reports showing sustainability action plans, such as policy goals for forest protection, “clean” soybean production chains, and commitments under the Paris Agreement. However, the company has never demonstrated evidence of compliance with Brazilian environmental legislation in the opening of ports and in the processes of receiving and storing grains.

In nearly twenty years of Cargill's operations in the Amazon, the number of large soybean farms has increased in the North Region at the same time that deforestation rates have soared, contrary to Brazil's climate goals. The number of bulk trucks has also increased, bringing more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on highways surrounded by deforested areas.

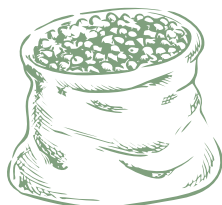


CULTIVATED AREAS

In the period from 2010 to 2017,
soybean cultivation areas
in Pará grew from

**85,4 thousand to
500,4 thousand hectares,**

according to data from the Agriculture and
Livestock Federation of Pará (*Federação da
Agricultura e Pecuária do Pará – FAEPA*,
in Portuguese).



EXPORTS

In 2022, Pará exported an additional

US\$400 million

in soybeans, a

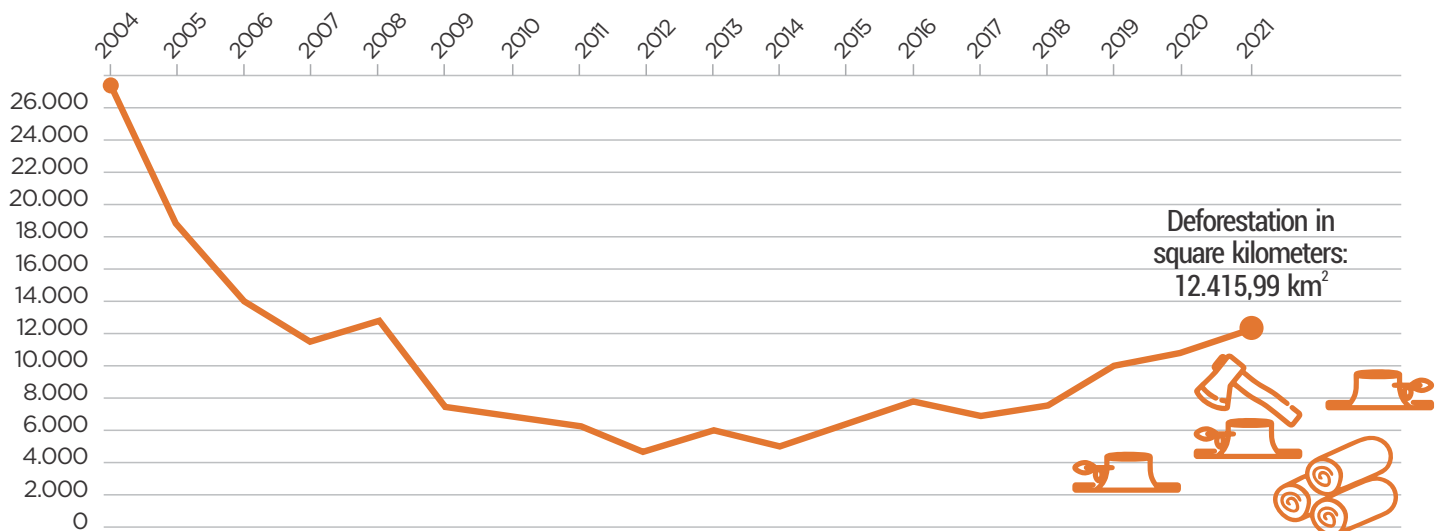
**124% increase over
the previous year,**

with China as the main destination*.

*Data from the Federation of Industries of Pará
(*Federação das Indústrias do Pará – FIEPA*, in Portuguese)

Evolution of deforestation in the Legal Amazon

High rates of deforestation have been recorded in the Amazon, as a result of the growth of soybean cultivation. In 2004, with the implementation of the Plan for Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon (*Plano de Prevenção e Controle do Desmatamento da Amazônia Legal – PPCDAm*, in Portuguese), deforestation rates decreased, until the policy began to be paralyzed in 2013, when they started to increase again.



Source: Adapted from data from the National Institute for Space Research – INPE (Brazil, 2021).

Cargill's greenwashing and false climate solutions

GREENWASHING

In 2022, Cargill presented its annual report on meeting the goals of the Sea Cargo Charter, a voluntary corporate agreement among international trading companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The report includes goals for replacing fossil fuel with biofuel, which aims to decarbonize transoceanic transportation. On the other hand, Cargill continues to receive production/yield from suppliers that deforest the Amazon.

This information is denied by the company based on another voluntary mechanism: the soy moratorium, a corporate environmental agreement established between companies, the State, and organizations, which provides for the non-commercialization of soybeans grown in deforested areas of the Amazon starting in 2008.

If from one perspective the soy moratorium may represent benefits for the region, from another, the limitations imposed by this agreement serve the interests of Cargill, which uses the precarious method of analysis of deforested areas to conclude that it does not purchase grains from producers who promote deforestation. However, deforested areas initially used for cattle ranching are soon converted into soybean fields. Furthermore, the indirect purchase of soybeans grown in areas of illegal deforestation enters the company's production chain and is justified by the ineffective monitoring of this agreement.

The fact is that Cargill has not stopped the grain production chain, but has been making use of loopholes in agreements, illegal deforestation, and false sustainability strategies.

Ethnic rights violated

Cargill's expansion into and within the Amazon has caused the violation of ethnic rights in two major drainage basins: the Tapajós River and the Guamá River basins. Quilombola communities have suffered from environmental racism as they have been victims of pesticide contamination, land grabbing, and deforestation for the creation of soybean fields. Similarly, Indigenous peoples, riverbank dwellers, and traditional communities have been affected by the company's activities and have experienced the contamination of rivers and fish, among other socio-environmental impacts.



In 2021, social movements in Santarém carry out another act of protest against the company (the sign says "Congratulations to the Cargill company for threatening people's health by using pesticides in their plantations").

Some rights violations promoted by Cargill in the Amazon

VIOLATION	RIGHT VIOLATED	INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION
Port enterprises without consultation with impacted communities	Right to prior, free and informed consultation	ILO Convention 169
Increase in deforestation	Right to a balanced environment	Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development (RIO/92)
Monocultures using pesticides	Right to biological diversity	International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Selectivity of impacts on the Black population	Right to racial equality	Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice
Disregard for Indigenous territoriality	Indigenous land rights	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

By mobilizing an extensive and predatory supply chain with direct and indirect incentives for land capture and use, as well as deforestation, trucking, and shipping, Cargill continues to pass greenwashed agricultural commodities on to its customers. Thus, the company represents a threat to the Amazon, its people, and ultimately, to the planet's climate.

Want to know more about Cargill's activities in the Amazon?






Access the website “No License for Cargill”, which analyzes the socio-environmental impacts promoted by the port of Santarém and the irregularities and violations of the rights of the peoples of Tapajós.

<https://semlicencaparacargill.org.br>



Terra de Direitos is a human rights, civil society, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization that has been working since 2002 to defend, promote, and enforce human rights, especially economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights. Our mission is to contribute to a world where rural workers, quilombola communities, Indigenous and traditional peoples, and peripheral urban communities are recognized and have their rights guaranteed, in order to enjoy free access to their lands, territories, natural resources, and biodiversity.

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