

Good Growth in the Brazilian Soy Supply Chain

The new soy frontier

Today, Brazil produces about one third of the global soy supply and earns more from soybean exports than from any other commodity. Although soybean production is generating much needed revenue for the Brazilian economy, it is also threatening vast ecoregions considered to be among the most biodiverse in the world.

Over the past decade Brazil has witnessed a new agricultural frontier open up in an area of the Cerrado, known as the Matopiba. This frontier threatens the remaining natural vegetation, which once covered an area half the size of Europe. It includes the headwaters of three South American major river basins and is home to several indigenous territories and communities who wholly depend on the biome's natural resources for their survival.

The 'Good Growth' solution

To reduce environmental threats in the Matopiba, and to promote sustainable soy production, the Partnership's Brazil project works to encourage soy cultivation in already converted or degraded lands. The project also seeks to support the restoration of conservation areas and the implementation of Brazil's Forest Code. In addition, the project supports farmers to adopt sustainable farm management and production practices.

Budget

GEF: USD \$6,600,000

Co-financing: USD \$28,204,678

Implementing agencies

UNDP in partnership with Conservation International and with Sociedade Rural Brasileira (SRB) and Fundação Brasileira para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável (FBDS) as

grantees.

Countries and regions in scope

The Matopiba was selected due to the rapid expansion of soy plantations in recent decades, which occurred twice as fast as other regions in the Cerrado. It is also the region where most of the remaining native vegetation of the Cerrado biome is concentrated.

Project components

Enabling a plan of action

Through its support for Coalition Matopiba — a multi-stakeholder forum that facilitates dialogue between the government, academia, farmers, civil society and the private sector — the Partnership is helping to define a collective and sustainable vision for the development of the Matopiba region.

Strengthening policies and enforcement

The Partnership is providing technical support to the Government of Brazil for the creation and implementation of safeguards in the Matopiba, which protect and enhance land use rights for traditional communities. This includes advocating for and encouraging increased compliance with Brazil's Forest Code, a law requiring landowners to maintain 20 to 80 percent of native vegetation on their property. Additionally, the Partnership is working with stakeholders and farmers to strengthen sustainability practices for soy bean production.

Farmer support

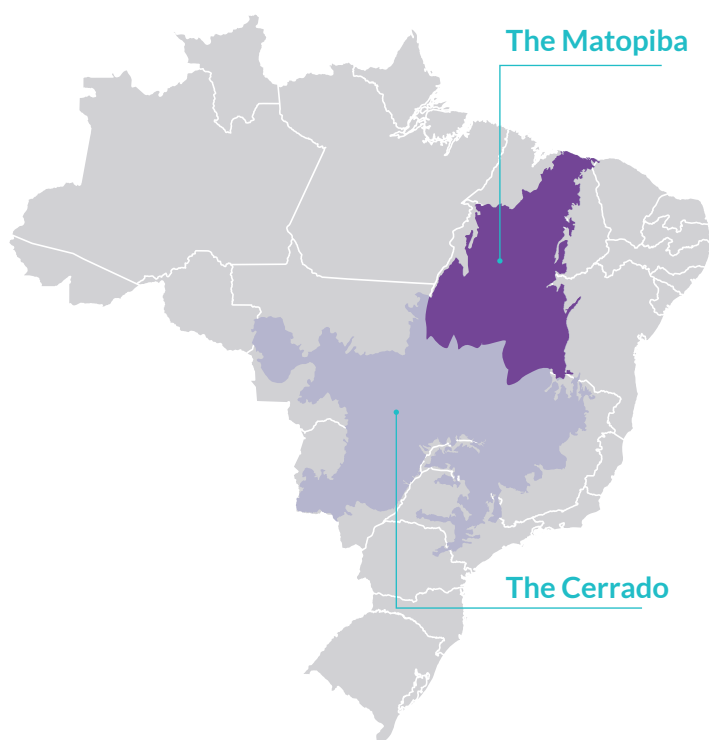
Through funding and technical input, the Partnership is enabling the design and implementation of a farmer support system. This extension service will provide and disseminate training on soil management as well as low carbon agricultural practices such as zero tillage and nitrogen fixation.

Land restoration

Through a series of pilot projects and research, the Partnership is working with key stakeholders and producers to trial innovative techniques and practices for the restoration of degraded and deforested land.

Supply chain integration

By promoting the importance of sustainable soy production applications, the Partnership is working to increase awareness among key market players — processing industries, retailers, consumers and the banking sector — to help shift demand for more responsible cultivation practices.



73.8 million hectares make up the Matopiba landscape.

Located within the Cerrado, the largest savannah in South America, the Matopiba region is home to some of the richest biodiversity on the planet. Spread across the states of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia, this region is often regarded as Brazil's newest soy frontier.

The Cerrado's vegetation is diverse and made up of different structures of vegetation, including grassland, wetlands and regions of dense forest. As it is not made up of just forest, the environmental importance of this biome is often neglected. Despite there being legislation protecting forests since the beginning of the last century, it is only since the introduction of the Forest Code in 1965 that the term "natural vegetation" started to be used.

Insight

“The Good Growth Partnership is opening a pathway for sustainable soy in Matopiba. This is good for business, for people and for nature. Agricultural production that supports conservation will provide new opportunities for Brazilian agribusinesses, particularly as global demand for sustainability grows.”

Miguel Moraes

CI-Brazil Sustainable Landscapes Director

Expected results

40%

of the Matopiba area will be covered with native vegetation and therefore protected either under the Forest Code, as a conservation area or within designated indigenous and traditional community landscapes.

50%

of all properties in 10 focal municipalities will comply with the Forest Code.

5%

or 2,500 ha of permanent protection areas (APP) will be under restoration.

60

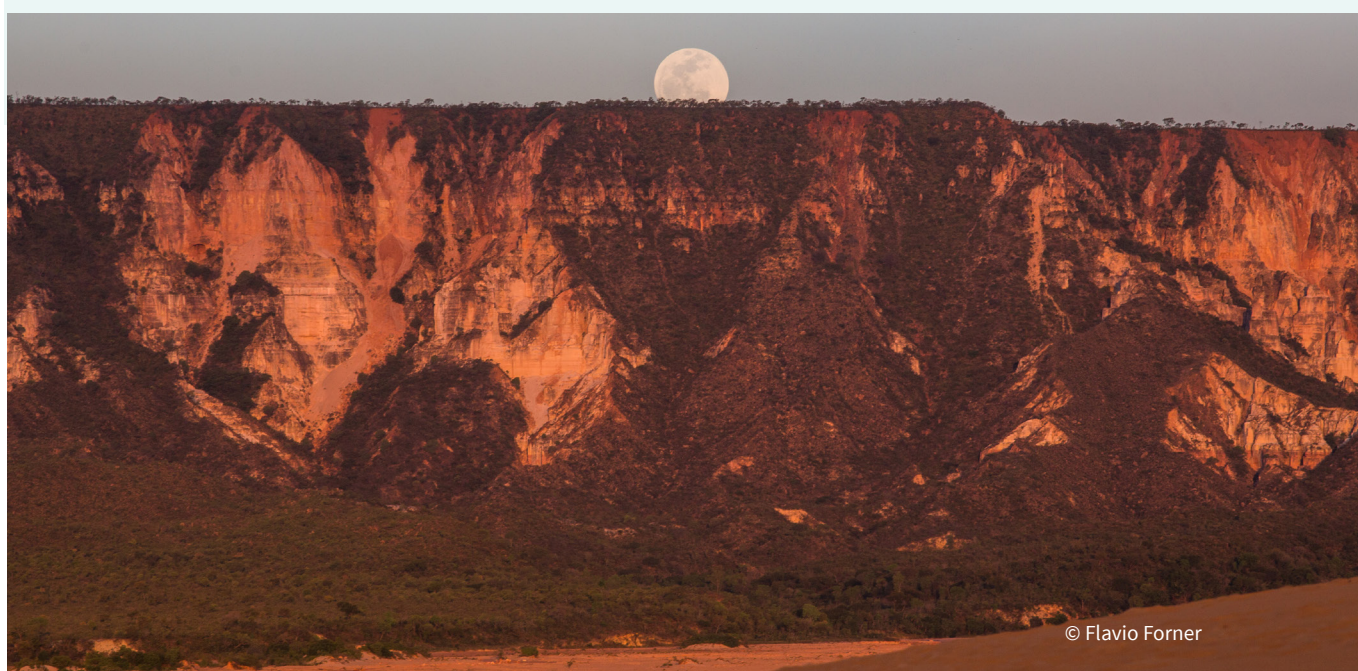
companies will increase their capacity to make and implement commitments to source reduced deforestation commodities.

6

companies will be supported to improve their sourcing and sustainability strategies through enhanced transparency and access to data.

5,570

trade flow assessments from soy municipalities will be conducted and successfully shared with relevant stakeholders.



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About the Good Growth Partnership

Working across production, financing and demand, the Good Growth Partnership convenes a wide range of stakeholders and initiatives to reduce deforestation in three global commodity supply chains: soy, beef and palm oil.

Launched at the United Nations New York headquarters in 2017, the Partnership is funded by the Global Environment Facility and led by the United Nations

Development Programme in partnership with Conservation International, the International Finance Corporation, UN Environment and World Wildlife Fund.

In collaboration with the governments of Brazil, Indonesia, Liberia and Paraguay, as well as civil society and major private sector players, the Good Growth Partnership aims to place sustainability at the heart of commodity supply chains.

Project Document

View the project document in full at www.goodgrowthpartnership.com

Contact

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