

FACTSHEET: Amazon Soy Moratorium

Delivering Win-Win Outcomes for Forests and Agribusiness

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The Amazon Soy Moratorium (ASM) is one of the world's most successful market-based conservation initiatives. It has delivered large-scale conservation outcomes for forests, eliminated risk exposure for supply chain actors, facilitated more sustainable soy expansion in the Amazon, and helped drastically improve the image of Brazilian soy in international markets. The data and research presented below helps to highlight the key benefits associated with the ASM, further reinforcing its importance from both a conservation and commercial perspective.

THE AMAZON SOY MORATORIUM HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE AT AVOIDING DEFORESTATION

- ◆ The ASM has contributed to 17,834 km² (approx. 4.4 million acres) of avoided deforestation.¹
- ◆ The ASM effectively stopped soy from being a major driver of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon. Prior to the ASM, about 30% of new soy planted in the Amazon directly replaced forests, but under current protections, it has fallen to less than 1%.²
- ◆ The 2019 fires in the Brazilian Amazon (and neighboring regions) captured the world's attention and brought renewed urgency to the issues associated with deforestation in the Amazon. Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon hit an 11 year high (9,762 km²) in 2019, which represented a 30% increase from 2018. Without the ASM, there are major risks associated with market boycotts due to elevated risk exposure. This would be disastrous for producers and business units in Brazil.³
- ◆ The ASM did not result in any significant, observable cross-biome deforestation leakage to the Cerrado.^{4,5}

THE AMAZON SOY MORATORIUM HAS SHOWN THAT SOY EXPANSION IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT DEFORESTATION

- ◆ During the years of the ASM, soy plantings in the Brazilian Amazon biome increased 400% - going from 1.14 million ha in crop year 2006/2007 to 4.66 million ha in crop year 2017/2018.⁶
- ◆ There are over 2 million ha of soy-suitable, already cleared areas that are not yet used for soy on the Amazon's soy properties, and another 10 million ha of soy-suitable areas on non-soy properties located nearby to current soy production regions. By expanding onto these suitable already-cleared areas, the Amazon's soy extent could be quadrupled without additional deforestation.⁷

THE AMAZON SOY MORATORIUM HAS REMARKABLY HIGH RATES OF COMPLIANCE

- ◆ Compliance rates with the ASM have been very high. Only 1.4% of all the soy grown in the Amazon (64,316 ha) is non-compliant. There are only 492 soy producing properties that are non-compliant with the ASM.⁸
- ◆ Fewer than 2% of soy farms in the Brazilian Amazon biome have soy-suitable areas that can be cleared legally under the Forest Code.⁹
- ◆ Farmers are nearly five times more likely to violate the Brazilian Forest Code than the ASM. The vast majority of farmers that are out of compliance with the ASM would also be considered illegal in terms of Forest Code compliance and minimum reserve requirements. There are very few soy farms in the Amazon that can still clear legally.¹⁰

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¹ Heilmayr, Rausch, Munger, Gibbs. 2019. The impacts of the Amazon Soy Moratorium on deforestation. In review.

² Gibbs, Rausch et al. 2015. [Brazil's Soy Moratorium](#). Science.

³ Brazilian National Space Institute (INPE). [Deforestation Monitoring \(Prodes\)](#).

⁴ Heilmayr, Rausch, Munger, Gibbs. 2019. The impacts of the Amazon Soy Moratorium on deforestation. In review.

⁵ Moffette and Gibbs. "Agricultural Displacement and Deforestation Leakage in the Brazilian Legal Amazon," Under Review.

⁶ Abiove and Agrosatelite. 2019. Soy Moratorium: [Monitoring Soy Crops in the Amazon Biome using Satellite Images](#).

⁷ Rausch, Gibbs et al, 2019. In prep.

⁸ Abiove and Agrosatelite. 2019. Soy Moratorium: [Monitoring Soy Crops in the Amazon Biome using Satellite Images](#).

⁹ Rausch, Gibbs et al, 2019. In prep.

¹⁰ Gibbs, Rausch et al. 2015. [Brazil's Soy Moratorium](#). Science.

