



Soy Moratorium contributes to containment of deforestation in the Amazon Biome

April 15, 2009

For the second year, the Soy Moratorium monitored this year's crop, including a field survey, mainly by flyovers, in 630 areas that were deforested after July 2006, with the objective of checking on-site land use and occupation in the selected areas. Soy planting was identified in only 12 polygons, located on 10 properties, showing that expansion of soy production in the Amazon Biome has been minimal and that the Moratorium has complied with its main role of inhibiting deforestation in this region of differentiated biodiversity.

The soybeans from these 12 polygons will not be purchased by any industry, thereby complying with the commitment undertaken. The 12 polygons cover a deforested area of 2,157 hectares, of which 1,385 hectares were planted with soy. For comparison purposes, this year's monitoring covered 157,898 deforested hectares.

The Moratorium has contributed to making rural producers aware of the need to reconcile economic development with the protection of natural resources. ABIOVE's and ANEC's members are not going to acquire the soy produced on these properties that did not comply with the Moratorium.

The Monitoring also complies with the strategic function of supplying updated and reliable information on the dynamics of the recent use and occupation of open areas. Satellite images, panoramic and close-up photographs of all 630 monitored polygons are available on ABIOVE's site, www.abiove.com.br. Total transparency.

The methodology was defined by the monitoring subgroup

Field surveys were made between December 2008 and March 2009 by Globalsat Sensoriamento Remoto, the company hired by the productive sector in the first year of monitoring. The point of departure for selecting new deforested polygons to be visited was the analysis of PRODES 2008 system's satellite images, supplied by INPE (National Land Survey Institute, www.obt.inpe.br/prodes/index.html). In addition, all polygons monitored in the past year were also included.



The criteria applied were defined by the monitoring subgroup, made up of representatives from companies, business associations and civilian organizations. It should be emphasized that only those polygons located in municipalities that planted at least 5,000 hectares of soybeans in the 2007/08 crop and/or the 2008/09 crop, according to estimates by the IBGE or projections made by the subgroup, were chosen.

Another criterion was to focus on field work in polygons of over 100 hectares, in view of the complexity of execution of the field survey in such a short space of time and the cost involved. Two other elements also sustain the criterion of a minimum area of 100 hectares: Professor Morton's study and the result of last year's pilot project, both of which indicated that there is no need to monitor polygons with less than 100 hectares.

From the PRODES 2008 images, 365 polygons were selected, all with over 100 hectares, totaling an area of 108,1 thousand hectares. Added to this were the 195 polygons with over 100 hectares in the original PRODES 2007 program and the 70 polygons with less than 100 hectares in last year's pilot project in the municipalities of Feliz Natal, União do Sul and Vera. Over 250 hours of flyovers were needed to cover the 630 polygons and to obtain proof of land use and occupation. It would be impossible to execute this number of visits by land because of the difficulties in accessing the locations and the length of time between crop development and harvest.

In the first year of monitoring the Moratorium, no soybean planting was found in the 265 polygons that were subject to field verification.

Soybeans are not planted in the first year

Of the 12 polygons that planted soybeans in a deforested area after July 2006, seven are located in the municipality of Feliz Natal, state of Mato Grosso, two are in Dom Eliseu, state of Pará, and one each in Gaúcha do Norte, Sinop and Querência, all in the state of Mato Grosso. Feliz Natal is a "hot spot" of deforestation and was chosen by NGOs for the pilot project. Five polygons are in last year's pilot project that covered areas with less than 100 hectares, six polygons are in PRODES 2007 and only one polygon refers to 2008 deforestation.

The data leads to two main conclusions:

- a) Soybeans are not being planted in the first year that new areas are opened (the land needs to be cleared and soil acidity corrected), confirming the defined hypothesis;
- b) Planting also occurred in polygons of less than 100 hectares located in critical deforestation areas. (INPE recorded strong growth of deforestation in area of up to 100 hectares).



Based on these data, the monitoring subgroup may investigate whether the suspicion that a change in tendency is valid, and whether large properties are deforesting small extensions next to their production areas to avoid detection by official investigations and the Moratorium's monitoring. However, another hypothesis is that small areas are deforested [in such a way as] to comply with environmental laws. An expressive part of the farm areas is committed to the legal environmental reserves. As an example, of a total area of 6,746 hectares corresponding to the 7 polygons of the Municipality of Feliz Natal, 3,182 hectares are legally intended for the mandatory environmental reserves and cannot be used for productive activities.

Mato Grosso state producers licensed their properties in SEMA

All soy producers in Mato Grosso state are in the process of licensing their properties with the state's environmental organ, according to the Integrated Environmental Licensing & Monitoring System – SIMLAM's site (<http://monitoramento.sema.mt.gov.br/simlam/>). This indicates that these properties are registered with SEMA, the Environmental State Secretariat, and have filed requests for a productive activity license in which they show compliance with Brazilian environmental legislation, such as maintenance of legal reserves and permanent preservation areas. Information is being collected for the two properties in the State of Pará.

Buyers reject soybeans produced in deforested areas

A set of strategic actions is being implemented. ABIOVE and ANEC provided their members, in a reserved manner so as to avoid discomfort, with information about the farms that planted soybeans in areas that were cleared after July 2006. Participating companies will send a strong signal to soybean producers. They will not purchase soybeans from these properties, only receiving those prefinanced volumes acquired before the survey, in accordance with corroborating documentation. ABIOVE makes the final monitoring report available on its site www.abiove.com.br.

The GTS wants improvements in Amazon Biome governance

Parallel to the Moratorium monitoring work, it is important that improvements in public policies leading to better governance be made more agile, especially those related to the Soy Moratorium:

a) Promotion and support for the implementation of environmental licensing and registration of rural properties, with priority for the soy-production towns in the Amazon Biome, together with the



state's environmental organs;

b) Support and promotion for the implementation of Ecologic Economic Zoning in the states of Legal Amazonia, together with state entities;

c) Production of an Amazon Biome map on an adequate scale for the monitoring of rural properties therein;

d) Cooperation with the other government organs, defending in international forums the development of incentive programs for sustainable production with environmental services payments.

The GTS is made up of representatives from ABIOVE, ANEC, ADM, Amaggi, Bunge, Cargill, International Conservation, Greenpeace, IPAM, TNC and WWF Brasil. GTS coordination is shared by Carlo Lovatelli, ABIOVE President, and Paulo Adario, Greenpeace Amazon Campaign Director.

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