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WWF Brasil Site: Monitoring shows positive results for Soy Moratorium

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Soybean farming is responsible for just 0.88% of the deforested areas in the Brazilian Amazon between 2006 and 2008. This percentage, obtained from the monitoring done in the states of Rondônia, Mato Grosso and Pará – main soybean producers in the Amazon states – was published this Tuesday, April 14th. The survey was made within the scope of the Soy Moratorium, a pact signed in July 2006 by the soy industry that assumed a commitment not to acquire soybeans from new deforestations in the Amazon.

Other than the productive sector, represented by ABIOVE (Brazilian Vegetable Oils Industry Association) and ANEC (National Grain Exporters Association), the Ministry of the Environment, Greenpeace and WWF-Brasil also took part in the agreement, along with other non-government organizations. Compliance with the Moratorium was inspected in the periods 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, using about 6,000 aerial photographs and approximately 1,300 satellite images.

Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza, WWF-Brasil's Conservation Superintendent, emphasized the evolution of the soy productive chain since the beginning of the Moratorium. "It is important to note that a significant part of the agribusiness sector heads up a process such as this, seeking a positive agenda and generating favorable results. The sector did its bit, instead of looking for guilty parties for the deforestation problem", he highlighted.

Still according to Scaramuzza, who represented WWF-Brasil in the meeting when the monitoring data were published, the Minister of the Environment, Carlos Minc, emphasized the importance of initiatives such as the Soy Moratorium, where government, productive sector and NGOs sit at a table to discuss solutions.

Another point to be highlighted in the results is the occurrence of deforestations in areas of less than 100 hectares, not captured by the Moratorium's monitoring, in selected towns for a closer evaluation. "This shows that the actions of command and control need to be complemented with the urgent land regularization and registration, as well as remuneration for environmental services rendered by forests and other ecosystems", completed Scaramuzza.

<http://www.wwf.org.br/informacoes/?19363/Monitoramento-mostra-resultados-positivos-da-Moratria-da-Soja>