MIGHTY EARTH'S NEW MONITORING DATA REVEALS SOY TRADERS AND MEATPACKERS IN BRAZIL DOUBLED THEIR LINKS TO DEFORESTATION IN THE PAST YEAR

The largest soy traders and meatpackers in Brazil have failed on their promises to end deforestation in their supply chains and continue to do business with suppliers that are destroying rainforests and savanna.

A review of the past two years of monitoring data (March 2019-March 2021) demonstrates that deforestation detected in companies' supply chains more than doubled in the second year of monitoring compared to the first. However, despite this escalating crisis, only one case of deforestation has ever been resolved by these companies out of the 235 recorded by our monitoring.

The updated tracker includes new data from Mighty Earth's three latest Rapid Response reports, released in partnership with Aidenvironment. The new data builds on the original version of the tracker and policy brief released in December 2020 to encompass a full two years of monitoring (March 2019-March 2021).
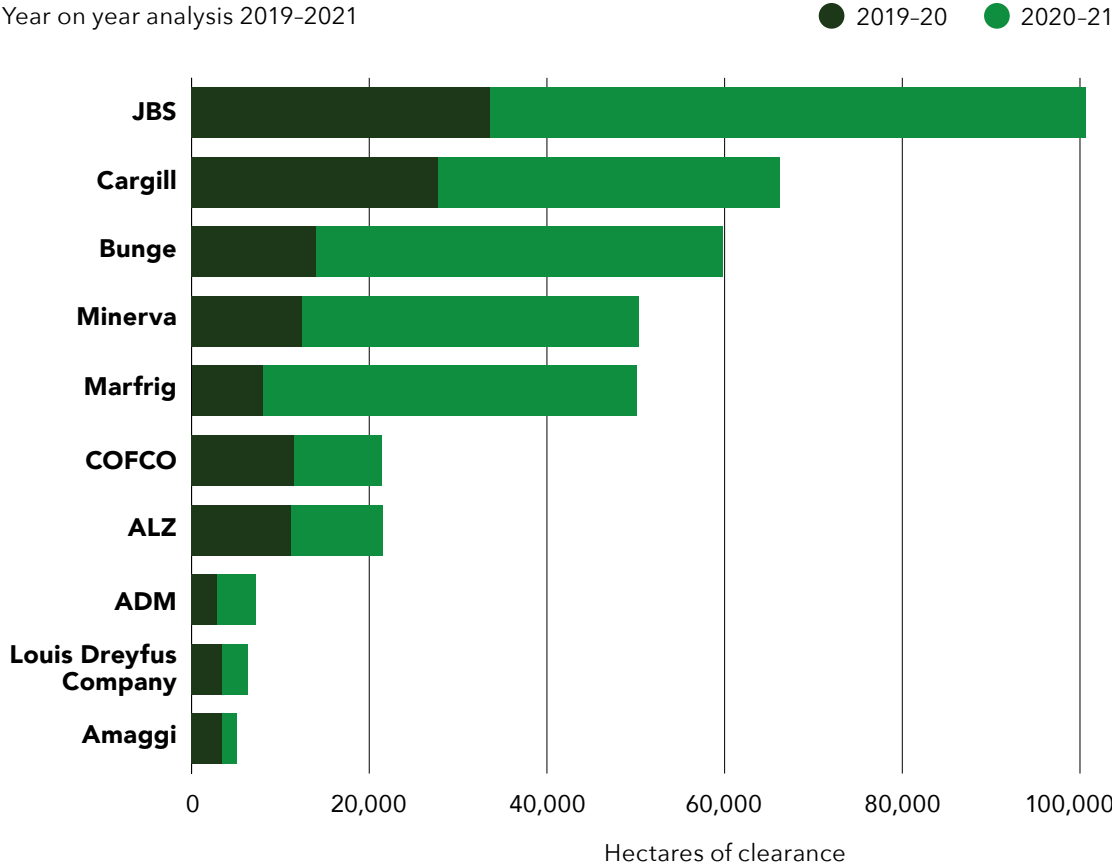
Key Findings:

- The tracker update reveals that major soy traders and meatpackers are linked to more than 314,000 hectares of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado over the past two years (March 2019 to March 2021) – an area more than twice the size of London.

- On average, detected deforestation connected to supply chains of soy traders and meatpackers more than doubled in the two-year period of monitoring.

- JBS was the worst-scoring meatpacker and company overall. It has been linked to 100,000 hectares of clearance in the past two years – an area larger than all of Berlin – and 75% of this clearance occurred in protected areas, making it potentially illegal under Brazilian law.

- JBS is a leading driver of deforestation detected in the Amazon among all the soy traders and meatpackers, as the company is linked to all but one of the 13 largest cases of clearance in the Amazon during the two years.

- Bunge and Cargill are the worst performing soy traders, despite their recent sustainability reports touting their nearly deforestation-free supply chains. Cargill is linked to more than 66,000 hectares of clearance – the largest amount out of any other soy trader. Meanwhile Bunge is linked to almost 60,000 hectares of clearance, of which more than a third took place in protected areas.

Despite bringing these cases of clearance to the traders and meatpackers, the companies continued to source from farms with deforestation. For example, JBS, Marfrig and Minerva all failed to take action against Agropecuária Sata Bárbara Xinguara, a company caught deforesting or setting fire to the land on six separate occasions over the two-year period, in addition to facing accusations of worker exploitation and money laundering.[1]

In soy, Cargill and Bunge similarly continue to source from SLC Agricola despite repeated instances of deforestation on their land totaling more than 11,000 hectares. SLC Agricola admitted its plan to clear more land, and has actively opposed limits to deforestation in the Cerrado[2] and been associated with a $200 million land grabbing corruption scheme.[3] Nonetheless, Cargill and Bunge continue to source from SLC Agricola despite their own zero-deforestation commitments.

SOY TRADERS AND MEATPACKERS COMPARISON OF CLEARANCE IN THE AMAZON AND CERRADO BIOMES OF BRAZIL

Year on year analysis 2019–2021   ● 2019–20   ● 2020–21
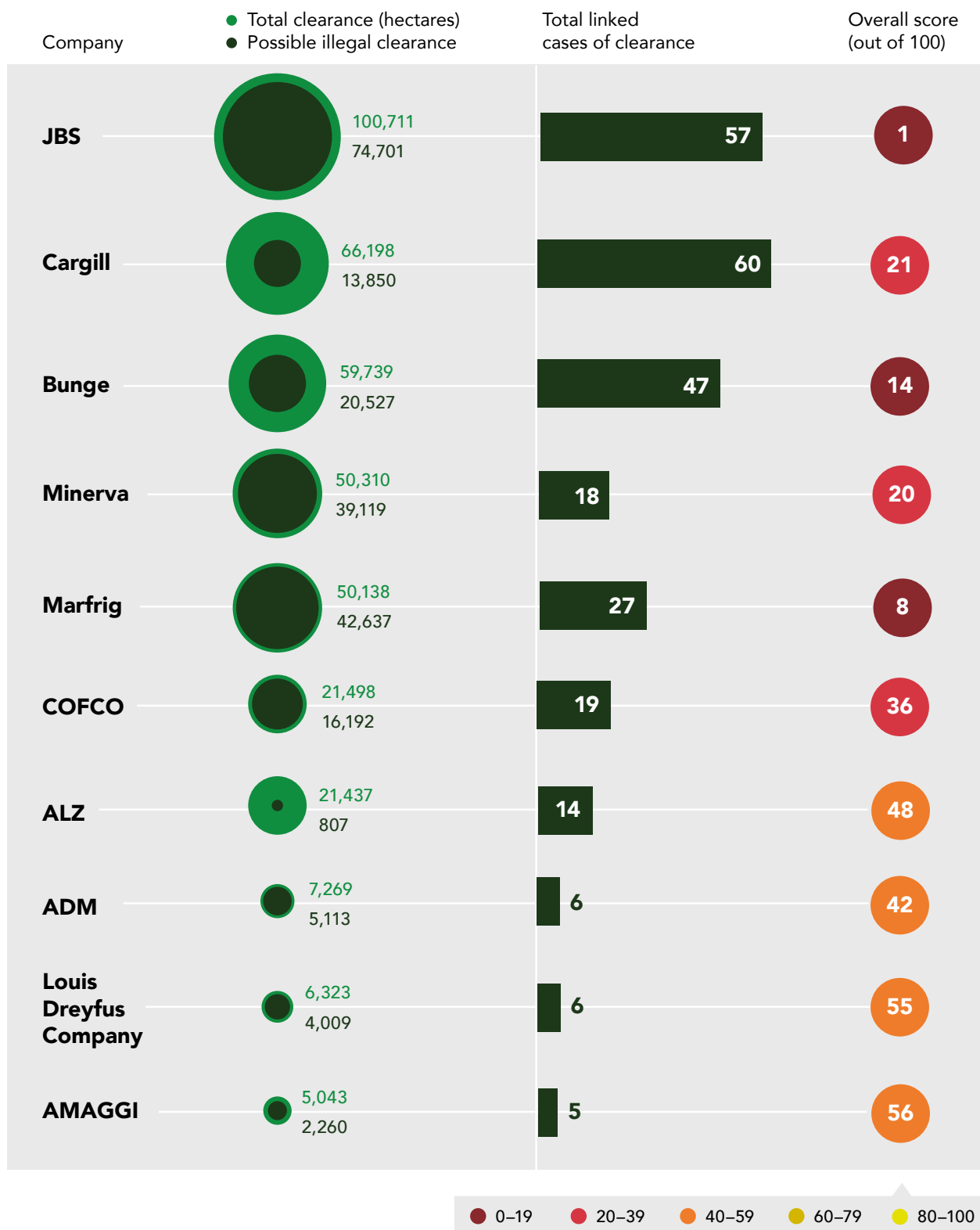

Hectares of clearance

Many supermarkets in the U.S., UK and Europe have committed to zero net deforestation supply chains by the end of 2020. However, they continue to source meat and soy directly or indirectly from Bunge, Cargill or JBS – despite evidence which shows that they are linked to significant amounts of deforestation and land clearance in Brazil.

1   https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/RR_Report_19.pdf#new_tab

2   https://chainreactionresearch.com/the-chain-slc-agricola-to-continue-with-immediate-plans-for-land clearing-despite-zero-deforestation-rhetoric/

3   https://news.mongabay.com/2021/02/trader-cargill-pension-fund-tiaa-linked-to-land-grabs-in-brazils-cerrado/

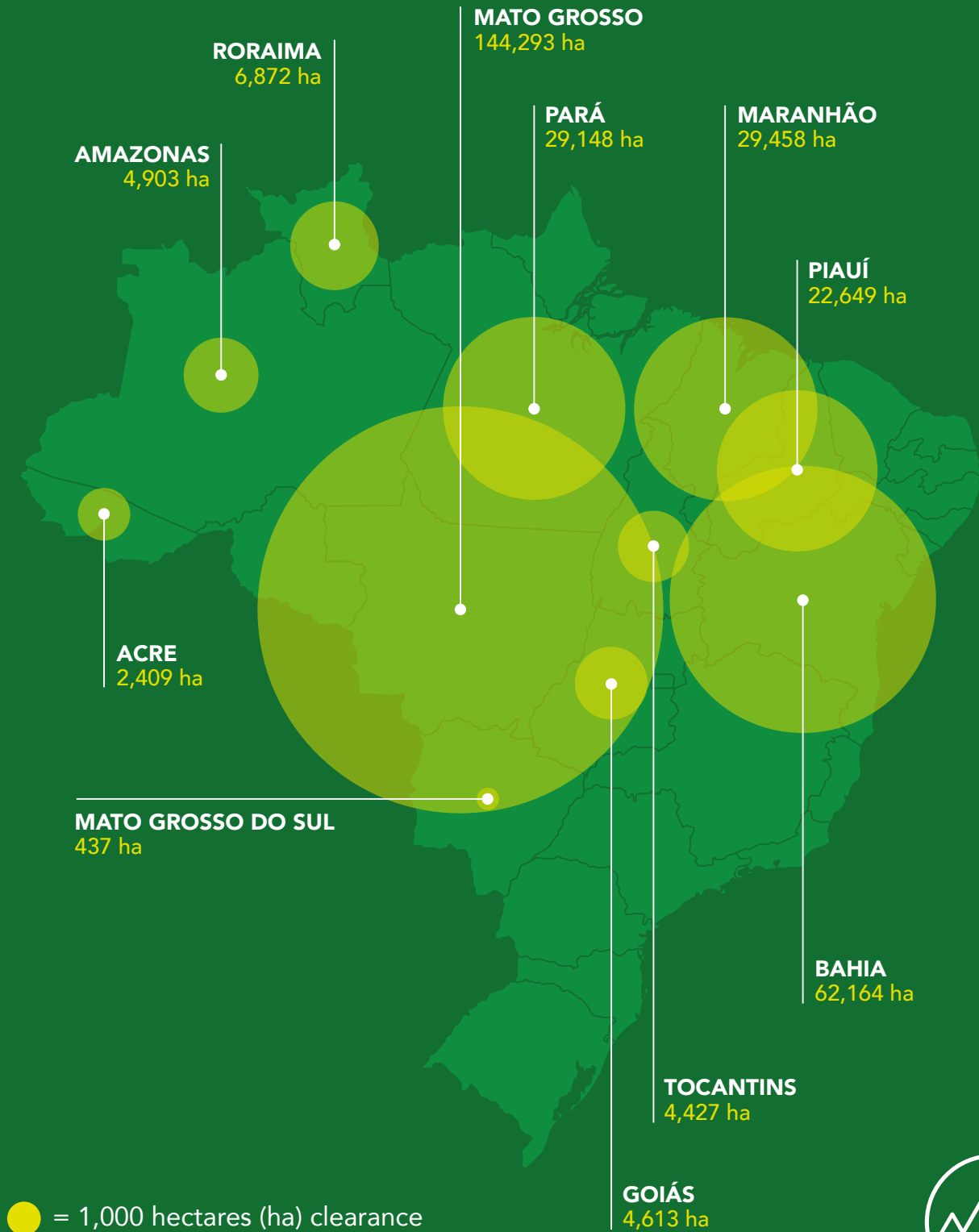# BEEF AND SOY TRADER DEFORESTATION AND CLEARANCE COMPARISON

Cerrado and Amazon biomes of Brazil (March 2019 to March 2021)

Company	Total clearance (hectares) ● Possible illegal clearance	Total linked cases of clearance	Overall score (out of 100)
JBS	100,711 / 74,701	57	1
Cargill	66,198 / 13,850	60	21
Bunge	59,739 / 20,527	47	14
Minerva	50,310 / 39,119	18	20
Marfrig	50,138 / 42,637	27	8
COFCO	21,498 / 16,192	19	36
ALZ	21,437 / 807	14	48
ADM	7,269 / 5,113	6	42
Louis Dreyfus Company	6,323 / 4,009	6	55
AMAGGI	5,043 / 2,260	5	56

● 0–19   ● 20–39   ● 40–59   ● 60–79   ● 80–100

Note: Companies ordered by total clearance. Data from March 2019 to March 2021 using Mighty Earth Rapid Response reports, based on company responses as of April 15, 2021. Clearance defined as "any land use change classified as loss of native vegetation by deforestation alert systems". Possibly illegal clearance defined as "any deforestation that is inside a Legal Reserve or Permanent Preservation Area (APP)". Total cases illustrate an incident of deforestation or clearance flagged to the relevant trader associated with producer, owner or farm. For full methodology and data see: https://www.mightyearth.org/soy-and-cattle-tracker/

SOY AND CATTLE DEFORESTATION TRACKER: DEFORESTATION AND CLEARANCE BY STATE IN BRAZIL

Detected by Mighty Earth and Aidenvironment Rapid Response Program,
March 2019 to March 2021

RORAIMA
6,872 ha

AMAZONAS
4,903 ha

MATO GROSSO
144,293 ha

PARÁ
29,148 ha

MARANHÃO
29,458 ha

PIAUÍ
22,649 ha

ACRE
2,409 ha

MATO GROSSO DO SUL
437 ha

BAHIA
62,164 ha

TOCANTINS
4,427 ha

GOIÁS
4,613 ha

● = 1,000 hectares (ha) clearance

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For data and full methodology see: https://www.mightyearth.org/soy-and-cattle-tracker/