Deforestation in Brazil
Challenges and opportunities for global market actions

Paula Bernasconi
Global role of tropical forests

Tropical deforestation responsible for 1.8 Gton of CO₂ emissions

Brazil is responsible for 1/3 of this deforestation

Source: WRI/Global Forest Watch (WRI)
Deforestation in Brazilian Amazon

Prodes/INPE
Mato Grosso, commodities export giant

- 1/3 of Brazilian soy - 32 million tons of soy
- Largest beef production - 30 million heads of cattle
- 90 indigenous lands from 43 different ethnic groups
- 500 rural settlements / 100 thousand family farms
Amazon Deforestation in Mato Grosso

Prodes/INPE
Amazon Deforestation in Mato Grosso
Amazon Deforestation in Mato Grosso

Graph showing Amazon Deforestation, Cattle herd, and Soy production over time. The graph indicates an increasing trend in deforestation, cattle herd, and soy production from 1990 to 2019.
Forest fires and Covid-19

- 4.5 million people in the Amazon exposed to toxic haze in 2019
- Over 2,200 additional hospitalizations due to respiratory illness caused by the fires in 2019

Source: Human Rights Watch, IPAM, IEPS, 2020
Deforestation reaction to public & private actions

2004-2012 83% reduction of deforestation rate
- Soy moratorium
- Enforcement focused on critical municipalities
- Beginning of rural credit restriction
- Meat Agreement

2012-2019 114% increase of deforestation rate
- Downgrading and downsizing of Conservation Units
- New rules benefiting land grabbers
- Amnesty to illegal deforestation in 41 million hectares
- President elected attacks environmental institutions
- Enforcement decreased; government promises to open protected areas for mining and agriculture

Source: Paulo Barreto, Imazon
Who is responsible for deforestation?

70-80% of deforestation polygons > 50 ha

Source: ICV - Amazon and Cerrado Mato Grosso, PRODES 2019
Illegality of deforestation

Deforestation in Mato Grosso between 2012 and 2017 by legal status.

Main destinations for the soy grown on farms where illegal deforestation took place.

Source: Trase, ICV, Imaflora - Illegal deforestation and Brazilian soy exports: the case of Mato Grosso, 2020
Highly concentrated deforestation

- 2% of soy farms in Mato Grosso concentrates 80% of illegal deforestation (Trase, ICV, Imaflora, 2020)

- 2% of farms in Amazon and Cerrado concentrates 62% of all potentially illegal deforestation (Rajão et al., 2020)

- 4% of Brazilian farms not compliant with Legal Reserve requirements (Forest Code Observatory, 2019)
Thank you!
paula.bernasconi@icv.org.br