Technical note - Protocol implementation tests results
September 2022

In 2022, six companies voluntarily participated on a pilot to implement the Cerrado Protocol: GPA, Arcos Dorados, JBS, Marfrig, Minerva e Frigol. The companies had support of their service providers of geomonitoring analysis.

These companies evaluated their suppliers on the Cerrado, checking the criteria of Indigenous lands, Conservation Unities and environmental embargoes and it was not identified any significant impact, as these companies already monitor and block irregular suppliers against these criteria.

Companies also analysed their suppliers in relation to overlaps with polygons of deforestation and conversion of native vegetation using Prodes Cerrado. For that criterion it was analysed two parameters: Prodes Cerrado polygons of 1 and 6,25 hectares and polygons after 01/August/2008 and 01/August/2020. The most relevant set of results are presented next:

Monitoring Prodes Cerrado from 01/Aug/08

- Polygon of 1 hectare: the impact is to block 32 to 60% of the suppliers.
- Polygon of 6,25 hectares: the impact on the supply chain is to block 13 to 38% of the suppliers.

In part, this high % of block is due to false positives, that is, detection error. To unblock producers that have false positives, slaughterhouses need to carry out a multi-temporal analysis to confirms false positive. Therefore, this is an operational challenge in monitoring having the staff, time and resources for these additional analyses.

Monitoring Prodes Cerrado from 01/Aug/20

- Polygon of 1 hectare: the impact is to block 5 to 10% of suppliers, considered by 3 companies that tested the protocol a manageable impact; and by the other companies a significant operational impact.
- Polygon of 6,25 hectare: the impact is to block 4 to 7% of suppliers. This was considered a positive scenario for being aligned with the Beef on Track (polygons of 6,25 hectares) and a reduced percentage of false positives.

Note on detailed false positive analysis

One of the companies that carried out the pilot presented detailed data on false positives:

- Analysis from 2008 and 1ha, just 6 to 10% of blocks are confirmed
- Analysis from 2008 and 6,25ha, approximately 25% of blocks are confirmed
- Analysis from 2016 and 1ha, approximately 50% of blocks are confirmed

That is, more recent images have lower detection error. This data of the pilot is confirmed by comparing Mapbiomas' deforestation analysis in 2021, in which 48% of detected deforestation was not confirmed and validated, that is, it is not real deforestation. (Mapbiomas, 2021).

Conclusion

Based on the results of this pilot, it was possible to evaluate the impact of geomonitoring analysis of environmental embargoes, IT, UC and deforestation with different block sizes and cutoff dates. In this pilot, it was not assessed whether suppliers would comply with the unblocking rules by presenting evidence, such as authorization to suppression of vegetation, for example.

The analysis showed that the impact is greater the older the cutoff date and smaller the polygon size for the deforestation and conversion. It was found that there is a correlation with the % of false positives in the analysis, which represents a significant operational cost for companies.