

Property	
Fazenda Barra Velha	
Correntina, Bahia	Cerrado biome
CAR: BA-2909307-64778DBE7855473099C29AC29E946505, BA-2909307-44B4EA5A44B04ABD9B2DAE3DAFE86636, BA-2909307-A6207E6DB0B6454FB8BDA4190F4B1299	SIGEF/SNCI: 3181080935132
Area property (ha): 38,258	Coordinates property: -13.24703, -45.04304

Cleared Area	
Coordinates clearance:	-13.23261, -44.98412
4,236 Hectares	period clearance: Jun 2022 to May 2023
544,552 tons of CO₂	
- fires alerts	
Inside Forest Code's protected areas: No	- -
Type of vegetation: Forested Savanna	Priority for Biodiversity Conservation: Extremely high
Conservation area(s) (overlapping or bordering):	-
Indigenous Territories (overlapping or bordering):	-

Imagery: limits of the property (blue), limits of the cleared area (red)

June 2022



Source: Imagery ©2022 Planet Labs Inc.

May 2023



Source: Imagery ©2023 Planet Labs Inc.

Fires - 19 January 2023



Source: European Union - EO Browser Copernicus Sentinel data 2023

Environmental fines and embargoes			
Embargoes:	Yes (other links)	1 environmental embargo in 2012 at a linked property Fazenda Sassapão, in Formosa do Rio Preto (BA)	
Environmental fines:	Yes (other links)	5 environmental fines in linked properties in Formosa do Rio Preto (BA) and São Desidério (BA) between 2012 and 2018	BRL 1,900,000
Ownership and other linked properties			
Ownership:	Barra Velha Agropecuária		
Company group:	Grupo Mizote. Specifically, some of the linked companies are: Fmp Algodoeira do Oeste (São Desidério - BA); Codeagro - Cooperativa de Desenvolvimento do Agronegócio do Oeste da Bahia (Barreiras - BA); Mizote Empreendimentos Agrícolas (São Desidério - BA); Agropecuária e Armazéns Mizote (São Desidério - BA); Central Geradora de Energia Eléctrica Rio de Pedras (Barreiras - BA).		
Linked properties:	Other 43 properties in Correntina (BA), São Desidério (BA), and Formosa do Rio Preto, totalling at least 97,100 ha.		
Supply chain links			
Main Commodities	Multiple		
Confirmed supply chain link, level of certainty, and soy trader/ beef processor	Yes	High	Bunge, Cofco
Companies' reply	Louis Dreyfus (potential trading link removed): In Correntina municipality "LDC did not receive products from the Group in question"		
Soy	Main exporter groups (municipality)	ALZ (25%), ADM (23%), Mitsui (21%), Bunge (12%), others (19%)	
	Warehouses (50 km radius)	22 warehouses, e.g., 2 owned by Agrícola Xingu and 1 by SLC Agrícola	
	Supply chain links & details:	Links to Bunge and Cofco, not clear if through soy or other crops trading (cotton, corn)	
Beef	Main traders (municipality)	JBS (100%)	
	Slaughterhouses (sourcing from the municipality)	18 different regional slaughterhouses sourced cattle from Correntina (BA) in 2020	
	Supply chain links & details:	-	
Other supply chain links and details:		Between 2014 and 2018, Paulo Mizote supplied cotton to numerous clients, including Bunge, LD commodities, Cofco, Toyoshima USA Inc, Plexus Cotton Limited, ICT Trading SA, and Paul Reinhart (based on export data)	

General comments

Barra Velha Agropecuária is a company owned by Paulo Massayoshi Mizote and Willian Seiji Mizote, which business activities, part of Grupo Mizote, are mostly linked to the production, trade, and export of cotton and grains (soy, maize, rice) (1). Paulo Massayoshi Mizote is currently part of the Board of Directors of the Association of Cotton Producers of Bahia (ABAPA), and he has already been the vice president of this association in the past (2). Paulo Massayoshi Mizote is the president of Grupo Mizote, one of the leading cotton producers in the West of Bahia. Their operations started in 1984 and continue developing properties in the Brazilian state of Bahia (3). This case concerns ongoing deforestation in Fazenda Barra Velha (Correntina - BA), having been previously reported on in Rapid Response and RDM reports. Between 1 March 2018 and 14 April 2019, 1,662 ha was already cleared in Fazenda Barra Velha, and between March and June 2022, 1,542 ha were additionally cleared on the property. A potential trading link with Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) was reported, but the company stated that it did not receive soy, corn or cotton volumes from the Mizote group in 2020, 2021 or 2022 harvests (4). Grupo Mizote is among the players in Correntina's water conflict and is listed in the Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT) 2016 report of agrarian conflicts over land involving 240 families in 2016 and 2017 (5). In 2013, Correntina's citizens started a "Fora Mizote" movement against a concession to deforest 24,599 hectares of native vegetation requested by Grupo Mizote in the same Fazenda Barra Velha (6). In 2018, representatives of local communities impacted by Mizote's plans interposed a process in Bahia's Court of Justice (7). Paulo Massayoshi Mizote and his wife, Eunice Matiko Ishida Mizote, are also involved in a land dispute in Formosa do Rio Preto (BA) with alleged land grabber José Valter Dias, who is accused of forging documents and bribing local judges to confiscate area of 300,000 ha (8). In 2014, MetLife, one of the largest global providers of insurance, annuities, and employee benefit programs, with 90 million customers in over 60 countries, provided a loan of USD 30 million to Paulo Massayoshi Mizote (9). Grupo Mizote collects the 11th largest volume of water in the Cerrado biome in Bahia among the companies linked to the Bahia Association of Farmers and Irrigators (Aiba) and Abapa. The company has an authorisation to capture 76.3 million litres per day from the Rio Grande Basin, one of the main tributaries of the São Francisco River (10). In 2011, Grupo Mizote received a public loan of more than USD 680k from Desenbahia (the Development Agency of Bahia state) to buy agricultural machines to be used in the properties of the Group in São Desidério (11).

(1) <http://cnpj.info/Barra-Velha-Agropecuaria>

(2) <https://abapa.com.br/diretoria/> and <https://abapa.com.br/mais-noticias/nova-diretoria-da-abapa-toma-posse/>

(3) <https://doi.org/10.14393/RCT112501> and <https://falabarreiras.com/sem-categoria/grupo-mizote-apresenta-empreendimento-para-conselho-de-desenvolvimento-sustentavel-de-correntina/>

(4) https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/Rapid-Response_Soy-and-Cattle_Report-1.pdf, https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/Rapid-Response_Soy-and-Cattle_Report-3.pdf and https://aidenvironment.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Annex_4_LIFE_RDM_Report_4_Aug2022_UPDATED_Dec22-1.pdf

(5) <https://www.cptnacional.org.br/component/jdownloads/send/41-conflitos-no-campo-brasil-publicacao/14061-conflitos-no-campo-brasil-2016?Itemid=0>

(6) https://www.asabrasil.org.br/noticias?artigo_id=3141

(7) <https://www.jusbrasil.com.br/diarios/documentos/555707164/andamento-do-processo-n-8003344-0820188050000-agravo-de-instrumento-14-03-2018-do-tjba>

(8) <https://www.legalnote.com.br/publicacao-diario-oficial/00248257120158050000/54712943/>

(9) <https://www.agrimarketing.com/ss.php?id=87690>

(10) <https://apublica.org/2021/12/os-privilegiados-com-a-agua-do-cerrado-baiano/>

(11) <http://www.zeneto.com.br/noticia/4309/governo-anuncia-pacote-de-r-27-milhoes-em-financiamentos-para-regiao-oeste>