

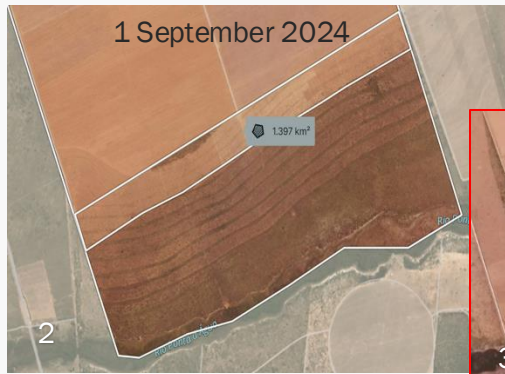
Fazenda Palmares



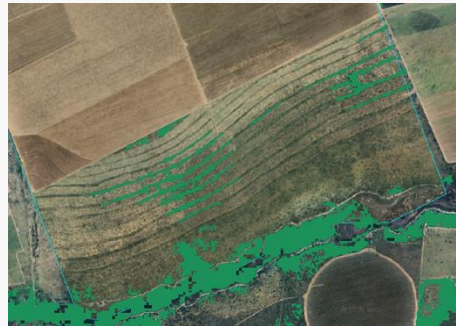
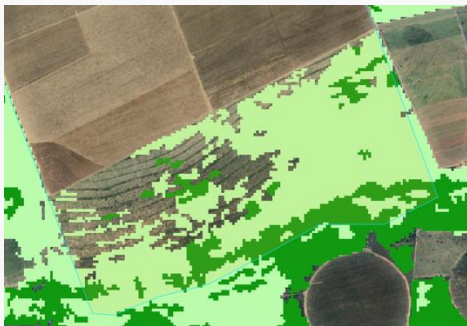
Location: Barreiras, Bahia
 Area property (ha): 33,975

Biome: Cerrado (Brazil)
 Coordinates property: -46.02455, -11.68089

Cleared Area			
140	hectares	Period clearance: 1 January – 30 September 2024	Type of vegetation: Woody grass savanna
6,981	tons of CO ₂		



Imagery: Limits of the property (photo 1, in blue). The red polygon in photo 1 highlights the total of 615 ha, an area of native vegetation burned in September 2022. Photo 2 shows the situation in September 2024, after the clearing of the strip of 140 ha in the previously burned area (photo 2, in white). Satellite imagery also shows signs of fires that have been occurring in the farm in 2022 (photo 3). Three photos on the bottom demonstrate the gradual removal of the native vegetation strip.



Imagery: Classification of native vegetation by Mapbiomas (left) - Native vegetation forest (dark green) and savannah (light green) - and EU Forest Observatory (right) - Native vegetation forest (dark green), demonstrating that part of the cleared areas can be classified as forest vegetation under the EUDR.

Fazenda Palmares



Ownership & Business relationship

Owner:

Company responses

SLC Agrícola

- **SLC Agrícola:** “The clearing is part of a forest regeneration and enrichment project that began in 2023.” (October 2024)
- **Cargill:** Cargill states to do business with three of the identified soy farms of six soy case studies shared with Cargill in November 2024, including Fazenda Palmares. Cargill (6 December 2024): “We investigated the farms we do conduct business with; no irregularities were found on two of them and the third one remains under investigation”. Cargill does not further specify.

Environmental sanctions

Embargoes: No -

Environmental fines: No -

Case description

In 2021 and 2023, Cargill, Louis Dreyfus, ADM, and Amaggi appear as the main soy and cotton buyers of SLC Agrícola, a crop-producing and land investment company(1), and it is likely that Cargill is still a buyer of SLC Agrícola’s products in 2024. AidEnvironment’s real-time deforestation monitoring system has detected around 140 hectares of clearing in 2024 inside the SLC Agrícola’s farm, Fazenda Palmares, in Barreiras municipality, Bahia state, Brazil (2). SLC Agrícola/SLC LandCo owns and leases 16 properties in 6 Brazilian states, reportedly totaling 474,924 ha (3). The clearing occurred between January and September 2024, (thus after the EUDR cut-off date, and took place in a previously burned area reported by AidEnvironment in its RDM report #7 in November 2022 (4). At the time, SLC Agrícola stated that “the detected forest fires did not have a connection with deforestation or conversion of natural areas into crop-production areas”. However, two years later, there is evidence of clearance in those same areas in the southern part of Fazenda Palmares, of approximately 140 hectares. In response to these recent clearings detected by AidEnvironment, SLC Agrícola stated that the clearing is “part of a forest regeneration and enrichment project that began in 2023”. However, although the area was partially cleared by fire a few years ago, according to Mapbiomas (5) and the EU Observatory Forest map (6), the cleared area can be partly classified as native vegetation (forest), therefore, its clearance result in a noncompliance case with the EUDR. AidEnvironment considers it unlikely that native vegetation will be cleared as part of a forest regeneration project. Closer and longer-term monitoring is needed to prove whether this is a regenerative initiative or if the area will be used for crop production.

- (1) SLC Agrícola Management Report 2023, online: <https://api.mziq.com/mzfilemanager/v2/d/a975c39b-3eca-4ad8-9330-2c0a0b8d1060/28ee6f49-1833-ebca-e07a-00c04f8aaff9?origin=2>, viewed in October 2024.
- (2) SLC Agrícola website, online: <https://www.slcaagricola.com.br/nossas-fazendas/fazenda-palmares>, viewed in September 2024.
- (3) SLC Agrícola website, online: <https://www.slcaagricola.com.br/en/nossas-fazendas/>, viewed in October 2024.
- (4) AidEnvironment RDM 7 report, November 2022, online: https://aidenvironment.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/LIFE_RDM_Report_7_Nov_2022_UPDATED-1.pdf, viewed in October 2024.
- (5) Mapbiomas Brazil website, online: <https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/en>, viewed in October 2024.
- (6) EU Observatory Forest map, online: <https://forest-observatory.ec.europa.eu/forest/gfc2020>, viewed in October 2024.