

Fazenda Tapera Grande



Location: Correntina, Bahia

Biome: Cerrado (Brazil)

Area property (ha): 5,589

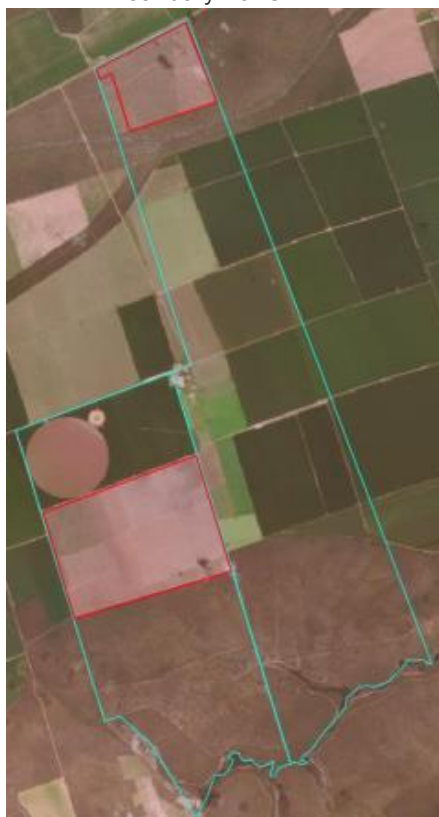
Coordinates property: -13.76711, - 45.81689

Cleared Area			
981	hectares	Period clearance: 30 December 2021 – 30 September 2024	Type of vegetation: Forested Savanna
126,110	tons of CO ₂		

July 2022



January 2023



About 542 ha of the native vegetation cleared area falls into the FAO Forest definition and is non-compliant with the EUDR

Source: AidEnvironment, Imagery ©2024 Planet Labs Inc.

Imagery: Picture on the left shows the situation in Fazenda Tapera Grande in July 2022. The property is demarcated by the blue lines, and the cleared areas are indicated by the red lines. In the image in the middle, the significant clearing of 981 ha of native vegetation since 1 January 2021 till September 2024 is visualised. In the image on the right, the green areas indicate the areas that are classified as forests under the definitions of the EUDR.

Fazenda Tapera Grande



Ownership & Business relationship

Owners:

Irineu Orth

Company responses

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 Tapera Grande. 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”. In January 2025, Cargill added: “We do source from Fazenda Tapera Grande, which has legal permits for the identified clearance.”

Environmental fines and embargoes

Embargoes:

No

-

Environmental fines:

Yes

11 environmental fines (total BRL 1.9 million)

Case description

Since the EUDR cut-off date (30 December 2020), Fazenda Tapera Grande has cleared 981 hectares of native vegetation, of which 542 hectares fall in the scope of the EUDR definition of forest, based on Mapbiomas Brazil (1) and the EU Observatory Forest map (2). In 2022, AidEnvironment detected 43 hectares of clearing in the property, of which 1 hectare falls in the scope of the EUDR definition of forest. In 2023, a clearance of 938 hectares of native vegetation was detected on the property, of which 541 hectares were in the scope of the EUDR definition of forest. Nevertheless, this case likely represents mostly legal clearing under Brazilian law since the property seems to have valid authorisation for clearing native vegetation. However, under the EUDR, part of the ‘legally’ deforested area would qualify as noncompliant as it's linked to the clearance of areas defined as forest formation by the EUDR. In June 2022, Irineu Orth, owner of the cleared farm, obtained authorisation for the vegetal suppression (or clearance) of 677 hectares at Fazenda Tapera Grande. Valid for four years, until May 2026, this license was issued by the government of Bahia (3). Cargill has a confirmed supplier-buyer relationship with this farm (see Cargill response above) and responded to a group of cases in AidEnvironment’s RDM report #12 (May 2023), which included a case reporting clearing in this farm: “Out of the 10 cases mentioned in the report, we have had recent negotiations with 3 of the farms mentioned, and in another case with the farmer/ group in a different farm. In all these cases, we have evidence of the legality of the clearance - that is currently aligned with our Soy Policy” [Cargill response to RDM Aidenvironment report of 2023 (4)].

Fazenda Tapera Grande is linked to a company with a similar name that is involved in the production of cattle, maize, soy, cotton, and timber (eucalyptus), as well as the production of animal feed. The Fazenda Tapera Grande property owner, Irineu Orth, is a large landowner, owning more than nine thousand hectares of land in different Brazilian states, such as Bahia and Mato Grosso (5). Relatives Afonso Orth, Daniel Orth, Douglas Orth, Daiza Orth, and Aline Orth Brum also own the company Fazenda Tapera Grande Ltda. Several environmental fines and embargoes are linked to these owners and Irineu Orth. For instance, 11 out of 13 detected environmental fines (total BRL 1.9 million) are associated with Fazenda Tapera Grande (Correntina - BA), with varying reasons such as unauthorised deforestation of native vegetation, prevention of regeneration of native vegetation or infringement of imposed embargoes (6). Irineu Orth, a former mayor of the Tapera municipality in Rio Grande do Sul state, became a Senator in April 2024, representing the same state (7). AidEnvironment has evidence connecting Cargill to supplier Irineu Orth in 2015 (8).

(1) Mapbiomas Brazil website, online: <https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/en>, viewed in October 2024.

(2) EU Observatory Forest map, online: <https://forest-observatory.ec.europa.eu/forest/gfc2020>, viewed in October 2024.

(3) Inema Bahia database, online: <http://www.inema.ba.gov.br/atende/licenciamento-ambiental/>, viewed in May 2023.

(4) AidEnvironment RDM-report 12 (May 2023, updated in October 2023), online: <https://bit.ly/rdm12-may2023>, viewed in October 2024.

(5) Combate racismo ambiental, May, 14, 2019, online: <https://racismoambiental.net.br/2019/05/14/mapa-das-terras-dos-parlamentares-mostra-que-eles-acumulam-fazendas-na-amazonia-e-no-matopiba/>, viewed in October 2024.

(6) Ibama Brazil, online: <https://www.gov.br/ibama/pt-br>, viewed in May 2023.

(7) Senadonoticias, 10 April 2024, online: <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2024/04/10/ireneu-orth-toma-posse-como-senador>, viewed in October 2024.

(8) Undisclosed source.