# Zero Deforestation Annual Report





# **Zero Deforestation Annual Report**

Annually, renowned institutions, such as MapBiomas (alerta.mapbiomas.org/en), publish their respective reports that provide the scenario of deforestation in Brazil. In 2023, MapBiomas reported approximately 1.83 million hectares of natural areas deforested in Brazil.

Faced with this alarming scenario of forest and habitat loss, Suzano commits to zero deforestation and the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources as an integral part of its business strategy. Zero deforestation for Suzano means not planting or acquiring eucalyptus planted in areas previously occupied by native vegetation and deforested, legally or illegally, under Suzano's influence or presence in the territory. Suzano only consumes (produces or purchases) eucalyptus from areas that had other previous uses, not supporting deforestation of natural vegetation for its production. For more information, access our policy by clicking <a href="here">here</a>.

Thus, this report aims to provide transparency regarding the evidence of Suzano's zero deforestation commitment, based on the crossing and geospatial analysis of the company's property boundaries in relation to the areas of deforestation that occurred in Brazil in 2023.

#### Areas managed by Suzano

Suzano has over 2,7 million hectares, of which 1.6 million are designated for eucalyptus production management and 1,1 million hectares are set aside for conservation of natural habitats. For more information, please visit our Annual Report 2023.

#### **Results**

The intersection between Suzano's boundaries and the deforestation identified by MapBiomas in the areas under Suzano's management was analyzed by the company, submitted to third-party validation, and has the following results:

- There was no deforestation of areas with native vegetation for eucalyptus planting in the areas under Suzano's management. Therefore, there was zero deforestation for the establishment of our forest base.
- Regarding Suzano's conservation areas, instances of native vegetation suppression were identified, carried out by third parties, mostly related to illegal occupations. For all identified occurrences, Suzano has already taken action to regularize and environmentally recover these environments.

Details below:



- In the state of Minas Gerais, 15.79 hectares of cleared vegetation were identified. Of this total, 12.81
  hectares were illegally cleared by the owner of a property leased by Suzano, who was notified
  extrajudicially for contractual violation. Additionally, 2.98 hectares were subject to land invasion and the
  case was submitted to the Land Solutions Commission.
- 2. In the state of Pará, 0.87 hectares of deforestation were identified, resulting from illegal logging by third parties from neighboring properties that encroached on the company's land. Formal reports were filed, and these areas will be included in Suzano's ecological restoration program.
- 3. A similar situation occurred in Tocantins, where 1.82 hectares were illegally deforested. The same reporting measures were taken. Additionally, there are 41.97 hectares from a recently leased farm with legally authorized clearing conducted before the lease agreement. However, despite the authorization for land conversion, these areas will not be used for eucalyptus planting and will remain restricted in accordance with Suzano's Wood Supply Policy Zero Deforestation.
- 4. In Mato Grosso do Sul, 90.65 hectares of legally cleared land were identified in two recently acquired areas (0.01 hectare and 90.64 hectares). These areas were cleared by their previous owners before Suzano's acquisition. In line with Suzano's Wood Supply Policy, these areas are blocked from eucalyptus planting and will be allocated for ecological restoration.
- 5. In the state of Maranhão, 802.84 hectares of native vegetation suppression were identified. Of this total, 794.71 hectares resulted from land conflicts, with vegetation cleared by third parties. Out of these, 47.57 hectares have already been recovered, while 747.14 hectares remain under illegal occupation on two farms managed by Suzano. These farms are currently subject to legal proceedings for repossession. Once repossession is granted and the land is restored, Suzano will initiate environmental recovery through ecological restoration. The remaining 8.13 hectares were impacted across three farms: 1.97 hectares were affected by illegal fires caused by third parties, 1.41 hectares were deforested due to advancing deforestation from neighboring areas, and 4.75 hectares of vegetation suppression by third parties on Suzano land have been recorded and reported.

With this conclusion, Suzano reiterates its commitment to **zero deforestation of its production**, as formalized in its <u>Suzano's Wood Supply Policy</u>. This report has undergone independent third-party verification. The verification statement is available as an attachment.

Your opinion or questions mean a lot to us. Please, contact us.



#### **Attachments**

### **Important Concepts**

For a better understanding of this report, we clarify some important concepts below:

- **Deforestation or Suppression** means the action of or the result of eliminating or extinguishing native vegetation on a certain area.
- Natural Area or Native Vegetation: areas with original, remaining or regenerated vegetation that contain diverse specimens of flora (trees and other plants) and fauna (animals) species that are native or natural to their location.
- Hectare: unit of area measurement equivalent to approximately one football field.
- **Ecological restoration:** seeks to rehabilitate degraded areas to reestablish the structural attributes and functions of an ecosystem while increasing biodiversity.
- **Geospatial analysis:** technical analysis using specific software and satellite images to evaluate native vegetation areas.



# INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Bureau Veritas Certification Brasil (Bureau Veritas) was hired by Suzano S.A. (Suzano) to carry out an independent verification of its 2024 Annual Zero Deforestation Report (Report).

The Zero Deforestation Report was prepared based on a critical analysis of images from the Mapbiomas Alerta platform, which provides objective geospatial information on deforested areas, through the generation of deforestation alert reports in all biomes in Brazil, where Suzano has owned and leased areas, operating under various contractual modalities. The period of critical analysis of images was from January to December 2023. Suzano has developed its own methodology for analyzing deforestation and studying the reasons for deforestation, reporting them publicly.

#### CONCLUSION

As a result of our verification process, we concluded that the methodology used by Suzano and its application to analyze deforestation identified by MapBiomas Alerta, published in June 2024 by the MapBiomas platform were considered reliable by our team.

The assessments and results presented in Suzano's Annual Zero Deforestation Report, covering the period from January to December 2023, are structured, free of material errors and robust.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

Verification of the Report for the year 2023, regarding the seven conclusive statements described below and the implementation of Suzano's Zero Deforestation Positioning.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUZANO AND BUREAU VERITAS

The collection, calculation and presentation of the published data are the sole responsibility of Suzano's management. Bureau Veritas is responsible for providing an independent opinion, in accordance with the scope of work defined in this statement.



#### **METHODOLOGY**

The verification was carried out based on procedures and practices adopted by Suzano, as follows:

- Procedures related to the wood supply policy PC.00.00 23 and, in sample terms, its implementation;
- Suzano's zero deforestation positioning;
- Procedure related to monitoring deforestation in native vegetation;
- Evidence of deforestation in Suzano's owned and leased areas;
- Evidence of identification of vegetation suppression, as well as analysis carried out by Suzano regarding the causes published in the Report;
- Evidence of internal actions, including those of a legal scope, described in the Report;
- Images used to support the conclusions of the Report.

The conclusions of the Report, which were the subject of our assessment, were:

- 1. There was no deforestation of areas with native vegetation for planting eucalyptus in the areas under Suzano management. Therefore, there was zero deforestation to constitute our forest base.
- 2. Regarding Suzano's conservation areas, suppression of native vegetation were identified, carried out by third parties, which were mostly related to illegal occupations. For all the occurrences identified, Suzano has already taken action to regularize and restore the environment in these areas.
- 3. In the state of Minas Gerais, 15.79 hectares of suppressed vegetation were identified. Of these, 12.81 hectares were suppressed by the owner of the property leased by Suzano in an irregular manner, who was notified extrajudicially for failure to comply with the contract, and 2.98 hectares were subject to invasion, which was submitted to the Land Solutions Commission.
- 4. In the state of Pará, 0.87 hectares of deforestation were identified, resulting from illegal logging by third parties, originating from neighboring properties that invaded the boundaries of the company's properties. The denunciation actions were formalized and the areas will be included in the planning of the company's ecological restoration program.



- 5. A similar situation occurred in Tocantins, where 1.82 hectares were illegally deforested. The same reporting actions were taken for the incident. There are still 41.97 hectares from a recently leased farm with legalized suppression, carried out before the lease. However, even with the authorization for conversion, these areas are not intended for eucalyptus planting and remain blocked in accordance with Suzano's Wood Supply Policy Zero Deforestation.
- 6. In Mato Grosso do Sul, 90.65 hectares with legalized suppression were identified in two recently acquired areas (with areas of 0.01 hectares and 90.64 hectares), which were previously suppressed by their old owners. These areas are blocked for planting, in accordance with Suzano's Wood Supply Policy and will not be used for eucalyptus production, but rather for ecological restoration.
- 7. In the state of Maranhão, 802.84 hectares of native vegetation identified were suppressed. Of this total, 794.71 hectares are the result of land conflicts involving vegetation suppression carried out by third parties, of which 47.57 hectares have already been reinstated and 747.14 hectares are still illegally occupied on two farms managed by Suzano. The farms described above are already the subject of a lawsuit for reinstatement of possession. Once the reinstatement of possession is granted and the area is reestablished, Suzano will begin the environmental recovery process through ecological restoration. The remaining 8.13 hectares were impacted on three farms. Of these, 1.97 hectares were the result of illegal fires set by third parties, 1.41 hectares were deforested due to the advance of deforestation in neighboring areas, and 4.75 hectares of vegetation removal by third parties on Suzano lands have already been recorded and reported. The verification level adopted was Limited, in accordance with Bureau Veritas' internal requirements. Within this scope, there are some methodological restrictions regarding the analysis of data accuracy. All verification was carried out remotely, through interviews and access to documented information, such as Suzano's procedures, maps and internal records.

Our verification did not aim to assess the methodology used by MapBiomas to report deforestation in Brazil.

MapBiomas Alerta is a system for validating and refining alerts on deforestation, degradation and regeneration of native vegetation using high-resolution images. The platform uses cloud processing systems and automated classifiers, operated from the Google Earth Engine platform. MapBiomas is based on the premise of guaranteeing coverage with alerts in all biomes.



#### LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

Any information related to the following was excluded from this verification:

- Activities outside the reporting period (January to December 2023);
- Position declarations (expressions of opinion, belief, objectives or future intentions) by Suzano.

The following limitations were applied to this verification:

• The accuracy of data was verified on a sample basis, exclusively in light of the information and data presented by Suzano, based on the annual Zero Deforestation Report;

#### ABOUT THE ZERO DEFORESTATION REPORT

The aim of the Report is to transparently present Suzano's geospatial analysis of the deforestation areas detected by the MapBiomas Alerta project, which occurred on the Company's own and/or leased farms in 2023. Monitoring is carried out annually on a voluntary basis and is used as a mechanism to avoid conflicts with environmental legislation and the Company's Wood Supply Policy.

## TECHNICAL OPINION OF THE REPORT

- The methodology for analyzing deforestation identified on the MapBiomas Alerta platform, documented by Suzano in its own report, was considered appropriate by our team. The internal evaluation processes used were considered relevant and the evidence sufficient to justify the conclusions of the report, with robust data collection and consolidation processes for the purpose of evaluating deforested areas;
- Suzano continues to use and improve data through the ArcGIS 10.8 platform, where it keeps the areas
  under its responsibility updated in the form of georeferenced maps. We evidenced compatibility between
  this platform and that of MapBiomas, so that the location of deforestation in areas under Suzano's
  responsibility was considered reasonably accurate, limited to the resolution of both platforms;
- We verified that Suzano maintains a documented procedure for identifying, monitoring and analyzing
  deforestation in planted and native vegetation, in order to ensure the planning, operation and control of
  each stage of the analysis and evaluation of deforestation;



- The analysis of the causes of deforestation covered all geographic regions where the company operates in Brazil. During our verification, we tracked each stage of the assessment process described by Suzano in the procedure mentioned above, conducting interviews with the following sectors: Asset Intelligence, Asset Control, Corporate Socio-Environmental Operations, Forestry Business and Legal;
- During our assessment, we found that, for the purposes of assessing deforested areas, the images
  obtained from the technologies used (MapBiomas, ArcGIS 10.8 and Planet Scope) enabled a systematic
  and objective analysis of deforestation. The collection of information by cross-referencing and comparing
  images supported the planning of internal analytical actions and on-site inspections of areas where
  vegetation was suppressed, whenever applicable;
- We noted that Suzano uses the "Ceres" System, the purpose of which is to manage the acquisition and leasing of land. One of the phases involves conducting due diligence assessments, with the aim of ensuring compliance with the relevant laws and forest management certification mechanisms, in line with the Zero Deforestation Policy (Suzano Position);
- The presented work has as its main point Suzano's efforts to recover deforested areas under its responsibility. The study presented showed that in 2023 the intersection of Mapbiomas deforestation alerts with Suzano's own and/or leased farms generated 1,527.69 hectares of area with suppressed vegetation on 43 farms in 6 states (Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Maranhão, Mato Grosso do Sul, Pará and Tocantins) and in 3 biomes (Amazon, Cerrado and Atlantic Forest). In all cases, we showed extensive documentation aimed at reversing the loss of biodiversity in these areas;
- We highlight that, after assessing the intersection generated between Suzano's own and/or leased farms and Mapbiomas' deforestation alerts, as well as analyzing legality and liability, all data was examined. However, the company defined some exclusion criteria, The areas amount to a total of 573.78 hectares. In our opinion, these exclusions are pertinent, namely:
  - √ 4,07 ha of areas with bordering deforestation (occurrences on neighboring properties);
  - ✓ 565,74 ha areas sold and/or returned where the right of possession has already been contractually transferred to the new owner;
  - √ 3,97 ha areas identified as false positives (areas already consolidated with eucalyptus plantations).
- After applying the exclusion criteria mentioned above, we found that the areas considered eligible make up a total of 953.91 hectares, as follows:
  - ✓ 797,66 ha areas with invasion actions;



- ✓ 12,81 ha of areas with property transfer in progress;
- ✓ 7,44 ha of areas with theft of native wood;
- ✓ 1,97 ha of areas with fire in preservation areas;
- ✓ 1,41 ha of areas with deforestation in the neighbor with advance towards the Suzano area (advanced border);
- ✓ 132,62 ha areas that were suppressed after July 2020, before their acquisition by Suzano. It is important to note that, according to the Company's wood supply policy, these areas may never be used for planting eucalyptus.
- Regarding the deforested areas that were detected in previous years (2018/2019 (120 ha), 2020 (154 ha) and 2021/2022 (634 ha), we found that the company carries out monitoring and internal control in a satisfactory manner, including the restoration of the areas under its responsibility. The Company maintains a Dashboard to consolidate and analyze the results, thus helping to plan and implement improvements in the process, correct flaws and think of new strategies;
- In our opinion, the Report remains timid in not presenting the results of the preservation/recovery conditions of each deforested area, referring to previous years, under its responsibility;
- Finally, we point out that the Company continues to study new initiatives that will help in preventive and corrective actions, such as:
  - ✓ Increased frequency of verification of deforestation occurrences in its own and leased areas, with the acquisition of new platforms such as: MarvinBlue/anomalIA GeoCat, which aims to detect and monitor changes in land use in all areas included in the Company's database;
  - ✓ Risk Mitigation Project on Conversion, with the objective of evaluating the conversion of Suzano's land use and coverage to mitigate commercial and image risks and embargoes of the company in relevant regulations.
  - ✓ New Operating Procedure PO 24.01.0044 "Corporate Forestry Guidelines for compliance with the Wood Supply Policy", which aims to establish the guidelines, procedures and responsibilities of the various areas involved in the management of forest-based raw materials, aiming to ensure compliance with the zero deforestation commitment, as well as guarantee the responsible origin and traceability of the wood, as established by Suzano's Wood Supply Policy;
  - ✓ Improve the structure of the database for deforestation with control within the Zenith and ArcGis Systems, used by the Company.



**IDENTIFIED IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES** 

• Strengthen future editions of the Report, objectively presenting the restoration status of each deforested

area under Suzano's responsibility, from the beginning of the work to identify vegetation suppression or

referring to other publications that provide information on the restoration of referred areas;

Prioritize the inclusion of deforestation assessments in partner areas, where there are current contracts

for the supply of woods;

Include the non-deforestation criterion adopted by the Company, namely July 2020, explicitly in the

Suzano Zero Deforestation Positioning.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY

Bureau Veritas Certification is an independent professional services company specializing in Quality, Health, Safety,

Social and Environmental management with over 190 years of experience in independent assessment services.

Bureau Veritas has implemented and applies a Code of Ethics throughout its business to ensure that its employees

maintain the highest standards in their daily activities. We are particularly attentive to preventing conflicts of

interest.

The verification team has no other connections to Suzano, other than the independent verification of the

Sustainability Report. We understand that there is no conflict between other services performed by Bureau Veritas

and this verification performed by our team.

The team that carried out this verification for Suzano has extensive knowledge in verifying information and systems

involving environmental, social, health, safety and ethics issues, which, combined with experience in these areas,

allows us a clear understanding of the presentation and verification of good corporate responsibility practices.

**CONTACT** 

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São Paulo, December 2024.

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7