

Statement of Support for the Amazon Soy Moratorium

July 2025

As signatories of the UK Soy Manifesto, we reaffirm our strong support for the Amazon Soy Moratorium (ASM) and its essential role in preventing soy-driven deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon. Since its inception in 2006 and the establishment of its 2008 cut-off date, the ASM has been one of the most effective voluntary agreements in tackling deforestation. It has successfully decoupled soy production from forest loss in the Amazon, with over 98% of soy cultivated in the region today being ASM-compliant.¹

As a result, soy now accounts for just 0.2% of direct deforestation, demonstrating that it is no longer a primary driver of forest loss in the Amazon biome. Moreover, it is estimated that the Amazon Soy Moratorium prevented the conversion of at least 1.8 million hectares of forest in its first 10 years, making a significant contribution to the preservation of native vegetation in the face of rising global demand.²

But this trend has not prevented the growth of soy production and economic activities in the region. Between 2006 and 2019, the area under soy cultivation in the Amazon increased from approximately 1.6 million to 4.7 million hectares. Importantly, this expansion occurred predominantly on land that had already been deforested before the Moratorium's cut-off date. There is substantial potential for responsible soy production without further deforestation. It is estimated that 1.7 million hectares of land on existing soy properties, cleared prior to 2008, could be utilised for expanded soy cultivation.³ This would allow for meeting the growing demand for soy sustainably, without encroaching on protected forests.

For the UK, Brazil remains an important producer of soy for UK consumption, with just under 10% of UK soy imports being sourced under the ASM. The continued success of the ASM has stood the test of time. If the Moratorium were removed or weakened, it would have a significant impact on the public perception of the Brazilian soy industry despite the fact that, as above, the vast majority of soy produced in the Amazon is no longer driving deforestation.

For UK and global companies, the disruption of responsible supply chains would have a far-reaching impact. It would affect soy traders, processors, feed producers, and companies across the food and consumer goods sectors that are committed to sustainable sourcing to halt further degradation of forests, loss of biodiversity, GHG emissions, and help protect the livelihoods that depend on these natural resources.

¹ <https://moratoriadasoja.com.br/home>

² The Low Opportunity Costs of the Amazon Soy Moratorium (Lisa L. Rausch and Holly K. Gibbs, 2021)

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We note the recent decision by the Brazilian Supreme Court to lift the suspension of a bill that allows the Government of Mato Grosso to withdraw tax incentives from companies that adhere to the ASM and believe this will undermine the ASM further.⁴

We stand ready to support and engage in constructive dialogue and to work with others to help ensure the protection of the Amazon rainforest and the sustainable production and trade of soy and the livelihoods of soy farmers. We urge all actors within the soy supply chain, including governments, financial institutions, and agribusinesses, to reinforce their commitment to the ASM and ensure its continuation.

The Amazon Soy Moratorium is a global example of how soy and other forest-risk commodities can be sourced deforestation-free. By maintaining the ASM and its 2008 cut-off date, we safeguard critical carbon stocks, protect biodiversity, and support the resilience and long-term viability of deforestation-free soy supply chains.

Sincerely,

UK Soy Manifesto Members

About the UK Manifesto

The [UK Soy Manifesto](#) is a group of 50 major companies across food grocery, food service, manufacturer and livestock sectors, representing approximately 60% of UK soy consumption predominantly through soy in animal feed/livestock supply chains. The Manifesto is funded by individual signatory members who want to move further and faster, with a collective industry commitment to work together to ensure all physical shipments of soy to the UK are deforestation and conversion free (cut-off date of December 2020) no later than the end of 2025.

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazils-supreme-court-deals-blow-amazon-soy-moratorium-2025-04-29/>