



# COUNTRY FACTSHEET

## Paraguay Beef and Soy

### SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION IS PRIORITIZED

Over the last 15 years, Paraguay [lost a greater share of its forest](#) than almost any other country on Earth. This land clearing is often driven by the nation's agriculture sector as it expands to keep up with the pace of economic growth.

The government's plan to increase Paraguay's agricultural exports relies largely on further exploitation of the Chaco, a vast semi-arid region encompassing the entire Western half of the country. However, if this expansion is not managed sustainably, scientists fear that the unique and valuable biodiversity and indigenous cultures of the Chaco could be wiped out for good.

GCP is currently facilitating government-led dialogue at national and regional levels throughout Paraguay to establish a consensus on achieving greater sustainability in the country's soy and beef industries. Working across sectors, bringing farmers, companies, civil society and policymakers together, the programme is supporting a systemic rollout of good agriculture practices that increases productivity, as well as recommendations for regulatory reform.



### FAST FACTS

#### Beef and Soy Production in Paraguay

- Paraguay is currently the world's sixth largest soy producer and sixth largest beef exporter
- Paraguay's agriculture sector alone, which employs almost half the population, is responsible for 90 percent of registered exports
- In recent years the private sector and the government have made significant public commitments to curb deforestation in Paraguay, including some of the world's largest soy traders, which have [committed](#) to eliminating deforestation from their supply chains

## ABOUT THE UNDP GREEN COMMODITIES PROGRAMME

We work in 11 countries to address sustainability issues, including deforestation, across seven highly-traded agricultural and marine commodities. We do this by supporting governments to lead multi-stakeholder dialogues, devise national action plans and leverage resources to address

the structural barriers to sustainable commodities. We also act as a bridge for collaboration between the public and private sectors, civil society and donors. Through these partnerships, innovative solutions can be identified, piloted and implemented on a scale that makes a difference.

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Green  
Commodities  
Programme

*“Natural resources are in the hands of producers, which is why it is essential to work with them and initiate public policy. They are the ones who know what happens in the field, the limitations, the shortcomings on their part and on behalf of the institutions of the state.”*

– Rolando De Barros Barreto, Minister of the Environment Secretariat



## Our Partners

### **Government:**

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the National Forestry Institute, the Secretariat of Environment, the Public Ministry, as well as regional government departments

### **Private Sector:**

Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC), the Sustainable Finance Roundtable and major banking partners, Cargill, ADM, Silvipar as well as national and international industry forums including the Roundtable on Responsible Soy and the Industrial Union of Paraguay.

### **Civil Society and NGOs:**

WWF, Association Pro Cordillera San Rafael, the Indigenous Community Association of Itapua, the indigenous Ache Community as well as national universities and academia

**Donor:** Global Environment Facility

### **Global Partnerships and**

### **Foundations:**

The Good Growth Partnership

*“The most important thing is that we are generating discussions, and in these discussions we are generating knowledge and intercommunication between the different actors; private sector, government bodies, producers.”*

– Edoard Schaffrah, Intendant, District of Naranjal

## The UNDP Green Commodities Approach

Since 2014, we have facilitated national commodity platforms to initiate and coordinate multi-stakeholder action plans for more sustainable beef and soy in Paraguay. These platforms are part of a wider Global Environment Facility supported project, “Paisajes de Producción Verde,” which is led by the national Secretariat of Environment (SEAM). Key efforts include:

- **Sustainable investment** – Through the Roundtable for Sustainable Finance, we are assisting Paraguay’s major banks - responsible for over 80% of the agricultural and livestock loan portfolios – to incorporate environmental standards into their lending procedures and develop new credit lines for producers.
- **Regional dialogue** – Since 40% of the Paraguayan population lives in rural areas it was essential to establish regional dialogue mechanisms so that all stakeholders contribute to the national action plans for soy and beef.
- **Best practice training** – We assess the training needs of farmers to distribute region-wide technical assistance to small, medium and large-scale producers through government channels and services. Capacity development assistance includes identifying soy diseases, management of GPS (geo-location) tools, as well as agricultural pesticide management.
- **Addressing deforestation** – In partnership with the Government we are providing technical support to improve the laws that direct commodity expansion away from forested and important conservation areas. This includes the revision of national definitions for land use planning, conservation areas, zoning and land conversion.