

19 May 2020

An open letter on the protection of the Amazon

To the Deputies and Senators of the National Congress of Brazil,

The Amazon is one of the most vital landscapes on our planet: it not only contains 30% of the world's rainforest but it is also home to 10% of all known species. More crucially, the Amazon plays a critical role in regulating global climate, the water cycle as well as its role in system resilience which is fundamental for planetary health. We also recognise that it is also a crucial economic resource for Brazil, for both now and in the future.

Last year, widespread fires and destruction in the Amazon made news across the globe. As global businesses and investors with interests in Brazil, we have welcomed and wish to see a continuation of Brazil's leadership on forest law and agreements like the Amazon Soy Moratorium. We know that we must ensure that protecting the Amazon is economically more attractive than destroying it, reflecting its true value to the world – and we want to work with all Brazilian stakeholders on this. What remains essential is that further destruction is halted.

We are deeply concerned about the Provisional Measure 910 (now changed to PL 2633/2020), that has been submitted to the Brazilian congress for a vote, and which would legalise the private occupation of public lands, mostly concentrated in the Amazon. Should the measure pass, it would encourage further land grabbing and widespread deforestation which would jeopardise the survival of the Amazon and meeting the targets of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and undermine the rights of indigenous and traditional communities. We believe that it would also put at risk the ability of organisations such as ours to continue sourcing from Brazil in the future.

We want to continue to source from and invest in Brazil and help ensure that protecting the Amazon can be economically productive for all. We urge the Brazilian government to reconsider its stance and hope to continue working with partners in Brazil to demonstrate that economic development and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive.

Signatories:

AB Agri Ltd

Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

Ahold Delhaize

ALDI SOUTH Group

AP7 (Sjunde AP-fonden)

Asda Stores Ltd.

British Retail Consortium

Burger King UK

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes

Co-op Switzerland

The Co-operative Group

Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids
Donau Soja
EdenTree Investment Management
Hilton Food Group
Iceland Foods
Jerónimo Martins SGPS S.A.
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
Kerry Group
KLP Kapitalforvaltning AS
Lidl Great Britain
Marks & Spencer
METRO AG
Migros
Moy Park
Nando's
National Pig Association
NorgesGruppen ASA
Ocado
Pax World Funds
Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation
ProTerra Foundation
Retail Soy Group
Rewe Group
Robeco
J Sainsbury Plc
Storebrand Asset Management
Swedbank Robur Fonder AB
Tesco Stores Plc
Tulip Ltd
Waitrose & Partners
Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc