

## **RTRS Campinas declaration on Conservation and Compensation**

The preservation of fauna and flora, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions are frequent themes in the debates about the future of the planet and humanity. The Executive Board of the RTRS, in conjunction with the Development Group (DG) and in line with the above concerns, recognizes that there is a need to conserve biodiversity and avoid greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation.

It is important to bear in mind that the Principles & Criteria (P&C) document created by the RTRS is voluntary and market-oriented. Therefore, this document's importance should be recognized by society and attract soy farmers to invest in complying with all of the principles and criteria.

Important environmental issues were raised during the debates of the first years of the RTRS's existence, of which the key ones are:

1. There is a need to expand food supply in response to greater global demand and that both this increase and existing production should be, as most as possible, based on systems that are sustainable from the environmental, social and economic standpoint.
2. There is no doubt about the need to protect native habitats with scientific evidence of their unique importance and biodiversity in coexistence with agribusiness activities.
3. There is a need to create mechanisms, including economic ones, which stimulate and intensify production, thereby stimulating the occupation of already-cleared areas.
4. It is important to create voluntary mechanisms, within the private sector, to protect the environment.
5. It is important to have combined actions that are supported by the entire soy value chain (including the final consumer) for the conservation of ecosystems.
6. Adequate methods to define priority areas for conservation should be selected and applied so that the defined areas may be conserved.
7. The methodology and implementation of ecological-economic zoning and of high priority areas for conservation are still under development. .
8. Mechanisms for payment for environmental services are being developed around the world and there are still no clear ideas and well-defined operational schemes for such instruments. The RTRS underlines the necessity to study and identify mechanisms that can remunerate environmental services offered by soy farmers, in the form of ecosystem conservation in exchange for giving up the rights to agricultural output.

9. The DG made significant advances, via the P&C document, in covering in a serious and technical way the fundamental aspects of work relations, community relations and of conservationist farming practices.

10. There is a need to define clear criteria for conserving native habitats with scientific evidence of their unique importance and biodiversity.

Given the complexity of evaluating the inherent impacts of these activities, highlighted in the points above, the RTRS Executive Board, based on feedback from the DG, opted to develop during the next 12 months (starting from the General Assembly of May 2009) the following steps:

1. Carry out on-farm impact studies, in the form of field tests of the P&C document, which will deepen the understanding of the economic feasibility of these P&C, as well as their effectiveness in protecting the environment and upholding social justice.
2. Create incentives for developing and defining criteria for High Conservation Value Area (HCVA) maps, based on the reality of each country.
3. Implement the activities of the so-called Pillar 2, which support producers seeking to meet the P&C.
4. At the end of the field test period (12 months from may 28th 2009), the P&C document will be revised with the objective of increasing its effectiveness in promoting the conservation of ecosystems based on the pillars of sustainability: environmental, social and economic.

During this period of field tests, producers who voluntarily participate in field tests or apply for certification must comply with the following commitments:

- Compliance with the Principles and Criteria which are applicable and capable of being implemented during the field test period;

- Cooperation to identify those factors that restrict the use of criteria in field tests;

- Expansion for soy cultivation during field test period may not take place on land cleared of native habitat after May 2009.

Exception: Producers who want or plan to clear native habitat after the cut-off date of May 2009 must produce scientific evidence from a comprehensive and professional third-party assessment of the area concerned that identifies the absence of:

- all primary forest
- other High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs)
- local peoples' lands



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Payment for Environmental Services will be explored during field test period beginning after the cut-off date of May 2009.

In this manner, the production of RTRS soy can be assured, as well as the desired biodiversity conservation.

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Executive Board of the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS)