Slaughtering the Chaco forests

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Executive Summary

Beef export: The silent killer of the Gran Chaco jaguars

The uncontrolled expansion of the livestock industry is generating a historical atrocity in a unique place: The Gran Chaco, the second largest forest ecosystem in South America, after the Amazon. There live 3,400 plant species, 500 bird species, 150 mammals, 120 reptiles, 100 amphibians, and over 4 million people, around 8% of whom are native people who depend on the forest to obtain food, water, lumber and medicine.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) ranked Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia among the ten countries with the most deforestation between 2010 and 2015. The Secretary of the Environment of Argentina estimates that between 1990 and 2017, a forest surface area of about 8 million football fields was lost. Around 80% of the land clearing is concentrated on the Chaco region in the provinces of Santiago del Estero, Salta, Chaco and Formosa, where over the last five years, deforestation due to intensive livestock farming has been more than double that of agriculture.

The livestock farming industry sets its huge bulldozers in motion, demolishing everything in their way with impunity and making the Chaco forest and almost all its species disappear. This land, now laid bare, will be used for planting pastures for cattle, with the end goal of fattening a product that will later be exported and will end up on a supermarket shelf. In this way, the famous Argentine beef reaches the tables of consumers around the world. However, it will arrive there at the expense of the destruction of the Gran Chaco forests and the extinction of their king: the jaguar.

After an investigation that took over one year, Greenpeace revealed some of the players behind this brutal business that is destroying the Chaco forests: large slaughterhouses from Argentina (Carnes Pampeanas, Bermejo) that export beef to large supermarkets and wholesale traders in Europe and Israel (Albert Heijn, Metro, Lidl, Shufersal, Zandbergen, Global Fleisch, Intervlees).

Greenpeace demands that companies adopt a Zero Deforestation Policy and, if they already have one, that it be rigorously implemented. This implies that companies must ensure that both their production system and their suppliers will not cause deforestation and respect the rights of the indigenous people.

If the MERCOSUR-European Union agreement is implemented, the demand for Argentine beef will increase, the exporting business of the large Argentine slaughterhouses will become more profitable and the threat to forested areas will rise. The ambitious plans to increase cattle livestock in the northern provinces of Argentina by 10 million will endanger 10 million hectares of forests. Their degradation, deforestation and fragmentation will almost entirely eliminate the possibility of survival for the 20 jaguars left in the Chaco region. There is still time to prevent this.
The extinction of the jaguar and its territory

The jaguar or yaguareté (*Panthera onca*) is the largest feline in America and the third in the world after the Asian tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and the lion (*Panthera leo*). It is between 150 and 180 cm long, with its tail adding 70 to 90 cm. It reaches a height of between 65 and 80 cm and its weight ranges from 70 to 90 kg, on occasion reaching up to 135 kg.

It is the most important predator in its habitat, therefore feeding on almost any species in its territory, such as tapirs, peccaries, red brockets, capybaras, caimans, armadillos, snakes, turtles, birds and monkeys.¹

Its imposing figure, strength and mettle have made of it a species with high cultural and spiritual value to the people who have inhabited and still inhabit the American continent.

The jaguar’s range used to extend from the south of the United States to the north of the Argentine Patagonia, along almost all ecosystems, with the exception of extremely arid regions or higher altitudes. Today, however, the jaguar is no longer easy to find: It has practically disappeared from the north and south ends of its former territories, as well as in most of the densely populated areas, and many of its populations are seriously threatened.

Scientists estimate that jaguars take up less than 50% of their original distribution, and in Argentina this contraction process has been the most extreme – over the last two centuries, the jaguar population distribution has been reduced to 5% of its original surface area.²

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Jaguars in the Gran Chaco depend on very large territories to live (400 to 2,900 km$^2$) and their reduction has brought this species to the verge of extinction in the region. Between 1985 and 2013, over 20% of the Chaco forests (142,000 km$^2$) were turned into pastures and cultivation lands, reducing biodiversity, in particular that of the larger mammals.\(^3\)

In turn, the large predators in Chaco, especially the jaguar and the cougar, are often hunted, mainly by cattle farmers, due to the real or perceived risk of the animals attacking livestock.\(^4\)

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\(^4\)Ibidem.
Changes in jaguar habitat in 1985, 2000 and 2013

Specialists claim that the core area of jaguars went down by 82,400 km² between 1985 and 2013 as both the loss of their habitat and the risk of hunting increased in Chaco. Considering that the whole Chaco region was a suitable habitat until the 18th century, jaguars lost 77% of their core areas by 1985 and 85% by 2013.⁵

The jaguar is one of the few species in Argentine wildlife that was declared a National Natural Monument in 2001 by Act No. 25,463. This legislation establishes that the National Parks Administration and the National Wildlife Service should implement a management plan to ensure its survival. The jaguar is also a Natural Monument in the provinces of Chaco, Salta, Formosa and Misiones.

The jaguar is classified as “Near Threatened” on the IUCN Red List.⁶

For the Secretary of the Environment of Argentina, the species has received the national category of “Endangered” according to Resolution 1030/2004. In the

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Red Book of Mammals of Argentina, the species had been classified as “Endangered,” but it was re-categorized as “Critically Endangered” in a revision made in 2012, taking into account that the Argentine jaguar population may have been reduced by over 80% in the last three generations and the causes for this decline continue to prevail.\(^7\)

The estimated jaguar population for the whole of Argentina is 250 individuals (approximately 160 individuals in the Yungas rainforest, around 80 in the Paranaense rainforest and under 20 in the Chaco region). The Chaco jaguar population is isolated from the other two populations present in Argentina and there has been a significant reduction in this population over the last ten years – the species has disappeared from zones in which it had previously been reported.\(^8\)

![Recent jaguar distribution in Argentina](Source: Di Bitetti et al, 2015.)

The remaining jaguar populations are most likely due to the presence of protected areas or flood-prone areas with low human density and little deforestation. Scientific research studies have detected a significant reduction in the jaguar population in the Argentine Chaco Seco ecoregion, with a probability of extinction in some areas. In addition to the increasing risk from hunting, another significant threat to the preservation of jaguar populations is the reduction in environmental quality and the fragmentation and loss of large

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forest surface areas caused by the advance of agricultural and livestock farming borders.\(^9\)

The increasing livestock activity in the region over the last 20 years has favoured the opening of new roads for vehicles, providing greater accessibility to this area for hunters. Moreover, increased livestock activity has brought about a rise in the clearing of large forested areas to plant exotic pastures for fodder for intensive cattle breeding. Unfortunately, these activities are seriously impairing the environment in the Chaco forests, which endangers not only the jaguar populations, but also the fauna and flora diversity in this important ecoregion. If the surface occupied by stable jaguar populations continues to decrease at this pace, the species may become extinct in the Argentine Chaco in a few years.\(^10\)

**Presence of jaguars in the Chaco region in Argentina, 2004-2010**

![Presence of jaguars in the Chaco region in Argentina, 2004-2010](image)

Source: Quiroga, V. et al. Critical population status of the jaguar Panthera onca in the Argentine Chaco: Camera-trap surveys suggest recent collapse and imminent regional extinction.

Despite its critical status, specialists estimate that approximately 81,000 km\(^2\) of the semi-arid Chaco region of Argentina still has potential to harbour jaguars. This area is in the northern end of the region, where there are still records that are less than 10 years old. This share of territory only has seven protected

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areas that are lightly enforced, which amount to only 6% of the surface area of the region.\textsuperscript{11}

\textbf{Photo: Greenpeace}

\textsuperscript{11}Quiroga, V. et al. Critical population status of the jaguar Panthera onca in the Argentine Chaco: Camera-trap surveys suggest recent collapse and imminent regional extinction. 
(Accessed 22-07-2019)
Growth of intensive livestock farming and deforestation

Historically, Argentina has been and is an important beef producer, consumer and exporter. It is currently the sixth country with the largest cattle stock, the sixth producer country and the sixth exporter country (in 2016, it was ranked 11th).12

For many years, the cattle stock in Argentina remained stable, which is why, in 2011, the Argentine government launched the 2010-2020 Agroalimentary and Agroindustrial Strategic Plan with the goal to increase cattle stock by 10%, from 49 million to 54 million. This goal is very close to being reached.13

![Cattle stock in Argentina – All provinces](image)

In 2015, one of the first measures of the new Argentine government was to eliminate taxes on beef export (which were 15% of the selling price).15

This decision, coupled with a significant devaluation of Argentina’s currency, considerably increased exports and they are expected to continue growing.

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15Online article. Argentina eliminates taxes on agricultural and industrial exports to encourage economy. DECEMBER 14, 2015. [https://lta.reuters.com/articulo/latinoamerica-economia-argentina-retenci-idLTAIBN0TX1GP20151215](https://lta.reuters.com/articulo/latinoamerica-economia-argentina-retenci-idLTAIBN0TX1GP20151215)
Between 2017 and 2018, Argentine beef exports rose by 77%. The main importing countries were China (56%), Russia (11.5%), Chile (9.2%), Germany (6.8%), Israel (5.3%), the Netherlands (3.6%), Brazil (2.2%) and Italy (1.7%).

Argentina – 2017/2018 exports – Chilled, Frozen and Processed Meat (offal not included) – Destinations – Volume in tons of product weight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>12 months, 2017</th>
<th>12 months, 2018</th>
<th>% Var. 2018/2017</th>
<th>Share (%) 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>95,996</td>
<td>206,607</td>
<td>115.2%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>5,273</td>
<td>42,380</td>
<td>703.7%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>27,798</td>
<td>33,986</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>22,345</td>
<td>24,942</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>20,551</td>
<td>19,716</td>
<td>–4.1%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>10,320</td>
<td>13,322</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>6,910</td>
<td>7,950</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>4,969</td>
<td>6,244</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>1,884</td>
<td>2,124</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>10,974</td>
<td>11,742</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>207,977</td>
<td>369,012</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: INDEC


17 Ibidem.
Most European fresh beef imports come from South America, and Argentina is the main provider.

European Union: Fresh beef imports in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade Statistics (Imports - Exports)</th>
<th>Import Value to the EU/MS (EURO)</th>
<th>Import Qty to the EU/MS (Kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>EU Member State(s)</td>
<td>Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Member State(s)</td>
<td>EU28</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>Total EXTRA-EU28</td>
<td>1.233,998,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>427,169,897</td>
<td>45,996,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>209,030,714</td>
<td>24,681,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>166,489,577</td>
<td>22,179,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>159,257,747</td>
<td>14,743,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>153,221,178</td>
<td>15,379,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>28,188,203</td>
<td>2,216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>21,511,378</td>
<td>3,598,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>19,975,017</td>
<td>2,914,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>17,549,308</td>
<td>2,783,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>12,828,947</td>
<td>588,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Hilton Quota is a tariff quota for the import of high-quality, de-boned beef (pasture-fed) that the European Union grants to exporting countries. Almost 50% of this quota is granted to Argentina.

Hilton Quota allocations 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hilton Quota</th>
<th>Quantity allocated (Tons)</th>
<th>2016/2017 Use</th>
<th>2017/2018 Use</th>
<th>2018/2019 Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.4001</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>12.75</td>
<td>14.67</td>
<td>4.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.4004</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>6.38%</td>
<td>7.34%</td>
<td>7.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.4450</td>
<td>29,500</td>
<td>23,111.89</td>
<td>28,091.29</td>
<td>20,249.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.4451</td>
<td>7,150</td>
<td>6,874.24</td>
<td>7,129.45</td>
<td>6,817.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.4452</td>
<td>8,376</td>
<td>7,927.92</td>
<td>8,306.27</td>
<td>8,306.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.4453</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>9,271.40</td>
<td>9,657.27</td>
<td>9,657.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.4454</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,052.48</td>
<td>1,122.50</td>
<td>1,122.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.4002</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>9,821.49</td>
<td>10,254.67</td>
<td>10,254.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.4955</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>892.60</td>
<td>926.21</td>
<td>926.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Beef</td>
<td>60,826</td>
<td>44,160.56</td>
<td>49,281.11</td>
<td>49,281.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total buffalo</td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td>1,172.75</td>
<td>1,127.46</td>
<td>1,127.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>69,276</td>
<td>46,433.26</td>
<td>50,408.57</td>
<td>50,408.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* up to 30/04/2019

If the MERCOSUR-European Union agreement is implemented, the demand for Argentine beef will increase, making the large Argentine slaughterhouse exporting business more profitable. Therefore, the threat to the Chaco forests will rise.20

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that between 1990 and 2005, 45% of deforestation in Argentina was due to livestock farming.21

In this regard, the Secretary of the Environment of Argentina has warned that “livestock farming has been displaced towards marginal areas in the Pampean region itself, which has set the producers and agricultural companies in this region on a search for new land. In the Chaco Park region, they found suitable areas thanks to the incorporation of high-productivity, draught-resistant mega-thermal pastures. As the expansion of agriculture and livestock farming in the Chaco Park took place mainly on land covered by forests, there have been deforestation processes on large extensions, mainly in the provinces of Salta and Santiago del Estero and, to a lesser extent, Chaco and Formosa.”22

Cattle stock in the provinces of Santiago del Estero and Salta, Argentina

Source: Secretary of Agroindustry of Argentina

Deforestation for cattle in a farm in Salta province

Photo: Greenpeace (2018)

Official data reveals that, during 2014, over 100,000 hectares of forest were destroyed in the Argentine Chaco due to livestock farming, more than double than that due to agriculture.

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Deforestation due to agriculture and livestock farming in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Region</th>
<th>Native Forest to Agriculture (hectares)</th>
<th>Native Forest to Livestock Farming (hectares)</th>
<th>Total (hectares)</th>
<th>Area %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forest Land</td>
<td>Other Forest Land</td>
<td>Forest Land</td>
<td>Other Forest Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaco Park</td>
<td>42,197</td>
<td>4,699</td>
<td>88,145</td>
<td>13,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Espinal</td>
<td>3,844</td>
<td>4,664</td>
<td>9,410</td>
<td>4,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misiones Jungle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yungas</td>
<td>12,811</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>58,853</td>
<td>10,006</td>
<td>98,441</td>
<td>18,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (%)</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The comparison of satellite images on land use of MapBiomas reveals that this trend has continued for the last four years.

Deforestation for cattle in a farm in Santiago del Estero province

Photo: Greenpeace (2011)


The deforestation monitoring carried out by the Secretary of the Environment in Argentina considers “the loss of native forest areas as those areas in which bush or lower species clearing techniques are carried out in such a high degree of intensity that it allows them to be detected through medium spatial resolution satellite imagery.” These areas are considered loss areas due to the fact that “they stop functioning as a forest ecosystem, and in turn the environmental benefits they provide are largely reduced.”

27 The silvopastoral model (intensive livestock farming and logging in forest areas) was responsible for 40% of the deforestation that took place during 2016 in the provinces of Chaco and Santiago del Estero. Meanwhile, in 2017 it amounted to “almost 65% of the total areas that were identified as loss of native forest areas in the province of Santiago del Estero, which will possibly be intended for silvopastoral use.”

28Ibidem.
29Ibidem.
Since 2015, the Argentine government has been promoting the Management of Forests with Integrated Livestock Farming (MBGI in Spanish) in the Chaco region, similar to the silvopastoral model (which has been causing deforestation for two decades).  

The MBGI allows bush clearing to sow exotic pastures. Moreover, it allows clearing of 10% of the property for fodder, which violates Article 14 of the National Forest Act 26.331, which prohibits provincial governments to “authorize clearings of forests classified as categories I (red) and II (yellow)”.

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31 Argentina, National Forest Act 26.331.
To clarify, each provincial government defined the zoning of its forests into three categories: I (red), reserve; II (yellow), sustainable use; and III (green), which allows for deforestation only if it does not affect indigenous territories, after an environmental impact evaluation and a public hearing. All provinces have already defined their forest zones and, on average, 80% of them have been classified as categories I (red) and II (yellow).  

It is worth pointing out that the ambitious development plans for intensive livestock farming in the northern provinces of Argentina (increasing cattle stock by 10 million) have not been modified after the implementation of the MBGI (silvopastoral system) was agreed upon, and therefore these development plans endanger nearly 10 million hectares of Chaco forests (taking into account that they usually allocate one cow per hectare, like in the Pampas region).  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>2018 Cattle stock</th>
<th>Projected Cattle Stock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salta</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
<td>4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santiago del Estero</td>
<td>1.7 million</td>
<td>5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formosa</td>
<td>1.7 million</td>
<td>3.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaco</td>
<td>2.7 million</td>
<td>5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.5 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.5 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Greenpeace, based on official documents and officer statements.

The degradation, deforestation and fragmentation of these forests will practically eliminate the possibility of survival for the 20 jaguars left in the Chaco region.

http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/135000-139999/136125/norma.htm
33Formosa Province. Livestock Program https://formosa.gob.ar/programa/ganadero
34Estimated by Greenpeace with info of reference 33.
The bloody side of the Argentine beef: linked to deforestation, ends up in Europe and Israel

In Europe and Israel, Argentine beef is being sold at a high price as high quality beef. Behind the deceptive image of cattle grazing on the Pampas lies the destruction of Argentina’s last remaining forests.

The following case study shows how large-scale slaughterhouses and their parent companies from Argentina, which export beef to supermarkets and wholesale suppliers in Europe and Israel, are linked to the deforestation of the Chaco forests.
Carnes Pampeanas S.A.: Argentine beef for sale in Germany, the Netherlands and Israel

Annual slaughter capacity: 100,000 head of cattle.\(^{35}\)
High-quality beef quota for the EU (2018/2019): 1,344 Tn\(^{36}\)
Markets: Argentina, EU, Israel, Brazil, Chile, Russia.\(^{37}\)

Carnes Pampeanas S.A. (Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A.) is a slaughterhouse, a subsidiary of Cresud S.A.C.I.F. y A., and it is located in the province of La Pampa, a traditional cattle-breeding territory in Argentina. In addition to supplying cattle to its own slaughterhouse, Cresud also supplies cattle to other export companies.\(^{38}\)

Cresud is a major agricultural player in Latin America, with businesses in plantations, sugarcane and livestock in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay, and it owns over 800,000 hectares.\(^{39}\)

Its largest shareholders and executive officers are Eduardo Elsztain and Alejandro Elsztain.\(^{40}\)

\(^{35}\)Based on information of Secretariat of Agroindustry – Annual slaughter report 2018. https://www.agroindustria.gob.ar/sitio/areas/gestion/
\(^{38}\)Online searcher slaughterhouse list for export. (Accessed 22.07.2019).
http://www.cresud.com.ar/
https://www.lanacion.com.ar/opinion/eduardo-elsztain-el-dueno-de-la-tierra-nid718050
Online Article. Forbes Argentina. “The business of the shopping malls owner (and something else)”. Published on 06.03.2018.
http://www.forbesargentina.com/el-dueno-los-shoppings/
Through subsidiary companies, they also run businesses in shopping malls, supermarkets, banks, financial services companies, telecommunication companies, technology, energy, tourism and hotels in Argentina and Israel. 

Greenpeace satellite analysis has been conducted for a period of 20 years by comparing a satellite image from 1998 with other from 2018 over the fields of Cresud in Salta province. Those pictures indicate Land Use Changes in landscape coverage: 120,000 hectares of forests have been deforested.\textsuperscript{43}

\textsuperscript{42}Cresud has own and rented fields that operate under the same structure, with different business. Financial Report 2018 indicates that Agropecuaria Anta S.A. is around 130,000 hectares and Finca Los Pozos is around 230,000 hectares. 

Fields boundaries are based in the analysis of company information and what is registered in Salta Province official cadastral site. http://www.inmuebles.gob.ar/

\textsuperscript{43}Greenpeace deforestation analysis based in satellite images. Fields boundaries are based in the analysis of company information and what is registered in Salta Province official cadastral site. 

http://www.inmuebles.gob.ar/
Deforestation of 120,000 hectares in Salta Forestal and Los Pozos, Cresud fields (1998-2018)

Source: Satellite Images Landsat 5 and Landsat 8

The following zoomed-in satellite images and photographs show the deforestation on Los Pozos field (owned by Cresud) in Salta Province.
Deforestation of 70,000 hectares in Los Pozos, Cresud field (2004-2008)

Deforestation of 3,000 hectares in Los Pozos, Cresud field (Sept-Dec 2018)

Deforestation in Los Pozos, Cresud field in Salta province

Photo: Greenpeace (2018)
Cresud recently requested a permit from the Salta province government to deforest 7,559 hectares for livestock in its Los Pozos farm.\footnote{Salta Official Bulletin No. 20528 of June 24, 2019 with a Public Hearing call for authorization for Cresud for Land Use Change of 7,559 hectares in Los Pozos field. \url{http://boletinoficialsalta.gob.ar/NewDetalleAvisosAdministrativos.php?orden_pub=100073284}}

Fragment of Salta Official Bulletin No. 20528 from June 24, 2019 with a public hearing call to grant Cresud authorization for land use change of 7,559 hectares in Los Pozos farm.

As a lack of traceability regarding the supply chains it is not possible to trace meat, that is being sold in Europe, back to the specific piece of land in Argentina, where it has been bred and raised. Hence, from a consumer perspective it is very difficult to make sure not buying products which are linked to deforestation. Even more worrying is that big agribusiness companies, such as Carnes Pampeanas/Cresud do operate and export meat to Europe and Israel. Meat products from Carnes Pampeanas have been recorded at Lidl Germany, Metro Germany, Albert Heijn Netherlands, Zandbergen Brothers BV, Shufersal Israel.
Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. (Carnes Pampeanas) products at German supermarket Lidl

Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. is listed in the EU import register “Non-EU country establishments database” with the approval code: 2520

Rump Steak with the EU approval code 2520 - Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. - recorded at Lidl, Berckhusenstr. 95, 30652 Hannover (25.05.2019) and Lidl, Carl Kistnerstr. 2, 79115 Freiburg (17.05.2019).

About Lidl: With more than 3,000 supermarkets, Lidl is one of the leading discounters in Germany. According to their own specifications, the company is operating in almost all European countries. Lidl is (next to Kaufland) part of the German trading company Schwarz Group, which is one of the leading companies in the German retail food sector (market share 15.7% in 2018).

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Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. (Carnes Pampeanas) products at German wholesaler Metro

Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. is listed in the EU import register “Non-EU country establishments database” with the approval code: 2520

Roast beef with the EU approval code 2520 - Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. - recorded at Metro, Werner-Heisenberg-Straße 10, 34123 Kassel (15.05.2019) and Metro, Großmoorbogen 1, 21079 Hamburg (20.03.2019).

About Metro: According to their own specifications, the German wholesaler Metro is operating with 103 stores and 4 million clients in Germany, such as restaurants, caterers and agencies. Metro Group is one of the leading companies in the German retail food sector (market share 4.8% in 2018).

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Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. (Carnes Pampeanas) product at Dutch supermarket Albert Heijn

Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. is listed in the EU import register “Non-EU country establishments database” with the approval code: 2520

Product Beefsteak recorded at Albert Heijn, Stadhouderskade 101D, 1073 AW Amsterdam (16 March 2019).

Albert Heijn is part of the Ahold Delhaize Group⁵⁵: According to the website of Ahold Delhaize, they are one of the world’s largest food retail groups, with a market share of 34.7% in 2018⁵⁶. Their brands can be found in more than 6,700 local grocery, small format and specialty stores. Their brands are active in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Romania, Serbia and the United States and they participate in joint ventures in Indonesia and Portugal. Ahold Delhaize’s international headquarters is in Zaandam, the Netherlands.

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Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. (Carnes Pampeanas) products in Netherlands imported by Dutch Meat Import Zandbergen Brothers BV

Certificate of origin from Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. to Meat Import Zandbergen Brothers BV has been recorded at 12.10.18

About Zandbergen: According to their own website they source chilled and frozen meat from the USA, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. They import beef, lamb, veal, pork and poultry from these countries and supply it to customers in all the EU Member States, Switzerland, Norway and the United Arab Emirates. Their customers include multinationals, Cash & Carry companies, supermarket chains such as Ahold Delhaize, catering suppliers, meat processing companies and the ready-made meal market. Their office and warehouse is in Zouterwoude, the Netherlands.

Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. (Carnes Pampeanas) product at Israel in supermarket Shufersal

Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. is listed in the EU import register “Non-EU country establishments database” with the approval code: 2520

Beef with the approval code 2520 - Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. was recorded at a Shufersal store (June 2019).

About Shufersal: according to their own website, Shufersal is Israel's leading retailer. Since 1958, Shufersal opened hundreds of branches across Israel, in which there are on average 2 million weekly customers and 1.8 million customer club members. It is a subsidiary company of Cresud, leading Argentine agricultural company engaged in the production of basic agricultural commodities with a growing presence in Latin American countries.

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Companies responses

After notification of meat related to deforestation in their supermarket and a request for confirmation Ahold Delhaize stated “that a limited amount of that meat as supplied by Zandbergen came from Carne Pampeanas S.A., part of Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. (Cresud). We have full traceability for these supplies”. In addition they mention that to their knowledge “this particular meat supplier has not been directly linked to deforestation” but “if [Greenpeace] has information that proves otherwise we would like to learn more and would be happy to discuss this further with you”.  

In response to our notification of the meat linked to deforestation in their supply chain, Zandbergen stated Greenpeace has done ‘insufficient research’ and asked Greenpeace to correct the allegations by sending a letter to its ‘relations’. Furthermore, Zandbergen forwarded Greenpeace’s letter to Carnes Pampeanas. And Carnes Pampeanas replied stating it complies with “the standards required by the international markets in which it operates”. Furthermore, Carnes Pampeanas wrote “the use of the term ‘deforestation’ is incorrect and inadequate” and claimed “the developments carried out by Cresud were done under the regulations in force in each province”.  

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61 Complete letters are in the Annex.
62 Complete letters are in the Annex.
Frigorífico Bermejo S.A.: Argentine beef for sale in Germany and the Netherlands

(Annual) slaughter capacity: 105,000 head of cattle.  
High-quality beef quota for the EU (2018/2019): 267 Tn

Markets: Argentina, EU, Chile.

Frigorífico Bermejo is located in the Chaco region, in the province of Salta. Its parent company is Inversora Juramento S.A., the largest agribusiness company in the northwest of Argentina.

They run the “full cycle” of livestock farming: plantations and feedlots, breeding (89,504 hectares with 95,636 head of cattle), slaughter and distribution (domestic and for export).

San Severo, field of Inversora Juramento in Salta province

Photo: Greenpeace (2018)

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63Inversora Juramento S.A. - Presentation to investors – December 2017  

64 Based on Resolution of Ministry of Agroindustry – Resolution 243/18 (quota allocation)  
https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/189574/20180809

65Frigorífico Bermejo. Who are we. [ONLINE] Accessed 22.07.2019  

66Inversora Juramento S.A. - Presentation to Investors - Dec 2017  
Its main owners, Jorge Horacio Brito and Jorge Pablo Brito, are the owners of Macro Bank, energy and real estate development companies.\(^{67}\)

The company vice president is also the vice president of River Plate, one of the most popular football clubs in Argentina.\(^{68}\)

Greenpeace research discovered that Frigorifico Bermejo obtains cattle from Inversora Juramento and from large producers from the province of Salta, such as Cresud and Desdelsur.\(^{69}\)

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Greenpeace satellite analysis has been conducted for a period of 25 years by comparing a satellite image from 1993 with other from 2018 over the fields of Inversora Juramento in Salta province. Those pictures indicate Land Use Changes in landscape coverage: 50,000 hectares of forests have been deforested.  

**Deforestation of 50,000 hectares in fields of Inversora Juramento in Salta province (1993-2018)**

Source: Satellite Images Landsat 5 and Landsat 8

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70Greenpeace deforestation analysis based on satellite images. Fields boundaries are based in the analysis of company information and what is registered in Salta Province official cadastral site.  
http://www.inmuebles.gov.ar/  
Recently, the company has purchased the Caraguatá field, which has 5,500 hectares deforested by means of an irregular permit issued by the Salta provincial government, as it is within an area protected by the National Forests Act No. 26,331.  

Deforestation in the Caraguatá field, Salta province (2010 – 2014)

Source: Satellite Images Landsat 8

In 2018, Inversora Juramento carried out an illegal clearing of 700 hectares in its Jumealito, Pozo del Breal and Pozo de la Pichana properties, which has been publicly denounced by Greenpeace.

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72 Greenpeace: “In Salta, impunity to destroy forests continues”. Greenpeace detected, through satellite images and overflights, that Inversora Juramento S.A. illegally deforested 700 hectares of protected forests on Jumealito, Pozo del Breal and Pozo de la Pichana farms. It is the largest agribusiness company in northwestern Argentina, whose main shareholders and directors are Jorge Horacio Brito and Jorge Pablo Brito, also directors of Macro Bank. https://www.greenpeace.org/archive-argentina/es/noticias/Greenpeace-En-Salta-continua-la-impunidad-para-arrasar-los-bosques/
Deforestation of Inversora Juramento in Pozo de la Pichana field, Salta province

Photo: Greenpeace (2018)
Desdelsur S.A. is one of the main agricultural and livestock producers in the north of Argentina, mainly for export purposes and, in addition to Frigorífico Bermejo, it supplies beef to several slaughterhouses in the country.  

![Fields and feedlot of Desdelsur in Salta province](https://desdelsur.com/)

Greenpeace satellite analysis has been conducted for a period of 25 years by comparing a satellite image from 1993 with other from 2018 over the fields of Desdelsur in Salta province. Those pictures indicate Land Use Changes in landscape coverage: 27,000 hectares of forests have been deforested.

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74 Greenpeace deforestation analysis based in satellite images. Fields boundaries are based in the analysis of company information and what is registered in Salta Province official cadastral site. [https://desdelsur.com/] [http://www.inmuebles.gov.ar/]

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38
Deforestation of 27,000 hectares in fields of Desdelsur in Salta province (1993-2018)

In 2004, Desdelsur was denounced by Greenpeace for the clearing of one of its farms. After documenting deforestation, Greenpeace activists were arrested. .

http://www.greenpeace.org/argentina/es/noticias/urgente-arrestan-activistas/

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39
As a lack of traceability regarding the supply chains it is not possible to trace meat, that is being sold in Europe, back to the specific piece of land in Argentina, where it has been bred and raised. Hence, from a consumer perspective it is very difficult to make sure not buying products which are linked to deforestation. Even more worrying is that big agribusiness companies, such as Frijorifico Bermejo do operate and export meat to Europe. Meat products from Frijorifico Bermejo have been recorded at Global Fleisch and Intervlees.
Frigorifico Bermejo S.A. is listed in the EU import register “Non-EU country establishments database” with the approval code: 2845

Product Filet % recorded at Fleisch Großmarkt, Lagerstraße 17, 20357 Hamburg (23.05.2019).

About Global Fleisch: Wholesaler FleischGroßmarkt in Hamburg is one of the most important beef distribution centres in Europe, of which Global Fleisch is the main shareholder in its corporate structure.  

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Frigorifico Bermejo products in Netherlands being imported by Intervlees

A certificate of origin from Frigorifico Bermejo to Intervlees (21.08.17)

About Intervlees: According to their own website, Hans Wilmink founded Intervlees in 1974. Today, Intervlees is one of the absolute world leaders in the industry. Intervlees import and export a wide range of meat with a perfect price / quality ratio from and to all parts of the world, such as Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and New Zealand.  

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The Gran Chaco: an “impenetrable” forest

Forests and rainforests concentrate more than half the land biodiversity on Earth, and from them we obtain goods and services that prove essential for our survival, such as food, wood and medicines. They are home and sustenance for thousands of indigenous and campesino communities, and play a crucial role in climate regulation, the maintenance of water sources and streams, and soil preservation.

With over one million square kilometres, the Gran Chaco is the second forest ecosystem in South America, after the Amazon. It extends along Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, and a small part in Brazil.

The region presents a great diversity of environments: plains, hills, rivers, dry flood-prone savannas, marshlands, swamps, saltpetre fields, shrubs, palm tree forests; and a large extension and diversity of forests, some of them very dense, known as “impenetrable,” in which there is no surface water.

The species that live and grow in the Chaco forests tolerate temperatures that climb up to nearly 50ºC in summer.

Photo: Greenpeace
Soil use and coverage map. American Gran Chaco 2017

Table: Area distribution and percentage and type of soil use and coverage in Chaco

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Total (Km²)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ligneous formation</td>
<td>615.896</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligneous cultivation</td>
<td>3.749</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbaceous</td>
<td>235.036</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scattered vegetation</td>
<td>11.804</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture</td>
<td>176.462</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>92.099</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area free from vegetation</td>
<td>14.511</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water bodies</td>
<td>15.334</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not observed</td>
<td>1.221</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,166.112</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MAPBIOMAS 79

79Land cover and land use map of the Great American Chaco. MapBiomas.
https://storage.googleapis.com/mapbiomas/chaco/downloads/mapas-murais/MapBiomas_Coleccion1_Cha
copdf
Four million people live in the Gran Chaco, many of them farmers and small agricultural producers. Around 8% are indigenous peoples, who depend on the forest to obtain food, water, woods and medicines. “Chaku” means “hunting place” in the Quechua language.

In the Argentine Chaco, there are around 200,000 native dwellers from nine indigenous peoples (most of them Wichi and Qom).

Wichis

Many of the indigenous and campesino families in the Chaco region have not become the legal owners of the lands in which they live. Over the last two decades, with the advance of agribusiness, conflicts with the businesses that buy these lands have been on the rise. The eviction and murder of farmers and native dwellers by the police or by armed guards hired by companies are more and more frequent.

The Chaco forests are one of the richest areas in biodiversity on Earth, contributing to mitigate climate change while harbouring unique vegetation and wildlife, including 3,400 plant species, 500 bird species, 150 mammals, 120 reptiles and 100 amphibians.

The quebracho is a tree that plays a key role, as it can reach up to 25 meters high and creates a sort of canopy in the forest, under which other hardwood trees grow (such as the carob tree and the lapacho), a shrub layer and an herbaceous layer.

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Fundación para el Desarrollo en Justicia y Paz.
https://www.fundapaz.org.ar/el-chaco-americano/presentacion-de-la-region-chaquena/

81Paper. Sub-regional action program for the sustainable development of the great American Chaco.

Estimates show that in the Chaco region there are some 25 endangered mammal species, such as the jaguar, the giant armadillo, the tapir, the anteater, the maned wolf, the marsh deer, the neotropical otter, and the Chacoan peccary. The main causes are the constant destruction and fragmentation of their habitat and their indiscriminate hunting.  

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83Ibidem.
Deforestation and climate crisis

The Gran Chaco has been one of the most deforested forest regions over the last three decades. The main cause is the advance of the agricultural border (for intensive livestock farming and GMO soybean).

FAO ranked Paraguay, Argentina and Bolivia among the ten countries that cleared the most land between 2010 and 2015.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Annual net loss of forest areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Area (thousands of hectares)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Plurinational State of) Bolivia</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAO

In 2014, in its Fifth Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that “4.3% of global deforestation takes place in Argentina”, and that “deforestation in the Chaco forest has accelerated in the last decade after agricultural expansion, thus becoming the main source of carbon emissions in the Argentine north.”

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The Secretary of the Environment of Argentina estimates that between 1990 and 2014, 7,226,000 forest hectares (a similar surface to the Netherlands and Belgium) were lost.

While deforestation has decreased in the last few years, current values remain significant.

### Argentina. Deforested surface by province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catamarca</td>
<td>33,198</td>
<td>18,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaco</td>
<td>117,974</td>
<td>127,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Córdoba</td>
<td>122,798</td>
<td>93,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formosa</td>
<td>19,977</td>
<td>30,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jujuy</td>
<td>6,174</td>
<td>45,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Pampa</td>
<td>6,156</td>
<td>No data, not completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misiones</td>
<td>67,233</td>
<td>62,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salta</td>
<td>194,389</td>
<td>414,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis</td>
<td>21,837</td>
<td>No data, not completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>20,737</td>
<td>11,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santiago del Estero</td>
<td>306,055</td>
<td>515,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucumán</td>
<td>22,171</td>
<td>36,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>938,699</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,356,868</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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[https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/plan_de_accion_nacional_de_bosques_y_cambio_climatico_0.pdf](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/plan_de_accion_nacional_de_bosques_y_cambio_climatico_0.pdf)
Around 80% of deforestation of Argentina concentrates on four provinces in the Chaco region: Santiago del Estero, Salta, Chaco, and Formosa. Greenpeace estimates that in 2018 these provinces lost 113,000 hectares.  

A recent report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has estimated that the total carbon dioxide content stored in Argentine forests amounts to a value of almost 26 million Gg CO2.

It is worth pointing out that Gran Chaco, one of the ecoregions most threatened by deforestation and degradation, maintains 50% of CO2 content in the forests of Argentina.

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88United Nations Development Program. The Native Forests of Argentina in the process of Reduction of Emissions derived from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).  
https://www.undp.org/content/dam/argentina/Publications/Energia%20y%20Desarrollo%20Sostenible/brief-08-cambios.pdf
According to the results of the second Biennial Update Report (BUR), the Forests sector was responsible for the emission of 57.4 MtCO2eq in 2014, which amounts to 15.6% of the total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) of Argentina that year.

**Argentina: CO2 Emissions due to Deforestation for Agriculture and Livestock Farming in 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Unit of Measurement</th>
<th>Espinal</th>
<th>Woodland</th>
<th>Humid Chaco Park</th>
<th>Dry Chaco Park</th>
<th>Misiones Jungle</th>
<th>Yungas</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Converted surface, 2014</td>
<td>hectare</td>
<td>22,177</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8,855</td>
<td>140,067</td>
<td>1,043</td>
<td>13,455</td>
<td>185,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Forest Biomass</td>
<td>t m.s./hect.</td>
<td>120.11</td>
<td>46.00</td>
<td>154.90</td>
<td>154.90</td>
<td>278.90</td>
<td>247.06</td>
<td>158.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Forest to agriculture</td>
<td>hectare</td>
<td>8,508</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,437</td>
<td>45,460</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13,455</td>
<td>68,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture biomass</td>
<td>t m.s./hect.</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Forest to pasture</td>
<td>hectare</td>
<td>13,869</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7,418</td>
<td>94,806</td>
<td>1,043</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>116,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture biomass</td>
<td>t m.s./hect.</td>
<td>8.65</td>
<td>13.50</td>
<td>12.90</td>
<td>6.10</td>
<td>13.50</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomass change</td>
<td>t m.s./hect.</td>
<td>110.94</td>
<td>32.50</td>
<td>142.47</td>
<td>147.53</td>
<td>265.40</td>
<td>237.06</td>
<td>150.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual emission, 2014</td>
<td>MtCO2eq/yr</td>
<td>4.51</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>37.89</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>5.85</td>
<td>51.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Forest to agriculture</td>
<td>MtCO2eq/yr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18.70</td>
<td>36.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Forest to pasture</td>
<td>MtCO2eq/yr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32.37</td>
<td>63.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Forest and Climate Change National Action Plan. Version 1 - 2017*  
[https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/plan_de_accion_nacional_de_bosques_y_cambio_climatico__0.pdf](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/plan_de_accion_nacional_de_bosques_y_cambio_climatico__0.pdf)
Deforestation was the main factor responsible for the emissions in the Forests sector (89%), coming from the conversion of forests to pastures (56%) and plantations (33%) in 2014.⁹⁰

In view of the climate crisis, the need to preserve and sustainably manage forests becomes evident.

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https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/plan_de_accion_nacional_de_bosques_y_cambio_climatico_0.pdf
Greenpeace demands

Greenpeace demands that companies should adopt a Zero Deforestation Policy and, if they already have one, to implement it rigorously. This implies ensuring that both their production system and their suppliers should not cause deforestation and respect the rights of the native peoples.

Greenpeace demands governments to establish stronger, more ambitious policies, laws and agreements in defence of the forests and their historical inhabitants.

July 2019
Forests Campaign
Geachte mevrouw Van der Tak,

Wij hebben uw brief van 1 juli jl. ontvangen.

Wij betreuren het zeer dat u beschuldigingen uit zonder inzicht te geven waar deze op zijn gebaseerd en zonder een geding onderzocht te doen naar onze organisatie.

Desondanks hebben wij de inhoud van uw brief gedeeld met de betreffende leverancier. Wij hebben hierop een schriftelijke reactie gekregen, die u hierbij aantreft. Uit de reactie van onze leverancier blijkt dat zij zich in zijn geheel niet kunnen vinden in uw beschuldigingen.

Wij verwachten dat u op korte termijn, binnen 5 werkdagen, onze relaties aanschrijft en de genoemde beschuldigingen rectificeret.

Mocht u ons bedrijf of één van onze klanten publiekelijk in een kwaad daglicht stellen, dan schromen wij een gang naar de rechter niet.

Hoogachtend,

Zandbergen World’s Finest Meat
By means of this, we are writing to you in order to clarify the statements of the note sent by you.

Sociedad Anónima Carnes Pampeanas S.A. (Carnes Pampeanas) is a company dedicated to the exploitation of a meatpacking facility whose main focus and activity is to export meat, without which its operation would be unfeasible. In its operation, Carnes Pampeanas meets the standards required by the international markets in which it operates: BRC Edition 7 AA (British Retail Consortium); HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point), and - in the cases that correspond - Angus quality attribute (CAB - Certified Angus Beef). Carnes Pampeanas is one of the first private employers in the province of La Pampa generating more than 500 direct jobs as well as indirect employment and contributes to the economic activity. The only property owned by Carnes Pampeanas is the 70 hectares land plot where the meatpacking plant is located on Route 5, km 598.2, Santa Rosa, La Pampa.

Carnes Pampeanas, in the development of its activity, is in constant search of innovative solutions, as the case -among others- of the use of plantations of vetiver (Chrysopogon zizanioides) for the treatment of effluents, being the first and only meatpacking plant with that solution.

Regarding the alleged activity of the company CRESUD, it should be noted first that it is a limited company incorporated in 1936, whose shares are listed since 1960 in the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange (BYMA: CRES) and since 1997 in United States of America (NASDAQ: CRESY) being the first agricultural company in Argentina to be listed in both markets. We are aware that the status of "listed company" implies compliance with all the regulations required by those organisms, necessarily including the environmental standards of the countries in which it operates.

In this context, it is necessary to emphasize that the use of the term "deforestation" is incorrect and inadequate, since the developments carried out by Cresud were done under the regulations in force in each province, with the corresponding governmental permits, environmental impact assessments, public
hearings, monitoring and other standard requirements. We declare that it has complied with the biodiversity corridors required by law and that the hectares have been developed taking care of the ecosystem and according to the categorization of soils by the Law of Territorial Organization of Native Forests. We declare that there are no judicial and/or administrative claims on this matter, which shows that the accusation received is incorrect and unfounded.

We know that Cresud has a Corporate Social Responsibility policy that is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) established by the United Nations (UN) of Inequality Reduction, Gender Equality, Water Care, Production and Responsible Consumption, Waste; Alliances to achieve the Objectives, Quality Education, Nondiscrimination, Value Chain, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Health and Wellbeing, Environmental Care, Climate Action and Volunteering. In addition, several of the companies and business units collaborate actively with Greenpeace, signing collaboration agreements and allowing the work of their recruiters, and actively collaborating with more than 200 NGOs and foundations.

In the development of its activities, Cresud coexists with nature and with the social challenges that each region presents, carrying out educational and collaborative activities with the community. Cresud listens to the communities and gives particular answers to each one in order to accompany them in their development.

We know that Cresud innovates in the use of best practices for the development of its activities, including technological innovation such as the selective weed control system called "Weed Seeker" and precision sowing "Precision Planting" aimed to optimize resources by reducing the use of chemical products and minimizing the impact on the environment.

As proof of all the above mentioned, Cresud has been included in the "BYMA Sustainability Index" recently issued by the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange, which assesses the good performance of companies in four pillars: Environment, Social Responsibility, Corporate Governance, and Sustainable Development Goals.

Hoping to have clarified your query, we are available for any additional request.

Without another particular, we take this opportunity to greet you cordially

[Signature]

Attorney
GREENPEACE
Charlotte van der Tak
Campaign leader Biodiversity

Date: July 9th, 2017
Our reference: HB/SF

Subject: meat as sold in our AH stores from South-America

Dear Charlotte,

Thank you for your letter of July 1st, in which you ask us about meat as sold in our Albert Heijn stores from South-America.

I can confirm that a limited amount of that meat as supplied by Zandbergen came from Carne Pampeanas S.A., part of Exportaciones Agroindustriales Argentinas S.A. (Cresud). We have full traceability for these supplies.

To our knowledge this particular meat supplier has not been directly linked to deforestation. If you have information that proves otherwise we would like to learn more and would be happy to discuss this further with you.

Kind regards,

[Signature]

VP Product Integrity

Mobile:
Email:
Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace. Greenpeace does not accept money from governments, political parties or corporations.

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