



Restoration Barometer

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Suzano

2022 Pledge Implementation Progress Report

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2022 1T.ORG PLEDGE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

Suzano

Suzano's Commitment to Conserve Biodiversity

Reporting period

June 2021 – December 2021

Pledge status

Fully on track

Intervention location

Brazil



Progress summary

As part of its sustainability strategy, Suzano seeks, by 2030, to connect half a million hectares of priority areas for biodiversity conservation in Brazil, in the Cerrado, Atlantic Forest and Amazon biomes.

One of the main threats to biodiversity loss in Brazil and worldwide is habitat fragmentation. This phenomenon occurs when a continuous natural area of environmental relevance is subdivided into smaller areas disconnected from each other. This happens due to changes in land use and occupation caused mainly by human actions.

Fragmentation modifies ecological interactions in the landscape and isolates species, resulting in reduced genetic variability and reproductive success – which can contribute to their extinction – as well as interfering with the loss of resilience of territories to climate change and the provision of ecosystem services, among other adverse effects.

Suzano's forestry operations cover approximately 2.4 million hectares. Therefore, we understand that it is our role to contribute to connecting these fragments to preserve the biodiversity of the biomes where we are present and mitigate the risk of extinction of these species.

In 2021, we focused on defining the governance model for the commitment's actions, in order to enable the structured and transparent execution of its different action fronts. At the same time, we gathered information to feed a georeferenced database, aiming to characterise the corridor regions and determine the main variables that guide work planning across the territories.

In this case, we established metrics to determine priority conservation areas to be connected, considering the best paths, optimisation of resources and impact reduction in creating the corridors that will support biodiversity enhancement in the landscapes. We then redefined the corridor routes, seeking the most effective routes – those that can minimise the costs of interventions, but that potentially have the greatest impact on increasing landscape connectivity.

The process also involved interviews with landowners in the territories through which the corridors will pass to design effective engagement strategies. Furthermore, we mapped the institutions and leaders of these locations to identify restoration and sustainable development actions already underway, seeking to strengthen the relationship with these stakeholders and to identify opportunities for synergy in socio-environmental development actions.

Implementation method

On-the-ground restoration through own operations or supply chains

Engaging partners to deliver the pledge. Partners will contribute to finance the initiative.

Ecosystems and restoration interventions concerned

- Farmlands and mixed-use areas
- Forests and woodlands
- Grasslands, shrublands and savannahs



Policies and strategies

Given the complex challenges facing today's world, Suzano built its sustainability strategy collaboratively by gathering the views of hundreds of people from diverse stakeholder groups, and then established 15 targets, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Two of these targets are in place to enable, incentivise and implement restoration:

- Conserve biodiversity – connect half a million hectares of priority areas for biodiversity conservation in Brazil's Cerrado, Atlantic Forest and Amazon biomes by 2030.
- Decrease poverty – lift 200,000 people out of poverty by 2030.

The scope of the biodiversity commitment considers the natural areas of forests and other fragmented native vegetation that need to be connected, as well as the respective biodiversity corridors connecting them, both inside and outside our areas of operation. For areas outside Suzano's operation, we will develop partnerships with different stakeholders.

To achieve this goal, Suzano is focusing on the Connect, Engage and Protect pillars. Based on these pillars, the company will act strategically on six fronts: implementing and restoring biodiversity corridors, creating a network of Conservation Units, conserving populations of primates and palm trees, establishing business models that generate shared value and biodiverse production and carrying out actions to reduce the pressures on biodiversity as a result of human action, following the guidelines defined in the National System of Conservation Units.

The scope of the commitment to decrease poverty includes social programmes like family and regenerative agriculture, beekeeping, handicrafts and sustainable extractives. This commitment will help to boost collective entrepreneurship and the local sustainable businesses that have always been part of the culture of each region.

Supporting documentation

- [Conserve Biodiversity](#)
- [Decrease Poverty](#)

Technical planning

To better understand the restoration areas and determine methods, Suzano's vegetation base was used, while information on third-party areas was gathered using images from the Sentinel satellite and high-resolution images from ESRI's Imagery Basemap.

Using a 1:5000 viewing scale, the areas within the corridor were classified into the following land use categories: eucalyptus, clean pasture, dirty pasture, vegetation, water, agriculture and road. This was based on the density of vegetation present in the area and classification in the surroundings. Further refinement of this information with LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) flights and field checks is planned.

Based on the classification of land use, as well as on the limits of the Permanent Preservation Areas and Legal Reserves, maps will be prepared with the target areas to be recovered for further field refinement through microplanning. Microplanning will allow a more precise definition of the restoration method to be used in each specific area.

Prioritisation for long-term restoration planning considers the interest of the rural owner in carrying out the restoration and the importance of the area to promote connectivity, either by Suzano itself or rural owners.

The programme activities are defined in Suzano's Ecological Restoration Management Manual. The activities are generally distributed into implementation (key activities) and maintenance/monitoring packages.

In the implementation package, the methods employed are:

- Passive restoration
- Conduction of natural regeneration
- Planting of native species
- Intercropping
- Nucleation
- Direct seeding, and control of exotic/invasive species

After the key activities have been carried out in the "to be restored" areas, they move into the "in process of restoration" state and undergo the maintenance and monitoring process.

Maintenance activities include:

- Fertilization
- Chemical weeding and mowing
- Crowning
- Ant control
- Replanting
- Adaptive management (planting densification and enrichment)

The determination of the need for the activities of the maintenance package comes from the operational and ecological monitoring of the areas, that must be carried out by specialized teams.

Action lines

1. Our biodiversity commitment is aligned with the main objectives of the Rio Convention, which includes conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biodiversity – and also with the SDGs, especially SDG15, related to terrestrial life. Through the execution of this commitment, we seek integration to other long-term commitments of Suzano, such as reducing poverty, which supports SDG1 (poverty eradication) and SDG2 (zero hunger and sustainable agriculture), SDG13 (climate change), and SDG12 (responsible consumption and production).
2. As our biodiversity commitment goes beyond the limits of Suzano's ownership, we will necessarily need to promote governance that considers the collective participation and engagement of neighbouring owners in the planning of their properties and definition of restoration methods, as well as financial support for the execution of activities.
3. In addition to considering the continuous monitoring and carrying out of landscape maintenance activities, to ensure the good development of areas undergoing restoration, we will promote actions along corridors continuously and concurrently in different rural properties to increase connectivity.
4. The planned restoration activities consider the best practices available to promote the recovery and ecological resilience of the areas. Restoration will focus on key areas to connect important forest fragments, increasing landscape connectivity. The restoration process will promote the formation of seedling supply chains, generation of jobs and income in the territories. It is also foreseen in the scope of the biodiversity commitment to promote the sustainable use of connected forests with, for example, extractive and beekeeping activities.
5. The main degradation causes in the regions are deforestation and fires, which convert forested areas into open areas needing restoration. Suzano has a zero-deforestation policy for its areas and aims to promote the same policy in the territories where it operates, promoting the preservation of existing forest remnants and the restoration of degraded areas. One action line of our commitment is to minimise or avoid the occurrence of anthropogenic pressures on biodiversity that can negatively impact the quality and integrity of natural ecosystems and wild populations existing in the corridor areas.

6. The biodiversity commitment is composed of six lines of action, with specific short-, medium- and long-term objectives, targets and indicators, all directly or indirectly addressing the scope of the commitment to connect half a million hectares of priority areas for biodiversity conservation in the Cerrado, Atlantic Forest and Amazon biomes. The lines of action are: implanting biodiversity corridors at the landscape scale; implement biodiverse production models; establish business models that generate shared value; conserving populations of endangered primates and palm trees; create a network of conservation units; and alleviate anthropogenic pressures on biodiversity. Indicators will be monitored through the governance of the company's Commitments of Renewing Life.
7. At the beginning of the commitment development process, we actively listened to 41 institutions with relevant national and international knowledge on the topic in order to meet the local perspectives and biodiversity conservation needs. At the same time, as we seek to connect half a million hectares of native vegetation fragments in the three biomes (Amazon, Cerrado and Atlantic Forest), we also consider a broader scale of action, seeking to conserve biodiversity on a regional scale.
8. According to Suzano's Ecological Restoration Program (in place since 2010), maintenance activities, operational and ecological monitoring, which provide subsidies for the generation and implementation of adaptive management actions, are generally carried out until the area's fifth year of restoration implementation, or longer if recommended through the ecological monitoring.
9. The biodiversity corridor routes were developed to connect fragments of native vegetation already prioritised by Brazilian public policies. The Priority Areas for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Sharing of the Benefits of Biodiversity is a public policy instrument that supports decision-making in an objective and participatory manner on the planning and implementation of adequate measures for conservation, recovery and use of ecosystems. The corridor routes include Suzano's High Conservation Value Areas and Conservation Units present in the territories. One of the commitment's lines of action also aims to create a set of protected areas in priority territories, as well as to understand and establish management mechanisms for the areas. This action significantly contributes to the increase of protected areas in Brazil, and positions Suzano as a key national and international player in this important work. With these structuring actions, it will be possible to replicate and influence the project in other regions close to the corridors.

Ecosystem restoration principles considered

1 Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the Rio Conventions.

2 Promote inclusive and participatory governance, social fairness and equity from the start and throughout the process and outcomes.

3 Include a continuum of restorative activities.

4 Aim to achieve the highest level of recovery for biodiversity, ecosystem health and integrity, and human well-being.

5 Address the direct and indirect causes of ecosystem degradation.

7 Build on well-defined short-, medium- and long-term ecological, cultural and socio-economic objectives and goals.

8 Tailor to the local ecological, cultural and socioeconomic contexts, while considering the larger landscape or seascape.

9 Include monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management throughout and beyond the lifetime of the project or programme.

10 Build on policies and measures that promote its long-term progress, fostering replication and scaling-up.

Supporting documentation

- [Suzano Sustainability Center](#)
- [Commitment to Renewing Life](#)
- [Environment](#)

Area of land

In accordance with our commitment, the period from June 2021 to December 2021 was dedicated to building the strategy and defining the areas to be restored. Therefore, we do not yet have a number of hectares of restoration areas to report.

Supporting documentation

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