

JOINT OPEN LETTER TO THE IFC

Subject: Request to cancel Agronorte project

April 28th, 2026

Dear IFC Directors,

We, the undersigned organizations, collectives, social movements, researchers, and activists, express our deep concern regarding the loan of [US\\$20 million offer from IFC to Agronorte Group](#) intended to finance the acquisition of an animal feed factory in Três Corações, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Although the unit is located in Minas Gerais, its socio-environmental impacts extend beyond the state's borders, since the company's production chain operates in critical regions such as the Amazon and Cerrado, historically affected by the expansion of agribusiness.

Gilmar Gonçalves Carvalho, founder and majority owner of Agronorte, is the target of accusations related to land and socio-environmental conflicts. Dating back for more than ten years, he has been accused of deforesting areas claimed by the Apinajé Indigenous people, including deforestation in embargoed areas and operating charcoal production facilities without a license or prior consultation. These violations were formally denounced in the Apinajé People's Manifesto, which reaffirms the resistance of the affected communities.¹

The loan will finance the production of soy-based animal feed, increasing pressure for the expansion of this crop and, consequently, deforestation and human rights violations, such as those affecting the Apinajé people. The IFC itself acknowledges in the ESRS that Agronorte lacks systematic processes for managing socio-environmental issues or ensuring the traceability of its supply chain. This lack of compliance with minimum sustainability standards may violate the IFC's Performance Standards.

Funding a company involved in land conflicts and illegal deforestation is not aligned with IFC policies, nor with the objectives of the Paris Agreement or the Global Framework for Biodiversity. Furthermore, monoculture grain farming brings immense social and environmental impacts, from land conflicts to poisoning, and does not contribute to the IFC's mission of eradicating hunger. This project will produce animal feed, which is mostly exported instead of supporting local production of healthy food.

This investment is unsustainable: it supports a company with a history of land conflicts and illegal deforestation, lacking basic socio-environmental commitments, and promotes an industry whose impacts are felt and denounced by indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

Therefore, we strongly request the cancellation of this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

¹ <https://gazetadocerrado.com.br/meio-ambiente/manifesto-publico-do-povo-apinaje-contradesmatamentos-em-area-reivindicada-pela-comunidade-indigena/>
<https://racismoambiental.net.br/2016/01/14/fazenda-goes-tratores-e-maquinas-estao-em-atividades-no-local-vigiados-por-homens-fortemente-armados/>
<https://acervo.socioambiental.org/acervo/noticias/conflito-o-empresario-gilmar-goncalves-carvalho-descumpre-acordo-e-volta-desmatar>
<https://uniaodasaldeiasapinaje.blogspot.com/search?q=desmatamento>

- 1 AbibiNsroma Foundation
- 2 Accountability Counsel
- 3 Act For Farmed Animals
- 4 Amazon Watch
- 5 Animal Friends Jogja
- 6 Animal Interseccional
- 7 Articulação da Pastoral da Ecologia Integral do Brasil
- 8 Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy (AIPNEE)
- 9 Associação de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos e Meio Ambiente na Amazônia
- 10 Associação de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos e Meio Ambiente na Amazonia- ADHMA
- 11 Associação dos Taboqueanos extrativista ribeirinho do araguaia
- 12 Bank for Nature
- 13 Bank Information Center
- 14 Biofuelwatch
- 15 Blue Dalian
- 16 Centro de Direitos Humanos Dom Máximo Biennès
- 17 CIR
- 18 Cita conselho indígena Tapajós Arapiuns
- 19 Coletivo Indígena Mura de Porto Velho
- 20 Comissão Pastoral da Terra - Pará
- 21 Comitê de Bacias Macaé e das Ostras
- 22 Comitê Defensor da Vida Amazonica na bacia do Rio Madeira
- 23 Community Empowerment and Social Justice Network
- 24 Comunidade Indígena Pacajaí
- 25 Comunidade Payá Kuruaya/ Território Tavaquara
- 26 Comunidade Quilombola Extrativista Pedral Curral Velho
- 27 Comunidade quilombola extrativista Pedral curral velho
- 28 Concelho Indígena Munduruku do Planalto
- 29 Conselho Indigenista Missionário/Cimi
- 30 Conselho Nacional de Povos e Comunidades Tradicionais
- 31 Cosmopolíticas
- 32 Debt Justice Norway
- 33 Forum Ökologie & Papier
- 34 Forum Socioambiental da Zona Oeste
- 35 Fundación Derecho y Defensa Animal
- 36 Fundación Econexión Ecuador
- 37 Fundación Justicia Interspecie
- 38 Generación Vegana
- 39 Global Justice Ecology Project
- 40 Green REV Institute
- 41 Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary
- 42 Horta do Vinil
- 43 Institute for Future Food Systems
- 44 Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos (Inesc)
- 45 Instituto Nacional de Ciência e Tecnologia (INCT) "Para superar a monotonia do sistema agroalimentar"
- 46 Instituto Raoni
- 47 Instituto Zé Claudio e Maria

- 48 International Rivers
- 49 MALUNGU
- 50 Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens - MAB
- 51 Movimento munduruku ipereg ayu
- 52 Movimento Tapajós Vivo
- 53 Movimento Xingu Vivo para Sempre
- 54 Movimiento Animalista Nacional Ecuador
- 55 Mupan - Mulheres em Ação no Pantanal
- 56 North Carolina Animal Advocates United (NCAAU)
- 57 Oyu Tolgoi Watch
- 58 Pariri
- 59 Profundo
- 60 Protección Animal Ecuador
- 61 Rainforest Action Network
- 62 Rainforest Foundation Norway
- 63 Rede Cerrado
- 64 Rede de Notícias da Amazônia
- 65 S.O.S Vargens
- 66 Safe Food Federation
- 67 SINDUFOPA - Seção Sindical dos Docentes da UFOPA - ANDES SN
- 68 Sinergia Animal
- 69 Size of Wales
- 70 Sociedade Vegetariana Brasileira - SVB
- 71 SOS-FORÊTS
- 72 The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy
- 73 The Oakland Institute

In addition to these organizations, 43 researchers and activists also signed the letter. These names were shared separately with the IFC.

The letter remains open for signatories, and new signatories will be shared with the IFC next week.

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