



What you need to know about Suzano Papel e Celulose

'Alert Against the
Green Desert' Network

DIGA NÃO AO
DESERTO VERDE!

What is Suzano Papel e Celulose?

Suzano is a Brazilian multinational company that produces cellulose and paper products from eucalyptus grown on large-scale plantations. It is one of the leading companies in this sector worldwide.

Suzano became Brazil's largest eucalyptus plantation company when it acquired its main competitor, Fibria, in 2018. Fibria, in turn, was created from the 2009 merger of two other companies, Votorantim Celulose e Papel and Aracruz Celulose. Since 2018, Suzano has also owned 50% of Veracel Celulose.

As a result, Suzano's eucalyptus plantations today occupy a huge area, which includes several territories belonging to indigenous, quilombola and peasant peoples and communities that have been invaded by these companies.

Suzano is responsible for serious social, environmental and climate damages, including deforestation, pollution, water shortages, destruction of fertile lands and others.

Read this booklet and find out important facts about Suzano – facts that are often hidden by this mega-company's propaganda machine.

'Alert Against the Green Desert' Network

Brazil, April 2023



2,400,000

hectares

of land

Suzano has stated that it owns 1.4 million hectares of eucalyptus plantations on fertile land in the states of Espírito Santo, Bahia, Mato Grosso do Sul, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pará, Tocantins, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro; and that further expansions are possible (1).

The company also controls one million hectares of areas designated for conservation, and portrays itself as the largest private forest protector in Brazil. Yet it prohibits communities, whose survival depends on these areas, from entering the areas.

The 2.4 million hectares that Suzano controls in Brazil today are equivalent to 75% of the surface area of Belgium, a European country with more than 11 million inhabitants.

If Suzano's 1.4 million hectares of plantations were used for land reform, it would be enough to ensure the survival of more than 115,000 families (2).

279 billion liters of water

In 2021, Suzano's 11 pulp/paper mills used 279 billion liters of water, a common good (3).

This amount is equivalent to the water consumption of a metropolis of 6.1 million people with a daily consumption of 125 liters per person.

Eucalyptus plantations also consume a lot of water, and often dry up the springs that communities need to survive (4).

In Conceição da Barra alone, which is a municipality in the state of Espírito Santo with 61,000 hectares of eucalyptus plantations, 156 streams have disappeared (5).

In times of drought, which are increasingly common, Suzano appropriates even more water by using water trucks on the eucalyptus plantations. Meanwhile, communities often go without water.



717,000 kg of agrochemicals

Every year, 717 TONS of poison from 25 different products are poured onto the 213,000 hectares of Suzano plantations in the state of São Paulo alone (6).

This means that several million kilograms of poisons are poured onto Suzano's plantations in Brazil every year.

Among the agrochemicals applied to eucalyptus trees are the herbicide, glyphosate, and the formicide, sulfluramid – both of which are linked to cancer and several other diseases, and are currently banned in several countries around the world (7).

Since it has used elemental chlorine in its pulp mills for a long time, Suzano is also responsible for dumping dioxins – some of the most toxic and persistent environmental pollutants known to man – into rivers and the ocean.

GE Eucalyptus: Making profits at any cost

Suzano is the only company in Brazil and Latin America that is allowed to plant two types of genetically engineered eucalyptus, even though this practice poses serious risks.

A eucalyptus tree becomes genetically modified when genetic material from a different species is inserted into it; this complex technique is highly risky, given that no-one can predict the exact consequences of planting genetically modified eucalyptus on a large scale.

One of Suzano's two types of genetically engineered eucalyptus was produced to be glyphosate-tolerant, which tends to cause an increase in the use of this agrochemical (8).

The other type was produced to increase wood productivity by 20%. The company uses genetically engineered trees to increase profits, ignoring the serious risks involved.



One direct job for every 100 hectares

In regions where land reform is responsible for settling nine families per 100 hectares, Suzano creates, on average, only one direct job on the same 100 hectares (9).

The families of the Rural Landless Workers' Movement (MST) – who occupied land belonging to Suzano in Espírito Santo, in their struggle for land reform and against the huge company estate – today produce more than 100 tons of food per year.

Nobody eats eucalyptus, and more than 33 million families go hungry in Brazil (10).

R\$1 billion in profits for its owners

The owners of Suzano pocketed R\$1 billion in dividends in 2021 (US\$195 million), partly from the sale of pulp and paper.

In land reform projects, this amount would be enough for 29,400 families to build their houses (11).

The main owners and founders of Suzano, the Feffer family, have an even bigger net worth, of at least R\$32.5 billion (US\$6.5 billion) (12).



The company turns debt into new money

Almost 78% of the Brazilian population is in debt. Suzano also has a very large debt of R\$58 billion (US\$10.4 billion).

While the indebted population often does not know how to get out of debt, Suzano can turn some of its huge debts into new money by selling what it calls "green bonds".

The company calls these bonds "green," because it claims that its plantations are "forests" and that it has many conservation areas – ignoring the destruction that its plantations have caused.

This is how Suzano obtained new loans from international banks, raising US\$1.5 billion in 2021 to buy more land and expand its plantations in Brazil (13).

The company does not pay taxes

Brazilian legislation (Kandir Law) exempts goods-exporting companies like Suzano from paying ICMS, the main Brazilian tax on the circulation of goods.

ICMS is the main source of revenue for state governments and their public services, such as health and education.

Brazilian citizens pay 17% ICMS on the products they buy, are not entitled to exemptions, and often struggle to access quality public services.

When Suzano buys materials for its mills and pays ICMS, which is normally included in an invoice, it is entitled to be reimbursed by the state government.

The sum of this amount in the states of Espírito Santo, Bahia, Maranhão, Mato Grosso do Sul and São Paulo had already reached R\$1.36 billion by 2021, and the governments were not able to recoup the amount, effectively making them Suzano's "hostages" (14).



3,800,000 tons of CO₂ released into the atmosphere

Suzano annually emits almost 4 million tons of CO₂ from its activities, thus worsening the problem of climate change.

There are 32 countries in the world that emit less carbon than Suzano (15).

And yet Suzano alleges that it is climate-friendly, claiming that by 2025, its plantations and forests will have removed 40 million tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere (16).

This is a half-truth, because the trees' removal of carbon is only temporary. Sooner or later, the trees will be cut down or die; meanwhile, the CO₂ that Suzano releases into the atmosphere each year has a permanent impact.

There is only one solution to fight climate change: stop extracting and burning oil and other fossil fuels.




SUZANO

References

- ① Suzano, Relatório anual 2021:
www.suzano.com.br/r2021/src/pdf/RA_Suzano_2021.pdf
- ② Based on the average area occupied by a settled family in Conceição da Barra (ES), a municipality with most of its land occupied by Suzano's eucalyptus plantations.
- ③ Ibid 1
- ④ WRM, Industrial Tree Plantations' Impacts on Water, 2016:
<https://www.wrm.org.uy/publications/industrial-tree-plantations-impacts-on-water>
- ⑤ Rede Alerta contra o Deserto Verde e Rede Brasil sobre Instituições Financeiras Multilaterais: Aracruz Credo: 40 anos de violações e resistência no Espírito Santo, 2013
<https://www.wrm.org.uy/sites/default/files/2023-04/aracruz-credo-40-anos-de-violacao-e-resistencia-no-es.pdf>
- ⑥ SysFlor, Relatório da avaliação de recertificação de manejo florestal e cadeia de custódia desde a floresta até a saída do produto da empresa. Suzano S.A. Unidade São Paulo, 2019:
https://www.sysflor.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CER-REL_R ECERT-SuzanoS.A.-SP_2019_09122019-FIN_PUBLICICO.pdf
- ⑦ WRM, The Agrochemical Used on Tree Monocultures That Pollutes Forever, 2020 <https://www.wrm.org.uy/bulletin-articles/the-agrochemical-used-on-tree-monocultures-that-pollutes-forever>
- ⑧ Open Letter Denouncing Suzano Papel e Celulose's glyphosate-resistant Genetically Engineered (GE) Eucalyptus, 2022: <https://www.wrm.org.uy/bulletin-articles/open-letter-denouncing-suzano-papel-e-celuloses-glyphosate-resistant-genetically-engineered-ge-eucalyptus>
- ⑨ Ibid 1 and Século Diário, Contra lei, Suzano quer ampliar eucalipto em Conceição da Barra, 2020:

<https://www.seculodiario.com.br/meio-ambiente/suzano-quer-ampliar-eucalipto-em-conceicao-da-barra>

- 10 Combateafome.org.br, A fome aumentou no Brasil, 2022:
<https://bit.ly/403Bvo3>
- 11 Agência Brasil, Assentados receberão dinheiro para construir ou reformar moradias, www.suzano.com.br/r2021/src/pdf/RA_Suzano_2021.pdf 2020: <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/politica/noticia/2020-09/assentados-receberao-dinheiro-para-construir-ou-reformar-moradias>
- 12 Forbes.com.br: Dia Internacional da Família: os 10 clãs mais ricos do Brasil, maio 2021 (foto 6): <https://forbes.com.br/forbes-money/2021/05/dia-internacional-da-familia-os-10-clas-mais-ricos-do-brasil/#foto6>
- 13 Ibid 1
- 14 Suzano: Demonstrações Financeiras de 31 de dezembro de 2021: https://s201.q4cdn.com/761980458/files/doc_financials/2021/q4/2021-12-DFP2021-PT_BOVESPA_09.02.2022_V7_FINAL_RA_CD.pdf
- 15 Suzano, Central de indicadores, ano 2020: <https://centraldeindicadores.suzano.com.br/tags/remocoes-de-carbono> and World Resources Institute, Climate Watch (CAIT), Country Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data: <https://www.wri.org/data/climate-watch-cait-country-greenhouse-gas-emissions-data>
- 16 Ambiental Mercantil, Suzano antecipa para 2025 meta que visa capturar 40 milhões de toneladas de carbono da atmosfera, novembro 2021: <https://noticias.ambientalmercantil.com/02/11/2021/suzano-antecipa-para-2025-meta-que-visa-capturar-40-milhoes-de-toneladas-de-carbono-da-atmosfera>



alertacontradesertosverdes.org

**'Alert Against the
Green Desert' Network**

**DIGA NÃO AO
DESERTO VERDE!**