

Amazon soy pact collapse could drive 1.4 million hectares of deforestation in Brazil by 2036, new study finds

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For nearly two decades, a handshake agreement saved the Amazon from the chainsaws. Soy traders promised not to finance cropland carved out of deforested Amazon territory after 2008, and it worked.

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Deforestation-linked soy expansion fell from one-third of annual growth to nearly nothing. It was, by any measure, a rare victory for voluntary corporate restraint. However, the pact is almost over now.

A new analysis published in the journal [Science](#) examined the rise and fall of the Amazon Soy Moratorium, one of the world's most successful voluntary deforestation commitments, under which soy traders agreed not to source or finance soy grown on land deforested after July 2008. The researchers found that the collapse of the landmark commitment will drive at least 1.4 million hectares (3.5 million acres) of extra deforestation in Brazil over the next decade, releasing carbon emissions equal to Canada's annual output.

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How the Amazon Soy Moratorium helped the Amazon

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