NO DEFORESTATION POLICY

I. Objective

At AgroAmerica we are aware that deforestation and other unsustainable practices have adverse consequences on people and the environment. For these and other reasons, we work closely with producers, merchants, processors, NGOs, businesses, financial institutions and other stakeholders in the industry to do our best to try and protect forests, human rights and communities. To help contribute to the transformation of this industry, we developed a policy called "No Deforestation".

II. Scope

All of the provisions of this corporate policy apply to:

- All of the operations administered by the company, both owned and/or leased, regardless of their role in the business.
- All third party suppliers.

III. Definition

AgroAmerica recognizes old growth forests such as high, medium, and low density forests in addition to second growth forests as significant sources of carbon reserves. Lands that were previously employed for other agricultural operations are not considered significant sources of carbon reserves.

Therefore, the company supports the fact that research and development should be driven by the fundamental principles of environmental conservation which strive to identify and protect the greatest number of old-growth forests with significant carbon stores. The company’s efforts also include examining and evaluating social, economic, and political factors that may affect the future viability of those areas identified as containing significant carbon stores (HCS = High Carbon Stock).

IV. Features

No deforestation:

- no development in forests with significant carbon stores,
- no development in high conservation value areas (HCVAs),
- no slash and burn practices.

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1 Tropical forests hold large stores of carbon. The amount of carbon stored in an area varies according to the type of plants, soil and other geographic factors.
High conservation value areas (HCVA):  

We, at AgroAmerica, promise to identify and protect high conservation value areas located within all of our operations and within our global supply chain under the scope of this policy.

With respect to our palm oil plantations, we will continue to use international best practices to identify and manage high conservation value areas according to Principles 5.2 and 7.3 of the “Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production” endorsed by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), 2013.

High conservation value areas will also be created along riverbanks and along primary roads within the plantations in addition to other areas that are not suitable for farming. This will further contribute to the overall number of high conservation value areas. Areas identified as culturally (HCVA) will be managed to maintain their status as such.

We will work with the appropriate authorities and take decisive action to protect those animals and plants endemic to the area, especially those that are threatened or in danger of extinction. The hunting, trapping, or trafficking of wild animals from any of the farms is expressly prohibited.

No Slash and Burn:

We shall implement a policy of no slash and burn which means that burning will not be used as a method to clear new farmland, sow new seeds, or for any other reason according to the scope of this policy.

V. Policy Administration:

The administration of this policy shall fall under the corporate management of the Corporate Director.

VI. Policy file, appendix, description, and use (if necessary)

- The person responsible for safeguarding and storing this policy document will be the Corporate Director.

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2 High value conservation forest: All of the forest areas contain attributes considered worthy of conservation; however, some of these forests meet the criteria defined by the FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship as high conservation value forests (HCVF) because of their critical or exceptional significance.

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