

**19 May 2020**

**An open letter on the protection of the Amazon**

To the Deputies and Senators of the National Congress of Brazil,

The Amazon is one of the most vital landscapes on our planet: it not only contains 30% of the world's rainforest but it is also home to 10% of all known species. More crucially, the Amazon plays a critical role in regulating global climate, the water cycle as well as its role in system resilience which is fundamental for planetary health. We also recognise that it is also a crucial economic resource for Brazil, for both now and in the future.

Last year, widespread fires and destruction in the Amazon made news across the globe. As global businesses and investors with interests in Brazil, we have welcomed and wish to see a continuation of Brazil's leadership on forest law and agreements like the Amazon Soy Moratorium. We know that we must ensure that protecting the Amazon is economically more attractive than destroying it, reflecting its true value to the world – and we want to work with all Brazilian stakeholders on this. What remains essential is that further destruction is halted.

We are deeply concerned about the Provisional Measure 910 (now changed to PL 2633/2020), that has been submitted to the Brazilian congress for a vote, and which would legalise the private occupation of public lands, mostly concentrated in the Amazon. Should the measure pass, it would encourage further land grabbing and widespread deforestation which would jeopardise the survival of the Amazon and meeting the targets of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and undermine the rights of indigenous and traditional communities. We believe that it would also put at risk the ability of organisations such as ours to continue sourcing from Brazil in the future.

We want to continue to source from and invest in Brazil and help ensure that protecting the Amazon can be economically productive for all. We urge the Brazilian government to reconsider its stance and hope to continue working with partners in Brazil to demonstrate that economic development and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive.

**Signatories:**

AB Agri Ltd

Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

Ahold Delhaize

ALDI SOUTH Group

AP7 (Sjunde AP-fonden)

Asda Stores Ltd.

British Retail Consortium

Burger King UK

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes

Co-op Switzerland

The Co-operative Group

Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids  
Donau Soja  
EdenTree Investment Management  
Hilton Food Group  
Iceland Foods  
Jerónimo Martins SGPS S.A.  
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust  
Kerry Group  
KLP Kapitalforvaltning AS  
Lidl Great Britain  
Marks & Spencer  
METRO AG  
Migros  
Moy Park  
Nando's  
National Pig Association  
NorgesGruppen ASA  
Ocado  
Pax World Funds  
Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation  
ProTerra Foundation  
Retail Soy Group  
Rewe Group  
Robeco  
J Sainsbury Plc  
Skandia  
Storebrand Asset Management  
Swedbank Robur Fonder AB  
Tesco Stores Plc  
Tulip Ltd  
Waitrose & Partners  
Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc