

ACAI GmbH's response

22 July 2019

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited ACAI GmbH to respond to the following items:

- [“Complicity in Destruction II: How northern consumers and financiers enable Bolsonaro's assault on the Brazilian Amazon”](#), Amazon Watch, 24 April 2019
- [“China, EU, US trading with Brazilian firms fined for Amazon deforestation: report”](#), Mongabay, 6 May 2019
- [Portuguese] [“Cumplicidade na destruição: como os consumidores e financiadores do norte permitem o ataque do governo Bolsonaro à Amazônia brasileira”](#), Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil-APIB, Maio 2019
- [Portuguese] [“Empresas europeias e norte-americanas estão ligadas à responsáveis pela invasão à terras indígenas e desmatamento na Amazônia”](#), Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil-APIB, 3 de maio de 2019
- [Portuguese] [“Índios propõem boicote a empresas que negociam com invasores de reservas”](#), Época, 29 de abril de 2019

ACAI GmbH sent the following response:

ACAI GmbH confirms to have purchased 8,860 kg (net weight) of acai puree for testing purposes from ARGUS.

We consider initiatives to uncover illegal rainforest use and prevent any cooperation with the actors involved to be very important and are happy to support them through our business practices. However, the mentioned legal processes have nothing to do with the production of the acai puree, which we obtained uniquely from ARGUS/GOOLA at the time. The fruit pulp-producing company ARGUS/GOOLA has, according to our knowledge, at no time made itself liable to prosecution for illegal rainforest use. The products purchased from us therefore do not originate from illegal rainforest use. Acai pulp is not a wood product, but the puree from a fruit, which is picked from an existing tree population.

Even though the activities of ARGUS/GOOLA are clean, we will not support any companies with shareholders who are exploiting the rainforest as part of other companies. However, this question does not currently arise for us, as we currently no longer have any business relations with ARGUS/GOOLA.

The press release not only implies that we have imported products resulting from illegal deforestation but also that we pass these on to the two named retail partners. This is not true in two respects: First of all, the acai puree from ARGUS/GOOLA did not originate from illegal deforestation (see explanation above). Moreover, the acai products supplied to these retail chains do not come from ARGUS but from another manufacturer.

<https://amazonwatch.org/news/2019/0425-european-and-north-american-companies-support-those-responsible-for-amazon-deforestation-surge>