

## Response from HSBC

8 July 2019

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited HSBC to respond to allegations of complicity with environmental and human rights in Brazil.

- [“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

HSBC sent the following statement:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on a forthcoming item concerning allegations of complicity with environmental and human rights abuses in Brazil, specifically the Amazon and the Cerrado biome.

As you will know from previous correspondence, we are unable to comment on any of the companies mentioned in the report from Amazon Watch, either to confirm or deny a relationship with HSBC, because of our duty of client confidentiality. We would, however, like to make the following general observations:

For soy, rubberwood and cattle ranching, HSBC will not knowingly provide financial services to high-risk customers involved directly in or sourcing from suppliers involved in:

- Deforestation, that is: the conversion of areas (often forests) necessary to protect HCVs; the conversion of primary tropical forests; or clearance by burning.
- Exploitation of people and communities, such as: harmful or exploitative child labour or forced labour; the violation of the rights of local communities, such as the principle of free, prior and informed consent; and operations where there is significant social conflict.

This information is contained in our [Agricultural Commodities Policy](#), available on our website.

On forestry, we have had a policy in place since 2004, initially the Forest Land and Forest Products Sector Policy and now a stand-alone [Forestry Policy](#), also available on the website. This states that “HSBC will not knowingly provide financial services to customers involved directly, or indirectly via the supply chain, in: illegal logging; wood logged in violation of traditional and civil rights; wood logged in forests where high conservation values are threatened by industry; or forests being converted to plantation or to non-forest use (deforestation).”