

Suzano and Sofidel join forces for a pilot program to protect biodiversity and support local communities in the Amazon region

- Suzano and Sofidel pilot partnership will demonstrate the **value of collaboration across the supply chain** to scale up environmental and socio-economic impact.
- Habitat restoration and agroforestry projects will contribute to the **creation of an important biodiversity corridor** to enhance the connectivity of a **2,210 square kms area of rainforest**.
- Structured social projects will help **lift local communities out of poverty** by scaling sustainable business models, including the cultivation and commercialization of Brazilian native plant species such as açai and babassu.

São Paulo/Milan, 23 May 2023: Suzano, the world's largest producer of hardwood pulp, and Sofidel, a leading tissue paper producer, today announce **"Together we plant the future - Developing biodiversity corridors towards a more sustainable future"**, a landmark three-year pilot project which will **advance ecological conservation and restoration**, alongside supporting socio-economic development in the Amazon region in Brazil¹. This will be delivered with support and on-the-ground implementation from **IABS**, the Brazilian Institute for Development and Sustainability and **Amazônia Onlus**, an Italian non-profit active to defend the forest and the people of the Amazon.

Through the partnership, Sofidel's investment will scale up sustainable business models that can be adopted by communities living alongside the rainforest, at the same time as improving their food security and nutritional quality. In the first phase, this will **help lift about 1,400 family farmers out of poverty** through income-generation projects, including increasing agricultural productivity, beekeeping, and the cultivation and commercialization of native species such as açai berries and babassu coconuts.

Alongside this, "Together we plant the future" will fund the creation of an important biodiversity corridor **to promote connectivity within a 2,210 square kms area of high ecological value rainforest**, straddling the border between the Brazilian states of Maranhão and Pará. This will be achieved through a combination of natural habitat restoration and sustainable agroforestry systems, contributing to Suzano's long-term goal to create biodiversity corridors that connect half a million hectares (5,000 square kilometers) of priority areas in Brazil's Amazon, Atlantic Forest and Cerrado biomes by 2030 – an area equivalent to more than 700,000 football pitches.

The biodiversity corridor will benefit a range of native species in the region that are impacted by the fragmentation of habitats. These include the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), red-necked araçari (*Pteroglossus bitorquatus*), channel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*), South American tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), eastern black-handed tamarin monkey (*Saguinus ursulus*), red-handed howler monkey (*Alouatta*

¹ The region between the Brazilian states of Maranhão and Pará was selected because some of Suzano operations are located in that area.

belzebul), and black bearded saki monkey (*Chiropotes satanas*), many of which are currently considered to be threatened or vulnerable to extinction.

Andrea Piazzolla, Chief Purchasing Officer at Sofidel, said:

“Today a company committed to build a sustainable future and create value for all its stakeholders has to ensure that its suppliers share the same vision and way of operating. According to SDG 17, we are pleased to partner with Suzano, one of our biggest suppliers, to make a difference. They share our same values, so it came natural to make our contribution to join forces to tackle both social and environmental issues in one of the poorest regions in Brazil”.

“With decades of experience delivering positive change, we believe Suzano is the right partner for us to work alongside on this pilot program to bring concrete benefits and a positive impact on the ground. We hope our efforts will create a replicable and scalable model to help lift communities out of poverty in a way that enhances the ecosystem”.

Paulo Jose de Souza Chaer Borges, Managing Director at Suzano EMEA office, added:

“Businesses can change the world for the better, but we can’t do it alone. If we work together we can magnify our impact. This is why we are excited to partner with one of our biggest customers, Sofidel, to accelerate the promising early impact that we have seen in our social and environmental sustainability programs.

“By financially empowering communities living in proximity to high ecological value areas, we can tackle poverty as a root cause of deforestation, at the same time as incentivizing them to protect and restore ecosystems. We hope that this collaboration can prove the power of working together across the supply chain, to create positive changes.”

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About Suzano

Suzano is the world’s largest producer of hardwood pulp and the global leader in the innovation and production of renewable, bio-based materials for consumer and industrial use. Our responsibly-grown materials provide over 2 billion people in more than 100 countries with plastic free products including writing paper, tissue, paper cups and straws, paperboard packaging, toilet paper, textiles, diapers and more. We are pioneers in sustainable mass scale industrial production, and our ethos of innovability – the pursuit of sustainable solutions through innovation – is at the core of all our work, from the field to our factories and labs, all the way to the end user. Suzano’s history spans 100 years and is listed on the B3 stock exchange in Brazil (SUZB3) and the NYSE (SUZ) in the United States. Learn more at: www.suzano.com.br/en

About Sofidel

The Sofidel Group is one of the leading manufacturers of paper for hygienic and domestic use worldwide. Established in 1966, the Group has subsidiaries in 13 countries – Italy, Spain, the UK, Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Romania and the USA – with

more than 6,500 employees, net sales of 2,801 million Euros (2022) and a production capacity of over one million tonnes per year (1,440,000 tonnes in 2022). “Regina”, its most well-known brand, is present on almost all the reference markets. Other brands include: Sopalin, Le Trèfle, Hakle, Softis, Nalys, Cosynel, KittenSoft, Lycke, Nicky, Papernet. A member of the UN Global Compact and the international WWF Climate Savers programme, the Sofidel Group considers sustainability a strategic factor with regards to growth and is committed to reducing its impact on natural capital and maximising social benefits, setting as objective the creation of shared added value for all stakeholders. Sofidel’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets to 2030 have been approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) as consistent with reductions required to keep warming to well below 2°C, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

www.sofidel.com

About IABS

The Brazilian Institute of Development and Sustainability (IABS) is formed by a multidisciplinary team of professionals. Together with national and international partners, seek innovative and sustainable ways of tackling global challenges and impact communities across the Brazilian territory and abroad. Certified as a Civil Society Organization of Public Interest since 2003 by the Brazilian Ministry of Justice, the institution's activities and projects aim to ensure benefits for current and future generations. For over 18 years, IABS have been implementing projects, ideas and programs in favor of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, sustainable development, and the reduction of inequalities. More details at <https://iabs.org.br/>

About Amazônia Onlus

Amazônia Onlus is a non-profit organization that has been involved for 20 years in the protection of the Amazon rainforest. It was founded in Italy but it works, grows and creates alliances in Brazil, in the heart of the forest, with the native populations who live there. The organization operates according to a socio-environmental conservation model that actively involves forest peoples in the search for innovative solutions, combining traditional knowledge with science and technology and promoting sustainable development. Its work aims to protect the ecosystem, its biodiversity and the culture, traditions and lifestyles of its peoples. So far, the environmental conservation, social assistance and sustainable development projects implemented by Amazônia Onlus have impacted over 5 million hectares of Amazon forest, giving support to several traditional and indigenous populations. More about Amazônia Onlus: <https://www.amazoniabr.org/>