



RTRS Guides for Responsible Expansion: Brazil and Paraguay

According to the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 2.0; RTRS developed the first two guides for responsible expansion for Brazil and Paraguay.

The guides were developed according to the Annex 4: RTRS approach to responsible conversion, page 20, at the [RTRS Production Standard](#).

The guides include the macro-scale maps showing the four different categories described at the Guide 4 of the Standard, and the High Conservation Value Areas assessment guides for determination and management of HCVA's.

The macro-scale maps and their categories show a first approach to a specific area categorizing according to one of the four categories defined by RTRS:

- Category I Areas = areas which are critical for biodiversity (hotspots), where stakeholders agree there should not be any conversion of native vegetation to responsible soy production.
- Category II Areas = areas with high importance for biodiversity where expansion of soy is only carried out after an HCVA assessment which identifies areas for conservation and areas where expansion can occur.
- Category III Areas = areas where existing legislation is adequate to control responsible expansion (usually areas with importance for agriculture and lower conservation importance).
- Category IV Areas = areas which are already used for agriculture and where there is no remaining native vegetation except legal reserves and so no further expansion is occurring.

Because of its macro-scale condition (1:250,000 or 1:500,000) maps are a guide that do not exclude on-farm situations where producers are able to demonstrate fulfillment of RTRS Standard requirements regarding expansion rules (legal compliance and LUC cutoff date May 2009). In Categories 3 and 4 areas, there could be on farm HCVA's (no conversion allowed) that due to the scale approach or other impossibilities cannot be mapped (e.g. small wetlands, cultural values, etc.).

The guide to use the maps according to the category where the farm is located is:

- *Category 1: Not certifiable, unless producers can demonstrate in another reliable manner that the opening occurred previous to May 2009 (*)*
- *Category 2: Not certifiable, unless idem Category 1(*), or that producer performed an HCV assessment previous to the LUC (**).*
- *Category 3: It is certifiable*
- *Category 4: It is certifiable*

() In categories 1 and 2 producers can demonstrate that farms were consolidated before May 2009 by other auditable tools and/or their combinations (e.g. soil land use maps prior to 2009, tillage invoices, transport guides with origin on the farm, etc.)*

*(**) The producer demonstrates that he performed an HCV assessment and the result shows that it is not an HCVA before LUC. To ask information about how to perform the assessment producers can contact RTRS secretariat for orientation*

Note: For all the different categories, legal compliance is a must over any classification.

At this first stage the maps will be available at: <http://arcg.is/1GYcL1F>

(The system requires computers with 4 Gigabytes of RAM or over)

RTRS is working with other international organizations in order to share the maps in global platforms, improving accessibility and IT tools performance.

In case you have any doubt about the Guides use or other technical details, please contact RTRS Secretariat at info@responsiblesoy.org