# Visipec

## Visualizing cattle supply chains in Brazil to enhance traceability and strengthen deforestation monitoring

## How it works

Visipec is a new add-on traceability tool that works alongside the existing monitoring systems used by Brazilian meatpackers to provide the cattle sector with enhanced supply chain visibility and more effective deforestation monitoring. It integrates information from public databases and serves to complement the existing systems to help reduce exposure to deforestation risks that are currently present in the early stages of the supply chain.

## Closing Gaps in Existing Systems

Cattle supply chains in Brazil are complex. With more than 210 million head of cattle, distributed across 5 million ranches throughout the country, and with frequent movement of animals between ranches, traceability can be challenging.
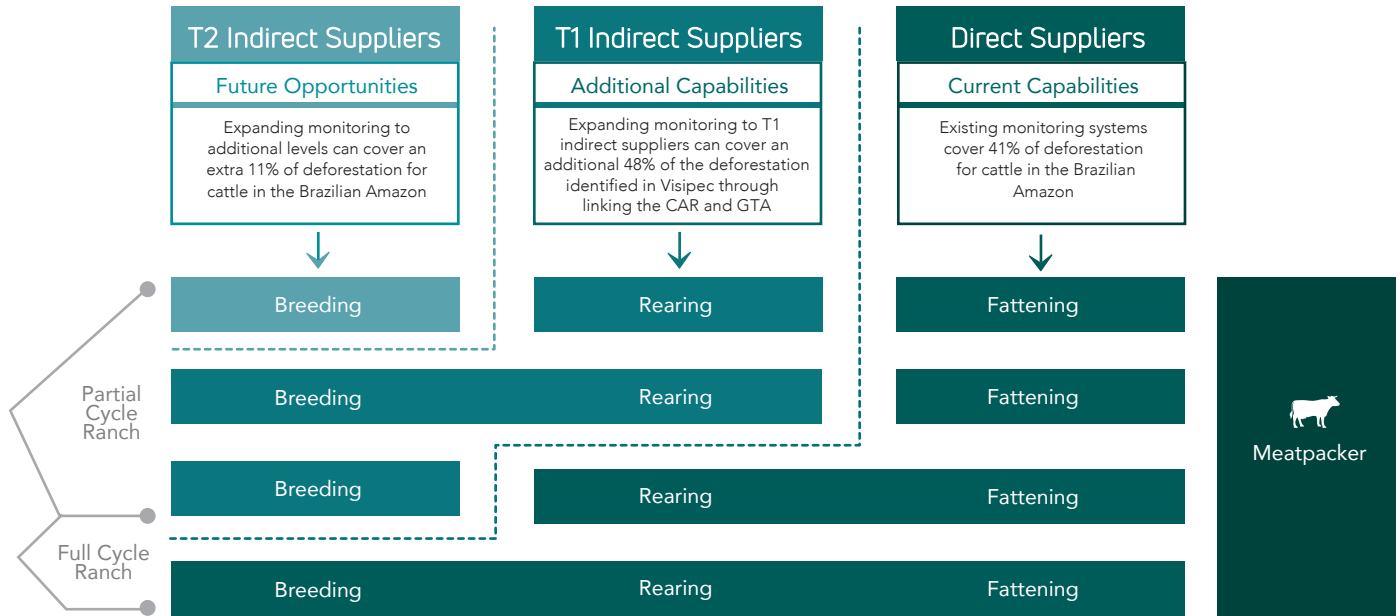
Cattle production can be characterized by three primary phases: breeding, backgrounding, and finishing. In some cases, a single property can cover all three phases (full cycle ranch), but in most cases, these phases occur on different ranches.

The current deforestation monitoring systems used by the meatpackers only cover direct suppliers, which are typically the finishing ranches. This poses material risks for companies and investors because most deforestation occurs on indirect suppliers, which are typically the breeding and backgrounding ranches that are not currently monitored.

Visipec links direct and indirect suppliers together for the first time at scale, instantly increasing the levels of traceability in a meatpacker's supply chain, and enabling indirect suppliers to now be covered under the existing monitoring systems. By closing the traceability gap on indirect suppliers, Visipec will advance deforestation-free supply chains and help provide the assurances that companies and investors need to continue to source and finance beef and leather products from this region with confidence.

| T2 Indirect Suppliers | T1 Indirect Suppliers | Direct Suppliers | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Future Opportunities** | **Additional Capabilities** | **Current Capabilities** | |
| Expanding monitoring to additional levels can cover an extra 11% of deforestation for cattle in the Brazilian Amazon | Expanding monitoring to T1 indirect suppliers can cover an additional 48% of the deforestation identified in Visipec through linking the CAR and GTA | Existing monitoring systems cover 41% of deforestation for cattle in the Brazilian Amazon | |
| ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | |
| Breeding | Rearing | Fattening | Meatpacker |

**Partial Cycle Ranch**
| Breeding | Rearing | Fattening |
|---|---|---|

| Breeding | Rearing | Fattening |
|---|---|---|

**Full Cycle Ranch**
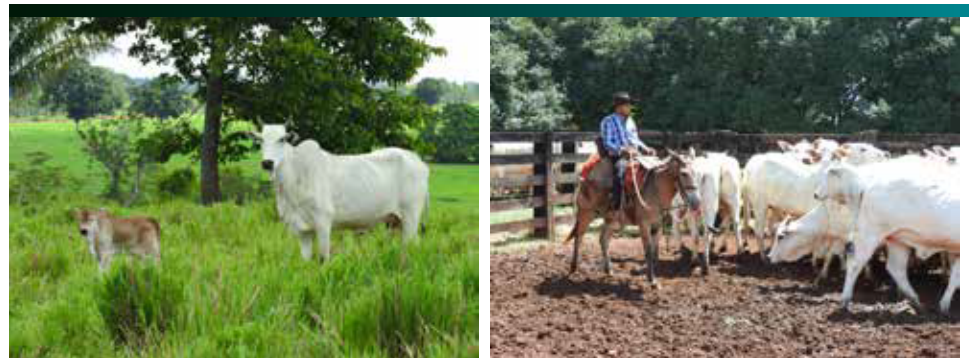| Breeding | Rearing | Fattening |
|---|---|---|

## Optimized for Meatpackers

Visipec was developed specifically for meatpacking companies (and monitoring companies) in Brazil to help strengthen supply chain management systems and improve the decision-making process for cattle purchases. It is currently freely available to the meatpacking industry in Brazil, and is intended to work as an add-on to complement the meatpacker's existing supply chain monitoring systems for direct suppliers, by providing enhanced visibility to the complex network of indirect suppliers. It is not intended to replace the existing systems.

Visipec can also provide aggregate information and summary reports for retailers, supermarkets, banks, investors, and financial intuitions.

## Development Status and Capabilities

Visipec currently covers the most important cattle ranching states in the Brazilian Amazon biome (Mato Grosso, Pará, and Rondônia). Coverage for other key regions in Brazil, such as the Cerrado biome, is still under development, but Visipec is currently available for the Cerrado-portion of the state of Mato Grosso.

Visipec is currently best-suited for tracking cattle between direct supplying ranches and the first tier of indirect supplying ranches. This aligns with the industry's commitment to adopt a step-wise and continuous improvement approach to the monitoring and traceability of indirect suppliers.

## Developers

Visipec is a joint effort of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and AVP, based on a methodology developed by scientists and researchers in the Gibbs Land Use and Environment Lab (GLUE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW). The development of Visipec was informed by the multi-stakeholder Indirect Supplier Working Group (GTFI) in Brazil and was further refined in close coordination with industry stakeholders with support from Amigos da Terra- Amazonia Brasileira (AdT).

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## Key Contacts
For more information, please contact:
Katiuscia Moreira (Katiuscia.Moreira@nwf.org)
Francisco Beduschi (BeduschiF@nwf.org)

**ViSipec**
VISUALIZING CATTLE
SUPPLY CHAINS IN BRAZIL