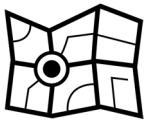


Version 1.0 | August 2017

Bolivia Risk Mitigation Guide

Soy



This tool has been developed by NEPCon under the project “Responsible Sourcing of Soy, Palm Oil and Cattle” with support from DANIDA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.



COUNTRY SPECIFIC
TOOLS



NEPCon has adopted an “open source” policy to share what we develop to advance sustainability. This work is published under the Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike 3.0 license. Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy of this document, to deal in the document without restriction, including without limitation the rights to use, copy, modify, merge, publish, and/or distribute copies of the document, subject to the following conditions: The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in all copies or substantial portions of the document. We would appreciate receiving a copy of any modified version.

DANIDA, the Embassy of Denmark has supported the development of this material, however DANIDA is not responsible for any views or claims presented in this material.

Bolivia Soy Risk Mitigation Guide

NEPCon has evaluated the risk in Bolivian soy supply chains across five categories:



Business Issues



Social Issues



Environmental Issues



Conversion



GMOs

The key CSR risks identified in this report concern business issues, social issues, environmental issues, conversion and GMOs. This Soy Risk Mitigation Guide provides advice on how to mitigate the risks identified.

Soy source types and risks

There are three soy source types found in Bolivia. Knowing the “source type” that soy originates from is useful because different source types can be subject to different applicable legislation and have attributes that affect the risks.

Small producers

Soy from small mono-crop farms of up to 50 hectares which are owned and managed by families, mainly for subsistence. In Santa Cruz, 84% of the farms are small and they occupy approximately 24% of the crop area.

Medium producers	Soy from medium-sized commercial mono-crop farms of 50 to 500 hectares. In Santa Cruz, 13% of the farms are medium-sized and they occupy 21% of the crop area. The farms are mechanized and are linked to the supply chain via local traders or mills. Approximately two-thirds of farms are under foreign ownership.
Large producers	Soy from large company-owned commercial industrial plantations of over 500 hectares. In Santa Cruz, large producers make up only 3% of producers but occupy 56% of the area. Approximately two-thirds of farms are under foreign ownership.

We have analysed the risks for all source types and found the risks differ between the different source types.

Map your supply chains

To effectively evaluate and mitigate risks in your supply chain, it is necessary for you to know where the source originates. This will allow you to determine your source type and mitigate the risks associated with that source type. As risks have been identified with all source types, supply chain mapping is necessary to further evaluate, specify and mitigate the risks.



The **Supply Chain Mapping Tool (DD-07)** can be used to record supply chain information at a detailed level.



The **Supplier Management Form (DD-04)** can be used to maintain a complete supply chain overview.



Business Issues

The following four risks have been identified related to business issues in Bolivia:

1. Risk of illegal land tenure in the Santa Cruz production expansion zone. The land titling process in Santa Cruz is almost complete but nevertheless there are outstanding land tenure conflicts related to indigenous communities.
2. Risk that large and medium-sized soy farms breach the main management regulatory requirements such as the Property Zoning Plan. It is difficult to determine whether soy farms meet registration and management rights requirements due to a lack of public information.
3. Risk of misrepresentation of company size / unlawful diversion of land into separate estates to come under RAU applicability, as a way to minimise or evade taxes. There is a high degree of informality regarding the payment of taxes in Bolivia, particularly with large producers that do not fall under the Unified Farming Regime (Régimen Agrario Unificado, RAU).
4. Risk of misrepresentation of company size / unlawful diversion of land into separate estates to come under RAU applicability, as a way to of company size to avoid information disclosure requirements. There are reports of corruption by large producers trying to appear as medium producers in their financial statements to access tax benefits given to small and medium producers under the RAU tax regime.

Risk	Mitigation recommendations
<p>Illegal land tenure in the Santa Cruz production expansion zone.</p> <p><i>Note: the risk is not elevated for the integrated zone.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Check Farm registration in the Rural Cadastral Management System of the INRA <i>Verifiers:</i> INRA Report - Catastro del Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria http://www.inra.gob.bo/InraPb/paginaController?cmd=contenido&id=66682. Check that the Farm has all the legally required documents or records. <i>Verifiers:</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Property of Title (Titulo Ejecutorial) ○ Cadastral Certificate ○ Record of Transfer (Transfer Registration) <p>3. Apply for a map with the traditional communities TIOCs close to the soy farm, to help identify potential conflicts over land use – especially for medium and large enterprises.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ INRA ○ Amnesty International: http://www.territorioindigena.com.ar/Pueblos-Originarios <p>4. Check land rent and leasing form, what kind of contract is used.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long term rental contract ○ Record of rent payments
<p>Large and medium-sized soy farms breach the main management regulatory requirements such as the Property Zoning Plan.</p>	<p>1. Demonstrate that the soy farm is legally established and is accurately registered in the National Taxation Service.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identity Card (current) ○ Taxpayer Identification Number (NIT, Spanish acronym) ○ Property title or equivalent document; (property card or establishment file) pertaining to the farm property or properties; if a property document is lacking, include a certificate of the association affiliation (for example, anapo, fegasacruz, etc.) <p>2. Demonstrate that the soy farm has all the documents required to obtain authorization for the management of the land, and verify on-site that it is complying with these documents and has not</p>

	<p>performed any illegal deforestation (demonstrate compliance with Law 1700 (Forestry) and its regulation D.S. N° 24453).</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Authorized Plan for Land Use Change ○ Property Zoning Plan ○ Official maps from ATB
<p>Misrepresentation of company size / unlawful diversion of land into separate estates to come under RAU applicability, as a way to minimise or evade taxes (VAT and income taxes).</p> <p><i>Note: the risk is not elevated for companies legitimately registered under the RAU scheme, note that 78 per cent of small producers; 20 per cent of medium sized producers and 2 per cent of large producers come under the scheme.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure correct registration of the farmer/producer/company in the National Taxation Service. <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Photocopy of NIT registration certificate ○ Certificate of registration under RAU to verify whether they are exempt from VAT and and IT ○ Property title, property card, endowment or land grant or consolidation file or equivalent document 2. Check last year's balance sheet of the farmer / producer / company <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual company report ○ Purchase / Sales Journal (Libro de Compras y Ventas (LCV)) ○ Invoices 3. Demonstrate that the monthly VAT and IT payments have been made. The rates paid must correspond with the production volumes and prices that are show by the sales documents (invoices and receipts) <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forms 200 or 210 ○ Sales documents shall include applicable VAT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 400 (IT Tax) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consult the National Taxation Service and verify the supplier is abiding by the relevant corporate income tax requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIT (Número de Identificación Tributaria) Registration number National Taxation Service (Impuestos Nacionales) Report Form 701 for RAU taxes payment - Submission of sworn statements Verify that Corporate Income Tax (IUE) payments have been made through seeking the following relevant forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 500 for companies required to keep accounting records or Form 520 for companies not required to keep accounting records. Form 605 to submit financial statements or annual reports. Consultation with stakeholders and neighbours about the ethical behaviour of the farmers, producers, companies.
<p>Misrepresentation of company size to avoid information disclosure requirements.</p> <p><i>Note: the risk is not elevated for companies legitimately registered under the RAU scheme, note that 78 per cent of small producers; 20 per cent of medium sized producers and 2 per</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Verification of Certificate of registration under RAU with the National Taxation Service. <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photocopy of NIT registration certificate Certificate of registration under RAU to verify whether they are exempt from VAT and and IT Property title, property card, endowment or land grant or consolidation file or equivalent document Operating License Check last year's balance sheet of the company <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual company report

cent of large producers come under the scheme.

- Purchase/Sales Journal (Libro de Compras y Ventas (LCV))
- Invoices
- 3. Verify that the corporation, companies are officially registered in the official Chamber of Commerce Registry of Bolivia (Registro de Comercio de Bolivia (SENAREC)).
Verifiers:
 - Certificate of current registration
 - Operating License
- 4. Consult the National Taxation Service about their compliance with their tax requirement.
Verifiers:
 - NIT (Número de Identificación Tributaria) Registration number
 - Tax Exemption Certificate
 - National Taxation Service (Impuestos Nacionales) Report
 - Sworn declarations submitted according to [form 701](#) for taxes payment under RAU.
- 5. Review publications to verify whether the soy farm corporations have met the requirement to publish their annual reports and balance statements.
Verifiers:
 - Required public reports (Reports and balance statements)
 - Fundempresa Registration <http://www.fundempresa.org.bo/inicio/>



Social Issues

The following four risks have been identified related to social issues in Bolivia:

1. Risk that soy farms use informal labour. It is estimated that 60 to 70% of people work in the informal sector and the estimates are even higher for youth employment.
2. Risk that health and safety regulations are not being met. In general, the mandatory occupational health, hygiene and safety plans are not submitted to the relevant authorities and the required audits are not conducted. It is difficult to determine whether soy farms meet health and safety requirements due to a lack of public information on plans and audit results.
3. Risk of non-compliance with the ILO conventions, including the use of child labour, forced labour, job discrimination and lack of compliance with the rights of women and indigenous peoples. A large proportion of workers on soy farms are not paid enough to meet their basic needs.
4. Risk that the rights of indigenous and traditional peoples' are not upheld due to ongoing land tenure conflicts particularly in the Santa Cruz expansion zone. The conflict is generally linked to the unfinished processes of awarding of land titles and/or difficulties defining property rights for farmland. This in turn is also connected to conflicts around use rights, easements, and hunting and gathering of food.

Risk	Mitigation recommendations
Soy farms use informal labour.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verify whether the employer is the owner of the land, lessor of the land or service companies * <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ROE Registration ○ Updating of the ROE ○ Employer's NIT <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Request from the employer their payroll or a list of all workers registered in the ROE to verify that they are all registered. <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compare with the ROE registry ○ Identification Card (CI) of employees <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Interview the employees and ask what kind of activity they perform, how much the employer pays for the activity, how the payment is made (daily/hourly, monthly, piecework/production), the length of the work day, how many days of work per week. 4. Consult with neighbors and interested parties and the Employment Office (the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Welfare (<i>Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Previsión Social</i>) and/or Santa Cruz Labor Department (<i>Oficina Departamental De Trabajo</i>) about the labor situation involving the employer/producer. <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employment Office feedback ○ Check to see if there are any outstanding lawsuits against the employer regarding labour issues. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Check the payslip to verify that the base for the category corresponds to at least the minimum established by law. <p><i>Verifiers:</i> A sample of payslips to be cross checked and confirmed they are in accordance with law DS 2748</p>
<p>Health and safety regulations are not being met.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verification of RAU registration certificate, if registered, the H&S requirements do not apply. 2. Verify that the employer and workers are officially registered (important due to the high informality in the workplace) to ensure the enforcement of H&S legislation. <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification Card (CI) ○ Mandatory Employers Registry (ROE) ○ Updated ROE registration

	<p>3. Verify that the Occupational health and safety plan was conducted.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Santa Cruz office of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Wellbeing (Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Previsión Social) ○ H&S (combined occupational hygiene, safety and wellbeing) committees ○ Occupational health, hygiene and safety plan ○ First Aid Manual <p>4. Interview employees and consult with them about occupational health and safety, delivery of informative material, training, etc.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ List of personal safety equipment delivered ○ List of events and training <p>5. Review the pre-occupational medical exams and enrolment in the Mandatory Social Security system.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical exams ○ Registration in the Mandatory Social Security system (National Occupational Health Institute (Instituto Nacional de Salud Ocupacional (INSO))) <p>6. Verify record of accidents.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i> Accident records</p>
Risk of non-compliance with the ILO conventions.	<p>1. Demonstrate that all workers meet the minimum age established (verify the age of employees)</p> <p>2. Demonstrate the existence of work contracts and the registration of workers in the ROE.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p>

- DNI
 - Mandatory Employer Registry (Registro Obligatorio de Empleadores (ROE, Spanish acronym)
 - Updating of the ROE registry
 - Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Welfare (Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Previsión Social) (Santa Cruz office)
3. Verify that no forced labor exists at the establishment, that is, that all employees receive the legal minimum wage and verify housing and food conditions
- Verifiers:*
- Housing conditions
 - Quality of food
 - Interviews with employees
 - Payslip
4. Verify that right of assembly and associations enforced
- Verifiers:* Interviews with staff and relevant trade union to ensure that no conflicts, limitations or restrictions have been found.
5. Verify that there is no discrimination with gender equality or indigenous peoples
- Verifiers:*
- Written policies of the company, hiring contract procedures
 - The code of conduct of the organization
 - Disaggregated data, including by sex and age, which supports no discrimination procedures implementation. This records can include: work positions, training events between others.
 - Job descriptions and recruitment initiatives that encourage women/indigenous people to apply, including to managerial positions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of regular wages and other benefit reviews Interviews with female employees, indigenous workers and another stakeholder. <p>6. Consult records of complaints against the employer</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i> Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Welfare (Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Previsión Social) (Santa Cruz office)</p>
Risk that the rights of indigenous and traditional peoples' are not upheld.	<p><i>In addition to implementing the recommendations associated with land tenure, we recommend:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request a map of the location of indigenous peoples and neighbouring local communities and consult interested parties about the existence and location of the indigenous peoples and communities and local villages. <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a map (if available a GIS map) identifying the location and borders of indigenous peoples' territories and/or traditional local communities. Interview of interested parties: Land Foundation, Indigenous Territory Initiative and Governance Interviews with indigenous communities and local populations and neighbours <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ask if there is a survey of sites and resources that are key to the satisfaction of local communities and indigenous peoples. Verify Property Zoning. <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report and map of the location of sites and resources that are key to the satisfaction of local communities and indigenous peoples. GIS map with borders of the settlements and the location of all areas that have a high conservation value. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Verify whether a conflict management mechanism has been established.

Verifiers: Copies of negotiated agreements detailing the process of free, prior and informed consent are available.

4. Evidence of a mutually agreed upon and documented system for dealing with complaints and grievances and that it is accessible and agreed upon by all affected parties.



Environmental Issues

The following two risks have been identified related to the soy production in Bolivia:

1. Risk of environmental damage to water, soils etc. due to the lack of governance around agrochemicals. Agrochemicals that are prohibited or restricted at the national and international levels are commonly used by soy farms.
2. Risk of degradation of protected areas through illegal conversion. In some cases, there is uncontrolled expansion of soy production in protected areas and/or on indigenous traditional territories
3. Risk that high conservation values (HCVs) are being threatened by soy farming.

Risk	Mitigation recommendations
Risk of environmental damage due to the lack of governance around agrochemicals.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Verify that implementation of the environmental impact management complies with current legislation. <i>Verifiers:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Environmental Impact Study (According to Law 13000 and its Regulations)○ Property Zoning plan (Plan de Ordenamiento Predial)○ Mitigation Plan○ Licenses permit for Chemical use issued by National Registry of Agricultural Inputs (if applicable)

	<p>2. Verify that native forests are treated according to Law 1333, Law 1700 and its regulation DS 24453 on conservation, management and conversion of forests.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property title or equivalent document; (property card or establishment file) pertaining to the farm property or properties; if a property document is lacking, include a certificate of the association affiliation (for example, Anapo, Fegasacruz, etc.) Property Zoning Plan (Plan de Ordenamiento Predial) Official ATB maps Authorized Plan for Land Use Changes (ATB) <p>3. Verify that chemicals are handled and controlled in accordance with current legislation.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conditions of agrochemical disposal grounds and safe application techniques are verified in the field Verify how agrochemicals are applied and how they are stored. A valid license permit for Chemical use issued by National Registry of Agricultural Inputs. <p>4. Verify that the fire protection plan complies with current legislation.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i> Approved of burning permit (Government Resolution 131/97 and Law 741) (13).</p>
<p>Risk of degradation of protected areas through illegal conversion.</p>	<p>1. Verify documents related to conversion of native forests for the entire area of the establishment.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i> Submission of Property Zoning Plan</p> <p>2. Verify and monitor the location of protected areas and those officially declared as having a high conservation value in terms of the location of the farm.</p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS map of field boundaries. Santa Cruz Land Zoning Map

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maps of national and provincial protected areas
<p>Risk that high conservation values (HCVs) are being threatened by soy farming.</p> <p><i>Note: the risks identified for HCV 2 - Landscape-level ecosystems & mosaics and HCV 6 - Community needs are considered low for the integrated zone, and elevated for the expansion zone. All other HCVs were determined to be elevated for both the integrated and expansion zones.</i></p>	<p>HCV 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verify the location of the establishment in relation to protected areas, forest remnants and established ecological corridors and recent deforestation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Verifiers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Property Zoning Maps ○ Map of the borders in the zone, including buffer zones 2. Local study to identify the existence of HCV1 on lands occupied by the estate (Finca) as well as adjacent land (must be performed by experts and stakeholders must be consulted). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Verifiers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field survey of the biodiversity of threatened fauna and flora ○ List of species by threatened category, identifying rare and endemic species and those in danger of extinction and threatened, according to the national IUCN list and CITES provincial lists found at the productive establishment. ○ Superimposition of GIS maps on the establishment's boundaries and the location of possible HVC 1 identified in the zone ○ State Territory Zoning Plan (PDOT, Spanish acronym) 3. If the existence of HCV is verified, demonstrate that an action and management plan for HCV 1 is established, with a list of identified risks and current mitigation measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Verifiers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conservation and management plan for rare, threatened, and endangered species that includes actions to protect and improve their habitats.

- Listing of activities that are restricted on the productive establishment (hunting, fishing, use of fire, disposing of garbage, etc.)
- Evidence of measures employed to manage and control of exotic invasive species
- Field verification. Consultation with workers about their knowledge/work practices
- Good practices management manual for soy crops related to the farm establishment.
- Restoration and/or monitoring plan for areas with HCV 1

HCV 2 (expansion zone only):

1. Verify the location of the estate (Finca) in relation to the areas identified as HCV2 (Map 1) as well as the interconnecting corridors (Map 2) and illegal deforestation.

Verifiers:

- GIS map on a recent satellite image with boundaries of the establishment and the location of HCV2 and its connectivity with other areas
- GIS map with boundaries of the establishment and the location of all the areas with attributes that represent high conservation value
- GIS cartography of the Territorial Zoning Plan of the State of Santa Cruz
- Field survey of HCV2 and the interconnecting corridors identified at the national (including Chaco) and international levels.
- Superimposition of GIS maps with the boundaries of the establishment

2. Local study to identify threats such as clearing, burning for HCV2 and interconnecting corridors, both on the land occupied by the estate (Finca) as well as adjacent land (must be done by experts and stakeholders consulted).

Verifiers:

- Law 741 is enforced
- Burning authorizations exist

3. If the presence of Interconnected Corridors is verified among the large HCV blocks identified in Santa Cruz, and the estate (Finca) borders the HCV2 area, demonstrate that an action and management plan for HCV2 has been established, listing identified risks and current mitigation measures.

Verifiers:

- The establishment's conservation and management plan for HCV2 (if present) and for the biological corridors that connect HCV2 areas
- Action and management plan for corridors that connect large HCV2 blocks, with list of identified risks and mitigation measures
- Plan and procedure for restoring degraded areas.

HCV 3:

1. Verify the location of the estate (finca) in relation to the protected areas, established interconnecting corridors, illegal deforestation and the HCV3 identified at the local and regional levels.

Verifiers:

- GIS map on a recent satellite image with boundaries of the establishment and the location of HCV3 (Map 12) and its connectivity with other areas that have high conservation value.
- GIS cartography of the Territorial Zoning Plan of the State of Santa Cruz

2. Local study to identify the existence of HCV3 on the land occupied by the estate (finca) as well as on adjacent land (must be performed by experts and stakeholders must be consulted).

Verifiers:

- Field survey of the HCV3 identified at the local and regional levels.
- Information from expert organizations at the regional and national levels. (Greenpeace, WWF, ABT, among others)

3. If the existence of HCV3 is verified, demonstrate that an action and management plan for HCV3 exists, with a list of identified risks and existing mitigation measures.

Verifiers:

- Action plan with a list of identified risks and mitigation measures for HCV3 at the property level
- The establishment's conservation and management plan for HCV3 (if present) and for the biological corridors that connect HCV3 areas
- Plan and procedure to restore degraded areas
- Authorized restrictions and control measures for burns and for the prevention of forest fires
- Plan for the control of the use of agrochemicals near HCV3 areas.

HCV 4:

1. Verify the existence of a Property Zoning Plan (legally required according to Forestry Law 1700) and verify the location of the estate (finca) in relation to the basins, hydric systems and/or areas with climate functions.

Verifiers:

- Property Zoning Plan Study
 - GIS map with boundaries of the establishment and location of water resources, natural gradients, potable water intakes, erosion sites and vulnerable slopes, zones identified as high risk for fires, water catchment basins, wetlands and basins (in relation to HCV4) and the location of all the areas that have attributes with high conservation value.
2. Verify the legality of the establishment and existence of illegal activities, according to Laws 1700 and 1333.

Verifiers: Property Zoning Plan (legally required in accordance with Forestry Law 1700) and the enforcement of DS 24453 (Regulation pertaining to Law 1700), specifically Art. 6, 25 and Chapter III PROTECTED LAND (A TIERRAS DE PROTECCION) Art. 30 (the existence of a Zoning Plan when forests and native vegetation (defined as such) exist).

3. Request the environmental monitoring plan for the variables identified as high impact.

4. Verify the action and mitigation plan.
5. Request the results from the field survey of areas within the estate (finca) that provide ecosystem functions in critical situations, with emphasis on water, soil and erosion.

Verifiers:

- Report from the field survey of the areas within the establishment that provide ecosystem functions
- Soil and erosion study
- Land management activities on the estate (finca)

6. Verify the existence of a conservation and management plan for the maintenance and improvement of ecosystem functions.

Verifiers:

- Action and management plan for HCV4 with list of identified risks and mitigation measures that have been established
- Good farming practices plan

HCV 5 (Expansion zone only):

1. Request a map of the location of the indigenous peoples and local neighboring communities in relation to the soy producing estates (fincas), taking into account the importance of the area of influence of the communities in relation to the HCV5.

Verifiers:

- GIS map of the boundaries of the estate (finca) and the location of indigenous peoples, their territories and local communities and the location of all conservation areas, roads, facilities, buffer zones, biological corridors, among others)
- Property Zoning Plan (POP, Spanish acronym)
- Detailed report of the existing legislation and its enforcement on the estate (finca).

2. Evaluate the existence of HCV5 using a site survey, and resources that are key to meeting the needs of local /communities and indigenous peoples (survey of HCV5 by experts).

Verifiers:

- Interviews with third parties: WWF, Fundación Tierra (Land Foundation), amongst others
- Interviews with the local population and neighbors
- Interviews with indigenous communities

3. Verify the existence of a conservation and management plan for HCV5.

HCV 6:

1. Ask if a field survey of sites exists, with cultural values and the location of indigenous peoples and local neighboring communities, the productive establishment's survey of HCV6.

Verifiers:

- GIS maps with the boundaries of the establishment and the location of indigenous peoples, their territories and local communities.
- Report and map of the location of sites with resources containing cultural values, habitats and landscapes with cultural, archaeological or historical importance (internationally or nationally) and/or cultural, ecological, economic or religious importance/sacredness for traditional cultures in local communities and indigenous peoples.
- Survey of HCV6 sites: a) aesthetic values; b) historical values; c) scientific values; d) social (including economic values); e) spiritual values.
- GIS map with boundaries of the estate (finca) and the location of cultural sites.

2. Consult stakeholders about the existence and location of HCV 6.

Verifiers:

- Interviews with stakeholders; WWF, Fundación Tierra (Land Foundation), amongst others.
- Interviews with local population and neighbors.

- Interview with members of indigenous communities.
 - Interviews with local authorities.
3. Ask about the risks that have been identified and mitigation measures that have been taken to prevent any risk and ensure the maintenance of sites containing resources that represent cultural values, habitats and landscapes with cultural, archaeological or historical importance (internationally or nationally) and/or cultural, ecological, economic or religious importance/sacredness for traditional cultures in local communities and indigenous peoples.
- Verifiers:*
- Action and management plan for HCV6 with listing of risks that have been identified and mitigation measures.
 - Plan to restore HCV6 areas



Conversion

The following two risks have been identified related to conversion in Bolivia:

1. Risk of deforestation, both legal and illegal, primarily with the production of soy in the northern (Integrated Zone) and eastern (Expansion Zone) regions of the state of Santa Cruz. Under the relevant regulations, a certain amount of deforestation is permitted for the sustainable development of land.
2. Risk of illegal fires being used to clear and prepare land for soy production. Controlled burns requiring authorization from the Authority for Auditing and Socialization of Forests and Lands (ABT), but 2016 data show that only 13% of fires were authorized. Illegal burning activities often become uncontrolled fires, especially during dry years.

Risk	Mitigation recommendations
------	----------------------------

Deforestation, both legal and illegal, primarily with the production of soy in the northern (Integrated Zone) and eastern (Expansion Zone) regions of the state of Santa Cruz.

1. Verify whether there were conversions of native forests before or after November 2005 and whether they were performed legally. (Verify compliance with Law 1700 (Forest), its regulation DS 24453 and Law 741 (clearing of up to 20 ha).

Verifiers:

- Official ATB data and maps
- Authorized Plan for Land Use Changes (ATB) before 2005
- Property Zoning Plan

2. Consult with stakeholders to verify that no clearing has occurred in the zone where the soy farm is located.

Verifiers:

- Global Forest Watch
- Friends of Nature Foundation (Fundación amigos de la naturaleza)
https://issuu.com/fundacionamigosdelanaturaleza/docs/sintesis_ambiental__bosque_ley_337
- WWF Bolivia: http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/bolivia/

Illegal fires being used to clear and prepare land for soy production.

1. Verify whether controlled burning takes place within the soy farm. If fire burning activities are used, then demonstrate that legal authorization has been obtained before conducting the burn.

Verifiers:

- Check for where active fires are taking place via the ABT Hotspot Monitoring (Monitoreo de focos de calor):
http://www.abt.gob.bo/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=123&Itemid=407&lang=es
- Interview local workers and stakeholders about fires in the zone and burns conducted on the establishment.

- Verify with the authorities responsible for monitoring the use of fire (ABT, JFNyC, municipal government) as to whether complaints or fines have been imposed on the soy farm for illegal burns, as well as whether there is an uncontrolled fire registry of fires produced by burns on the farm.
 - Check the Harvesting and Land Use Change Plan (Plan de Aprovechamiento de Cambio de Uso del Suelo) (Authorization, Property Zoning Plan (Plan de Ordenamiento Predial))
 - Authorization for the use of fire, issued by the competent administrative entity (ABT)
 - 2. If fire burn activities are conducted, evidence shall be presented that good management practices are used to control and prevent fires. Verify in the field that they are applied every time fire is used.
- Verifiers:*
- Existence of a manual for the use of fire and prevention measures
 - Interviews with local workers and stakeholders about fires in the zone and burns conducted on the establishment.



GMOs

The following risk has been identified related to GMOs in Bolivia:

1. Risk of legal and illegal GMO soy production. GMO soy is difficult to identify or separate from non-GMO soy unless tested in laboratories or certified as being organic. Ninety-eight percent of the soy produced in eastern Bolivia, which includes the state of Santa Cruz, is transgenic and 2% is organic. The use glyphosate-resistant genetically modified soy (RR soy) requires a certificate from the relevant authorities, but it is estimated that approximately one third of the soy seeds used in Bolivia are illegal. This is linked to a lack of resources to sufficiently control the use of GM seeds.

Risk	Mitigation recommendations
------	----------------------------

GMOs are used for soy production

1. Consult the producer about the type of seed used, verify its origin and certificates
2. Verify that the seed used is officially authorized in Bolivia and is not a GM seed (Consult INIAF registry)
3. Verify with the INIAF registry that the producer is registered and is a GMO producer:
<http://www.iniaf.gob.bo/>
4. Consult the Seeds Council (Comité de semillas (COSEM)) about delivery of certificates:
<http://www.santacruz.gob.bo/sczproductiva/cultivo/4422/400100#ancla>

About

Responsible Sourcing of Soy, Cattle and Palm Oil

Responsible Sourcing of Soy, Cattle and Palm Oil is a project aimed at creating awareness and capacity among Danish companies to minimise risks of social and environmental problems connected to sourcing palm oil, soy and cattle from developing countries. The project is run by NEPCon and SEGES and funded by DANIDA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.



NEPCon (Nature Economy and People Connected) is an international, non-profit organisation that builds commitment and capacity for mainstreaming sustainability. Together with our partners, we foster solutions for safeguarding our natural resources and protecting our climate.

NEPCon | info@nepcon.org | www.nepcon.org