Developing indicators within Trase

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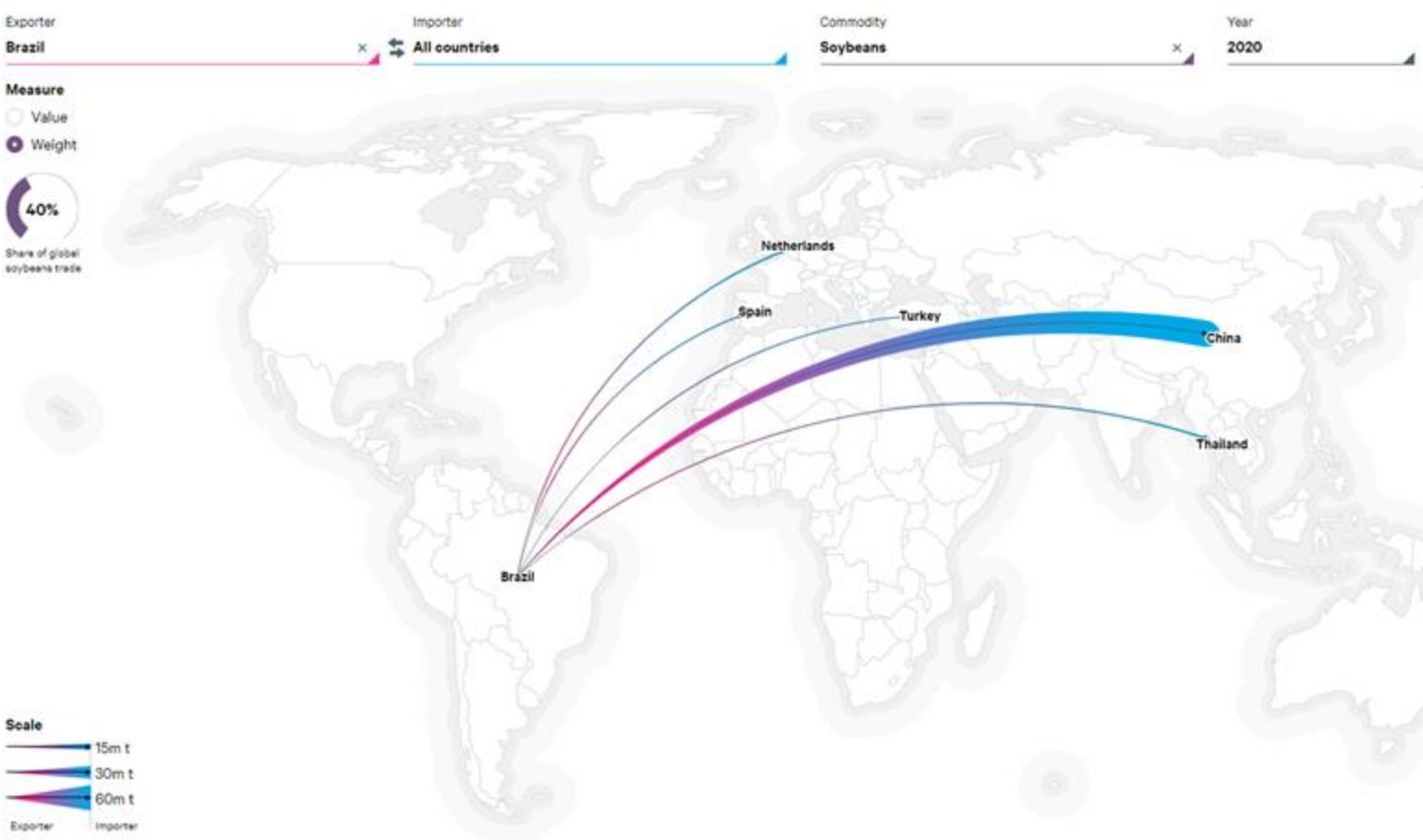
trase

What is Trase?

A data-driven transparency initiative that maps the international trade of agricultural commodities that drive tropical deforestation.

- **Trase Supply Chains**
- **Trase Insights**



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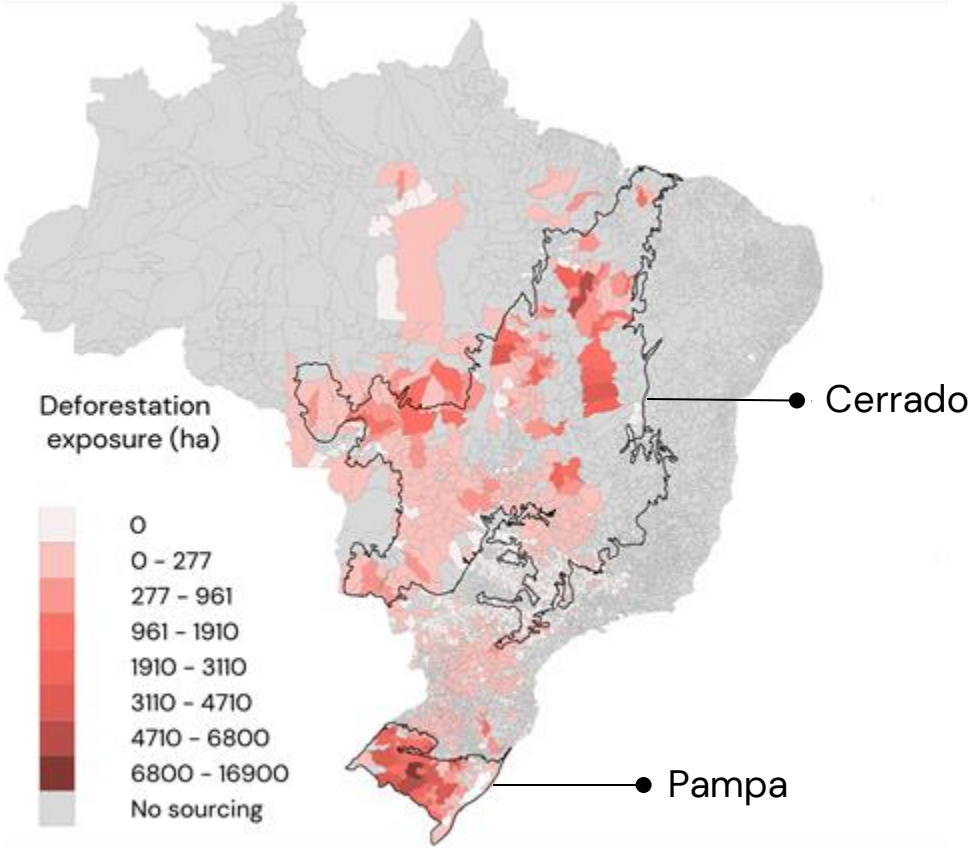
Trase maps the middle part of the supply chain

Connects consumer markets and trading companies to sourcing regions and associated deforestation impacts in these regions

Municipalities of production | Slaughterhouses | Port | Exporter | Importer | Port in country of import

China's soy imports from Brazil (2020)



237,000 ha total

Half of China's deforestation exposure comes from just 30 municipalities, or 7% of soy

Five companies are exposed to 57% of soy deforestation

Indicators within Trase

Varies by context but includes e.g.:

- Trade volumes (tonnes) and value (USD) of commodity.
- Area of production.
- Deforested area.
- Gross and net emissions.
- Qualitative flags (e.g. zero-deforestation commitment coverage, Forest500 score)

Other indicators under development:

- Biodiversity (LIFE Score, others?)
- Water
- Social impacts e.g. human rights.

Selection of indicators

- Trase is primarily focused on deforestation-linked commodities, therefore selection of indicators (deforested land, and emissions) explicitly linked to that agenda.
- Central to Trase's data provision/metrics is the idea that where production takes place *really matters*. Metrics need to be responsive/specific to changes across production landscapes e.g.:
    - Suitable for tracking annual changes;
    - Specific to particular cropping systems.
- Biodiversity (beyond deforestation) and social indicators are 'secondary' to our main climate/deforestation concerns (still very important, but trickier to measure!).

Accessing data

- Two key components of our data: a) environmental metrics, b) supply chain data.
- Both have historically been ‘poor’ quality (but improving).
- Deforestation data:
  - Sourced from local/regional datasets (for alignment with local jurisdictions and also typically ‘better’ quality e.g. MapBiomas).
  - We work closely with the international community to integrate/improve data.
- Supply chain data:
  - Transparency is poor overall - limits Trase’s breadth.
  - Information sourced from customs records, bills of lading, tax records, sanitary records, industry disclosure.
  - Often obtained via brokers.

Key challenges

- **Data availability:**
  - Crop-specific land use data is typically poor (with some exceptions).
  - Supply chain data limiting.
  - Generating new results is data intensive (but improving e.g. via GEE).
- **Alignment:**
  - Deforestation definitions vary (we tend to include ‘other wooded land’).
  - Alignment of deforestation data with e.g. FAO FRC is challenging.
  - Different remote sensing products exist.
  - Emissions data requires assumptions about amortization etc.
- **Communication:**
  - Providing the ‘right’ product for biodiversity is a challenge (but important!)
  - Complexity of metric development means that results vary from other platforms due e.g. to source data, definitions, treatment of lags etc.