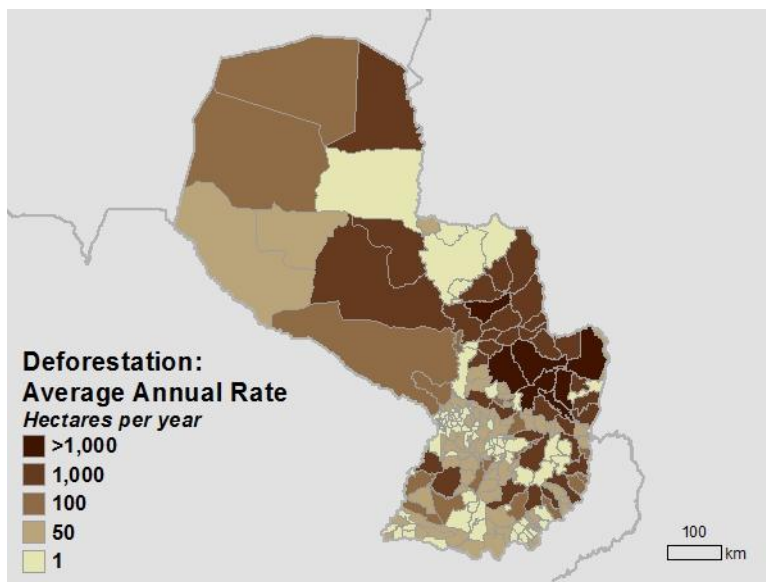


# Paraguay



National deforestation estimates in percent per year and agricultural statistics are from FAO (2010). Mapped sub-national estimates of the Deforestation Indicator in hectares are indicative only, given the resolution of the data source, and are from CI (2011), derived from the MODIS percent tree-cover change product for 2000 to 2005 (Hansen, et al 2009).

## Deforestation<sup>1</sup>

Forest area (2010): **44%**  
 Primary forest area (2010): **44%**  
 1990-2000: **-0.88 %y-1**  
 2000-2005: **-0.94 %y-1**  
 2005-2010: **-0.99 %y-1**

## Agriculture<sup>2</sup>

Agriculture as % of GDP (2011): **22%**  
 Agricultural land (2009): **52.6%**  
 Top 3 commodities, by footprint (2010):  
*Soybeans: 2.7m ha*  
*Forage Products: 2.3m ha*  
*Maize: 0.8m ha*  
 Employment in agriculture (2008): **27%**

\*Rates at sub-national level are for indicative purposes only given use of relatively coarse MODIS data

Sub-national Region	Hectares per Year (indicative)
Villa San Isidro Curuguaty	2,199
Itakyry	1,918
Tacuatí	1,591
San Estanislao	1,412
General Francisco C. Alvarez	1,392

## Context

### Political Context

The government of Paraguay has been implementing forest laws and other strategies for nearly ten years with the intent of reducing deforestation. In 2004, the government of Paraguay passed a Forest Conversion Moratorium, or 'Zero Deforestation Law', making it illegal to clear any forested land in eastern Paraguay. Since then, deforestation rates in the Upper Parana Atlantic forests have fallen dramatically – by 90% against a 2002 baseline<sup>3</sup>. The Zero Deforestation Law will expire in 2013. Currently Paraguay is developing a REDD+ strategy with support of the UN REDD programme<sup>4</sup> and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank.

### Socio-economic Context

In Paraguay about 40% of the population lives in rural areas, and the economy depends mainly on agricultural and forest production. In 2008, agriculture contributed to 15%, livestock 8% and forest products about 1.7% of the national GNP respectively, combined totaling 90% of exports. Soy and meat are the most important export products, and they are mainly cultivated in in the Departments of Alto Paraná, Itapúa, Canindeyú and Caaguazú. Rice, sugar cane, tobacco, and maize are other important Paraguayan agricultural crops<sup>5</sup>.

### Deforestation Drivers

The main deforestation drivers in Paraguay are timber extraction and the clearing of land for agriculture and livestock. This has led to a steady degradation process in the remaining forested areas, regardless of the Zero Deforestation Law. Between 1973 and 2000 Paraguay lost around two thirds of the Atlantic forest<sup>6,7</sup>. Deforestation is largely associated with soybean production, and is expected to continue in the foreseeable future<sup>8</sup>. International organizations are concerned primarily with the risk of extreme forest destruction in the Paraguayan Chaco.<sup>9</sup>

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