



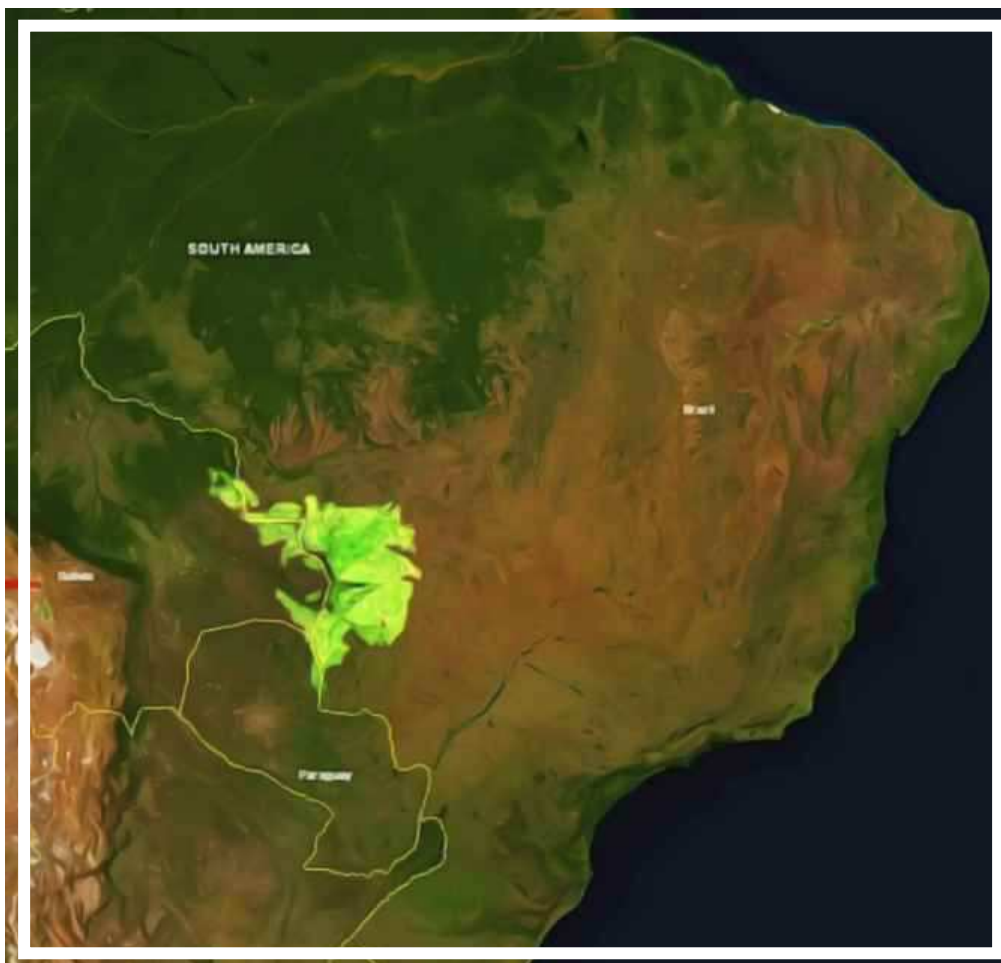
Organic Pantanal

Internal Protocol

Production Processes and
Social & Environmental Responsibility

The Brazilian Association of Organic Cattle Ranching, known by the Portuguese acronym ABPO (*Associação Brasileira de Pecuária Orgânica*), is composed of cattle ranchers engaged in Mato Grosso do Sul state wetlands conservation, in the region known as the *Pantanal*. Most of them descend from families who were historically involved with the region's development. This rural producers group is concerned with making their business ventures economically viable while maintaining the region's environmental and social balance.

PANTANAL



Protocol considerations:

Based on historical, geographical and sociological facts, the traditional Pantanal people – called “pantaneiros” – have been carrying out their cattle ranching activities in the Pantanal floodplains during the last two centuries or longer. The production processes they use are compatible with environmental conservation and respectful of local culture.

Traditional cattle ranching in the Pantanal has everything to do with sustainability.

Organic certified cattle ranching means the possibility of adding value to Pantanal meat products, hence ensuring the wetlands environmental and biodiversity conservation, as well as keeping the “Pantanal Man” culture alive. The object of the Brazilian Association of Organic Cattle Ranching is to produce differentiated quality meat while attesting social responsibility, the animals’ well being, environmental respect and food security – and meet consumers’ demands.

In order to publicize its production, social and environmental responsibility processes and give them transparency, the Brazilian Association of Organic Cattle Ranching decided to create an Internal Protocol to regulate the activities carried out by the association and its members.



PRODUCTION PROCESSES

Members of this association pledge to:

- Comply with organic quality standards created by IBD certification.
- Comply with all legislation applying to organic production and trade –Brazilian Ministry for Agriculture and Food Supply (MAPA/SISORG).
- Comply with IBD Foreign Market Norms.
- Implement cattle herd tracking through individual identification of the animals.
- Comply with the Brazilian Beef and Buffalo Production Chain Track Service (SISBOV – ERAS) norms.
- Adopt biodiversity aware production practices, acknowledging the inter-relationship between both domestic and wild animals and plants.
- Adopt best practices for cattle ranching and animal well being, according to recommendations from the Technical Department of the Brazilian Association of Organic Cattle Ranching.
- Apply no toxic agricultural products and/or chemical fertilizers in their properties.



Marcelo Rondon de Barros

- Apply no synthetic additives or growth promoters and non-protein Nitrogen sources (Urea and Starea).
- Apply no allopathic or synthetic medicine for cattle herd treatment and prevention.

- Adopt techniques to prevent verminosis and ectoparasites, following homeopathic and/or phytotherapeutic principles.
- Encourage research and development of new complementary (homeopathic and phytotherapeutic) techniques aiming at good sanitary management.
- Adopt cattle herd management techniques aiming at pasture occupation rate control, ensuring enough quantity and good quality water and food supply.
- Comply with the required vaccination applied legislation.
- Apply no hormones in the animals.
- Perform no embryo transfer.
- Have no genetically modified organism (GMO) in their properties.



Marcelo Rondon de Barros



- Design a management plan describing the productive processes adopted at the ranch, following the technical model from the Brazilian Association of Organic Cattle Ranching.
- Agree to periodical auditing visits to be made by the Association's Technical Department, in order to follow up the adoption and continuation of organic certification norms and the fulfilling of the commitments made through this Protocol.
- Provide the Association's internal auditing team and the certifier with the following updated documents:
 - Management Plan
 - Field logbook
 - Cattle herd map
 - Applied inputs and carried out operations

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

ABPO associates are aware of their responsibilities towards improving the living conditions and income of local population depending on cattle ranching activity, as well as to Pantanal natural resources and biodiversity conservation and protection. They pledge to:

- Register all employed workers and comply with the Brazilian labor legislation (CLT).
- Offer their employees decent work, income, housing and leisure conditions.
- Facilitate access of workers and their families to medical and odontological services and to primary school education.
- Provide technical training and capacity building for their employees.
- Promote and enhance Pantanal culture.
- Fundraise, through ABPO, for education and health projects focusing on social improvement.
- Comply with the Environmental Legislation and the Brazilian Forest Code when applicable to production activities.



- Provide social & environmental registration of rural properties, in order to create a data base to enable evaluation of environmental and social gains in the long run.
- Follow the recommendations by the official agriculture research agency for the Pantanal region - Embrapa Pantanal - when replacing native pastures by planted species.
- Preserve bushes and small trees, mountain ranges, old river beds, ponds and shallow water bodies.
- Clean pastures according to Resolution # 18 issued by SEMAC-MS (Mato Grosso do Sul state agency for Cities, Planning, Science & Technology) on August 5, 2008



- Support long term implementation of an organic farm ecological corridor through establishing a connection among Legal Reserves (percentage of area in private rural/forest properties which is not allowed to be clear cut and can only be sustainably used) and Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs). Study the viability of expanding some environmentally protected areas to make the connection feasible.
- Do their best to support and host Pantanal fauna and flora research projects.
- Accept periodical auditing visits from APBO's technical department, in order to verify whether the organic certification norms are being followed and also whether the social & environmental commitments made through this protocol are being fulfilled.





- Ensure freshwater resources conservation and preservation, including the protection of water sources and water courses.
- Develop no charcoal activity in their properties.
- Together with ABPO, seek alternatives to use woody materials.
- Adopt no fire management in pastures (forest fires), except if technically justified and duly licensed by competent organs.

ENGAGING, IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING

Engaging

Joining this Internal Protocol is mandatory for present and future members of the Brazilian Association of Organic Cattle Ranching. All members must sign the Letter of Agreement.

Implementing and Monitoring

Counting from the Protocol's launching and publication date, the members of the Brazilian Association of Organic Cattle Ranching will have a three-year period (maximum) to achieve what they pledged to do. The Association's Internal Auditing Program (ABPO/PAI) will be in charge of the monitoring.

The document will undergo annual review by a commission composed of ABPO directors. PAI will provide a Protocol follow up report regarding its implementation in the associates' properties.



Marcelo Rondon de Barros

The Brazilian Association of Organic Cattle Ranching is extremely grateful for the contributions made by participants in the workshops organized to create the Protocol.

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Afonso Jandre	Real H (industry)
Alessandro Fiasca Miller	Real H (industry)
Alexine Keuroghlian	WCS-Brazil
Aline Maldonado Locks	Aliança da Terra (NGO)
Antônio Malvazzo de Moura	ABPO (association)
Arani Barcelos	Acrissul (association)
Bárbara Marchi	Fazenda Sucupira (farm)
Bruno Grubertt	Real H (industry)
Cristiano de Barros Martins	Real H (industry)
Davi Bungenstab	UEMS (state university)
Eduardo Mongelli	WWF-Brazil
Eva M ^a Corrêa Medeiros	UNIPAN (private college)
Francisco Vaz	Nhandejara Farm
Gildo Carpes	Real H (industry)
Gladys M. E. Rachel	Seprotur (state office for agric. development)
Heitor Herrera	Fazenda Alegria (farm)
Horácio Loureiro Tinoco	SENAR/MS (state agency for rural education)
Ivens Teixeira Domingos	WWF-Brazil
Jair Madureira	UCDB (catholic university)

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Jorge A. C. Leite	Real H (industry)
José Carlos Thimóteo Lobreiro	ABPO (association)
José Eduardo Duenhas Monreal	Tortuga (industry)
José Feliciano L. Baptista	Real H (industry)
José Geraldo de Freitas	ABPO (association)
José Lemos Monteiro	Sind.Rural C. Grande (rural union)
José Vergilio B. Lima	WCS-Brazil
Leonardo Leite de Barros	ABPO (association)
Lucas A. L. Barros	Santa Cruz Farm
Luis Fernando R. Barros	Fazenda Sta. Janete (farm)
Luis Henrique Witzler	IBD (certification organization)
Luiz Carlos L. da Ferreira	Cia Pecuária (consultancy)
Marcelo R. Real	Real H (industry)
Marcelo Rondon de Barros	ABPO (association)
Michael Becker	WWF Brazil
Nauile de Barros Filho	ABPO (association)
Nilson de Barros	ABPO (association)
Ricardo Luiz Pires Boulhosa	Inst. Pró-Carnívoros (NGO)
Rita M ^a A. Lima Jurgieclewicz	ABPO (association)
Rubens Flavio Mello Corrêa	Seprotur (state office for agric. development)
Sandra Aparecida Santos	Embrapa Pantanal (research agency)
Sérgio Amaral Costa Filho	IBD (certification organization)
Thiago Arantes	Sodepan (association)
Vinicius Dias Ferreira	Real H (industry)
Walfrido M. Tomas	Embrapa Pantanal (research agency)

BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ORGANIC CATTLE RANCHING

Administration executives:

PRESIDENT

LEONARDO LEITE DE BARROS

VICE - PRESIDENT

NILSON DE BARROS

SECRETARY

JOSÉ CARLOS THIMOTEO LOBREIRO

TREASURER

JOSÉ GERALDO DE FREITAS

Support:



Organic Pantanal

**BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION FOR
ORGANIC CATTLE RANCHING (ABPO)**

Rua Américo Carlos da Costa - 320, Vila Carvalho
Campo Grande - MS
CEP 79080-170
Brazil

Tel: +55 (67) 3042-7427 and +55 (67) 3042-7428
www.abpopantanalorganico.com.br
pecuariaorganica@hotmail.com