VISIPEC: Visualizing cattle supply chains in Brazil to enhance traceability and strengthen environmental and social governance.
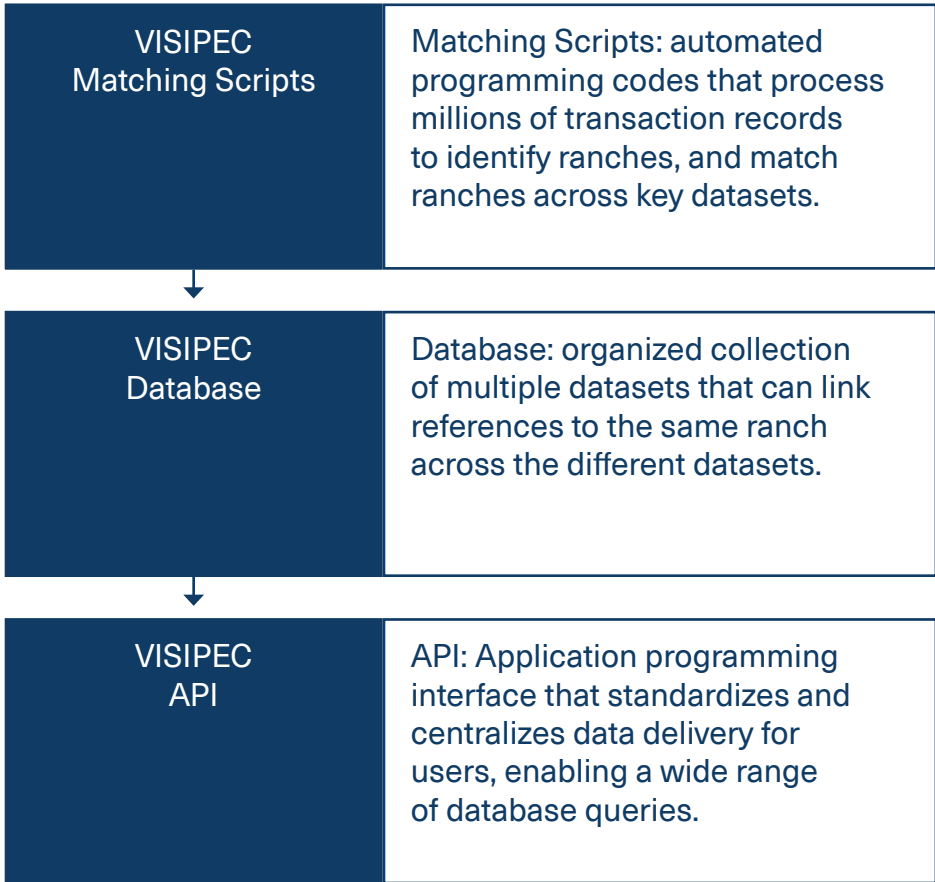
How it works

VISIPEC is a cloud-based traceability tool that provides the meatpacking industry in Brazil with enhanced visibility into their supply chains, including links between direct and indirect supplying ranches. It integrates information from public databases and serves to complement existing supply chain management systems used by meatpackers to help further strengthen environmental and social governance within the sector.

Inputs

→ Animal Transit Guide
(Federal and State GTAs)
→ Property Datasets
(CAR, Incra CCIR, Terra Legal)

→ Deforestation Maps
→ Embargoed Areas
→ Indigenous Lands
→ Protected Areas
→ Slave Labor List

VISIPEC Tool

VISIPEC Matching Scripts

Matching Scripts: automated programming codes that process millions of transaction records to identify ranches, and match ranches across key datasets.

VISIPEC Database

Database: organized collection of multiple datasets that can link references to the same ranch across the different datasets.

VISIPEC API

API: Application programming interface that standardizes and centralizes data delivery for users, enabling a wide range of database queries.

Outputs

→ Improved visibility of supply chain links with direct and indirect cattle suppliers
→ Enhance traceability
→ Better environmental and social governance
→ Ability to deliver fully deforestation-free supply chain

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Background

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 in this sector. Most major meatpackers have supply chain management and traceability systems in place to monitor their direct suppliers (fattening and full cycle ranches). These systems help meatpackers and their clients deliver on social and environmental commitments, such as deforestation and slave labor. However, the current traceability systems do not extend to indirect suppliers (cow-calf and rearing ranches), where cattle spend the majority of their lives. Therefore, a significant portion of cattle production takes place outside the coverage of current supply chain management systems. Since most deforestation currently occurs on indirect supplying ranches, this lack of oversight creates risks for meatpackers and their customers. Expanding supply chain management practices to include indirect suppliers should be one of the top priorities for the sector.

A Focus on Indirect Suppliers

VISIPEC was developed to help fill a critical gap in traceability and supply chain management of indirect cattle suppliers in Brazil. The development of the tool was informed by the Indirect Supplier Working Group (GTFI), a multi-stakeholder group of ranchers, meatpackers, retailers, government, civil society, and academics that aims to advance monitoring and traceability solutions for indirect suppliers. After multiple independent reviews of potential options, the GTFI agreed that the sector should focus efforts on the integration of two key information systems—the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) and the Animal Transit Guide (GTA)—as the most promising, cost-effective, and scalable solution for Brazil. VISIPEC is based on the integration of GTA and CAR data and is well aligned with the GTFI.

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 freely available to the meatpacking industry in Brazil, and is intended to complement the meatpacker's existing supply chain monitoring and traceability systems for direct suppliers, by providing enhanced visibility to the complex network of indirect suppliers. It is not intended to replace existing systems. VISIPEC can also provide aggregate information and summary report 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, Para, 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 GTFI position that a step-wise approach should be adopted for the monitoring and traceability of indirect suppliers by first addressing tier one indirect suppliers and then incorporating additional tiers once positive results have been achieved.

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 GTFI and was further refined in close coordination with industry stakeholders with support from Amigos da Terra- Amazonia Brasileira (AdT). The development of VISIPEC was funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Key Contacts

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