

REPORT 2023





This summary was prepared by the VISEC Secretariat, composed of professional staff from the Argentine Edible Oil Association and Exporters of Cereals (CIARA-CEC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Peterson and Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA).

During 2023, work continued on the consolidation of the platform and the development of the traceability information system, led by the Rosario Stock Exchange (BCR).

A collaboration agreement was signed with the Consortium of Argentine Meat Exporters (ABC) to integrate the entire beef value chain exporting to the European Union (EU) into VISEC scope. The Argentine Rural Society (SRA) played a central role in bringing together the different links in the chain.

Multiple activities were also carried out, as follows:

- **Developing the VISEC System**

Work was carried out on looking for agreements on traceability at each stage of production, handling, processing and export of soy (beans and by-products such as meal and oil), to ensure that traded products comply with Argentine legislation regarding protection of native forests, as well as with the requirements of the European Union or any other market.

- **Drafting a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Protocol** to provide information and guarantees of traceability of deforestation-free soybeans and byproducts, working with the entire value chain and representatives of civil society.

- **National and international positioning of the VISEC platform** in countless face-to-face and/or virtual meetings with economic, social and political actors in Argentina, as well as with economic agents and governments of the European Union, national and foreign media.
- **Negotiation to expand VISEC's frontiers in the region**, especially in Paraguay, where a working line was opened with the entire soybean chain to adopt a traceability and certification scheme equivalent to and/or compatible with the Argentine traceability system.

This year 2024 poses great challenges, with the launching of the awareness and training program for producers, handlers, cooperatives and exporters across the country, as well as the uploading of information into the digital system and the testing of shipments to Europe in order to check how the system works. To this purpose, in addition to the financial support of the LIF Program that has accompanied VISEC since 2022, as from 2024 we will have the support of the AL-INVEST Green program, financed by the European Union, for the consolidation of the platform as a soybean and beef traceability system.

Environmental protection is a shared responsibility, and we are determined to play our part proactively.

We appreciate the commitment of all players in the chain to the sustainable development of agrifood systems.

Introduction



Gran Chaco is an ecoregion extending across 108 million hectares in Argentina (62 %), Paraguay (25 %), Bolivia (12 %) and, to a lesser extent, Brazil (1 %). Including a great diversity of environments and endemic species, it is one of the largest forested regions of South America, together with the Amazon and the Brazilian Cerrado. In Argentina, the Gran Chaco or Parque Chaqueño is the largest forested area in the country, with 40 million hectares of native forests, also including important urban centers and farmers' communities belonging to native and Creole cultures.



Relevance of soybeans and beef in Argentina



- Agro-industrial products represent approximately **60% of total exports**.
- Argentina is the world's leading exporter of soybean meal and the world's fourth largest exporter of beef (FADA, 2022).
- In 2022, the European Union received **12% of Argentina's beef and leather exports and 20% of soybean meal exports** (CIARA. BCR, 2023). It is **the largest buyer of Argentina's** first export product
- Soybean meal exports represent **more than 2 billion dollars** for Argentina (MAGyP, 2022).
- Only 8% of the European Union's soybean meal consumption is supplied with Member States' production, so that exports of this product from Argentina are essential for the pork, poultry and dairy production chain in Europe (Rosario Stock Exchange, 2023).

What is VISEC?



A national sectorial platform, promoted by CIARA-CEC, The Nature Conservancy, Peterson and Tropical Forest Alliance, which brings together all members of the soy value chain to reduce negative environmental impacts.



Focusing on deforestation and other land-use changes



Strengthening governance and collective action in Argentina.



Promoting an environmentally responsible and economically viable value chain.

Beyond the Gran Chaco region, it will cover the entire national territory under agricultural production.

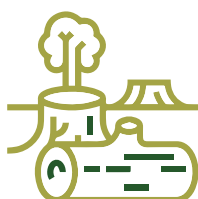
A Sectorial Initiative



+ than 34
members



Traceability from origin
to port of shipment



Deforestation-free post-2020
verification + legal compliance



Exporters, handlers, brokers and
processors, among others, operate in the
MRV system

2023 Institutional Highlights

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 4 meetings
- +20 participants per meeting

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- 3 meetings
- +30 participants per meeting

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- 3 meetings
- + 45 participants per meeting

SOCIAL MEDIA

- +200 new LinkedIn followers

PLENARY MEETING

- 1 online meeting December 2023
- 1 face-to-face meeting APRIL 12 2023:
+ 100 participants per meeting
- + of 8 Institutional events with Embassies,
Stock Exchanges, EU Delegations

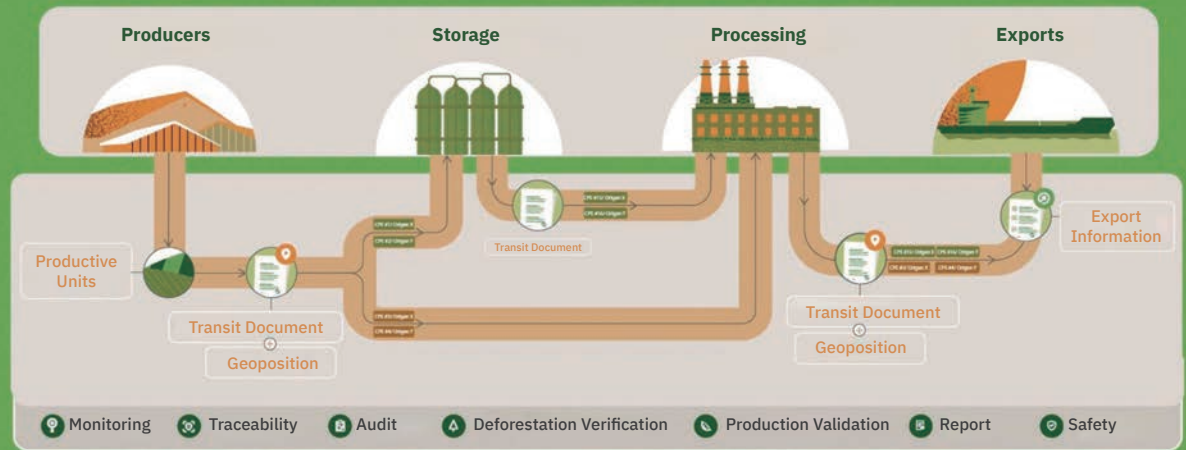
NATIONAL EVENTS

- AAPRESID Annual Congress in Rosario
- La Rural Trade Show in Buenos Aires

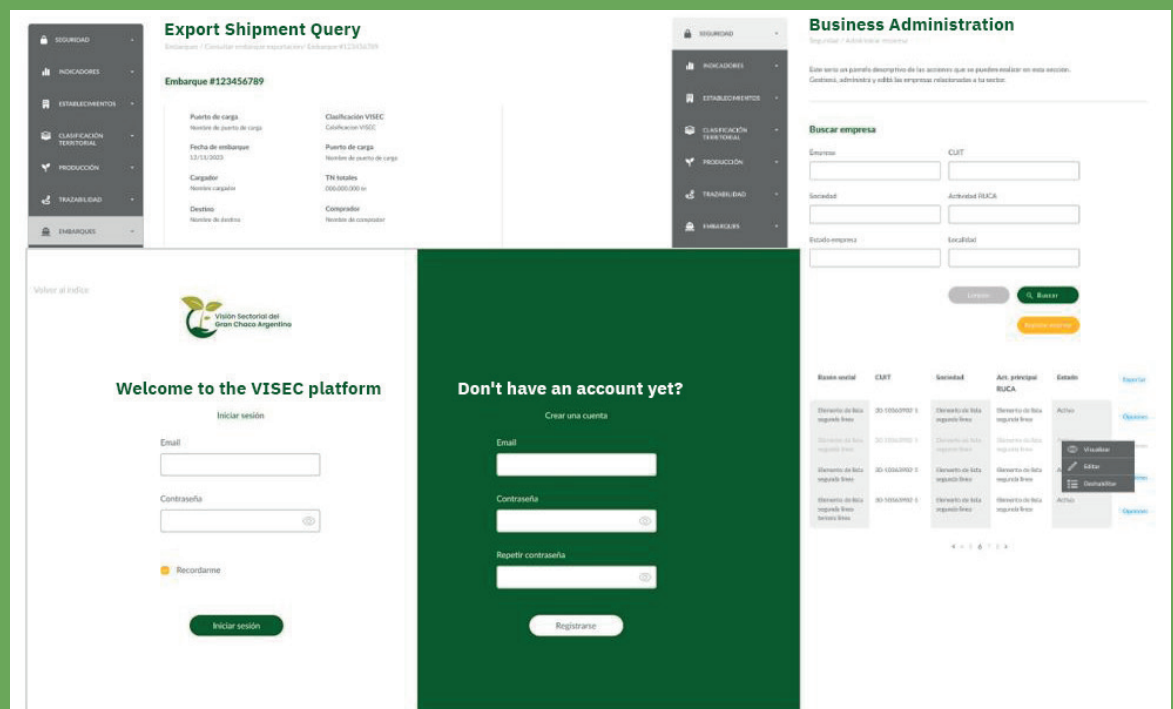


Scope of the Soybean System

Soybean flow



System Screenshots



Our roadmap



Beef value chain joins

Highlights 2023



- **Plenary face-to-face meeting on April 12 2023**
- **Signing of the collaboration agreement with the government**
- **ABC Consortium Adhesion to VISEC and beef sector support**
- **Finalizing VISEC MRV system definitions**
- **Developing VISEC DFS protocol**
- **Hiring a communications agency**

VISEC Team

Our Secretariat is our daily operations hub.

Its staff is composed of **13 people from the following organizations.**



Our Members



Full members



Collaborators





MRV System

Progress was made in closing definitions and developing the software to generate a Minimum Viable Product by early 2024, incorporating the latest updates of the European regulation as well as that of the current traceability processes.

During 2023, system definitions have been finalized and developed, including:

- **Users and Roles**
- **Business Administration**
- **Audits**

Progress has also been made in the development and testing of:

- **Administration of Production Units**
- **Bills of Lading and traceability**
- **Yield control**
- **Stock Control**
- **Shipments**

An analysis methodology has been developed to verify the approval of production units, ensuring compliance with the European regulations regarding the use of satellite images.

For this purpose, an **exhaustive evaluation** of satellite imagery service providers in Argentina was carried out.

- **Specific criteria** were established to evaluate potential suppliers
- **A methodological guide was developed** for the analysis of satellite geographic information
- **Review and evaluation** for approval and implementation of services offered

Protocol + Terms and conditions

During 2023 we drafted the first version of the VISEC Deforestation-Free Soybean Protocol

The main objective is that the total amount of soybean traded under the VISEC Protocol is recognized as deforestation-free, in order to comply with the sustainable development requirements the world is adopting.

We also drafted the Terms and Conditions for the use of the VISEC MRV System.

Together with the legal teams of the institutions and members, we created the legal framework required to be accepted into the System.

Simulation tests

Objective: To verify that the target data trace of the VISEC system shall be available based on the current records of each Company and to identify the necessary adjustments.

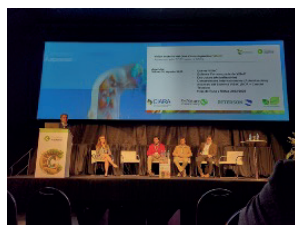
Development: Three exporters were the first to send a shipment of soybean meal to Europe, consolidated with goods coming from fields that have not been deforested after December 2020 and that have been respectively traced and segregated along the entire trade chain flow.

Results: the numbers illustrate the complexity of the operation and point at the involvement of multiple players in the soybean supply chain, with the active participation of farmers, cooperatives, trade associations, public and private initiatives



National and international events

- VISEC Plenary Meeting in BCBA with more than 100 participants and media coverage
- Participation in national (AAPRESID, MAIZAR, La Rural, CAC) and international (Land & Carbon Lab's 2023 Summit, 78th Session of the Scientific Summit of the United Nations General Assembly) conferences and forums.
- Presentation in collaboration with foreign embassies ((Argentine-German Dialogue) and Argentine embassies in Europe (Spain, Germany)
- Dialogue with governments of EU member countries
- Participation in the EU working group "Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests"



Mass and social media

During this year we focused on growing and communicating through LinkedIn, as well as on our reach in mass media, both general and specialized publications within the sector.

MASS MEDIA

- **+20 mass media nationwide**
- **+30 articles during 2023**

SOCIAL MEDIA

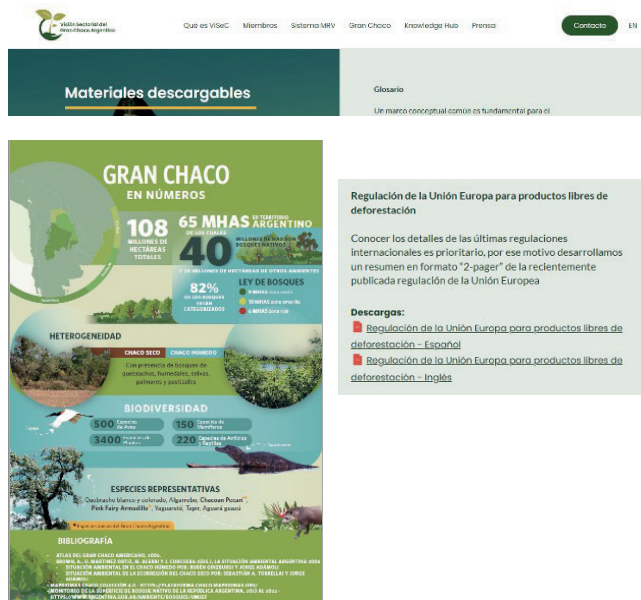
- **+200 new LinkedIn followers during 2023**





Materials produced

- Annual Report 2022
- VISEC Banner
- MRV VISEC System Infographics
- Gran Chaco Argentino map with a list of districts
- Summary in “Two Pager” format of the European Union Regulation
- Summary in “Two Pager” format of the VISEC Platform
- Communication to the European Union Member States
- Gran Chaco Infographics
- Guide for DCF Auditors
- Creation of a new section on the website: “Knowledge HUB”





WISEC Narrative

During 2023, new communication challenges were identified, to be addressed in the coming months and years:

- **WISEC identity, comprehensive communication plan aligned to it, and communication links.**

For this reason, we began to work with AgroSapiens agency during the last quarter of 2023, obtaining an initial diagnosis for 2024.

HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK DONE BY THE CHAIN

VISUAL IDENTITY

COMPLEXITY AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

PRE-COMPETITIVE ACTION

OUR HORIZON

Sustainable Finance Committee

Promoting a space for dialogue and interaction

Bilateral meetings with +4 leading agribusiness banks

Engaging with sectoral initiatives

Interaction with initiatives such as the Sustainable Finance Protocol and the Technical Roundtable for Sustainable Finance

Providing relevant information for the sector

Survey of mechanisms for financing sustainable and deforestation-free investments in the agricultural sector in Argentina (Financed by TFA).

First shipments of deforestation-free soybean meal to Europe



The last quarter of 2023 marked the beginning of a new era in exports to Europe, with three shipments of certified deforestation-free soybean meal.

In total, more than 46,000 tons of soybean meal, sourced from more than 570 production units, were shipped to ports of Spain and Ireland, including direct and indirect participation.



3

SHIPMENTS



46.000

TONS OF SOYBEAN MEAL



570

PRODUCTION UNITS

On January 31, 2024, a press release announced this achievement to the world. The news reviewed the successful implementation of the VISEC Protocol, aligned with the requirements of European Union Regulation 2023/1115, which requires all imported products to be deforestation-free.

Media coverage

This press release brought in wide media coverage, with 34 publications in prestigious national and international media, from “La Nación” and “Clarín” to digital platforms specialized in the farming sector.



43 PUBLICATIONS

- La Nación
- Clarín
- Agroclave – La Capital
- Agrofy
- InfoCampo
- TN
- BAE
- ON24
- Rosario3 – Ecos365
- Valor Agregado
(With interview to Gustavo Idígoras)
- Red Boing
- Bichos de Campo
- Visión Campo
- Punto Biz
- Impulso
- AgroLatam
- La verdad de Junín
- Data Portuaria
- BioEconomía
- Radio Bicentenario
- Radio Uno de Junín
- Visión Sustentable
- Tarifar
- Ecos Diario
- Data Santiago
- Agrolink
- El Norte
- Tres mandamientos
- ArgenPorts
- Economía Sustentable
- Amanecer Rural
- Todo Jujuy
- Palabra de Campo
- Top Noticias



Consolidation of the VISEC brand identity

Legal incorporation of VISEC as a non-profit civil association

Strengthening of the MRV System development

Implementation of continuous improvements on VISEC Protocol versions.

Implementation of the BETA version of the system.

Polygon uploading and environmental analysis.

Project start-up

Awareness-raising and training, at the Buenos Aires University School of Agronomy (FAUBA).

Demos of shipments to the EU

Follow-up of approximately 20 shipments of VISEC meal to be exported to Europe and procedure review.

Joint work with Paraguay



Financial support



LAND INNOVATION FUND
FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS