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The Pasubio Group commits to counter deforestation of Ayoreo Totobiegosode land in Paraguay

The Pasubio Group (comprising, in addition to Conceria Pasubio S.p.A., Arzignanese S.r.l., GDI Assemblies LLC, Innova S.r.l., Pasubio South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Hewa Leder GmbH, and GD Servicios Internacionales Del Norte, S. de R.L. de C.V., known collectively as the Pasubio Group) is today announcing its commitment to defend the ancestral territory of the Ayoreo Totobiegosode Indigenous people. They live in an area of the Paraguayan Chaco known as the Patrimonio Natural y Cultural Ayoreo Totobiegosode (PNCAT), which is threatened by cattle ranches located inside it.

The Pasubio Group has long pursued ambitious sustainability goals via its ESG plan, including the defence of human rights and the environment through the continuous improvement of the impact of its production chain. Thanks to the awareness-raising role played over the years by Survival International, the global movement for Indigenous peoples' rights, and the NGO Earthsight, the Pasubio Group had access to current and detailed information about the threat to the Ayoreo Totobiegosode people of Paraguay's Gran Chaco region, especially the Ayoreo groups living uncontacted in the forest.

The Pasubio Group is therefore confirming and marking its decision to exclude from its suppliers any leather linked to the deforestation of the PNCAT; starting today, the Pasubio Group will halt all commercial relationship with any Paraguayan supplier unable to provide appropriate guarantees regarding the absence of any relationship, direct or indirect, with the cattle ranches located within the PNCAT.

With this decision, which constitutes a further step towards the constant improvement of its ESG policy, the Pasubio Group seeks to ensure that it does not in any way contribute to the illegal deforestation in the Ayoreo Totobiegosode territory, and expresses its support for the Ayoreo Totobiegosode in their fight for their human and territorial rights.

“We welcome the decision of the Pasubio Group” – commented Survival International on learning the news. “We now hope that all the other companies in this sector will follow Pasubio’s example, taking full responsibility for the impact of their supply chain on the rights of Indigenous peoples, and halting any activity that could put at risk the lives and lands of uncontacted tribes, and Indigenous peoples around the world.”

Arzignano, December 20th, 2023