



What is GRAS?

GRAS stands for “**Global Risk Assessment Services**”. GRAS is an **innovative web platform** available at **gras-system.org**. It offers information about ecological and social sustainability and also about land use change. GRAS provides secure solutions to prove compliance with sustainability requirements, to implement no deforestation strategies and to support sustainability certification.

Which content is covered by GRAS?

GRAS is a one-stop-shop that displays geospatial data about **biodiversity** (e.g. protected areas and level of protection), **carbon stock**, **land use change** and **social indices**. Several data bases have been evaluated based on a set of criteria. The most appropriate ones have been selected. They are integrated on the **easy-to-use** and **transparent** GRAS platform. GRAS developed an innovative algorithm using satellite imagery that is capable of identifying any **land use change from 2000 until today**. **Deforestation** and **grassland conversion** to arable lands can be recognized and monitored. Heat maps are displayed showing the extent of land use change in certain areas.

Who can use GRAS?

GRAS is used by **agricultural producers, processors, traders, brandowners, retailers and investors** who are committed to sustainability and no deforestation. They use GRAS to control and manage sustainability risks for individual farms/ plantations, sourcing regions or countries. **Certification systems, certification bodies** and **auditors** apply GRAS for an objective and consistent **sustainability risk assessment** and for the **verification of land use change**. GRAS offers extra tools in order to improve the documentation of audits and the audit process itself.

Who developed GRAS?

GRAS is being developed by Meo Carbon Solutions in cooperation with the German national aeronautics and space research center (DLR), Genscape Inc. in Kentucky, the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW), University of Illinois in Chicago, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Welthungerhilfe and other partners. The development of GRAS has been supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture through its Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR).

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