



**Irregularities at World Wide Fund for Nature's subpartner, the Brazilian Network for Territorial Development Research and Management (RETE), Brazil**

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) supports World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Denmark with the aim of advancing sustainable soy production in Brazil under the project, Scaling Up Sustainable Soy (SUSS). The MFA has granted and disbursed DKK 30 million to the project for the period 2022-2025. The project has several implementing partners including WWF Brazil, which is a consortium partner of WWF Denmark. WWF Brazil supports the Brazilian Network for Territorial Development Research and Management (RETE) as implementing partner on the project with DKK 476,644 during the period 2022-2025.

A suspicion of irregularities arose when RETE failed to submit its technical and financial report before the deadline in July 2024. Subsequently, RETE disclosed internal management challenges and suspicions of financial mismanagement of DKK 29,845 by an employee. The employee improperly paid an advance salary postdismissal which was approved by another employee, as part of the dual approval system.

The matter has been under investigation through internal discussions and audits conducted by WWF Brazil. The internal audit evaluated RETE's internal control mechanisms and assessed their actions taken regarding the financial mismanagement. As a consequence, and given RETE's responses and actions, WWF Brazil determined that continuing the partnership would entail undue risk and decided to terminate the contract with RETE under the SUSS project. The funds were fully refunded to WWF Brazil in December 2024. The financial mismanagement did not impact project implementation, as key deliverables were completed. The only two remaining activities are being finalized by other project partners without additional costs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thus regards the case as closed without loss of Danish funds.

