

EU regulatory Compliance with Landscape Impact

Achieving climate resilience and nature conservation through EU-compliant, sustainable agricultural supply chains and landscape measures in South America

Context

The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), adopted in 2023, requires companies placing commodities such as soy, cattle, coffee, cocoa, and palm oil on the EU market to demonstrate that their products are deforestation-free, fully traceable, and compliant with applicable laws in the country of origin. This regulation is particularly relevant for South America, a major supplier of agricultural commodities to the European market, where agricultural expansion remains a key driver of deforestation and biodiversity loss.

In response, the *EU Regulatory Compliance with Landscape Impact* project supports the transition of commodity value chains toward sustainable, deforestation-free production systems. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI), the project works with stakeholders across the soy, beef, cocoa, coffee, and palm oil sectors to strengthen EUDR compliance while promoting landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and inclusive development.

Implementation focuses on places that are both: major production landscapes and critical conservation areas. In Colombia, the project operates in the northwestern Amazon, specifically in the departments of Meta and Guaviare. The two priority supply chains are: cocoa and oil palm. In Peru, the project operates in the northern Amazon, specifically in the San Martín region, in the districts of Chazuta and Alonso de Alvarado. The two priority supply chains are: coffee and cocoa. In Paraguay, the project operates in two regions with different regulations: the Eastern Region (with a Zero Deforestation Law) and the Western Region or Chaco (where land-use conversion is permitted with restrictions). The two priority supply chains are: soy and beef. In Argentina, the project operates in the Gran Chaco region, specifically in the provinces of Santa Fe and Chaco. The two priority supply chains are: beef and soy.

At a regional and international level, implementation focuses on communication with companies, NGOs, governments, and other relevant actors to facilitate necessary market information sharing and strengthen monitoring tools.

General objectives

The project aims to ensure that, by 2030, stakeholders in the soy, beef, palm oil, coffee, and cocoa supply chains in South America are able to produce and market sustainable, traceable goods that comply with the European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EUDR). The initiative promotes a combined approach with supply chain improvements, landscape conservation and restoration measures, and policy actions to promote low-carbon, climate-resilient agricultural systems while also conserving biodiversity and promoting gender equality.

Project period

2026-2030



Work packages

The project is organized into three work packages (WPs), which together produce five outputs. IUCN NL is actively participating in all three.

WP I SUPPLY CHAINS AND MARKETS (IUCN NL leads)

Promotes the adoption of robust traceability and verification systems to demonstrate that supply chains are deforestation-free, legal, and sustainable in order to access European markets. (Outputs I and II)

WP II INCENTIVES AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (IUCN NL supports)

Promotes forest conservation and restoration at the territorial level, with the participation of women and youth, and strengthens sustainable financing mechanisms. (Outputs III and IV)

WP III LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION (IUCN NL supports)

Facilitates the exchange of experiences between countries and continents (Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay, EU), generates practical knowledge, and communicates progress to scale up successful approaches. (Output V)

Consortium

The project is implemented by a consortium led by IUCN Sur, in collaboration with Fundación Vida Silvestre in Argentina, the Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS) in Colombia, the Center for International Forestry Research and the International Center for Agroforestry Research (CIFOR-ICRAF) in Peru, Guyra Paraguay, and the Dutch National Committee of IUCN (IUCN NL).

IUCN NL's
project budget



IUCN NL's role

IUCN NL – in coordination with all project partners – is leading the following activities of the programme:

- Provide information about potential and preferred deforestation or land use monitoring tools discussed in Europe.
- Support the promotion of MapBiomass and other regionally and locally accepted quality tools to assess deforestation to companies, NGOs, EU member states, and Competent Authorities.
- Provide expert knowledge on robustness of EUDR-related traceability and verification systems.
- Promote robust traceability and verification tools for all five commodities to companies, NGOs, and EU member states together with country experts.
- Inform partners and peers on gender and biodiversity aspects of EUDR implementation.
- Connect country partners with downstream supply chain actors for market linkages.
- Share insights with EU stakeholders at international conferences and other events.

For a genuine impact of the EUDR:



...compliance contributes to real forest protection.



...no deforestation is complemented by other key sustainability values.



...gender equality and biodiversity are integrated into implementation.



...traceability and verification systems are robust.



...producers and producing countries are supported to meet requirements.



...smallholders and forest-risk areas are included.



...implementation strengthens landscape-level collaboration and sustainable land governance.

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