

Roadmap for the DISCO partnership to realize its ambitions

Ending deforestation and forest degradation

1. Introduction

In the major cocoa producing regions, cocoa production is often associated with deforestation and forest degradation. Therefore, the Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa is committed to realize that **cocoa-related deforestation and forest degradation in producing regions where the Dutch cocoa industry and their trade partners are sourcing from will have ended in their supply chains by 2025.**

To develop recommendations on how signatories can contribute effectively towards achieving the commitments, a working group was established to develop this roadmap and framework for implementation, monitoring and reporting on the necessary initiatives leading to the DISCO objectives. The working group comprised of the following members:

To develop recommendations on how signatories can contribute effectively towards achieving the commitments, a dedicated working group was established to develop this roadmap and framework for implementation, monitoring and reporting on the necessary initiatives leading to the DISCO objectives. The working group that worked on this roadmap is comprised of the following members:

- Willem-Albert Toose – Agro Eco
- Geza Toth – Barry Callebaut
- Martijn Reus – ETG/Beyond Beans (left the group during the process)
- Warren Sako – Farmgate Cocoa Alliance
- Janet Doorduyn – MARS
- Frederik Heijink – Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
- Eric Nederhand – Olam Cocoa
- Henk Hoefsloot – Tropenbos International (left the group during the process)
- Jinke van Dam – Tropenbos International
- Maartje de Graaf – Tropenbos International
- Rosalien Jezeer – Tropenbos International (left the group during the process)
- Mark de Waard – IDH

This Roadmap is structured around the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1 ‘Introduction’** describes the DISCO commitment on ending deforestation and forest degradation and the roadmap development process through the DISCO deforestation Working Group.
- **Chapter 2 ‘Summary of actions by DISCO signatories’** summarises and highlights the specific actions relevant for each subsector within DISCO and what is expected from each of them.
- **Chapter 3 ‘Detailed guidance for implementing actions by DISCO signatories’** describes the details of the actions that will be taken by DISCO signatories. The actions described in this section are:
 - Due diligence assessments
 - Underwrite national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation
 - Traceability of direct and indirect supply chains
 - Defining collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing mechanisms in forest protection and restoration
 - Reporting on progress
- **Chapter 4 ‘Recommendations for follow up’** describes the advice given by the working group on what should be further developed after the finalization of this Roadmap version in September 2021. This advice for follow up could be done within DISCO, or together with other initiatives such as Beyond Chocolate, GISCO, SWISSCO.

All described actions are based on the main DISCO commitment from the DISCO declaration¹ on ending deforestation and forest degradation and under each detailed action, a reference is made to that main commitment. The actions include both individual supply chain actions and joint collaborative actions. Taking individual actions by organizations that are active in the cocoa sector are necessary to contribute to ending cocoa-related deforestation. But alignment with other signatories within DISCO and collaboration with other existing initiatives and stakeholders outside DISCO is essential for strengthening, scaling and accelerating efforts to address cocoa related deforestation.

As new insights and developments emerge and roles evolve, this Roadmap should be seen as a living document that will be updated by the working group when needed.

Overview of DISCO signatories: supply chain signatories

Traders/processors	Large manufacturers	Smaller manufacturers	Retailers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Callebaut • Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate • Crafting Markets • Export Trading Group (ETG) • JS Cocoa • Olam Cocoa • Tradin Organic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARS • Mondelēz • Nestlé • Tony's Chocolonely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delicia • De Euforij Chocolate • Friesland Campina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Heijn • Chocoladeverkopers • Jumbo • Superunie

Overview of DISCO signatories: non-supply chain signatories

Government	Certification/standard organizations	Civil society	Service providers & knowledge institutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands • Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of The Netherlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairtrade Nederland • Rainforest Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairfood • Farmgate Cocoa Alliance Oxfam Novib • Save the Children • Solidaridad Network • Tropenbos International • UNICEF The Netherlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriterra • Agro Eco • Equipoise • Port of Amsterdam • Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen

¹ <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/publication/dutch-initiative-on-sustainable-cocoa-disco-declaration/>

2. Summary of actions by DISCO signatories

This chapter summarises and highlights the specific actions relevant for each subsector within DISCO. For more detailed guidance on what the actions entail, please consult chapter 3 ‘Detailed guidance for implementing actions by DISCO signatories’ of this Roadmap.

Cocoa traders and processors

Traders and processors are through their service delivery models and procurement practices directly engaged with cocoa producing countries and landscapes and create therefore the connection between those and other actors further downstream in the supply chain.

In this regard, cocoa trading and processing companies (and where needed in collaboration with other actors in their specific supply chain) will contribute to the DISCO ending deforestation and forest degradation ambitions by:

- carry out due diligence assessments on the cocoa they directly source to ensure the risk of cocoa from legally protected and non-compliant areas enters in their supply chain is negligible, while developing a supplier code of conduct for due diligence assessments for the indirect supply chain
- develop plans to achieve 100% traceability in both their direct and indirect supply chain
- underwrite national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation in the countries they directly source cocoa from (e.g. CFI) and take the necessary efforts to support the initiative in realizing the objectives of these initiatives
- contribute to implementation of projects and financing mechanisms that focus on protecting forests and restoring natural forests degraded by cocoa production for which collaborative responsibilities will be further defined (which includes (HCV/HCS) mapping, monitoring, protecting, restoring, and promoting agroforestry)
- Integrate these actions into their cocoa sustainability programs to enable clients downstream in the supply chain purchasing cocoa-based products in line with the DISCO ambitions on ending deforestation and forest degradation
- report on the volumes that is covered by a due diligence mechanism, that is traceable and sourced directly/indirectly. They also report on the countries where they signed a national initiative aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation (e.g. CFI)

Chocolate manufacturers (large) and brands

Chocolate brands and manufacturing companies are in some origins directly engaged (often through cocoa sustainability programs), while for another part of their supply chain they are only indirectly engaged in the origins through their suppliers.

In this regard, chocolate brands and manufacturing companies will contribute to the DISCO ending deforestation and forest degradation ambitions by:

Direct supply chain

- (alongside their suppliers where needed) carry out due diligence assessments on the cocoa they purchase to ensure the risk of cocoa from legally protected and non-compliant areas enters in their supply chain is negligible.
- (alongside their suppliers where needed) develop plans to achieve 100% traceability in their direct supply chain
- underwrite national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation in the countries they source cocoa from (e.g. CFI) and take (alongside their suppliers where needed) the necessary efforts to support the initiative in realizing the objectives of these initiatives
- contribute to implementation of projects and financing mechanisms that focus on protecting forests and restoring natural forests degraded by cocoa production for which collaborative responsibilities will be further defined (which includes (HCV/HCS) mapping, monitoring, protecting, restoring, and promoting agroforestry)

- integrate these actions into their cocoa sustainability programs to enable clients downstream in the supply chain purchasing cocoa-based products in line with the DISCO ambitions on ending deforestation and forest degradation
- report on the volumes that is covered by a due diligence mechanism, that is traceable and sourced directly/indirectly. They also report on the countries where they signed a national initiative aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation (e.g. CFI)

Indirect supply chain

- engage with their suppliers by developing a supplier code of conduct to increase the volume of cocoa coming from indirect supply chains that is covered by a due diligence assessment
- engage with their suppliers to increase the volume of traceable cocoa in indirect supply chains

Chocolate manufacturers (small)

Smaller chocolate manufacturing companies are usually through their suppliers of cocoa-based products indirectly engaged with cocoa producing countries and landscapes.

In this regard, smaller chocolate manufacturing companies will contribute to the DISCO ending deforestation and forest degradation ambitions by:

- having demand specifications towards their suppliers by purchasing cocoa-based products from cocoa sustainability programs or certification schemes that are covered by a due diligence assessment and are traceable
- develop strategies to increase the volume of cocoa-based products from these cocoa sustainability programs or certification schemes and define together with their suppliers how cost-sharing will be addressed
- having demand specifications towards their suppliers by purchasing cocoa-based products from companies that underwrite national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation in the countries they source cocoa from (e.g. CFI)
- contribute to implementation of projects and financing mechanisms that focus on protecting forests and restoring natural forests degraded by cocoa production for which collaborative responsibilities will be further defined (which includes (HCV/HCS) mapping, monitoring, protecting, restoring, and promoting agroforestry)
- report on the volume of cocoa-based products that is purchased from cocoa sustainability programs or certification schemes that excludes cocoa coming from natural forests and fosters traceability. They also report on the volume of cocoa-based products that is purchased from companies that signed national initiatives (e.g. CFI) aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation in the countries they source cocoa from

Retailers

Retailers are closely related to consumers and are only through their suppliers of cocoa-based products for both private label and chocolate brands indirectly engaged with cocoa producing countries and landscapes.

In this regard, retailers will contribute to the DISCO ending deforestation and forest degradation ambitions by:

- having demand specifications towards their suppliers by purchasing cocoa-based products from cocoa sustainability programs or certification schemes that are covered by a due diligence assessment and are traceable
- develop strategies to increase the volume of cocoa-based products from these cocoa sustainability programs or certification schemes and define together with their suppliers how cost-sharing will be addressed
- having demand specifications towards their suppliers by purchasing cocoa-based products from companies that underwrite national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation in the countries they source cocoa from (e.g. CFI)
- contribute to implementation of projects and financing mechanisms that focus on protecting forests and restoring natural forests degraded by cocoa production for which collaborative

responsibilities will be further defined (which includes (HCV/HCS) mapping, monitoring, protecting, restoring, and promoting agroforestry)

- communicate to consumers to enhance consumer awareness and promote market demand for 'forest-friendly' cocoa-based products
- report on the volume of cocoa-based products that is purchased from cocoa sustainability programs or certification schemes that excludes cocoa from natural forests and fosters traceability. They also report on the volume of cocoa-based products that is purchased from companies that signed national initiatives (e.g. CFI) aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation in the countries they source cocoa from

Civil society organizations, service providers & knowledge institutes, and certification & standard organizations

The civil society, service providers & knowledge institutes and certification & standard organizations subsectors in DISCO consist of a diverse group of organizations. Some organizations have (through their counterpart organizations) direct relationships with farmers, producer organizations or local governments in cocoa producing countries, some act as implementing partners in field level projects, some have expertise on the DISCO impact areas, and some are through their certification schemes engaged with both the cocoa industry and farmers and cooperatives.

In this regard, civil society organizations, service providers & knowledge institutes and certification & standard organizations support companies in reaching the DISCO ending deforestation and forest degradation ambitions by (only the ones that are applicable to their organization):

- supporting companies with available expertise and resources in carrying out due diligence assessments on the cocoa they purchase to ensure no cocoa from legally protected and non-compliant areas enters in their supply chain
- supporting companies with available expertise and resources to increase traceability in both their direct and indirect supply chain
- supporting partnerships in collaborative approaches in protecting remaining forest remnants and restoring degraded cocoa producing landscapes while promoting the installation of cocoa agroforestry systems
- engage in building coalitions with local stakeholders in cocoa producing countries and cocoa producing landscapes to streamline interventions on protecting remaining forest remnants and restoring degraded cocoa producing landscapes while promoting agroforestry
- integrate due diligence and traceability requirements into their certification schemes to enable clients downstream in the supply chain purchasing cocoa-based products in line with the DISCO ambitions on ending deforestation and forest degradation (for certification & standard organizations only)
- fill existing knowledge gaps on forest protection, forest restoration and agroforestry
- reports on efforts made to support the industry in reaching its DISCO ambitions around deforestation and forest degradation

Government

The Dutch government has through their embassies and consuls in the producing countries a long-lasting strong relationship with the local authorities and a strong G2G (government to government) relationships with European countries. The Dutch government also has subsidies/programs that can provide financial support and stimulate knowledge exchange in relation to the DISCO impact areas.

In this regard, the Dutch government will contribute to the DISCO ending deforestation and degradation ambitions by:

- supporting companies with available expertise and resources in carrying out due diligence assessments on the cocoa they purchase to ensure no cocoa from legally protected and non-compliant areas enters in their supply chain
- guiding DISCO signatories to available existing subsidies that can be used for efforts around ending deforestation and forest degradation, forest restoration and promoting agroforestry

- engage with local authorities in producing countries to build coalitions in cocoa producing countries and landscapes to strengthen interventions on protecting remaining forest remnants and restoring degraded cocoa producing landscapes while promoting agroforestry. This includes supporting local authorities to develop, implement and enforce existing regulations.
- engage with governments in importing/consuming countries to further develop and support an EU agenda that contributes to the actions against deforestation and forest degradation, including monitoring the follow-up, implementation and coherence of the EU action plan against deforestation
- reports on efforts made to support the industry in reaching its DISCO ambitions around deforestation and forest degradation

Schematic timeline for implementing actions

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2030
Due diligence assessments	Companies carry out due diligence assessments on the cocoa entering the supply chains through the implementation of OECD guidelines, a supplier code of conduct or purchasing through applicable programs or schemes					
	All non-supply partners (e.g. civil society, government, etc.) support companies with available expertise and resources in carrying out due diligence assessments					
National initiatives aiming to end deforestation	Companies underwrite initiatives aiming to end cocoa related deforestation in the countries they source cocoa from, including taking the necessary actions, or purchase products from organizations that underwrite these initiatives					
Supply chain traceability	Companies develop plans to achieve 100% traceability in their supply chains, or purchase products from programs or schemes that guarantee traceability				Direct supply chains are 100% traceable	Indirect supply chains are 100% traceable
	All non-supply partners (e.g. civil society, government, etc.) support companies with available expertise and resources in increasing supply chain traceability					
Collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing	ISCOs define targets, modes of implementation and reporting mechanisms					
	Signatories define action plans		Signatories implement action plans			
	All non-supply partners (e.g. civil society, government, etc.) support companies with available expertise and resources in developing and implementing action plans					
Report on progress	All DISCO signatories report on the current status and progress they made in relation to all actions as described in the Roadmap					

3. Detailed guidance for implementing actions by DISCO signatories

This chapter presents the different actions that DISCO signatories need to take to contribute to ending deforestation and forest degradation, including guidance for implementation.

DISCO signatories will implement on the following actions:

1. Carry out due diligence assessments on cocoa entering the supply chains
2. Underwrite national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation
3. Ensure the traceability of the direct and indirect supply chains
4. Define collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing mechanisms in forest protection and restoration
5. Report on progress

3.1 Due diligence assessments

This section aims to provide information how DISCO signatories can carry out due diligence assessments on the cocoa entering their supply chain. It provides information on what different steps DISCO signatories should take for carrying out due diligence assessments.

DISCO partners have agreed in the main DISCO partnership document:

“We are committed to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises including implementing the six due diligence steps in line with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct”

“We do not accept cocoa produced in areas where agricultural activities are illegal in our supply chains. Signatories will carry out due diligence assessments to ensure no illegal cocoa enters their supply chains.”

The intended outcome of carrying out due diligence assessments is to be able to assess which parts of the cocoa supply chain are illegal or non-compliant and should therefore be excluded from the supply chain. Due diligence serves as a first step to ensure that no illegal and non-compliant cocoa enters the supply chain but is also dependent on other actions such as enhanced traceability (see 2.3), defining legality, and mapping the forest remnants to locate areas that are considered illegal or non-compliant for cocoa production.

It is expected that DISCO signatories are able to carry out due diligence assessments before the end of 2022 and report on it annually. Note that carrying due diligence assessments becomes mandatory according to national and/or European regulations and therefore could help companies in anticipating on upcoming regulations.

3.1.1 Guidance to carry out due diligence assessments

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has developed a guidance with practical support to enterprises on the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises², based on six steps that provide guidance to support organizations in carrying out due diligence assessments throughout the supply chain.

For deforestation specifically, following below steps can contribute to implementing the five steps on due diligence, based on the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains³. This helps to ensure low or negligible risk that cocoa from legally protected and non-compliant areas enters

² <http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-for-Responsible-Business-Conduct.pdf>

³ See for more information: OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains <http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/oecd-fao-guidance-responsible-agricultural-supply-chains.htm>

supply chains in the Netherlands. This could include amongst others, cocoa as having led to the conversion of forest after the applicable cut-off date for the area (e.g. the cut-off date in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana is January 2018, while the European Commission will come up with a separate cut-off date. The most stringent date is leading) or areas under HCV/HCS in countries covered by the Cocoa & Forests Initiative:

➤ **Step 1: Develop company policy and management systems for ending deforestation in the company supply chain**

This includes:

- Having a company policy and a risk management process in place to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for how to address risks and impacts in its operations, supply chains, and investments, with active involvement of senior management.
- Having an internal reporting structure in place.
- Embedding practices on ending deforestation consistently throughout the operations of the company
- Establishing a system of controls and transparency along the supply chain
- Strengthening engagement with business partners
- Establishing an operational-level grievance mechanism in consultation and collaboration with relevant stakeholders

➤ **Step 2: Trace and monitor cocoa to the first point of purchase**

Following the definition of the Accountability Framework, “Low-risk” is defined as “a conclusion, following a risk assessment, that there is negligible or insignificant risk that material produced in or sourced from a given context is non-compliant with one or more aspects of a company’s social and environmental commitments or obligations.” When area-level monitoring determines that the given area is low-risk relative to a given commitment, then companies may assume that supplies from that area fulfil that commitment.

○ **2a Map the supply chain: trace and monitor cocoa to the first point of purchase**

This requires identifying the various actors involved, including, when relevant, the names of immediate suppliers and business partners and the sites of operations.

The farm level (level 4) is the desired level to be able to do proper due diligence so to identify risks and the minimum requirement for traceability (see also 3.3). Traceability efforts should be priority in countries/ regions where risks are non-negligible

○ **Step 2b: Assess the risk (risk assessments)**

Risk assessments should be an ongoing process in order to maintain a true picture of the risks over time, taking into account changing circumstances. Risks should be evaluated based on the best available information (e.g., forest cover maps, land use maps, news articles, NGO reports).

- Conducting a deforestation risk assessment in the sourcing areas for your company: Deforestation Risk Assessment (DRA)⁴ is a tool that allows companies to proactively identify and manage deforestation risks in their supply chains. Companies may use area-level monitoring (such as DRA) as a tool for assessing risk within the company’s actual sourcing origins located within a given sourcing area as a helpful step towards assessing risk and approximating levels of compliance and performance when a company’s exact supply areas are not known. Embedding DRA in broader forest monitoring and traceability systems helps to maximize the utility of DRA from a decision-making perspective.

Monitoring on sourcing (area) level does not provide the same level of precise information about specific production units of origin. Except where area-based monitoring reveals low-risk of non-compliances relative to a given commitment across the entire area, companies are therefore strongly encouraged to pursue further traceability and more effective control mechanisms to move towards monitoring of the specific production units and processing facilities of origin.

- Assessing risk for downstream companies:

⁴ See for example <https://accountability-framework.org/deforestation-risk-toolset/>

To be able to effectively monitor commitments in their supply chain, downstream companies will need to assess via a supplier code of conduct the extent to which their suppliers have adequate monitoring and control systems in place to assess compliance, address non-compliance where necessary, track the results of these improvement processes, and pass complete and accurate data to their buyers.

➤ **Step 3: Design and implement a strategy to respond to identified risks (risk management plan)**

Based on the findings of the risk assessment, when negligible risks cannot be demonstrated, try to further identify risks, and find solutions by for example field checking, further engagement with the producer or third-party certification.

Adopt and implement a risk management plan and monitor and track performance of these efforts. This covers a combination of risk mitigation and prevention measures, and:

- Exclude from your company supply chain (1) all illegal cocoa that comes from legally protected areas (e.g., national parks and forest reserves. See annex for definition on legality) and (2) all cocoa that comes from non-compliant areas (e.g., areas under HCV/HCS in countries covered by the Cocoa & Forests Initiative)
- Prioritize risks and develop action plans to mitigate the cocoa-related deforestation in all sourcing areas for your company supply chain that are identified as deforestation hotspots in the Deforestation Risk Assessment
- Ensure alignment with existing social safeguard measures/ guidelines (e.g. those in development under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative) in order to mitigate impact of such measures on communities that depend on cocoa farming for their livelihoods (e.g., support and targeted remediation of farmers, compensation around relocation, etc.).

Then report findings back to the management of the company.

➤ **Step 4: Verify supply chain due diligence**

- Companies should take steps to verify that their due diligence practices are effective, i.e., that risks have been adequately identified and mitigated or prevented. This verification process can include:
 - Conducting on- going due diligence proportionate to the risk, If the risk has been mitigated or prevented.
 - If the risk has not been mitigated or prevented, identifying why this is the case, such as the lack of effective risk mitigation strategy, or inadequate timing, resources, etc. A new risk assessment should be undertaken.

➤ **Step 5: Develop action plans to prevent/ mitigate the cocoa-related deforestation in all sourcing areas for your company supply chain that are identified as deforestation hotspots in the Deforestation Risk Assessment**

Invest in long-term relationships and take into account existing social safeguard guidelines in order to prevent and mitigate impact of such measures on communities that depend on cocoa farming for their livelihoods (e.g., remediation of farmers).

Companies should publicly report on their supply chain due diligence policies and practices, with due regard taken of business confidentiality and other competitive concerns. They should provide affected stakeholders and business partners with clear, accurate and timely information on actual and potential adverse impacts identified through ongoing impact assessments and, on the steps, and measures taken to mitigate or prevent them.

Particular attention should be given on the approach between the direct and indirect supply chain. Whereas due diligence assessments for the direct supply chain is more likely to be carried out by the company itself, a different approach for the indirect supply chain might be required. Therefore, it is recommended to engage with suppliers through a supplier code of conduct in the indirect supply chain on how to carry out these steps.

Companies sourcing from countries not covered by the Cocoa & Forests Initiative and that want to go beyond legality, can include under step 3 excluding cocoa from natural forests (see annex for definition

on natural forests) as an alternative to areas under HCV/HCS. The [Accountability Framework Initiative](#) has developed operational guidance on 'applying the definitions related to deforestation, conversion, and protection of ecosystems'.

3.2 Underwrite national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation

This section aims to provide information how DISCO signatories can underwrite, support and promote, national initiatives in cocoa producing countries aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation. It provides information on how DISCO signatories active in cocoa producing countries can become a signatory to these initiatives and how other DISCO signatories can support their suppliers in reaching the ambitions of these initiatives. It also provides information on how to promote initiatives in countries not yet covered by a national initiative aiming to end deforestation.

DISCO partners have agreed in the main DISCO partnership document:

“Signatories of DISCO will (continue to) adhere to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI), and will promote underwriting of CFI among those companies that have not yet signed. CFI and similar initiatives will be promoted in countries not yet covered by CFI and supported when initiated.”

The intended outcome of underwriting national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation is to strengthen the already existing initiatives and leverage the DISCO partnership to reach the ambitions of the initiatives and vice versa. Also, underwriting these initiatives will prevent duplication of efforts. It is expected that DISCO signatories are able to underwrite or adhere to these initiatives by 2022 in the countries where they have a direct supply chain and report on it annually.

3.2.1 Guidance to underwrite initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation

Over the last couple of years, public-private partnerships have emerged in cocoa producing countries in which governments, together with chocolate and cocoa companies have agreed to stop cocoa-related deforestation and promote reforestation of degraded forests. In 2017, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana were the first producing countries in which such a public-private partnership emerged through the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. Soon after, Colombia followed with the Cocoa, Forests & Peace Initiative (2017), and Cameroon with the Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa (2021), while Liberia is still developing its Liberia’s Cocoa Sector Platform Initiative. Other major cocoa producing countries are not developing such an initiative yet.

For traders/processors and larger manufacturers to underwrite national initiatives aiming to end deforestation

Cocoa & Forests Initiative in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana

As a signatory to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, you confirm your (1) commitment and capacity to implement the eight core commitments and the agreed actions in the three strategic pillars outlined in the Frameworks for Action ([Cdl](#), [Ghana](#)), (2) agreement to develop and implement annual company-level workplans and report on progress on a yearly basis for public disclosure, in line with the guidance provided by WCF, (3) participation as appropriate in the governance structure (including CFI conference calls and technical working group meetings as relevant). Note that the World Cocoa Foundation being the organization facilitating companies’ engagement in CFI, companies need to become [members](#) of WCF before signing CFI.

Companies that have signed the Cocoa & Forests Initiative are invited by WCF to participate in bi-weekly company meetings that aim to streamline the efforts and communications, but also facilitate cross-company learning. WCF will also be able to provide companies with an updated action plan toolkit, indicator definitions, templates etc. to help them develop their action plans.

Companies sourcing from Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana are invited to contact WCF, for more information on how they can sign the Framework for Action and contribute to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

- Contact: Ethan Budiansky, ethan.budiansky@worldcocoa.org

Cocoa, Forests & Peace Initiative in Colombia

By joining the Cocoa, Forests & Peace Initiative, the signatories commit to promote and adapt deforestation-free production models that protect and restore forests, improve livelihoods for farmers and help consolidate the peace process in Colombia. As a signatory, you can contribute through technical assistance inside the initiative and its working groups, by providing financial support or, any

other kind of contribution that helps the Initiative to achieve its objective and that will support the implementation of its Action Plan 2020-2030.

Companies that want to join the Cocoa, Forests & Peace Initiative can send an intention letter to the technical secretariat (Alisos) of the initiative requesting to join. They are allowed if they have at least two years of existence and have a clear contribution to the Initiative (this should be described in the intention letter). After the letter is sent, the Technical Committee – TC will evaluate it and decide if the applicant organisation is accepted or not and if they are, the Technical Secretariat will inform and forward to the Executive Board -EB the list of signatories previously approved.

Companies sourcing from Colombia are invited to contact Alisos, for more information on how they can sign the Framework for Action and contribute to the Cocoa, Forests & Peace Initiative.

- Contact: Wendy Arenas, wendy.arenas@alisos.net

Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa in Cameroon

As the Framework for Action for the Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa in Cameroon is only recently launched, it is not clearly specified what is expected from private sector signatories. This will later in the year be further defined.

Companies sourcing from Cameroon are invited to contact IDH, for more information on how they can sign the Framework for Action and contribute to the Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa.

- Contact: Elvis Ngwa, ngwa@idhtrade.org

Liberia National Cocoa Public-Private Partnership Platform

As the Roadmap for Liberia National Cocoa Public-Private Partnership Platform is still under development, it is not clearly specified what is expected from private sector signatories and will be further defined after the launch of the Roadmap.

Companies sourcing from Liberia are invited to contact IDH, for more information on how they can sign the Roadmap for the Liberia National Cocoa Public-Private Partnership Platform

- Contact: Hilary David, david@idhtrade.org

For smaller manufacturers and retailers to engage with national initiatives aiming to end deforestation

If smaller manufacturers or retailers want to sign national initiatives aiming to end deforestation directly, they can follow the same process as for traders/processors and larger manufacturers. Otherwise, they can play a role in building market demand by purchasing cocoa-based products from companies that are signatories to these initiatives. This could include engaging with their supply chain partner and discussing how to support the partner in the implementation and reporting of the action plans.

Below table provides an overview of all 'fully signatory signatories' (companies that signed initiatives in all countries they claim they source cocoa from) and 'partially signatory companies' (companies that signed at not all, but at least one initiative in the countries they claim they source cocoa from), based on publicly available information in August 2021.

Company*	CFI Côte d'Ivoire ⁵	CFI Ghana ⁵	Roadmap Cameroon ⁶
Full signatory companies			
Agribusiness Services and Import Export (ASIE)	N/A	N/A	Yes
Atlantic Cocoa Corporation	N/A	N/A	Yes
Barry Callebaut	Yes	Yes	Yes
Blommer Chocolate	Yes	N/A	N/A
Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chocolats Halba	N/A	Yes	N/A
Cococo Chocolatiers	Yes	Yes	N/A
GCB Cocoa	Yes	N/A	N/A
General Mills Inc.	Yes	Yes	N/A
Godiva Chocolatier Inc.	Yes	Yes	N/A
Guittard Chocolate Company	Yes	Yes	N/A
Indcresa	N/A	Yes	N/A
J.H. Whittaker & Sons	N/A	Yes	N/A
JB Foods	Yes	N/A	N/A
Lindt & Sprüngli Group	Yes	Yes	N/A
Meiji Co. Ltd.	N/A	Yes	N/A
Mondelēz	Yes	Yes	N/A
Neo Industry	N/A	N/A	Yes
Producam SA	N/A	N/A	Yes
SIAT	Yes	N/A	N/A
Sté Des Ets Ndongo Essomba	N/A	N/A	Yes
The Hershey Company	Yes	Yes	N/A
Toms Group	N/A	Yes	N/A
Unilever	Yes	N/A	N/A
Partially signatory companies			
Cémoi	Yes	N/A	No
ECOM Group	No	Yes	Yes
ETG	Yes	Yes	No
Ferrero	Yes	Yes	No
Mars Wrigley	Yes	Yes	No
Nestlé	Yes	Yes	No
Olam Cocoa	Yes	Yes	No
Puratos	Yes	N/A	No
Sucden	Yes	Yes	No
Touton	Yes	Yes	No
Valrhona	Yes	Yes	No

*A list of companies that are signatory to the Cocoa, Forests & Peace Initiative in Colombia and Liberia's Cocoa Sector Platform Initiative is not available as information on which companies source from these countries isn't available and the initiative in Liberia hasn't been launched yet.

Legend

Yes	Company sources cocoa from this country and has signed the national initiative
No	Company sources cocoa from this country and has not signed the national initiative
N/A	Company claims it doesn't source cocoa from this country and therefore is not expected to sign the national initiative

For DISCO signatories to promote national initiatives in producing countries aiming to end deforestation in other countries

⁵ List of signatories from <https://www.worldcocoaoundation.org/initiative/cocoa-forests-initiative/>

⁶ List of signatories from <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/initiative/roadmap-cameroon/>

National initiatives in producing countries that aim to end cocoa-related deforestation are important structures to engage with in-country stakeholders such as the government, industry, civil society and research organizations to ensure alignment in effort to end deforestation with the local context. Addressing cocoa-related deforestation initiatives through a multi-stakeholder approach gives the advantage of bundling efforts to accelerate creating impact, pre-competitive learning and innovation, raise funds, etc. However, not all countries (e.g., Nigeria, Ecuador, Dominican Republic) important for the Dutch sector are yet covered by a national initiative aiming to end deforestation.

- **Step 1:** DISCO companies define in which countries they source or buy cocoa from that are not yet covered by a national initiative aiming to end deforestation (all countries except Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia)
- **Step 2:** DISCO companies identify which other partners (both private and not-for-profit) within DISCO, and potentially within the other European sustainability initiatives, are sourcing cocoa from this country or have local linkages (for example through counterpart organizations or Dutch embassies) in these countries, and form a smaller partnership to engage with the local government
- **Step 3:** The smaller partnership organizes a working session(s) with the local government and counterparts to have an open conversation on possibly establishing an initiative to jointly address deforestation
- **Step 4:** After positive conversation, a national initiative can be formed in which a joint framework for action can be developed that explains the specific actions, roles and responsibilities for that country.

3.3 Traceability of direct and indirect supply chains

This section aims to provide information how recommendations for increased supply chain traceability is being developed in relation to the main DISCO commitment. It also provides information on the different levels as adopted from the other European initiatives on sustainable cocoa (ISCOs).

DISCO partners have agreed in the main DISCO partnership document:

“They will ensure 100% traceability to farm level in their direct supply chain by 2025 at the latest, for full traceability of the sector to be achieved by the sector by 2030. Companies will declare the share of cocoa from their direct supply chains in the total volume.”

The intended outcome of increased traceability is to ensure DISCO signatories can identify which parts of their supply chains aren't meeting sustainability requirements and to be able to implement targeted interventions to address these issues.

3.3.1 Guidance to achieve full traceability

Traceability is defined as the ability to follow a product or its components through stages of the supply chain. Traceability is closely linked to Due Diligence (see 3.1) as the tracing of the cocoa to its origin (the cooperative and/or farm) enables to link the cocoa sourcing area with possible risks for deforestation or degradation.

As implementing traceability is a complex issue and relevant to the members of the other European initiatives on sustainable cocoa in Belgium, Germany and Switzerland (ISCOs), a central ISCO Working Group on traceability was established in February 2021.

This working group has the following objectives:

- Foster a common understanding of traceability and transparency of origin and sustainability characteristics for the cocoa sector
- Agree on common definitions and indicators (and measurement thereof) of traceability and transparency, as part of the joint monitoring system
- Advance traceability and transparency of origin and sustainability in the cocoa sector

As the working group aims to develop recommendations on increasing full traceability, more detailed guidelines to the DISCO partnership are expected at the end of 2021. However, [a technical brief](#) is already developed alongside that group which provides more information around the definitions of traceability and presents an overview of existing traceability systems.

Key consideration for increased traceability

Besides the expected detailed guidelines from the ISCO Working Group on Traceability, companies that start working on increased traceability in their supply chain should take the following key considerations into account:

- Increasing traceability requires collecting data at the lowest level as possible. This means a strong collaboration with farmer cooperatives in jointly assuring a proper data transfer.
- Traceability required should not be a barrier to market entry for farmers and therefore it should be considered to create ownership of traceability systems by farmer organizations.
- To Increase traceability of the indirect supply chain, a mapping of the indirect supply chain need to be carried out and a route of engagement with the supplying partners have to be followed.

All above considerations will also be addressed in the ISCO Working Group on Traceability to take into account.

Definitions from the other European initiatives on sustainable cocoa

The other ISCOs have already agreed on the following definitions around traceability and transparency. The same definitions and levels will also be used within DISCO to monitor and report on progress in traceability and transparency.

Traceability levels

- Conventional (traceability level 0)
Cocoa sourced without conforming to the traceability requirements of ‘mass balance’, ‘segregated’, or ‘identity preserved’ - please refer to the corresponding definitions.
- Mass balance (traceability level 1)
The mass balance system administratively monitors the trade (transaction) of conforming cocoa throughout the entire supply chain. The mass balance system requires a transparent documentation and justification of the origin and quantity of conforming cocoa (= certified or independently verified cocoa) purchased by the first buyer. The mass balance system allows mixing conforming and nonconforming cocoa in next stages of the cocoa supply and value chain (e.g. transport, processing, manufacturing). Cocoa supply chain actors can sell a certain mass of conforming cocoa, or an equivalent volume of conforming cocoa-containing products, to the extent that the actual volumes of sales of conforming products are tracked and audited through the supply chain and that these volumes do not exceed the cocoa bean equivalents of conforming cocoa bought at origin.
- Segregated (traceability level 2)
Segregated cocoa - Certified or independently verified cocoa meeting the segregation requirements. As per the mass-balance system, segregation requires a transparent documentation and justification of the origin and quantity of conforming cocoa (this is certified or independently verified cocoa) purchased by the first buyer. Conforming cocoa is kept segregated from nonconforming cocoa, including during transport, storage, processing cocoa, and manufacturing of cocoa-containing products. Segregation does allow mixing cocoa from different origins, to the extent that all cocoa being mixed qualifies as conforming cocoa (as per the certification standard or verified company scheme being applied). The cocoa supply chain actors shall demonstrate that they have taken the required measures to avoid mixing conforming cocoa with nonconforming cocoa.
- Identity preserved (traceability level 3)
Identity preserved is the highest traceability type. There is no mixing of cocoa, neither with non-conforming cocoa, nor with cocoa from other origins. If the ‘single origin’ is set at cooperative level or at cocoa-producing area (combining different cooperatives), then conforming cocoa from this broader origin may be combined. In other words, the “identity preserved” system meets all requirements of “segregated cocoa” but it does not allow mixing cocoa from different origins.

Supply origin transparency level

The "cocoa origin transparency level" concerns the level of information on the origin of cocoa being documented at the initial stage of the cocoa sourcing process, with such information remaining available at later stages of the value chain.

Distinction is made between the following origin transparency levels:

- Score 1: origin unknown or only country of origin known
- Score 2: country and region of origin known
- Score 3: country, region and municipality/cooperative of origin known
- Score 4: farm known, in addition to the country, region and municipality/cooperative of origin
- Score 5: farm known and having point coordinates of the farm household (farm mapping)
- Score 5+: farm known and having polygon boundaries of the farm.
- Score 6: farm known, having polygon boundaries of the farm and farm fields verified as not in a protected forest and as not comprising land that was deforested since 2018.

Having a high origin transparency score still allows for massing and mixing of beans at later stages (during transport and/or processing).

It is generally accepted that the cocoa industry should at least evolve to level 4 as a minimum requirement, implying that the first mile of the cocoa value chain should be traceable. Cocoa batches (generally cocoa bags) sourced should be linked to the farm where that cocoa was produced, implying that the farms are at least identified. This principle should apply to both “direct” and “indirect” cocoa sourcing.

3.4 Defining collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing mechanisms in forest protection and restoration

This section aims to provide information on the process that the DISCO partnership can follow to define collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing mechanisms in protecting forests and restoring natural forests degraded by cocoa production while promoting agroforestry.

DISCO partners have agreed in the main DISCO partnership document:

“Signatories engage to identify and map all remaining forest remnants (HCV/HCS) in the cocoa producing landscapes, as well as monitor these remaining forests and support their future protection and restoration by 2022. They will partner with governments, other industry actors, civil society and farmer organizations to design and implement programs that address deforestation and restore forests that have been degraded by cocoa production.

We undersign the importance to remediate past damage to previously forested landscapes. Therefore, sustainable agroforestry practices, climate smart cocoa production and landscape approaches will be promoted. The restoration of natural forests that have been degraded by cocoa production will require deliberate stakeholder consultations with the local governments and forestry institutions. Responsibilities on implementation and financing will be defined by 2022.”

For a number of cocoa producing landscapes, the DISCO partnership takes collective responsibility on implementation of landscape actions and jointly commit to mobilizing the financial resources needed.

DISCO signatories are expected to have defined their individual target and pathway and modes of cooperation by 2022, and to start operationalization and implementation from Q4 2022 onwards.

3.4.1 Steps for defining collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing mechanisms

The following steps describe how DISCO signatories can contribute to achieving the collective ambitions defined in the DISCO declaration. As the other European initiatives on sustainable cocoa in Europe (ISCOs) have adopted similar commitments and ambitions in protecting and restoring forests, we would like to explore in Q4 2021 how these steps can also be collaboratively developed with the other ISCOs. This would not only help clarifying monitoring of efforts of partners that are part of several ISCOs, but also help ensure more collaborative and coordinated efforts on the ground to address deforestation. When further implementing and design this process with the other ISCOs, the needs from other ISCOs will be taken into account for an optimized alignment.

The steps below are to be taken from Q4 2021 onwards, preferably on ISCO level through the establishment of a joint ISCO Working Group or Task Force, with the following timeline:

- Q4 2021 - Q2 2022: the Working Group or Task Force will have defined targets (step 1), developed the outlines of the possible routes to take (step 2), and agreed on the reporting mechanism (step 4).
- Q3 2022: Signatories have defined their individual action plans in relation to this target (step 3).
- From Q4 2022 onwards: actual operationalization and implementation.

Step 1 – Target setting per national platform

Each ISCO starts to define targets for their own platform on a number of objectives (ha of forests HCV/HCS mapped, ha of forests monitored, ha of degraded forests restored, etc.) around forest protection and restoration, and promotion of agroforestry in cocoa growing areas.

Setting the target will be based on the overall scope of each ISCO. E.g., the scope for DISCO is all cocoa and cocoa products imported into the Netherlands, which is approximately 1,2 million ton of cocoa beans. Therefore, a target will be defined on the number of hectares that would be proportional to that amount of cocoa beans.

Also, within the target setting, the already existing activities under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative should be taken into account to ensure that the targets set by the ISCOs will be complementary and are not a duplication of Cocoa & Forests Initiative targets. Setting this target will inform future responsibilities on implementation and financing and tracking progress of the ISCOs towards protecting and restoring forests.

Step 2 – Defining routes for implementation and financing

After each ISCO has defined a target, they should agree on how ISCO signatories/members can contribute to achieving their collective commitment related to ending cocoa related deforestation and reforestation. The ISCOs build on existing initiatives, such as CFI, and the already existing action plans developed by CFI signatories as part of this process. However, CFI only covers Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and only a limited number of companies is contributing to its implementation. By mobilizing their entire membership towards increased implementation on the ground in cocoa producing countries, the ISCOs aim to ensure that their respective targets can be met.

Route 1 – Establishment of a joint forest protection and restoration fund

A first route could be the establishment of a joint ISCO fund in which private and public signatories and members of the platforms jointly contribute financially. Each organization's contribution could be based on type, size and/or volume of cocoa beans traded, processed, or sold. This fund would be used to financially support specific programs that aim at addressing deforestation and/or restoring forests in targeted cocoa producing landscapes and therefore means ISCO contributions to protect and restore forests through this mechanism is only financially.

The details of how the fund would operate still have to be discussed and agreed upon. A governance structure, would have to be established for proper management of the fund, including the costs related to it. Also, specific criteria would have to be defined on the selection of forest protection and restoration projects that will receive support from the fund.

Reporting by individual partners will then be based on the financial contributions made by signatories/members into the fund.

Route 2 – Engage in landscape programs

Another route to be considered would be providing additional support to the implementation of landscape programs in cocoa sourcing origins.

- First, a list of existing or potential landscape programs in cocoa producing regions need to be provided to signatories/members to guide them in choosing the landscapes to focus on. This list will be based on the priority landscapes defined under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and the Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa in Cameroon. and supported by conversations with these initiatives on where the DISCO partnership can make a difference to speed up commitments and make impact on the ground. For other producing countries important for the destination countries, landscapes will be defined based on deforestation risk assessments, important sourcing areas for the ISCOs, critical areas for reforestation, etc.
- Second, signatories and members of the ISCOs share (non-confidential) information within the partnership, about relevant actions and resources they (already) mobilize in cocoa producing landscapes - individually and/or through projects and programs – to explore opportunities for collaboration and pooling resources.
- Third, ISCO signatories/members can decide to follow one of the three below described options. This can be based on their type of operations and/or place in the supply chain. For all below described options, more detailed tools and guidance will be provided by the Working Group or Task Force that is involved the whole process. ISCO signatories/members are strongly encouraged to identify and establish opportunities for collaboration within landscapes, and between actors operating in the value chain.

Option 2A: Implement protection and restoration activities

Signatories can decide to play an active role in the development, implementation and/or financing of projects in relation to protection and restoration and promotion of agroforestry in cocoa growing areas within specific cocoa producing landscapes. This option could be interesting for signatories that are active and have operations within the landscapes and want to be directly engaged in the development of projects. If signatories decide to do this, they will engage with the convening organization within the landscape to ensure the efforts are in line with the broader landscape strategy, and in dialogue with local governments, farmer cooperatives, civil society and other key landscape actors.

Option 2B: Finance/invest in protection and restoration activities

Signatories can also decide to focus their contribution on the financing of projects and activities that contribute to the protection and restoration and promotion of agroforestry in cocoa growing areas of cocoa producing landscapes. This option could be interesting for signatories further downstream in the supply chain who do not have direct linkages or activities within landscapes, but want to contribute to forest protection and restoration. If signatories decide to do this, they can directly finance implementing organizations within landscapes or indirectly finance through alternative incentives and mechanisms.

Option 2C: Establish landscape programs in cocoa producing landscapes

Signatories who want to play an active role on protection and restoration activities and promotion of agroforestry in cocoa growing areas within a cocoa producing landscape that is not covered by a landscape program yet, can also decide to initiate a landscape program in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders in the landscape. This option could be interesting for signatories that have activities in certain cocoa producing landscapes, but that are not covered by a program yet. If signatories decide to do this, they will engage with local governments, farmer cooperatives, civil society and other key landscape actors to ensure efforts are made through a multistakeholder approach and align with local priorities. For this option, a list of methodologies for landscape programs will be provided (e.g. [The Little Sustainable Landscapes Book](#)).

Step 3 Setting individual targets and strategies for implementation based on a collaborative plan

Setting individual targets and strategies for implementation

ISCO targets and develop implementation plans to reach those targets, to be defined by Q2 2022:

- a) ISCO signatories/members will start determining their individual targets in relation to the overarching ISCO targets

If the second route in step 2 is chosen:

- b) ISCO signatories/members develop individual implementation plans to reach their targets in relation to collaborative landscape plans with relevant partners and possibilities for co-operation.

The development of individual action plans will inform the initiatives to what extent the overarching targets will be reached and where additional (collaborative) effort is required to reach those targets.

Piloting collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing mechanisms

Front runners that don't want to await the joint ISCO process can already develop and start implementing activities in landscapes after the launch of this Roadmap, while in the meantime targets and plans are further elaborated at ISCO level. This pilot also contributes to the development of guidance for the other ISCO signatories.

Some DISCO signatories have expressed an interest to already start with a pilot landscape. DISCO encourages this initiative and will invite signatories to join this frontrunner activity alongside the development of individual and joint action plans after the launch of this Roadmap, while in the meantime targets and plans are further elaborated at ISCO level. This pilot can also contribute to the development of guidance for the other ISCO signatories.

To initiate these pilot activities, the deforestation working group will facilitate a first meeting with frontrunners after the General Assembly to formulate and specify first steps.

Step 4 – Accounting for reporting towards national initiatives

Before signatories start reporting on the efforts made on protection and restoration activities, the ISCOs first need to agree on a set of harmonized indicators to be used within the ISCOs.

As protection and restoration activities, while promoting agroforestry, within the cocoa producing landscapes cannot be directly linked to various end markets in Europe, individual reporting by ISCO signatories/members will be done through a mass balance principle for companies active in multiple platforms. The joint and harmonized reporting between the ISCOs will facilitate this process.

The mass balance approach means for this case that the implementation and/or financing of activities (e.g. development of HCV/HCS maps, monitoring and protection of forests, and restoration of degraded forests, while promoting agroforestry) will be attributed to the different ISCOs, based on the ISCO target. For example:

- ISCOs jointly aim to restore 1mln ha of degraded forest (illustrative number and example), with the following subdivisions:
 - ISCO A aims to restore 600k (60%) ha of degraded forest
 - ISCO B aims to restore 300k (30%) ha of degraded forest
 - ISCO C aims to restore 100k (10%) ha of degraded forest
 - ISCO D aims to restore 100k (10%) ha of degraded forest
- Signatory A is signatory of all 4 platforms and has in year X restored 40k ha of forest. Signatory A will report this number. When the individual platforms publish their annual report, they will receive the following (automatically generated) data from signatory A
 - ISCO A receives 24ha (60%) of forest restored
 - ISCO B receives 12ha (30%) of forest restored
 - ISCO C receives 4ha (10%) of forest restored
 - ISCO D receives 4ha (10%) of forest restored
- Together with the split data received from all other signatories, individual ISCOs can report on the progress within that platform

Key considerations that support the implementation of activities on protection and restoration

When signatories start implementing activities on protection and restoration in the cocoa producing landscapes (e.g. by identifying, mapping (HCV/HCS), monitoring and protecting remaining forest remnants and restoring degraded cocoa, while promoting agroforestry), some key considerations should be taken into account, which should be included in a landscape action plan (see step 3). Therefore, additional tools and guidance on the following key considerations need to be provided by a Working Group or Task Force that is involved in the whole process.

- Principles of a landscapes approach
Implementation of the actions take place within a number of cocoa producing landscapes, where signatories and members will align, co-design and implement programs together with local governments, farmer's associations, community groups and other key stakeholders active in the landscape, to come to coordinated action for protection and restoration of forests in that landscape.
For ISCO signatories and members to engage in landscape approaches, a mapping of existing landscape initiatives in cocoa producing countries need to be carried out, including a list of suitable landscapes for potential future landscape programs. Also, an identification of best practices and challenges and recommendations for stakeholders that aim to engage in the landscapes need to be provided.
- Development of land use maps and monitoring of forests
Land use maps coupled with forest monitoring systems can provide clarity on where cocoa has encroached into forest areas, and therefore set the basis for Due Diligence exercises and for

identification of follow-up actions. To be effective in protecting forest remnants (in and outside protected areas), it is important that governments, farmers and companies identify reliable maps, and agree on common definitions of land use categories. The governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire have made progress in the identification of their satellite-based forest monitoring system, which is a first step towards the use of common maps and data, and will greatly complement already existing initiatives (e.g. Starling, Satelligence, Vivideconomics) However, HCV and HCS maps are also needed to be able to identify with precision forest remnants that should be protected in the rural domain as well as in protected areas. Some research institutions have started working on this, with support from some cocoa players (e.g. ETH Zurich), and we will explore how DISCO and the other national cocoa platforms in Europe could support the finalization of the work and dissemination of the data.

- Protecting remaining forest remnants
Initiatives on forest protection are ongoing, for example within the Cocoa & Forests Initiative in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. More clarity on how these initiatives could be supported and scaled up would be desirable. For example, by building on best practices, including addressing the underlying drivers of deforestation, remediation and implementing social safeguards for vulnerable groups living in (protected) forest areas, and/or in the surrounding buffer zones.
- Restoration of degraded cocoa landscapes
The restoration of degraded forest remnants that have been degraded by cocoa production and degraded on-farm areas that were previously forested in the cocoa producing landscapes should be complemented by wider landscape restoration actions, to not only protect and restore forests but also the broader ecosystem functions of these landscapes, which also contribute to more resilient cocoa production. Guidance on effective restoration approaches and best practices would therefore be desired.
- Promoting agroforestry systems
Efforts to promote agroforestry systems – including the design, preparation, implementation and monitoring - should recognize the protection and value of (individual) trees on-farm in cocoa producing landscapes and require coordination (beyond company sourcing level) to really create transformation in the landscape. Recommendations on agroforestry definitions, minimum desired levels (possibly in coherence with the DISCO working group on Agroforestry), and socio-economic issues around local land and tree tenure, farmer's inclusiveness in decision-making processes and incentives to introduce agroforestry would benefit signatories and members for further promotion of effective agroforestry systems.
- Identify financing and incentive mechanisms
A number of investment and carbon funds that can be leveraged for initiatives around sustainable agricultural production (including agroforestry), forest protection and restoration exist, but are not always well-known or accessed. Therefore, guidance on how signatories/members would be able to access those funds, and gaining further insight in the conditions (e.g., the legal/ jurisdictional framework) to do so, would benefit in accelerating and scaling these initiatives. Additionally, as gaps for financing protections and restoration activities exists, seeking additional financing options and developing other innovative incentive mechanisms (e.g., inclusion of trees with valuable uses) should also be explored.

The development of the tools and guidance should built on what is already available or being developed through existing frameworks and other relevant initiatives (e.g., Cocoa & Forests Initiative, HCV network, Accountability Framework Initiative, etc.). It should also be in collaboration with relevant initiatives to ensure alignment amongst the tools and guidance that is being developed.

3.5 Report on progress

This section aims to provide information how DISCO signatories can report on the progress made towards reaching the ambitions on ending deforestation and forest degradation. It provides a set of indicators that will be used for the 2021 baseline reporting and annual progress reporting.

Reporting indicators

Details on reporting will be further described in the DISCO Baseline Reporting Framework for the baseline reporting and for annual reporting through a separate Monitoring & Reporting Framework (still to be developed). This entails the objectives and rationale for reporting, detailed questionnaires per subsector, reporting methodologies and processes, including timelines. It is therefore recommended to consult the other documents for more details on reporting.

The indicators to use for baseline and/or progress reporting are linked to the more specified actions as described in this Roadmap and are as follows.

Action 3.1 Due diligence assessments

Farming households, which have cocoa farming as a main cash income source supplying to the Netherlands, make progress towards earning a living income by 2030.

- # of value chain due diligence assessments implemented

Action 3.2 Underwrite national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation

- # of companies that signed national initiatives aiming to end cocoa-related deforestation in sourcing countries

Action 3.3 Traceability of direct and indirect supply chains

- % of supply origin transparency level of cocoa
- % of origin traceability level
- % of cocoa beans in supply chain directly and indirectly sourced

Action 3.4 Defining collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing mechanisms in forest protection and restoration

The actual action for implementation within this action will have to be further defined in the upcoming period. For that reason, below indicators (that are also used by other ISCOs) could be considered to integrate when the specific actions are further defined

- # of hectares of remaining forest remnants HCV/HCS mapped
- # of hectares of forest covered by a monitoring system
- # of hectares of forest covered by a forest protection plan
- # of ha of cocoa agroforestry systems newly established in the reporting period
- # of ha of cocoa agroforestry systems maintained (> 3 years)
- # of hectares that have been degraded by cocoa production restored
- # of hectares of on-farm areas that were previously forested in the cocoa producing landscapes restored

General

- Contributions in expertise, knowledge development, local stakeholder engagement and/or other support to the partnership in reaching goals around due diligence assessments, increased traceability, and forest protection and restoration

4. Recommendations for follow up

This section describes the recommendations given by the Working Group on what needs to be further developed after the finalization of this Roadmap. This could be done within DISCO, or in collaboration with other initiatives such as Beyond Chocolate, GISCO, SWISSCO.

The working group stipulates that, for meeting the commitments made by the DISCO signatories, several follow up actions are important to ensure that the commitments will be realized. The following follow up actions are recommended:

- **Development of recommendations on increasing full traceability** at ISCO level (see also 3.3)
- **Define collaborative responsibilities on implementation and financing mechanisms in forest protection and restoration** (see also 3.4), including:
 - The establish of a dedicated working Group/task force with a clear mandate to facilitate the process of defining targets, choosing routes for implementation, selecting landscapes (see below) and to follow-up the required partnership coordination.
 - Target setting
 - Defining desired routes and additional details required for implementation
 - Defining and selecting the cocoa producing landscapes for implementation
 - Alignment with relevant initiatives and stakeholders, e.g., CFI.
 - Develop guidance desired for collaborative implementation
- **Learning agenda and capacity building:** Sharing knowledge and a joint identification of learning needs among DISCO signatories on cocoa related deforestation and related concepts, and a joint learning trajectory to address these needs and increase awareness on the topics covered by this roadmap. This includes showcasing success stories, lessons and results that go beyond the minimum targets, and jointly keeping track of (EU) developments on zero-deforestation, due diligence requirements, traceability, etc., and how this may impact DISCO/ ISCO/ CFI commitments, while updating this Roadmap accordingly when needed.
- **Benchmarking of cocoa sustainability programs or certification schemes in relation to DISCO commitments on ending deforestation and forest degradation:** As actors further downstream the supply chain (e.g. smaller manufacturers and retailers) mainly play a role by purchasing sustainable cocoa-based products from cocoa sustainability programs or certification schemes, it is recommended to provide more information on the extent these programs and schemes are meeting the commitments made in DISCO. Additional information should be provided and could be done in collaboration with an ongoing benchmarking study by the other European initiatives on sustainable cocoa in which they have commissioned the International Trade Centre (ITC) to benchmark sustainability schemes, against their objectives.



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