



EU action to protect and restore the world's forests

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Deforestation and forest degradation

- From 1990 to 2020, some 420 million hectares of forest have been lost, an area bigger than India (FAO)
- Approximately 80% of deforestation is caused by unsustainable agricultural practices.
- Deforestation and other land use change accounts for 12% of greenhouse gas emissions between 2000 and 2009 (IPCC) and is a major driver of biodiversity loss

Role of the EU

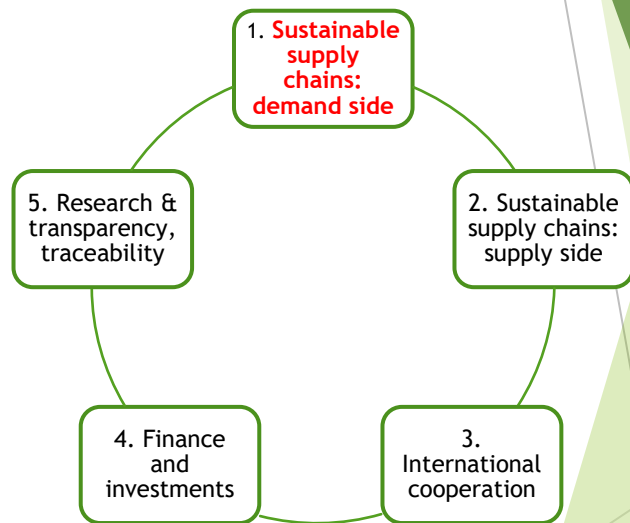
- The EU is a major importer of commodities associated with deforestation and forest degradation
- Between 1990 and 2008, the EU consumed one third of the globally traded agricultural products associated with deforestation
- This makes the EU responsible for 10% of worldwide deforestation associated with the production of goods or services
- Palm oil (33,95%) and soy (32,83%) are responsible for the largest parts of embodied deforestation among commodities analysed in terms of EU consumption

EU strategic documents on deforestation

- **Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests of July 2019**
- **European Green Deal:** *“The Commission will take measures, both regulatory and otherwise, to promote imported products and value chains that do not involve deforestation and forest degradation.”*
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030:** *“The Commission will also present in 2021 a legislative proposal and other measures to avoid or minimise the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market.”*
- **Farm to Fork Strategy:** *“The Commission will present in 2021 a legislative proposal and other measures to avoid or minimise the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market.”*

5 priorities for stronger action to protect and restore the world's forests

1. **Reduce the EU consumption** footprint on land and encourage the consumption of products from **deforestation-free supply chains** in the EU
2. **Work in partnership with producing countries** to reduce pressures on forests and to 'deforest-proof' EU development cooperation
3. **Strengthen international cooperation** to halt deforestation and forest degradation and encourage sustainable forests restoration
4. **Redirect finance** in support of more sustainable land-use practices
5. Support **availability of, quality of and access to information on forests and commodity supply chains**. Support research and innovation



Objectives

Minimise the EU's contribution to deforestation and forest degradation worldwide

Specific

Minimise the risk that commodities and products are placed on the EU market that are associated with deforestation and forest degradation

Promote the demand for and consumption of commodities and products that are not associated with deforestation and forest degradation.

Incentivise financial and economic investors to integrate such concerns into their investment decisions

New legislative proposal

- ▶ **Main change in comparison to existing EU legislation (EUTR, FLEGT):** Refocusing from legality to include sustainability criterion (deforestation-free)
- ▶ **Starting points:**
 1. Based on scientific evidence
 2. Building on existing, internationally used definitions
 3. Non-discriminatory
 4. **Implementable** in practice

New legislative proposal:

Scope - Commodities and derived products

- ▶ Commodities covered: **Palm oil, soy, wood, beef, cocoa, and coffee**
 - ▶ Covering selected **derived products**
- ▶ **Choice of commodities and products based on :**
 - ▶ Commodities with the highest global contribution to deforestation
 - ▶ EU consumption of those commodities

New legislative proposal:

Main elements

- ▶ Definition of deforestation (including plantations), based on FAO
- ▶ Definition of deforestation-free
- ▶ Mandatory due diligence for operators and large traders
- ▶ Progressive scope

New legislative proposal:

- ▶ Enhanced scrutiny for high-risk, simplified due diligence duties for low risk countries
- ▶ Country benchmarking: identification of low and high risk countries
- ▶ No ban of any country or any commodity
- ▶ No discrimination
- ▶ **Only one part of the EU's policy response**