



**Amsterdam  
Declarations  
Partnership**

“Towards deforestation-free, sustainable commodities”

## STATUS REPORT

1 July 2017 – 31 December 2018



2019  
Support Unit AD Partnership  
Mekon Ecology



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Towards deforestation-free  
sustainable commodities

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## List of acronyms and abbreviations

### Abbreviation

ADs	Amsterdam Declarations
AFD	French Development Agency (Agence française de développement)
APOI	Africa Palm Oil Initiative
BioCF ISFL	BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes
BMEL	German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CAFI	Central Africa Forest Initiative
Caobisco	Chocolate, Biscuits and Confectionary Europe
CDP	Carbon Disclosure Project
CIRAD	French Agricultural Research Centre
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CFNA	China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs and Native Produce
CLUA	Climate and Land Use Alliance
COMTRADE	United Nations' Commodity Trade Statistics
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DE	Germany (Deutschland)
DK	Denmark
EC	European Commission
EC DG	European Commission Directorate General
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EP	European Parliament
EP ENVI	European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
ESPO	European Sustainable Palm Oil initiative
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FEDIOL	Federation European Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry
FEFAC	European Feed Manufacturers' Federation
FMO	Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank
FONAP	Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil, Germany
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
ISCO	German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa
ICCO	International Cocoa Organisation
IMACE	European Margarine Association
ISCC	International Sustainability and Carbon Certification
ISPO	Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil
ITC	International Trade Centre
FR	France
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFW	Global Forest Watch
IDH	Sustainable Trade Initiative
IDH-ISLA	Initiative for Sustainable Landscape Approaches
MSPO	Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil
mt	Metric ton (1,000 kilogram)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation

OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
RA	Rainforest Alliance
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RSPO	Roundtable Sustainable Palm Oil
RTRS	Round Table responsible Soy
SALSA	Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes in Southeast Asia
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TFA 2020	Tropical Forest Alliance 2020
NL	Netherlands
NO	Norway
P4F	Partnerships for Forests
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UK	United Kingdom
UN CBD	United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity
UN FCCC	United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank
WCF	World Cocoa Foundation
WWF	World wide fund for nature

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The Amsterdam Declarations on halting deforestation and sustainable palm oil<sup>1</sup>, have been merged into one ambition to work towards deforestation-free, sustainable commodities. The Declarations are signed by Denmark (DK), France (FR), Germany (DE), Italy (IT) the Netherlands (NL), Norway (NO) and the United Kingdom (UK): the AD-Group.

The AD-Group aims to support the implementation of private and public commitments to achieve deforestation-free, sustainable agricultural commodity production and trade. We cooperate in an informal Amsterdam Declaration Partnership with private sector and producer country actors and their initiatives. To reach our common goal the AD-Partnership joins efforts to influence key processes – changes we would like to see happen -, to create suitable conditions and support European demand-side measures complementary to supporting production side measures in countries of origin.

Context;

- Building on and adding to the New York Declaration on Forests' ambition and adding our specific focus on more synergy between sustainable production and market uptake of sustainable commodities in our countries;
- The ADs were launched and signed in relation to the Paris Climate Agreement because land use changes (including deforestation) are a major part of the climate change problem (IPCC 2014, AR5). Our climate agenda on reducing Green House Gas emissions should also include addressing imported deforestation via agricultural commodities. In addition, keeping forests standing is crucial for climate change adaptation on landscape level for many commodities and dependent smallholders. We thereby support the ambitions presented in the NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) of producer countries and the global commitment to the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

Many results are dependent on the commodity-sector-country context and what partners and other stakeholders decide and do. This report provides information on what we do by identifying key process and performance indicators (KPI). These indicators may relate directly to actions by the signatory countries as well as indirectly on actions by supported partners and initiatives. The process indicators are identified from the actions in the ADP Strategy. Quantitative results will be mainly obtained through on-going third-party monitoring and reporting.

### 1.2 Scope of the report

This report provides an overview of activities contributing to reaching the goal of the Amsterdam Declarations conducted and supported (financially and diplomatically) by the signatory countries. This report presents the most noteworthy activities but does not strive to be comprehensive. More activities may be presented in national reports by individual countries.

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<sup>1</sup> See: [www.AD-partnership.org](http://www.AD-partnership.org) : Amsterdam Declarations on Deforestation & Palm Oil (December 2015)

### **1.3 The AD Partnership strategy**

See: [AD Partnership Implementation Strategy v1Dec2016](#). Four main strategic lines have been defined. The strategy entails an extensive process and numerous stakeholders and we use existing initiatives and networks as much as possible:

#### **1. *Support European and EU action on Climate, Deforestation & Trade:***

Deforestation from agricultural commodities should be more closely linked to discussions on the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, EU Trade Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- a) *Forest-related:* (i) the FLEGT-process (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade); (ii) Other European processes. The ADP supports the development of an ambitious EU Communication on Deforestation and Forest Degradation.
- b) *Trade-related:* strengthening and as appropriate implementing sustainability enhancing and deforestation preventing measures in on-going and future trade negotiations in line with the EU trade strategy (Trade4All).

#### **2. *Stimulate a Global Value Chain approach for agricultural commodities:***

- a) General: (1) Expand the number of countries supporting the Amsterdam Declarations. (2) Follow up on the Council Conclusions on Responsible Global Value Chains of 12 May 2016; (3) explore policy support options i.a. with policy makers from Europe and the Commission; (4) help establishing and take-up of credible monitoring systems; (5) hold an annual multi-stakeholder dialogue; (6) reach out to major consumer and producer countries outside Europe;
- b) Palm Oil: (1) Strengthen the capacity of national sector organisations and support as far as feasible their national implementation plans (ESPO); (2) continue dialogue on minimum requirements for sustainability in palm oil production.
- c) Other commodities: Advance through public-private partnerships on the production side as well as the consumer and market uptake side.
- d) Build upon on-going initiatives to integrate landscape approaches and commodity value chains (incl. climate mitigation and adaptation) to make commodity chains sustainable and deforestation-free and promote inclusion of all stakeholders in a landscape, such as smallholder producers.

#### **3. *Enhanced dialogue with major consumer / producer countries:***

Facilitate a dialogue on sustainable, deforestation-free commodity production with other consumer or producer/consumer countries.

#### **4. *Enhanced monitoring, transparency and voluntary CSR reporting:***

- a) *Reporting on Forest & Carbon Footprint:* Engage with frontrunner large companies and branch organisations to stimulate the use of voluntary CSR reporting or other forms of reporting for a look at impacts on forests.
- b) *Tracking voluntary commitments:* Extending talks with and invitations of meetings to third party initiatives tracking commitments to promote awareness about them and promote cross-learning.
- c) *Tracking and tracing:* Use and support third party and national initiatives and promote exchange and lessons-learnt. Scientific market analyses will be promoted to better understand market behaviour, especially the interdependencies between commodities and potential leakage effects.

## 2 Cooperation within the AD-group (July 2017 – December 2018)

The AD-Group decided on a rotating chair of the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership:

- ✓ Netherlands: from launch till 31 September 2016
- ✓ United Kingdom: 1 October 2016 – 31 December 2016
- ✓ Germany: 1 January 2017 – 30 June 2017
- ✓ Norway: 1 July 2017 – 31 December 2017
- ✓ France: 1 January 2018 – 30 June 2018
- ✓ Denmark: 1 July 2018 – 31 December 2018
- ✓ Netherlands: 1 January 2019 – 30 June 2019
- ✓ Italy: 1 July 2019 – 31 December 2019
- ✓ United Kingdom: 1 January 2020 – 30 June 2020
- ✓ Germany: 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2020 (to be confirmed)

AD-Partnership Meetings:

1. ADP Coordination Meeting #7: 23 October 2017
2. ADP Coordination Meeting #8: 12 March 2018
3. ADP Coordination Meeting #9: 26 June 2018
4. ADP Multi-Stakeholder Meeting 2018: 27 June 2018
5. ADP Coordination Meeting #10: 25 October 2018
6. ADP European National Soya Initiatives meeting: 20 November 2018

The main external outputs were: <https://ad-partnership.org/resources/>

- ✓ [ADP Letter by Denmark to European Commissioners on Deforestation \(2018-1101\)](#)
- ✓ [ADP Non Paper Sustainable Finance v2018-0621](#)
- ✓ [AD Monitoring sheet COCOA v2018-1002](#)
- ✓ [AD Monitoring sheet PALM OIL v2018-1002](#)
- ✓ [AD Monitoring sheet SOY v2018-1002](#)
- ✓ [2018-0627 ADP MSM France Roundtables minutes](#)
- ✓ [2017-0626 ADP MSM Germany Annotated conclusions](#)
- ✓ [2016-0624 ADP MSM Netherlands Minutes Trade and Development in Sustainable Commodities](#)
- ✓ [AD Status Report 2016-2017](#)
- ✓ [AD Partnership Implementation Strategy v1Dec2016](#)
- ✓ [Amsterdam Declarations on Deforestation & Palm Oil \(December 2015\)](#)
- ✓ Reports and presentations from organised external meetings.  
See: <https://ad-partnership.org/newsevents/events/>
- ✓ 2018: Launch of the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership website

The main internal outputs during the period 2017-2018 were:

- ✓ Minutes from Coordination Meetings
- ✓ An internal discussion paper on reaching the goals of the Amsterdam Declarations.
- ✓ Communication strategy (draft)
- ✓ Soya Road map as background paper for a discussion on soya
- ✓ Cocoa Road Map as background paper for a discussion on cocoa

Other supporting documents:

- ✓ Mekon Ecology (2017), Voluntary Certification Standards and Deforestation.
- ✓ Mekon Ecology (2018), Jurisdictional Approaches for Deforestation-free and Sustainable Palm Oil on Borneo

In addition the ADP signatories supported various other studies and initiatives that also produced reports.

### 3 Harmonisation of support

#### 3.1 Strategy 1: Support European and EU action on Climate, Deforestation and Trade

This report provides an assessment of the key processes of the AD-Strategy.

-  = Green = Process is on-going and on target
-  = Yellow = Progress is on-going but slow, some delays and extra effort needed.
-  = Red = Serious delays. Additional attention and action needed.

1.1 Forest and Climate related (deforestation)	
KPI 1.1 Learning from the FLEGT and EU-TR process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The ADP-countries are involved in the FLEGT process.</li><li>✓ The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality commissioned a study on what the cocoa sector in Ghana could learn from the FLEGT-VPA process in Ghana<sup>2</sup>. The main results were presented by Ecocare Ghana at the ADP Multi-Stakeholder meeting on 27 June 2018. The insights of this report are being used in discussions in Europe and Ghana.</li></ul>
KPI 1.2 Engage with EC DGs on relevant deforestation-related processes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The EC is involved in the informal ADP Coordination Meetings.</li><li>✓ <i>EC Agriculture &amp; Fisheries Council</i>: Germany presented the ADs in the Council of 11 October 2017 and called for a EU Action Plan on Deforestation on behalf of the AD-Group. Germany again brought the subject up for discussion in the Council meeting of 1 February 2018.</li><li>✓ <i>EC Environment Council</i>: France brought the subject up for discussion in the Council meeting of 5 March 2018.</li><li>✓ <i>EU Action on Deforestation</i>: The EC Feasibility Study to combat deforestation and the study on the environmental impact of palm oil were published on 19 March 2018<sup>3</sup>. End November 2018, Denmark as chair of the ADP sent a letter to the Commission calling for an ambitious action plan. <b>In December 2018, the Commission decided to prepare a Communication on Stepping up EU Action on Deforestation and Forest Degradation and launched a public consultation on its roadmap. The Communication is expected June 2019.</b></li><li>✓ <i>Responsible Business Conduct</i>: Several signatory countries asked support for the development of an action plan on responsible business conduct. The Commission decided not to prepare such a plan.</li><li>✓ <i>EU Protein</i>: The EC has adopted its report on the development of plant proteins in the European Union. The report reviews the supply and demand situation for plant proteins (such as rapeseed, sunflower seeds or lentils) in the EU and explores ways in which to further develop their production in an economically and</li></ul>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tropenbos.org/resources/publications/transferring+lessons+from+flegt-vpa+to+promote+governance+reform+in+ghana's+cocoa+sector>

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/studies\\_EUaction\\_deforestation\\_palm\\_oil.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/studies_EUaction_deforestation_palm_oil.htm)

	<p>environmentally sound way. A declaration in favour of sustainable production in Europe of soya and other protein crops was signed on 17 July 2017 in Brussels at the level of agriculture ministers, in the margins of the EU Council, by Austria, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, France, Romania, Belgium, Luxembourg, Hungary, Finland, Italy and Greece, the initiators of the initiative. The "European Declaration on Soya" calls for the introduction of support measures, including the promotion of non-GM soya production, to reduce dependence on protein imports for animal feed.</p> <p>✓ <i>Palm Oil study:</i> The Support Unit provided feedback on the palm oil study (incl. Workshop 2 October 2017).</p>	
<b>1.2 Trade related</b>		
KPI 1.3 Engage with (EC) trade-related processes on sustainability-enhancing and deforestation-preventing measures (Trade4All).	<p>✓ Signatory countries are involved in the trade agreement discussions of the Commission as well as EFTA (in the case of Norway) in order to support strong trade and sustainable development (TSD) chapters which promote sustainable commodity production. Through the signatory countries awareness is raised on the issue and importance of addressing deforestation in trade. The EU trade negotiations with Indonesia are on-going and the challenge is to make the sustainability paragraph meaningful for palm oil and deforestation. AD-Group members will submit their position to the EC.</p>	

### 3.2 Strategy 2: Stimulate a Global Value Chain Approach for agricultural commodities

<b>2.1 General</b>		
KPI 2.1 Expand the number of countries supporting the Amsterdam Declarations.	<p>✓ Italy joined the AD Partnership in June 2017.</p> <p>✓ The Support Unit and AD-group will continue supporting government-to-government dialogue and contacting and informing country governments to commit to deforestation-free, sustainable commodities. Various European governments have been informed. See also 1.1. European action.</p>	
KPI 2.2. Help establishing and implementing credible monitoring systems.	<p>✓ Grants provided by the European Commission, Netherlands, Norway and UK to CDP, TRASE, WRI Global Forest Watch and The Accountability Framework Initiative.</p> <p>✓ Financial support to Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) a.o. for monitoring and reporting. The Netherlands, Norway and United Kingdom are members of the TFA.</p> <p>✓ <i>Certification standards:</i> Dialogue with commodity certification standards on the availability of data, how to improve monitoring and transparency. A study by Mekon Ecology provided insight in which certification standards ensure deforestation-free commodity production in the supply chain.</p> <p>✓ ISEAL is co-operating with Global Forest Watch Pro to develop a 'certification atlas' with the support of GIZ Germany.</p>	

KPI 2.3 Hold an annual multi-stakeholder dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The third Multi-Stakeholder Event has been organised by France on 27 June 2018: See: <a href="https://ad-partnership.org/news/events/events/">https://ad-partnership.org/news/events/events/</a> The meeting was organised back-to-back with the European Roundtable on Responsible Palm Oil.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.2 Agricultural commodities, with initially a focus on Cocoa, Soy and Palm Oil</b>		
KPI 2.7 Strengthen the capacity of ESPO national sector organisations and support as far as feasible their national implementation plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ On-going through ESPO. Results and impacts of ESPO and national implementation plans are being published by ESPO. Also some of the National Initiatives publish their progress reports individually. However, comparability of the results of the different national initiatives is still lacking; effort is needed for a joint monitoring system.</li> <li>✓ Sharing of experiences between national initiatives.</li> <li>✓ ESPO publish its next monitoring report in June 2018 (<a href="#">link</a>).</li> <li>✓ However, comparability of the results of the different national initiatives is still difficult/lacking and effort is needed to work towards a joint monitoring system.</li> </ul>	
KPI 2.8 Continue dialogue on minimum requirements for sustainability in palm oil production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ On-going dialogue between ESPO and the Support Unit for continuous improvement. The minimum requirement decided upon by ESPO is certification by 'RSPO or equivalent' with the understanding of a continuous improvement. Both ESPO and the Support Unit monitor developments of palm oil certification standards and are in contact with RSPO and other certification systems. The AD-Group nor ESPO is directly involved in the RSPO Review Process of Principles and Criteria (the Support Unit is). Some of the National Initiatives are involved on an individual basis.</li> <li>✓ Enhanced dialogue with the various palm-oil related systems (RSPO, ISCC, RA, ISPO, MSPO) and their contribution to sustainability: small-holder inclusion, forest governance and enforcement, etc.</li> </ul>	
KPI 2.9 Advance through public-private partnerships on the production side as well as the side of consumer and market uptake towards expressed commitments on % certified and deforestation-free supply chains.	<p><i>General:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>New York Declaration on Forest Platform:</i> Signed by Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and United Kingdom. On-going dialogue on progress till 2020 and post-2020 strategy.</li> <li>✓ <i>Tropical Forest Alliance:</i> The Netherlands, Norway and United Kingdom are members and the three donors renewed their funding to the TFA for a further three years in 2018. On-going dialogue on progress till 2020 and post-2020 strategy.</li> <li>✓ <i>Good Growth Partnership:</i> Launched by UNDP, which is supported by Global Environmental Facility (which in turn is financially supported by amongst others the signatory countries). The GGP is implemented in Brazil, Indonesia, Liberia and Paraguay. On-going dialogue.</li> <li>✓ <i>The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH):</i> Financial and political support provided by NL, NO and DK for the work to promote sustainable production in developing countries as well as increased market uptake in a number of global agricultural commodities incl. palm oil, soy and cocoa.</li> <li>✓ Broadening of the scope of the French "Alliance for a sustainable palm oil", an association of French companies</li> </ul>	

	<p>aiming at developing and expanding the use of sustainable palm oil, to other deforesting commodities, resulting in the launch of the French “Alliance for the preservation of forests”. Paris. 21 June 2018.</p>	
	<p><i>Cocoa main initiatives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>GISCO German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa</i><sup>4</sup> (Goal: 70% certified or third-party verified cocoa by 2020 In 2017 60% was certified or third-party verified and in 2018 65 %. MoU GISCO and Switzerland since 2017.</li> <li>✓ <i>Dutch Chocolate Working Group</i> (goal: 100% sustainable cocoa by 2025). Status 2016: 66%. The Netherlands works on launching a revised cocoa ambition and working group to replace the Chocolate Working group in 2019.</li> <li>✓ <i>Cocoa Forest Initiative (CFI)</i>: goal is to end cocoa-related deforestation): The CFI development process is supported. The countries developed joined frameworks for action. Cote d'Ivoire presented a detailed action plan March 2018, Ghana by June 2018. Colombia joined in July. The Netherlands and United Kingdom provide support to the process.</li> <li>✓ <i>The World Cocoa Conference (WCC4)</i> was held in Berlin in April 2018. Final communiqué (Berlin Declaration) was approved by all participants lining out responsibilities and recommendations for all stakeholders involved to make the value chain more sustainable<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>✓ <i>Partnerships for Forests (P4F) cocoa projects</i>: (1) Partnership on productivity protection and resilience in cocoa landscapes with a.o. Touton company, SNV, AgroEco; and (2) Rainforest Alliance – Olam Partnership for Forest Landscape Management in Ghana, working together with the Ghana Forestry Commission and Cocoa Board and in Western Ghana; Cemoi in Cote d'Ivoire; and RSPB in Liberia.</li> </ul>	
	<p><i>Palm oil (also linked to 2.1):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The AD Partnership focuses mainly – through ESPO (below) on the use of palm oil for food and feed. The other main use – biofuels – is addressed by each country through the formal discussions on the EU Renewable Energy Directive.</li> <li>✓ <i>European Sustainable Palm Oil initiative (ESPO)</i>: ESPO and its national commitments are going forward as planned. In each AD-country there is a national initiative with a clear sustainable palm oil commitment. ESPO is considering its “Road to 2020” efforts.</li> <li>✓ <i>European Sustainable Palm Oil Conference</i>: Participation by the Support Unit in EPOC 2017.</li> <li>✓ <i>Other uses (pharmaceutical, technical)</i>: Some companies from other relevant sectors have established a 100% sustainable palm oil commitment (such as L'Oréal). But it is for example not clear how the pharmaceutical</li> </ul>	

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.kakaoforum.de>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.icco.org/about-us/icco-news/387-berlin-declaration-of-the-fourth-world-cocoa-conference.html>

	<p>sector is performing as a whole. This is being discussed with ESPO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI)</i>: Support is provided to the process (funded by the UK through Partnerships for Forests). Regular regional meetings are being organised. Ten signatory countries have agreed on a regional framework with guiding principles for responsible oil palm development, and are developing national principles and action plans for responsible oil palm development.</li> <li>✓ <i>Jurisdictional approaches</i>: Contacts with various initiatives in Indonesia and Malaysia that support or implement jurisdictional approaches related to the palm oil supply chain in order to analyse stakeholder views, experiences and lessons learned (with a focus on Borneo). Noteworthy developments are for example the LTKL (Sustainable Districts Platform (Lingkar Temu Kabupaten Lestari) and Sabah Malaysia's jurisdictional commitment. Mekon Ecology conducted a study assessing current developments (<a href="#">link report</a>).</li> </ul>	
	<p><i>Soya:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Denmark</i>: The Danish Ethical Trading Initiative is working on sustainable soya.</li> <li>✓ <i>France</i>: Not one national private sector led initiative.</li> <li>✓ <i>Germany</i>: the “Forum on More Sustainable Protein Feed” discussed criteria and certification schemes for more sustainable soy aiming to reach 100% certified sustainable soy. In October 2017 a common position paper<sup>6</sup> was published.</li> <li>✓ <i>Italy</i>: No national initiative.</li> <li>✓ <i>Netherlands</i>: Share of sustainable soya (RTS) for Dutch market reached 100%.</li> <li>✓ <i>Norway</i>: A coalition of five major companies that are signatories to a Norwegian Roundtable on Responsible Soy imports 100% GMO-free, ProTerra-certified soy from Brazil.</li> <li>✓ <i>United Kingdom</i>: On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, a UK Roundtable for Sustainable Soya has been established and is working towards realising a sector commitment to sustainable sourcing and trade.</li> </ul>	
KPI 2.10 Cross-learning palm oil, cocoa and soy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mainly directly facilitated through the annual Multi-Stakeholder Conferences.</li> <li>✓ Also the NYDF Platform and TFA2020 support cross-learning.</li> <li>✓ The Initiative for Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains (INA), a platform of stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and politics for more sustainability in global agricultural supply chain was launched in November 2018 in Germany. (More under <a href="http://www.sustainable-supply-chains.org">www.sustainable-supply-chains.org</a>).</li> </ul>	
<b>2.4 Work together with producer countries on integrated landscape approaches</b>		
KPI 2.11 Integrate on-going landscape approaches and private sector value chain initiatives	<p><b>Public-Private Partnerships:</b> Enhancing synergy between supply chain approaches and landscape/jurisdictional approaches, through for example (see also par. 4.5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Althelia Climate Fund</i> (supported by AD countries NL-FMO, UK): in Brazil (beef), Guatemala, Kenya and Peru</li> </ul>	

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.eiweissforum.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Positionspapier\\_19102017-1.pdf](https://www.eiweissforum.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Positionspapier_19102017-1.pdf)

(climate change, deforestation-free and inclusion smallholders).	<p>(cocoa).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>AndGreen Fund</i>: Launched by Norway (\$100 million) in partnership with GEF, UNEP, IDH, and companies like Unilever (\$15 million) based on a protection, production and inclusion approach. New investment opportunity for public-private-civil society partnerships for deforestation-free commodities. Goal is to protect 5 million hectares of forests.</li> <li>✓ <i>BioCF ISFL - BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes</i> (supported by DE, NO, UK): in Colombia (beef, palm oil, forestry), Ethiopia (coffee) and Zambia. Works together with forest countries and farmers.</li> <li>✓ <i>IDH ISLA - Initiative for Sustainable Landscape Approaches</i> (supported by DK, NL, NO): now 8 countries, 12 landscapes; Brazil (1), Côte d'Ivoire (1), Ethiopia (1), Ghana (1), Indonesia (3), Kenya (1), Liberia (3), Viet Nam (1).</li> <li>✓ <i>Tropical Forest Alliance 2020</i> (supported a.o. by NL, NO, UK); Other countries such as Indonesia (palm oil) are members. 10 African countries are joined in the Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI). The State of Mato Grosso, Brazil (soy) is the first sub-national member.</li> <li>✓ <i>Partnership for Forests (P4F)</i><sup>7</sup>: Fund created by the UK and supports private sector partnerships. P4F currently supports commodity related projects in Africa and South-East Asia (see also KPI 2.9).</li> </ul>	
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### 3.3 Strategy 3: Enhanced dialogue with major producer/consumer countries

3.1 Effective dialogue with major producer / consumer countries		
KPI 3.1 Establish an effective dialogue with major producer – consumer countries	<b>Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI)</i>: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone signed the Marrakesh Declaration for responsible palm oil development. AD-Group members are mainly engaged with APOI through TFA2020.</li> <li>✓ <i>Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)</i>, which includes Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon. CAFI partnerships with countries in the region focus on the implementation of national investment plans to reduce emissions from forests and land use. Dialogue on commodities have primarily focused on timber and palm oil. French Presidency 2018-2020. Programs in Gabon and Congo Brazzaville. Frozen funds in DRC. On-going negotiations with Cameroon, CAR and Guinea.</li> <li>✓ <i>Côte d'Ivoire</i>: Target country of CFI and presented a national action plan in March 2018. A French Delegation visited Côte d'Ivoire for a cocoa study tour in May 2018.</li> <li>✓ <i>Ghana</i>: Target country of CFI and presented a national action plan in June 2018. TBI Ghana and partners</li> </ul>	

<sup>7</sup> <https://partnershipsforforests.com>

	<p>conducted a scoping study on how the cocoa sector and CFI could benefit from the Ghana FLEGT-VPA experience.</p>	
	<p><b>Asia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>China</i>: Support is provided to Sustainable Palm Oil Working Group; and Sustainable Soy Trade Working Group. The China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs and Native Produce (CFNA) produced a 'Guide for Overseas Investment and Production of Sustainable Palm Oil by Chinese Enterprises' (with support of the UK InFIT Programme), which has yet to be implemented.</li> <li>✓ <i>India</i>: no outreach activities yet.</li> <li>✓ <i>Indonesia</i>: Informal Government-to-Government (G2G) dialogue between ADP and Indonesia on ISPO and FoKSBI-National Action Plan developments. A French Delegation visited Indonesia in January 2018.</li> <li>✓ <i>Japan</i>: Presentation of the ADs at the International Symposium on the Promotion of Deforestation-free Global Supply Chains to Contribute to Halting Deforestation, 23-24 January 2018 in Tokyo.</li> <li>✓ <i>Malaysia</i>: Continued dialogue on MSPO developments. The Netherlands continued its Knowledge-to-Knowledge palm oil cooperation. A French Delegation visited Indonesia in January 2018.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Latin America</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Argentina</i>: Dialogue and information exchange on-going.</li> <li>✓ <i>Brazil</i>: Norway maintains close relationships with the Brazilian government through its Climate and Forests Initiative, and with Peru, Colombia and Ecuador in cooperation with UK and Germany. Official visit by the French Ambassador for the Environment in March 2018 to the State of Mato Grosso</li> <li>✓ <i>Colombia</i>: Dialogue and information exchange on-going. The Minister of Agriculture visited the Netherlands in May 2018. During the visit of the Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality an intention statement on sustainable palm oil was signed between Colombia and The Netherlands. A Cocoa Origins project was launched in Huila, Colombia. Colombia joined the Cocoa &amp; Forests Initiative in July 2018.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>General and international fora</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Government representatives from producer countries and China were invited to the government-to-government dialogue of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 as part of the annual Multi-Stakeholder Meeting.</li> <li>✓ Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples organisations from various producers countries., facilitated by the Forest Peoples Program and BothENDS.</li> <li>✓ <i>UN-CBD</i>: and UNFCCC to pursue Nature Based Solutions towards CBD CoP15 in Kunming, China, which will decide on new strategic plan for the CBD</li> <li>✓ <i>UNFCCC / REDD+</i>: Negotiations on REDD+ framework concluded and enshrined in the Paris Agreement in 2015. REDD+ cooperation related to commodities now takes place in TFA 2020, Governors Climate and Task Force, the UN-REDD Programme, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the BioCarbon Fund, the Green Climate Fund, the Central African Forests Initiative, and in bilateral partnerships with tropical forest countries</li> </ul>	

	(often involving cooperation between Norway, Germany and the UK)	
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### 3.4 Strategy 4: Enhanced monitoring, transparency and CSR reporting

4.1 Enhance monitoring, transparency and use of voluntary CSR reporting		
KPI 4.1 Enhance Reporting on Forest & Carbon Footprint with frontrunner companies and branch organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Some signatory countries asked for the development of an EU action plan on Responsible Business Conduct. If such an action plan would be developed this would probably also include enhanced voluntary reporting.</li> <li>✓ By mid-2019, the European Commission will publish a fitness check of EU legislation on public corporate reporting, including the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD). Whether amendments to the NFRD will be put forward remains to be seen. In the meantime enhanced voluntary reporting should be encouraged, e.g. with regard to land use and carbon footprint.</li> </ul>	
KPI 4.2 Enhance tracking voluntary commitments (promote awareness, cross-learning).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Contacts have been established with third party monitoring initiatives such as ESPO; CIFOR Borneo Atlas; Global Canopy Programme' Forest500; Global Forest Watch; TRASE; ForestTrends Supply Change. Grants are provided to these initiatives by individual ADP countries.</li> <li>✓ Dialogue with certification standards on level of certification and availability of data.</li> <li>✓ ESPO national initiatives shared lessons learned on palm oil monitoring.</li> <li>✓ Dialogue and information exchange with NYDF Platform and TFA2020.</li> </ul>	
KPI 4.3 Enhance tracking and tracing: support initiatives, exchange lessons-learnt, Scientific market analyses etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The ADP decided not conduct their own monitoring, but to use third party monitoring: their platforms such as TRASE and Global Forest Watch and/or monitoring reports such as from Forest Trends Supply Change, monitoring report on the New York Declaration on Forests and Tropical Forest Alliance. In addition, specific publications might be used. Some of these initiatives are supported by signatory countries.</li> <li>✓ The Support Unit has prepared fact / monitoring sheets on cocoa, palm oil, soya and natural rubber.</li> <li>✓ Publication of a report on Certification Standards and deforestation. Contacts were established with ISCC, ISO, UTZ, RA-SAN, RSPO, RTRS, ProTerra, and initiatives such as Accountability Framework and HCV network.</li> </ul>	

## 4 Sustainable and deforestation-free commodities

### 4.1 Monitoring

The Support Unit of the Amsterdam Declarations will not collect data but base itself upon the monitoring by existing private sector and NGO initiatives and trade associations. How data is collected is the responsibility of these initiatives.

#### Limitations

There are also limitations to the monitoring conducted by third party initiatives:

- ✓ Over time, methods and indicators may change and methods may vary between initiatives making comparison sometimes difficult.
- ✓ Data may not be available, public, or not specific enough.
- ✓ The goal of the declarations is to halt deforestation as a result of expansion of commodities traded with our countries. Monitoring of trade flows from sourcing areas and identify direct linkages with deforestation is difficult.
- ✓ Therefore, various key indicators directly related to this goal (e.g. assessing whether the imported volume of commodity X has or has not a direct relation with deforestation in producer country Y) are not possible so proxy indicators have to be chosen (such as certified volume of commodity X).
- ✓ Some third-party initiatives may make such monitoring feasible in the nearby future.
- ✓ The AD-group decided that progress on the Amsterdam Declarations can therefore mainly be measured by adoption of international voluntary certification standards. This means that standards have to be relevant by sufficiently addressing social-economic, environmental and climate issues and by ensuring no deforestation or no conversion (cut-off date, used definitions and concept).

#### Main proxy indicator chosen

The AD-group is linked to producer countries through the commodity supply chain. Therefore, the main proxy indicator chosen by the AD-group for measuring deforestation-free commodity trade with their countries is "*volume of certified commodity X imported into the signatory countries*", whereby deforestation-free and standards are also used as instruments to enhance sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation and address wider deforestation challenges.

However, the impact of certification on deforestation in general is limited and full certification in Europe does not mean that there is no deforestation in the producer country associated with the commodity. Therefore, synergy between supply chains and landscape level (jurisdictional) approaches are promoted and supported as well.

#### Data sources

- **Trade data:** EUROSTAT and ITC (UN-COMTRADE)<sup>8</sup> are the primary sources on trade data with EU28 and Norway. In addition ADP cooperates with TRASEarth.
- **Forest data:** The main sources of information are Global Forest Watch, FAO Forest Resources Assessment, and CIFOR Borneo Atlas.
- **Level / share of certification:** This information has to be provided by certification standards companies or their industry alliances. The availability of data is however limited and may exist for an individual certification standard but not all standards relevant for commodity X publish such annual figures.

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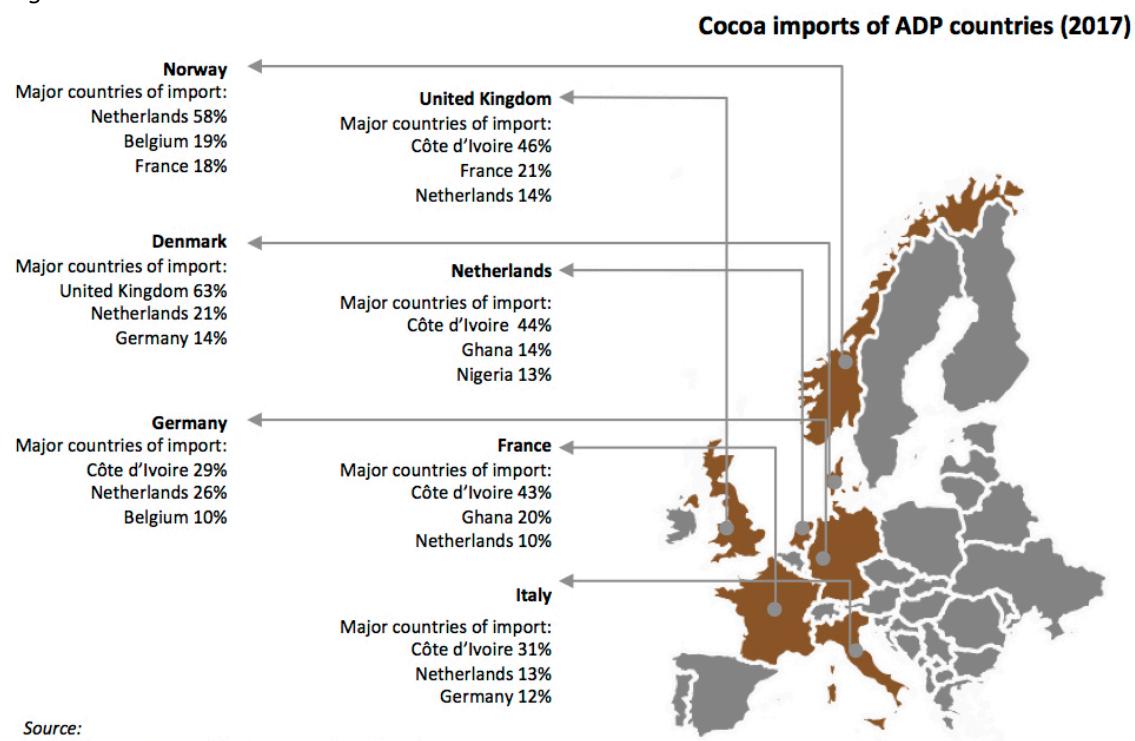
<sup>8</sup> UN International Trade Centre uses UN COMTRADE: <http://www.trademap.org/cbi/Index.aspx>

## 4.2 Deforestation-free, sustainable cocoa production and import

Côte d'Ivoire (43% of global production), Ghana (20%), Ecuador (6%) and Indonesia (6%) are the main cocoa producers and exporters. Africa produces app. 75% of global production followed by 16% from Latin America and 8% from Asia (ICCO, 2018). On average, the EU imports almost 50% of global cocoa production (4.7 million tons in 2017). The EU also conducts 37% of the global grindings of cocoa beans with the Netherlands having a 35% share in grinding and Germany 25%. Côte d'Ivoire is the second largest processor globally after the Netherlands (ICCO, 2018).

In 2017-2018, the ADP countries accounted for 77% of total European cocoa import (beans, paste, butter). Important trading partners from outside Europe in 2017 were: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Peru. The figure below presents overall import per country and shows there is also significant intra-European trade. This is mainly cocoa paste and butter processed in the Netherlands and Germany.

*Figure 1:*



The main standards ensuring deforestation-free cocoa production are those with a cut-off date after which no deforestation is allowed i.e. Rainforest Alliance (2005, merged with UTZ certified in 2018) (De Koning, 2018). At the moment, the share (%) of certified import is unknown. Contact has been sought with RA and ISEAL's Certification Atlas Initiative to see how to improve insight. In the main producer countries Côte d'Ivoire, certification by RA (incl. UTZ) reached 35%. Indonesia (#2 in harvested area) only has 5% cocoa area certified. Ghana reached 16% in 2014 (Lernoud et al, 2017). The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is regarded as the main private-sector led partnership with a no deforestation commitment (covering about 80% of the global market) specifically addressing the relation between cocoa production and deforestation. Both Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana presented their national action plans in 2018.

National level initiatives in ADP signatory countries:

- **Denmark:** Denmark imports most cocoa through other European countries. Several companies are supportive of initiatives promoting sustainable cocoa, but there is no broader national cocoa initiative.
- **France:** There is no national level company initiative on cocoa.
- **Germany:** The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) - launched in 2012 - is a multi-stakeholder platform, which aims to improve the livelihood of cocoa farmers and their families as well as to increase the proportion of sustainably produced cocoa. To achieve these objectives, the members of GISCO closely liaise with the governments of cocoa producing countries. GISCO has about 70 members. GISCO covers about 80 % of the German cocoa, chocolate and sweets sector and the target is 70% sustainable cocoa in end products containing cocoa sold by producing member companies on the German market by 2020. Current status is 60%. Germany is actively involved in the elaboration of a CEN/ISO standard on sustainable and traceable cocoa which is supposed to be published by the end of 2018.
- **Italy:** No specific action (yet).
- **Netherlands:** *Dutch Chocolate Working Group* (goal: 100% sustainable cocoa by 2025): Status 2016: 66%. The Dutch sector is working on a revised cocoa ambition that potentially will replace the Chocolate Working group.
- **Norway:** Norway imports cocoa through other European countries so actions on sustainable cocoa are better implemented in those countries. Internationally, Mondelez (as the main actor in Norway) pursues action plans to map 100% of farms in their Cocoa Life program in key origin countries of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Indonesia by 2019, and to provide pioneering financial incentives to farmers, to encourage protecting and renewing forest areas.
- **United Kingdom:** No specific national action, but the major UK companies using cocoa are members of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

#### 4.3 Deforestation-free, sustainable palm oil import ADP signatory countries

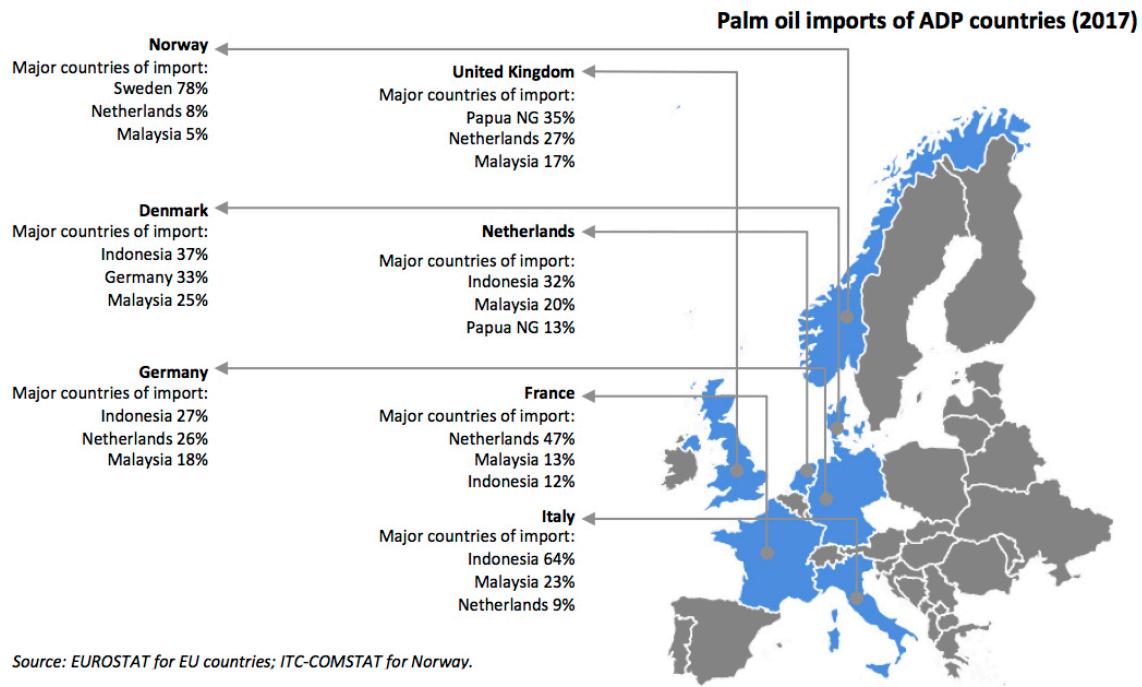
The main producer countries are Indonesia (over 50% of global production and 50% of European imports in 2017) and Malaysia (around 30% of global production and 22% of European imports in 2017). The EU is the third largest importer after India and China. Not all palm oil is traded on the world market. In 2017, Indonesia produced 42 million tons and exported 31.1 million tons (74%).

In Indonesia, palm oil is mainly planted and expanding on the islands of Sumatra, Kalimantan and Papua. Palm oil is also expanding into Papua New Guinea. In Malaysia, palm oil is mainly planted in West Malaysia and Sabah and expansion is considered in Sarawak. Kalimantan, Sabah and Sarawak are situated on the island of Borneo. Overall, deforestation of primary forest associated with palm oil is on-going.

In 2017, the ADP countries accounted for 71% of total European palm oil import. Important trading partners from outside Europe in 2017 were: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Colombia, Honduras and Guatemala. The share of palm oil from Latin America is growing. Therefore, on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 The Netherlands signed an intention statement with the Government of Colombia to support their commitment to no deforestation and sustainable palm oil. The industry associations Fedepalma (CO) and MVO Oils & Fats (NL) signed a similar commitment reinforcing Fedepalma's no deforestation commitment.

Within Europe, palm oil is mainly used for energy purposes (53% biofuel, 12% electricity and heating)<sup>9</sup>, food products and industrial application (cosmetics, detergents etc.). Use for biofuel grew by 3% whereas use for food dropped by 11%. The figure below shows there is also significant intra-European trade.

*Figure 2:*



The main standards ensuring deforestation-free palm oil production are those with a cut-off date after which no deforestations is allowed: RSPO (2005), ISCC (2008) and Rainforest Alliance (2005). At the moment, the share (%) of certified import is unknown. In Indonesia certified area by RSPO and RA reached 17% in 2014. In Malaysia this was 25%. The third largest producer country, Nigeria, has no certification by these standards (Lernoud et al, 2017). Palm oil used for biofuels that counts for the EU blending target has to adhere to the sustainability criteria of the EU Renewable Energy Directive and most biofuel is ISCC certified. Monitoring of progress on sustainable certified palm oil for food purposes is done by ESPO. The monitoring schemes of the national initiatives differ considerably and therefore results cannot be compared. The ESPO commitment includes mainly food sector companies and a significant level of crude sustainable palm oil was reached in 2017 (source ESPO 2018, [link](#)):

- *Denmark*: 65% CSPO
- *France*: 99% CSPO
- *Germany*: 85% CSPO
- *Italy*: 43% CSPO
- *Netherlands*: 88% CSPO
- *Norway*: 99% CSPO
- *United Kingdom*: 75% CSPO

National level initiatives in ADP signatory countries:

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.transportenvironment.org/publications/trend-worsens-more-palm-oil-energy-less-food>

- **Denmark:** The Confederation of Danish Industry has a voluntary initiative (under ESPO) where member companies commit to 100% certified palm oil by 2016 and 100% segregated by 2018. Currently 16 companies form part of this commitment, and the first annual report was launched in December 2016. The companies' source 100% RSPO (including book&claim), but more than 50% of the companies source more than 90% segregated RSPO. The Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark participate in a task force linked to this initiative. There is another palm oil commitment by the Danish Chamber of Commerce where companies / retailers define their individual targets. The University of Copenhagen has conducted a study on the use of sustainable palm oil in Denmark. The study estimates that at least 65% of the palm oil imported into Denmark is RSPO certified.
- **France:** The French Alliance on Sustainable Palm Oil, an association of companies established in 2013, is working towards 100% sustainable (traceable and deforestation-free) palm oil by 2020. The alliance is now part of the recently established French Alliance for Preservation of Tropical Forests.
- **Germany:** The Forum for Sustainable Palm oil (FONAP or Forum Nachhaltiges Palmöl) aims at 100% certified sustainable palm oil for the German, Austrian and Swiss markets.<sup>10</sup> All FONAP-members currently use 100% certified palm oil. The FONAP is actively involved in the Task Force of the P&C Review of the RSPO in 2018. FONAP is publishing bi-annually detailed figures on the share of certification throughout all sectors in Germany consuming palm oil (last figures from 2017<sup>11</sup>). The Forum Sustainable Palm Oil holds annual conferences in Germany discussing all topics on sustainable palm oil and improving practices in the sector. Due to legal requirements, only sustainable palm oil is consumed in the energy sector. Compared to 2015, the proportion of sustainable palm oil has risen in the sectors food (85%, +6%), animal, feed (26%, +11%), detergents, cleaning agents and cosmetics (58%, +12%) and other chemicals/pharmaceuticals (27%, +6%). The total increase of sustainable palm oil was 6% in 2017 compared to 2015.
- **Italy:** The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil is part of the ESPO initiative.
- **Netherlands:** The Dutch Alliance on Sustainable Palm Oil reached 100% CSPO in 2015. Overall, palm oil used in the Netherlands food sector was 88% CSPO in 2017 whereas 56% of the palm oil used in animal food was CSPO.
- **Norway:** The Norwegian Food and feed industries – organised under the Norwegian Initiative for Sustainable Palm Oil. NISPO - have already reached their 2018 target to use 100% certified palm oil (mass balance for feed, segregated, traceable, or identity preserved for food). Now focussed on non-food, feeds and biofuel. The biofuel industry has since 2017 committed to all biofuel imported to meet EU Sustainability Criteria. 497 million litres of biofuel were sold in 2018, 93 million litres of which were from palm oil (down from 317 million litres in 2017).<sup>12</sup> The Sustainable Palm Oil Initiative confirms close to 100% certified for food and feed, share unknown for palm oil in composite products.
- **United Kingdom:** The 2018 reports indicates that the volume of UK palm oil purchases supported by the RSPO certification models of Mass Balance, Segregated, and Identity Preserved represents 327,653 mt (excluding RSPO credits and derivatives and finished goods), or 75% of total palm oil imports to the UK (2018). The UK Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil has been operating since 2012. Overall good progress has been made towards a goal of 100% certified palm oil for the UK

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.forumpalmoel.org/the-fonap>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.forumpalmoel.org/imglib/downloads/Summary\\_palmoil%20study%20Germany%202017.pdf](https://www.forumpalmoel.org/imglib/downloads/Summary_palmoil%20study%20Germany%202017.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.miljodirektoratet.no/aktuelt/nyheter/2019/mai-2019/salget-av-avansert-biodrivstoff-okte-i-fjor/>

market. A decision was taken to focus on physical certified sustainable palm oil and not include GreenPalm credits in reporting from 2018, which explains why the figure for that year is lower than previous years.

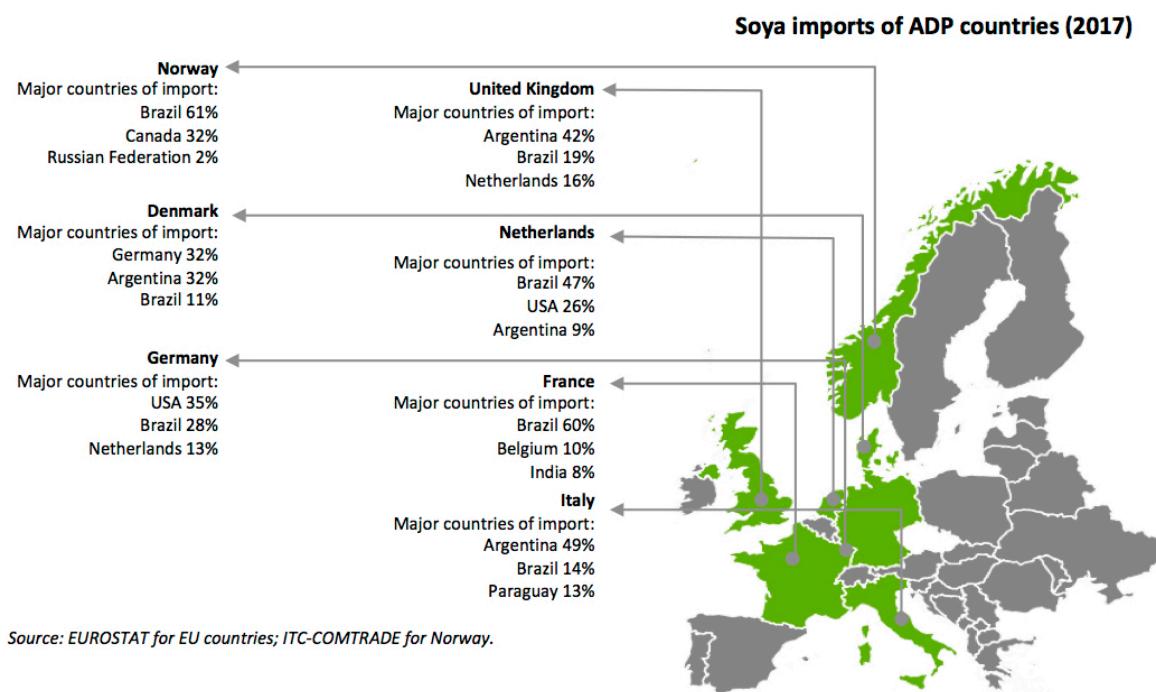
#### 4.4 Volume of (certified) soya import AD signatory countries

Only a small amount of soya is consumed directly (tofu, yoghurt). The majority of the soya is used as feed for cattle, pork, poultry and farmed fish (salmon). Soya is produced in many countries including Brazil (33 million ha harvested in 2016), United States of America (33 million ha), Argentina (19.5 million ha), Paraguay (3.4 million ha), Bolivia (1.3 million ha), Ukraine (1.8 million ha) and Uruguay (1.1 million ha). Also Europe harvested soya from 4.3 million ha.

For the year 2017/2018 the global soya production is estimated at 348 million metric tons. In 2017, the EU imported 33,2 million metric tons of soya of which the ADP signatory countries imported 62%. Soya was mainly imported from Brazil and Argentina. In those countries, soya is mainly produced in the Brazilian Cerrado and the Argentinian Pampas. Further expansion is expected to include the Greater Chaco region.

The figure below presents the countries an ADP-country imported from. Countries from outside Europe in 2017 exporting soya products included: Brazil, Argentina, United States of America, Paraguay, Canada, China, India and the Russian Federation.

*Figure 3:*



Legal compliance is considered a minimum and a stepping-stone towards deforestation-free soya. The level of sustainability therefore depends on the national legislation and will differ per country. The Brazilian forest code for example demands 35% of the land to be set aside as legal reserve in the Cerrado of the Legal Amazon (where most soya expansion occurs). There is a soya moratorium for the Brazilian Amazon). Europe and the U.S.A. do not have such requirements. Companies should therefore at least adhere to the FEFAC Soy Sourcing

Guidelines<sup>13</sup> (which includes standards that allow legal deforestation). In the ADP countries there were 16 companies with a 100% responsible soya commitment and 24 companies with a ‘no-deforestation’ commitment (WWF Soy Scorecard 2016).

The definition of forests and woodland areas does not assure their quality, i.e. changes in their structure, composition or function. A way to identify, preserve and monitor the quality of an area is to use the *High Conservation Value Areas approach*. HCVAs are natural habitats, which are of outstanding significance or critical importance due to their high biological, ecological, social or cultural value. Natural habitats retain ecological assemblages, functions and species composition that are attributable to natural evolutionary processes and have not been substantially modified by human activities. The HCVA concept was developed as a tool for managing critical values within a production landscape. The following certification standards related to soya have cut-off dates for deforestation and have adopted the HCVA concept:

1. Bunge Pro S: 2016
2. Cargill Triple S: 2008
3. CEFETRA-CRS: 2009 (2006 for the Amazon)
4. ISCC: 2008
5. ProTerra: 2008
6. Rainforest Alliance: 2005
7. RTRS: 2009 (2008 for the Amazon)

Additional requirements regarding the standards may include elements such as means of verification, third party audits, complaints mechanism, transparency, the supply chain model etc. The initiative or individual company could (also) have a specific non-GM commitment.

Brazil had the highest percentage of certification by ProTerra and RTRS with 6.7%. The other major producer countries USA (0.03%) and Argentina (0.8%) have very limited certification (Lernoud et al, 2017). At the moment, the share (%) of certified import is unknown. In November 2018 a European national soya initiatives meeting was organised by the ADP to assess the situation and progress towards sustainable soya.

National level initiatives in AD signatory countries:

- **Denmark:** The Danish Ethical Trade Initiative is working on sustainable soya
- **France:** There is no national level company initiative on cocoa.
- **Germany:** Since 2014 Germany is supporting the organisation of meetings of the “Forum on more sustainable Protein Feed” with stakeholders along the value chain
- **Italy:** No specific action (yet).
- **Netherlands:** An industry commitment supported by Government and NGO’s to reach 100% sustainable soya (RTRS or similar) for all soya imported into The Netherlands by 2015 was defined in 2010. Currently the volume of soya imported and consumed by the domestic Netherlands market is from a sustainable source (RTRS certified) whereas soya (processed and) exported meets the requirements of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines i.e. is legally sourced but not necessarily sustainably produced.
- **Norway:** Since 2015, five major Norwegian companies committed to a Soy Declaration source GMO-free, ProTerra-certified soy from Brazil, making up 60-80% of total imports, the remainder being imported mainly from Canada (whose legislation and production standards have been assessed to meet RTRS and ProTerra

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.fefac.eu/fefac-positions/sustainability/21551/>

standards). Certification is therefore not requested from this source. Norwegian soy importing companies are working with the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force to enable sourcing from jurisdictions that aim for deforestation-free production.

- **United Kingdom:** The UK Roundtable for Sustainable Soya has been operating since March 2018. The Roundtable draws together retailers, agricultural industries and traders under a commitment to source soya that is 'legal and cultivated in a way that protects against conversion of forests and valuable native vegetation'. This goal will be achieved by signatories committing to: publish time-bound plans by April 2019; and making meaningful and demonstrable progress towards this Goal by 2020.

On 20 November 2018, the ADP organized the first multi-stakeholder European National Soya Initiatives meeting<sup>14</sup> to raise awareness, share experiences and promote cooperation. This meeting will be followed up by another meeting planned for first half 2019.

#### 4.5 Green Public Procurement

The EU facilitates a Green Public Procurement Desk (GPP-Desk) at the Joint Research Centre. The GPP-Desk supports the revision of the food and catering criteria and recently presented their latest technical report<sup>15</sup>, which includes concerns on land use changes (e.g. destruction of natural habitats, particularly forests and related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). The report states that:

- **Palm oil and soy:** "...shall have been sourced from plantations that meet the requirements of a certification scheme for sustainable production that is based on multi-stakeholder organizations that has a broad membership, including NGOs, industry and government and that addresses environmental impacts including on soil, biodiversity, land use change, organic carbon stocks and conservation of natural resources."
- **Cocoa** is included under the Fair and Ethical Products that "have been produced and traded meeting the requirements of a certification scheme for fair trade that requires a minimum content of certified product of 90% and that is based on multi-stakeholder organizations and addresses international fairtrade standards including working conditions for production in accordance with ILO, sustainable trade and pricing."

The use of vegetable oils (rapeseed, palm oil, soya oil) for energy purposes is not regulated by public procurement but regulated by EU Renewable Energy Directive.

In order to support market demand for sustainable certified products and to provide a market signal in support of private sector commitment, the AD-Group is working on enhancing green public procurement on deforestation-free commodities (cocoa, palm oil and soy).

- **Denmark:** Voluntary GPP. The Food & Catering standard requires Nordic Swan or EU Organic certification. Denmark has a voluntary Partnership for Green Public Procurement which includes 13 public authorities (municipalities, 1 ministry and 2 regions) on joint GPP objectives (e.g. fair trade, sustainable wood). The Forum for Sustainable Procurement was established to promote responsible procurement of goods and services.
- **France:** In 2013, France organised a process to revise its a National Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement (plan national d'action pour des achats publics durables 2014 – 2020, PNAAPD). GPP is voluntary because it contains quantitative

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<sup>14</sup> <https://ad-partnership.org/newsevents/events/>

<sup>15</sup> [http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Food\\_Catering/stakeholders.html](http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Food_Catering/stakeholders.html)

targets for 2020. The Food & Catering standard requires EU Organic certification. In 2017, France wanted to include the fight against imported deforestation in the priorities for action on its environmental agenda. In its Climate Plan, it announced "a national strategy to put an end to the importation of forest or agricultural products contributing to deforestation" ([link](#)). The French National Strategy to combat Imported Deforestation was published on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November (available [here](#) in French). The actions formulated in the strategy were fed by the recommendations made by three working groups involving all the partners from the National Group on Tropical Forests (GNFT), our forum for dialogue between the State and all the stakeholders concerned. A medium-term horizon is set at 2030, with an annual reporting process. A mid-term review will be carried out in 2025 and a specific review of the strategy will take place if the European Commission publishes a European initiative to combat deforestation. Contents of the National Strategy: (i) The National Strategy aims to identify levers and implement a combination of actions designed to initiate a major transformation process in the fight against deforestation; (ii) The document sets out 17 objectives and 28 measures divided into five main orientations; (iii) Establish a dialogue between consumer and producer countries; (iv) Share and value knowledge; (v) Integrate this theme into international, European and national public policies; (vi) Promote the involvement of private actors around this issue; and (vii) To develop international cooperation axes.

- **Germany:** Mandatory GPP legislation. Federal, regional and communal authorities are working together within the Alliance for Sustainable Procurement in order to increase the percentage of sustainable goods purchased. The Food & Catering standard includes a.o. a criterion on organic.
- **Italy:** Mandatory GPP legislation (Decree 50/2016 Art 34), which sets Minimum Environmental Criteria for 16 product & service areas. The Food & Catering standard includes a.o. a criterion on organic.
- **Netherlands:** Mandatory GPP legislation. Decentralised authorities may define their own procurement rules in addition to the national law (which is the minimum standard) in relation to sustainability. The Food & Catering standard requires that 50% of the purchase volume per year contains products meeting the sustainability standards, which relate to animal welfare, energy efficiency, banned chemicals, and production. 85% of animal feed using soy and palm oil need to be in line with RTRS or RSPO guidelines. Cocoa needs to be certified as organic, UTZ, Rainforest Alliance or Fairtrade.
- **Norway:** Mandatory GPP. In 2016, the Standing Committee on Energy and Environment of the Norwegian Parliament proposed that the government's public procurement policy would become deforestation-free. An [online guidance](#) has been worked out to help procurers avoid deforestation in their procurements (among other concerns covered by GPP White Paper). The Food & Catering standard requires Nordic Swan or EU Organic.
- **United Kingdom:** Mandatory GPP. The UK formulated a Government Buying Standards (GBS) including for Food & catering. The GBS includes minimum criteria covering three areas of sustainable procurement: (i) Foods (and food commodities) produced to higher sustainability standards; (ii) Food procured and served to higher nutritional standards; (iii) Procurement of catering operations (including equipment, energy and water use) to higher sustainability standards. *Food & Catering standard:* Some relevant criteria in the GBS Catering are: (#5). At least 10%\* of the total monetary value of primary commodity (i.e. raw ingredient) food and drink procured is produced to certified or assured higher level environmental standards (organic, LEAF, or any regional or national equivalent Integrated Production certification); (#6)

At least 50% of tea and coffee are certified to be fairly traded; (#22) From 2015 all palm oil (including palm kernel oil and products derived from palm oil) used for cooking and as an ingredient in food must be sustainably produced. Reference is made to RSPO criteria including criterion on conversion and cut-off date 2005 (#7.3).

## 5 Concluding remarks

### 5.1 Noteworthy activities July 2017 – December 2018

The ADP countries continue to support numerous activities and initiatives to promote deforestation-free, sustainable commodities. Some noteworthy activities during this reporting period are:

#### **18 December 2018, EU Roadmap on a Communication on Stepping up EU Action against Deforestation and Forest Degradation**

The European Commission published the roadmap for the Communication for public consultation.

#### **29 November 2018, Intention Statement Palm Oil Colombia -The Netherlands**

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia and the Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands signed a joint statement on promoting deforestation-free, sustainable palm oil with respect for People, Planet and profit and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Colombian palm oil alliance Fedepalma and the Dutch Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil also signed a [statement](#) to also increase trade on sustainable palm oil. Earlier in 2017, the Colombian palm oil sector signed a [zero deforestation commitment](#).

#### **14 November 2018, France presents its National Strategy against Imported Deforestation (NSID)**

The strategy was drawn up during the French presidency of the Amsterdam declarations in the first half of 2018. the NSID will implement actions to end the import of unsustainable forest and agricultural products contributing to deforestation in 2030. The aim will be to reduce deforestation, forest degradation, the conversion of ecosystems and indirect land-use change abroad.

#### **1 November 2018, ADP Denmark Letter to European Commissioners on Deforestation**

On 1 November 2018 the Danish Minister for Environment and Food sent a letter to the European Commission on behalf of the AD Partnership calling for a roadmap for the development, in the course of 2018, of an ambitious EU Action Plan on deforestation and forest degradation.

#### **21 June 2018, Launch of the Alliance pour la preservation des forêts. Paris.**

The Alliance brings together a group of responsible manufacturers and distributors who have implemented a series of measures designed to fight deforestation.  
In addition, individual companies have similar ambitions.

#### **22-25<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the 4<sup>th</sup> World Cocoa Conference approved the Berlin Declaration.**

The declaration was approved by all participants lining out responsibilities and recommendations for all stakeholders involved to make the value chain more sustainable.

#### **19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Launch of the UK Roundtable for Sustainable Soya**

Major UK retailers and food industry associations have asked for government support in convening key industry stakeholders to address growing concerns about the link between soya and tropical deforestation. The UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will convene the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya.

**5 March 2018, Submission by delegations of ADP countries to the European Union Environment Council**

Amsterdam Declarations Combating Imported Deforestation (ST\_6528\_2018\_INIT\_EN)

**2018-2019, ISEAL Certification Atlas**

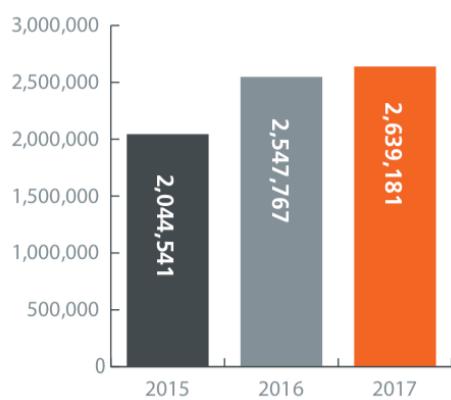
The ISEAL Alliance is working together with certification standards to put certified sites on the map. Funding is provided by GIZ Germany.

**2018, Tropical Forest Alliance**

The Netherlands, Norway and United Kingdom are members and the three donors renewed their funding to the TFA for a further three years in 2018.

## 5.2 Impact on deforestation

*Figure 4: Import RSPO palm oil Europe*



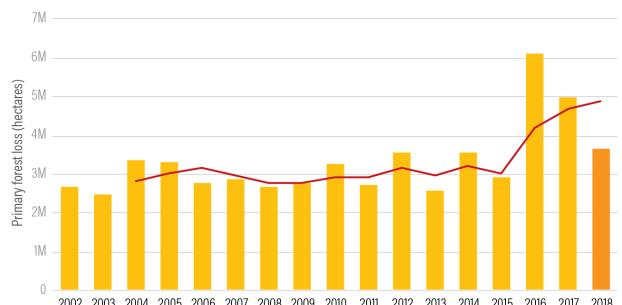
Source: ESPO (2018)

The volume of certified deforestation-free, sustainable commodities (mainly palm oil. See figure on the left) has increased. The level or volume of sustainably certified cocoa imported is not clear and the level of certified soya is low. The recently published European Soy Barometer (IDH, IUCN 2019) showed that of the European soy 22% is compliant with the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines and 13% can be considered deforestation-free. Overall, this suggests the link with deforestation and unsustainability is decreasing.

However, deforestation in major producer countries associated with major commodities has not gone down (or actually has gone up. See figure below). The main driver of current commodity-driven deforestation is cattle ranching in Latin America with a strong connection to (illegal) logging and land speculation.

*Figure 5:*

Tropical Primary Forest Loss, 2002–2018



— Three-year moving average. The three-year moving average may represent a more accurate picture of the data trends due to uncertainty in year-to-year comparisons. All figures calculated with a 30% minimum tree cover canopy density.

GLOBAL FOREST WATCH WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

**BY TOTAL AREA**



Source: WRI (2019)

Deforestation and conversion of natural areas related to cocoa, palm oil and soya continues. Commodities are expanding with deforestation but less of it is exported to Europe suggesting market segregation. A large volume of these commodities are consumed domestically or exported to non-EU countries. Given the above and the launch of the EU Communication on Deforestation and Forest Degradation in 2019, it is likely that the market and commodity supply chains will become fully segregated soon: (certified) deforestation-free, sustainable commodities will be exported to the EU and the rest will be exported to China, India and other countries. In order to address deforestation on a landscape scale therefore more attention is needed to linkages between the supply chain and jurisdictional approaches and government-to-government dialogue and cooperation.

### 5.3 Status in relation to the objectives

The strategy of the AD-Group brings together the Amsterdam Declarations on Eliminating Deforestation from Agricultural Commodity Chains and 100% sustainable Palm Oil under four main strategic lines. These have been discussed in chapter 3.

In this Status Report the objectives of the two Amsterdam Declarations have been merged.

#### I- Cooperation with the private sector in multi-stakeholder partnerships.

##### *Cooperation with the cocoa sector:*

- The Cocoa & Forest Initiative is the main private sector partnership by cocoa companies. The inception process was supported by the United Kingdom.
- *Demand side:* the major importing countries Germany and the Netherlands have national actions on sustainable cocoa and France has integrated cocoa in its national initiative to preserve forests.

##### *Cooperation with the Palm oil sector:*

- The main private sector partnership is the European Sustainable Palm Oil initiative (ESPO).
- *Demand side:* ESPO reached a significant level of RSPO-certification in the AD-countries in relation to the food sector. ESPO is supported through IDH by Denmark, Netherlands and the UK.

##### *Cooperation with the soya sector:*

- There is not one International or European soya initiative. There are some national initiatives in various AD-countries. In November 2018, the ADP Support Unit organised the first European National Soya Initiatives meeting with the aim to share lessons and foster more commitment to deforestation-free soya production and demand.
- *Demand side:* Cooperation with soya-related companies exists or is improving in various AD-countries but significant progress still has to be made. Through IDH and Althelia Climate Fund projects are supported in the State of Mato Grosso, Brazil.

##### *Cross-commodity cooperation with the private sector:*

- The Initiative for Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains (INA) in Germany is an open multi-stakeholder platform for knowledge exchange and support on a variety of topics. Action against deforestation part of it.

## **II - Enhance cooperation with producer and consumer countries.**

In general, the diplomatic dialogue between the AD-group and the main trading partners on deforestation-free production is improving. In addition, the AD-group aims to bring the issue to international meetings of for example, EU, G7, G20 and international conventions.

*Cooperation with producer and consumer countries:*

- *Cocoa:* The signatory countries support various initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, two major countries exporting to Europe.
- *Palm oil:* The signatory countries support various palm oil supply chain actions in Indonesia to address deforestation and other sustainability issues on landscape level (jurisdictional approach).
- *Soya:* IDH together with other partners work with the state government Mato Grosso in Brazil (also member of the Tropical Forest Alliance). The dialogue with the government of Argentina is improving.

*Trade dialogue:*

- Signatory countries are involved in the trade agreement discussions of the Commission as well as EFTA (in the case of Norway) in order to for example relate the sustainability and trade chapter to palm oil and deforestation (Indonesia).

## **III - Monitoring, transparency and CSR reporting.**

- Individual ADP countries and the European Commission provide financial support to various important monitoring platforms such as WRI Global Forest Watch, ISEAL Certification Atlas, TRASE, CDP.
- The EU Directive on non-financial reporting is up for review at the end of 2019. Voluntary reporting on land use related issues such as carbon footprint including deforestation should be encouraged.
- The reliability of data remains an issue as well as transparency and availability. At the moment it is not possible – for a variety of reasons ranging from capacity to confidentiality – to properly assess the level of certified commodity import, the impact of certification on deforestation beyond the supply chain (landscape level or jurisdiction) or the actual levels of deforestation related to commodity expansion. The ADP support unit will continue its dialogue with major industry alliances, certification standards and others to improve monitoring and transparency.

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