



**Amsterdam
Declarations
Partnership**

“Towards deforestation-free, sustainable commodities”

**STATUS REPORT of the
Amsterdam Declarations Partnership
2016 -2020**



**Including report on activities
1 January 2019 – 31 December 2020**

Support Unit AD Partnership (2020)



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List of acronyms and abbreviations

ADP	Amsterdam Declarations Partnership
AFI	Accountability Framework Initiative
CBD	United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of Parties
EC	European Commission
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FEFAC	European Feed Manufacturers Federation
GFW	Global Forest Watch
GHG	greenhouse gasses
GPP	Green Public Procurement
GRI	Global Resources Initiative in the United Kingdom
HCSA	High Carbon Stock Approach
HCVA	High Conservation Value Areas
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
INPE	National Institute for Space Research, Brazil
ISCC	International Sustainability and Carbon Certification
ISEAL	World Benchmarking Alliance
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
RA	Rainforest Alliance - UTZ
RSPO	Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil
RTRS	Roundtable for Responsible Soya
TFA	Tropical Forest Alliance
UNDIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

1 Introduction

1.1 Background of the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership

The Amsterdam Declarations¹ were developed in 2015 based upon the realisation that responsible supply chain management and sustainable trade are important cornerstones in reaching sustainable development, as through global agricultural commodity chains consuming and producing countries have a shared responsibility for sustainable business practices and preserving primary forests and high conservation value areas. Responsible business conduct, supportive governance and a strong civil society are important elements for achieving sustainable development (see the Amsterdam Declarations). The Declarations were launched at the international conference on “the European Union and global value chains in Amsterdam, The Netherlands (7 December 2015) and in the context of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties 21 in Paris, France.

The Amsterdam Declarations were signed by Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and United Kingdom in 2016, followed by Italy in 2017. Belgium and Spain joined as observers to the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership in 2019 and 2020 and announced to join the ADP as per 1 January 2021. Implementation started early 2016 with defining four main strategic lines² of work and subsequent actions, whereby we use as much as possible existing initiatives and networks:

1. Support coherent European and EU action on Climate, Deforestation & Trade.
2. Stimulate a Global Value Chain approach for agricultural commodities. Aligning supply chain initiatives and jurisdictional (landscape) approaches.
3. Enhanced dialogue with major consumer / producer countries on sustainable production and halting deforestation and enhanced demand for deforestation-free, sustainable commodities.
4. Enhanced monitoring, transparency and voluntary CSR reporting to track commitments, identify issues and priorities to reduce deforestation risks, and report on overall impact on reduced deforestation.

The current ADP countries are major European consumer markets approximately covering 77% of all extra-European cocoa import, 62% of all soya import; 71% of palm oil import and 87% of all beef & leather import. But because government is not the main buyer of commodities, the declarations were phrased in support of private sector ambitions. The ADP cooperates in an informal partnership and with private sector and producer country actors and their initiatives and facilitate annual multi-stakeholder meetings to ensure broad inclusion of supply chain stakeholders and cross-sectoral learning. 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 facilitate European demand-side measures that support the transition to sustainable land use.

1.2 Global developments 2016-2020

Covid-19 impact and interdependency

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent social and economic crises heavily impacted people, societies and economies, with the full implications still unknown. The crises also made governments aware of their interdependency in complex economic, trade, and social relations between countries and therefore, in order to solve the problem, countries depend on each

¹ www.AD-partnership.org : Amsterdam Declarations on Deforestation & Palm Oil (December 2015)

² See: [AD Partnership Implementation Strategy v1Dec2016](#).

other's actions. The underlying causes of pandemics are the same global environmental changes that drive biodiversity loss and climate change and include land-use changes, agricultural expansion and intensification, deforestation and wildlife trade and consumption. The global recovery agenda, that will be faced by all countries globally, also provides an opportunity to build back better and greener, and not to continue business-as-usual. In order to strengthen the climate resilience of societies and economies, and limit greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), forests and its biodiversity should be an integral part of this global recovery (UNEP, 2020), taking into account the importance of guaranteeing sustainable supply chains by alleviating and combating imported deforestation.

Climate change

The Paris Climate Agreement defined a global framework to limit global warming below 2 °C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C. According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) to reach these goals, we need to cut fossil fuel emissions in half and increase forest cover with an area the size of Germany every year. However, global emissions are not going down and global mean temperature has increased by 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels (IPCC 2020; WMO³). The 2018 and 2019 IPCC special reports Global Warming, Land Use and Oceans show that climate change is happening, felt around the world already and accelerating. Awareness that climate change will have a major impact on our societies and way of life has risen dramatically the last five years. Biologically diverse forests and high conservation value areas (HCVA), are indispensable in the fight against climate change in line with the Paris Agreement's goals on global mean temperature. Countries are now in the process of revising their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Climate Agreement and have an opportunity to address these challenges.

Deforestation, emissions, loss of biodiversity and fertile land

In 2018, 42% of the EU's total land area was covered by forests and wooded lands⁴. More than half of the global forest coverage is found in the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, USA and China, and the net loss of forest area during 2010–2020 was 4.7 million hectares per year (FAO, 2020). On a global scale, net deforestation is prevalent in tropical forests and concentrates in a few countries (Global Forest Watch). Tropical forests are mainly found in South America, the Congo basin in Central Africa, and in Southeast Asia and Melanesia. Although lower than in the 1990s, figures show deforestation started rising again since 2015, especially related to the expansion of agriculture and cattle ranching in the forest areas of South America⁵. Deforestation of forest ecosystems and conversion of HCVA is highest in Brazil (#1 in deforestation figures, WRI⁶), DR Congo (#2) and Colombia (#4). Deforestation in Indonesia (#3) has gone down for three consecutive years but is still high.

Deforestation, forest degradation and conversion of other natural areas have negative consequences for greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss and the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities. The UNFCCC-NDCs often have ambitions to curb deforestation but have no impact yet on emissions related to conversion and deforestation. In Indonesia (#3) deforestation has gone down (albeit still high), amongst others due to a strong package of policy reforms such as the palm oil, logging and peat land moratoria, a system of timber legality verification, enhanced law enforcement and the introduction of the

³ <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/wmo-confirms-2019-second-hottest-year-record>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/EDN-20180321-1>

⁵ Figures INEP. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/01/amazon-deforestation-surges-to-12-year-high-under-bolsonaro>

⁶ <https://www.wri.org/blog/2019/04/world-lost-belgium-sized-area-primary-rainforests-last-year>

social forestry programme⁷. That said, the extensive forest fires between 2016-2020 in Brazil and Indonesia led to massive green-house gas emissions.

The Global Assessment of Biodiversity (IPBES, 2019) showed that global wildlife populations fell by 60% as a result of human activities, and more than 75% of global food crop types rely on animal pollination. The UN decade on biodiversity (2011-2020) has come to an end. Despite the commitments made by governments in 2010 to take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity to ensure resilient ecosystems by 2020, much remains to be done still. Currently countries are negotiating the development of what needs to be an ambitious new global biodiversity framework to be accepted at the CBD-COP15 in Kunming, China in 2021.

An additional concern is deforestation will also lead to major economic consequences for agriculture, for example due to increased droughts and erratic rainfall (IPBES, 2019). Early 2019, the FAO warned that 90% of the world's soil could be degraded by 2050 if the current trend continues. This would be a threat to global food security and commodity trade and probably drive more smallholder farmers into poverty⁸.

Commodity-driven deforestation and divergent economic development views

The main primary tropical forests are within the borders of sovereign nations and considered economic assets by those countries. The main driver of net deforestation globally was and is the expansion of agriculture and cattle ranching, mainly related to commodities such as beef & leather, cocoa, palm oil, soya, paper & pulp (EC 2008; EC 2013; IPBES 2020; FAO 2020), which in turn are linked to direct and indirect factors such as land speculation, economic development perspectives, growth of population and consumption, legislation and governance (or lack thereof) and environmental crime. Some general deforestation trends that can be identified are: in Africa, the main drivers are small-subsistence farming, the demand for firewood, and logging⁹; in Asia, coffee, oil palm pulp plantations and timber are the main causes; in South America, soya and cattle ranching – and increasingly illegal logging - are major drivers. The FAO State of World's Forests (2020) shows that actions to combat deforestation and illegal logging have gathered pace over the past decade – as have international agreements and results-based payments.

The 2013 EC report particularly noted that the EU imported between 1990-2008 almost 36% of all deforestation embodied in crop and livestock products traded. And that only 33% of all crops and 8% of all in livestock is traded internationally. Much has changed since 2008. First and foremost, the European Union has been surpassed by other countries (China, India) as the main consumer market for palm oil and soya. Secondly, the relevance of the drivers is changing. For example, the majority of deforestation in Brazil is now linked to illegal logging and cattle ranching (INPE, 2019) instead of soya and palm oil in the 1990s.¹⁰ And most beef is consumed domestically.

Forests provide important global public goods, and deforestation would add more greenhouse gas emissions. Secondly, agriculture and cattle are major emitters as well. Further expansion would make achieving the climate goals very difficult. We need to transform our food systems to halt deforestation and the loss of biodiversity. Deforestation-free commodity production and trade is a crucial element for achieving climate change and sustainable agriculture.

⁷ Most recently, concern has risen that the new Omnibus law would increase deforestation again.

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1194252/icode/>

⁹ <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/08/tracking-deforestation-drccs-forest-concessions-complicated>

¹⁰ Other important causes are legal and illegal logging for timber, mining, infrastructure developments (roads, settlements)

Food security concerns

Climate change, global population growth and current economic trade relations has led to growing concerns on food security, in terms of domestic food security for the poor as well as national resource security concerns. Countries such as China regard domestic food security as the main argument to make international trade relations more diverse and sustainable.

Human rights and human security concerns

The current trend of deforestation has also an inherent link to increasing violations of general human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples specifically, including land grabbing, illegal logging and mining, and direct (physical and judicial) conflicts with local communities and indigenous peoples, and with environmental and human rights defenders. Civicus Monitor and Global Witness flag a worrying annual increase in the murder of and violence against human rights and environmental defenders. Most of the killing of environmental defenders in 2019 were related to the mining, agribusiness and logging sectors. In addition, there are still many social, labour and poverty (decent and living income, local food security) issues to be addressed in the different commodity supply chains.

European trade and import developments

The European Union developed important ambitions on climate, greening the economy and deforestation. Between 2016-2020, the European Union presented the EU Green Deal, EU Biodiversity Strategy, the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, and of course the Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect Forests and Restore the World's Forests in 2019. These policies include an ambition on regulatory and non-regulatory measures to eliminate deforestation from agricultural supply chains.

Norway and soon the United Kingdom are not members of the European Union. As ADP we therefore monitor the European market development rather than EU. European import will also not be fully deforestation-free by 2020. Overall import of certified agricultural commodities has increased (see chapter 2).

In general, global production and demand of sustainably certified commodities is rising too slowly to ensure a sustainable expansion of production and there is no or limited premium paid on sustainable commodities. China is a dominant global consumer and India has become the main palm oil importing country. This means that there is a major market for commodities that are not sustainably certified. Most certified produce is exported to Europe and USA, but this only represents a fraction of total production and consumption. This is leading to market segregation, making the European market less relevant and failing to solve the challenge of halting deforestation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

1.3 Scope of this report

The current report presents the activities and status of the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership covering the period 2016-2020. This report provided a concise introduction to the Amsterdam Declarations. The next chapter describes the evolution of the ADP, what the ADP did and what was achieved for the period 2016-2020, and what we did not achieve. In addition to the previous ADP Status Reports, annex 2 presents the most noteworthy activities in the period 2019-2020. More activities may be presented in national reports by individual countries. The last chapter presents some general observations on future challenges and presents a view towards the future (post-2020).

2 Towards sustainable and deforestation-free commodities

2.1 Evolution of the AD Partnership

Deforestation higher on the political agenda.

Since the launch of the Amsterdam Declarations and the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015, the subject of deforestation has risen on the political agenda. The commitment of the countries under the ADP mobilised political momentum and is an argument to facilitate policy changes and support national initiatives with private sector involvement and, vice versa, these initiatives gave meaning and value to the ADP. External developments such as the increasing deforestation and forest fires also attracted substantial political attention. Questions and motions in national parliaments and the European Parliament (e.g. EP motion 2019/2156 INI) regarding commodity-driven deforestation have become more frequent. The most recent motion by the European Parliament to halt EU-driven deforestation (motion 2020/2006INL). The ADP is quite often mentioned as one of the commitments or instruments to address the issue.

Constructive alliance of mutually supportive frontrunner countries

Between 2016-2020, the Amsterdam Declarations have been merged into one ambition to work towards deforestation-free, sustainable commodity production and import. The group of signatory countries established the AD-Partnership, which has become an effective and mutually supportive coalition of front-runner countries against commodity-driven deforestation. Through this coalition, individual countries can learn from each other and have more influence than they would have alone.

Inter-departmental communication and coordination

Deforestation is a cross-sectoral issue and related subjects fall within the mandate of different ministries (e.g. climate change, foreign affairs, agriculture, trade, domestic affairs, public procurement, biodiversity, poverty reduction). It is clear that addressing deforestation – and climate change – is a complex, inter-departmental issue. In response, various countries have established regular inter-departmental meetings to enhance internal communication, alignment and coordination. The ADP commitment – and especially the chairing period of each signatory country - supported inter-ministerial coordination and policy coherence. The French National Strategy to combat imported deforestation was published on the 18th of November 2018¹¹ and is a good example of inter-departmental coordination, which makes inter-ministerial action easier and stronger. In 2016, The Netherlands established a working group with representatives of the signatory ministries to enhance coordination and alignment. An inter-departmental policy on international forest conservation and restoration was presented in March 2020¹². Similarly, the UK's Global Resource Initiative published a high-level recommendations report on reducing the country's overseas environmental footprint. It was supported jointly across three different Government departments, enabling it to make cross-cutting recommendations and enhancing inter-departmental collaboration in their implementation.

Engaging other governments and influencing policies

The growth from 4 initial signatories to 7 between 2016-2020 shows the ADP has been effective in raising awareness and engaging other European countries. Belgium and Spain joined as observers in 2019 and 2020. A tenth country, Switzerland also supports work on sustainable commodity production, through the established cocoa cooperation between

¹¹ https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2018.11.14_SNFI_0.pdf

¹² <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2020/03/09/kamerbrief-inzake-internationale-inzetbosbehoud-en-bosherstel>

Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. As a European government-led partnership, the partnership was well positioned to influence European developments. Supporting the European Commission in developing a deforestation agenda was considered the single most important scaling-up effort. The ADP therefore regularly raised the subject of deforestation in EU Council meetings and sent joint support letters. The issue was also raised at G7 and G20 meetings. The goal and strategy of the ADP is now reflected in the strategy and priority actions of the European Commission (EC, 2019-352) but also in the European Parliament (Resolution 22 Oct 2020 on deforestation), the UK Global Resource Initiative and the Tropical Forest Alliance EU position paper.

The character and structure of the partnership with the Support Unit is instrumental to foster active participation, enthusiasm and mutually supportive action.

The AD Partnership is an informal government-led partnership of frontrunner European countries whereby governments are in the lead. The voluntary and flexible nature of the ADP has proven to be a strength. Discussions and exchanges are informative, transparent and productive. In future, the ADP could facilitate more in-depth discussions on those issues where countries seem less aligned. The ADP is flexible to address emerging issues and evolve as the involved countries require. The ADP is led by a chair rotating every half-year with active participation of each ADP country who together govern the process. The ADP facilitates mainly policy exchange and constructive dialogues, and has become mutually supportive in policy developments (e.g. public procurement, due diligence, diplomatic outreach). Multi-stakeholder outreach and engagement is crucial to facilitate change and support. The ADP also supports coordinated outreach toward the Commission and EU member states in working parties and Council meetings.

In order to focus on influencing developments and change, rather than implementing projects, the ADP has a very lean structure, a proactive involvement of government policy advisors and no fixed programme budget. The secretariat of the ADP has dedicated, senior level staff with a small implementation budget and cannot financially support projects. For new programmes, projects, specific events and actions, additional budget needs to be allocated by the individual countries. This has worked very well to maintain focus. More dedicated budget could be used for background analysis and facilitating multi-stakeholder processes (e.g. by organising meetings). As shown by the 2019 International Sustainability Week, facilitating events but not organising them creates strong ownership with the involved organisations, enhances ADP's influence, and strengthens cooperation.

Strong synergy needed between producer and demand-side initiatives

Over time, the partnership evolved, to not only support enhanced demand for sustainably produced agricultural commodities – through national initiatives, joint European-level actions and public procurement -, but also to enhance synergy with production-side initiatives and jurisdictional approaches. The ADP also promotes stronger cross-commodity learning. More synergy and coherence is required to have a meaningful impact and reward successful jurisdictional commitments through enhanced demand. Over the years, the ADP countries also strengthened their joint diplomatic efforts to enhance the agenda and facilitate a constructive dialogue with producer countries.

2.2 What did we do?

Strategy 1: Support coherent European policy action on climate, deforestation and trade

Supported and informed by the ADP countries (joint support letters to the Commission¹³, statements in Council meetings and working parties¹⁴ and support for the Commission's agenda), the European Commission presented in 2019 the Communication on the Stepping Up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests with actions to address commodity-driven deforestation. This was reinforced by the Council conclusions on the European policy initiatives mentioned in the introduction. The proposed line of work reflects the experience gained with the ADP strategy.

In addition, 'deforestation' has been put on the agenda of trade discussions. The French and Dutch Trade Ministers called in June 2020 upon the EU to increase its ambition regarding the nexus between trade and sustainable development¹⁵. A reference to the Paris Climate Agreement will be adopted in new trade agreements (comm EC). In the Environmental Council of December 2020, France supported by other ADP countries brought forward the issue to "ensure existing and future trade agreements between the EU and external partners do not lead to an increase in imported deforestation in those partner countries".

Within the ADP an exchange on **green public procurement** (GPP) has been facilitated¹⁶ and various countries have or are in the process of reformulating their procurement criteria (see table below). In all ADP countries, there is a high level of decentralised authority including for public procurement. Governments report annually to their parliaments. Procurement authority is often dispersed over hundreds/thousands (an estimated 30,000 in Italy alone) contracting authorities spread across the central and state/regional level, provinces, municipalities and other public entities (PWC, 2016). Most commonly, guidelines and criteria are developed at central government level or, if applicable, by legally autonomous states/regions. In all countries, decentralised GPP is voluntary. The voluntary nature does not seem to be the limiting factor for implementation. In practice, lower-level public institutes follow and implement central government guidelines. Implementation seems hampered more by a lack of capacity and general unawareness amongst procurers. Also the decentralised procurement structure is an important limiting factor in monitoring and assessing the efficacy (enforcement on central level, tracking implementation on decentral level) of procurement.

Table 1: Overview of the latest procurement laws and/or action plans per ADP country.

Country	GPP status	Remarks
Belgium	Flanders 2016, Wallonia 2017	Revision considered. EU GPP guidelines integrated.
Denmark	October 2020	New strategy for green public procurement launched.
France	November 2020	New "zero deforestation" public procurement guidelines
Germany	April 2020	New German Federal Government's Guidelines on the Promotion of Deforestation-Free Supply Chains of Agricultural Commodities per 4 April 2020.
Italy	Since 2010	Minimum Environmental Criteria. New criteria were planned for May 2020 but delayed. No formal decision yet.

¹³ <https://ad-partnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-0424-Letter-Min-Foreign-Trade-and-Dev-Coop-Netherlands-to-First-Vice-President-Timmermans.pdf>

¹⁴ For example, https://ad-partnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ST_8233_2019_REV_1_EN.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.permanentrepresentations.nl/documents/publications/2020/05/08/non-paper-from-nl-and-fr-on-trade-social-economic-effects-and-sustainable-development>

¹⁶ <https://mekonecology.net/resources/>

Netherlands	October 2019	New policy “ Inkopen met Impact ”. Also submitted a new Forest policy letter to parliament setting out lines of action and increased budget.
Norway	End 2020	New action plan for an increased share of green and innovative public procurement.
Spain	Since 2018	Plan for Green Public Procurement (2018-2025) . New steps for its implementation expected in 2021.
United Kingdom	Post 2020	Greening Government commitments to be reviewed post 2020

The Danish Government for example launched a new green public procurement strategy in October 2020, including an initiative on deforestation-free procurement. The central government purchases will gradually become deforestation-free, starting with palm oil and soy (both direct and indirect usage). By 2023, the central government consumption of soy and palm oil must be segregated responsible and deforestation-free, if the market can deliver, and otherwise no later than 2025. For food products, this will be achieved by demanding segregated certified soy (RTRS or equivalent) and palm oil (RSPO or equivalent). More commodities will be assessed and possibly included in the scope of the deforestation-free procurement. In addition to this, voluntary guidance documents on deforestation-free procurement will be elaborated for municipalities and regions.

ADP countries also raised ambitions on **climate neutrality**. In 2019, the UK presented its new laws to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050¹⁷. The 2019 European Green Deal (EC, 2019-640) presented the ambition to become climate-neutral by 2050¹⁸. In June 2020, the Norwegian parliament approved an ambition to make Norway climate neutral by 2030. Also in June 2020, Denmark adopted the Climate Act, which makes it legally binding for Denmark to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 70% in 2030 compared to 1990 levels and reach net zero by 2050. Importantly, in September 2020, also China announced its ambition to become climate neutral before 2060¹⁹. In order to avoid shifting the climate burden to producer countries these climate neutrality ambitions need to include climate-neutral, deforestation-free commodity import. Trase.earth showed that the carbon footprint of European soya import from Brazil is higher than soya imported by China given the European sourcing regions are mainly in high deforestation states and municipalities.

In the period 2015-2020 there were also important developments regarding **due diligence**. France adopted in 2017 a due diligence regulation (Devoir de Vigilance) and published its comprehensive “National Strategy to combat Imported Deforestation” in November 2018 to ensure zero deforestation imports on soy, palm oil, natural rubber, cocoa, beef and its co-products, and timber and its by-products by 2030. In follow-up of their environmental plan, the United Kingdom launched an independent Global Resources Initiative (GRI). A top recommendation by GRI was to develop due diligence regulation. November 2020, the United Kingdom parliament tabled its legality-based due diligence approach as part of their new Environment Bill²⁰. In October 2020, The Netherlands adopted a new policy on responsible business conduct, which proposes a smart mix of measures of which the main element is due diligence legislation preferably implemented at EU level (to ensure a level playing field). In 2021, the Commission will present a proposal for introducing regulatory and non-regulatory measures (incl. due diligence) related to halting deforestation. A proposal for Sustainable

¹⁷ [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-netzero-emissions-law](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law)

¹⁸ <https://www.betterworldsolutions.eu/norway-climate-neutral-2030/>

¹⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/23/world/asia/china-climate-change.html>

²⁰ https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0009/amend/environment_rm_pbc_1110.pdf

Corporate Governance framework – including environmental and human rights due diligence for the European Union is expected to be presented in the second quarter of 2021.

Strategy 2a: Supply chain partnerships and national demand-side initiatives

Numerous relevant supply chain and landscape activities have been and are supported through the government budget directly whereby ADP strives to enhance synergy between demand and production and impact on-the-ground (see annex for specific activities period 2019-2020). Other specific activities are presented in the previous status reports). The ADP supported important and influential global and national initiatives such as New York Declaration on Forests, the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 and the linked African Palm Oil initiative (APOI), the European Sustainable Palm Oil initiative (ESPO), the Cocoa & Forest Initiative (CFI), national cocoa initiatives (example Belgium in box 1) and facilitated the establishment and implementation of European National Soya Initiatives (ENSI). Over the years, the ADP organised annual Multi-Stakeholders Meeting (MSM), which facilitated cross-learning and networking. This culminated in the 2019, International Sustainability Week where the MSM was organised back-to-back with important global meetings on soya, palm oil, cocoa and timber²¹. Through all these initiatives and others, general awareness on deforestation has risen and the number of large companies with commitments has increased to 484²² since 2015.

In most ADP countries specific demand-side initiatives have evolved related to cocoa, palm oil and soya or multi-commodity (see par 2.2) with the financial and political support of their governments. These national initiatives are very instrumental to facilitate dialogue between companies and civil society organisations and supportive to the facilitation and implementation of company commitments. In November 2018, the German Initiative for Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains (INA) was launched²³. This is a cross-sectoral platform of stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and politics for more sustainability in global agricultural supply chain. The platform facilitates the knowledge exchange across commodities and sectors. By this, it enables the usage of synergies and development of more holistic approaches. A 10-Point Plan on Cocoa was published by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in January 2019. The plan commits to protecting and preserving forests in the cocoa sector, as well as supporting multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the Cocoa and Forest Initiative, that promote deforestation-free supply chains. In addition, Germany supported the development of an ISO standard on sustainable and traceable cocoa (#34101).

Box 1: “Beyond Chocolate” national cocoa initiative in Belgium

Beyond Chocolate was initiated by former Minister Alexander De Croo in December 2018, with high sustainability ambitions for the Belgian chocolate sector. Partners in the initiative are working to end deforestation, stimulate education for future generations and enable living incomes for cocoa growers. This multi-stakeholder platform – bringing together actors of industry, retail, civil society, standard organizations, social impact investors, academics and governments - has great potential to move boundaries and drive sustainability. In a highly competitive market, a level playing field is needed to protect and support actors that are ambitious in terms of sustainability. By bringing together all stakeholders in a safe environment, Beyond Chocolate empowers them to make their contribution to a common ambition.

²¹ <https://ad-partnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Overview-events-International-Sustainability-Week-ADP-v2.pdf>

²² <https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019.06.05-Supply-Change-Targeting-Zero-Deforestation-Report-Final.pdf>

²³ <https://www.nachhaltige-agrarlieferketten.org/en/>

The cocoa-processing industry, chocolatiers, retailers and companies that are active in the Belgium chocolate sector will substantially intensify their investments into the sustainable development of the cocoa sector in the coming years. This is expected to lead to lasting improvements in the living standards and incomes of smallholder cocoa farmers and their families. Increased incomes enable cocoa farmers to invest in their farms and increase their productivity on existing land, mitigating the need to encroach tropical forest areas.

Through Beyond Chocolate, the Belgium government co-funds projects to improve the sustainability of the cocoa value chain. The initiative convenes the Belgium cocoa stakeholders around these pilot investments, sharing best practices and learning, in order to upscale change.

Link: <http://www.beyondchocolate.be/>

Projects: <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/news/discover-the-7-approved-beyond-chocolate-projects/>

Strategy 2b: Production-side initiatives

Through existing development cooperation budgets, the ADP countries invest in many supply chains and jurisdictional initiatives in producer countries (see annex 2). Commitment, coherence and cross-commodity learning is promoted through programme formulisation, diplomacy and multi-stakeholder meetings (the annual ADP Multi-Stakeholder meeting, Tropical Forest Alliance meetings, Oslo Tropical Forest Forum etc.).

Some interesting examples are (more in annex 2):

- The programme “Sustainability and value addition in agricultural supply chains”, commissioned by BMZ for the years 2018 -2025 aims at improving agricultural value chains of cotton, coffee, natural rubber, palm oil and soya in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, India and Indonesia. It supports farmers in sustainable agricultural production methods, value addition and integration into global supply chains, while at the same time ensuring that forests and other natural ecosystems are not converted.
- Through the &Green Fund²⁴, Norway is investing 100 mill USD (also Unilever and GEF contribute) in public-private partnerships for agricultural transition to deforestation-free production in jurisdictions that show strong political commitment to green growth and reduced deforestation. Norway has also entered into a 10 million USD grant agreement with Nordic Microfinance Initiative for the Climate Smart Microfinance Fund²⁵ that aims to help smallholders in West Kalimantan province, Indonesia, make the transition to deforestation-free production of palm oil. The fund will be open for private sector investments after the microfinance product has been fully developed.
- Another example is the UK’s £120m *Partnerships for Forests*²⁶ programme, which provides grant funding and technical assistance to develop new business models which create jobs and livelihoods, while protecting forests. The programme operates globally, currently supporting 49 public-private partnerships across Southeast Asia, West and Central Africa, and Latin America. This has helped to catalyse £225m of private investment into sustainable land use, across nearly 1.2m hectares of land, while benefitting around 50,000 small farmers in communities adjacent to forest areas.

²⁴ <https://www.andgreen.fund/>

²⁵ <https://www.nmimicro.no/news/nmi-and-the-norwegian-ministry-of-climate-and-environment-set-up-climate-fund>

²⁶ <https://partnershipsforforests.com/>

- The IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative supports a ‘produce, protect, include’ approach in 20 landscapes in 12 countries²⁷.

Strategy 3: Government-to-government dialogues & diplomacy:

Direct and indirectly the ADP countries engage with producer country governments - besides the formal negotiation processes at international conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNEA, for EU member states this is in the constellation of the European Union) - through bilateral contacts, technical meetings and diplomatic dialogue. ADP countries already had and have bilateral MoUs with various producer countries (see also annex 2). France, Germany and the United Kingdom brought the topic of commodity-driven deforestation to the agenda of the G7 and G20, which led to a G7 declaration by agriculture ministries in 2017 with reference to sustainable agriculture supply chains. Through initiatives such as the African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI) and the Cocoa & Forest Initiative, important African producer countries are engaged. The Netherlands – in addition to the existing collaboration of Germany, Norway and United Kingdom – signed in 2017 a memorandum of understanding with the government of Colombia regarding circular agriculture including sustainable, deforestation-free palm oil. In order to enhance our mutual understanding, the ADP initiated an informal dialogue with Indonesia on palm oil.

In 2018, the EU took the initiative to propose a resolution on deforestation and agricultural commodity supply chains at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 4: UNEP/EA.4/L.15), March 2019. The resolution was withdrawn as it was strongly opposed by some producer countries that felt unfairly targeted in the mention of specific commodities, such as palm oil and soya. They stressed that agriculture is not the sole driver of deforestation and highlighted their role in producing food for the world.²⁸

The ADP governments also engaged with the Chinese government on sustainable supply chains on various occasions to raise awareness and future actions, e.g. at the G7 and G20 and in the context of international fora. However, the last couple of years the Swine flu epidemic, the trade conflict with the USA and the Covid-19 pandemic made a constructive dialogue difficult. There was the intention to raise the subject also at the EU-China summit, the CBD in China and the Climate COP26 in 2020 but these were all postponed. However, language on sustainable production and supply chains has been discussed in the CBD COP15 negotiations to be held in Kunming, China in 2021.

Most recently, - in a unique joint diplomatic effort - the ADP send an open letter to the Brazilian government to express concerns on the increasing deforestation. The ADP is currently waiting for the Brazilian government to respond with concrete plans and actions. This is a major step in joint diplomacy as ADP countries responding to a unique situation.

The United Kingdom and Italy will host the Climate COP26 in 2021 and in preparation they have launched a ‘Sustainable Land Use and Commodity Trade dialogue’, which aims to bring countries together to take collaborative actions that promote trade and development while protecting forests. This will be a government-to-government dialogue, supported by wider multi-stakeholder consultation. The intention is that this dialogue will continue well beyond COP26, in order to achieve the necessary long-term cooperation and progress. In the first round of dialogue in October-November 2020, 26 producer and consumer countries participated.

²⁷ <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/landscapes/>

²⁸ <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/what-did-unea-4-do-for-the-environment/>

Strategy 4: Monitoring and transparency

Monitoring, reliable data on deforestation, expansion and trade, and transparency in reporting are crucial elements to identify priorities drive change and facilitate decision-making. On purpose, the ADP does not monitor supply chain developments itself but rather supports influential and important third-party monitoring and transparency initiatives such as WRI Global Forest Watch, TRASE-earth, the Accountability Framework Initiative, the research-based CIFOR and the public-private partnership Tropical Forest Alliance to provide an important knowledge base. The Netherlands for example also works closely together with Wageningen University, Sattelligence and Sarvision on satellite monitoring for deforestation. These initiatives are rapidly evolving and help to create change. The ADP uses this knowledge base and research to monitor our achievements and strategy.

The ADP also supports the advancement and uptake certification standards that ensure no deforestation related to a commodity such as ISO, ISCC, ProTerra, RA, RSPO, RTRS, the High Carbon Stock Approach, and initiatives such as the Accountability Framework and High Conservation Value network. The certification standards are increasingly transparent on their certified producers, where plantations are located and their annual volumes. The certification standard ISCC (often used for biofuels) is notably lagging behind in public transparency.

To drive change, innovation and access for all, Norway finances (worth 43 million USD) universal access to high-quality satellite imagery for free.²⁹ Normally, high-resolution satellite images are expensive and therefore difficult to obtain. Now, anyone around the world can detect deforestation occurring in very small areas, whether it be authorities, companies buying raw materials associated with deforestation, investors, journalists, scientists, indigenous peoples' organisations or NGOs. Norway also supports SEPAL³⁰ by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) – responsible for the Forests Resources Assessment reports - that helps forested countries to gain an overview of forests and land use, and the ADP countries (e.g. UK) support the development of a number of technology platforms which support enhanced forest monitoring, such as the Global Forest Watch and Trase.

With the financial support of IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative (financially supported by the Netherlands, Denmark and Switzerland), annual assessment reports are produced on palm oil and soya: progress reports European Sustainable Palm Oil Initiative (ESPO); and European Soya Monitor reports 2019 and 2020. Independently, VOICE Network produces the Cocoa Barometer reports³¹. The Carbon Disclosure Project³² and the Supply Change initiative (Forest Trends) monitor company commitments.

2.3 What did we achieve (results and impact)?

The Amsterdam Declarations were signed in December 2015 and implemented between 2016 – 2020. Our ambitions were formulated in support of private sector initiatives to reach fully deforestation agricultural commodity supply chains. To reach our common goal the ADP 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. In order to measure the level of deforestation-free we try to use the level of certified.³³

²⁹ <https://www.nicfi.no/current/new-satellite-images-to-allow-anyone-anywhere-to-monitor-tropical-deforestation/>

³⁰ <https://sepal.io>

³¹ <https://www.voicenetwork.eu/cocoa-barometer/>

³² <https://www.cdp.net/en/research/global-reports/global-supply-chain-report-2019>

³³ Mekon Ecology (2017), Certification Standards and Deforestation <https://mekonecology.net/resources/>

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

- The last five years the European Commission presented some very important policy documents to further the deforestation-free supply chains as part of the climate agenda. The main document influenced by the ADP is the EC (2019-0723) Communication on EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests, but also to some extent EC (2018-757) Report on the development of Plant Proteins in the EU.
- Through the ADP countries awareness has been raised on the issue and importance of addressing deforestation in trade. Recently, the Commission confirmed deforestation will be addressed in new trade negotiations.
- The recent EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities³⁴ related to financial investments includes a criterion (10f) on avoiding deforestation.

Strategy 2: Stimulate a Global Value Chain approach for agricultural commodities:

- After the initial launch of the declarations 7 European countries joined the partnership. Belgium (2019) and Spain (2020) joined the ADP as observers. Further expansion is not foreseen because with the new Communication the EC and EU member states will also work on this agenda. The ADP countries would like to remain the front-runners on this agenda and see a strong additionality of the informal ADP.
- Amongst others through the annual Multi-Stakeholder Meeting (ADP-MSM), direct contacts and support and diplomacy the ADP has become well-known and influential. Regularly reference is made to the ADP. The ADP for example facilitated the evolution of ENSI (European National Soya Initiatives). Over the years the number of companies and investors committed to no deforestation has grown significantly and they have become more vocal and supportive of this agenda. However, many commitments have not been met and overall deforestation is going up, mainly as a result of illegal logging and non-committed companies.
- Several members of the ADP, including Norway, Netherlands, UK and Germany, support the Tropical Forest Alliance, a community of practice drawing together over 170 companies, governments and civil society organisations working towards deforestation-free supply chains for agricultural commodities. This draws together companies through value chains, from retailers and manufacturers, through to traders, producers and farmers, as well as consumer and producer governments, promoting a global value chain approach to agricultural commodities and sustainability issues.
- Over the years monitoring of commodity supply chains has been slowly improving. The Accountability Framework Initiative has become influential in providing a common framework for what deforestation-free production means and is now being used by governments and private corporations in designing mandatory and voluntary measures. Important monitoring platforms to date are TRASE.earth and Global Forest Watch and used often. In order to enhance monitoring of import of sustainable and/or certified commodities reporting and transparency still needs to be improved, especially for soy. Annual Europe-wide monitoring reports on palm oil and soya support improved monitoring of sustainable import. These platforms also serve as a rapidly evolving knowledge base that can help influence policy decisions and policy dialogues.
- In The Netherlands, 8 financial institutions have established a biodiversity working group to enhance the capacity of the financial sector³⁵.

³⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance/eu-taxonomy-sustainable-activities_en

³⁵ <https://www.dnb.nl/over-dnb/samenwerking/platform-voor-duurzame-financiering/biodiversiteit/index.jsp>

Table 2: Status of certified deforestation-free import.

Remark: Cocoa figures 2019 (Rainforest Alliance), palm oil figures 2019 (EPOA, IDH), soya figures for 2019 (European Soy Monitor 2020). Please note national figures are derived from national initiatives and relates to national consumption. These national initiatives do not cover the whole import and consumption in that particular country. Therefore, these figures are lower if assessed for the national import volumes. The method for assessing the national volume of certified produce may differ per country.

Country	Cocoa	Palm Oil	Soya	
			Deforestation-free	FEFAC compliant
Europe	Est. <32-38%*	86%	19%	38%
Denmark	unknown	65%	18%	66%
France	unknown	97%	20%	43%
Germany	72%	85%	22%	47%
Italy	19%	64%	20%	36%
Netherlands	66% (2016)	89%	99%	100%
Norway	unknown	100%	100%	100%
United Kingdom	unknown	77%	27%	34%

* Europe mainly imports cocoa from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and Rainforest Alliance / UTZ certification is the common standard. The exact figure of European import of certified cocoa is unknown (Rainforest Alliance merged with UTZ but there is still some double certification so figures for each standard cannot be combined). According to Rainforest Alliance, in 2019, 101,706 mt of RA certified cocoa beans equivalent³⁶ were imported directly from origin to the EU. This is approximately a 30% increase compared to 2018. For UTZ, 615,532 mt were traced to the EU in 2019, a 3.5% increase from 2018. According to Eurostat the EU-27 imported 1,906,070 mt of cocoa beans in 2019. So roughly, this would amount to 32-38% certified import. Or less if also import of cocoa paste and butter is taken into account.

According to the European Soja Monitor (IDH, 2020), 38% of all imported soya in Europe was FEFAC Soy Guidelines compliant and 19% was deforestation-free certified. Import by ADP countries show higher percentages (see table).

Cocoa

Certification by the Rainforest Alliance in 2019 was app. 46% of total global production (RA, 2020)³⁷. In 2015 this was 31%. Europe is the largest cocoa market (ICCO, 2020) but overall demand for chocolate within the European market seems to stabilise (pers comm Rainforest Alliance). As stated above, most of the certified cocoa is sold on the European market³⁸. According to Rainforest Alliance more cocoa is certified than sold as certified. In general, low farm gate prices hamper the farmers to achieve a decent living income. Global Forest Watch showed cocoa-related deforestation in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire reduced, in which the Forests & Cocoa Initiative was instrumental³⁹. According the Cocoa Barometer 2019, many social problems persist such as income, land tenure and child labour.

³⁶ Based upon Rainforest Alliance conversion rates. In RA Standard Annex 6, Traceability and Shared Responsibility, version 1, June 2020.

³⁷ <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/business/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Cocoa-Certification-Data-Report-2019.pdf>

³⁸ <https://www.voicenetwork.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-Cocoa-Barometer.pdf>

³⁹ Other important initiatives are the Joint Cocoa Commission of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, Cocoa Action by the World Cocoa federation and the Global Cocoa Agenda.

The ADP countries facilitated the following national level cocoa initiatives (see also table 2):

- **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:** In June 2020, France finalised a roadmap for Ivory Coast with objectives to work jointly towards a sustainable cocoa supply chain. A working group on cocoa has also been announced the NSID's two-year anniversary meeting by the State Secretary for Biodiversity, Ms. Bérangère Abba on November 18, 2020.
- **Germany:** The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa¹ (GISCO) and its members have set the goal to achieve a share of at least 85 % of certified (by sustainability standards) or independently verified cocoa in cocoa-containing end products by 2025 sold by the producing members in Germany. GISCO achieved 72 % in 2019. In addition, they have committed to ending deforestation and contributing to the conservation of forests and biodiversity, and to reforestation.
- **Italy:** No specific national action.
- **Netherlands:** In 2018, about 66% of cocoa sold by Dutch supermarkets was visibly certified as sustainable⁴⁰. Dutch Initiative for Sustainable Cocoa (DISCO) with three ambitious impact targets for all Dutch import (20% global trade), namely: (1) Farming families with cocoa as their main livelihood activity will be enabled to earn a living income by 2030, (2) 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, (3) Effective measures and necessary actions contributing to ending all forms of child labor by 2025 are taken.
- **Norway:** Norway imports cocoa through other European countries so actions on sustainable cocoa are better implemented in those countries.
- **United Kingdom:** No specific national action, but the major UK companies using cocoa are members of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

Palm oil

The European Sustainable Palm Oil initiative (ESPO) achieved a major increase in uptake of RSPO certified palm oil by its member organisations. According to the European Palm Oil report⁴¹ over 2019, 99% of all palm oil entering Europe is now traceable to the mill. In 2016, 69% of all palm oil imported was certified. End 2020, approximately 86% of all palm oil import for food, feed and oleochemicals was sustainably certified and most European companies are aligned with NDPE policies (No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation). That percentage has stagnated since 2018. The remaining gap is mainly linked to the oleochemical sector, which do not yet fully participate in the ESPO. Palm oil imported to meet the biodiesel blending targets have to be 100% certified (EU Renewable Energy Directive).

Directly and via ESPO, the ADP countries support national level palm oil initiatives, which are all part of the ESPO initiative and all work towards 100% deforestation-free, sustainable palm oil (see table 2 for status). Most companies involved are also committed to No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) standards.

- **Denmark:** Palm oil initiatives under the Confederation of Danish Industry and under the Danish Chamber of Commerce. In November 2020, these initiatives were replaced by a new Danish Alliance on Responsible Palm Oil, facilitated by the Danish Ethical Trade Initiative.
- **France:** French Alliance for Preservation of Tropical Forests includes palm oil⁴².

⁴⁰ CBS (2019) monitor-duurzame-cacao-2019

⁴¹ <https://palmoilalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/New-Palm-IG-6.5.pdf>

⁴² <https://alliance-preservation-forests.org/en/>

- **Germany:** Member companies of the Forum for Sustainable Palm oil (FONAP or Forum Nachhaltiges Palmöl) achieved 100% certified palm oil, palm kernel oil and derivatives at the end of 2019. They have also committed to a road map with intermediate goals to achieve 100% physical supply in 2020 at the latest.
- **Italy:** The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil' members represent 75% of palm oil consumption in the Italian food sector and are committed to 100% certified sustainable palm oil (status 64%). The alliance also signed the TFA position paper on a smart mix of measures by the EU.
- **Netherlands:** The Dutch Alliance on Sustainable Palm Oil (DASPO). All DASPO member use 100% RSPO certified palm oil and currently 87% of palm oil in the Dutch food industry is sustainable.
- **Norway:** Norwegian Initiative for Sustainable Palm Oil (NISPO). Founded in 2014, NISPO brings together different companies (producers, retailers and hotels). Its aim is to prevent that the production of palm oil contributes to deforestation. The initiative is fully lead by one of the associations under the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises.
- **United Kingdom:** UK Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil. 77% of the overall volume is now RSPO certified (an eight-fold increase from 2009).

Soya

According to the European Soya Monitor 2020, 38% of all soya imported into Europe was compliant with the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines⁴³ and 19% was certified deforestation-free. For all ADP countries these percentages were higher than the average (e.g. Netherlands and Norway 99-100%).

The ADP countries facilitated the following national level soya initiatives (see also table 2) and brought them together under the European National Soya Initiatives (ENSI). Information below is also derived from the IDH (2020) Soya Monitoring Report:

- **Denmark:** Danish Alliance on Responsible Soya, facilitated by The Danish Ethical Trade Initiative. The Alliance includes Dakofo, some of Denmark's largest retailers - including COOP, Salling Group, Dagrofa, REMA 1000, Lidl, Aldi-, and Danish Crown (a large meat processing company). In 2019 Dakofo and the Danish feed companies signed the FEFAC 2025 declaration.
- **France:** Duralim (French initiative to promote and improve the sustainability of animal feed) committed to reach 100% sustainable supplies in the animal feed sector and includes a deforestation-free target. A Working group on soya from Brazil was established in 2020 and a distributors' manifesto on sustainable soya issued (2020).
- **Germany:** "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 paper⁴⁴ was published. The position paper was amended in September 2020 and includes a specific commitment to deforestation-free supply chains.
- **Italy:** No specific national action.
- **Netherlands:** 100% of the soya imported, and via meat, dairy and eggs consumed domestically, is covered by RTRS certificates. These are mainly credits, with limited mass-balance or physical coverage of RTRS. Note that most of the imported soya is

⁴³ The Guidelines do not guarantee deforestation-free production as it uses legal as the minimum standard. See Thunen (2019) https://www.thunen.de/media/publikationen/thunen-workingpaper/ThuenenWorkingPaper_98.pdf

⁴⁴ https://www.eiweissforum.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Positionspapier_19102017-1.pdf

re-exported to elsewhere in Europe, with roughly 11% used in The Netherlands. The Dutch Soya Platform is discussing next steps / ambitions.

- **Norway:** Under the 2015 Norwegian Soy Initiative, all main Norwegian importers of soy committed to a deforestation-free supply chain. Close to 100% of soy imported to Norway from tropical forest countries is now certified deforestation-free by Proterra. The next level of ambition for Ethical Soy is to only source from producers that share the goal of deforestation-free soy, with a fully traceable chain of custody and respect of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- **United Kingdom:** The UK Roundtable for Sustainable Soya started in 2018 and includes retailers, food & feed producers, industry associations and WWF-UK. Calculations by the secretariat EFECA show that 27% of soya was covered by a deforestation- and conversion-free standards. Supermarket retailers (including Aldi UK, Sainsbury's, and Tesco's) published in 2019 time-bound commitments and actions plans to support and source deforestation and conversion-free soya.

Strategy 3: Enhanced dialogue with major consumer / producer countries:

Before 2015, the ADP countries provided support for sustainable production in most producer countries. When the ADP started the main focus was on enhancing demand for these sustainably produced commodities and increase coherence between production and demand with a focus on the private sector. ADP member countries have in general, existing bilateral contacts and government-related initiatives, sometimes based on government-to-government memoranda of understanding (MoUs). In addition, the European Commission is facilitating diplomatic contacts and dialogues on behalf of the European Union with producer and consumer countries. Below some countries are presented where ADP engaged jointly.

Africa

- *Côte d'Ivoire:* improved contacts through African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI), Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) and bilaterally.
- *Ghana:* improved contacts through APOI, CFI and bilaterally.

Asia:

- *China:* Informative joint exchange with Chinese delegations. Government has shown some interest in the topic of deforestation and climate concerns. But main priority is (long-term) food and resource security (which relates to climate change as well).
- *Indonesia:* Individual countries have good contacts with various Indonesian ministries. The ADP initiated an informal dialogue with the government of Indonesia, which is informative and constructive. Various meetings between delegations were organised. The embassies organise regular informal meetings to discuss developments.
- *Malaysia:* Informal meetings have been organised with ADP and Malaysian representatives (for example EPOA in 2019)

Latin America:

- *Brazil:* In 2020, the ADP send a joint letter to the government of Brazil to express concern about the increasing deforestation and associated human rights problems.⁴⁵ Exchanges between the Brazilian government and ADP ambassadors have been organised and ADP is currently waiting for the presentation of concrete Brazilian actions.
- *Colombia:* Colombia, Germany, Norway, and United Kingdom already established close cooperation to address deforestation in 2015.⁴⁶ Germany also supports the project "deforestation-free and climate-friendly land use" in Colombia. In 2018,

⁴⁵ <https://ad-partnership.org/newsevents/news/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.regieringen.no/en/aktuelt/colombia/id2464811/>

Colombia and The Netherlands signed a joint declaration on sustainable palm oil production.⁴⁷

- The status of engagement of ADP countries in *Paraguay* and *Argentina* is currently assessed.

Due to the market developments described and increasing market segregation, more attention is needed the coming years on a constructive government-to-government dialogue to promote sustainable agriculture and halt deforestation

What did we not achieve?

In general, **commitments by the private sector regarding fully deforestation-free supply chains by 2020 is not met**. Even more worrying, global deforestation figures and the progress report on the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) show that the objective of reduced deforestation is not reached by 2020. On the contrary, **deforestation has actually been increasing** the last couple of years (see introduction). Governments in various producer countries actively promote expansion of agriculture and cattle ranching over primary forests and high conservation value areas as it aligns with their ‘economic development through conversion’ paradigm. In each country there are different contextual reasons, but a general important issue is that various in-country influential stakeholders do not see a reason to stop converting forests. The lack of implementation of sustainability commitments by the private sector facilitates this position. Quite often monitoring and law enforcement of illegal logging and forest fires are weak.

The last five years also shows a reduced economic relevance of the EU in commodity-import terms from producer countries with high level of deforestation. The EU import has stabilised or is going down relative to the increasing import by non-EU countries (China, India, rest of the world). This strongly promotes **a trend towards segregated markets** whereby deforestation-free, certified commodities are exported to Europe but commodities on recently cleared forest are either consumed domestically or exported to countries with no sustainability demands. In the coming years EU commodity import is likely to become deforestation-free. But in the context of climate change and biodiversity, major efforts are still needed to reduce overall deforestation of primary forests and high conservation value areas due to the relevance for climate change. This means more emphasis on government-to-government dialogue, diplomacy and international strategies (UNCBD, UNFCCC).

The majority of Western international companies and financial sector do have commitments and are participating in multi-stakeholder initiatives. More commitment and a stronger participation is needed by African, Asian and Latin American companies that can influence their in-country producers as well. At first, actions tended to focus on actors directly involved in the supply chain such as producers, traders and retailers. But also the financial sector plays a very important role and can become more involved globally. Through investors and financial institutions, wider adoption of sustainability commitments can be influenced. They can do better but they do show progress and, more and more, express their concerns publicly. On 29 October 2019, 251 investors representing app. US\$ 17.7 trillion in assets voiced their concerns on deforestation and forest fires in the Amazon. This statement not only showed their concern but also their level of investment⁴⁸ (another example is a letter to the Indonesian government on the new Omnibus law⁴⁹).

⁴⁷ <https://ad-partnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2018-1129-Intention-Statement-Palm-Oil-NL-COL.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://www.storebrand.no/en/asset-management/sustainable-investments/active-ownership>

⁴⁹ <https://www.robeco.com/en/media/news-item/2020/open-letter-to-the-indonesian-government-on-the-omnibus-bill-on-job-creation.html>

3 Observations and post-2020 challenges

3.1 Challenges ahead

Economic recovery

Since 2020, the world faces an additional major challenge (besides climate change): to deliver an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and that sustainably produced agricultural commodities and sustained forest ecosystems will play a vital role in helping to build back better, supporting livelihoods and overall recovery, while meeting our shared climate change and biodiversity goals, and building resilience.

Contributing to climate neutrality

Land use and deforestation contributes significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions and without stopping deforestation, climate goals cannot be met. On the contrary, restoring forests and peatlands is an important and cheap way (in comparison to carbon capture and storage) to fight climate change. The EU as a whole, Norway, Denmark and United Kingdom all presented ambitions to become climate neutral. In order to achieve climate neutrality, major organisational, behavioural, logistic and technological changes are needed in coherence with compensation of GHG emissions. Because climate change is a reality, frontrunner countries - and companies - will probably gain a competitive advantage although at high costs on the short term. Government engagement is needed to support the development of a level playing field for frontrunner companies on the short term (in Europe).

Market segregation

In many countries the law does support sustainability and biodiversity conservation. However, outside the currently established protected areas, millions of hectares of forests can still legally be cleared and not all laws are enforced properly. This is not desirable in the context of curbing climate change emissions and halting biodiversity loss. Further expansion of protected areas is one option but given the current political setting probably not very likely in major producer countries. Also, laws can change with a change in government.

Within the European market, certified sustainable commodity import still has to reach 100%. The coming decade export to Europe from producer countries with high deforestation and forest degradation will decrease in relative importance due to (a) growth in domestic demand in producer countries (e.g. higher biofuel blending % for vegetable oils), (b) export growth to non-EU states (China, India), (c) increased EU import from other countries (e.g. soya from Ukraine and USA) and (d) increased production of alternatives within the EU. Given the current divergent economic development views, market segregation may become a reality (certified produce to Europe, the rest to domestic consumption and other countries). Going forward, the ADP will need to find a constructive way to work with producer countries to mitigate the development of segregated markets. For example, under the Paris Climate Agreement (and the NDCs) and in relation to the SDGs there are various ways to support producer countries for a change in economic growth paradigm towards sustainable agriculture with zero conversion and climate neutrality.

But even though direct European commodity import may become less relevant, investments by European financial institutions may be still quite relevant. As an example: beef is consumed mainly domestically. since 2015, 58 banks have provided US\$10.6 billion in loans and US\$16.1 billion in underwriting to JBS, Minerva and Marfrig, many of which are based in Europe or the United States (Feedback report, 2020).

Food security concerns

Climate change may raise social-economic tensions and also aggravate the food insecurity of poor people and developing countries. More than 75% of global food production relies on animal pollination (IPBES, 2020). If the FAO (2019) is right with its assessment that 90% of the world's soil could be degraded by 2050, and if the current trend of loss of fertile soil and biodiversity continues, this would threaten global food security and drive more people into poverty. A global move towards sustainable land use, food security and poverty alleviation is needed. Not only are forests home to many people, these forests also help to stabilise the soil and the wider ecosystem. Re-vegetation and re-forestation are ways to restore soils.

Human rights and human security concerns

The persistent social, labour and poverty (decent income and local food security) issues in the different commodity supply chains need to be solved. Deforestation is also linked to increasing human rights and indigenous peoples' rights violations, including land grabbing, illegal logging and mining, and direct (physical and judicial) conflicts with local communities and indigenous peoples, and with environmental and human rights defenders. Climate change will negatively affect poor rural farmers and displace them (to cities mostly). The coming years these human rights concerns will likely increase in number and intensity and may even lead to open conflicts and more internally displaced persons. Especially indigenous peoples are in vulnerable situations, both because of existing disadvantages, inequalities and discriminatory state policies and practices, and because they are few in numbers and have limited economic and political power. Indigenous peoples have become better organised, are acknowledged at UN level (particularly with the adoption of The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and supported by civil society organisations but more international funding to their territorial management and diplomatic attention to the protection and promotion of their rights is needed.

Halt the loss of biodiversity and preserve landscapes

The loss of biodiversity still continuous and the fear is this will also lead to major economic consequences (IPBES, 2020). Sustained forest ecosystems and biodiversity is also needed to enhance resilience to climate changes. Although specific attention is required it is also supported by a general agenda on stopping deforestation and promoting sustainability on jurisdictional/landscape /ecosystem-level.

3.2 ADP post-2020

Conversion-free and sustainably produced agricultural commodities and sustained forest ecosystems can play a vital role in the agenda to build back better, supporting livelihoods and overall recovery, while building resilience and meeting our shared climate change and biodiversity goals.

In early 2020 the AD Partnership countries discussed the achievements of the ADP, the status of deforestation and sustainability related to agricultural commodity production and import, and the challenges to achieve deforestation-free, sustainable commodities. This is also reflected in this report. We recognise the urgent need to accelerate our collective efforts to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New York Declaration on Forests and the UN Strategic Plan on Forests, as well as the expected post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The world now faces an additional major challenge to deliver an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and that sustainably produced agricultural commodities and sustained forest ecosystems will play a vital role in helping to build back better, supporting livelihoods and

overall recovery, while meeting our shared climate change and biodiversity goals, and building resilience.

The ADP countries decided to continue working together post-2020, because the overall goal has not been achieved yet and the ADP has become a strategically important coalition of front-runner countries.

The strategy for the coming years includes:

1. *Facilitate policy coherence and action:*

Support and enhance coherence in policy and action on climate, forests, biodiversity, health, agriculture, trade and development cooperation as they relate to sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural commodities, to put our ambition into action and scale-up efforts.

Support policies and measures to strengthen European markets for sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural commodities, including producer and consumer awareness, enhanced sustainability of public and private procurement, due diligence management, in bilateral agreements, national multi-stakeholder commodity initiatives, and public-private partnerships

2. *Facilitate and support deforestation-free, sustainable agricultural commodity chains:*

Support enhanced ambition in Europe and other major markets to eliminate deforestation from agricultural supply chains, including by contributing to the swift, ambitious and efficient implementation of the EU Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests under the EU Green Deal, and including a legislative proposal and other measures to avoid or minimise the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market.

Facilitate private sector action – including the financial sector - through commodity partnerships linking supply and demand (e.g. cocoa, palm oil, soya, beef & leather) with strengthened attention to the economic paradigm for expansion and raised demand in our markets incl. conversion-free public procurement. Cross-commodity linking-and-learning will be facilitated.

Join forces through our technical and economic cooperation to better support producer countries, as well as relevant stakeholders, and build capacity to promote sustainable, deforestation-free landscapes and jurisdictions, including through transparent and inclusive land use governance, giving priority to the protection of rights⁵⁰, especially those pertaining to lands and resources, and to the empowerment of women and girls, smallholder farmers, local businesses, vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples and local communities, and preserving High Carbon Stock and High Conservation Value areas.

3. *Diplomatic dialogue:*

Use international diplomacy and strengthen the dialogue on sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural supply chains with other major consumer and producer countries (government-to-government dialogues).

Intensify our work in partnership with both producer countries and other consumer countries, as well as with actors along the agricultural commodity supply chains, including producers, traders, importers and further relevant stakeholders, including

⁵⁰ As set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

civil society, indigenous peoples and scientists, to facilitate and harmonize efforts and instruments to reach sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural commodity supply chains and long-term demand for sustainably produced goods.

4. *Enhanced monitoring, transparency and reporting on value chains and landscapes:*
Enhance monitoring, transparency and reporting of progress towards the aims of the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership using the latest advanced commodity supply chain mapping technologies and providing for a more inclusive and widely informed public engagement, support cross-learning approaches, and ultimately enhance the impacts of our actions.

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Annex 1: Overview ADP chairs, meetings and outputs

The members 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
- ✓ Norway: 1 January 2021 - 30 June 2021

AD-Partnership organised meetings:

1. Coordination Meeting #1: 22 March 2016
2. Coordination Meeting #2: 10 June 2016
3. Coordination Meeting #3: 24 June 2016
4. Multi-stakeholder event 2016: 24 June 2016
5. Coordination Meeting #4: 30 November 2016
6. ADP Soya Exchange Meeting of 6 March 2017
7. Coordination Meeting # 5: 7 March 2017
8. Coordination Meeting #6: 19 June 2017
9. Multi-stakeholder event 2017: 20 June 2017
10. Coordination Meeting #7: 23 October 2017
11. Coordination Meeting #8: 12 March 2018
12. ADP Group meeting prior to MSM: 26 June 2018
13. ADP Multi-Stakeholder Meeting 2018: 27 June 2018
14. Coordination Meeting #10: 25 October 2018
15. European National Soya Initiatives meeting (ENSI-1): 20 November 2018
16. European National Soya Initiatives (ENSI-2): 12 March 2019
17. Coordination Meeting #11: 12 June 2019
18. Coordination Meeting #12: 17 October 2019
19. European National Soya Initiatives (ENSI-3): 29 January 2019 (plus preparatory meeting)
20. ADP Post-2020 meeting: 6 February 2020
21. Coordination Meeting #13: 04 March 2020
22. Coordination Meeting #14: 05 May 2020
23. ADP Cocoa Exchange: 17 June 2020
24. Coordination Meeting #15: 24 June 2020

The external outputs can be found on the website (<https://ad-partnership.org/resources/>):

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

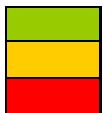
- ✓ Minutes from Coordination Meetings
- ✓ An internal discussion paper on reaching the goals of the Amsterdam Declarations.
- ✓ Soya Road map as background paper for a discussion on soya
- ✓ Cocoa Road Map as background paper for a discussion on cocoa
- ✓ Background discussion paper on sustainable finance
- ✓ Background discussion paper on an ADP post-2020 strategy
- ✓ Background discussion paper on beef & leather
- ✓ Background paper on public procurement in the ADP countries

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

Annex 2: Harmonisation of support: activities 2019-2020

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">✓ The ADP-countries are involved in the FLEGT and EU-TR process. Lessons are shared.✓ 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 Ghana⁵¹. The insights of this report have been used in discussions 2018-2020 in Europe and Ghana considering demand-side regulatory measures and producer-side partnerships to meet such regulatory measures.✓ BMZ Germany commissioned a study titled: "A 'smart mix' of policy options to address human rights and environmental issues in agricultural supply chains within producing and consuming countries". It studies how the experiences of FLEGT could inform possible options to regulate imports of agricultural goods with a deforestation-risk.	Green
KPI 1.2 Engage with EC DGs on relevant deforestation-related processes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Until 2020, the EC was involved in every ADP Coordination Meetings. Since the engagement by all related to the Communication "Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests" this depends on the topics discussed. ADP countries that are EU member are engaged in Council meetings where attention for deforestation-free commodity supply chains was raised (most recently by France in December 2020).✓ Following-up on the EC Communication on "Stepping up EU Action to protect and restore the world's forests", BMZ Germany hosted a series of eight virtual fora in June and July 2020 to discuss potential options for regulatory and non-regulatory measures on deforestation-free supply chains in support of the impact assessment by DG Environment.	Green
1.2 Trade related		

⁵¹ <https://www.tropenbos.org/resources/publications/transferring+lessons+from+flegt-vpa+to+promote+governance+reform+in+ghana's+cocoa+sector>

KPI 1.3 Engage with (EC) trade-related processes on sustainability-enhancing and deforestation-preventing measures (Trade4All).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The main on-going trade-relations relevant for deforestation-free commodity supply chains are with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (Mercosur⁵²) and with Indonesia (CEPA, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement⁵³). ADP had some direct contacts with DG TRADE and DG ENVI regarding developments. ✓ 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. Various parliaments in ADP countries have expressed their concerns on environment and human rights in relation to Mercosur. ✓ The French and Dutch Trade Ministers called in June 2020 upon the EU to increase its ambition regarding the nexus between trade and sustainable development (see Non-paper⁵⁴). 	
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Strategy 2: Stimulate a Global Value Chain Approach for agricultural commodities

2.1 General		
KPI 2.1 Expand the number of countries supporting the Amsterdam Declarations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. ✓ Belgium joined the ADP as an observer in 2019. Spain in 2020. 	
KPI 2.2. Help establishing and implementing credible monitoring systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Grants provided by the European Commission, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and UK to CDP, TRASE.earth, WRI Global Forest Watch and The Accountability Framework Initiative. ✓ Financial support to Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) a.o. for monitoring and reporting. The Netherlands, Norway, Germany, and United Kingdom are members of the TFA. ✓ <i>Certification standards:</i> Dialogue with commodity certification standards on the availability of data, how to improve monitoring and transparency. Studies by Mekon Ecology and Thünen Institute provided insight in which certification standards ensure deforestation-free commodity production in the supply chain. ✓ ISEAL is co-operating with Global Forest Watch Pro to develop a 'certification atlas'⁵⁵ with the financial support of GIZ Germany. 	

⁵² <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-mercousur-association-agreement/>

⁵³ https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/culture/53277/eu-indonesia-cepa-negotiations_en

⁵⁴ <https://www.permanentrepresentations.nl/documents/publications/2020/05/08/non-paper-from-nl-and-fr-on-trade-social-economic-effects-and-sustainable-development>

⁵⁵ <https://www.isealalliance.org/innovations-standards/innovations-projects/iseal-certification-atlas-putting-certified-sites-map>

KPI 2.3 Hold an annual multi-stakeholder dialogue.	<p><i>Activities 2019-2020:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each year, the ADP organises its multi-stakeholder meeting (MSM) with the overall intention to raise awareness on deforestation, facilitate participation and policy influencing by CSOs and companies and building stronger government-to-government dialogue with producer countries e.g. the Sustainability Week in The Netherlands, 2019), See: https://ad-partnership.org/newsevents/events/ ✓ The 2020 meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Post-2020 the MSM will likely change in scope and set-up because other events are organising similar meetings (TFA2020, Oslo Tropical Forest Forum) or are planning to do so (EC multis-stakeholder forum and Green Week). The 20201 ADP event will be organised back-to-back to the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum. 	
2.2 Agricultural commodities, with initially a focus on Cocoa, Soy and Palm Oil		
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"> ✓ 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. ✓ Sharing of experiences between national initiatives. 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. 	
KPI 2.8 Continue dialogue on minimum requirements for sustainability in palm oil production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On-going dialogue between ESPO, RSPO 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. ✓ 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. R ✓ The Support Unit as well as national palm oil initiatives participated in the discussions of RSPO on its new principles and criteria. RSPO introduced NDPE policies (No Peat, No Deforestation, No Exploitation) and redefined its principles and criteria. Good contacts with RSPO and EPOA, ESPO, and RSPO culminated into jointly organise an annual meeting, which is influential in agenda setting and supports developments. 	
KPI 2.9 Advance through public-private partnerships on the production side as well as the side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ADP countries are involved – and are supporting – important initiatives that promote deforestation-free, sustainable production and trade. Such as the New York Declaration on Forest Platform, the Tropical Forest Alliance, UNDP Good Growth Partnership, the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), and the development of the French Alliance for the Preservation of Tropical Forests. 	

<p>of consumer and market uptake towards expressed commitments on % certified and deforestation-free supply chains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BMZ Germany financially support the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) to conduct a series of industry-focused roundtables in Q1 and Q2 of 2020 to inform the EU policy debate on deforestation and advance discussions towards a smart mix of measures based on the collective perspectives, experiences and inputs of TFA partners. 	
	<p><i>European national cocoa initiatives 2019-2020:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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: In June 2020, France finalised a roadmap for Ivory Coast with objectives to work jointly towards a sustainable cocoa supply chain. A working group on cocoa has also been announced the NSID's two-year anniversary meeting by the State Secretary for Biodiversity, Ms. Bérangère Abba on November 18, 2020. ✓ Germany: The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa⁵⁶ (GISCO) and its members have set the goal to achieve a share of at least 85 % of certified (by sustainability standards) or independently verified cocoa in cocoa-containing end products by 2025 sold by the producing members in Germany. In addition, they have committed to ending deforestation and contributing to the conservation of forests and biodiversity, and to reforestation. GISCO achieved 72 % in 2019. ✓ A 10-Point Plan on Cocoa was published by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in January 2019. The plan commits to protecting and preserving forests in the cocoa sector, as well as supporting multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the Cocoa and Forest Initiative, that promote deforestation-free supply chains. ✓ PRO-PLANTEURS is a joint project of the German Federal Government, the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) and the Ivorian Conseil du Café-Cacao (CCC) which was set-up in 2015. The project aims to professionalise 30,000 small-scale cocoa farmer households and their farmer organisations in Côte d'Ivoire in order to improve living conditions of the households. PRO-PLANTEURS raised awareness on agroforestry among 13,000 farmers and transformed 1,800 ha of cocoa plantations into agroforestry systems (with the farmers). ✓ Italy: No specific action. ✓ Netherlands: In 2018, about 66% of cocoa sold by Dutch supermarkets was visibly certified as sustainable. The initiative for a <i>Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (DISCO)</i> was taken in early 2019 by Nestlé, Mars, the Association for Bakeries and Confectionery (VBZ) and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). The sustainability agreement was signed in the summer of 2020. The DISCO is a voluntary partnership of the Dutch cocoa sector with three ambitious impact targets, namely: (1) Farming families with cocoa as their main livelihood activity will 	

⁵⁶ <http://www.kakaoforum.de>

	<p>be enabled to earn a living income by 2030, (2) 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, (3) Effective measures and necessary actions contributing to ending all forms of child labor by 2025 are taken. Parties are: cocoa traders and processors, cocoa brands, supermarkets, government, financial institutions, quality marks and civil society. The parties have set the above target for all imported cocoa in the Netherlands (1.4 million tons of cocoa; 20% worldwide trade). To achieve results and a level playing field, cooperation is foreseen with the main consumer countries in Europe (Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland) and the EU, as well as with the main export countries Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria. As the world's largest importer of cocoa beans, the Netherlands feels responsible and would like to collaborate with all national initiatives and platforms to scale up to the EU level. The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) acts as the secretariat for DISCO, and its Belgian equivalent "Beyond Chocolate".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Norway: Norway imports cocoa through other European countries so actions on sustainable cocoa are better implemented in those countries. ✓ United Kingdom: No specific national action, but the major UK companies using cocoa are members of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. 	
	<p><i>European Sustainable Palm oil initiatives 2019-2020:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Denmark: Palm oil initiatives under the Confederation of Danish Industry and under the Danish Chamber of Commerce. In November 2020, these initiatives were replaced by a new Danish Alliance on Responsible Palm Oil, facilitated by the Danish Ethical Trade Initiative. ✓ France: French Alliance for Preservation of Tropical Forests includes palm oil⁵⁷. ✓ Germany: Member companies of the Forum for Sustainable Palm oil (FONAP, Forum Nachhaltiges Palmöl) achieved 100% certified palm oil, palm kernel oil and derivatives at the end of 2019. They have also committed to a road map with intermediate goals to achieve 100% physical supply in 2020 at the latest. ✓ Italy: The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil. The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil' members represent 75% of palm oil consumption in the Italian food sector and are committed to 100% certified sustainable palm oil (status 64%). Members not only include major food companies but also influential industry alliances AIDEPI, ASSITOL and AIIPA. The alliance also signed the TFA position paper on a smart mix of measures by the EU. 	

⁵⁷ <https://alliance-preservation-forests.org/en/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Netherlands: The Dutch Alliance on Sustainable Palm Oil (DASPO) is led by the industry alliance MVO Oils and Fats. All DASPO member use 100% RSPO certified palm oil and currently 87% of palm oil in the Dutch food industry is sustainable. ✓ Norway: Norwegian Initiative for Sustainable Palm Oil (NISPO). Founded in 2014, NISPO brings together different companies (producers, retailers and hotels). Its aim is to prevent that the production of palm oil contributes to deforestation. The initiative is fully lead by one of the associations under the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises. ✓ United Kingdom: UK Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil. 77% of the overall volume is now RSPO certified (an eight-fold increase from 2009). ✓ The AD Partnership focuses mainly – through ESPO (see above) 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. The ADP is not directly engaged in the discussions regarding biofuels, but it is important to take note of those developments as well. Palm oil imported for biofuels also has to be certified to be counted against the blending targets. The EU decided to phase out the use of palm oil for biofuel. ✓ <i>Other uses (pharmaceutical, technical):</i> Some companies from other relevant sectors have established a 100% sustainable palm oil commitment (such as L’Oreal). But it is for example not clear how the pharmaceutical sector is performing as a whole. 	
	<p><i>European National Soya Initiative 2019-2020:</i></p> <p>The ADP successfully facilitated the emergence of national soya initiatives and subsequently the European National Soya Initiatives (ENSI). Currently a supportive secretariat is being set-up, which would help to further align the initiatives and enhance impact and outreach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Denmark: Danish Alliance on Responsible Soya, facilitated by The Danish Ethical Trade Initiative. The Alliance includes Dakofo, some of Denmark’s largest retailers including COOP, Salling Group, Dagrofa, REMA 1000, Lidl, Aldi, and Danish Crown (a large meat processing company). In 2019 Dakofo and the Danish feed companies signed the FEFAC 2025 declaration. ✓ France: Duralim (French initiative to promote and improve the sustainability of animal feed) committed to reach 100% sustainable supplies in the animal feed sector and includes a deforestation-free target. A Working group on soya from Brazil was established in 2020 and a distributors’ manifest on sustainable soya issued (2020). ✓ Germany: “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 paper⁵⁸ was 	

⁵⁸ https://www.eiweissforum.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Positionspapier_19102017-1.pdf

	<p>published. The position paper was amended in September 2020 and includes a specific commitment to deforestation-free supply chains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Italy: No specific action (yet). ✓ Netherlands: 100% of the soya imported, and via meat, dairy and eggs consumed domestically, is covered by RTRS certificates. These are mainly credits, with limited mass-balance or physical coverage of RTRS. Note that most of the imported soya is re-exported to elsewhere in Europe, with roughly 11% used in The Netherlands. The Dutch Soya Platform is discussing next steps / ambitions. The Dutch Soya Platform is discussing next steps / ambitions. ✓ Norway: Under the 2015 Norwegian Soy Initiative, all main Norwegian importers of soy committed to a deforestation-free supply chain. Close to 100% of soy imported to Norway from tropical forest countries is now certified deforestation-free by Proterra. The next level of ambition for Ethical Soy is to only source from producers that share the goal of deforestation-free soy, with a fully traceable chain of custody and respect of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. ✓ United Kingdom: The UK Roundtable for Sustainable Soya started in 2018 and includes retailers, food & feed producers, industry associations and WWF-UK. Calculations by the secretariat EFECA show that 27% of soya was covered by a deforestation- and conversion-free standards. Supermarket retailers (including Aldi UK, Sainsbury's, and Tesco's) published in 2019 time-bound commitments and actions plans to support and source deforestation and conversion-free soya. 	
KPI 2.10 Cross-learning palm oil, cocoa and soy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mainly directly facilitated through the annual Multi-Stakeholder Conferences. ✓ 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 www.sustainable-supply-chains.org). ✓ ADP successfully facilitated an exchange and cross-commodity learning through its ADP multi-stakeholder meeting. Because other initiatives now also facilitate such learning we will revisit and maybe redefine the purpose of the ADP-MSM. 	
2.4 Work together with producer countries on integrated landscape approaches		
KPI 2.11 Integrate on-going landscape approaches and private sector value chain initiatives (climate change, deforestation-free and inclusion smallholders).	<p>Enhancing synergy between supply chain approaches and landscape/jurisdictional approaches (a.o. Public-Private Partnerships).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Through the IDH Sustainable Landscapes Initiative support is provided to 20 landscapes in 12 countries related to various commodities, such as cocoa, palm oil, soya. ✓ The programme "Sustainability and value addition in agricultural supply chains", commissioned by BMZ for the years 2018 -2025 aims at improving agricultural value chains of cotton, coffee, natural rubber, palm oil and soy in 	

	<p>Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, India and Indonesia. It supports farmers in sustainable agricultural production methods, value addition and integration into global supply chains, while at the same time ensuring that forests and other natural ecosystems are not converted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <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. ✓ Contacts with various Jurisdictional Approaches 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. ✓ Members of German FONAP (palm oil) have been actively involved in Malaysia with their smallholder project since 2018 and make a tangible contribution towards improving the environmental and social sustainability of palm oil production. The specific objectives of the project are to provide direct support for producers working towards RSPO-certification, to support pilot plantations in order to promote chemical-free production and to enhance traceability to the farm level for small producers via the Koltiva traceability app. The Malaysian non-governmental organisation (NGO) Wild Asia was commissioned by WWF Germany to carry out the project. For more information see https://www.forumpalmoel.org/fonap-projekt. ✓ Germany is supporting the jurisdiction of Kapuas Hulu in West Kalimantan in its efforts to move towards a sustainable production region, including the sustainable production of palm oil and natural rubber. Kapuas Hulu became a member of LTKL in 2020. ✓ The German BMZ-funded project "Sustainable supply chains in Indonesia (SASCI)" 2019-2021 supports oil palm and natural rubber farmers in West-Kalimantan to improve production methods, without contributing to deforestation. Exchange on sustainability objectives with the district government of Kapuas Hulu started in 2016/17. ✓ The Netherlands supports four National Initiatives for Sustainable Climate Smart Oil Palm Smallholders (NI-SCOPS) in Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Ghana. The objective is to demonstrate that the palm oil sector can contribute to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement climate ambitions, while improving the livelihoods of small-holders farmers and workers. Palm oil producing areas or landscapes will become more economically robust and socially just, while protecting and restoring valuable natural resources leading to reduction of GHG emissions from agriculture and land use change. NI-SCOPS will strengthen existing partnerships and build new partnerships with national and subnational governments, reporting transparently on progress in each country. 	
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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	<p>Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <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. ✓ <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. ✓ <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. ✓ <i>Ghana</i>: Target country of CFI and presented a national action plan in June 2018. TBI Ghana and partners conducted a scoping study on how the cocoa sector and CFI could benefit from the Ghana FLEGT-VPA experience.
	<p>Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <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. ✓ <i>India</i>: India is engaged in the recent COP26 Sustainable land Use and Commodity Trade Dialogue. ✓ <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. Indonesian government entities welcome support provided to palm oil smallholder farmers (e.g. NISPO) and to landscape initiatives. ✓ The Netherlands also signed a MoU with the Indonesian government (2019) on the cooperation on sustainable production of palm oil, and a letter of Intent with the Malaysian government (2019) on the cooperation of NI-SCOPS. Both include government to government dialogue. ✓ <i>Malaysia</i>: Continued dialogue on MSPO development and under bilateral MOUs.
	Latin America

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Argentina</i>: Dialogue and information exchange on-going. ✓ <i>Brazil</i>: Deforestation is rising fast and considered negative. In September 2020, the ADP (plus Belgium) sent an open letter to Brazil's Vice President Mourão expressing concerns that Brazil is backsliding on its previous success in protecting forests in the country and reaching out for an envisaged dialogue on how to reach sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains. ✓ <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 & Forests Initiative in July 2018. ✓ <i>Paraguay</i>: No dialogue yet but the situation is currently being studied to identify potential engagement and actions. Results are expected in 2021. 	
	<p>General and international fora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Government representatives from producer countries and China were invited to the government-to-government dialogue of 26th June 2018 as part of the annual Multi-Stakeholder Meeting. ✓ Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples organisations from various producer countries., facilitated by the Forest Peoples Program and BothENDS. ✓ <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 ✓ <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 (often involving cooperation between Norway, Germany and the UK) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. 	

frontrunner companies and branch organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. 	
KPI 4.2 Enhance tracking voluntary commitments (promote awareness, cross-learning).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. ✓ Dialogue with certification standards on level of certification and availability of data. ✓ ESPO national initiatives shared lessons learned on palm oil monitoring. ✓ Dialogue and information exchange with NYDF Platform and TFA2020. 	
KPI 4.3 Enhance tracking and tracing: support initiatives, exchange lessons-learnt, Scientific market analyses etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The ADP decided not to 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. ✓ The Support Unit prepared fact / monitoring sheets on cocoa, palm oil, soya and natural rubber. ✓ Publication of a report on Certification Standards and deforestation. Contacts were established with ISCC, ISO, RA, RSPO, RTRS, ProTerra, and initiatives such as Accountability Framework and HCV network. 	