



Amsterdam Declarations Partnership

Towards deforestation-free
sustainable commodities

“We are all Atlas”

Sharing best practices for collaboration on sustainable, deforestation-free agricultural commodity production and consumption

Theme UNEA-5:

“Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Date and time

Tuesday 1 March 2022, 13:30 – 14:30 EAT (11:30 – 12:30 CET).

Host:

Government of Denmark (also chair ADP) on behalf of the AD Partnership countries.

Moderator:

Elaine Geyer-Allély. Deputy Leader Governance Practice, WWF International. Based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening remarks by H.E. Ms. Lea Wermelin, Minister of Environment, Denmark

Minister Wermelin welcomed everybody to the event. She stressed the urgency of action to protect forests today: “don’t put off till tomorrow what WE SHOULD do today”. The Minister continued that this is a responsibility we share together. Climate change, halting deforestation and biodiversity loss, and sustainable food systems demand wide societal support. Collaboration, dialogue and multi-stakeholder approaches are the back-bone of the ADP. She continued that the reality, however, are complex: “there is no silver bullet to solve all challenges. As the challenges are interlinked, so are the solutions”. It is collaboration that is key to halt deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 as expressed by the UNFCCC COP 26 Glasgow Leaders Declaration, and to achieve the SDGs and biodiversity goals.

Ms. Tania Wimpenny, Head of International Engagement FACT Dialogue, Government of the United Kingdom shared her experiences with the FACT dialogue in relation to the UNFCCC COP26. 28 countries endorsed the FACT Roadmap to protect forests while promoting trade and development. The FACT Dialogue will continue another 3-5 years to implement the roadmap. Key messages:

- The need for genuine collaboration, partnership, and dialogue in making constructive progress on sustainable land use and commodity trade.
- Ministerial and senior official ownership essential to momentum and ambition.

Fernando Sampaio, Director PCI Mato Grosso initiative, Brazil. Mato Grosso state is a very large commodity producer with much deforestation. PCI is a multi-stakeholder jurisdictional sustainability strategy with the ambition to reach net zero emissions by 2035. Key messages:

- Our mission is to prove on those landscapes that inclusive action towards a low carbon economy is not a condemnation to poverty but means prosperity for all.
- It is possible to transform productive landscapes, so we can address both global challenges of food security and climate change.



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- But that will only be possible through massive public-private collaboration and investments, in an inclusive way.

Kulbir Mehta, Managing Director NI-SCOPS Indonesia, Solidaridad shared his experiences from the NI-SCOPS program working with oil palm smallholders in Indonesia. Collaboration is facilitated by an inter-governmental exchange between national, provincial and district government as well as with companies (palm oil mills) and smallholder farmers. In addition, south-south collaboration is facilitated between Indonesia, Malaysia, China and India. Key message:

- Trust, shared responsibility and flexibility are cornerstones for a good collaboration.
- Systemic transformation is difficult but needed.

Ms. Silvia Llamas, Pronatura Sur, Governors Climate and Forests Taskforce Mexico, focussed on the good practices and challenges for including and collaborating with Indigenous Peoples. Silvia reminded us that collaboration and inclusivity is a mutual responsibility and context-sensitive, which sets the conditions for implementation. Key messages:

- Collaboration between sub-national governments, indigenous peoples and local communities is not a given but needs guidance
- Understanding and adaptation to local contexts and dynamics is key for enduring results

Mr. Jonas Mwa-Mwa, Africa Regional Director, Sustainable Trade Initiative shared his experiences about working with local communities and cocoa smallholder farmers in West Africa. Key messages:

- Real inclusivity means we need to stop assuming what they think, and assure they participate so they can tell us what they need.
- Commodity expansion has driven development. But Covid 19 has shown us local communities can become food insecure fast. We need to enhance food security in commodity sourcing areas and supply chains, otherwise in times of crises there will be nothing to source anymore as communities will be starving.

Mr. Emile Frison, Coordinator Coalition on Agroecology. The coalition works on the transformation of food systems through agroecology. Agriculture that respects the 13 principles of agroecology provides sustainable solutions to food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation, and preservation of biodiversity. This would allow us to comprehensively tackle deforestation and a range of interrelated challenges – such as including and collaborating with smallholder farmers. Key message:

- We need a paradigm shift to transform our food system to diversified agroecological systems and by doing so address the multiple challenges we face.

Ms. Danielle Carreira, Head of Finance Sector Engagement, Tropical Forest Alliance Brazil. Danielle coordinates the Investor Policy Dialogue on Deforestation (IPDD), which includes 16 major investors. She focussed on good practices and the challenges of engaging the finance sector. The finance sector is huge comprising different actors and roles (banks, investors, asset managers) and they mainly think in risks and challenges They respond strongly to the regulatory environment. Key messages:

- Only with cross-sectoral and regional collaboration we can overcome the challenge we have in front of us.



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- Finding a common language to better communicate the problems and potential solutions .
- Once the above has been addressed, the identification of key areas that impact all the key stakeholders is essential to improve collaboration.
- It is also very important to be clear of level of leverage and as well as limitations of key stakeholders so as to manage expectations and improve collaboration. In summary, like building a puzzle, where all parties are needed to complete the game. But each piece has its shape and size.

High-level response by H.E. Ms Bérangère Abba, Secretary of State, France

In her high-level response H.E. Ms. Bérangère Abba stressed that forests are on the top of the political agenda. France currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and fully supports the adoption of an ambitious EU regulation to address commodity-driven deforestation. She believes European and international collaboration is key to fight deforestation. Sharing knowledge, dialogue and cooperation between consumer and producer countries is crucial. She elaborated on the French national strategy to end the import of unsustainable commodities by 2030, which led to amongst others a national stakeholder dialogue and cocoa initiative.

Closing remarks by H.E. Ms. Lea Wermelin, Minister of Environment, Denmark

In her closing remarks Minister Wermelin thanked all speakers and panellists. She mentioned 3 key takeaways from the session:

- The urgency to act now.
- Working in Partnerships inspires and is key.
- We should now move from specific initiatives to systematic, inclusive action.