



WCS CASE STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Supporting Producer Countries to Halt Deforestation,
Forest Degradation and Biodiversity Loss at the Forest Frontier**





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OUR VISION

WCS envisions a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on earth.



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WCS CASE STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Supporting Producer Countries to Halt Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Biodiversity Loss at the Forest Frontier

Natural, intact forests and other ecosystems are indispensable for human health, livelihoods, and food security worldwide, and yet are still being lost and degraded, especially in the tropics. In response, many European governments are considering measures to ensure their imports of agricultural commodities are deforestation and forest degradation-free. This includes the European Union (EU), which has committed to developing a new legislative proposal to ensure commodity imports are free from deforestation and forest degradation, and the United Kingdom (UK), which is exploring a legally binding target for deforestation-free commodity supply chains and a mandatory due diligence obligation on companies.

Much of the political discussion is focused on the development of the new legal measures, but how they are received by stakeholders in producer countries will be critical to their success. This reception, in part, relies on the relevant stakeholders having access to tools and approaches that enable them to easily and cost effectively understand and address deforestation risk. To support the implementation and impact of new legislative proposals to address deforestation in supply chains, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) recently published a new ‘risk-based’ framing for action on deforestation, that prioritises efforts towards the farm and forests frontier – the so-called **‘Forest First’ Approach**.¹

The Forest First Approach builds on research findings which have shown that an increasing proportion of tropical deforestation, and associated deforestation risk in commodity supply chains, is concentrated within relatively few districts or municipalities at the forest frontier. These areas are often characterised by relatively low production volumes, increasing rates of deforestation, and a high proportion of independent smallholder farmers. They have a high embedded risk of (current and future) deforestation and yet lie largely outside the scope of existing initiatives

designed to reduce commodity-driven deforestation and mitigate supply chain risks. Before the private sector is willing or able to engage in these high risk areas, increased donor support for effective interventions is needed to support these areas as they transition to becoming deforestation-free.

The ‘embedded risk’ of deforestation (and resulting greenhouse gas emissions per tonne of commodity) is far higher at the forest frontier than in other regions. Research by WCS and other partners has mapped the location of the world’s most ecologically intact tropical forests, which are mainly found in the Amazon, Central Africa, and New Guinea regions.² These remaining highly intact forests are disproportionately important for the benefits they bring for climate, biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs).³ Supporting measures that address deforestation and forest degradation in these areas will therefore also enable donors to deliver on targets related to tackling climate mitigation, biodiversity loss and poverty and can act as vital **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**.

In this briefing, we focus attention on how new legislation for deforestation-free supply chains by importing countries can be complemented by effective development interventions in partner countries that support a transition to deforestation-free production, while delivering additional benefits for the climate, biodiversity and IPLCs. We first outline the principles of a WCS’s proposed Forest First Approach before presenting three case studies from WCS’s work in Central America, West Africa, and Southeast Asia. These case studies demonstrate how donor support is mobilising a range of stakeholders, including IPLCs and smallholders, to halt deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss. We then conclude with specific recommendations to direct and prioritise future donor support for ‘on-the-ground’ actions in producer countries.

¹ WCS (2021). The need for a “Forest First” Approach: a new framing that addresses supply chain risk and reduces deforestation at the forest and farm frontier. Wildlife Conservation Society. www.wcs.org/our-work/forest-first-approach

² www.forestintegrity.com

³ Watson, J., et al. 2018. The exceptional value of intact forest ecosystems, *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, 2, 599 – 610. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-018-0490-x>



Introduction

The value of natural, ecologically intact forests

Natural, intact forests are critically important to the resilience of human societies both locally and globally. They provide timber and fuel, as well as food and medicine, and absorb significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Healthy forests also support crop pollination, biological pest control, maintenance of soil structure and fertility, nutrient cycling and hydrological services, which underpin agricultural production and the rural economy, and support entire commodity sectors. Natural forests are also incredibly important for wildlife and harbour 75% of all terrestrial biodiversity.⁴

Recent published research by WCS and other scientific partners has highlighted the exceptional benefits of the world's last remaining ecologically intact forests for a wide range of values, including for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water provision, Indigenous cultures and human health.^{5,6} More than 25% of emissions are already removed by intact forests and other ecosystems each year, for example, and additional action on forests and other land use could reduce the remaining net emissions by a further 30% or more.⁷ Furthermore, potential disease agents are also kept in check in diverse, natural systems with evidence showing that increasing encroachment and human activities in forest frontiers linked to deforestation increases the risk of zoonotic infectious disease outbreaks.⁸ Maintaining and enhancing forest integrity is critical to protecting

the benefits that forests provide, yet just 40% of forests worldwide have been found to still have high ecological integrity and many areas face a range of deforestation and degradation threats, including from agricultural production.⁹

The importance of deforestation-free supply chains

Agricultural expansion is the primary driver of tropical deforestation and forest degradation. A significant portion of this expansion is due to the ever-increasing demand for internationally traded agricultural commodities, such as palm oil, soy, beef, rubber, coffee, and cacao, including from Europe. A study produced for the European Commission, estimated that EU trade and consumption patterns are responsible for 10% of global deforestation.¹⁰

Efforts to halt agriculture-driven deforestation have resulted in several high-profile public and private sector commitments, such as the New York Declaration on Forests¹¹ or the Amsterdam Declarations,¹² as well as a growing amount of company commitments to remove deforestation from supply chains. Yet, despite this progress, tropical deforestation has not only continued but is accelerating.¹³ Tropical forest areas decreased in size by around 195 million hectares between 1990 and 2015,¹⁴ while tree cover loss across the tropics was higher in 2016 and 2017 than in any other year since 2001.¹⁵

⁴ Food and Agriculture Organisation - FAO (2016). State of the World's Forests - Forests and Agriculture: Land-Use Challenges and Opportunities. Rome.

⁵ <https://www.wcs.org/our-work/solutions/climate-change/intact-forests>

⁶ Watson, J., et al. 2018. The exceptional value of intact forest ecosystems, *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, 2, 599 – 610. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-018-0490-x>

⁷ <https://nature4climate.org/science/n4c-pathways>

⁸ www.wcs.org/ecological-integrity-report

⁹ Grantham et al (2020). Modification of forests by people means only 40% of remaining forests have high ecosystem integrity, *Nature Communications*, 11, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19493-3>

¹⁰ European Commission, 2013. The Impact of EU Consumption on Deforestation: Comprehensive Analysis of the Impact of EU Consumption on Deforestation. <https://bit.ly/36kemER>

¹¹ New York Declaration on Forests (2014) <https://bit.ly/2YhZwtv>

¹² Amsterdam Declarations (2015) <https://ad-partnership.org>

¹³ New York Declaration on Forests Assessment Partners (2019). Protecting and restoring forests: A story of large commitments yet limited progress Five-year assessment report. Climate Focus (coordinator and editor) <https://bit.ly/2Jl8diG>

¹⁴ Keenan, R. J., Reams, G. A., Achard, F., de Freitas, J. V., Grainger, A., and Lindquist, A. (2015). Dynamics of global forest area: Results from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment. *Forest Ecology and Management* 352, 9-20.

¹⁵ World Resources Institute (2018). 2017 was the second-worst year on record for tropical tree cover loss. June 03, 2020. <http://bit.ly/3qNgiRB>



Implementing government commitments

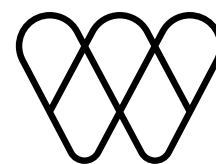
Several European countries, including the UK and Norway, signed the Amsterdam Declarations in 2015, stating their intention to ensure their commodity imports are deforestation-free. The Amsterdam Declarations Partnership has continued to grow and as of 2021 includes nine European governments. The European Commission (EC) went further than this intention in its Communication adopted in July 2019, on “Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests”, by making a commitment to explore regulatory options, to “*reduce the footprint of EU consumption and the consumption of products from deforestation-free supply chains*”.¹⁶ This is an extremely important and much needed step forward and was given new political momentum by the new EU Green Deal, adopted in December 2019.¹⁷

In the same way, the UK government established the Global Resource Initiative (GRI) to ensure the UK’s global commodity supply chain footprint is sustainable and avoids deforestation.¹⁸ Amongst other recommendations, the GRI Taskforce calls for the UK to introduce a legally-binding target to end deforestation within UK agriculture and forestry supply chains by no later than 2030, and to introduce a mandatory due diligence obligation on companies placing commodities and derived products on the UK market that contribute to deforestation. Introduction of such measures by European governments may also stimulate comparable actions by other consuming countries and regions, for example, a similar draft bill to prohibit the import of commodities linked to illegal deforestation is under discussion in the United States (US) Congress.

The EC Communication also states that any new regulatory option must be accompanied by actions to “work in partnership with producer countries to reduce pressures on forests and ‘deforest-proof’ EU development cooperation” and to support partner countries to become deforestation-free. In the same way, the GRI Taskforce has recommended that the UK accompanies efforts to remove deforestation from its supply chains with “*multilateral partnerships for collective action between producer and consumer governments, companies, finance institutions, farmers, foresters, forest communities and Indigenous peoples*”.¹⁹

Governments are also committed to fulfilling international commitments on climate, biodiversity and poverty alleviation under conventions such as the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As mentioned, protecting intact forests will contribute to the delivery of these goals, as well as government commitments for other sectors (such as health), because of the importance of forests for a wide range of environmental and social values.

Supporting effective interventions in partner countries is thus essential to delivering government commitments. Without them, there is a risk that new legislative measures will succeed in removing deforestation from European supply chains, but will fail to support comprehensive reductions in deforestation in producer countries nor deliver for IPLCs, biodiversity and climate. To inform implementation efforts, we next introduce the guiding principles provided by WCS’s Forest First Approach.



¹⁶ European Commission (2019). Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests, COM(2019) 352 final <https://bit.ly/36j5AH9>

¹⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

¹⁸ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - DEFRA (2020). Global Resource Initiative: Terms of Reference. <http://bit.ly/3sXemZc>

¹⁹ Global Resource Initiative (2020). Final Recommendations Report. March 2020.

WCS's Forest First Approach: Guiding Principles for Prioritising Interventions in Producer Countries

Interventions are needed in the most high-risk regions to support the transition to deforestation-free production. The Forest First Approach provides three guiding principles for prioritising and targeting effective interventions with the highest impact.



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❶ Prioritise actions to the forest frontier, where 'embedded risk' of deforestation in commodity production is highest and intersects with at-risk primary and intact forests

The majority of strategies relied upon to identify and tackle commodity-driven deforestation are designed primarily to mitigate corporate *exposure* to supply chain risk, rather than to actively address deforestation and protect standing forests. The result is that private sector action in support of sustainability goals often targets already deforested areas which now support major commodity production. Introducing deforestation-free supply chains without also supporting actions in areas at highest current and future risk of deforestation will contribute comparatively little to actively reducing deforestation. To successfully prevent deforestation and forest degradation, and mitigate deforestation risk, additional support to producer countries is required for forest frontier areas where the embedded risk of deforestation associated with commodities is higher. This will also avoid the creation of two tier supply chains whereby

markets committed to sustainability source from production areas with low deforestation risk, while other markets are still supplied with commodities from areas with more recent or ongoing forest loss.

Targeting supporting actions to forest frontier areas (especially around ecologically intact forests) will thus have outsized impacts on protecting standing forests while contributing to global climate and biodiversity goals. Such actions will assist partner countries in implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the UNFCCC. It will also contribute to achieving NbS, for example, by preventing deforestation and forest degradation to safeguard water cycles and stop soil erosion while promoting sustainable, climate resilient agriculture and landscape restoration. Such efforts should reinforce wider forest conservation programmes backed by locally-developed and accepted land-use plans, as well as a sustainably managed, implemented and financed network of protected areas. Additional action can tackle the threat of unsustainable hunting of wildlife (the so-called 'defaunation' of forests), to maximise biodiversity co-benefits.

② Support smallholder farmers and ensure multi-stakeholder inclusion and participation with support for leadership by IPLCs

It is crucial that the central role of IPLCs and smallholder farmers in agricultural commodity sectors, and as the first line of defence against deforestation and forest degradation in many frontier areas, is fully recognised and supported.

Tangible, lasting and sector-wide reductions in deforestation are impossible without increasing smallholder engagement and support. Smallholder-driven deforestation typically results from a nexus of challenges (including associated with poverty, insecure land tenure, poor access to finance and markets), and yet the technical and financial support needed to address these or to achieve deforestation-free production is often inaccessible to these farmers.²⁰ Investments in smallholder agricultural capacity in these areas can thereby have multiple positive outcomes for reducing deforestation (and biodiversity loss), reducing exposure to risk, and supporting livelihoods, food security and resilience.

Indigenous Peoples are the custodians of many of the most important large tracts of primary, natural forests.²¹ IPLCs often directly depend on the natural resources provided by these forests and are therefore most vulnerable to uncontrolled deforestation. Engaging and supporting IPLCs by reinforcing rights, including land tenure, supporting the development of sustainable alternative livelihoods (e.g. payment for ecosystem services schemes or conservation agreements) as well as ensuring community-led design of land-use plans lead to legally binding and locally accepted development and forest protection commitments.

Supporting interventions should thus be founded upon the inclusion, and as far as possible, the leadership of these groups operating in priority forest frontier landscapes.

③ Catalyse collective action and collective responsibility at the forest frontier

Collective action is needed both within and between the public and private sectors, as well as with IPLCs and smallholders. Pre-competitive collaboration between companies can achieve sector-wide shifts in production and sourcing behaviour, and can drastically reduce the costs of engagement and support by companies at the landscape level. Harnessing the expertise and resources of stakeholders to focus on reducing deforestation in vulnerable forest areas reduces the risk of 'leakage' of forest-risk commodities to other markets. At the same time, it also builds support for a business case for zero-deforestation production by sharing the costs of interventions and therefore reducing the costs of engagement.

Government support has a crucial role to play in leveraging collaboration between companies and other stakeholders and reducing risks for continued private sector engagement at the forest frontier, either through scaling up existing jurisdictional approaches, or by targeting aligned development assistance to high-risk landscapes within these jurisdictions. At the same time, the crucial role of civil society, and IPLCs should be recognised and enhanced through multi-stakeholder participation.

²⁰ Proforest (2017), *The High Carbon Stock Approach: An update*. Proforest Responsible Sourcing and Production Briefing 07.

²¹ Garnett, S.T., Burgess, N.D., Fa, J.E., Fernández-Illamazares, A., Molnár, Z., Robinson, C.J., Watson, J.E.M., et al. 2018. "A Spatial Overview of the Global Importance of Indigenous Lands for Conservation." *Nature Sustainability* 1 (July): 369–74. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0100-6>

An aerial photograph of a vast forest. The majority of the image is filled with a dense canopy of green trees. In the lower-left portion, there is a distinct area where the forest has been cleared, showing a mix of brown, yellow, and green ground cover, with several tall, thin tree trunks standing isolated. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is positioned in the upper-left corner, containing white text.

WCS CASE STUDIES

'On the ground' examples of support and holistic approaches to tackling deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss in producer countries

1

The Five Great Forests Initiative, Mesoamerica

A regional-level NbS that targets action to conserve remaining intact and at-risk forest areas through joint leadership and collective action by governments and IPLCs, to comprehensively address deforestation caused by cattle ranching and other drivers.



BACKGROUND

Mesoamerica's last five great intact forests, spanning from Mexico to Colombia, are globally irreplaceable biodiversity hotspots that provide water and other natural resources to 5 million people. These forests together cover more than 12 million hectares and provide crucial habitat for globally irreplaceable species such as the jaguar, scarlet macaw and the critically endangered Central American river turtle. They encompass several World Heritage sites that also harbour valuable cultural heritage with ruins from ancient civilisations. Nearly half of the forests are managed by IPLCs.

In the last 15 years, however, these invaluable forests have been decimated by almost one-quarter of their size. More than 90% of this deforestation was due to illegal cattle ranching. At the same time, poverty, drug trafficking, organized crime as well as the impact of climate change jeopardise sustainable development in the region and exacerbate the threats to Mesoamerica's five great forests.



GOALS

Through collective action the Five Forests Initiative goals by 2030 are:

- ✓ Protect 10 million hectares of forest in Mesoamerica.
- ✓ Stamp out illegal cattle ranching.
- ✓ Recover 500,000 hectares of forests that has been illegally claimed or cleared.
- ✓ Zero species' extinctions.
- ✓ Improve human well-being and livelihoods, especially of IPLCs.

STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

Under the Five Great Forests Initiative, WCS, together with eight Central American government members of the Central America Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) (namely Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic), Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC), and IPLCs, including the Mesoamerican Alliance for People and Forests (AMPB), is supporting the establishment of the Five Forests Alliance. The alliance brings together representatives from Central American governments, local and international NGOs as well as representatives of IPLCs. All partners in the alliance work collectively along a single, coherent strategy and resources are channelled to the most effective implementation partners in each of the Five Great Forests to maximise broad and lasting impact on the ground. The alliance can thereby empower local actors to implement their own innovative ideas and generate the change needed to save the region's forest.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Working in both national protected areas and community and Indigenous managed areas, the Five Great Forests Initiative has five main objectives:

- ➔ **ADDRESS DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION** by working with governments and IPLCs to disincentivise cattle ranching in critical forest areas, thereby tackling the main driver of forest destruction.
- ➔ **IMPROVE GOVERNANCE AND TRUST IN LOCAL SOLUTIONS** by strengthening law enforcement and removing cattle from key protected areas, including IPLC-managed forests. This involves increasing capacity, staff, training, equipment and budgets for forest protection, recovery, and restoration. In addition, local and Indigenous Peoples will be integrated as leaders who understand, and can promote and scale time-tested community-based solutions, especially in areas directly managed by Indigenous Peoples.
- ➔ **SUPPORT LOCAL LIVELIHOODS** by assisting IPLCs and forest organisations to strengthen their rights, access, and land tenure. We will also promote sustainable livelihood alternatives to cattle ranching, such as cacao production for local artisanal chocolate and products compatible with forest conservation.
- ➔ **REFOREST AND RESTORE** by restoring areas degraded by cattle ranching in order to maintain large contiguous stretches of forest and increase forest ecological integrity.
- ➔ **HARMONIZE INCENTIVES:** Governments, banks and development agencies should change policies to disincentivize ranching and promote forest protection, livelihoods, and align with local culture.



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PARTNERS

- Central American government members of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), namely Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic
- IPLCs, including the Mesoamerican Alliance for People and Forests (AMPB)
- Local and international NGOs— including GWC



Further Information and Contact:

<https://www.wcs.org/5-great-forests>

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2

Protecting Forests for People and Wildlife in Cross River State, Nigeria

An example of support to IPLCs, particularly women, in at-risk forest frontier areas, to increase economic development and local livelihoods through biodiversity-friendly activities, including the production of “conservation cocoa”.



© WCS Nigeria

BACKGROUND

Contiguous with forest areas in Cameroon, the transboundary forest landscape in Cross River State is an internationally recognized biodiversity hotspot and represents Nigeria's largest remaining tracts of humid tropical rainforest. The landscape is home to primates like the critically endangered Cross River gorilla and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee as well as the forest elephant. With the Cross River National Park (CRNP) and adjacent forest reserves much of the area is under formal protection but conservation activities have been neglected in recent decades and are poorly funded.

Poverty is prevalent in communities in and around the forest and most people depend on farming, hunting and gathering of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Deforestation rates in Cross River State are amongst the highest in the world, largely driven by uncontrolled expansion of cocoa cultivation to supply the chocolate industry in Europe. Illegal logging and poaching in protected areas for bushmeat and to supply the ivory trade is widespread, causing severe forest degradation and the erosion of the habitat's ecological integrity.



GOALS

The project will contribute to achieving the following by 2025:

- ✓ The protection of 364,000 hectares of forest within the Cross River National Park to conserve important populations of the Cross River gorilla, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee and forest elephant.
- ✓ The sustainable management of 80,000 hectares of community forest outside of the national park.
- ✓ The provision of environmentally sustainable economic opportunities for 1,000 households by promoting conservation-friendly cocoa farming and the sustainable harvesting of NTFPs.

STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

By adopting a holistic approach, a partnership between WCS Nigeria, government authorities, the Nigeria National Parks Service, local community organisations, and various donors including the EU, is together implementing several activities in Cross River State that are contributing to the improved management of existing protected areas as well as improving livelihoods, sustainable development and community-backed forest conservation in the vicinity of CRNP.



KEY OBJECTIVES

The project aims to achieve the following three objectives:

- ➔ **IMPROVE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT** by developing infrastructure, providing technical advice and training, and by supporting ranger patrols to enhance the parks' ecological integrity. In addition, support the development of a transboundary conservation agreement with authorities in Cameroon.
- ➔ **SUPPORT COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION** that addresses fragmentation by conserving key corridor areas in community land to protect the unique biodiversity and crucial ecosystems. Also support the participative development of community land-use plans which identify conservation and agriculture areas under direct and full community control around the national park and in key corridor areas between protected areas, by supporting community-led conservation organisations such as the 'Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains'.
- ➔ **SUPPORT EXISTING LIVELIHOODS AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** by increasing cocoa productivity through support for training in good agricultural practices and sustainable and more efficient production. In addition, supporting the development of economic

opportunities from NTFPs, particularly for local women, through working with women's groups to improve collecting, processing and storing techniques and facilitating improved market access. Also by facilitating the establishment of community-based organizations and providing training in financial literacy and the development of micro-enterprises.

PARTNERS

- Nigeria Federal Ministry of Environment
- Cross River State Forestry Commission
- Nigeria National Parks Service
- The Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains
- The European Union



Further Information and Contact:

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3

The Bukit Barisan Selatan Sustainable Commodities Partnership / BBS KEKAL, Indonesia

An example of collective action between government, companies and communities to support smallholder farmers at the forest frontier to improve livelihoods, reduce supply chain risks, and conserve a vital forest landscape.



BACKGROUND

The forests of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) in southern Sumatra, Indonesia, provide vital habitat for endangered species, like the Sumatran tiger, elephant, and rhino, while also providing essential ecosystem services. At 318,000 hectares, the National Park forms part of the UNESCO World Heritage site: The Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra. However, this vital landscape is under threat from agricultural expansion, primarily for the production of Robusta coffee. Farmers in the region tend to experience low productivity and profitability, with limited access to training, inputs, finance and markets. Around 26,000 hectares of forest were lost between 2000

and 2015, and it is estimated that 10% of the park is under active Robusta coffee cultivation, producing about 5% of Indonesia's annual production value. This poses a major risk for companies sourcing Robusta coffee from the region (around one fifth of exports are destined for European markets) and not only threatens this important ecosystem but also future agricultural productivity and the security of farmer livelihoods in the region.



GOALS

BBS KEKAL aims to:

- ✓ Contribute towards reduced deforestation of c.20,000 hectares in the BBSNP, compared to a business as usual scenario, until 2050.
- ✓ Restore the ecological integrity of BBSNP, securing existing and restoring an additional 2,500 hectares of degraded forests.
- ✓ Engage and improve the livelihoods of an estimated 20,000 farmers cultivating in the buffer zone of BBSNP.

STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

The Bukit Barisan Selatan Sustainable Commodities Partnership (*Kemitraan Komoditas Lestari*) / “BBS KEKAL” is a collaboration between local and national government, leading coffee companies, local communities and civil society, established and facilitated by WCS. By bringing together stakeholders across the landscape and increasing support for farmers in vulnerable areas around the forest frontier, this innovative partnership aims to support government actors to address deforestation and support smallholder farmers and coffee companies around BBSNP as they transition to deforestation-free Robusta production and sourcing. The partnership will help to reduce agricultural expansion into the National Park and improve the profitability and resilience of coffee farming communities.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The BBS KEKAL approach revolves around three main objectives:

- ➔ **ADDRESS DEFORESTATION INSIDE BBSNP** by working with the BBSNP Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, as well as with local government, to formulate a strategy and implement a set of actions to address commodity-driven deforestation and restore priority areas, while continuing monitoring and patrols inside the National Park.
- ➔ **SUPPORT LOCAL LIVELIHOODS** by working with smallholder coffee farmers and incentivising deforestation-free production. Farmers around the national park have been invited to enrol in the partnership by formally committing to basic sustainability principles and in return they receive training in good agricultural practices (GAP), pre- and post-harvesting practices and organisational development. Farmers are also supported in gaining access to agricultural inputs, finance and markets by linking participating farmers to buyers and local banks. In addition, by working closely with local government agencies to create the enabling conditions and supporting regulations and programmes to incentivise farmers to produce deforestation-free coffee.
- ➔ **CATALYSE COLLECTIVE ACTION** by improving collaboration among companies and coordinating collective support smallholder farmers to improve livelihoods and reduce sector risks. Companies commit to sourcing from verified smallholder farmers and reinforce support for local livelihoods and incentives for deforestation-free production around the 'first mile' of the National Park while reducing their own supply chain risks. At full implementation, BBS KEKAL will scale up to include farmer groups in additional priority areas around the national park, eventually creating a 'fence' of sustainable coffee production around the natural forests.

PARTNERS

- Indonesia Ministry of Environment and Forestry
- Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park Authority
- Provincial and district government agencies
- Communities in eight pilot villages adjacent to Lumbok and Pugung Tampak resorts in Lampung Barat and Pesisir Barat Districts



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- Other BBS KEKAL Partners and Supporters: Association of Coffee Suppliers Lampung (Asosiasi Suplier Kopi Lampung; ASKL), Berindo Jaya (Neumann Kaffee Gruppe), Enveritas, Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung, PT Indo Cafco (ECOM), Jacobs Douwe Egberts B.V., Karya Bakti Ulubelu Farmer Group, Lampung Barat District Plantation Office, Louis Dreyfus Company, PT Mayora Indah, Nestlé S.A., Olam International, Sucden Coffee B.V., and Yayasan Inisiatif Dagang Hijau (IDH).

BBS KEKAL is implemented with the support of Jacobs Douwe Egberts, KfW on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Nestlé, Sumatran Tiger Project GEF-UNDP, UKAID from the UK government via the Forest Governance, Markets and Climate Programme and Partnerships for Forests, and United Kingdom Research and Innovation - Global Challenges Research Fund (UKRI-GCRF).



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An aerial photograph showing a dark, winding river or stream cutting through a lush, dense forest. The trees are a vibrant green, and the water is a deep, dark blue. The perspective is from directly above, looking down at the river as it meanders through the forest canopy.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR TARGETING SUPPORT TO PRODUCER COUNTRIES TO TACKLE DEFORESTATION, FOREST DEGRADATION AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS TO COMPLEMENT NEW LEGAL MEASURES FOR DEFORESTATION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS

An **integrated approach** is needed that combines new legislative tools that ensure imports to consumer countries are deforestation and forest degradation-free, with complementary support to producer countries to comprehensively address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Such drivers include unsustainable land use change and overexploitation of forest resources, exacerbated by weak forest governance and land tenure issues. Action in producer countries should create an enabling environment and promote sustainable socio-economic benefits to IPLCs. They should also help achieve several linked international policy objectives including biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation and adaptation.

Based on WCS's field experience, we recommend that support to producer countries should incorporate the following:

1

Prioritise actions to the forest frontier, where 'embedded risk' of deforestation in commodity production is highest and intersects with at-risk primary and intact forests

- ➔ Prioritise actions and investment to the forest frontier where commodity production and at-risk forests of conservation importance intersect, and where the greatest gains for forest protection and deforestation risk reduction can be realised. This will ensure effective risk mitigation and contribute to government climate, biodiversity and development commitments
- ➔ Invest significant amounts of climate-related development aid to the implementation of NbS in natural, intact areas of forests and other ecosystems. This can include supporting measures that prevent deforestation and degradation to safeguarding water cycles and stopping soil erosion while promoting sustainable, climate resilient agriculture, and landscape restoration. The WCS Forest Integrity Index²² or comparable metric can be adopted to measure the effectiveness of measures in conserving forest ecological integrity to maximise biodiversity and climate benefits.
- ➔ Support the implementation of locally-developed and accepted community land-use plans that address fragmentation, including the sustainable management and financing of protected areas, as well as community-led conservation and complementary actions that tackle unsustainable hunting of wildlife, to maximise biodiversity co-benefits.

2

Support smallholder farmers and ensure multi-stakeholder inclusion and participation with support for leadership by IPLCs

- ➔ All action in producer countries should reinforce and strengthen human rights, including land tenure rights, the rights of IPLCs to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as well as promoting women's rights and representation.
- ➔ Support smallholders and provide incentives to facilitate the transition to deforestation-free production, including for community-led organisational development, improved livelihoods and provision of a living wage, thereby ensuring their integration in new value chains.
- ➔ Land-use planning processes should be IPLC-led to ensure local ownership and accountability for forest protection commitments.

3

Catalyse collective action and collective responsibility at the forest frontier

- ➔ Increase support to scale up existing jurisdictional approaches, or by targeting aligned development assistance to high-risk landscapes within these jurisdictions to leverage collaboration between companies and other stakeholders.
- ➔ Develop public policy and investment to de-risk private sector engagement and support for interventions at the forest frontier.
- ➔ Private sector engagement must include support for smallholders to follow the transition to deforestation-free production to ensure their integration in value chains and decent livelihoods to create transformative change.
- ➔ Facilitate collaboration between companies, IPLCs, and local and national governments to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in interventions to reduce deforestation, improve farmer livelihoods and enhance forest protection.

²² www.forestlandscapeintegrity.com



WHO WE ARE

WCS, the Wildlife Conservation Society, is a global organisation working to deliver wildlife conservation programmes in over 60 countries, mainly in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. WCS operates large field conservation programmes in many of the world's most ecologically intact wild places including tropical forest regions such as the Congo Basin, the rainforests of south-east Asia and Mesoamerica's Five Great Forests. WCS is a partner in the 'Forest for Life Partnership' which brings together five leading organisations to help curb the climate and extinction crises by safeguarding the world's most intact forests. WCS is also implementing flagship EU-funded biodiversity programmes, including as a partner in the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) programme. WCS is committed to conserving world's wildlife through partnerships designed to benefit people and nature. For more information, please visit www.wcs.org

WCS is a proud partner of Trillion Trees, a joint venture with Birdlife International and WWF-UK, founded on a vision for a world where tree cover is expanding not shrinking.

For more information, please visit www.trilliontrees.org

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WCS EU is a Belgian NGO based in Brussels, affiliated to WCS. WCS EU draws on WCS's field-based, technical and scientific knowledge to support the development and implementation of EU policies and programmes, in support of global conservation objectives, including for forests. For more information, please visit <https://brussels.wcs.org>

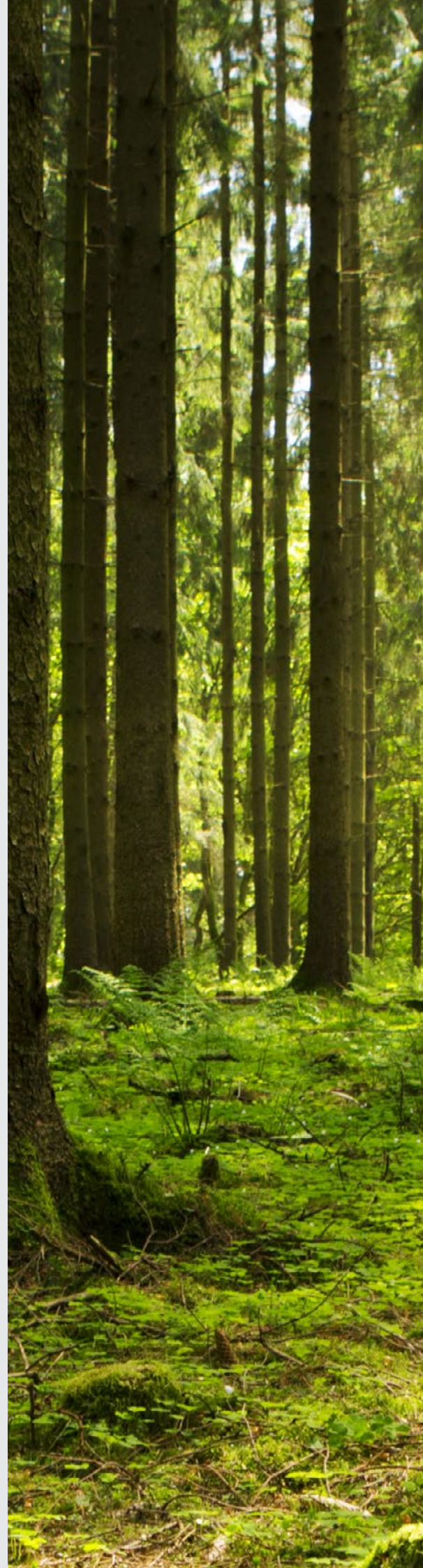
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