

Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems (SAFE)

Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation through Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains and Improved Forest Governance

The context

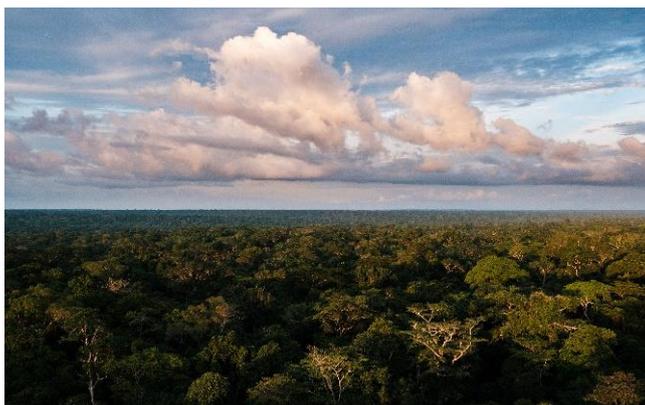
Forests provide a broad variety of environmental, economic, and social benefits and services: They maintain crucial ecosystem functions and provide subsistence, energy, jobs, and income to about 25 % of the world's population, including the most vulnerable. Emissions from land-use and land use change, mostly due to deforestation and forest degradation are the second leading cause of the climate crisis and deforestation is a major cause of biodiversity loss. If tropical deforestation were a country, it would rank third in annual global greenhouse gas emissions after China and the USA.

The expansion of agricultural areas drives up to 90% of deforestation. About 30% of agricultural commodities driving deforestation, such as soy, beef, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, natural rubber, timber, and others, are traded internationally. Local demand for these products or demand for staple food products equally drive deforestation and forest degradation.

SAFE - Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems

The new project "SAFE - Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems" is jointly funded by the European Union and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

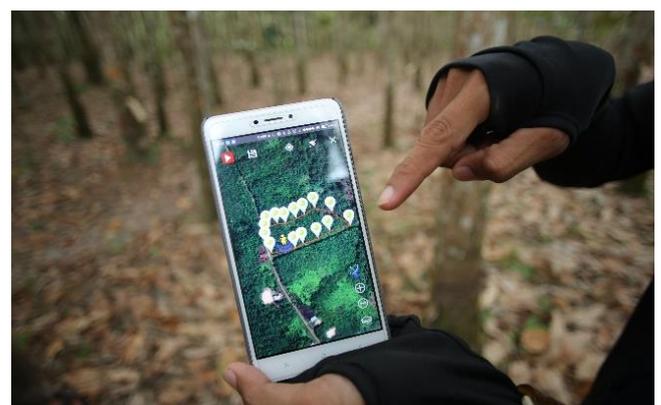
Through global activities and in four selected countries, Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Zambia, SAFE aims to promote a holistic approach for forest governance and sustainable land use management at forest frontiers. The project fosters future-oriented, innovative agriculture and collective approaches with public, private, and civil society actors in the fields of agriculture and forest whilst aiming to improve the livelihoods of local and indigenous communities.



Project Name	Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems (SAFE)
Co-Financed by	European Union, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Region	Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia, Zambia and Global Activities
Political Partners	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, MAPA (Brazil), Ministry of Agriculture (Ecuador), Ministry of National Development Planning, BAPPENAS (Indonesia), Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, MGEE (Zambia)
Budget	26,750,000 Euro
Duration	01/2022 to 05/2026

The Project is implemented by the GIZ Fund for the Promotion of Innovations in Agriculture (i4Ag) and part of the German Special Initiative One World – No Hunger

The project contributes to the achievement of these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Main objective and planned activities

Gender-sensitive¹ and sustainable innovations reduce the deforestation pressure caused by agricultural activities in the partner countries

The primary objective of the project is to support relevant stakeholders in the partner countries and at global level in minimising deforestation and forest degradation caused by the expansion of agricultural production, coupled with weak forest governance. It aims to contribute to forest conservation in partner countries and create benefits for smallholders as well as local and indigenous communities to manage forest landscapes sustainably, improve agricultural practices and achieve higher agricultural productivity sustainably. The project will:

- bolster enabling framework conditions for the sustainable management and governance of forests,
- enhance competencies and (planning) mechanisms for better land-use governance prioritising incentive mechanisms for forest preservation and restoration among public and private actors,
- promote the development of deforestation-free agricultural supply chains with the private sector and civil society,
- strengthen the livelihoods, participation and rights of local, indigenous, and marginalised communities and smallholders,
- test and disseminate technological, organisational, institutional, social, and conceptual innovations with and through partners in national and local governments, the private sector and civil society in the agricultural and forestry sectors,
- share knowledge, increase awareness, and disseminate innovations towards deforestation-free supply chains globally through partnerships and exchange formats.

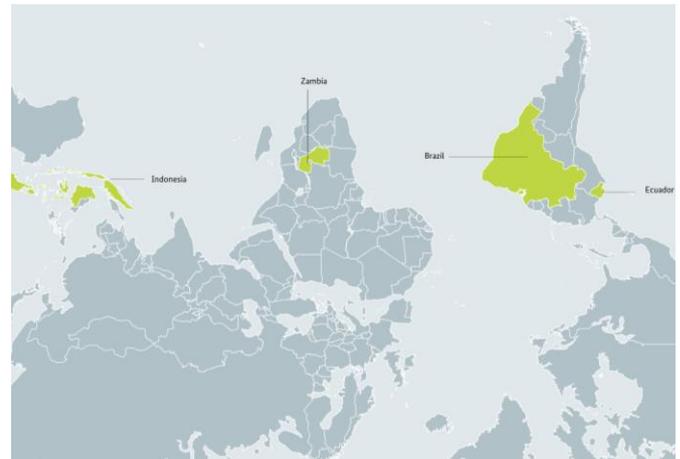
EU Approach

In the context of the European Green Deal, the European Union has announced both regulatory and other measures to support to avoid deforestation and forest degradation in supply chains.

To this end, the European Union is currently preparing a new regulation on minimising the EU's contribution to deforestation and forest degradation in defined commodity supply chains by addressing EU consumption and production. According to the legislative proposal under discussion, operators will be obliged to undertake due diligence in their supply chains depending on the producing country's status in the benchmarking system.

The EU is also initiating Forest Partnerships with producer countries to protect, restore and sustainably use forests in a comprehensive and integrated way. These Forest Partnerships will facilitate inter-sectoral dialogue, particularly between agriculture and forestry, hence helping reduce pressures on forests.

In line with this approach, SAFE will work in a cross-sectoral perspective to promote the development of transparent and sustainable supply chains, including through exchange and learning with a wide range of actors.



¹ Gender-sensitivity means that all gender identities and realities are considered in the project programming and implementation. This includes addressing the root causes of inequalities and supporting a shift in interpersonal and/or structural gender relations. Special attention will be paid to the role of women and youth as agents of change towards a more sustainable governance and management of forest landscapes.

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On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic
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