

Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems (SAFE)

The Context

Our planet needs its forests. They store carbon, stabilize the climate, are home to wildlife and to millions of people, and therefore need protection. The expansion of agricultural areas drives up to 90% of global deforestation. The European Union (EU) is an important import market for the commodities produced in these areas. For this reason, the EU has adopted a regulation for reducing its contribution to deforestation and forest degradation caused by its consumption (EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products, EUDR), which is set to come into application by the end of 2026.

Operators who are placing on or exporting from the EU market palm oil, cattle, soy, coffee, cocoa, rubber, wood and certain derived products will need to ensure through due diligence that the products are

- (1) “deforestation-free” – meaning, not produced on land that was deforested or degraded after 31 December 2020, and
- (2) legal – meaning, produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production.

About the SAFE Project

SAFE contributes to the inclusive transformation towards deforestation-free, sustainable and legal supply chains for selected agricultural products. According to the motto **"Farmers, Food, and Forests"**, SAFE supports sustainable agriculture, improves smallholder livelihoods and production, and protects forests. SAFE provides technical assistance, strengthens capacities, scales up traceability systems, and supports reliable and stable partnerships, including through exchange and learning amongst a wide range of actors.

Project Name	Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems (SAFE)
Co-financed by	European Union, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (MinBuza)
Project Region	Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ecuador, Indonesia, Peru, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia; regional and global activities
Political Partners	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, MAPA (Brazil), Burundi Coffee Development Office, ODECA (Burundi), Strategic and Development Studies Office (Burundi), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, MINADER (Cameroon), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, MEDD (DR Congo), Ministry of Agriculture (Ecuador), Ministry of National Development Planning, BAPPENAS (Indonesia), Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation, MIDAGRI (Peru), Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, MAAIF (Uganda), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, MARD (Vietnam), Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, MGEE (Zambia)
Budget	66.55 million EUR (BMZ: 26.05 m EUR; EU: 20.5 m EUR; MinBuza: 20 m EUR)
Duration	01/2022 to 03/2028

SAFE is part of the GIZ Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag) and of the German Special Initiative "Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems"



Impact

- With SAFE's support, over **24,000 smallholder farmers**, including those in highly fragile contexts, have already been integrated into **traceability systems**. This has given them a **stronger negotiating position** in the supply chain.
- Around **9,000 smallholder farmers (50% women)** have learned in training courses how to produce more sustainably, **thus alleviating deforestation pressures**. Context-specific tools have been developed and applied to familiarise farmers with the content of the EUDR, **strengthen cooperative structures** and pave the way for **deforestation-free and traceable** production in a sustainable manner.
- In cooperation with the FAO, the digital, open-source applications *GROUND* and *Whisp* were developed, which have already supported the collection of over **30,000 field data** points in Africa alone. In Colombia, *Whisp* enabled the deforestation risk analysis of **83,000 plots** thus far.

At **global level**, SAFE supports EUDR objectives through knowledge dissemination, and the financing of global initiatives and partner organisations working amongst other things on **public data infrastructure, forest monitoring, strengthening civil society, gender equity, and social inclusion**. Good practices are made visible to scale solutions.



“What makes me proud is how diversified my [soy] farm is. I’ve grown to a level where I compete with men in similar value chains.

In our farmer groups, we support each other. No one struggles alone. We’ve even formed savings groups – it’s made us stronger together.”

Racheal Chiyabi, Soy farmer in Zambia



Cocoa farmer Luther Bongga in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. Together with partners, SAFE has mapped 3,000 Indonesian cocoa farmers like Luther and trained them to make their farmland traceable.

Implementing Global Gateway: The Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains

In line with the EU’s 360-degree Global Gateway approach, SAFE strengthens good governance and transparency to support equal partnerships and reliable value chains transitioning to being deforestation-free.

Producers benefit from upscaling agro-ecological practices, reducing production risks and accessing public and private sector investments (over **3.7 million EUR** in private capital contributions), enabling Global Gateway investments to have real impact for people and the planet.

In the spirit of the Team Europe Approach, the EU and member states joined hands for the **Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains**.

It is currently active in 37 countries in Latin America, Africa and South-East-Asia, with the aim to align international support measures to prepare partner countries for market requirements on sustainable and deforestation-free production.

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Netherlands (MinBuza)

Learn more

About SAFE:
[www.zerodeforestationhub.eu/
projects/safe/](https://www.zerodeforestationhub.eu/projects/safe/), about the Team Europe
Initiative on Deforestation-free Value
Chains: <https://zerodeforestationhub.eu/>

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