

Sustainable Agriculture for Forest Ecosystems (SAFE)

The Context

Our planet needs forests, and millions of people live in and protect them. The expansion of agricultural areas drives up to 90% of global deforestation. The European Union (EU) is an important import market for these commodities. For this reason, the EU has adopted a new regulation for reducing its contribution to deforestation and forest degradation caused by its consumption (EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products, EUDR).

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

By implementing activities in ten countries, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ecuador, Indonesia, Peru, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia, SAFE aims to support a just transition towards deforestation-free and legal value chains. 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), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, MINADER (Cameroon), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, MEDD (DRC), Ministry of Agriculture (Ecuador), Ministry of National Development Planning, BAPPENAS (Indonesia), Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation, MIDAGRI (Peru), Uganda Coffee Development Authority, UCDA (Uganda), Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, MGEE (Zambia), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, MARD (Vietnam)
Budget	65.55 Mio EUR
Duration	01/2022 to 03/2028

The project is part of the GIZ Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag) and is part of the German Special Initiative “Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems”



Activities

- In **Brazil**, SAFE works with family farmers to strengthen the sustainability and legality of their agricultural land use systems of cocoa and beef; improve market access; value creation and access to finance; and integrate farmers into traceability systems.
- In **Ecuador**, the project works with smallholder farmers along the value chains of cocoa, coffee, and palm oil, particularly with women, youth, and indigenous communities, on promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue, and improving data management and traceability systems.
- In **Indonesia**, SAFE partners up with stakeholders from the palm oil, natural rubber, and cocoa sectors to ensure an inclusive transition of smallholders' practices to sustainable, legal and deforestation-free production. Relevant and scalable interventions are developed together with the idea submitters under a public competition, the SAFE Challenge.
- In **Zambia**, farmers are supported to produce soy in line with the EUDR, increase productivity, and implement transparency and traceability pilots. Community forest management groups are supported in the sustainable management of natural resources and livelihood creation.
- In **Vietnam**, SAFE helps actors in the coffee value chain to prepare through activities such as testing digitalised traceability systems, registering farm plots, and strengthening capacity on climate-resilient production and business skills. The projects facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues and the implementation of respective action plans at provincial and national level.
- In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, SAFE focuses on coffee, cocoa, and natural rubber, engaging with the private sector, as well as with national and local authorities, and supporting small-scale farmer and producer organisations, following gender-transformative and do-no-harm principles in all efforts.
- In **Burundi, Cameroon, Peru and Uganda**, SAFE has recently initiated the inception phase. Further information will be available soon.



At **regional level**, SAFE supports the facilitation of two regional dialogue processes in South America and South-East Asia with actors from relevant value chains to enhance understanding of the technical requirements of the EUDR and their implementation.

At **global level**, SAFE supports the operationalisation of EUDR objectives through the establishment of coordination structures for knowledge dissemination and the financing of global initiatives and partner organisations working on traceability, public data infrastructure, forest monitoring, green financing, and gender, equity and social inclusion, amongst others. Good practices will be made visible to scale solutions.

The Approach of the EU and Team Europe Initiative

The EU and its Member States – Team Europe – support the inclusive and just transition of sustainable value chains to the EU, especially for smallholder farmers and low-income countries, by scaling agro-ecological practices, reducing risks in value chains, and crowding in public and private investments in sustainable agri-businesses.

Producers will benefit from this support in line with the EU's Global Gateway offer: trustworthy connections with partners around the world, based on sustainable values and standards that work for people and the planet.

With the newly established Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains, the aim is to bring together the expertise of EU and EU Member States for a positive partnership offer at scale to partner countries.



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Learn more	About SAFE: www.zerodeforestationhub.eu/projects/safe/ , about the Team Europe Initiative on deforestation-free Value Chains: https://zerodeforestationhub.eu/
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