

UN-REDD Programme - Fifth Executive Board Meeting (EB5)

Session 2: Strategic Dialogue on Forests in the context of the Food Systems Summit 6 September 2021 14:00-16:00CET

Agenda and Background

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION:

This 90-minute strategic dialogue will explore ways to strengthen the link between UN-REDD's work and the climate-critical reform of the global food system. The challenges of food system transformation and halting deforestation and priority response needs have been highlighted in the [joint statement on turning the tide on deforestation](#) by the Collaborative Partnership on Forest, to which UNREDD agencies contributed substantially¹ and in high level and technical dialogues in the context of FAO's Committee on Forestry in 2020².

The session aims to explore the relevance of UN-REDD's work to on-going policy developments that address the intersection of the food, forest, and climate agendas. In particular it aims to position UN-REDD to:

1. Support countries in implementing priority national actions to transform food systems and halt deforestation in follow up of food summit outcomes
2. Channel technical and policy support to enable countries and other stakeholders to engage in and benefit from deforestation-free// forest-positive supply chains

The session will present the latest developments to the Food System Summit's proposed game-changing solutions and coalitions and the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogues. It will link these to new developments and innovations such as the OECD and FAO's Practical Business Tool on Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains, as well as a number of existing voluntary and emerging regulatory approaches on deforestation-free supply chains.

Executive Board members will be the primary participants, but the session will also include several invited country representatives and selected resource people. The dialogue will be split into two parts, each of which will be informed by short 'fire-starter' presentations (a draft agenda for comment is included as an annex).

The session will aim to trigger discussion among the Executive Board around three sets of questions:

- What are the key levers to ensure halting deforestation is embedded in international and national action on, and economies for, transforming food systems? How can UNREDD partners ensure relevant discussions and proposals are tabled (and supported) in the key international fora, including UN FSS and its follow up?
- What is needed to reach scale on deforestation-free supply chains (e.g., legal reforms, regulatory changes, technical innovation and extension services, civil-society advocacy, participatory processes, fiscal reform, market incentives, private finance, traceability³ etc)?
- How can UN-REDD contribute to these agendas? What technical support, policy processes and partnerships should UN-REDD focus on?

¹ <http://www.cpfweb.org/50449-0941d79c54a6810d4c9eb2f45bbcb25f7.pdf>

² <https://www.un-redd.org/post/why-we-need-to-transform-our-food-systems-to-halt-deforestation>

³ <https://www.forest-trends.org/publications/ten-steps-towards-enforceable-due-diligence-regulations-that-protect-forests/>

2. Draft Agenda

14:00-14:05 Welcome and from the Chair of the Board (Mette Wilkie)

14:05-14:10 Introductions

Part 1 The Food Systems Summit, forest positive agriculture and deforestation-free supply chains

14:10-14:22 Opening presentation: Martin Frick, Deputy Special Envoy to the Food Systems Summit - *what is expected at the food systems summit what are the entry points to anchor the forest agenda and potential and what is the way forward on the emerging national pathways coalition for action and the approach to follow up and review of actions after the summit.*

14:24- 14:34 Fire-starter presentation: Justin Adams, Co-Director, Nature-based Solutions, World Economic Forum and Executive Director of the Tropical Forest Alliance - *The role of the Food Systems Summit in supporting deforestation-free supply chains and forest positive agriculture.*

14:34-14:55 Discussion – *What are the key levers to upscale deforestation-free supply chains in the global food system and halt deforestation through food systems transformation? What specific entry points and coalitions does the UN FSS offer to achieve change at global and national level?*

Part 2 UN-REDD and deforestation-free supply chains

15:00 -15:08 Fire-starter presentation: Representative from Ecuador - Mr. Ney Barrionuevo, Viceministro de Desarrollo Productivo Agropecuario del Ministerio de Agricultura y Gandería del Ecuador (MAG) — *Promoting deforestation-free supply chain through national sustainable branding.*

15:08-15:16 Fire-starter presentation: Representative from Côte d'Ivoire - Mr. Marc Daubrey, Ivory Coast, CEO of Green Invest Africa the President of Impactum — *How private investment can catalyze deforestation-free cacao production.*

15:16-15:21 Fire-starter presentation: Mr. Gustavo Sánchez Valle, President of Directive Council Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales — *reflection on Local Communities role and engagement.*

15:21-15:29 Fire-starter presentations: OECD-FAO-Germany/BMZ — *Practical Tool for Deforestation-free supply chains*

15:29:-15:54 Discussion – *How can UN-REDD build on this work and expand its impact on deforestation-free supply chains and food system transformation to turn the tide on deforestation? How should UN-REDD participate in and contribute to relevant global processes beyond country specific support?*

3. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Food and forests

The global food system on which we all rely has grown, in part, at the expense of forests. The expansion of commercial and subsistence agriculture is responsible for more than 70% of tropical deforestation, yet agriculture depends upon forests for key services such as water regulation and pollination.

More than 811 million people go to bed hungry. Meanwhile a staggering one third of global food production, valued at one trillion dollars a year, goes to waste. At the same time, food systems are under tremendous stress from loss of biodiversity and climate change. Clearly, the current global food system is failing people and the planet in some important ways. The challenge is to halt deforestation without undermining food security.

Increasing demand for agricultural products needs to be met through productive landscapes, sustainable intensification, integrated production systems and circular economies – building upon innovation as well as traditional knowledge to limit expansion of agricultural areas. Support for forest-positive agricultural production should be complemented by monitoring, strengthening legality and enforcing regulations to limit forest conversion. Where commercial agriculture is the principal driver of land-use change, enhanced governance is needed, including social and environmental safeguards, public and private-sector commitments to zero deforestation and jurisdictional approaches. Where subsistence agriculture is the key driver, support to adopt more sustainable production practices needs to be complemented with broader poverty alleviation and rural development interventions, notably strengthening tenure. Policy alignment and repurposing of agricultural subsidies in particular are required to underpin lasting change at scale. Reliable and accessible information on deforestation dynamics is essential to inform targeted action and support.

Sustainable production and consumption patterns (SDG 12) are particularly critical to transform food systems to overcome both degradation of natural resources and food insecurity. Reducing food loss and waste, consumer education and a switch to healthier diets from sustainable food systems can contribute significantly to halting agricultural expansion and related deforestation.

The Food Systems Summit

The UN Food Systems Summit which will be held during the UN General Assembly in New York on 23 September aims to deliver progress on all of the SDGs through a food systems approach, leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems to global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty and inequality. The summit is the culmination of an extensive process of consultation and communication including the Pre-Summit held in Rome in July in which “game-changing propositions” have been identified across different “action tracks”. The need to achieve deforestation-free and conversion-free supply chains has been prominently highlighted as part of the Action Track on Boosting Nature Positive Production.

The summit will strive to create momentum and achieve coalitions cutting across the five Action Tracks. All stakeholders have been invited to shape preparations and solutions. However, conflicts of interest remain, and some indigenous groups and civil society representatives boycotted the pre-summit concerned that the Summit risked favoring industrialized agriculture at the expense of indigenous knowledge and practices.

The challenge is to take up the opportunity provided by the global attention the summit offers on food systems and land use, to highlight and promote sustainable, complementary approaches that benefit both forests and food systems, as well as local livelihoods.

Other policy processes

The Food System Summit comes amid a number of other efforts to address deforestation in food supply chains, both for agricultural and livestock products.

The UK government, with the Tropical Forest Alliance, has for example launched the FACT (Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade) Dialogues as part of COP26 preparations to bring together those countries that are committed to shifting global commodity markets towards sustainability.

Processes of legal reform aimed at facilitating sustainable and equitable forest use have been implemented in many forest-rich countries, at times driven by domestic agendas and at times, by international agendas (including FLEGT and REDD+, for example). Within the private sector, a number of major retailers and brands have committed to deforestation-free supply chains.

But there's debate about what should qualify as "deforestation-free" and how it should be verified. While signatories to the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests pledged to eliminate deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains by no later than 2020, this has not been achieved. Legislative and regulatory proposals are now tabled in the EU, the UK and the US to move beyond voluntary commitments.

International partnerships between consumer and producer countries have been, and will continue to be, an important part of global efforts to help support sustainable land-use and trade, in the forest sector and beyond. This has been picked up in other policy arenas as well:

- UNEA 4 was an opportunity to create momentum around deforestation free supply chains and saw [calls](#) for an international resolution on deforestation-free supply chains.
- The 25th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in October 2020, for example, hosted a high level dialogue on "[Turning the tide on deforestation](#)" which was a rallying call for innovative solutions, catalytic partnerships to halt deforestation and transform food systems.
 - The EU in 2020 adopted the European Green Deal, the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and Farm to Fork Strategy – all with reference to halt deforestation associated with agrifood-systems. A new multi-stakeholder platform on deforestation was set up, and JRC was asked to build an observatory to facilitate information on global deforestation.
 - The European Parliament developed proposals to reinforce corporate responsibility, including on environmental aspects, notably a draft directive on Corporate Due Diligence and Corporate Accountability and a resolution requesting a new regulation to minimize the risk of deforestation or forest degradation associated with products placed on the EU market. The European Commission is expected to present the legislative proposals in the last trimester of 2021.
- Food systems link urban centers to agricultural producers—thus, the policies and procurement practices of cities have enormous potential to support the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of forests. In April 2021, the G20 hosted a special event entitled, *Resilient, Smart and Sustainable Cities*, that highlighted the symbiotic relationship between nature and cities, and the role cities can play in building better resilience to climate change and contributing to climate mitigation.

The OECD-FAO [Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains](#) provides a common framework and globally applicable benchmark to help agri-businesses and investors contribute to sustainable development and to identify and mitigate adverse impacts. With support from Germany/BMZ OECD & FAO are developing the related "Practical Business Tool on Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains".

UN-REDD Programme

The programme has been supporting the expansion of deforestation-free supply chains in several countries around the world. This focus is due to continue in the forthcoming 2021-25 Results Framework which has a dedicated output on support to deforestation-free supply chains.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the world's top cocoa producer, UN-REDD and the European Union are helping the government promote zero-deforestation cocoa. The '[1 for 20 Partnership](#)' aims at mobilising USD 1 billion to restore 20% of Côte d'Ivoire's forest cover by (1) promoting sustainable financing approaches, based on [viable production models](#) that provide incentives for smallholders, aligned with the country's climate change goals and rooted in regional development dynamics; (2) facilitating partnerships among private actors, the financial sector and public partners to set up scalable financing projects; and (3) promoting dialogue between stakeholders for exchanging experiences on sustainable agricultural models and practices, coordinating efforts, and building the capacity of partners. Naturally shaded cocoa agroforestry systems are examples of farming in forests, or along forest margins, , which help conserve and protect biodiversity, while also generating income for small-scale cocoa producers.

In Ecuador, UNREDD+'s PROAmazonia investment programme is advancing a "Ecuador Premium & Sustainable" strategy that revolves around five main pillars including the promotion of modern cooperatives, empowerment for rural women and youth, deforestation-free production, quality and traceability, productivity, and zero rural poverty. The strategy and its associated "Premium & Sustainable" fresh produce label, was launched in 2019. A groundbreaking agreement, signed in January 2021, between Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Agriculture and livestock and its Agency for the Regulation and Control of Phytosanitary and Animal Health (Agrocalidad), will implement a "Deforestation-Free Certification for Agricultural and Livestock Production." This milestone initiative aims to strengthen the productive chain for the commercialization of high-quality sustainable products with full participation from producers and private companies.

UNREDD will build upon these and other approaches to support the achievement of deforestation-free supply chains in its new phase under Output 1.3 of the 2021-25 UN-REDD Results Framework. This Output includes a number of complementary activities to generate impact at national and international level, and importantly that engages the multiplicity of actors whose engagement to achieve deforestation-free supply chains is critical:

- 1/. Conducting policy analysis to reform and align economic incentives in forest-risk supply chains;
- 2/. Generating evidence for better management and reporting of private sector initiatives on deforestation-free supply chains;
- 3/. Encouraging financial instruments to redirect public and private capital;
- 4/. Including deforestation-free standards in global, regional and national commodity platforms;
- 5/. Piloting ways to scale up private sector engagement through multi-stakeholder platforms and public-private partnerships;
- 6/. Advising national and multilateral policy approaches on deforestation-free commodity sources and procurement in key importing countries and regions.

Beyond its support explicitly targeting deforestation-free supply chains, UNREDD has been and will continue to provide support to global and national tools and actions that underpin food systems transformation that turns the tide on deforestation across the four 2021-2025 outcomes. These include

- 1/. Transformational, cross-sectoral policy design and implementation, including incentive schemes that reflect REDD+ in agriculture and coherent design and implementation of NDCs;
- 2/. Integrated land-use policy and planning with emphasis on landscape-level low-carbon rural development and food security;
- 3/. Communities' and indigenous peoples' security of tenure and access to natural resources and strengthen their capacity to implement REDD+ actions;
- 4/. Forest monitoring systems to inform policy making based upon evaluations and policy-relevant data-needs assessments;
- 5/. Promotion of frontier technologies and big data within the nature-based solutions movement to accelerate collective decision making and collaborative action.

Building upon UN FSS outcomes and follow up of relevant national level dialogues on food system transformation provide opportunities to tie this relevant UNREDD work also explicitly to the food systems agenda.

This strategic dialogue aims to promote a discussion about lessons learned and the ways in which UN-REDD can be even more effective in future at ensuring deforestation-free supply chains and broader food systems transformation that meet the world's food needs while preserving its forests.

Annex: Other UN-REDD initiatives for deforestation-free supply chains

Indonesia, 2021: through the Tropical Landscape Finance Facility (TLFF) UN-REDD, has been supporting the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K)—a national poverty reduction program in Indonesia—to unlock the potential of the food sector to achieve national economic growth targets while also reducing emissions through green investment opportunities in rural economies. Through TLFF village-based companies might now have access to a deforestation-free commodity supply chain with the possibility of delivering REDD+ emission reductions for domestic and international carbon markets.

Viet Nam, 2021: the Programme successfully supported Viet Nam to develop a new intervention '*Integrated sustainable landscape management through deforestation-free jurisdictions*', which is kicking off this year, will develop a jurisdictional approach for deforestation-free commodity production across multiple value chains in the two provinces in the Central highlands. The project will support the provinces Lam Dong and Dak Nong to reform the local food systems to develop a number of forest- and climate-positive responses, including deforestation-free coffee supply chains; agroforestry models; real-time monitoring of deforestation and land-use change; institutional capacities of local communities and civil society in monitoring and governance; safeguards systems; partnerships with the business sector; and integration with the master planning process.

Ghana, 2018: In Ghana, the world's second largest producer of cocoa beans, hundreds of thousands of small farmers depend on the precious commodity, which is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. To strengthen the sector and make it more resilient to future changes, the Ghana Cocoa-Forest REDD+ Programme is using climate-smart cocoa production strategies to slash emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation, to boost cocoa yields and improve farmer livelihoods, and to achieve deforestation-free supply chains.

GIORNI Initiative, 2017 (Global Italian initiative on REDD+ National Implementation): the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and UNDP signed in New York an agreement to support Ecuador, Ghana and Myanmar for the implementation of their national strategies aimed at reducing deforestation and forest degradation. This includes the **Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Project (Ghana)**, which aims to promote a public-private investment plan aimed at reducing the supply chain's impacts on deforestation. The target eco-region of the project is the Savanna, where the shea butter has been established as a reference product. Among the planned activities, there is the improvement of the existing public-private platforms which is aimed at collaboration between government agencies, private sector and civil society, and also involves Italian companies.

Costa Rica, 2011: this project established a neutral multi-stakeholder and inter-institutional dialogue between government, the private sector and civil society that brought together over 900 technical experts from over 50 organizations and institutions in the pineapple sector. A five-year National Action Plan was produced by platform experts that aims to institutionalize the long-term sustainability performance of the pineapple sector at a national level. This 2013-2017 Action Plan for Strengthening Responsible Production and Trade of Pineapple includes public and private strategic actions and tasks, and has been agreed upon by producers, exporters, national and international buyers, civil society organizations, and key government ministries.