

Impact of European non-deforestation policies on countries of the South

SDG Forum - 13 October 2026

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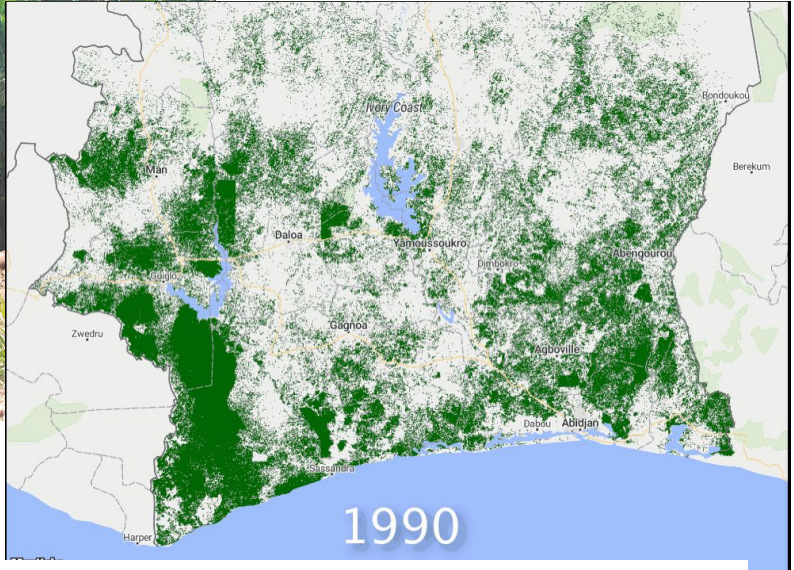


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Cocoa

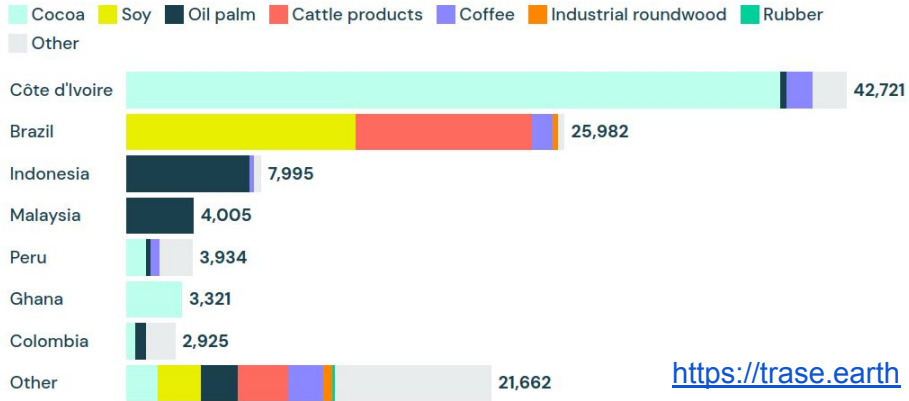


Cocoa deforestation



The EU27 is most exposed to deforestation via imports of cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire, Brazilian soy and beef, and Indonesian palm oil

EU deforestation exposure (ha per year) by origin country and commodity for the period 2021–2023 (the most recent three years with available data). More heavily processed products not included; estimates for wood and rubber products likely to be underestimated.



<https://trase.earth>

Analysis by Trase using data from Singh & Persson (2026, Nature Food) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products

Adopted in 2023, should have applied for Dec. 2024, twice delayed

Large and medium operators: 30 December 2026

Micro and small operators: 30 June 2027



Beef, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy, timber and derived products (e.g. chocolate, but not leather...), placed on EU market

Brussels, 17.11.2021
COM(2021) 706 final

2021/0366 (COD)

No deforestation after cut off date 31/12/2020

No illegality, no breach of human rights

"Due diligence"

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

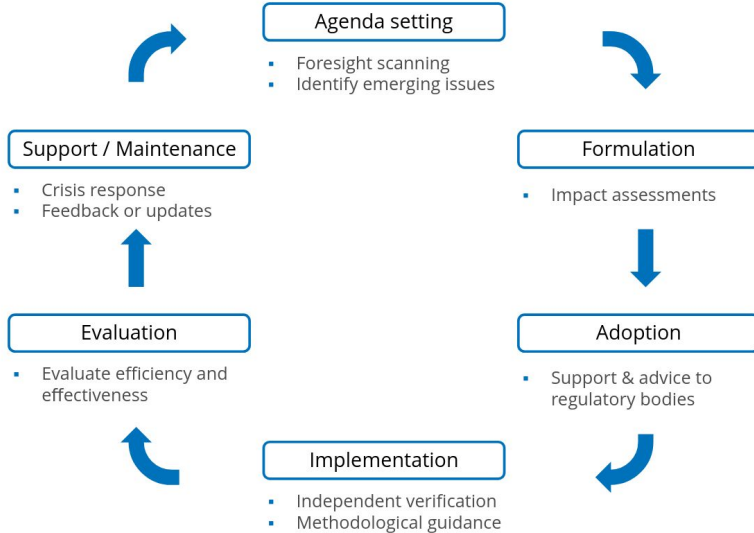
on the making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010

Traceability to the plot level

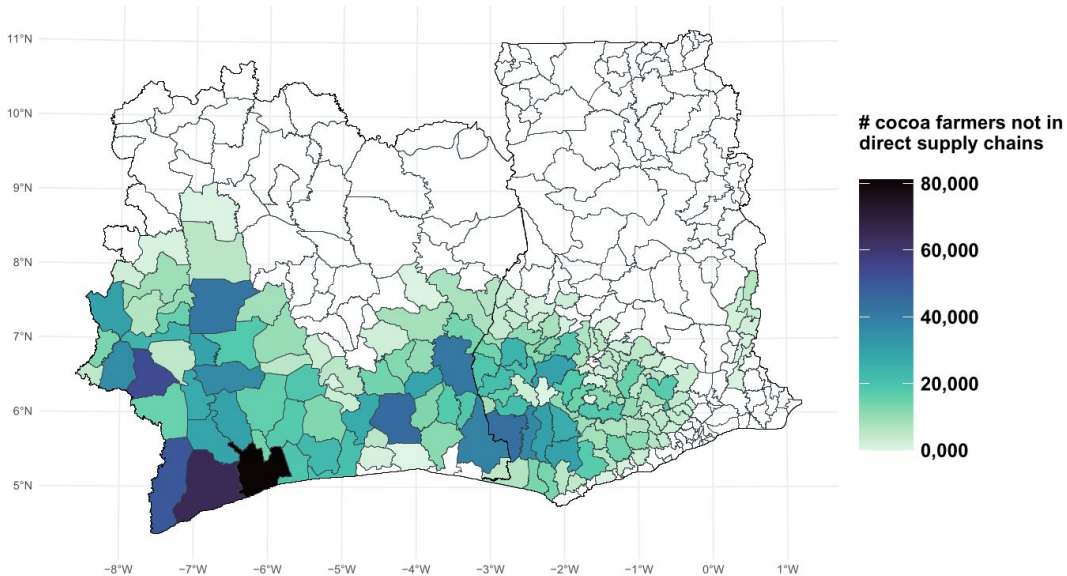
Controls according to the risk level (country)

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/forests/deforestation/regulation-deforestation-free-products_en

Unilateral policy: equity issues at each step



Smallholder exclusion



EUDR again

- (29) In coordination with Member States, the Commission should continue to work in partnership with producer countries, and more generally in cooperation with international organisations and bodies as well as with relevant stakeholders active on the ground through multi-stakeholder dialogues. The Commission should reinforce its support and incentives with regard to protecting forests and the transition to deforestation-free production, acknowledging and strengthening the role and rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, smallholders and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), improving governance and land tenure, increasing law enforcement and promoting sustainable forest management, with an emphasis on closer-to-nature forestry practices, based on science-based indicators and thresholds, ecotourism, climate-resilient agriculture, diversification, agro-ecology and agroforestry. In doing so, the Commission should fully recognise the role and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in protecting forests, taking into account the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Building upon the experience and lessons learned in the context of



EUDR again

Article 11

Risk mitigation

Such procedures and measures may also include supporting compliance with this Regulation by that operator's suppliers, in particular smallholders, through capacity building and investments.

Article 30

Cooperation with third countries

anisms may include structured dialogues, administrative arrangements, and existing agreements or provisions thereof, as well as joint roadmaps that enable the transition to an agricultural production that facilitates the compliance with this Regulation, paying particular attention to the needs of indigenous peoples, local communities and smallholders and ensuring the participation of all interested actors.

2. Partnerships and cooperation shall allow the full participation of all stakeholders, including civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, women, the private sector including microenterprises and other SMEs, and smallholders. Partnerships and cooperation shall also support or initiate inclusive and participatory dialogue towards



Between the hammer...

Complaints about unfair burden abroad?



September 19, 2023

**17 producer countries protest against EU
Deforestation Regulation**



.... and the anvil

Complaints about unfair burden at home?



But not so simple...

Pressures to weaken also coming from inside...



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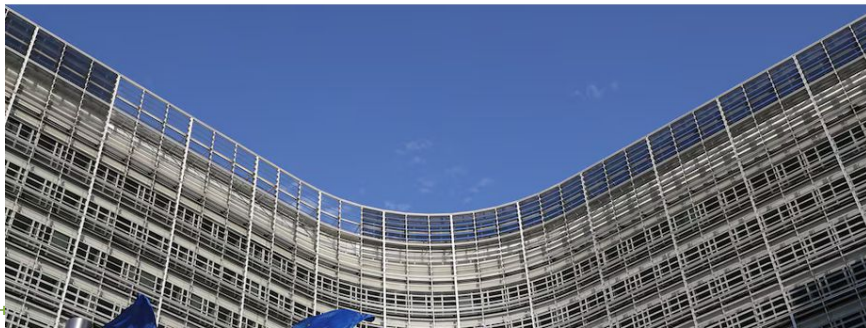
Eleven countries demand EU weakens deforestation law further, document shows

By Kate Abnett

May 26, 2025 12:00 PM GMT+2 · Updated May 26, 2025



Aa



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But not so simple...

... support also coming from companies...

Companies and NGOs oppose reopening the substance of the EU Deforestation Regulation

16 October 2024



 COFFEE WATCH

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Statement: 120+ companies, and NGOs unite behind call on European Commission to implement the EU Deforestation Regulation

<https://coffeewatch.org/joint-statement-120-companies-investors-and-ngos-unite-behind-call-on-the-european-commission-to-end-legal-uncertainty-and-implement-the-eu-deforestation-regulation/>

<https://voicenetwork.cc/news-updates/companies-and-companies-and-ngos-oppose-reopening-the-substance-of-the-eu-deforestation-regulationcompanies-and/>

What to do?

- **Keep the ambition, resist the pushbacks**
- **But do walk the talk on equity**
- **Hear the concerns, but explain the hard truths**

Team website

<https://landsystems-lab.earth/>

Trase website & platform

<https://www.trase.earth/>

