



Amsterdam Declaration Partnership 2030: mainstreaming deforestation-free commodities

The Amsterdam Declaration Partnership (ADP) - a group of ten countries including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom - has played an outstanding role in leading action against deforestation in supply chains.

The Partnership has helped catalyse European efforts to design legislation to halt the import of agricultural commodities from deforested land. Such joint coordinated action from powerful European countries is unprecedented, and it is their ambition that helped materialise the EU Regulation on deforestation-free commodities (EUDR), the UK Environment Act and the Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation Value Chains, announced at the 28th United Nations (UN) Climate Conference (COP28).

In the past few months, some EU Member States have tried to backtrack on EUDR commitments, which has shown how desperately we still need the ADP's continued leadership.

Pursuing a tangible legacy

The ADP is needed now more than ever. Its true legacy will be measured by the extent to which new policies are successfully implemented and lead to real change on the ground.

This is a critical decade for forests and yet, despite notable progress in some countries, deforestation rates are stubbornly high. To meet the goal to halt deforestation by 2030, action needs to be turbo-charged.

As such, the ADP roadmap to 2025 remains highly relevant. We encourage you to launch an initiative at the UN biodiversity conference (COP16) in Colombia later this year that includes the following articulations:

- 1. Become a centre of excellence for EUDR compliance and beyond:** To achieve the EUDR's huge potential, some European countries will need to lead the way with strong implementation, cooperation and enforcement. Where relevant, ADP countries should strengthen their partnership by being the Gold Standard for EUDR implementation.

But what would Gold Standard mean?

- Competent Authorities with the resources, authority and independence needed to fulfil obligations and who respond quickly and cooperatively to substantiated concerns.
 - Countries taking a strong stance on protecting international human rights norms and standards, interpreting the duties under the EUDR broadly, and looking at how to ensure rights infractions are monitored and brought to Competent Authorities' attention.
 - Ensuring implementation is transparent and harmonised across countries.
- 2. Facilitate dialogue between producer and consumer countries:** The ADP and its members should facilitate dialogue between producer and consumer countries and consider how to build partnerships so as to truly consider supply and demand issues together.
 - 3. Continue bringing stakeholders together to catalyse solutions:** The importance of the ADP's curation of the events and dialogues where stakeholders have jointly developed solutions cannot be overestimated, especially in shared emergent issues such as the financing of deforestation and non-agricultural drivers of deforestation.

- 4. Promote smallholder inclusion:** Legislation can only be considered successful if it also supports the most vulnerable people in supply chains. For example, smallholders may need dedicated and accessible funding and technical assistance to comply. Consideration should also be given to how policy initiatives and dialogues could support fair prices for small producers.
- 5. Support joint global efforts to tackle deforestation:** Although the EUDR is set to make huge changes to EU agricultural supply chains, concerns have been raised that it may simply lead to deforestation-laced commodities being sold elsewhere. The ADP should open space for international discussions on sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural supply chains with other major consumer and producer countries.
- 6. Support independent forest monitoring:** Tangible forest governance improvements will only be achieved if civil society has the capacity and space to hold governments accountable. The ADP countries should therefore support civil society organisations in European and tropical forested countries to monitor their forests and raise any concerns with Competent Authorities in the EU and local authorities in home countries.

We strongly support the Amsterdam Declaration Partnership up to and beyond 2025. There is a need for a coalition of ambitious countries to lead the way by actively working to halt deforestation.

We would very much appreciate hearing feedback after your deliberations on 30 May.

Signatories

Canopée, France

Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) - Environmental Action Germany, Germany

EarthSight, UK

Ecologistas en Acción, Spain

Environmental Investigation Agency, UK

Fern, Belgium & UK

Forests of the World, Denmark

Global Canopy, UK

Global Witness, International



Justicia Alimentaria, Spain

Mighty Earth, International

National Wildlife Federation, International

Polish Ecological Club, Poland

Rainforest Foundation Norway, Norway

SEO/BirdLife, Spain

ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável, Portugal

