

2030 GLOBAL FOREST VISION

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR **AGRIBUSINESS**

September 2026



Developed through extensive multi-stakeholder engagement and a review of successful policies and practices, these Actions contribute to a collective 2030 Global Forest Vision and complement previously published [Priority Actions for Governments](#), [Priority Actions for Deforestation- and Conversion-Free Finance](#), and [Priority Actions for Mining and Mineral Supply Chains](#).

Endorsing organizations are below. If your organization is interested in endorsing these actions, please visit [our website](#).



PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR

- 1** Address deforestation, degradation and ecosystem conversion as a foundation of climate and nature strategies
- 2** Start by prioritizing high-risk, high-impact geographies, suppliers, and commodities
- 3** Invest in landscape resilience through pre-competitive, farmer-centered partnerships
- 4** Engage public and private sector partners to take strong action



INTRODUCTION

The world cannot function without forests and other ecosystems. They ensure **food and water security**, store carbon and regulate global weather, **create jobs** and support **billions of livelihoods** – including for many Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) – and are fundamental to **global agricultural production, protect Indigenous heritage, safeguard against pandemics, drive medical innovation**, and much more.

Forests have an economic value of up to **USD 150 trillion annually** – nearly twice the value of global stock markets. They provide critical ecosystem services and raw materials for both local populations and major global industries. Investing in forests is not an act of goodwill; it is an insurance policy for long-term economic and political stability, sustainable development, and strong supply chains. They provide the basis for resilient, equitable, sustainable economies – rooted in recognition of rights and inclusion of diverse local voices.

Companies have a responsibility to manage legal, financial, and reputational risks associated with deforestation, conversion and forest degradation, and **an opportunity to gain access to capital and markets**, stable long-term supply, and market stability by implementing credible forest and ecosystems safeguards. Amid a growing political backlash, sustainable production and development efforts strengthen economic resilience, reduce long-term risk, and provide competitive advantages. Meaningful progress has already been made by individual companies and through collaborative initiatives (e.g., the **Cocoa & Forest Initiative**), steered by **regulatory and market signals**.

Private sector actors cannot halt and reverse global forest and ecosystem loss and degradation alone. Effective law enforcement, strong and inclusive national and local governance, and financial support are foundational to reaching the 2030 global forest goals. Yet, companies acting in commodity supply chains have an essential role to play.

The following Priority Actions provide guidance for companies that are exposed to significant forest and ecosystem risks through their supply chains from the production, processing, and distribution of agri-food commodities. Actions implemented collectively by many actors across agri-food supply chains are uniquely capable of driving economy-wide change at the speed and scale required. These Actions are scientifically grounded, aligned with global frameworks, and already being implemented to reduce risk, support farmer livelihoods, meet rising food demand, and strengthen economic resilience.



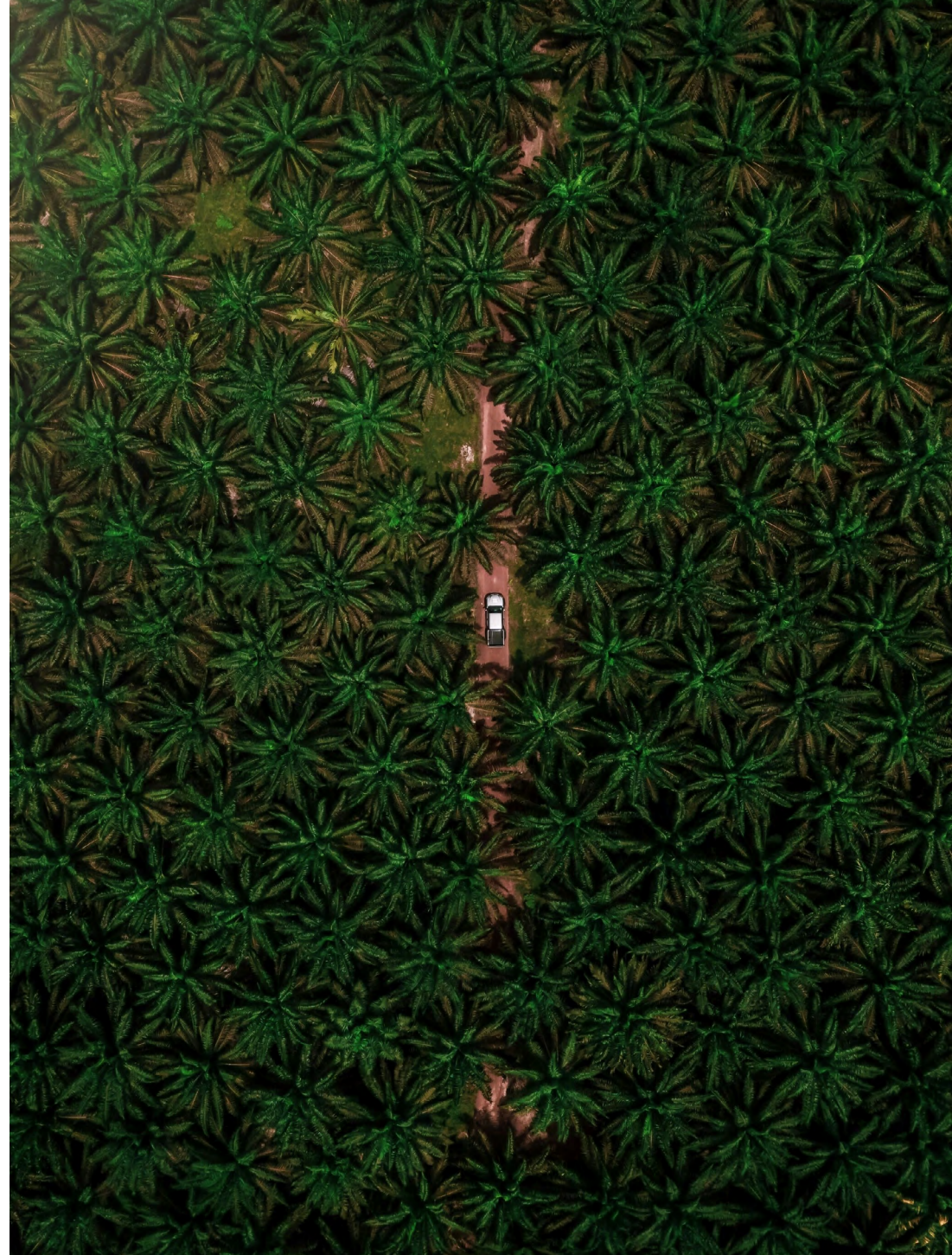
AGRIBUSINESS COMMODITIES SECTOR

Agribusiness companies that produce or rely on commodities like cattle, soy, and palm oil, among others, face a critical window of opportunity to build the economic, environmental, and social resilience of their supply chains. Acting now also advances core climate goals.

Agricultural expansion is the leading cause of deforestation and ecosystem conversion, disrupting communities, weakening economies, and exposing supply chains to risk. A transition to deforestation- and conversion-free production offers the promise of meeting global food and commodity needs while protecting forests and other ecosystems and ensuring resilient livelihoods and markets. Meanwhile, the cost of inaction is a growing **material risk**.

Commodity supply chain companies must work toward deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) supply and swift adoption of nature-positive production. Progress has been made: governments have developed and launched new tools for supply chain transparency and land cover monitoring; leading traders and brands have set DCF commitments and improved their traceability systems; investors are aligning policies and incentives. But gaps remain. Voluntary supply chain pledges have not been sufficient to eliminate deforestation and forest degradation at scale.

There is a clear path to sustaining and increasing agricultural production without expanding into natural ecosystems. In many producing regions, previously cleared or degraded land can be sustainably intensified, helping to avoid further deforestation and leakage to other ecosystems. Companies that invest in DCF systems and forest safeguards will reap an **economic resilience advantage**. Demand for DCF commodities is growing in key global markets, **including China**. The forward-looking strategy is to protect natural ecosystems, restore degraded land, and shift toward diversified production systems that maintain habitat, pollinators, and water regulation – delivering both resilience and long-term value.



PRIORITY ACTIONS

1. Address deforestation, degradation, and ecosystem conversion to achieve climate and nature goals

Why

Eliminating deforestation, degradation, and ecosystem conversion in value chains is the **single largest step** agribusiness commodity companies can take to meet their climate and nature goals. In addition to the destruction of natural forests, commodity demand and crop expansion are **rapidly driving the conversion** of ecosystems such as grasslands, wetlands, and savannas.

By incorporating deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) goals within climate plans, companies can enhance coherence, improve implementation, and deliver measurable outcomes without creating new layers of commitments or reporting. Concrete actions to address deforestation, forest degradation, and conversion – such as investing in supply chain traceability, supporting suppliers to adopt climate-smart agricultural approaches, and engaging with results-based finance initiatives – help companies to reduce dependencies, **leverage nature-related opportunities**, and **drive long-term business resilience**. In doing so, companies will support complementary goals such as reducing emissions, supporting biodiversity (including advancing progress on the Global Biodiversity Framework), protecting the rights of IPs and LCs, and improving land management through regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, and ecosystem restoration. The frameworks are already established; centralizing forest and ecosystem action in climate plans simply enables faster, more effective action.

How

- **INTEGRATE FOREST AND ECOSYSTEM GOALS INTO EXISTING CLIMATE AND NATURE STRATEGIES.** Use the GHG Protocol's Land Sector and Removals Standard to ensure land-based emissions and removals are reflected in corporate inventories. Companies should also set SBTi Forest, Land and Agriculture (FLAG) targets; and utilize the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN)^a to extend science-based approaches beyond climate. Independent validation of targets through SBTi and SBTN processes ensures transparency and alignment with global goals. To integrate nature-related dependencies into their corporate and financial risk management, companies should follow the recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) and consult the TNFD's guidance for locating, evaluating, assessing, and preparing (LEAP) for nature-related risks and opportunities.
- **UTILIZE TRANSPARENT DCF POLICIES TO ACHIEVE CLIMATE AND NATURE GOALS.** Companies should use the Accountability Framework (see Box 1) to set deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) commitments, and urgently establish criteria and policies to ensure sourcing for a given commodity and location is legal and free from all deforestation and ecosystem conversion. Further, they should report on their progress through best practice disclosure frameworks (e.g., CDP).
- **REDUCE SUPPLY CHAIN EMISSIONS AND DRIVE BUSINESS RESILIENCE.** Interventions that tackle deforestation and conversion within supply chains can deliver Scope 3 emission reductions while improving long-term supply chain resilience. To account for residual emissions that cannot be abated, companies should support forest finance, including through purchasing credits from high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ programs.
- **MONITOR AND PREVENT CONVERSION IN NON-FOREST NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS.** While **clearer and more consistent definitions** of conversion in non-forest natural ecosystems are being developed, companies should employ existing traceability and monitoring systems to help prevent future conversion, while also supporting the development

^a FLAG sets clear pathways for reducing land-related greenhouse gas emissions in key commodities (e.g., beef, soy, palm oil, timber), while SBTN provides a structured process to assess impacts, set measurable targets for nature (including no-conversion of ecosystems, reduced land footprint, and improved landscape engagement), track progress.

of new tools. Landscape initiatives can bring together companies and other stakeholders to protect non-forest natural ecosystems through shared maps, permitting rules with clear cut-off dates, remediation and restoration requirements, and credible grievance mechanisms.

Examples & resources:

- ▶ Commodity-specific good practices, such as the [GTFI Good Practices](#).
- ▶ Jurisdictional initiatives for residual offsets: [LEAF Coalition](#), [FCPF](#), [SCALE](#).

Box 1. Using the Accountability Framework to set goals and take action

Numerous companies, financial institutions, and industry associations, as well as leading global frameworks, set a 2025 target date for removing deforestation from agricultural and forestry supply chains. Now that 2025 is behind us, these commitments must be fulfilled as quickly as possible in order to meet global goals for climate and nature. Ambitious corporate action on deforestation and ecosystem conversion should follow a well-established pathway, as outlined by the Accountability Framework initiative (AFi) and other leading guidance. In addition, companies setting SBTi FLAG targets are required to set no-deforestation commitments in alignment with the Accountability Framework, as a key step toward meeting emissions reduction targets.

The Framework's [Operational Guidance on Commitments and Progress Pathways](#) explains what it means to fulfill responsible supply chain commitments and to sustain this achievement over time, as well as what to do if a company misses a target. Companies that have not already adopted commitments to address deforestation and conversion in their supply chains should utilize AFi's [Core Principles](#) to establish responsible supply chain commitments, and create the stepwise plans and milestones needed to achieve them. The Accountability Framework guides companies through the process of conducting risk assessment; setting goals; embedding these goals into all their production, procurement, and other business decisions; managing production and supply chains; and publicly disclosing their commitments, policies, and progress.

2. Start by prioritizing high-risk, high-impact geographies, suppliers, and commodities

Why

Forest and ecosystem conversion risks can be highly concentrated in just a few municipalities or districts, often situated along forest frontier areas. In Brazil's Cerrado biome, while deforestation and conversion pressure trends tend to shift very quickly and leak between regions and biomes, evidence suggests that at any specific time a [small number of municipalities](#) account for a large share of soy-driven deforestation. Similarly, deforestation risks within palm oil supply chains are heavily concentrated in certain geographies (e.g., in [northern Guatemala](#) and in certain areas of the Indonesian territories of [Kalimantan](#), [Sumatra](#), and [Papua](#)). Supply chains are often dominated by a small number of actors at key stages (e.g., traders, processors, exporters), generating bottlenecks and [complicating traceability efforts](#). For instance, just a handful of companies handle most soy exports from high-risk regions in South America. Meanwhile, the recent withdrawal of major agribusiness companies from the Amazon Soy Moratorium means new expansion for soy production could take place on highly biodiverse, intact rainforest, rather than on previously degraded lands.

How

- **CONDUCT RISK ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE TRENDS, IMPACT, OR RISK ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC ORIGINS, COMMODITIES, AND/OR SUPPLIERS.** Companies should consider current and potential impacts, including: areas with significant amounts of post-cutoff date deforestation or conversion or regions adjacent to hotspot regions; areas with high biodiversity risk; areas with social and land conflicts or significant ongoing human rights violations; areas with weak governance and law enforcement; and suppliers that source from areas with significant deforestation, conversion, and human rights

abuses, or that have a significant indirect supply base that currently lacks sufficient traceability or control.^b

- **SEIZE ALL AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFLUENCE OR LEVERAGE THROUGH THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS.** To improve supplier performance and move toward a fully DCF supply chain, companies should consider their control and leverage, including the amount of spend covered by long-term sourcing relationships, commercial provisions such as contract clauses or financial incentives, and influence and support to suppliers.
- **ESTABLISH ROBUST AND INTEROPERABLE TRACEABILITY, STARTING WITH HIGH-RISK LOCATIONS.** Companies should prioritize implementing granular monitoring and control mechanisms, starting in high-impact geographies to measure and identify localized risk and impacts, while working towards achieving sufficient traceability to assess and manage compliance with DCF goals.

Examples & resources:

- ▶ Tools for mapping suppliers and their relative risk: *WCS's Forest First Approach*; *Trase*; *WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter*, *Hamurni*.
- ▶ Robust traceability and monitoring systems: *Global Traceability Framework for Beef and Leather*; *Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability*.



^b The Accountability Framework Operational Guidance on Commitments and Progress Pathways.

3. Invest in landscape resilience through pre-competitive, farmer-centered partnerships

Why

Agricultural producers need support and incentives to shift their practices and produce long-term, stable, and low-impact commodity supplies. Working at the landscape level allows companies and other actors to align on a shared vision for socio-ecological and supply chain resilience, define measurable, context-specific priorities, and translate global goals (e.g., Global Biodiversity Framework, Sustainable Development Goals) into locally relevant indicators and milestones. For example, through **pre-competitive collaboration** (i.e., partnerships between individual supply chain actors to collectively address large-scale, systemic issues such as deforestation, ecosystem conversion, and natural resource depletion that pose shared challenges to their supply chains), companies can collectively build greater supply chain resilience, reduce the risk of non-compliance with deforestation-free regulations, and improve their bottom lines through **ensuring climate-resilient supply, lowering market volatility**, supporting the social license to operate, and **facilitating uptake of sustainability certifications**.

Effective action to address the root causes of deforestation and ecosystem destruction – including land speculation, smallholder subsistence, and domestic market demand – requires collaboration, which can catalyze finance and scale investments in landscapes to support the implementation of innovations such as data sharing, collective monitoring, and **traceability systems**.

How

- **INVEST IN LANDSCAPES TO BUILD RESILIENT, DCF SUPPLY CHAINS.** Companies should pursue pre-competitive, sectoral collaboration with suppliers and buyers, as well as governments, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, producers, and the finance sector. These partnerships provide venues to advance multiple objectives through the development of jurisdictional monitoring,

traceability and verification platforms, long-term plans for deforestation- and conversion-free production while aligning on standards, systems and data, pursuing farmer engagement, and supporting the development of accessible traceability and data systems. Landscape initiatives can also help align policy and investment, and allow stakeholders to pool finance, data, and technical capacity behind one plan and monitoring system, reducing duplication and improving accountability.

- **PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT TO FARMERS AND SMALLHOLDERS TO HELP THEM OVERCOME STRUCTURAL BARRIERS** such as land tenure insecurity, limited infrastructure, degradation and low productivity, and the cost of compliance with voluntary standards and regulations. In priority sourcing geographies, companies should partner directly – with farmers and smallholders – or ensure that suppliers do – to provide technical, financial, and legal support. They should also pay premiums for compliant supply that incentivize producers to adopt deforestation-free practices – especially in areas of highest risk of deforestation – and invest in data infrastructure. Meanwhile, long-term commitments and offtake agreements can move suppliers towards compliance without increasing costs.

- **CO-INVEST IN LAND REGISTRATION, RESTORATION, AND SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION:**

With peers, suppliers, and buyers, co-invest in high-risk sourcing areas to scale up farmer support systems.

With civil society and government actors, align with and build on existing rural development or environmental programs that protect forests while improving livelihoods.

With the financial sector, develop or improve financial products that incentivize farmers to adopt sustainable, deforestation-free practices — such as through targeted credit and blended finance mechanisms.

Examples & resources:

- ▶ Landscape initiatives: *VISEC initiative* in Argentina; *SeloVerde* and *SIFMA* systems in Brazil.
- ▶ Frameworks and guidance: *Blueprint for a Sustainable Landscape*, *Core Criteria for Mature Landscape Initiatives*, *A Blueprint for Resilient Landscape Initiatives*.
- ▶ Funds: WWF's *Deforestation-Free Leather Fund* and *Cerrado Resilience Fund*.

4. Leverage corporate voice and influence to strengthen the enabling environment for action

Why

In collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders, companies should advocate for strong legal standards and enforcement, and engage around key enabling issues that require government action and multistakeholder collaboration. By pushing for a policy environment with strong legal safeguards, companies create a more level-playing field that rewards verified environmental and social performance.

For example, smallholder inclusion in deforestation- and conversion-free supply chains, such as in palm oil, could be significantly improved through collaborative efforts to overcome regulatory barriers like land tenure and registration.

How

- **USE MARKET INFLUENCE TO ADVOCATE FOR STRONG LEGAL STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT:** Engage national and jurisdictional policy-makers to address enabling factors — such as land tenure, traceability gaps, and weak enforcement — that undermine supply chain accountability and limit market access.
- **SUPPORT PUBLIC, TRANSPARENT TRACEABILITY SYSTEMS AND TRADE ALIGNMENT:** Support the development, improvement, and implementation of public or public/private traceability and monitoring systems to facilitate sustainable, deforestation- and conversion-free trade with key importing markets, in line with emerging **regulatory requirements**. Public and private sector actors can equally support South-South collaboration to develop interoperable systems and share best practices between existing mechanisms.
- **ENGAGE IN MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS TO SHAPE POLICY:** Participate in landscape- and sector-level initiatives that bring together the private sector, civil society, and governments to advance

systemic change through multi-faceted programs that engage traders, provide positive incentives for suppliers, and enforce existing protections.

Examples & resources:

- ▶ Partnerships: *Africa Sustainable Commodities Initiative*, the *IDH-led Cocoa Roadmap in Cameroon*, the *Global Platform on Sustainable Natural Rubber*, and *TFA's Taskforce on Green Value Chains for China*.
- ▶ Private sector influence: UK groceries' *open letter to soy producers* to remain in the Amazon Soy Moratorium.
- ▶ Guidance: *Advocating for nature: A guide for responsible policy engagement* by Business for Nature.



ABOUT

The 2030 Global Forest Vision brings together civil society and research organizations around transformative actions to halt and reverse deforestation and ecosystem conversion by 2030. It provides a shared framework to align diverse actors and identify where immediate action is most needed.

The Priority Actions are the building blocks of the Vision—concise, targeted recommendations that translate global goals into actionable steps for specific stakeholder groups. The present set, focused on Agribusiness Commodities Sector, offers concrete guidance for companies to align their business practices with global forest and climate goals.

This document builds on findings from the annual Forest Declaration Assessment and other key reports, and has been refined through consultation and collaboration with civil society organizations worldwide.

To learn more about the 2030 Global Forest Vision, visit:

www.forestdeclaration.org/vision

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