

## Terms of Reference

### European (ISCO) Working Group on Forests and Agroforestry

#### Background

In their Memorandum of Understanding, the national platforms for sustainable cocoa in Europe European (in the following: ISCOs) have agreed to bundle efforts for a sustainable cocoa value chain through collaborative action specifically in the following key areas of action which are the sector's main challenges:

- To enhance the transparency in the cocoa value chain and promote the production and consumption of sustainable cocoa;
- To contribute to a living income for cocoa farmers and their families;
- **To halt cocoa-related deforestation and promote sustainable reforestation and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries; and**
- To end the worst forms of child labor and forced labor in the cocoa value chain.

The creation of joint Working Groups addressing these main challenges is considered one effective measure to bundle and coordinate efforts. The ISCOs thus agreed to foster peer learning and the exchange of knowledge through the creation of joint Working Groups of experts in different workstreams linked to the main challenges. At the same time, Joint Learning Events will be organized to allow for joint learning at a broader scale.

While each platform has adopted a slightly different goal, which reflects the state of discussions at national level, the solutions that need to be designed to meet these goals are common to all platforms. In recent years, each platform has been developing its own set of definitions, solutions, and roadmaps, and it is now timely to bring it all together to create synergies and scale-up opportunities to take action in producing countries.

Below is a summary of European goals that relate to forest protection and restoration and promotion of agroforestry systems.

Platform	Main goal	Sub-goals
Beyond Chocolate	By 2030 at the latest deforestation due to cocoa growing for the Belgian chocolate sector has ended.	By 2025 at the latest, Beyond Chocolate partners shall comply with applicable agreements between governments and companies in the regions included in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.
DISCO	Cocoa-related deforestation and forest degradation in producing regions where the Dutch cocoa industry and their trade partners are sourcing from will have ended in their supply chains by 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No sourcing of cocoa produced in areas where agricultural activities are illegal</li> <li>- Carry out due diligence assessments to ensure no illegal cocoa enters supply chains.</li> <li>- 100% traceability to farm level in direct supply chain by 2025 &amp; full traceability by 2030</li> <li>- Adhere to the Cocoa &amp; Forests Initiative (CFI), and promote underwriting of CFI among those companies that have not yet signed</li> <li>- Identify and map all remaining forest remnants (HCV/HCS) in cocoa producing landscapes,</li> </ul>

Platform	Main goal	Sub-goals
		<p>monitor these &amp; support their protection and restoration by 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner with other stakeholders to design and implement programs that address deforestation and restore forests that have been degraded by cocoa production.</li> <li>- Promote sustainable agroforestry practices, climate smart cocoa production and landscape approaches</li> <li>- Responsibilities on implementation and financing will be defined by 2022.</li> </ul>
GISCO	Conserve and protect natural resources and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting governments and other stakeholders in the development of holistic regional agricultural programs in order to create alternatives to cocoa cultivation and thus counteract overproduction.</li> <li>- Promoting the development and use of sustainable and diversified production systems, esp. agroforestry systems, which conserve natural resources as well as ending the application of hazardous and/or unauthorized pesticides.</li> <li>- Ending deforestation and contributing to conservation of forests and biodiversity, and to reforestation.</li> </ul>
SWISSCO Roadmap 2030 <i>(as approved by GAM on 21/09/2021)</i>	<p>Deforestation-free and climate-friendly cocoa supply chain</p> <p>Baseline Report 2022 Midline Report 2025 Endline Report 2030</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SWISSCO members actively engage, directly or through supply chain partners, in international efforts to halt deforestation, forest degradation caused by cocoa production area expansion (e.g. the Cocoa and Forest Initiative in Ghana and Ivory Coast or the Forest Positive Coalition of Action) and logging inside cocoa plantations.</li> <li>- SWISSCO engagement in at least 5 cocoa sourcing landscapes, involving min. 3 member companies and active facilitation by SWISSCO</li> <li>- SWISSCO members enable 150'000 farmers (by 2030; 70'000 by 2025) to adopt effective climate smart agriculture and agroforestry practices.</li> <li>- Swiss cocoa supply chain partners are on the pathway towards net zero emissions with focus on the supply chain in line with the Paris Agreement by adhering to initiatives such as SBTi or by undertaking equivalent efforts</li> </ul>

## Aim of the Working Group:

This working group's overall aim is to:

- Support the peer learning and exchange of knowledge on the topic of deforestation-free sourcing, forest protection, carbon and biodiversity enhancement, as well as country-specific questions that members may want to address. It also aims to catalyze action, by supporting the design and financing of projects designed to have additional impact in producing countries.
- Promote sharing of experiences and knowledge between the ISCOs and existing sustainable cocoa platforms (e.g. Cocoa & Forests Initiative, Cocoa, Forests & Peace

Initiative, Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa), as well as relevant stakeholders in producing countries.

- Support ISCO signatories/members in achieving their commitments and ambitions related to halting cocoa-related deforestation and forest degradation, the promotion of sustainable reforestation and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries.

## Proposed activities

The activities of the working group are organized by the following focus areas. The possible thematic areas that could be covered by the WG are detailed in the Appendix.

### 1. Learning and Alignment

#### **1.1 Shared understanding and common definitions**

Create ownership and shared understanding of the concepts and, where needed, develop common definitions, building on already existing definitions identified by the ISCO and latest developments (e.g. EU definitions of some key terms).

In particular, enhance understanding on what is happening on the ground at farmer level and landscape level, focusing on barriers and opportunities. This may include commissioning of research and analysis.

#### **1.2 Monitoring & Evaluation**

Review the set of indicators and definitions used to monitor progress against the ISCO commitments and other company zero-deforestation commitments (including Cocoa & Forests Initiative, Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa), in order to support the monitoring of the implementation of the ISCO commitments. In particular, identify opportunities for joint reporting, as well additional indicators that could support improved understanding of on-the-ground impact

If necessary, identify and/or develop tools that can help ISCO members and other stakeholder in producing countries to better track progress of their respective projects on forest protection/sourcing of deforestation-free cocoa/carbon and biodiversity benefits of agroforestry projects. This could include commissioning specific impact studies, when relevant.

#### **1.3 Compliance**

Jointly keep track of legislation and other requirements in Europe and producing countries related to deforestation-free sourcing, due diligence requirement, traceability, etc. Clarify what they mean for companies and organizations within the cocoa sector, in both producing and consuming countries, and in particular how these developments impact the ISCO commitments.

If necessary, organize dialogues with policy-makers to gain additional clarification, in close partnership with the European Commission Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, and other relevant initiatives/partnerships

#### **1.4 Guidance, methodologies and tools**

Identify members' needs in terms of guidance, methodologies and tools that could support realization of ISCOs commitments. Jointly develop or commission the development of the identified guidance, methodologies and tools.

### 2. Action for impact at scale

Share learnings from existing (landscape) projects being implemented by members. If there is appetite also explore how ISCO members can join forces and mobilize funding to co-design and implement projects to support specific landscapes identified as critical for the ISCOs. Support to landscape approaches have been identified as an important area of work by members of DISCO (as part of the [Roadmap on ending deforestation and forest degradation](#))

and of SWISSCO (during the Nov 10<sup>th</sup> workshop of the SWISSCO WG on Climate Resilience and Biodiversity).

## Organization

- The WG shall consist of a representative group of members from all four ISCOs, with a balanced representation of all sectors (private sector, public sector, research, NGOs), with an indicative number of experts per platform
- Experts from producing countries are invited to actively participate in contributing with input and shaping the outcomes.
- The participation in the WG requires a certain level of expertise on the topic of child labour.
- The WG is co-lead by two experts with acknowledged expertise One national platform (in this case Beyond Chocolate/DISCO) is serving as the secretariat of the WG and ensures a proper coordination with the other national platforms.
- The Working Group will also work closely with other ISCO relevant Working Groups (e.g. Monitoring and Traceability WG), to ensure synergies and complementarity of efforts.
- Estimated time to be invested for participation in this working group is for two to three meetings per year (duration abt. 3 hours each) plus consultation of tools and documents.
- This WG aims to be a technical Working Group:
  - Discussions will be based on members' knowledge and expertise, so it is expected that WG members are engaged within their organizations in the setting of targets, design and implementation of programs that aim to reduce cocoa-related deforestation, enhance biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
  - Due to synergies with topics discussed within the Cocoa & Forests Initiative and Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa, we aim to specifically invite members who are part of these initiatives to join. This will help ensure complementarity of discussions and avoid duplication of efforts.
  - Representatives from the public sector, private sector, civil society organizations in producing countries will also be invited to join the discussions as contributors to technical topics discussed within the Working Group.
- Task Forces may be set-up on specific topics, to ensure that the work progresses swiftly.
- Besides, regular learning events and workshops (at least two ISCO event across all challenges per year) will be open to all interested members of all four platforms to foster peer learning and the exchange of knowledge. Non-experts will also be invited to attend these learning events.

## Member Organizations of the Working Group

- [Equipoise](#)
- [ETH Zürich](#)
- [Fairtrade Africa](#)
- [Farmstrong Foundation](#)
- [Ferrero](#)
- [FiBL \(Research Institute of organic agriculture\)](#)
- [FPS Health](#)
- [GIZ](#)
- [Hachez](#)
- [IDH](#)
- [INKOTA Netzwerk](#)



- Kampani
- KOA
- Koa Impact Ghana Ltd
- Lindt
- Luneca Marzioan
- Meridia
- MINEF (CIV)
- Ministry of Lands Ghana
- Mondelez
- myclimate
- Natra
- Nexus Management
- Obrobibini Peace Complex
- Olam
- ONG IDEF
- Planet for the Planet Foundation
- Rainforest Alliance
- REDD+
- Réseau Ivoirien du Commerce Equitable
- SECO
- Solidaridad Network
- Suedwind-Institut
- Swiss Contact
- Tropenbos
- Univeristy of Bern
- University of Ghent
- Weinrich Shokolade
- WWF
- Helvetas
- Commerce equitable France
- Starbucks
- CATIE

## Appendix

Mapping of thematic areas that are relevant to the topic of forests and agroforestry, which could be covered by this Working Group.

- This mapping incorporates comments received from members of DISCO, Beyond Chocolate, GISCO and SWISSCO.
- A prioritization exercise will have to be done, to identify the themes that are most relevant to the group,

Main themes	Deforestation-free cocoa sourcing strategies	Forest protection strategies	Forest restoration strategies (off-farm)	On-farm restoration strategies	Other themes?
Sub-theme	Legality: Distinguish legal cocoa from illegal cocoa (note: can legality really help here?)	No cocoa farming in protected areas / HCV-HCS areas	Restoration approaches (incl community-based models) (note: distinguish clearly forest restoration vs agroforestry)	Agroforestry systems: enabling conditions (e.g. land tenure, access to markets), and how to make it work?	Building capacity of forest management organizations, in particular in forestry concessions, identifying champions
	Going beyond legality (e.g no sourcing from HCS-HCV areas)	Collaboration on forest protection, forest restoration and agroforestry through Landscape approaches, defining roles & responsibilities. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engaging other sectors in landscape approach - logging, mining, etc and government (influencing policies)</li> <li>- Data on specific landscapes: in particular evidence on drivers of deforestation in specific landscapes, to inform decision</li> </ul>			Challenging our assumptions, system thinking: System level changes / root cause drivers / regulations and policies
	Identifying deforestation and degradation risk areas	Protection of trees outside of forests (beyond what is considered as "forests")	Benefits of restoration (incl. biodiversity enhancement, climate change mitigation, production of timber and NTFPS) and benefit sharing	(Co)benefits of agroforestry systems (income, biodiversity, soil, carbon etc)	Influencing the political will (e.g. through political dialogue etc)
	Monitoring of deforestation and forest degradation	Monitoring of conservation Monitoring of biodiversity	Monitoring of restoration Monitoring of biodiversity	Monitoring of agroforestry systems and of related carbon	
	Monitoring direct & indirect supply chains (links to traceability & due diligence)	Financing mechanisms to support various landscape interventions: forest protection, forest restoration, agroforestry promotion etc			
	Cutoff date and the consequences of setting cut-off dates (also in relation to scope 3, in relation to the AFi)		Incentive mechanisms (e.g. PES)	Incentive mechanisms (e.g. PES)	
	Mandatory Human Right and Environmental Due Diligence	Social safeguards: Protection of families in protected areas		Building capacity of farmers: what are successful	

Main themes	Deforestation-free cocoa sourcing strategies	Forest protection strategies	Forest restoration strategies (off-farm)	On-farm restoration strategies	Other themes?
	(MHREDD) - and impacts on ISCO and producing countries	(note: linked to community registration)		interventions to increase adoption of agroforestry?	