

Announcement of the first cross-platform  
**Monitoring round 2021**  
for the reporting year 2020  
Data collection period: April 28 to May 31, 2021



Dear members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa,

after the member survey of the pilot monitoring (for the reporting year 2019) was completed in mid-February and we have started its evaluation, we are preparing in parallel the announced first cross-platform monitoring round of GISCO and Beyond Chocolate.

Measuring our impact is essential to identify which activities are successful and what we need to work on to achieve our common goals.

As European platforms for sustainable cocoa, we have been working over the last few months to harmonize our monitoring systems.

We are now pleased to announce that in 2021, Beyond Chocolate and GISCO will be using a common monitoring tool that most of you have already been using in our pilot monitoring system.



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## Thank you for participating in the pilot monitoring!

On February 15, 2021, the pilot monitoring of GISCO ended for the reference year 2019. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all members who took the time to participate in this monitoring. For those who experienced technical difficulties, we would like to thank you for your patience with the start-up pitfalls of the new tool.

We will present the results of the pilot monitoring to you during our members meeting on May 5, 2021. In addition to the data itself, the feedback on the tool and the questions was also very valuable to us.

We would like to invite you to participate in our **final monitoring survey until April 1, 2021**. Your feedback will be used to **further develop the tool** for the upcoming joint monitoring. You can find the survey in the **monitoring tool** by clicking „Start filling a new form“.

## Background

The members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa have set themselves the goal of improving the living conditions of cocoa farmers and preserving as well as protecting natural resources and biodiversity.

At the general meeting in May 2019, GISCO's members agreed on **twelve specific goals**. Subsequently, the development of the monitoring system was started in order to be able to make statements regarding the achievement of these goals.

After consultation with all member groups within the Working Group on Monitoring, the Board agreed on **indicators at both impact and performance levels**.

These are included in the set of harmonized indicators of the cocoa platforms DISCO, SWISSCO, Beyond Chocolate and German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa.

## Why a joint monitoring process?

Together, the European platforms for sustainable cocoa represent an important share of the cocoa market in Europe. Several members are active in different countries and are members of several initiatives at the same time. The platforms are not only in a process of harmonization among themselves, but are also in contact with WCF and ICCO to advocate for **the vision of a global monitoring system of the cocoa sector**, which at the same time should have the flexibility to take into account important national indicators and targets.

The harmonization process:

- **responds** to the desire of our multinational members to minimize their reporting burden;
- **enables** members to compare their own data with aggregated and averaged data from all members;
- **increases** visibility of progress, creates synergies, and thus increases relevance and impact;
- **creates** benefits from synergies, for example through shared IT solutions or shared impact studies

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## How was the monitoring system developed?

The European platforms on sustainable cocoa started harmonizing their monitoring systems in the second half of 2020.

A list of common indicators has been created, supplemented by some additional platform-specific indicators. The common online reporting tool was programmed by the software development company Akvo. The Swiss Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) and the Dutch Initiative on sustainable Cocoa (DISCO) are closely involved in the whole process, but do not yet participate in this year's monitoring for internal reasons. Furthermore, the newly founded **ISCO-Working Group Monitoring** advises the platforms in the implementation.

Thus, through several test phases and stakeholder consultations, a **reporting tool** was developed that is easy to use and clear, but at the same time complete. Based on feedback, the tool is continuously improved, and functions are added.

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### My organization does not process, or trade significant amounts of cocoa and we have no projects in countries of origin – should we still participate in monitoring?

Yes, certainly. Some goals of GISCO (e.g. networking and information exchange for more sustainability) and related indicators (e.g. sharing of lessons learned, participation in policy dialogue initiatives) apply to **all members**.

Even if you suspect you have little relevant information, we welcome your participation in our monitoring as it can help piecing together a **more complete picture** of the cocoa sector in Germany.

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### How are the security and confidentiality of my data guaranteed?

The confidential data provided by the members will only be visible to the secretariats of those platforms to which the member reports.

Akvo as a data processor follows strict **data security measures** (click [here](#) for more information on data confidentiality). In addition, there is the option to sign a bilateral confidentiality agreement with us.

**Data confidentiality is strictly maintained**, and data is only published in anonymized and aggregated form after approval by the members.

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### What does the monitoring system offer?

- Joint, feedback-oriented, **continuous improvement** of the monitoring system with GISCO's members
- **Simple and time-saving data entry** by members
- **Support** for reporting on request
- Historical **traceability of own data**
- Registration of several colleagues in the tool enables joint processing of questionnaires
- Joint reporting of cross-organizational and cross-platform programs and projects
- **One-time reporting** for members of multiple platforms

If you would like to participate in the further development of the monitoring system, you can join the Working Group on Monitoring of GISCO and the Working Group Monitoring on the European level, in which all four cocoa platforms participate. To do so, please contact the office.

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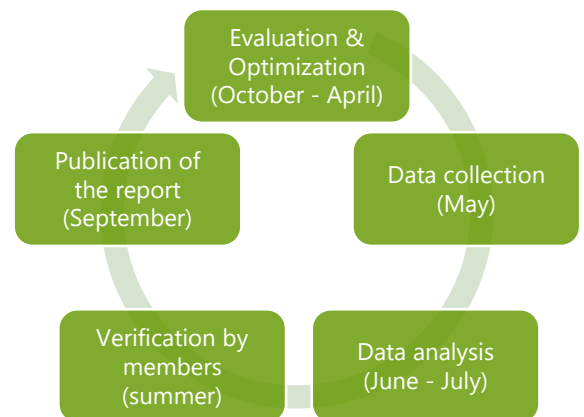
### What is the reporting schedule?

The platforms will work together with their members to optimize the reporting tool until the end of April 2021. The first **cross-platform monitoring group took place on March 18, 2021**.

As a starting date for the **joint monitoring** with Beyond Chocolate and individual members of DISCO, you can already mark **April 28, 2021**. There, the final reporting tool will be presented during an **information event** for all members and in small groups with demos per member group. Please see the invitation below for details. The reporting period will be open until May 31.

Of course, we will be happy to support you in reporting during the mentioned period. If desired, **individual appointments** can be made in May to clarify any specific questions by telephone or directly on the screen.

### Annual monitoring cycle starting in 2021



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If you have any questions, please contact:

**Julia Jawtuschk (German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa): [julia.jawtuschk@giz.de](mailto:julia.jawtuschk@giz.de)**

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# Important events



**From now until April 1, 2021**

Click [here](#) to start the survey in the tool

(Log in to the tool, start new questionnaire on the top right)

**Pilot  
monitoring  
survey**



**April 13, 2021**  
1.30 pm – 4.30 pm (CET)

Click [here](#) to join the Webex meeting on April 13

**Meeting of the  
Working Group  
on Monitoring**



**April 28, 2021**  
1 pm – 4 pm (CET)

Click [here](#) to add the event to your calendar

**Start of the joint  
Monitoring Round**  
(April 28 – May 31)  
for the reporting year 2020



**May 10, 2021**  
10 am – 5 pm (CET)

**May 26, 2021**  
10 am – 5 pm (CET)

**GISCO Monitoring  
support days**

These two days are dedicated to appointments around your technical or content-wise questions surrounding the monitoring