



Roadmap: Stollwerck

Background

At the 2022 General Meeting of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO), members decided to publish individual roadmaps with commitments and milestones as well as progress reports on these commitments.

The individual roadmaps are based on the [GISCO roadmap](#) which lists the goals, targeted indicators and recommendations for action on the focus topics of certified cocoa/cocoa from company programmes, traceability, deforestation/agroforestry, child labor and living income.

These public individual commitments complement the annual monitoring process carried out in cooperation with the ISCOs (European Initiatives for sustainable cocoa), give visibility of the members' contributions to the [GISCO objectives](#) and strengthen individual accountability.

Commitments

- [Traceability](#)
- [Certified cocoa and cocoa from company programmes](#)
- [Deforestation/Agroforestry](#)
- [Child Labour](#)
- [Living Income](#)

Comment of the member on the roadmap:

Traceability

Commitment (submitted in December 2022):

Stollwerck guarantees full traceability back to the farmer by end of 2024 and in line with the European Deforestation regulation (EUDR).

Milestone 1:

100% of our direct supply is fully GPS mapped end of 2024.

Progress (submitted in December 2024):

Our commitment to achieving full traceability back to the farmer by the end of 2025, in line with the European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), remains in progress. We are actively working toward this goal in close collaboration with our suppliers, ensuring alignment with EUDR requirements. Due to the one-year delay of the EUDR by end of 2025, we revise our commitment accordingly from 2024 until 2025. We do need all stakeholders in our supply chain on board to achieve this target.

We have increased the volumes of cocoa purchased through our direct supply chain in which we have implemented traceability systems. In addition to that we have started using the cocoa from our cocoa sustainability program Transparence Cacao for our brands Eszet and Schwarze Herren whereby we can guarantee full traceability through our segregated supply chain model.

We have achieved our milestone; 100% of our direct supply chain is fully GPS mapped by end of 2024. Transparence Cacao has successfully achieved 100% of its georeferencing objective across all origin countries in 2024, in line with the EUDR requirements. GPS mapping will continue as and when new farmers will be added to the program.

Through the combined actions in complying with legislation, collaborating with suppliers in our indirect supply chain and increasing our direct supply chain, we aim to achieve our full traceability target.

Challenge:

The traceability objective is intertwined with the EUDR. To ensure an effective implementation it will be essential that the needed systems are in place and clarity is provided on how the regulation needs to be implemented in order to ensure that all stakeholders in the supply chain are able to adhere to this.

Considering the pure cocoa products; no challenges are foreseen for the beans, however, to achieve individual farmer traceability for the butter, powder and mass/liquor remains a challenge. Seen the complexity of the supply chain of the non-pure cocoa products the challenge for this group of raw materials is even bigger. The complexity of the supply chain includes all logistical aspects, the fact that not all customers are willing to use certified/ verified/ traceable cocoa and if they do, they usually decide to purchase these with Mass Balance traceability level only (not segregated). Lastly some raw materials include a very low % cocoa, for some suppliers of these raw materials the traceability topic might be rather new, and it will take time to further strengthen the traceability levels, keeping in mind this will have financial and logistical consequences.



Voluntary: Updated Commitment & Milestones 2024:

Due to the one-year delay of the EUDR by end of 2025, we revise our commitment accordingly from 2024 until 2025. We do need all stakeholders in our supply chain on board to achieve this target. Our updated commitment reads as follows: Stollwerck guarantees full traceability back to the farmer in line with the application date of the European Deforestation regulation (EUDR), which is expected to be 30th December 2025.



Certified cocoa and cocoa from company programmes

Commitment (submitted in December 2022):

By the end of 2025, Stollwerck has the objective that the share of sustainable cocoa in the finished products sold in Germany will be 95%.

Milestone 1:

For all private label products, it is the customer's decision if they want to use sustainable cocoa for their products. We will get in contact with our customers, which currently use non-certified cocoa, until end of June 2023 and define a plan together with them when we can switch those articles to include sustainable cocoa.

Milestone 2:

By the end of 2024, Stollwerck will increase the share of sustainable cocoa in the finished products sold in Germany to 90%.

Progress (submitted in December 2024):

Status:

Our commitment remains in progress. For the calendar year 2024, 91% of the cocoa used in our finished products sold in Germany is sourced from certified cocoa standards or our verified Transparence Cocoa Excellence company programme. Next year we will work towards our goal of 95% at the end of 2025.

Current Use of Sustainability Standards (calendar year 2024):

Fairtrade: 32%

Rainforest Alliance (RFA): 55%

Verified Transparence Cocoa Excellence (Company Programme): 4%

Non-certified: 9%

Total Sustainable Cocoa Share: 91%

Transparence Cacao:

Transparence Cacao, our company's sustainable cocoa program, is built on a unique model aimed at reshaping the cocoa supply chain. Initiated in 2015, the program has grown steadily in its commitment to sustainability. It addresses key issues in the cocoa industry, such as improving the income of farmers, addressing child labour, and deforestation, in close collaboration with stakeholders like the Conseil du Café-Cacao in Côte d'Ivoire.

Transparence Cacao operates through four key pillars: traceability & transparency, farmer quality of life, environmental quality, and cocoa quality.

It is a fully segregated program and is audited on an annual basis by Bureau Veritas. Audits are carried out in Côte d'Ivoire with cooperatives and farmers to confirm the effective application of our requirements. Additionally, the audit reviews the physical traceability in the supply chain and the communication and claims.



Challenge:

With the Transparenze Cacao program, Stollwerck has its own sustainable cocoa program, which we are using for our own brand products and promote to our private label customers. For this reason, it is important that the GISCO accepts Transparenze Cacao as an independently verified sustainable cocoa program. Second, Stollwerck is mainly producing private label products, for which decision-making power is with our customers. Of course, we will try to convince them to invest in sustainable cocoa, but we expect that in some cases these discussions might be challenging. It might happen that switching to sustainable cocoa might not be possible in all cases.



Deforestation/Agroforestry

Commitment (submitted in December 2023):

As part of Transparency Cacao, our segregated cocoa sustainability program, it is our objective to achieve 30% agroforestry in Ivory Coast by 2025 and 100% by 2030.

Milestone 1:

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Milestone 2:

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Progress: (submitted in December 2024):

Our commitment to achieve 30% agroforestry in Ivory Coast by 2025 and 100% by 2030 is in progress.

In 2024, we overachieved by reaching our goal of 30% agroforestry originally planned for 2025. To improve the rate, we implemented several initiatives: We offer training to cooperatives and farmers, offer individual coaching and pay premiums for implementing several activities (agroforestry included).

In Ivory Coast, we are implementing coaching activities since 2023: 32 cooperatives in total have received a specific support to implement environmental and good agricultural practices with a specific focus on agroforestry and agricultural entrepreneurship.

More information can be found in our annual update on progress made, which you can find here: <https://www.transparency-cacao.com/impact/>

Challenge:

There are several challenges to overcome barriers for adoption of agroforestry concepts by farmers. Several factors play a role such as accessibility and affordability of a diversity of seedlings and ensuring they have a good survival rate. Other factors also play a role such as the change of mindset needed for those farmers who have learned to grow cocoa under full sun.

Child Labour

Commitment (submitted in December 2023):

As part of our Transparence Cacao program for which we have a direct supply chain, we are committed to a zero-tolerance policy against child labour as we believe that child labour has no place in our cocoa supply chain. The risk of child labour varies among the cocoa origins; our focus is hereby on the Ivory Coast where the risk is highest. It is our objective to ensure that by 2025 all Transparence Cacao Preference and Excellence cooperatives are covered with a Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMRS) equivalent.

Milestone 1:

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Milestone 2:

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Progress (submitted in December 2024):

Our commitment to achieve that by 2025 all Transparence Cacao Preference and Excellence cooperatives are covered with a CLMRS equivalent is in progress.

As a basis, 100% of the cooperatives integrated into Transparence Cacao sign an ethical charter forbidding child labour and forced labour.

Additionally, our Preference & Excellence cooperatives are trained specifically on this topic and are audited every year to ensure compliance. Those cooperatives are already covered or targeted to be covered by a CLMRS (or equivalent), before 2025.

Moreover, together with Cémoi and the 'Fund against child labour' of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), we contribute to eliminating child labour from the cocoa supply chain.

During the 1st phase of our collaboration in 2024, we researched the occurrences and causes of child labour. Our focus was on 4 cocoa cooperatives which are highly committed to addressing potential child labour among their member cocoa farmers. They are located in 4 cocoa producing regions: Sassandra, Lakota, Aboisso and San Pedro, covering more than 50 villages and 2,289 cocoa farmers.

In the second phase (2025–2027), we will work closely with 9 cooperatives, implementing targeted activities to strengthen their Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS). As first activity we will organize information sessions among the 9 cooperatives, followed by awareness sessions targeting farmers, cooperative staff, children as well as school teachers. Based on the effectiveness - and needs of the current CLMRS systems at the 9 cooperatives, a 'Children first' plan will be developed to strengthen these CLMRS and carry out remediation activities targeting vulnerable children/ child labour cases.



Challenge:

Effectively addressing child labour and long-lasting solutions will require actions by a diversity of stakeholders, this is not completely within the control of a chocolate manufacturer in Germany.

Examples are the availability of schools and access to quality education within a reasonable distance of the children of the cocoa farmers. It requires collaboration and commitment of all relevant stakeholders to resolve the challenge of child labour in a true sustainable way.

Addressing child labour also means addressing the root cause of child labour, which very often is driven by poverty. Transparence Cacao through its integrated program is working closely with local communities to roll out Agroforestry, implement income generating activities, empower women, and support schooling (distributing scholar kits, financing lunch...).



Living Income

Commitment (submitted in December 2024):

For our direct supply chain, we commit to enabling 100% of our cocoa farmers in our Transparence Cacao program to achieve a living income by 2030. This commitment is anchored in five core pillars designed to drive positive change:

- Purchasing practices
- Yield improvement
- Income diversification with a focus on gender equality
- Cost reduction & access to services
- Measurement & adaptation for continuous improvement

For our indirect supply chain, we will promote the payment of a LIRP towards our customers and look for opportunities to foster joint efforts towards a living income.

Milestone 1:

Milestone 2:

Progress (submitted in December 2026):

Challenge:

Although the government-set farmgate price in countries like Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana may occasionally exceed the Fairtrade's Living Income Reference Price (LIRP), it doesn't guarantee that farmers achieve a living income. Factors such as reduced yields due to the impacts of climate change can still result in farmers earning below a living income level, even when market prices appear favorable. This complexity underlines the importance of addressing multiple factors, not just price, in our commitment to a living income.