

Public Consultation on Stepping up EU Action against Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The overall objective of this initiative is to step up EU action against tropical deforestation and forest degradation by developing a more coherent and comprehensive approach to the problem.

This public consultation aims at gathering information and views on potential EU action against deforestation and forest degradation to achieve the above mentioned objective. All interested stakeholders are invited to respond to the questionnaire regardless of their level of expertise.

The questionnaire takes about 20 minutes to complete. You can save your replies as a draft and finish the survey later. It is accessible in 23 EU languages and you are free to submit your reply in any of these languages. Questionnaires sent by e-mail or on paper will not be analysed.

Your responses will be taken into account in the European Commission's future work on deforestation and forest degradation. It is therefore important that you complete this questionnaire as fully as possible. Your replies will be used exclusively to help the European Commission develop its policy on the issue in question.

The survey is available online for 6 weeks.

Before responding, we advise you to read the background information (roadmap and consultation webpage). The results will be published on the consultation page.

Your opinion matters to us. Thank you very much for taking the time to contribute to this consultation.

About you

*Language of my contribution

English

*I am giving my contribution as

Non-governmental organization (NGO)

*First name

Anke

*Surname

Schulmeister-Oldenhove

*Email (this won't be published)

*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Belgium

*Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your type, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

X Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

*I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Section I: Specific information about the respondent

***1) Please specify again in what capacity you are replying to this questionnaire.
According to your reply, you may be guided to a different sub-question.**

1. Business association
2. Company/business organisation
3. EU farmer
4. Non-EU farmer
5. Forester
6. Consumer organisation
7. Academic/research institution
8. EU citizen
9. Non-EU citizen
10. Environmental organisation
- 11. Non-governmental organisation**
12. Public authority
13. Trade union
14. Other

***1.2) Please indicate your main field of activity or interest.**

at most 3 choice(s)

(Multiple entries possible)

- Agriculture
- Climate change
- **Consumption**
- Development cooperation
- Education/science
- Energy
- **Environment**
- Food/beverage industry
- Forestry/timber
- Health
- Human rights/labour rights
- Indigenous peoples
- Investment and finance
- Media and communication
- Mining/extractive industry
- **Nature**
- Trade
- Transport
- Urban planning and development
- Other

***2. So-called 'forest risk commodities' are commodities whose production contribute significantly to tropical deforestation and forest degradation. Which of the following commodities are you and/or your organisation most familiar with and/or interested in?**

at most 6 choice(s)

- **Bio-diesel**
- Bioethanol
- Charcoal
- Other wood-based fuels
- Cocoa
- Coffee
- Extractive materials
- Maize
- **Meat (including leather)**
- **Palm oil**
- Paper
- Pulp
- Rubber (natural)
- **Soy**
- Wood
- Wood pellets
- **Wooden products**
- **Other**

If you selected "Other", please mention the commodities here.

100 character(s) maximum

WWF is working on all commodities, depending on region and office focus.

***3. How well informed are you about the problem of deforestation and forest degradation?**

- **Very well informed**
- Well informed
- Somewhat informed
- Not well informed
- Not informed at all

***4. What are your main sources of information on deforestation and forest degradation?**

- National newspapers
- Regional or local newspapers
- Magazines
- Television news

- The radio
- Films and documentaries on television
- Family, friends or neighbours
- **Colleagues**
- **Professional contacts**
- Brochures or information materials
- **Books or scientific literature**
- Events (conferences, fairs, exhibitions, festivals, etc.)
- Museums, national or regional parks
- Online social networks
- The internet (other websites, blogs, forums, etc.)
- Other

Section II: The role of forests and the problem of deforestation and forest degradation

5. In your opinion, how important...

	Indispensable	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
*... are forests for human well-being?	x				
*... is the role of forests in natural systems?	x				
*... are forests to absorb CO ₂ and prevent global warming?	x				
*... are the environmental, social and economic services forests provide?	x				
*... are forests for the sustainability of rural livelihoods?	x				
*... are forests for our food security?	x				
*... is it to protect forests for their intrinsic and cultural value?	x				
*... is it to protect forests for future generations?	x				

***6. In your opinion, the problem of deforestation and forest degradation is:**

- **Alarming**
- Serious
- Moderate
- Negligible
- I don't know/no opinion

7a. Deforestation and forest degradation are caused by several drivers. Please indicate how important you consider the following direct drivers.

	Indispensable	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
*Expansion of large-scale commercial agriculture	x				
*Expansion of small-scale and subsistence agriculture		x			
*Industrial logging/industrial forest products extraction		x			
*Fuelwood extraction	x				
*Illegal logging	x				
*Infrastructure development	x				
*Urban expansion		x			
*Mining/extractive industry		x			
*Natural causes (forest fires, climate change, pests and diseases)		x			
*Other					

7b. Please rate the following indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

	Indispensable	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
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*Low productivity at farm, plot or plantation level or in the processing chains		x			
*Low resource efficiency resulting in waste and loss		x			
*Weak governance of land and weak enforcement of law	x				
*Weak forest protection law and adequate enforcement	x				
*Poor forest/land management practices		x			
*Lack of public policies promoting commodities produced with less impact on forests	x				
*Lack of incentives for private sector to source commodities produced with less impact on forests		x			
*Lack of private sector policies, commitments and engagements in deforestation-free supply chains		x			
*Low consumer awareness of risks of deforestation related to commodities		x			
*High consumption levels of forest risk commodities	x				
*Increasing demand for forest risk commodities due to population growth and increasing standards of living		x			
*High consumer country dependency on feed imports		x			
*Policy driven increase in demand for commodities	x				
*High dependence of countries on agriculture and forest sector		x			
*Insufficient finance for investments in sustainable	x				

agriculture in producer countries					
*Finance and investment flows from the EU and other countries	x				
*Trade agreements		x			
*Low social and economic development of large part of local population in producer countries		x			
*Climate change					x
*Other	x				

If you selected "Other", please specify the indirect drivers here.
100 character(s) maximum

Poverty, corruption and bribes

***8. In your opinion, what are the main reasons to address deforestation and forest degradation?**

- **Protecting the rights and livelihoods of forest communities and indigenous peoples**
- **Protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and their services**
- **Mitigating and adapting to climate change**
- **Ensuring good governance of land and addressing corruption**
- **Strengthening efforts towards sustainable development and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources**
- **Reducing investment and trade risks, fostering business opportunities, and/or securing long-term commodity supply**
- **Other**

If you selected "Other", please specify the reasons here.
200 character(s) maximum

Ensure the EU fulfills its international commitments such as made under the Paris Agreement for climate, the CBD and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

Section III: How to address the problem of deforestation and forest degradation

9. In your opinion, how much should the efforts to address deforestation and forest degradation be stepped up at the following levels?

	Considerably	Somewhat	Not at all	I don't know/no opinion
*International		x		
*EU	x			
*National	x			
*Regional		x		
*Local		x		

*10. In your opinion, is the current EU policy and legislative framework against deforestation and forest degradation adequate?

Yes

No

I don't know/no opinion

*10.1 In your opinion, what would be the best option to step up EU action against deforestation and forest degradation?

- Better implement existing legislation and policies
- Develop an initiative to create a coherent framework to address deforestation and forest degradation, including measures that support and enhance the coherence of existing commitments and initiatives by EU Member State governments, civil society and private sector
- Explore possible new initiatives building on existing policies
- I don't know/no opinion
- **Other**

If you selected "Other", please specify your reply here.

200 character(s) maximum

An EU Action Plan with different measures, including legislation ensuring forest/ecosystem risk commodities being placed on the EU market are sustainably produced and deforestation/conversion-free.

***11. In your opinion, which of the following forest risk commodities should be addressed by an EU initiative against deforestation and/or forest degradation?**

at most 6 choice(s)

Bio-diesel

Bioethanol

Charcoal

Other wood-based fuels

Cocoa

Coffee

Extractive materials

Maize

Meat (including leather)

Palm oil

Paper

Pulp

Rubber (natural)

Soy

Wood

Wood pellets

Wooden products

Other

If you selected "Other", please mention the commodities here.

100 character(s) maximum

All of the above, singling out creates loopholes, an EU wide cross-commodity approach is needed.

12. In your opinion, which of the following EU policy areas have the biggest potential to better address deforestation and forest degradation?

	Very important	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
*Agriculture	x				
*Climate		x			
*Consumer			x		
*Development cooperation	x				
*Energy	x				

*Environment		x			
*Finance and investment	x				
*Foreign affairs		x			
*Human rights		x			
*Research			x		
*Trade	x				
*Other EU policy area					

13. What are the most important ways of stepping up EU action against deforestation and forest degradation?

13a. Potential supply-side actions, which may include:

	Very important	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
*Support the uptake of sustainable/deforestation-free agriculture practices by stakeholders in tropical forest countries		x			
*Promote better forest law protection and land use planning, governance and law enforcement	x				
*Support forest policies, sustainable forest management, better protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems	x				
*Strengthen forest monitoring and improve transparency and traceability in the supply chain	x				
*Promote research/innovation activities, and knowledge sharing		x			
*Work in partnership with producer countries to increase the share of sustainably produced	x				

commodities					
*Other	x				

If you selected "Other", please specify the action here.

200 character(s) maximum

Protection, restoration and fight against conversion of other ecosystems, apart from forests, such as grasslands, wetlands and savannahs, including through better land use planning.

13b. Potential demand-side actions, which may include:

	Very important	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
*Support deforestation commitments and national dialogues on sustainable forest risk commodities		x			
*Encourage the use of voluntary certification schemes		x			
*Encourage the consumption of sustainable and deforestation-free products through improved transparency and information	x				
*Address EU consumption of unsustainably produced forest risk commodities	x				
*Consider initiatives to promote sustainable and deforestation-free products on the EU market		x			
*Other	x				

If you selected "Other", please specify the action here.

200 character(s) maximum

An EU Action plan including legislation to ensure forest/ecosystem risk commodities on the EU market are sustainably produced and deforestation/conversion-free.

13c. Potential finance and investment actions, which may include:

	Very important	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
*Increase sustainability, availability and access to finance (including to smallholders)	x				
*Increase sustainability and transparency in financing of high deforestation and forest degradation risk sectors	x				
*Improve disclosure of information on deforestation proofing in financial investments	x				
*Ensure the EU or the European Investment Bank do not, even indirectly, finance projects contributing to deforestation	x				
*Other	x				

If you selected "Other", please specify the action here.

200 character(s) maximum

Legislation on transparency and due diligence ensuring all financial institutions (banks, investors, insurers, public agencies) don't support activities linked to deforestation, degradation, conversion

13d. Potential actions on strengthening international cooperation/dialogue, which may include:

	Very important	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
*Work in partnership with consumer countries to step up action, including		x			

increasing the flow of sustainable forest risk commodities from tropical countries to the EU					
*Work on an ambitious multilateral agreement that could focus on or integrate deforestation and forest degradation considerations into e.g. a Convention of the Parties		x			
*Other	x				

If you selected "Other", please specify the action here.

200 character(s) maximum

Provide clear measures/indicators on how to measure the implementation of international commitments by the EU, the indicators should not only look at EU internal but also include EU's impact abroad.

13e. Potential mainstreaming actions, which may include:

	Very important	Important	Relatively important	Not important	I don't know/no opinion
*Better integrate deforestation and forest degradation considerations through relevant public policies, such as public procurement and corporate social responsibility		x			
*Discourage consumption of unsustainable and non-deforestation-free products	x				
*Better implement, coordinate and communicate actions in EU Member States		x			
*Include the issue of deforestation and forest degradation into EU trade		x			

agreements signed with tropical countries					
*Other	x				

If you selected "Other", please specify the action here.

200 character(s) maximum

Mainstreaming is important but relying on existing policies will not suffice. We need new measures including legislation, to reduce the EU's footprint and address conversion of non-forest ecosystems.

Final remarks

If you wish to add further information or suggestions for the initiative - within the scope of this questionnaire - please feel free to do so here.

600 character(s) maximum

Addressing the challenges linked to deforestation from an EU perspective, needs a comprehensive set of measures. EU Action should not only address deforestation but also the conversion of ecosystems. It should ensure action in the EU as well as in producer countries to address the drivers of deforestation and conversion and provide support for better governance and balanced multi-stakeholder approaches. It should combine voluntary with binding measures, address the problems from a demand and supply side perspective and include the finance sector. All measures taken should be complementary.

Please feel free to upload a concise document such as a position paper. *(This is optional and will serve as additional background to better understand your position.)*

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed