

# Year One Highlights 2018



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**Year One: Good Growth Partnership Highlights**

October 2018

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[www.goodgrowthpartnership.com](http://www.goodgrowthpartnership.com)

**Cover Photo:** © Benjamin Drummond, man harvesting palm oil fruit.

**“As demand for agricultural commodities grows, we need to develop forward-thinking business models to manage sustainable commodity production that also maintains forests and important ecosystem services.**

– Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson  
Global Environment Facility

*Photo: © Jito Lee/UNDP*

# This year, the Good Growth Partnership united a coalition of committed changemakers to put sustainability at the heart of commodity supply chains.

Photo: © Jito Lee/UNDP

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## FOREWORD

**The past 12 months have been an important year for sustainable agriculture. Our partner countries – Indonesia, Brazil, Liberia and Paraguay – have made notable progress toward reducing deforestation and achieving ‘good growth’ in their respective commodity sectors.**

However, despite the efforts of these governments as well as our partners and colleagues around the world, deforestation persists at an alarming rate. The urgency of the situation was re-emphasized this year with data released by Global Forest Watch<sup>1</sup>, revealing that 2017 continued the peak trend in damaging tropical forests. Second only to 2016, 2017 saw almost 16 million hectares disappear, an area equivalent to the size of Bangladesh. Much of this deforestation was driven by the production of agricultural commodities.

While this need for urgent action reflects the scale of deforestation and growing demand for agricultural commodities in recent years, it is also a critical opportunity for the industry, governments and key supply chain actors to come together and rapidly redefine business models and opportunities for a sustainable future.

Reinventing a new system to produce, demand and finance agricultural commodities goes far beyond committing to ‘work together.’ It requires fostering a new culture of collaboration which generates tangible impacts through integration and supply chain coordination,

breaking down institutional silos and overlapping approaches which inhibit innovation, restrict efficiency and waste resources.

To meet this challenge the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Finance Corporation, UN Environment, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund and a growing coalition of executing partners joined forces in 2017 and launched the Good Growth Partnership.

This highlights report summarizes the progress we’ve made in our first year of partnership (September 2017 – August 2018) and looks forward to the next steps in the journey.

### Adriana Dinu

Executive Coordinator (2013 – 2018)  
UNDP Global Environmental Finance Unit  
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support



• Adriana Dinu. Photo: © UNDP



• Andrew Bovarnick speaks during the global launch of the Good Growth Partnership at the United Nations on September 6th, 2017. Photo: © Jito Lee/UNDP

**For nearly 10 years the UNDP’s Green Commodities Programme has worked in partnership with countries, acting as a bridge between national governments and global commodity supply chains. While we have made considerable headway, we know that alone it will not be enough to achieve the holistic shift needed to transform commodity sectors and reduce deforestation.**

Therefore, it has been an honour for me to lead the Good Growth Partnership from concept and design into reality. Since its launch in 2017, the Partnership has built on the foundations and unique strengths of the UNDP, Conservation International, WWF, UN Environment and the International Finance Corporation to accelerate systemic change throughout a number of important commodity supply chains.

Although we are only one year into project implementation, our progress is especially evident in our partner countries and in the landscapes at the front lines of deforestation and ‘good growth’. To date we have identified more than 1 million hectares of high conservation value forest, which we aim to conserve in partnership with government and other

stakeholders over the coming years. We have also engaged some of the world’s biggest companies and lenders to help shift demand for sustainable commodity production.

Meanwhile, critical steps to empower national governments and support the strengthening of legal frameworks, which enable the cultivation of sustainable commodities, are well underway.

Aligning the visions and work plans of the founding agencies, more than ten executing organizations, a multitude of government ministries and our extensive network of private sector partners was an ambitious challenge. It has required significant organization and effort and I am proud to say that we now enter year two as an integrated force of committed collaborators.

I’d like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your support as we scale-up and strengthen our efforts for a sustainable planet.

### Andrew Bovarnick

Global Head of the UNDP’s Green Commodities Programme,  
Director of the Good Growth Partnership

1. Weisse, Mikaela and Goldman, Liz (2018) “2017 Was the Second-Worst Year on Record for Tropical Tree Cover Loss”. Global Forest Watch. [blog.globalforestwatch.org/data/](http://blog.globalforestwatch.org/data/)



**The Good Growth Partnership convenes a wide range of stakeholders and initiatives throughout soy, beef and palm oil supply chains to reduce deforestation and enable sustainable development.**

Our efforts on the ground currently focus on several landscapes in four commodity producing nations: **Brazil's Matopiba region** in the country's tropical savannah ecoregion known as **the Cerrado**; important ecosystems in the Indonesian islands of **Sumatra and Kalimantan**; the biodiversity-rich northwest of **Liberia**; and the semi-arid **Chaco** region of **Paraguay**. These landscapes are prioritized by the Partnership due to their high conservation

value and proximity to agricultural productivity which is driving deforestation.

Simultaneously we are working with key buyer and consumer stakeholders throughout commodity markets in the **United States** as well as in regional hubs and countries in **Asia and West Africa** to influence responsible demand.

In the **United States, Europe and throughout our partner commodity producing nations**, the Partnership is focused on engaging major multinational corporations, financial institutions, global banks and public regulators to strengthen global corporate policies and investment standards.

Since its inception in 2017, **the Good Growth Partnership** has brought together **a growing coalition of committed changemakers to achieve greater results** throughout its focal commodity supply chains and landscapes. This alliance has **enabled efficiency, avoided overlap** and allowed each partner to work to their strengths while simultaneously connecting the dots and layers that **influence sustainability** throughout the entire supply chain.



The Good Growth Partnership is funded by the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**. The Partnership contributes to the GEF's commitment to assist developing countries in meeting the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements.



**The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is leading the Partnership, with a specific focus on coordination and integration, knowledge sharing and sustainable production. The UNDP convenes key stakeholders to improve the legal and regulatory environment for commodity production. The UNDP also works directly with farmers to improve practices which help to protect high conservation value areas and enhance productivity.



**Conservation International** is working on the ground in Brazil, Indonesia and Liberia, with producers, companies and policymakers, to improve spatial mapping and land use planning, to implement and validate legal requirements, and to increase support for producers that improve practices and protect high conservation value areas.



**The International Finance Corporation (IFC)** is leading the Partnership's transactions project, which aims to develop and test models to enhance the sustainable flow of finance throughout the Partnership's focus commodity supply chains.



Alongside IFC, **UN Environment Finance Initiative** is contributing to the transactions project, working closely with banks and helping to make sustainable financing more accessible for businesses and farmers who require additional capital to invest in more environmentally sound practices.



**World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** is working to raise awareness and strengthen demand for sustainably produced beef, palm oil and soy among consumers, policymakers, companies and investors.



EXECUTING PARTNERS: PROVIDING SPECIALIZED, INNOVATIVE AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS



**ISEAL Alliance** is leading the implementation of the Global Impacts Platform, an online knowledge hub which aims to synthesize and communicate available information about sustainable production and voluntary sourcing initiatives and commitments.



In coordination with WWF, **Proforest** is supporting the effort to enhance awareness and sustainable demand among major commodity traders. In Africa, Proforest is managing the development of national and regional sustainable palm oil platforms. In Latin America, Proforest is developing a soy toolkit to help traders, food processors and retailers adopt responsible sourcing practices.



Alongside WWF, **the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)** is engaged in the effort to enhance awareness and sustainable demand among major commodity traders.



**The Brazilian Rural Society (Sociedade Rural Brasileira)** is working to create a system that supports producers with training on good agricultural practices and also encourages sustainable land management.



To reduce environmental threats in the agricultural frontier and to promote sustainable soy production in Brazil, **the Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development (FBDS)** is working on landscape planning to encourage soy cultivation in already deforested or degraded lands, through the creation of ecological corridors and zoning for soy expansion.

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS INCLUDE:**  
GlobeScan, Genderflection and Edelman Indonesia.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

JOINING FORCES WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS IN THE TRANSITION TOWARD ‘GOOD GROWTH’



**Brazil**

**Ministry of Environment\***, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of National Integration, Forestry Service, Secretariat for Biodiversity and Forests, Secretariat for Rural Development, and state-level Secretariats of Environment, Planning, and Agriculture in Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia.



**Indonesia**

**Ministry of Agriculture\***, Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of National Development Planning, Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Trade, the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil Standard, the Provincial Forest and Estate Crops Agencies in North Sumatra, West Kalimantan and Riau, and the District Forest and Estate Crops agencies in Pelalawan, South Tapanuli and Sintang.



**Liberia**

**Ministry of Agriculture\***, Forestry Development Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia Land Authority and the National Bureau of Concessions.



**Paraguay**

**Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development\***, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the National Forestry Institute, the Public Ministry, regional government departments including Alto Paraguay and Boquerón and the municipal Chaco governments of Filadelfia, Mariscal Estigarribia and Loma Plata.

Note: \*Official government project partner and lead government agency

STRATEGIC PARTNERS: COLLABORATING TO ENHANCE IMPACT



The German Development Agency, **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**, and **Switzerland's State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO)** support the sustainability efforts and multiplier effects of the work implemented by the Good Growth Partnership. The support of GIZ and SECO help to enhance the coordination of crucial multi-stakeholder and lesson learning processes at national and district levels, within and beyond the Partnership's target regions and commodities.

The Good Growth Partnership shares information, expertise and tools with initiatives aimed at reducing deforestation from supply chains, such as the **New York Declaration on Forests** and the **Tropical Forest Alliance 2020**.

**OTHER STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS INCLUDE:** Collaboration for Forests and Agriculture (CFA), Conservation and Financial Markets Initiative (CFMI), the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, Bogor Agricultural University, National University of Asuncion, Gurya Paraguay, Fauna and Flora International and Solidaridad.

“**At Mondelēz International, we are focused on a few commodities where we are big players and can have an impact at scale. But we absolutely know that we cannot do it alone and so that's why the Good Growth Partnership is so important to us. It's a way for us to work with governments and other critical players to make real change happen.**

– Christine Montenegro McGrath  
Chief Sustainability, Well-being, Public & Government Affairs Officer at Mondelēz International

ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Shaping the **value chains** of the future

Buyers, traders, consumer goods companies, investors and banks play an important role in the production, financing and demand of commodities. Their commitment and action is key to influencing production practices and enabling the cultivation and trade of sustainable commodities.

Throughout the supply chain, the Good Growth Partnership engages with the private sector through third party initiatives, dialogues and forums which support multi-stakeholder action, policy reform, farmer training, land use planning and new opportunities for co-financing and responsible investment.

Below is a summary of private sector organizations which the Partnership regularly engages with to put sustainability at the heart of commodity supply chains.



**OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS THE PARTNERSHIP REGULARLY ENGAGES WITH INCLUDE:**

Sinar Mas, Musim Mas, Asian Agri, Sime Darby Plantation Liberia, Round Table on Responsible Soy, Life Insurance Association Singapore, McDonalds and IKEA.

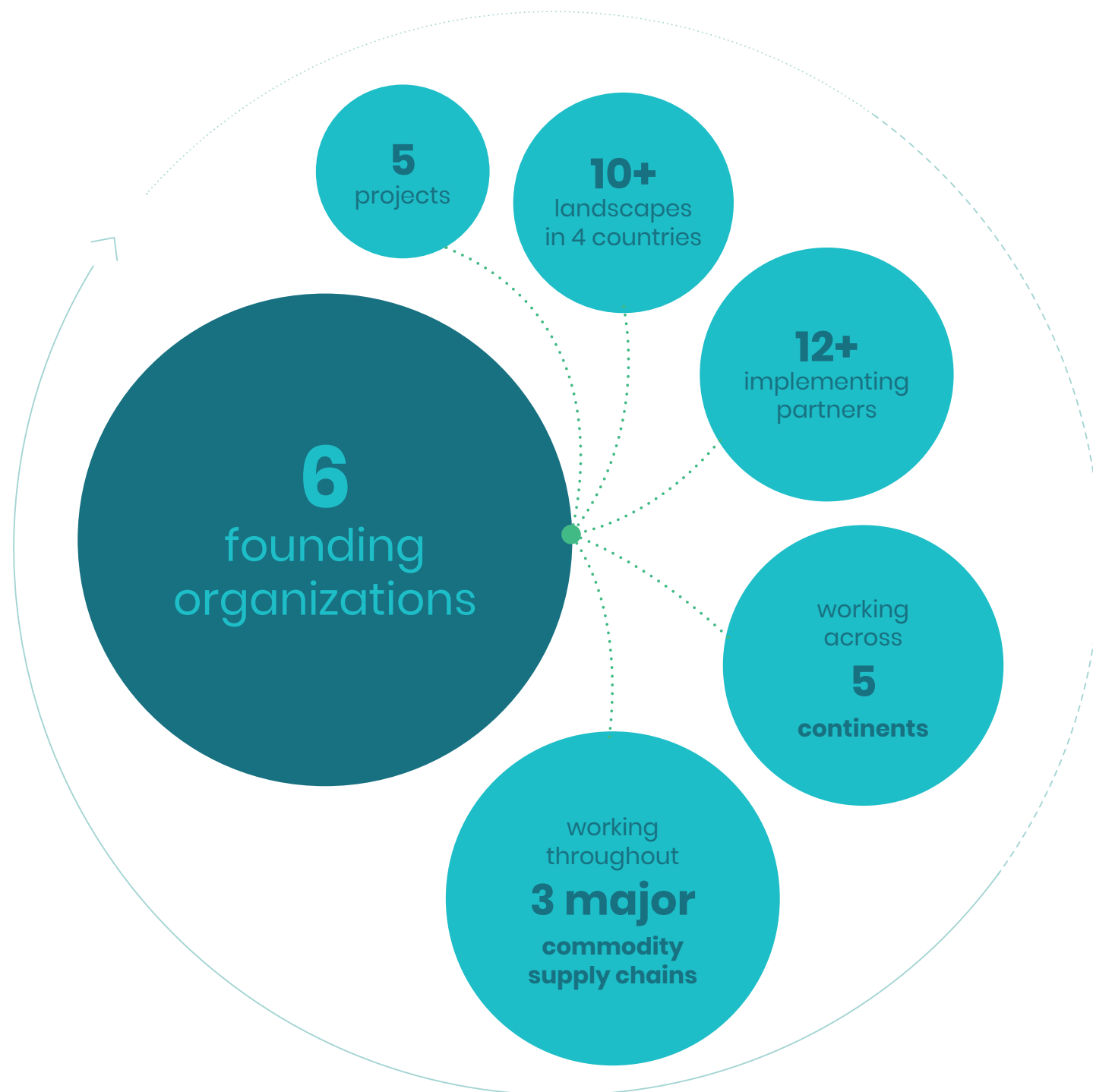
“**When you take an issue like deforestation, I think in some cases there can be a tendency towards simple technical solutions to address it, when actually it's part of a much broader picture. For any long lasting solution, we need to integrate forest protection with inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Good Growth Partnership's integrated supply chain approach is a welcome step forward in this regard.**

–Nick Martell-Bundock  
Senior Director of Corporate Responsibility & Sustainable Development, Cargill



## BEHIND THE SUPPLY CHAIN APPROACH

### OVERCOMING INSTITUTIONAL BORDERS TO INNOVATE SHARED SOLUTIONS



• An integrated approach

“For over 10 years the UNDP’s Green Commodities Programme has worked in partnership with countries, acting as a bridge between national governments and the global supply chain. The Good Growth Partnership builds on this foundation by bringing together supply chain partners to work with governments in an integrated manner to find custom-built ways forward for each country.

– Andrew Bovarnick,  
Global Head of the UNDP’s Green  
Commodities Programme, Director of  
the Good Growth Partnership

“One of the things that has me so excited about the Good Growth Partnership is that we have finally gotten past where we were for far too many years. The debate was either about conservation or about sustainable agriculture. We are now at the point where we know these two approaches are essentially the same argument and we are working to figure out how to address them together.

– John Buchanan, Vice President,  
Sustainable Production,  
Conservation International

“This collaborative work, encompassing demand, supply and finance of commodities is a critical step towards safeguarding sustainable economies where people and nature can prosper together. The involvement of members of UN Environment’s Finance Initiative ensures that the finance industry is fully engaged in delivering this transformative change.

– Erik Solheim, Executive Director,  
UN Environment Programme

“By collaborating through the Good Growth Partnership, the agriculture industry, civil society, governments and other stakeholders are making far-reaching progress together. By harnessing the power of the marketplace and stimulating global demand for sustainably produced commodities, we’re fostering better production practices and driving conservation of the world’s most vital and at-risk ecosystems.

– Elizabeth Schueler, Senior Director,  
Markets, WWF



- Charlie O'Malley of the UNDP, Paul Hartman of the GEF, Margaret Arbuthnot of WWF and Jessica Furmanski of Conservation International brainstorm during a three day interagency work planning workshop held in Washington, DC. Photo: © UNDP

Through a series of **workshops, planning meetings and virtual conference calls, new coordination mechanisms were established** to foster a culture of fruitful collaboration and exchange.

Following the New York launch of the Good Growth Partnership in September 2017, project teams gathered to share work plans and identify dependencies between the production, transactions and demand streams of their work. This included in-country workshops in Brazil, Indonesia and Paraguay as well as a three day global workshop in Washington, DC, where project managers from all six founding agencies including the GEF, as well as executing partner ISEAL Alliance, met to discuss dependencies and potential synergies between projects.

More than 80 additional activities that enhance integrated impact and efforts in the Partnership's three focus commodity supply chains were identified. Throughout the year ideas, resources, expertise and networks were shared between the Good Growth Partnership agencies and project countries which greatly improved efficiency and results.

This significant investment in relationship building and coordination culminated in positive cooperation and shared learning throughout the entire programme. In the crowded space of development organizations, companies and governments seeking to reduce deforestation in commodity supply chains, the Good Growth Partnership's integrated approach is demonstrating the value of aligning strategies, approaches and resources.



- Partners considered how best to integrate work plans and supply chain dependencies between the Partnership's five child projects. Photo: © UNDP

## Examples of **project and inter-agency integration** include:

- The creation of a steering committee between the Partnership's founding agencies, which meets twice yearly
- The exchange and integration of project work plans
- Monthly secretariat coordination calls between partner agencies and country focal points to share lessons learned, work through challenges and to provide updates on project progress
- The establishment of an inter-agency monitoring and evaluation working group and the tracking of progress at a programme level
- Facilitation of discussions and knowledge sharing on gender between Partnership countries and projects
- Integrated communication campaigns, promotional materials and event planning
- Shared database of project documents and guidelines
- Inter-agency participation in the Green Commodities Community which fosters knowledge exchange and learning between organizations, sectors and geographical regions



BEHIND THE SUPPLY CHAIN APPROACH

Instead of treating production, demand and investment interventions as separate tracks, the Good Growth Partnership **looks at where the layers of the supply chain integrate and overlap to enhance financial incentives and demand** for sustainably produced agricultural commodities.





**The Good Growth Partnership provides technical support to governments, enabling them to meet the demands of the global market while ensuring agricultural commodities are produced sustainably.**



Photo: © Adriano Gambarini / WWF-Brazil



• Musdhalifah Machmud (centre), Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture at Indonesia's Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, led the 5th Steering Committee Meeting for the Indonesia Palm Oil Platform (FoKSBI). Director General of International Trade from the Ministry of Trade (left), Director General of America and Europe from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (right) and Director of Processing and Marketing of Estate Crops from the Ministry of Agriculture (far right). Photo: © UNDP-Indonesia

### Ministerial representatives endorse **National Action Plan**.

With support from the Good Growth Partnership, multi-stakeholder consultation for the Indonesia National Action Plan (NAP) for Sustainable Palm Oil was facilitated and completed via the Indonesia Palm Oil Platform (FoKSBI). In April, Steering Committee representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs approved the draft NAP. Once legalized, the NAP will aid the acceleration of small-scale farmer replanting schemes, the implementation of the Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) certification standard, and the coordination of sustainability interventions already underway throughout the country's palm oil sector.

**“We hope that this National Action Plan can address many of the challenges in the sector, and meet the global demand for sustainable palm oil products. Let us harmonize our views and understanding regarding what sustainability means, and what steps are needed for the Indonesian palm oil sector to reach its goals.”**

– Musdhalifah Machmud, Indonesia's Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture at the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs





Independent farmers in West Kalimantan will benefit from a series of regulatory reforms and training schemes facilitated and supported by the Partnership. Photo: © Nicholas Hurt/UNDP-Indonesia

## Ministerial regulation for the protection of essential ecosystem areas finalized.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry's legal bureau finalized a national regulation on Essential Ecosystem Areas (Kawasan Ekosistem Esensial/KEE). This legal framework, partly facilitated and supported by the Partnership, is designed to provide guidelines and definitions for the protection of ecologically important ecosystems located outside natural reserves or conservation areas. The process to develop the legal framework incorporated input from regional and national stakeholders over a period of three years. Once officially legalized by the Minister of Environment and Forestry, the KEE regulation will enable better identification of landscapes and areas considered critical for biodiversity throughout the country's oil palm growing regions and beyond.



**1.35 million** hectares of high conservation value forest was identified in Pelalawan, Riau.

## Mapping HCS and HCV areas in Riau.

In Pelalawan District, the Good Growth Partnership conducted a landscape level assessment of high carbon stock (HCS) and high conservation value (HCV) forest areas. The preliminary results show a total of **1.35 million hectares of high conservation value forest in the district**. These results will be peer reviewed and presented to the public for consultation. Once the Pelalawan map of HCV and HCS areas is finalized, the Good Growth Partnership will propose several protection scenarios.

## Strengthening regulations for conservation in North Sumatra.

District regulations in Tapsel, within the South Tapanuli landscape, are being strengthened with support from the Partnership to protect HCV and HCS areas set-aside within plantation concessions. This includes an instruction to review company environmental impact assessments (EIA), develop district zoning regulations and review the district spatial plan.



**40,000** smallholder farmers in Pelalawan

will benefit from a series of provincial legal revisions requiring enhanced support from the private sector.

## Enhancing private sector support for smallholder farmers in Riau's Pelalawan District.

Revisions to the "Pelalawan Regional Regulation (PERDA) on corporate social responsibility," with added clauses on community development to assist smallholders, **were approved by the Pelalawan House of Representatives for legalization**. These clauses provide

a legal umbrella for companies to allocate resources for community development and capacity building. The Partnership can now facilitate the development of a regent regulation which will mandate private sector support for farmer capacity building. This new regulation will require companies to assist nearby farmers to improve production practices.



Female oil palm growers in Pelalawan (Riau), Sintang (West Kalimantan) and South Tapanuli (North Sumatra) attended a series of forum group discussions on the needs and conditions for women in their communities. The forum group discussions formed part of a series of Good Growth Partnership gender assessments which aim to ensure sustainability interventions and support to growers are inclusive of women. Photos © UNDP- Indonesia





- Community members in Cape Mount, Garwula District, discuss the importance of protecting the Zodua Community Forest. Ensuring the equal representation of stakeholders, especially women, in the conflict mitigation process was essential to achieving a peaceful resolution. Photo: © UNDP-Liberia.

## Expanding participation in Liberia's multi-stakeholder palm oil working group.

How can the burgeoning Liberian palm oil sector benefit the country's people without jeopardizing the natural resources and forests Liberia depends on? Building on the nation's existing Oil Palm Technical Working Group (OPTWG), the Good Growth Partnership worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to devise a strategy for strengthening the forum with more diverse stakeholder participation. The OPTWG requires representation from a number of government departments such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Forestry Development Authority as well as concession holders,

multinational companies and civil society. This diversity will help build consensus and a shared vision for the development of Liberia's palm oil sector. In the coming year, the OPTWG is tasked with drafting a national strategy and action plan for sustainable palm oil designed to ensure good growth in all respects.

## A win for the Zodua Community Forest.

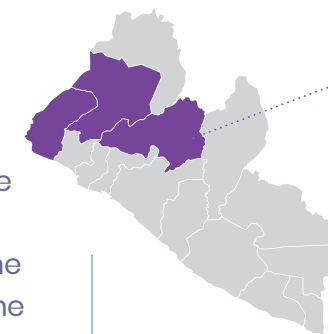
A two day conference has thrashed out a 10-point plan to protect the Zodua Community Forest. Through regional dialogue and mediation in Liberia's Grand Cape Mount County, the Good Growth Partnership is leading efforts to address community conflict. In the Zodua Community Forest, illegal activities such as pit-sawing

and charcoal burning conducted at a commercial scale regularly spark conflict. These activities cause deforestation and lead to significant ecosystem damage which is resulting in conflict between the perpetrators and the community members who want to conserve the forest. In response, the Good Growth Partnership convened and facilitated a two day conference in Garwula District to establish a peaceful resolution and mechanisms for sustainable management of the community forest. Participants included representatives from the community, Sime Darby Plantation Liberia, civil society organization Community Action Against Hunger and multiple government agencies including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Forestry Development Authority. The resolution establishes a definite timeline for abolishing all illegal activities in the target landscape and focuses on sustainable forest management practices including demarcation, engagement and awareness of key stakeholders as well as governance.

## Sime Darby Plantation Liberia to conserve important forest within concession area.

In Liberia, the Good Growth Partnership is currently reviewing landscape assessments, including high carbon stock and high conservation value assessments conducted by **Sime**

- Darby Plantation Liberia (SDPL).** These assessments will inform landscape management and conservation plans within the SDPL landscape and surrounding areas, which altogether spread across 264,000 hectares in the counties of Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong. In the coming year, the Partnership will work with SDPL and the Government of Liberia to advise which areas can be developed responsibly and which areas should be set aside for conservation.



**220,000 hectares of Sime Darby Plantation Liberia's concession area,**

in the counties of Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong, is being reviewed in collaboration with the Partnership. SDPL's concession is considered one of the largest slated for development in Liberia.



- In June the Good Growth Partnership was officially launched in Liberia. Speaking at the launch, Agriculture Minister, Mogana Flomo, emphasized the government's commitment to work with all partners involved in the project and ensure that Liberia's pristine forests are protected as the country moves to improve livelihoods and the economy. Photo: © UNDP-Liberia





The Good Growth Partnership is working closely with government stakeholders, soy producers, traders and conservation groups to ensure soy cultivation in the Matopiba is conducted sustainably. Photo: © Lima Pix/Flickr Creative Commons

## Multi-stakeholder forum builds a sustainable vision for Brazil's Matopiba region.

This year, the Good Growth Partnership strengthened Coalition Matopiba, a cross-sector collaborative forum focused on finding pragmatic solutions for sustainability within Brazil's largest agricultural frontier. The opportunity to further exchange cross-sectoral perspectives on sustainability within the soy supply chain will accelerate the Partnership's ability to deliver **on-the-ground solutions for emerging challenges**. Today, Brazil produces about one-third of the global soy supply and earns more from soybean exports than from any other commodity. Although soybean production is generating much needed revenue for the Brazilian economy, it is also threatening vast ecoregions like the Cerrado which is considered to be among the most biodiverse in the world.



### 73.8 million hectares make up the Matopiba landscape

spread across the states of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia. Known as Brazil's newest soy frontier, the Matopiba region is located within the Cerrado, a vast tropical savannah ecoregion.

**“The Good Growth Partnership is opening a pathway for sustainable soy in Matopiba. This is good for business, for people and for nature. Agricultural production that supports conservation will provide new opportunities for Brazilian agribusinesses, particularly as global demand for sustainability grows.**

–Miguel Moraes, CI-Brazil Sustainable Landscapes Director

## Soy bean producers mobilize to strengthen sustainability standards.

The Good Growth Partnership opened dialogue between environmentalists and producers to update the soy industry's sustainability indicators. By framing sustainability as a non-negotiable requirement in the soy supply chain, the Partnership is helping to change perspectives about the value of natural capital when it is preserved. This facilitation process is ongoing. Conservation International Brazil is working closely with the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries to bring other key organizations on board.

## Putting a spotlight on best practices for Forest Code compliance.

The Good Growth Partnership is working with local government and producers to improve production practices which include enhanced compliance with Brazil's Forest Code, a law that requires landowners to conserve a designated percentage of their land. This year, Conservation International signed a jurisdictional memorandum of understanding with the states of Tocantins and Bahia. These agreements allow the Good Growth Partnership to work closely

with environmental agencies to accelerate mapping and registration of landowners. Meanwhile, executing partner, the Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development (FBDS), is offering technical support to enhance the capacity of jurisdictional government departments. This work aims to streamline bureaucratic procedures that give a greater consideration to the importance of good agricultural practices for Forest Code compliance.



Conservation International Brazil Sustainable Landscapes Director, Miguel Moraes, addresses the project steering committee. Photos: © Conservation International





• Team members from WWF, IFC and UNDP attended the Good Growth Partnership launch in Filadelfia, Paraguay, March 2018. Photo: © UNDP-Paraguay

## An action plan for the Chaco.

This year, the Partnership supported the launch of a regional multi-stakeholder beef platform in the Chaco, a vast lowland landscape which covers the entire western portion of Paraguay. Platform participants include local and national ministerial government representatives, major private sector companies, NGOs, cooperatives and farmer organizations. The core objective of the platform is to establish a sustainable livestock action plan for the Chaco to strengthen legal framework and environmental standards for responsible land use. The beef platform is one of several Partnership initiatives expected to encourage more efficient farming practices throughout the Chaco, which is significantly vulnerable to environmental degradation and deforestation. The Good Growth Partnership is focusing on three of the most vulnerable landscapes in the Chaco, including buffer zones and areas adjacent to the Defensores del Chaco National Park.

## Land use planning in the Chaco.

In Paraguay, informal meetings were organized with local government agencies and Chaco cooperatives, to move toward strengthening legal processes that improve land use planning throughout the landscape. In the coming year, the Good Growth Partnership will work with key stakeholders, associated with the Chaco, to analyse the existing forest law and map important areas of conservation value.



• The Good Growth Partnership is working to enhance the production of sustainable beef for generations to come. Photo: © UNDP-Paraguay

# Good Growth Partnership Progress Tracker

**3**   
**farmer training needs assessments**

were completed in three provinces targeting 2,500 farming households in the Partnership's Indonesian focal landscapes of Pelalawan, South Tapanuli and Sintang. The assessments highlight key knowledge gaps and the barriers farmers face in their transition toward more sustainable practices.

  
**1,000,000+ hectares**

of HCV and HCS forested areas, in commodity producing landscapes, have already been identified by the Partnership as important areas for protection and conservation.



**220,000 hectares**

within Sime Darby Plantation Liberia's landscape are currently being assessed by the Partnership to determine the area's conservation value and to inform a subsequent protection strategy.

**2**   
**national commodity platforms**

in Indonesia and Liberia were strengthened this year thanks to ministerial commitment and re-engagement.



**7**  
**new sub-national commodity platforms**

were launched or strengthened including three sub-national platforms in North Sumatra, Riau and West Kalimantan; two Indonesian landscape-level forums in South Tapanuli and Sintang; one community forum in Liberia's Garwula District and one regional forum, Coalition Matopiba, in Brazil.



**The Good Growth Partnership aims to use finance as a tool to accelerate innovation and forest friendly commodities at the production end of the supply chain.**



Photo © Agropalma





• IFC is working to design and trial innovative business and financing models which incentivize sustainable beef production in the Chaco landscape. Photo © Yluux

## A new era for the Paraguayan Beef Sector.

Through direct engagement with some of Paraguay’s leading beef exporters, the Good Growth Partnership is positioning itself to play a strategic role in the long-term future of the sector. Paraguay is the sixth largest beef exporter in the world and is generally regarded as a low-cost producer in the market. Over time, large areas of land including forest were cleared to accommodate the growing sector. However this is quickly changing as some of Paraguay’s leading exporters reignite their commitment to establish sustainable beef standards which include criteria related to the environmental and social footprint of cattle production. This year, IFC began working with leading exporters on strategies to improve their supply chain productivity through the identification of better

management practices and innovative technologies. The first outputs from this work will include a business case analysis and a set of costed practices and approaches which ranchers can invest in to improve productivity through sustainable intensification. This may include technologies such as the development of silage pits or hay fodder banks to supplement cattle during dry periods.

**“We want to increase productivity and improve business profitability in our farms. Every year the price of land increases, therefore we have to use resources efficiently to increase productivity and ensure our future generations continue with beef production.”**

– Paraguayan Beef Producer

## Identifying investment risks in the supply chain to drive sustainable production.

In June this year, the Good Growth Partnership commenced an initiative to analyse how banks identify and manage deforestation-related risks in their commodity portfolios. This project, which is being facilitated by UN Environment, is part of a larger Partnership effort to generate more awareness about deforestation supply chain risks among lenders and banks to ultimately incentivize responsible production practices.

## Innovative finance for sustainable commodities.

In July 2018, UN Environment commenced a study to evaluate soy, beef and palm oil production models in the Partnership’s focal countries. The study will inform efforts to scale-up new financing approaches which support the shift toward profitable sustainable supply chains. The analysis considers the economic and financial viability of key sustainable production interventions and pilots conducted by the Partnership. Project activities that incorporate REDD+, and other environment results-based payment incentives, will be assessed in the study.

# Good Growth Partnership Progress Tracker

**1<sup>st</sup>**  **business case analysis**

for Paraguayan beef producers will be finalized in 2019 with the aim to develop a new financial product for farming cooperatives.

### MAKING PROGRESS

**50**  **international banks and financial institutions**

are currently being engaged for training on risk management and deforestation lending policies slated to commence in the coming year.

### ON TRACK



# The Good Growth Partnership aims to encourage sustainable production and reduce deforestation by driving demand for sustainably produced beef, palm oil and soy.



Photo © Agropalma

## Soy and beef supply chains mapped in Brazil and Paraguay.

More than 80 importer countries are better informed about the origins of soy and beef, from Brazil and Paraguay, thanks to an updated version of Trase. This **online supply chain transparency platform** — which reveals environmental and social supply chain risks in tropical forest regions — arms buyers with new data and information, empowering them to make responsible sourcing decisions. Additionally, in June, the first interactive Trase Yearbook was published. Providing users with distilled analysis, the Yearbook puts a spotlight on Brazilian soy which includes links to deforestation commitments and the variable impact they are having on the ground. Trase is a partnership between Stockholm Environment Institute and Global Canopy which is supported by the Good Growth Partnership.



## Establishing good growth palm oil markets in West and Central Africa.

The Good Growth Partnership is helping 10 West and Central African countries, participating in the **TFA 2020 Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI)**.

make measurable progress toward achieving the Marrakesh Declaration for the Sustainable Development of the Palm Oil Sector in Africa. This year, Good Growth Partnership executing partner Proforest facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue and learning in a number of key African countries. This included convening government, corporate and civil society stakeholders to build on national and regional understandings of deforestation-free palm oil. It also involved guidance on the development of national principles and action plans for sustainable palm oil.



**10**  
**West & Central African countries**  
are participating in the TFA 2020 APOI.

## Equipping investors to engage portfolio companies on deforestation risk.

WWF-Singapore's sustainable finance team is harnessing the power of shareholders to drive sustainability in Asian commodity supply chains. This year, WWF partnered with two industry associations: Investment Management Association of Singapore and Life Insurance Association Singapore. In partnership with these associations, WWF hosted two workshops for



investors which included training on sustainable commodity supply chains and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) integration. For even broader reach beyond the 50 investment stakeholders who attended the workshops, WWF produced an industry primer on sustainable palm oil. The primer ensures investors have a reference on sustainability standards and ESG integration as they conduct internal assessments and engagement with fast-moving consumer goods companies.

### Launch of Responsible Soy Toolkit and engagement with Soy Buyers and Traders.

Proforest, a Good Growth Partnership executing partner, launched the Responsible Soy Toolkit to guide traders, food processors and retailers as they work to decouple soy production and trading from deforestation. After a scoping phase, which involved researching and assessing 45 soy-related initiatives and tools, Proforest selected five elements for the toolkit's focus: (1) setting goals and planning implementation, (2) understanding supply chain risks, (3) engaging suppliers, (4) establishing a purchase control system, and (5) monitoring, verification and reporting. Proforest is developing guidance on these elements and has begun to deliver these resources through webinars, corporate platforms, presentations at conferences, online trainings and during one-on-one corporate engagement opportunities.

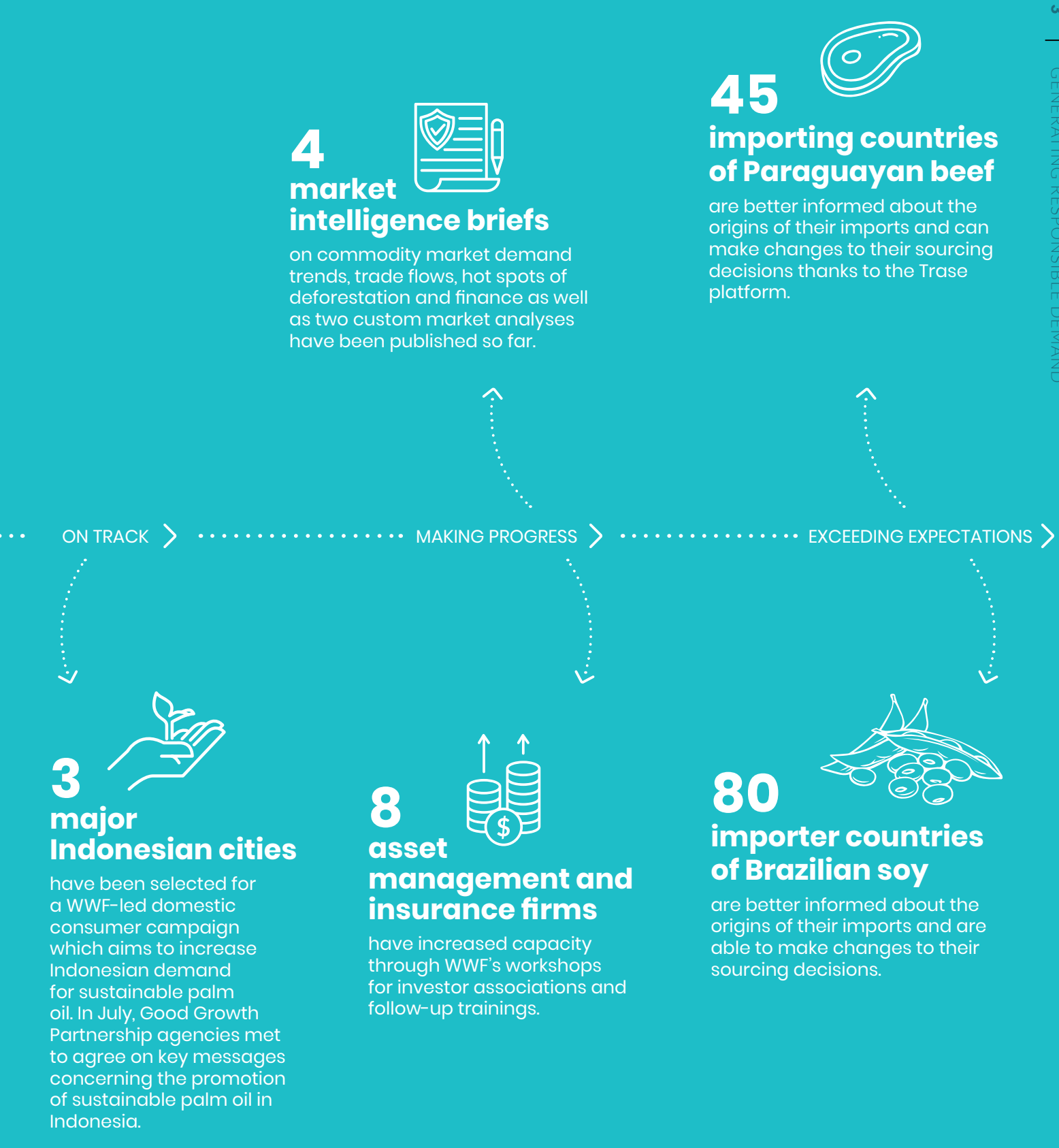
### Launch of the Asia Learning & Exchange Program.

In the first quarter of 2018, the Good Growth Partnership officially launched the Asia Learning & Exchange Program. The new fund, led by WWF, provides grants for innovative research and knowledge exchange between Asian governments and companies which have a strong demand influence on palm oil, beef and soy markets. As demand for agricultural commodities increases throughout the world, Asian markets including China, Indonesia and India, are among the fastest growing. The Good Growth Partnership is currently calling non-government organizations, research institutes and universities to submit applications for grants that enhance learning and support the exchange of ideas to improve sustainable commodity sourcing among major Asian markets.



• Demand Project adaptive management and work planning workshop in February 2018, Oxford, United Kingdom. Photo: © WWF-US

# Good Growth Partnership Progress Tracker





# The Good Growth Partnership is rolling out an innovative knowledge sharing strategy to improve the flow of lessons learned throughout the supply chain.



Photo: © UNDP-Paraguay



Jairo Serna of UNDP-Costa Rica (left) participates in a field excursion with Carlos Diaz of UNDP-Peru during the Green Commodities Community annual gathering in Bogor, Indonesia, October 2017. Photo: © Rebecca Lake/UNDP

## A growing community of commodity practitioners.

The Green Commodities Community was officially relaunched in February 2018. Orientation calls for new and existing members are held on a monthly basis. A total of 11 virtual workshops were held over the past year and attended by a range of commodity practitioners including national and global partners. Learning streams include strengthening farmer extension services, models and best practice for monitoring land use change, gender mainstreaming and private sector engagement. Participants in each learning stream are developing relevant knowledge products for the wider community including a national farmer extension toolkit.

**“The Green Commodities Community is very important because we are able to share and communicate with other practitioners around the world. Our work is very complex and demanding, so having the opportunity to share with people who have dealt with these complexities and have experienced the same processes as you have is very rewarding.”**

– Jairo Serna, UNDP-Costa Rica  
Senior Technical Advisor





Deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon is primarily driven by small-scale agriculture and commercial mining. Good Growth Conference delegates will learn about the approach and efforts key stakeholders are taking to reduce deforestation in Peru. Photo: © UNDP-Peru

## Preparation for the inaugural **Good Growth Conference** underway.

The first Good Growth Conference is scheduled to take place in the **Peruvian Amazon from May 13–17, 2019**. Beyond fostering new cross-sector partnerships and knowledge exchange, the conference is designed to provide tailored experiences for 150 selected sustainable commodity practitioners. The conference will provide a unique opportunity for passionate leaders and changemakers to refuel their collaborative spirit, refresh their persistence and motivation, and create meaningful relationships across borders and cultures.



**May 13–17, 2019**  
**Good Growth Conference in the Peruvian Amazon**  
Location: Sauce

“**In the Peruvian Amazon delegates will be touched by both pristine nature and forest, confronted by its destruction, and connected with the lives of people and animals who rely on the forest in their daily existence.**”

– Lise Melvin, UNDP Senior Adviser and Good Growth Conference Designer

## Brazil gender study complete.

Throughout the Good Growth Partnership’s production projects, a series of gender analyses is being conducted to identify how women can be better supported within the supply chain. Alleviating gender inequality in agricultural production is critical for poverty reduction and food security and can also greatly boost productivity. This year in Brazil, the first comprehensive gender analysis was completed. Key issues identified include women’s lack of access to capital and land titles as well as unequal access to training, leadership opportunities and decision-making. The Brazil gender analysis will inform a series of development strategies, including new policy, to address women’s needs and participation in the soy supply chain. To further aid gender mainstreaming throughout the Partnership’s projects, the Green Commodities Community launched a gender learning stream to help practitioners share and explore solutions for challenges they face when integrating gender equality and empowerment strategies.

“**Acknowledging gender inequalities within the soy supply chain in the Matopiba is the first step towards gender responsible policies.**”

– Tatiana Souza,  
Development Manager,  
CI-Brazil

## Good Growth Partnership website goes live.

In July 2018, the Good Growth Partnership website was launched. The website provides a space to promote the Partnership’s integrated activities and projects and also acts as a platform for external knowledge sharing and engagement.

**WWW.GOODGROWTHPARTNERSHIP.COM**



• The Good Growth Partnership website provides a centralized platform for the partners to promote their efforts and share their knowledge and lessons learned.



## New Discovery documentary targets Asian millennial consumers.

In July 2018, a film crew supported by the UNDP, traveled to Indonesia and Malaysia to document efforts taken to improve the production of palm oil. The film, which takes a journey throughout the supply chain from Indonesia to the United States, aims to engage millennial Asian consumers and drive demand for transparency and sustainable palm oil. Good Growth Partnership landscapes, projects and agencies will be featured in the documentary which is slated for release on the Discovery Channel in the coming year.



Expedition Palm Oil host Nadine Zamira Syarief stands with the film crew, Andrew Bovarnick, Global Head of the Green Commodities Programme and Director of the Good Growth Partnership, Borneo-based biologist Erik Meijaard and field guide Viktor of plantation company Austindo Nusantara Jaya. Photo: © UNDP-Indonesia



Good Growth Partnership staff and practioners traveled from Liberia to Indonesia in April to share experiences and lessons learned. Photo:© UNDP-Indonesia

## South-to-south learning exchange.

Over the years, Indonesia has experienced its share of challenges and breakthroughs when it comes to cultivating sustainable palm oil. Now, all eyes are on Liberia to see how the industry will learn from the Indonesian experience and apply best practice to ensure the country's important forests and landscapes remain intact without restricting the promised economic growth that palm oil brings. To help facilitate a process of applicable lessons learned and knowledge exchange between the two nations, in April 2018, the Good Growth Partnership supported a bilateral study tour to Indonesia. Project teams from Liberia and Indonesia shared experiences, tools and strategies to strengthen their respective support for national action plans, multi-stakeholder dialogue, conflict mitigation and wide-scale farmer extension services.



**“ Insights, and experiences, regularly shared by our counterparts and colleagues in Indonesia are invaluable as there is no time to waste in Liberia’s pursuit towards ‘good growth.’**

– Ronald Cumberbatch, Project Manager for the UNDP-led Good Growth Partnership project in Liberia





A series of keynote speeches and panel discussions held during the global launch of the Good Growth Partnership helped to foster knowledge and new relationships between key stakeholders, countries and sectors present at the event. Photo: © Jito Lee/UNDP

## Global Impacts Platform in development.

This year, work began on the Global Impacts Platform, an online knowledge sharing hub which aims to consolidate evidence and available information about sustainable production and sourcing initiatives. As part of the scoping work an online survey was conducted. The survey targeted 600 policymakers, including respondents from the public sector and intergovernmental organizations. In addition to this, 37 interviews were conducted with a range of stakeholders such as platform developers, managers in the sustainability space, researchers working in the domain of voluntary sustainability standards as well as corporate stakeholders.

**“The Good Growth Partnership provides a unique platform for us as a country and for the practitioners to continually benefit, as much as possible, from the knowledge, the experience and lessons learned throughout the supply chain and in other commodity producing nations.**

– Cleophas Torori,  
UNDP–Liberia Deputy Country Director

# Good Growth Partnership Progress Tracker

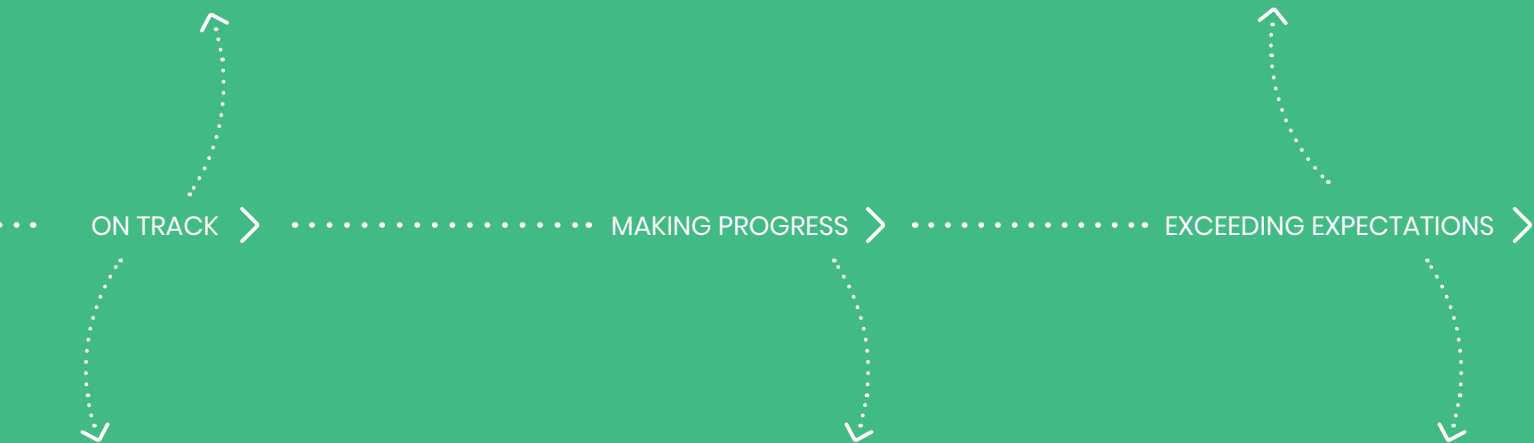
150  
people

are expected to attend the inaugural 2019 Good Growth Conference in Lima, Peru, before moving to the Amazon.

20+

media articles

featured the Good Growth Partnership and its initiatives. Publications included Reuters, Mongabay and the Guardian.



1

gender analysis

was completed in Brazil. Three additional gender analyses for Liberia, Indonesia and Paraguay are underway. An action plan identifying opportunities to improve gender equality through the Demand Project's workstreams was also drafted.

100

documents

and abstracts were selected by ISEAL Alliance for inclusion into the Global Impacts Platform.

17

countries

are officially represented in the growing Green Commodities Community.



# Year One – Event Highlights

CHAMPIONING AN INTEGRATED  
SUPPLY CHAIN APPROACH ACROSS  
THE GLOBE



**The Good Growth Partnership has made significant progress in creating the enabling conditions for the sustainable production, demand and financing of agricultural commodities.**

However as deforestation and unsustainable production persist there is plenty more work to be done.

**We will continue to track our progress and lessons learned as we foster new partnerships and scale our approach.**





© Conservation International/photo by Mike Matarasso

# 1

## Cultivating sustainable production

Over the next 12 months global and country based teams will continue to strengthen national and regional commodity platforms with more participation and diversity of stakeholders and with effective governance structures. In Indonesia, the Partnership expects to see the legalization of the National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil, a major milestone for the entire Indonesian palm oil supply chain. Through ongoing landscape initiatives, the Partnership will train 500 farmers and finalize a landscape assessment tool to track how the project interventions positively relate to changes observed in the landscape. Additionally, the Partnership will develop spatial planning scenarios for the expansion of commodity production outside HCV and HCS areas in at least four landscapes.

# 2

## Enabling sustainable transactions

In year two, engagement of a targeted 50 global and national finance providers will continue. Additionally, the Partnership will undertake training with a select number of financial institutions in Paraguay, Brazil and Indonesia to support the integration of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) principles that directly reduce deforestation in commodity supply chains. Following the completion of the Partnership's first of eight business case analyses, the IFC will gauge interest from producers and exporters during the design phase of a financial services product which will support more sustainable production and cultivation practices in Paraguay's beef sector.



Photo: © Rebecca Lake/UNDP-Indonesia

# 3

## Generating responsible demand

Throughout the second year of project implementation, the Partnership will further engage and influence consumer goods companies and commodity traders to support a wider shift toward responsible demand for palm oil, beef and soy. Meanwhile, applications related to Indian and Chinese demand for palm oil and soy will be further encouraged through the Asia Learning and Exchange Program. In Indonesia, a domestic consumer campaign promoting sustainable palm oil will be launched. The campaign strategy and consumer engagement activities will target three major Indonesian cities, including Jakarta, and involve journalist field visits, media training and tours as well as social media campaigns. Supply chain mapping activities in Indonesia, Brazil, and Paraguay will provide transparency insights to help buyer companies make informed sourcing decisions.

# 4

## Enabling an integrated supply chain approach with adaptive management and learning

In May 2019 the Partnership will host the inaugural Good Growth Conference bringing leading thinkers, changemakers and motivated supply chain practitioners to the Peruvian Amazon to share experiences, best practices and lessons learned. Meanwhile, ongoing outreach efforts will seek to progressively expand the Green Commodities Community beyond the development sector and the Partnership's projects. Other key efforts include the continuation of national and global supply chain inter-agency workshops to identify further opportunities for integration and coordination. A mid-term 'supply chain approach' report will be published to share experience and lessons learned from project implementation to date. ISEAL Alliance will launch the Global Impacts Platform.

**“If you want to feed the country, you must feed the forest.”**

– José Anegi, native Ache leader of Alto Paraná, Paraguay

Photo: © Jito Lee/UNDP



The Good Growth Partnership supports the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda which seeks to end poverty, reduce inequality & tackle climate change.





### **GOOD GROWTH PARTNERSHIP**

Working across production, financing and demand, the Good Growth Partnership convenes a wide range of stakeholders and initiatives to reduce deforestation and enable sustainable development in three global commodity supply chains: soy, beef and palm oil.

Launched at the United Nations New York headquarters in 2017, the Partnership is funded by the Global Environment Facility, led by the United Nations Development Programme and implemented in collaboration with Conservation International, the International Finance Corporation, UN Environment and World Wildlife Fund.

In partnership with the governments of Brazil, Indonesia, Liberia and Paraguay, as well as civil society and major private sector players, together we aim to place sustainability at the heart of commodity supply chains.