

Year Four Highlights 2021



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Year Four: Good Growth Partnership Highlights
September 2021

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Writing, editing, design and production:
Aline Da Silva, Cristina Baeza, Lavinia Gasperini, Ilaria Barbarossa, Julia Stewart, Margreet Groot, Maria Fernandez del Moral, Pascale Bonzom, Simon Cooper and partners

For more information see:
www.goodgrowthpartnership.com

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD Our journey catalyzing sustainable commodity supply chains 04	FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW Highlights of four successful years of the Good Growth Partnership 06	FOUR YEARS IN NUMBERS Dashboard of key progress data 14
THE WAY WE WORK Cultivating sustainability in commodity supply chains 16	PARTNERS A coalition of committed partners 20	CHANGING SYSTEMS Through collaborative action 26
BRAZIL Soy in the Matopiba region 38	INDONESIA Palm oil in West Kalimantan, Riau, North Sumatra 52	LIBERIA Palm oil in the Upper Guinean Forest 66
PARAGUAY Beef in the Chaco region 76	LEARNING THROUGH SHARING Tools and resources to support systemic change 90	WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT In commodity supply chains 100
LOOKING FORWARD An opportunity to multiply impact 106	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 109	

Our journey catalyzing sustainable commodity supply chains: A time for reflection on four years of innovation and collaboration

Creating a sustainable food and agricultural system is one of the most critical challenges faced by humanity. A major global transition is needed in food and commodity supply chains if we are to build a sustainable future. In the 21st century, the technology exists, the technical capacity exists, but a common vision is still needed and, in particular, we need to unite around taking deforestation out of commodity supply chains. To live in a world where the food we eat is produced in harmony with nature is what we must strive to achieve.

The Good Growth Partnership, now in its fourth year of innovation and implementation, has demonstrated the potential for effective collaborative action for resilient and sustainable commodity supply chains. While most initiatives focus on one lever of change, the Good Growth Partnership supports and inter-links all the main levers along key commodity supply chains so they are pulled simultaneously. We believe only such a systemic approach can create the change to which we aspire. Instead of treating production, demand and finance interventions as separate building blocks of change, the Good Growth Partnership is distinctive because it addresses them as fully interconnected.

In the fourth year of the Good Growth Partnership, it is a time to reflect on what has worked and what remains a challenge. Even with our meaningful successes there is still so much to do as systems change is complex and long-term.

We continue to learn, refine, adapt and come anew at the challenges we face with innovation and building on our momentum and trust with our partner governments. We see these four years as just the beginning and intend to keep building on the foundations we have established over the years.

Below are my main take-aways of our four years of partnership, all of which remain fundamental for the next stage of the Good Growth Partnership.

- **Adopt a systems approach.** We tend to simplify systems that we do not fully understand and which are difficult to navigate due to their multiple interdependencies and interrelations. However, to effect real change, we need to embrace complexity and uncertainty, and to use more systems tools and approaches in our ways of working to best identify the most powerful levers of change, while recognizing that environments are evolving and changing and, thus, we must be agile in our response.
- **Optimize multi-stakeholder collaboration.** Commodity supply chains are complex systems with a multitude of actors involved, generally with different and sometimes conflicting interests. A genuine and inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration approach is fundamental to build trust, understanding, create a common vision and thus move the needle. Even though this can take time, trust-building between stakeholders, and specifically including the most marginalized and vulnerable, is at the heart of any true, inclusive and long-lasting collaboration.
- **Support multi-scale and multi-sector coordination.** Connecting governance between various levels, from landscape to regional, national and global, and different sectors is challenging but is vital to bring lasting change. This means working with local, subnational and national governments and across Ministries, such as those of agriculture,



Andrew Bovarnick. Photo: © Maria Paz Gonzalez/UNDP Peru

environment, finance, public works, labour, education, health, gender and more.

- **Activate and link farmer-centric incentives.** Change is a complex human process. Even though we hear every day the urgency to change behaviours, multiple barriers, interests and power dynamics can get in the way and slow down efforts. Incentives of various types and at various levels exist and encourage sustainable production, but they are often not fully understood, aligned or implemented. I believe the most effective way to accelerate a systemic shift is to align incentives for producers across and within the levers of change that we have identified for sustainable production, from market and financial drivers to regulatory and more human-centred and value-related aspects.
- **Enhance partnerships.** Working alongside Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the International Finance Corporation, the United Nations Environment Programme, World Wildlife Fund and many others has been of incredible value. Partnering requires time to build trust and relationships, yet the level of collaboration reached after four years allowed us to go much further than we would have done individually.

With the prospect of carrying on this important work, we are co-creating with partners plans for a second phase, as we acknowledge we are only in the middle of our journey of systems change. We view this new phase of the Good Growth Partnership as a major contributor to the implementation of United Nations action agenda on deforestation and conversion free supply chains through the Food Systems Summit, the Climate Conference of the Parties (COP) 26, the Biodiversity COP 15 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda as a whole. **If our work resonates with you as a potential new partner or donor, we invite you to join us in this journey to place sustainability and good growth at the heart of commodity supply chains.**

Andrew Bovarnick

Director of the Good Growth Partnership
Global Head, UNDP Food and Agricultural
Commodity Systems Practice
and Green Commodities Programme

Highlights of four successful years of the Good Growth Partnership

A key lesson driven home after four years of implementing the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Good Growth Partnership is that working in strong collaboration with partners and connecting all parts of the supply chain — production, demand and finance — is the best way to effect systemic change to take deforestation out of agricultural commodity supply chains.

Driving change in silos has not produced the desired results. Because of the complexity of commodity systems, multiple changes affecting system levers must take place in a variety of thematic areas and geographic scales for true transformation to occur. Funded by the GEF during this initial four-year phase, the Partnership has made substantial progress towards sustainable commodity supply chains.

Through this report on the fourth year of the programme, we celebrate the successes of the past year, but also share highlights of the learning journey, the challenges and some of the main achievements of our four years of Partnership.

Over the four years, the Good Growth Partnership created momentum in Brazil, Indonesia, Liberia and Paraguay to accelerate sustainable production. The Partnership established or strengthened **22 national and sub-national multi-stakeholder and commodity-focused platforms** bringing together stakeholders in target commodities and landscapes. Through these forums, trust between stakeholders was enhanced and visions and clear pathways to sustainability for critical supply chains were defined. **Nine action plans for sustainable commodity production** were collaboratively developed at the national and subnational levels, of which six are already being implemented. These action plans contain interventions needed to reform the industry, laying the foundation for unlocking public and private financing and investment to undertake them. The platforms and plans also created mechanisms for coordination and alignment across stakeholders and sectors, and at various scales, helping to consider trade-offs and break down silos, all prerequisites for achieving systemic change.

As a contribution to action plans implementation, the Partnership supported the development or improvement of **29 policies enabling sustainable production or improving land use allocation**. Nine of these policies have been legalized and/or are being implemented today. Examples

of these include strengthened farmer extension systems, and preserving important conservation areas or forests from conversion to agriculture or livestock production as a result of better land use planning. Over the past four years, the Partnership supported the generation of Global Environmental Benefits, such as introducing or strengthening natural resource management practices leading to **improved management of over seven million hectares of lands and the avoidance of almost 30 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions.***

As a means of addressing deforestation in production, the Partnership has taken a systems approach, working across sectors and geographic scales to activate the right incentives, such as finance and market drivers, to encourage sustainable production. The Partnership helped drive **US\$ 16+ million in new investments toward sustainable production** of Paraguayan beef and Indonesian palm oil, and **increased the capacity of more than 135 financial institutions** to address environmental, social, and governance risks in their portfolios and allocate capital to producers applying sustainable practices, promoting the generation of new financial incentives for sustainable production.

On the market side, the programme collaborated closely with global traders, manufacturers of consumer goods and retailers to help them source more sustainably. Today, **more than 85 companies** that the Partnership engaged with one-on-one and through platforms and co-financing **have made new or strengthened commitments to sustainable supply chains**. Many of these were directly supported in implementing their commitments through technical assistance, training and tools developed by the Partnership. **Supply chain transparency was substantially improved**

** Different tools have been used to calculate data on CO₂ emissions avoided in the Brazil and Production projects. Please contact us if you need further clarifications.*

for palm oil, beef and soy globally thanks to the Partnership's support of the Trase supply chain transparency platform, allowing companies to assess their deforestation risk and make better sourcing decisions. With more demand for responsible commodities and increased transparency in the supply chain, producers are incentivized to shift toward sustainable practices to capture a growing market and avoid the increasing risks of being linked to deforestation.

Recognizing that the challenges we face are significant, complex and ever changing, the Partnership continuously strived to generate, capture and share knowledge. From improving gender equality and women's empowerment in commodity supply chains to toolkits for sustainable sourcing, over **73 resources and tools have been developed and shared** by the Partnership. Our main publications are available from the [Tools and Resources library](#) on the Good Growth Partnership website.

The programme contributed to fundamental shifts in target commodity supply chains through fostering global dialogues on forest-positive commodity supply chains. For instance, the Partnership supported dialogue between consumer and producer countries and widely disseminated the tools, lessons learned and knowledge generated from its work, specifically in Brazil for soy, Indonesia and Liberia for palm oil and Paraguay for beef.

In sum, the Good Growth Partnership's joint and integrated interventions and knowledge sharing at global, national and subnational levels across production, demand and finance have contributed to systemic change in target commodity supply chains as a result of improved enabling environments, capacities and incentives.

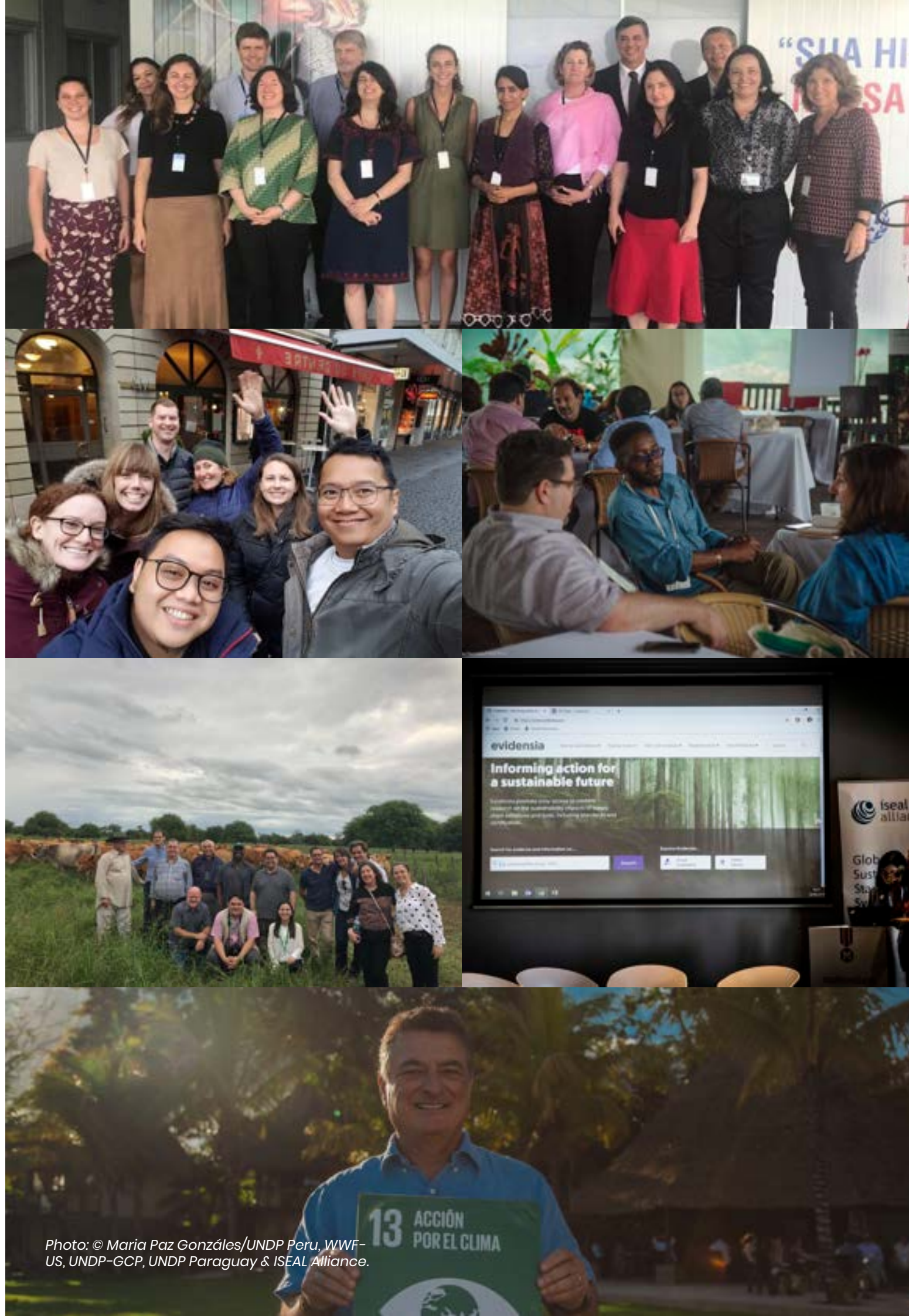


Photo: © María Paz Gonzáles/UNDP Peru, WWF-US, UNDP-GCP, UNDP Paraguay & ISEAL Alliance.

Across the target supply chains, the Good Growth Partnership programme's contribution and impact has been:



For the **soy supply chain**, while soy production is expanding rapidly in the **Brazilian Cerrado**, the programme provided leadership, guidance and tools to incentivize deforestation and conversion-free soy. This included efforts to send market signals to traders operating in the Cerrado by successfully aligning international corporations and investors around a 2020 deforestation cut-off date and coordinating market declarations from retailers in Germany and France. The Partnership supported a prominent soy trader to improve the traceability of its products and thus source more sustainably. The expansion of the Soy Toolkit and related tools underpinned a multi-pronged strategy providing companies with concrete action plans to improve the sustainability of their supply chains.

To support Brazilian soy producers to adopt good agricultural practices, the Partnership facilitated training on low-carbon agricultural technologies, among other good practices, to 53 producers allowing more than 60,000 hectares to be sustainably managed. Thanks to the partnership with EMBRAPA, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, potential

for replication is high, supporting a systemic change beyond the results of the project. Implementation support for meeting aspects of the Brazil Forest Code was provided by accelerating the analysis of 385 Rural Environmental Registries (CARs) in the states of Tocantins and Bahia, in cooperation with state government agencies. This provided stronger legal protection for over 330,000 hectares and contributed to strengthening an enabling environment for protecting important conservation areas in production landscapes.

Other results of four years of the programme's implementation focusing on the Brazilian soy supply chain include delivering training to 32 national banks and financial institutions, including the Brazil Central Bank, in order to help them mitigate deforestation risks in their products and portfolios, increase their capacity to catalyze sustainable finance and, hence, incentivize producers towards sustainable production. Additionally, the elaboration of business cases for land restoration encouraged that the expansion of soy cultivation takes place on degraded land instead of clearing native vegetation in the Cerrado.



For the **palm oil supply chain**, the Partnership supported the drafting, legalization and implementation of the National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil in **Indonesia**. Adopted through a presidential instruction, the National

Action Plan mandates a clear pathway for sustainable palm oil growth in Indonesia, bringing together for the first time the action of 14 Ministries and many other stakeholders around sustainable palm oil. The Plan has and will be translated into provincial and district action plans to facilitate implementation on the ground. Various initiatives supported by the Partnership contributed to the implementation of the action plan, for example the Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods, which brings together private sector actors to mobilize financing for sustainable palm oil. Another clear success was programme support for the Indonesian government to develop and legalize two national and five subnational policies that enable sustainable production and better land use allocation over 3.9+ million hectares and whose concrete results from implementation are emerging. For example, plans are now in place to strengthen farmer extension services. Private sector finance was unlocked to support sustainable palm oil at the district level, which, combined with the national level policy reform, address the root causes of unsustainable palm oil, enabling systemic change.

As Indonesia is not just a major producer of palm oil but also a major consumer, the programme engaged in public outreach activities in large Indonesian cities to raise consumer awareness on the importance of using sustainable palm oil. It is estimated that as a result of programme efforts, consumer awareness of sustainable commodity production rose ten percent over the two years prior. Thanks to Partnership support of the Green Lifestyle platform of the Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development, companies were guided on how to address sustainability risks, and to

date nine companies confirmed having an increased capacity to source reduced deforestation palm oil.

In addition, \$376,000 was invested in certified Indonesian palm oil farmers through the Good Growth Partnership's co-financing work and further training will be delivered to increase the capacity of national financial institutions on deforestation-related risks, allowing them to make better informed decisions. This is complemented by regional level activities to strengthen capacity of palm oil investors to support sustainable production.

The Partnership's efforts in **Liberia** focused on enabling sustainable supply of oil palm. A major milestone was achieved with the adoption of the Liberia National Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Oil Palm. This followed three years of dynamic and inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration processes at both national and landscape levels. Complete implementation of this strategy and its action plan will allow the achievement of a sustainable, vibrant, responsible and productive oil palm sector that contributes to economic growth and wellbeing while maintaining forests and biodiversity. The Partnership also accompanied the country in its National Interpretation for the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), which was endorsed in 2021. This is expected to incentivize producers to shift towards more sustainable production so that they can access certification and new markets. At the landscape level, the programme helped facilitate the transition of the Sime Darby concession to Mano Manufacturing Company, supporting them to devise sustainability strategies for the 220,000-hectare area.



For the **beef supply chain**, systemic change in the **Paraguayan Chaco** was fostered through working simultaneously on several closely related incentives. First, the enabling environment for sustainable production was improved. For the first time in the country, regional criteria was defined to identify HCV-HCS areas in the Chaco, which supported conservation efforts and is expected to feed into future land use planning decisions, ensuring that expansion moves away from important conservation areas. Further, to reduce forest loss through fire in a municipality covering 1.4 million hectares, fire prevention and control training was conducted for foremen, ranch managers and the Filadelfia fire department (the largest town in the Chaco). A pilot business case also demonstrated to cattle ranchers in the Chaco that sustainable beef production can lead to substantial increases in productivity, which is helping incentivize producers to shift their practices towards more sustainable ones.

The programme equipped Paraguayan financial institutions with a mapping tool, allowing them to make better informed decisions regarding investments in the Chaco for sustainable beef production, while \$16 million of investment for sustainable beef was catalyzed. In parallel, training was designed and conducted to help supervisors of the Paraguay Central Bank ensure the implementation of Resolution 8, mandating Environmental, Social and Governance

(ESG) practices integration for financial institutions. This training contributed to an increased capacity of financial institutions to allocate capital to cattle ranchers applying sustainable practices

A key achievement was the facilitation of an agreed national definition for sustainable livestock and the formulation of a strategy to position Paraguay as a producer of sustainable beef in the international market. An increased demand for sustainable beef will incentivize producers to shift towards sustainable practices and catalyze systemic change. Similarly, increased transparency of the Paraguayan beef supply chain, thanks to new data made available in the Trase platform with support from the Partnership, is substantially increasing pressure on slaughterhouses and off-takers to demand sustainable beef from their suppliers, and again incentivizing the latter towards sustainability.

Finally, work on these target supply chains was supported thanks to learning work facilitated at the **global level**. Throughout the four years, the [Green Commodities Community](#) supported by the programme created learning opportunities for practitioners and experts, providing them with a dynamic network for peer exchanges and building the capacity of practitioners to take a systemic approach to achieve durable change. In addition, [Evidensia](#) made knowledge access easier for all through aggregation, categorization and meta-analyses of information on sustainability impacts of market-based approaches. In person and virtual forums were held, including the bi-annual [Good Growth Conference](#) that brought together hundreds of practitioners and stakeholders from around the world, leading to learning and adoption of new practices and

contributing to sustainable systemic change in commodity supply chains.

Hurdles, learning and opportunities

While the above achievements are truly worth celebrating, challenges remain. More work and time is needed to tackle the complexity and resistance to change in the system resulting from power dynamics, lobbying, profit-driven agendas, growth-focused economies, etc., to achieve long lasting systemic transformation. This takes time and skillful facilitation that should be nurtured from global to local levels. Reformed policies can only be effective in triggering change if implemented and enforced. However, resources and capacities are not always guaranteed long term, and more support is needed to put national and subnational governments on the path to address these issues. In addition, even though levers for sustainable commodity production are pulled, from legal frameworks to finance and demand incentives, capacities are strengthened, and knowledge shared for replication, resistance to change from the system is still strong. Capacity building trainings and workshops with investors are helping them to understand risks in palm oil supply chains and helped them engage their portfolio companies on these issues

While the COVID-19 pandemic threw up significant hurdles, recovery from this crisis may also be embraced as an opportunity to lay the foundations for more sustainable and resilient food and commodity systems. The Good Growth Partnership can play a pivotal role in green recovery efforts by supporting stakeholders and activating the right incentives for sustainable production.

Each Good Growth programme partner has a large portfolio of work supporting the

achievement of sustainable landscapes through forest-positive commodity supply chains. Despite challenges that a complex partnership as well as integration across interventions and projects can present, Good Growth programme partners successfully overcame them thanks to trusting relationships that have been built over years. In the past four years, we demonstrated that a partnership of complementary organizations, well represented on the ground and globally, and able to combine their networks and expertise, will not only engage producers and companies, governments and financial institutions toward complementary aims but when done so together and at all geographic scales can pull enough levers of change at the same time to tilt the system towards a paradigm shift.

These lessons and the journey have renewed our commitment to work together in contributing towards systems level transformation for the remainder of the Good Growth Partnership programme and to continue joining forces under a second phase of the Partnership following on the GEF programme. We are keen to build on the programme's assets, results, experiences and learning.

Shifting commodity systems toward true sustainability takes time, but our progress so far confirms that we are on the right track. The programme now needs to concentrate on further aligning and integrating incentives for farmers to shift their practices at scale and hence improve the systems in which they operate. We believe the Partnership's experience can help connect and link formerly siloed incentive schemes across and within geographical scales and sectors to generate greater influence.

Join us as we continue and work on the second phase of the Good Growth Partnership programme, which provides an extraordinary opportunity to scale up, multiply impact and bring very real change to commodity supply chains.

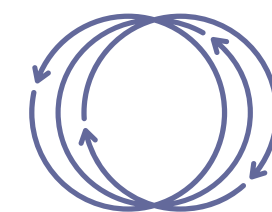
Pascale Bonzom, Global Project Manager
Good Growth Partnership, **UNDP**

Lara Jacob, GGP Sustainable Transactions
Project Manager, **UNEP FI**

Dieter Fischer, Senior Operations Officer, MAS
Agribusiness Advisory Services and GGP
focal point, **IFC**

Margaret Arbuthnot, Director, Commodity
Markets, GGP Responsible Demand Project
Manager, **WWF US**

Amanda Sennert, Director, Multilateral
Relations and GGP focal point, **Conservation
International**



**GOOD
GROWTH
PARTNERSHIP**

Four years in numbers

29,364,749
metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions
avoided*

38
**policies and/or action plans
supported**
to foster and enable reduced deforestation
supply chains, including 24 adopted or
proposed and 14 under finalization

4
new partnerships facilitated
between producers, buyers and finance
providers fostering sustainable commodity
supply chains

22
**commodity platforms and forums
established, strengthened and/or
supported**
to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue and
collective action

16,130
**farmers, producers and
community members**
directly benefiting from agriculture
training and community conservation
agreements

44
**financial tools, products
and regulations identified or
developed**
that support investments in sustainable
production and land restoration

7,137,460
hectares of land
benefiting from improved natural resources
management and practices

136
**financial institutions and insurance
companies**
with increased capacities on Environmental, Social
and Governance (ESG), including forest risks, and
better equipped to make responsible investment
decisions

87
companies engaged
in project activities making new or
stronger commitments to source reduced
deforestation palm oil, soy and/or beef

171
countries
with improved land use monitoring systems,
transparency and/or traceability for reduced
deforestation supply chains

315
organizations connected
via the Partnership on multi-stakeholder
dialogue and collective action

73
**publications, briefs and knowledge
products developed**
to enhance knowledge and support
sustainable commodity supply chains

\$16,376,000
in new investments
supporting sustainable production fostered
by Partnership interventions

The Good Growth Partnership: cultivating sustainability in commodity supply chains

The Good Growth Partnership takes a holistic approach, encompassing entire commodity supply chains, to bring about sustainably produced agricultural commodities with a focus on Brazilian soy, Indonesian and Liberian palm oil and Paraguayan beef.

Instead of treating production, demand and investment interventions as separate tracks, the Good Growth Partnership looks at where supply chains integrate and overlap to enhance financial incentives and increase demand for sustainably produced agricultural commodities. While incentives for sustainable production of various types and levels are essential as they can durably support behaviour change, some may be missing or existing ones may not be fully understood, aligned or implemented. The Good Growth Partnership

works on aligning and activating a broad range of incentives, including regulatory, financial and market-driven ones, to shift production practices and lever systems change.

The Good Growth Partnership works with a full range of stakeholders, from small-scale producers to local and national governments to global corporations, throughout soy, beef and palm oil supply chains. By combining forces among the partner organizations (UNDP, UNEP FI, IFC, CI, WWF), the Good Growth Partnership has provided a model of wide-scale systemic change that has capitalized on the strengths of each partner.

The Good Growth Partnership applies systems thinking and approaches to identify and activate key levers of change. It tests and enhances multi-stakeholder collaboration processes to align stakeholders to act on complex issues, such as land use planning, production and land use allocation policies, farmer support systems and market and financial access for sustainable production.

Six main ways we enable change toward sustainability in commodity supply chains

Generating responsible demand

Fostering the incentives needed by producers through raising market awareness, building capacity and commitments of off-takers and downstream buyers and increasing consumer demand for reduced deforestation commodities.



Facilitating multi-stakeholder action

Helping diverse stakeholders – from non-governmental organizations to national and subnational governments to the private sector – to convene around a common vision and take collective action.



Fostering sustainable production and land use

Enabling and supporting implementation and enforcement of policies for sustainable production and land use that disincentivize deforestation while making suitable land available for cultivation.



Supporting farmers

Supporting governments at all levels to work with the private sector and other stakeholders to harmonize services to farmers that improve agricultural practices and market access.



Sharing knowledge

Sharing knowledge and lessons learned throughout the supply chain with stakeholders and system changemakers to stimulate and scale-up best practices.



Enabling sustainable transactions

Designing robust financial incentives and new financing models that encourage sustainable production and responsible demand.



A COALITION OF COMMITTED PARTNERS

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, the Good Growth Partnership has a well-established coalition of partners on board to enhance impact. The Good Growth Partnership has demonstrated its ability to work on global, national and landscape levels with a variety of stakeholders in the countries in which it operates. It does so by using effective and efficient coordination and collaboration mechanisms and coalition partner teams on the ground.

Through its integrated supply chain approach, the Good Growth Partnership has successfully brought together leaders at the community, policy and corporate level in a way that is changing the discourse on critically important issues about how we produce, consume and protect natural resources. I look forward to continuing to engage with this partnership as the Global Environment Facility scales up its efforts to shift commodity supply chains toward deforestation-free practices.

– Carlos Manuel Rodriguez
CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

FOUNDING PARTNERS



The Good Growth Partnership is an integrated approach programme funded by the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**. The Good Growth Partnership contributes to the GEF's commitment to assist developing countries in meeting the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements, with a specific focus on achieving global environmental benefits by taking deforestation out of supply chains for beef, palm oil, and soy. The main participating producer countries are Brazil for soy, Indonesia and Liberia for palm oil, and Paraguay for beef.



The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** leads the Good Growth Partnership, providing coordination and integration, knowledge sharing and leading on aspects related to sustainable production in Indonesia, Paraguay and Liberia. The UNDP convenes stakeholders to improve the legal and regulatory environment for commodity production. The UNDP also works with government, producers and other supply chain actors to enhance producer support systems and, in particular, improve practices that help protect High Conservation Value areas and enhance productivity.



Conservation International (CI) works on the ground with producers, companies and policymakers to improve spatial mapping and land use planning, implement and validate legal requirements and increase support for producers that improve practices and protect High Conservation Value areas in Brazil, Indonesia and Liberia.



The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** leads the work on transactions, which develops and test models to enhance the sustainable flow of finance throughout the Good Growth Partnership's focal commodity supply chains.



The **United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)** contributes to the transactions work, engaging 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) leads the work on responsible demand, working to raise awareness and strengthen demand for sustainably produced beef, palm oil and soy among companies, consumers, policymakers and investors.

EXECUTING PARTNERS



ISEAL Alliance is a global membership organization for ambitious, collaborative and transparent sustainability systems. Within the Good Growth Partnership, ISEAL Alliance is one of the founders of [Evidensia](#), the leading knowledge platform to share insights and evidence on the impacts of market-based sustainability efforts.



Proforest is building capacity and empowering companies to source responsible soy from Brazil.



Trase, a partnership between **Stockholm Environment Institute** and **Global Canopy**, is bringing unprecedented transparency to global supply chains. In partnership with WWF, Trase is transforming how data is used for decision-making by tracking the flows of commodities from production landscapes to consumer markets and highlighting the associated deforestation risks.



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



In Indonesia, WWF is working with several partners to implement demand-side activities. **PT Wana Tirta Hawa**, **University of North Sumatra**, and **Pusaka Kalam** are mapping palm oil supply chains. **Accenture Development Partnership** and **Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development (IBCSD)**, along with WWF-Indonesia, are co-convening a dialogue platform and co-developing a sustainable sourcing guideline involving various corporate and government stakeholders to build shared commitment on increasing awareness and uptake of sustainable palm oil in the Indonesian domestic market. **Edelman Indonesia** is supporting WWF-Indonesia to conduct a consumer awareness campaign for sustainable palm oil, and **MarkPlus** is surveying consumers to determine changes in awareness and willingness to purchase sustainable palm oil products.



At the global level, **GlobeScan** supports the demand-side activities with tracking companies' progress on actions to take deforestation out of their supply chains and understanding how different initiatives have helped in these efforts.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Joining forces with national and regional leaders in the transition towards 'Good Growth'



Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA),* **Ministry of Economy, Secretariat for Biodiversity/MMA**, **Ministry of Environment (MMA)**,* **Brazilian Forest Service/MAPA**, **Secretary of Environment of the State of Bahia (SEMA)**, the **Institute of Environment and Water Resources of the State of Bahia (INEMA)**, **Secretary of Agriculture of the State of Tocantins (SEAGRO)**, **Instituto Natureza do Tocantins (NATURATINS)**, **Central Bank of Brazil**.



Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development,* **Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock/Vice Ministry of Livestock**, **Ministry of Industry and Commerce**, the **National Forestry Institute**, **Instituto Paraguayo del Indigena (INDI)**, regional government departments including **Alto Paraguay** and **Boquerón** and the **Chaco municipal governments of Filadelfia, Puerto Casado and Carmelo Peralta**.



Ministry of Agriculture,* **Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs (CMEA)**, **Cabinet Secretariat**, **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 Manpower**, **Ministry of Trade**, **Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises**, **Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection**, **Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil Standard**, **Provincial Forest and Estate Crops Agencies in North Sumatra, West Kalimantan and Riau Provinces**, **Provincial Estate Crops Offices in Jambi, Central Kalimantan and East Kalimantan**, **Sub-National Development Offices of North Sumatra, West Kalimantan and Riau**, **District Heads and Forest Agencies of Pelalawan, South Tapanuli and Sintang**, **District Plantation Agencies of Pelalawan, South Tapanuli, Sintang, Aceh Tamiang, Langkat, Berau, Pasangkayu and Mamuju**, **District Spatial Planning Office of Pelalawan, South Tapanuli, and Sintang**, **National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN)**, **Geospatial Information Agency**, **Peatland Restoration Agency**.



Ministry of Agriculture,* **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning**, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, **President Delivery Unit – Ministry of State**, **Forestry Development Authority**, **Environmental Protection Agency**, **Liberia Land Authority**, **National Investment Commission** and the **National Bureau of Concessions**.

Note: *Government project partners and lead government agencies

OTHER STRATEGIC PARTNERS



The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Switzerland’s State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) support sustainability efforts and multiplier effects of the work implemented by the Good Growth Partnership. This includes the South–South knowledge exchange, dialogues and learning work of the Green Commodities Community and efforts to support sustainable palm oil production and multi-stakeholder processes in Indonesia.



UNDP’s Green Commodities Programme has been cooperating with GIZ since 2017 at the global level and in Indonesia, and since 2020 at the jurisdictional levels in Caqueta (Colombia) and West Kalimantan (Indonesia), to address deforestation and promote sustainable commodity production. This takes place through dialogue on the common disconnects between actors operating within the same jurisdictions. These dialogues highlight UNDP’s collaborative partnership with the **Governors’ Climate & Forests (GCF) Task Force** in both jurisdictions.



The Good Growth Partnership continues to work closely with the **New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF)** and the **Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA)** in a greater effort to align key initiatives and networks. NYDF and the Good Growth Partnership support each other on exchanging and disseminating resources and knowledge on achieving NYDF Goal 2 – eliminating deforestation from agricultural commodities. In year 4, collaboration between the Good Growth Partnership and TFA included organizing a joint event on private sector engagement. Good Growth Partnership partners join the TFA’s regular partner meetings, as well as engage in some of its initiatives. In 2021, for instance, UNDP is co-facilitating with TFA the Trade & Market Development consultation of the Multistakeholder Track that is a key component of the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity and Trade (FACT) Dialogue co-led by the Governments of the United Kingdom and Indonesia in the context of COP26.



A Statement of Intent exists between the Good Growth Partnership and the **&Green Fund** to express their intention to work together to achieve their shared vision to remove deforestation from commodity supply chains and act on the financial levers of commodity supply chains.

OTHER STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS



Brazil: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM), Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil (IEB), Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola (Imaflora), Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF), Instituto Lina Galvani (Vida Cerrado Park), Instituto Cerrado, Center for Advanced Studies in Applied Economics (CEPEA), Rede ILPF (ICLF Network), Brazilian Federation of Banks (FEBRABAN), Brazilian Association of Development Banks (ADBE), Brazilian Association of Banks (ABBC), COFCO, Agrosatélite, Agroícone, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP–WCMC), Lapig – Laboratório de Processamento de Imagens e Geoprocessamento – Universidade Federal de Goiás.



Indonesia: IPB University, IFFCO, GAPKI, Musim Mas, Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), The Trade Hub, TNC/YKAN, Yayasan KEHATI, Yayasan FORTASBI, Lingkar Temu Kabupaten Lestari (LTKL), FP2SB, University Gadjah Mada (UGM), Universitas Riau.



Liberia: Fauna and Flora International, Proforest, Mano Manufacturing Company (MANCO), Golden Veroluem Liberia (GVL), Solidaridad, Partnership for Forests (P4F), Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), Agro Inc, Wareb LTD, Local Farms, SesDev, Green Advocates, FCI, NGO Coalition of Liberia, SAMFU, SADS.



Paraguay: Fernheim, Chortitzer and Neuland Cooperatives, Pioneros del Chaco, IDEAGRO, Mesa Paraguaya de Carne Sostenible, National University of Asunción (Faculty of Agrarian Sciences, Chaco Section), Pioneers of the Chaco, Rural Association of Paraguay, Smithsonian Institute, CREA.



Global: Collaboration for Forests and Agriculture (CFA), Conservation and Financial Markets Initiative (CFMI), Consumer Goods Forum, Kite Insights.



Changing systems requires addressing root causes, rather than just symptoms, by altering, shifting and transforming relationships, structures, mindsets, power dynamics and rules.

The Good Growth Partnership does this by collaborating across a diverse set of actors with the intent of sustainably improving societal issues on a local, national and global level. Inclusive and multi-stakeholder collaborative action is the foundation for prompting such wide-spread and systemic change, as co-created solutions have the power to effectively spark transformation. By bringing actors with distinct interests

together over common sustainability themes, the Good Growth Partnership supports them in creating a shared vision, allowing them to collectively learn, innovate and act within a complex and changing environment.

The following section highlights examples of tools and products emanating from the Good Growth Partnership that are global in nature and that have been developed to foster greater collaborations, including public-private partnerships, at all geographic scales. Also highlighted are national and subnational initiatives taking place in Year 4 that can trigger systems change through collaborative action on the ground.

The Four-Dimensional Systemic Change report: A framework to organize and understand systemic change

The Good Growth Partnership has experienced first-hand that addressing commodity-driven deforestation is very complex. This complexity stems from the number of actors, programmes and standards addressing the same issue with different angles and is compounded by their different geographical focus:

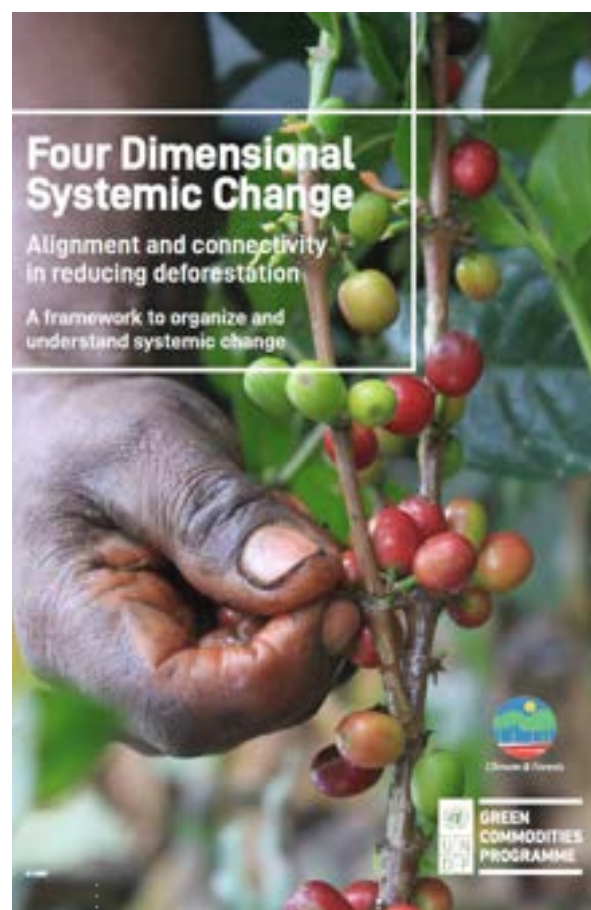


Photo: © UNDP

international, national and subnational. Through its publication [Four Dimensional Systemic Change: Alignment and connectivity in reducing deforestation](#) the Good Growth Partnership published a **framework to help structure and better align interventions that pursue the systemic transformation of commodity sectors**. Co-funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the report shows how greater alignment and more effective cooperation, coordination and integration could amplify the impact of practitioner efforts at all levels of the system. In doing so, the report looks at the following four key dimensions of action:

1. **Increase cohesion between levels of governance and action.**
2. **Strengthen horizontal dialogue between actors.**
3. **Increase government capacity for synergistic alignment.**
4. **Integrate and diversify flows of resources and incentives.**

Within these dimensions, the report proposes 13 recommendations for supporting systemic change. The launch of the report was followed by a successful series of six **jurisdictional dialogues** during which local practitioners from West Kalimantan (Indonesia) and Caquetá (Colombia) were able to use the report findings to identify areas where it could be applied to a specific issues in their context. A post-dialogue high-level event organised in March 2021 presented the key findings of the report and innovative approach used during these virtual jurisdictional dialogues.

There are many important lessons to reflect on from the Good Growth Partnership's integrated approach, and from the implementation of the programme and its related projects. These include ways the Partnership has increased cohesion between levels of governance and action; its efforts to strengthen dialogue between stakeholders from different points of view; and its successes diversifying flows of resources and incentives across supply chains. These multiple levers of action are making a tangible difference in curbing deforestation and this publication offers a helpful roadmap for future collaboration for even greater effect.

– Gustavo Fonseca, Director of Programs at the Global Environment Facility, speaking about the publication Four-Dimensional Systemic Change

A co-inquiry process: Working more systemically towards sustainable food systems

Many of the technical solutions for sustainable commodity supply chains already exist and many of the potential policy interventions are already known.

However, the question remains: *How do we accelerate the adoption of new approaches and technologies; and how can we improve farming practices and adopt policies that are aligned with climate and biodiversity priorities?* A range of cases from around the world were explored in which food systems transformation is being attempted.

Building on the first co-inquiry cycle conducted in 2020, systems thinkers and international development practitioners were convened in 2021 for a **second co-inquiry cycle to look at the issues and challenges of systems change in practice**. A range of cases from around the world were explored where food systems transformation is being attempted. Systems leadership issues were also examined, especially how to work more effectively in conditions of complexity and uncertainty when the impact of different interventions is impossible to predict and when strategies need to be capable of being iterated and adapted in real time. Key learnings from this process will be captured in a report and shared with practitioners to inform future project design.

 **14** sessions held online, including **75 participants**



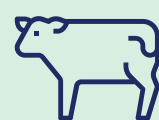
Photo: © Maria Paz Gonzalez/UNDP Peru

Reducing cattle-driven deforestation in the Brazilian Cerrado

Soy cultivation and beef production are highly interrelated in the Cerrado, and it is thus challenging to separate impacts on forested areas caused by soy production or livestock. If we look at the whole system, to lessen deforestation in the Brazilian Cerrado, initiatives must not only tackle soy-related deforestation, but also cattle-driven deforestation which remains high despite many initiatives and platforms led by NGOs, the private sector and academia. The many initiatives and commitments can cause confusion among cattle companies and there is a lack of alignment on how to operationalize all the strategies. In response, the Good Growth Partnership worked to implement a **Voluntary Monitoring Protocol for Cattle Suppliers in the Cerrado** to help

connect the numerous initiatives. It is hoped a similar protocol could be adopted in the future in the soy industry as well.

After completing an analysis of all related initiatives, commitments and strategies, a draft harmonized protocol was developed to **source cattle products responsibly, incentivizing producers to remain compliant with minimum social and environmental standards.**



30+ organizations consulted

for a voluntary monitoring protocol for cattle suppliers

Acting beyond value chains

Companies are increasingly aware no single solution exists to achieve sustainable production and sourcing: interventions are required at multiple levels. To catalyse systemic change, leading companies are realizing that they need to think beyond their own value chains and consider how they can positively influence enabling conditions for sustainable production through engaging in collaborative action.

'Value Beyond Value Chains: Guidance for the Private Sector' was launched by the Good Growth Partnership in 2020. The guidance has now been expanded with a concise, practical and user-friendly set of case studies and a presentation deck **for changemakers within companies and the financial sector to understand why and how to engage with government at various**



420+ participants

including senior corporate and government representatives joined the GGP virtual conversation

levels. By taking a multi-stakeholder and jurisdictional and landscape approach, including working at different scales, companies and financial institutions can help raise the playing field and support sector-wide implementation of higher standards through stronger laws,

supporting more systemic change. This approach, which is at the heart of the Good Growth Partnership, remains a foundation on which to build for the Partnership's second phase.

A virtual conversation titled "**Business action in and beyond supply chains: How public-private collaboration is driving landscape and jurisdictional impacts**" was facilitated as part of Climate Week in September 2020, in partnership with the Consumer Goods Forum and the Tropical Forest Alliance, and during which the guidance was presented.



4 tools disseminated during the event

[Value Beyond Value Chains](#), [Engaging with Landscape Initiatives](#), [Landscape scale action for forests, people and sustainable production](#) and [Verification of Jurisdictional Claims](#)



Business action in and beyond supply chains: How public-private collaboration is driving landscape and jurisdictional impact. Photo: © UNDP



Photo: © Agusriady Saputra/UNDP Indonesia

Expanding tools for palm oil companies in China

Over the four past years, the Good Growth Partnership developed two toolkits to support sustainable sourcing, the [Soy Toolkit](#) and the [Beef Toolkit](#). Both are accessible guides promoting supply chain and collaborative actions that can decouple soy and beef production and trading supply chains from deforestation, conversion of native vegetation and human rights violation.



3 toolkits
for sourcing
responsible **soy,**
beef and palm oil
developed

Building on the success of the first two toolkits, the newly developed [Palm Oil Toolkit](#) builds capacity on responsible sourcing and production for downstream palm oil companies in China. China is one of the largest consumers of palm oil, and downstream companies importing the product often struggle to understand its impact on deforestation and conversion. In response to this need, Proforest expanded

the Palm Oil Toolkit website in both English and Mandarin to promote better outreach and communication with stakeholders.

These resources are combined with individualized online training so that companies can implement commitments to decouple palm oil from deforestation and conversion as well as manage exploitation issues faced by the palm oil industry. These workshops in mid-2021 were done in collaboration with the China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs and Native Produce (CFNA) for its members. Through this engagement, downstream companies in China will be able to incentivize deforestation-conversion free practices for their suppliers by requiring a minimum amount of action on the issue. Dissemination and engagement of companies through these toolkits will continue to increase beef, palm oil and beef responsible sourcing.

To address risks, companies must not only purchase sustainably sourced soy, but also invest in sustainable production to ensure long-term access.

– Morgan Gillespy
Global Director, Forests, CDP

The Ladder of Change: Monitoring progress in collaborative action for systems change

Often, even the most subtle changes in attitudes, behaviours, perceptions and relationships can be among the most powerful ones to trigger systemic shifts. Unfortunately, these dimensions are not always part of traditional project targets and results frameworks, as project teams find it challenging to monitor these essential qualitative aspects of multi-stakeholder collaboration.

To strengthen its toolbox and support to country-level projects involving multi-stakeholder collaboration, the Good Growth Partnership developed an innovative tool,

the **Ladder of Change**, as a **preliminary attempt to monitor changes in multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaborative action**. Through the Ladder of Change, quality of dialogue and collaboration is assessed across ten critical standard dimensions and more can be added ad hoc. The tool is most effective when applied participatorily and at different times to assess progress. The Ladder of Change is currently being piloted in Indonesia and Liberia and brought insightful learning and results.

An upgraded version of the tool, Signals of Change, is currently under development, proposing an even stronger systemic approach for the assessment of effective collaborative action. Signals of Change will be piloted under the next phase of the Good Growth Partnership and will guide its future interventions.



Photo: © Alex Hudson/Unsplash

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL DEVELOPMENT IN INDONESIA

DAY 1 | Wednesday, 7 April 2021
14:00 – 17:00 (GMT +7)

Zoom Registration <http://bit.ly/IndoSPODAY1>
Indonesian-English translation will be available in Zoom platform only
Livestream **Youtube: PerekonomianRI**

DAY 2 | Thursday, 8 April 2021
14:00 – 16:00 (GMT +7)

Zoom Registration <http://bit.ly/IndoSPODAY2>
Full English and No Livestream



An international webinar on sustainable palm oil development in Indonesia was conducted in collaboration with the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs to showcase and disseminate to the international community Indonesia's achievements in sustainable palm oil governance. Credits: © UNDP Indonesia

Supporting collaborative and effective implementation of a national action plan for sustainable palm oil in Indonesia

Over the past four years, the Good Growth Partnership facilitated multi-stakeholder collaborations for sustainable palm oil between over 200 organizations at national and subnational levels. Led by the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs and involving representatives from Ministries, the private sector, smallholder associations and NGOs, these multi-stakeholder platforms created **open and neutral space for**

stakeholders to discuss and find solutions to problems faced by the palm oil industry in the country. This dialogue led to the collaborative development of a National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil.

Following legalization of the National Action Plan at the end of 2019, the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture transitioned the platform (**FoKSBI**) into the **National Implementation Team, tasked with effective coordination and implementation of the action plan.** This transition allowed the government to reinforce its leadership on sustainable palm oil, while encouraging an increased participation of stakeholders. Concrete results addressing the root causes of unsustainable palm oil can already be observed. The National Action Plan has brought changes in palm oil governance, with improved cross-ministry and multi-

scale coordination and the use of multi-stakeholder platforms to discuss sensitive issues. Data on national palm oil cover was strengthened and the smallholder registration process (STB-D) re-activated. The Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) certification is being accelerated and a new regulation was adopted to strengthen farmer extension services.

In an effort to implement the National Action Plan and accelerate sustainable palm oil in Indonesia, subnational action plans were also developed with support from the Good Growth Partnership in three provinces and three districts. This movement now goes beyond these landscapes with the **replication of platforms and action plans in other provinces and districts** and allowing stakeholders to come together to work collaboratively to find solutions and address challenges hindering sustainable palm oil development in the region. While the National Action Plan is in its second year of implementation, the Good Growth Partnership, in its next phase, looks at continuing to mobilise actors and resources for its complete implementation, while **strengthening multi-stakeholder spaces for dialogue and action for sustainable palm oil at multiple scales, from global to local.**

14 Ministries involved in National Action Plan implementation

Cooperation and collaboration in sustainable palm oil development is an inevitability. We cannot work alone without the support of other stakeholders, from upstream and downstream companies to the community level. Indonesia cannot work alone without international support.

– **Airlangga Hartarto**
Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, International Webinar on Indonesian Palm Oil Development, 7 April 2021



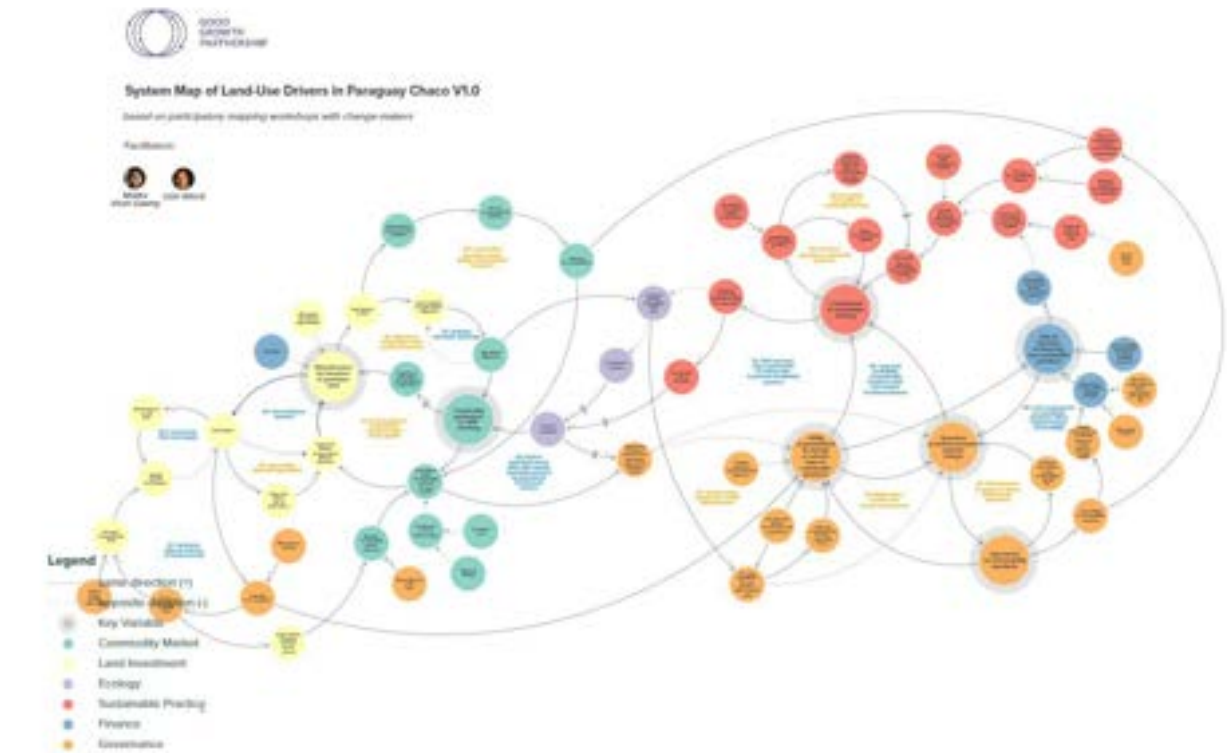
Photo: © Agusriady Saputra/UNDP Indonesia

Refining interventions to increase impact in the Paraguayan Chaco

Bringing sustainable change across commodity supply chains is not an easy task. Supply chains are dynamic systems involving a multitude of actors with different interests, but that at the same time are inter-related and evolving in a changing context. Meanwhile, project interventions can have unanticipated consequences and the setting and power dynamics during project design and implementation can be quite different. The Good Growth Partnership recognizes this complexity, and the **need to take systemic approaches to project implementation.**

Thus, in Year 3, the Good Growth Partnership embarked on a mid-term review of the most powerful levers of change toward

sustainable beef production in the Chaco region of Paraguay. However, COVID-19 delayed the process, which was finally completed in Year 4. Working with the Collaboration for Forest and Agriculture, changemakers in the Paraguayan Chaco mapped and reached **a common understanding of the current Chaco beef system and its main land use drivers.** New priority areas were identified for faster and more impactful systems change. Key insights from the exercise drove the partners to select working collaboratively toward the development of financial incentives for sustainable beef production. Other main leverage points identified were environmental, social and governance risk, financing options for sustainable production, alternative investment opportunities, increased productivity, enforcement of regulations, traceability and commitments to sustainable practices. The Good Growth Partnership will seek to support these priority areas during a phase 2.



Chaco beef system map, explaining causal links around the supply chain and highlighting key leverage areas for a sustainable transformation. Photo: © UNDP

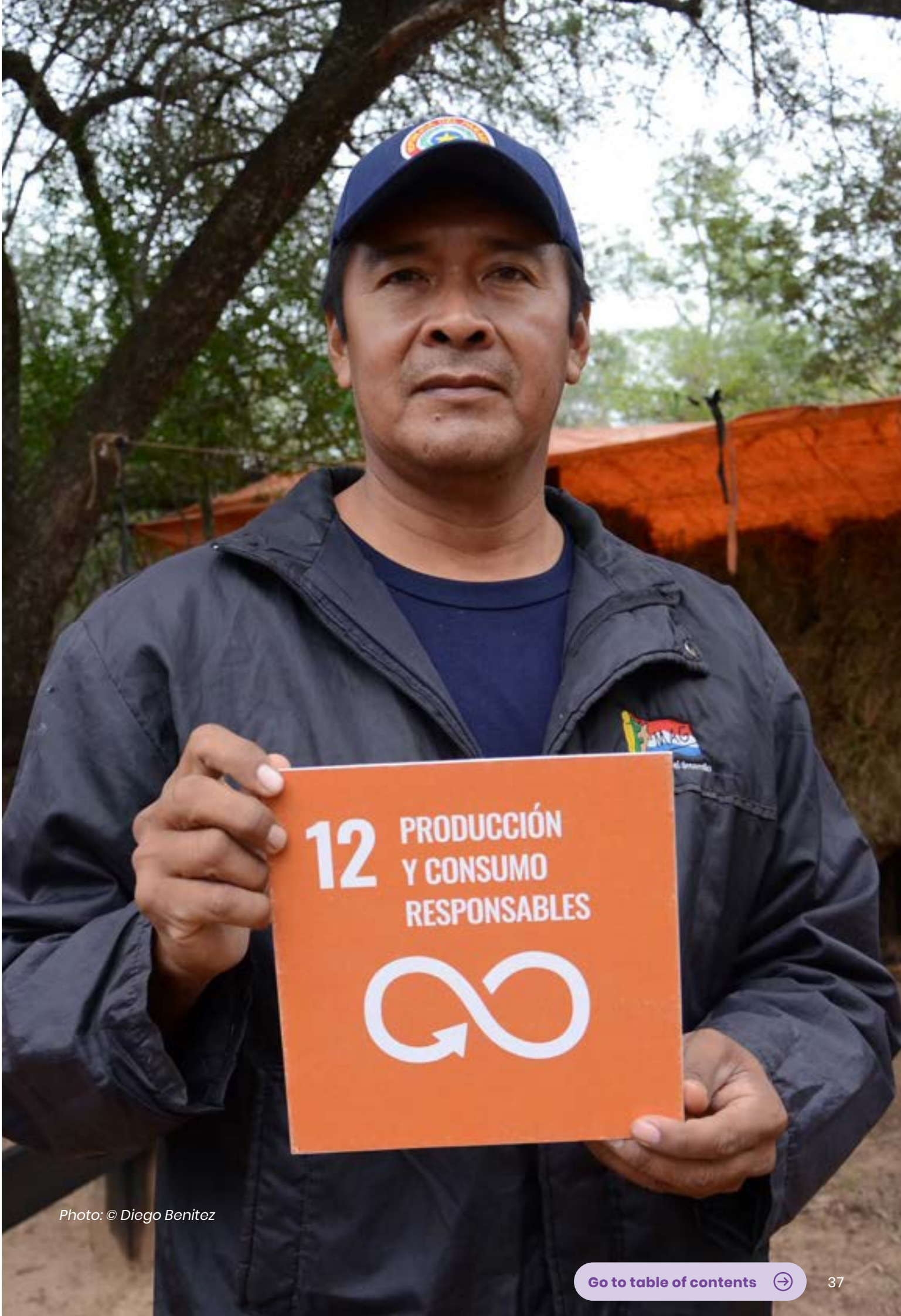


Photo: © Diego Benitez

The Matopiba region is found within the Cerrado ecoregion of Brazil, the latter of which is South America's largest and the world's most biodiverse savannah. The Cerrado shelters five percent of all the living species on earth and one in ten Brazilian species, including species of plants found nowhere else in the world. Matopiba is located at the intersection of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia States and covers more than twenty percent of Brazil (73 million hectares). Due to its favourable agricultural characteristics, such as flat, accessible land and abundant water, Matopiba is the main soy producing area in Brazil.

Mainly used as animal feed, soy has become one of the world's most extensive agricultural crops due to a rising demand for meat products. But its growth has come at a cost, with impacts on the environment and local communities. Forests and other natural ecosystems are coming under ever greater pressure as production and demand continue to grow. Today, Brazil produces 34 percent of the world's soy and is expected to stay the world leader in soy production over the coming decade.

To reduce environmental threats in this agricultural frontier and to promote sustainable soy production, the Good Growth Partnership encourages soy cultivation in already converted or degraded lands, supports the development of conservation areas and the implementation of Brazil's Forest Code. It increases the capacity of companies to source sustainably while supporting financial institutions to consider deforestation in their decisions. The Good Growth Partnership in Brazil promotes dialogue with local governments, soy producers and private sector partners to drive a fundamental shift in thinking so that sustainability is not seen as an additional task for farmers, but as a crucial element to ensuring efficient and abundant food production now and into the future.

4 years in review

Brazil Soy



Photo: © Henrique Paula



Photo: © Iamilly Cunha

YEAR 4 BRAZIL: SOY IN THE MATOPIBA REGION

Strengthening environmental protection through Municipal Conservation Areas and a Private Reserve of Natural Heritage



1,158,000+ hectares
of land under improved protection

Working with Instituto de Educação do Brasil, the Good Growth Partnership is helping to **improve the protection of three Conservation Areas at the municipal level in Tocantins and Bahia States**. Project results to date include:

- A strategic Conservation Unit in the municipality of Barreiras (Bahia) was formalized, protecting **44.54 hectares** in the Cerrado. This area is important from an educational perspective, as it can heighten the population's awareness of the vital importance of such spaces within urban zones.
- The project supported the creation and approval of a management board for the Environmental Protection Area of Rio Preto (Bahia), **an area covering more than 1,150,000 hectares** which is important for its ecological potential and high environmental fragility. Though already legally protected, the lack of a functioning governance structure prevented the protection from taking place effectively.
- The project is engaged in the creation of the Municipal Natural Monument of Cachoeira do Redondo, in Barreiras (Bahia) which will protect **2,327 hectares of native vegetation**. The process is scheduled to be finalized by the end of 2021.

In addition, as a direct result of engagement with the Good Growth Partnership, the Morro Branco farm is creating a Private Reserve of Natural Heritage, a category of Conservation Unit established by the will of the farmer, without land expropriation. The owner is then committed to nature conservation on the land in perpetuity. The proposal for the creation of the reserve, named Morro Branco – Serras Gerais, was finalized together with the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) and legal procedures are expected to be completed by the end of 2021. The Morro Branco – Serras Gerais reserve will cover **8,475 hectares of native vegetation** in the Cerrado Biome and is home to important species of local fauna, representing a critical area for biodiversity conservation. Successful results like these set the stage for future work to be continued by Good Growth Partners to support stakeholders to improve land use planning.

Stimulating soy cultivation over degraded land

The Good Growth Partnership collaborated with Lapig, Agrosatélite, Agroicone and Imaflora to produce **business cases for rehabilitation of degraded land** in the Cerrado in order to encourage farmers and companies to expand soy cultivation over degraded land instead of clearing native vegetation.

As a first step, the identification of all pastures in the Cerrado and the level of degradation of those lands was conducted. This helped define the suitability for soy production within the distinctly degraded

pastures, highlighting the areas with higher, intermediate and lower but still viable potential yields as well as areas with lack of soy viability. More in-depth analysis is being conducted in Tocantins State, including a higher number of samples checked and greater analysis of all information.

Building on this, two business cases are being developed: one covering the rehabilitation of land for soy production and the other combining soy production with pasture intensification. The business cases will be presented to soy farmers, traders and financial institutions, including information on the technical and economic requirements and solutions to promote soy production over degraded pastures, highlighting the benefits of shifting practices towards more sustainability.

The Good Growth Partnership (GGP) programme, implemented by Conservation International Brazil, has been so far an absolute blessing for us at Fazenda Morro Branco. It brought us the values and expertise we needed to pursue our vision to create a three-pillar development model [social, environmental and economic] that would allow us to produce sustainably, protect responsibly and include fraternally. We hope GGP and Conservation International Brazil keep up the important initiative in the long run.

– Mr. Murilo Sharp
Owner, Morro Branco Farm, Tocantins State

Ensuring soy supplier compliance and improving traceability in Matopiba

Through a collaboration between Agrosatélite, COFCO International Limited (an agricultural supply chain company) and the Good Growth Partnership, **a screening system to verify whether soy supplying farms are complying with publicly available data on social and environmental risks** is being developed for use in the Matopiba region of Brazil. The screening will use farm contours, satellite imagery and other geographical information and official data to ensure that supplying farms are free of forced labour, are not located on indigenous land, Conservation Units or embargoed areas and are in compliance with the Amazon Soy Moratorium. The system also establishes land conversion profiles for individual farms and assesses supplier compliance with the Cadastro Ambiental Rural (CAR), a mandatory electronic registration that combines geospatial data of rural properties with their environmental information, including legally protected areas.

To improve management practices and the sustainability of COFCO soy suppliers in Brazil, **the Good Growth Partnership conducted digital training with Embrapa in Tocantins State**. The first training session in May 2021 focused on low carbon agriculture, integration of crop and pastures, implementation of high-quality no-till soy systems, general soil sustainability aspects and other topics. The second round of training took place in July 2021 and included integration of crop and pastures, pest management, biological control and assessing soil biological quality.



350
of COFCO's Matopiba soy suppliers have been included in a first version of the screening system



320
participants joined the online training sessions
5,000+ views of the training (by 30 days after the live event)

Tracing commodities back to their sources is essential to unravelling and addressing risks in our supply chains. Through this collaboration, we will be able to gain an in-depth view of our soy suppliers' sustainability performance and prioritize our supplier engagement activities to drive improvement.

– **Julia Moretti**
Global Head of Sustainability,
COFCO International



Photo: © UNDP Brazil

Promoting low-carbon agriculture practices in cattle and soy farms in Tocantins State

Soy and cattle production supply chains are significantly interconnected in Tocantins State, as many rural farms have both cattle and soy and many cattle ranchers are introducing, or planning to introduce, soy on their properties. Local market price behaviours for soy and cattle are also closely related. These interactions impact the dynamics of local soy production, and make it necessary to look at both beef and soy systems to effectively tackle deforestation in Matopiba.

In early 2021, the Good Growth Partnership in Brazil began supporting Embrapa's "ABC Corte" and "ABC Balde Cheio" projects that focus on smallholders and rural properties with soy and cattle integration. This is in addition to the ongoing training and

technical cooperation with Embrapa, the state-owned research corporation affiliated with the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, around low-carbon agriculture technology adoption by cattle ranchers in the region.

By June 2021, the Good Growth Partnership had **engaged 53 producers (representing about 60,000 hectares covering small and medium cattle ranches and medium and large soy farms)** to receive direct technical support for the adoption of low-carbon agriculture practices. Dissemination of the learning and results from this partnership will continue so that future work can build upon these activities.



53 producers
representing
60,000 ha
of land trained on
low-carbon agriculture
practices





Photo: © UNDP Brazil

Sustainable production as a competitive advantage for rural properties in Matopiba

A pilot initiative supports farmers in Matopiba to strengthen sustainable production as a competitive advantage through the improvement of [Natural Capital Management](#) on their farms. The pilot is being implemented on three soy farms in Bahia and Tocantins States, **covering 26,285 hectares**. The objective is to accelerate a wide **adoption of crop-livestock-forest integration (ILPF) technologies and principles by rural producers for sustainable intensification of Brazilian agriculture**.

The pilot is implemented with the support of Imaflora and [Rede ILPF](#) (an association of public and private organizations formed by Bradesco, Ceptis, Cocamar, John Deere, Soesp, Syngenta and Embrapa). The pilot will carry out the monitoring of indicators within the framework of the [Natural Capital Protocol](#). This protocol focuses on best practices for managing natural resources within farms as real assets and investments.



26,285 ha
pilot to support
sustainable
intensification
of Brazilian agriculture

Phase 1 diagnosed the rural properties and elaborated actions plans and recommendations for improved natural capital management. Phase 2 began in May 2021 with the provision of technical support to the property owners to implement the action plans. By the end of the year, the beneficiaries will have facilitated access to ILPF Network certification processes, allowing them to benefit from better conditions with REDE ILPF institutions such as easier access to credit, according to their performance results.

The pilot aims to showcase for replication in the region how ecosystem services help create a sustainable production model, thus mitigating a producer's climate and financial risks, the latter of which are often the result of poor environmental management systems and practices.

Building capacity of financial institutions on deforestation risk management and opportunities

Enabling sustainable finance is a key element in the equation for systemic transformation of the soy sector in Brazil. However, banks often do not have sufficient awareness or capacity to ensure their investments are aligned with sustainability. The Good Growth Partnership, together with the three largest Brazilian banking associations (the Brazilian Federation of Banks/FEBRABAN, the Brazilian Association of Development Banks/ABDE and the Brazilian Association of Banks/ABBC), delivered **online training on how financial institutions can mitigate deforestation**



33
Brazilian financial
institutions
participated in training



100+
persons interested in the
training, with **49 receiving**
certificates of completion

risks and take advantage of green finance opportunities. The main topics covered included the drivers of deforestation in Brazil, how deforestation is relevant to financial institutions, how financial institutions incorporate deforestation in corporate policies and commitments, how to use available databases to analyse deforestation risks and what are the current financial mechanisms that stimulate sustainable agriculture in Brazil.

Thirty-three financial institutions participated, including commercial banks, development banks, development agencies and credit cooperatives, with a majority of the participants being women (63 percent). The training emphasized rural credit for individuals and was well received by the financial institutions, who requested a new edition of the training in 2021 with a focus on corporate clients.

Based on the success of the training of the banks, training was developed and delivered on deforestation risk to enable Central Bank supervisors to better understand, assess, identify and manage deforestation risk among Brazilian banks in the supervisory process. Thirty-one supervisors participated in the training.

I'm really enjoying UNEP FI's Deforestation Risk Management and Opportunities training. The training is useful, above all, for a person in the department I work in (Risk Management).

– Ryvana Silva da Cunha
Products and Services Manager DIRGE, Banco do Nordeste

Drawing attention to the link between illegal deforestation and soy exports from the Brazilian Cerrado

Brazilian law allows some deforestation to occur on private land if the landowner obtains a license to do so. This process provides some flexibility to landowners, as long as they meet environmental safeguards and adopt compensatory measures. However, research conducted by the Good Growth Partnership found that from 2012 to 2017, **95 percent of deforestation on soy farms in Mato Grosso (accounting for 27 percent of total deforestation in the area) was not in compliance with Brazilian law.** These data, published in a recent Trace issue brief, [Illegal deforestation and Brazilian soy exports: the case of Mato Grosso](#), also suggest that most of this soy was exported, mostly to China and the European Union.

The report and ongoing engagement around the findings catalyzed action on illegal deforestation in Brazil’s soy supply chain among leading private and public sector actors in both Brazil and Europe. In Europe, the study drew attention to the issue and helped companies demand tougher legislation on due diligence. For example, the research was cited in October 2020 in an open letter to the UK Government signed by global food companies, including McDonald’s, Unilever and Tesco, calling for **greater ambition on their due diligence consultation process in addressing global deforestation.** Findings were presented to key business forums, including to the European Feed Manufacturers’ Federation

(FEFAC) and the group of companies that signed a Statement of Support for the Cerrado Manifesto. The report’s authors and partner institutions in Brazil engaged with the country’s two main soy trader associations (ABIOVE and ANEC) to bring the findings to their attention, motivating the Brazilian soy industry to step-up its efforts to address the issue. At the same time, the findings have strengthened the Brazilian Federal Public Prosecutor’s efforts to combat illegal deforestation connected to soy in Mato Grosso.

While the European Union is looking at strengthening its legal framework to halt and reverse deforestation linked to commodity production, the Good Growth Partnership is committed to **continue its efforts to make responsible sourcing possible for companies and to support farmers to adapt to this market shift and embrace opportunities for improved sustainability.**



95%
of deforestation

on soy farms in Mato Grosso from 2012 to 2017 was illegal

If we don’t address the impacts of climate change, we won’t be able to serve food in the future — and we’re a food business.

– Rachael Sherman
Director of Global Sustainability,
McDonald’s [on the Soy Toolkit]





Photo: © Joao Trombini

Building multiple incentives for the soy sector in the Brazilian Cerrado

The Brazilian Cerrado remains a global hotspot for deforestation, driven in large part by soy expansion. The Good Growth Partnership continued to address this issue in Year 4 through a multi-pronged approach. This involved national and international market engagement, and saw the first sector-wide announcement from the [European Salmon Sector](#). As part of this announcement, three Brazilian traders established a 2020 Cerrado conversion cut-off date for their entire operations in the biome. In addition, **the Good Growth Partnership helped spearhead the French Markets Manifesto and the public positioning of a Cerrado Manifesto Statement of Support (SoS), both defining a 2020 Cerrado conversion cut-off date.**

These commitments send clear market signals to Brazilian traders, incentivizing them to improve their current policies and

traceability controls. To complement these efforts, the Good Growth Partnership started the development of financial mechanisms for Brazilian farmers to reduce deforestation and conversion caused by soy expansion. For example, the Good Growth Partnership is supporting the SoS signatories in the **development of a new Cerrado financial architecture to reward soy producers who are protecting native vegetation beyond legal requirements.** These structures are based on lessons learned from the co-development of a [Cerrado Conservation Mechanism \(CCM\)](#) with market actors. Next steps include presenting these mechanisms to German authorities and corporations for feedback and collaboration.



77
companies

have made new commitments to source reduced deforestation Brazilian soy as a result of the project



Photo: © Conservation International

Improving decision-making for landscape planning in Matopiba

Understanding the Cerrado soy system and making the right decisions to produce soy sustainably implies an increased access to information and data. The **Soy Sustainability Radar is an online platform that generates updated specialised knowledge that can improve decision-making processes related to regional landscape planning.** The tool is being developed by the Good Growth Partnership with Agrosatélite.

Integrating environmental and economic geodata, the Soy Sustainability Radar is a user-friendly resource for improving analysis of the Matopiba region in aspects related to **nature conservation, restoration**

of native vegetation and sustainable agricultural production. The tool is divided into three thematic areas: conservation, production and restoration and presents data across 10 indicators, such as protected areas and traditional communities, connectivity, soybean expansion risk and priority areas for restoration.

The Soy Sustainability Radar is scheduled to be available (free of charge) to public and private stakeholders in Portuguese and English in October 2021.



1 Soy Sustainability Radar

scheduled to be available to the public in October 2021



Photo: © Henrique Paula

Indonesia is home to 10–15 percent of all known plants, mammals and birds on the planet. Tropical rainforest ecosystems are scattered across the country. These ecosystems house an extraordinary array of biodiversity and wildlife, including rare and endangered species, such as orangutans, Sumatran tigers, Maleo birds and Javan rhinoceros. Indigenous groups practice sacred rituals in these forests that are central to their societies.

Meanwhile, small and large-scale oil palm plantations are a significant contribution to the country's economy, making Indonesia the world's largest producer of palm oil. Smallholder oil palm plantations in the country generate income for more than 2.6 million farmers. However, palm oil production expansion without proper monitoring and strict enforcement of spatial planning results in forested areas threatened by land use change and degradation.

The Good Growth Partnership works across the palm oil supply chain in Indonesia at national and subnational levels. It has facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue and action that systemically improves the enabling environment for sustainable production, sourcing and investing. Support has been extended to small-scale farmers and other supply chain actors, including consumers, have been engaged. The Good Growth Partnership traces palm oil from production areas to downstream buyers to inform risk assessments and improve sustainable sourcing. Consumer awareness campaigns help incentivize local consumers to demand sustainable palm oil. Finally, capacity building trainings and workshops with investors have helped them to understand risks in palm oil supply chains and helped them engage their portfolio companies on these issues.

4 years in review

Indonesia Palm Oil



* Different tools have been used to calculate data on CO₂ emissions avoided in the Brazil and Production projects. Please contact us if you need further clarifications.

Photo: © Shutterstock



Photo: © Shutterstock

YEAR 4 INDONESIA: PALM OIL IN WEST KALIMANTAN, RIAU, NORTH SUMATRA

Supporting subnational action plans to **accelerate systemic change in the palm oil sector**: Learning from North Sumatra Province

North Sumatra's success story in legalizing its **Provincial Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil** at the beginning of 2020 made it a sustainable palm oil champion throughout the country. The province has become the new benchmark for active, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and has motivated other areas to do the same.

Following enactment of the Provincial Action Plan developed with support from the Good Growth Partnership, the provincial government continues supporting the multi-stakeholder platform through which dialogue and action this year focused on accelerating the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil certification scheme and mainstreaming the Provincial Action Plan into the broader Provincial Regional Mid-term Development Plan. Sustainability and implementation of the Provincial Action

Plan is guaranteed thanks to financing over the years secured via regional revenue and expenditure budgets, while alternative financing schemes are being identified.

Replication has been impressive and is taking place even in provinces and districts outside of those supported by the Good Growth Partnership. With the roll-out of the **National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil**, it is expected that such efforts will be further accelerated. Implementation guidelines of the National Action Plan for the next three years support subnational efforts in palm oil producing provinces and districts **to tackle the root causes of unsustainable palm oil, while improving coordination between national and subnational levels.**

7 action plans supported by the Good Growth Partnership

including 1 at national, 3 at provincial and 3 at district levels (5 legalized and under implementation; 2 in the process of legalization)

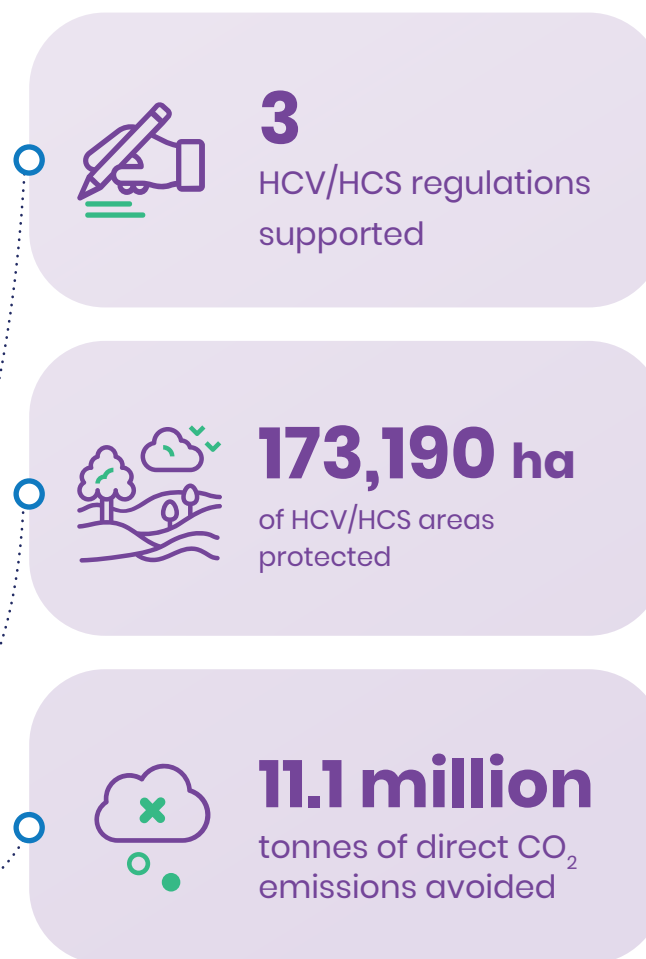
Balancing palm oil production with environmental protection in Pelalawan, Sintang and South Tapanuli Districts

To ensure a sustainable future for the next generations, environmental protection must come hand in hand with palm oil production and is achievable through clear identification and separation of conservation areas and plantation/cultivation areas. Protection and legalization of High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas at district level requires close coordination and collaboration between the District Environment and Forest Office, the Land Spatial Planning Office, the Estate Crops Office and provincial and national governments. Data must be validated at provincial and ministerial levels to ensure nationwide recognition. Maintaining a systemic approach at the heart of all its interventions, the Good Growth Partnership ensures land use planning processes are inclusive and involve all landscape stakeholders in thorough consultations and dialogue so that social, economic, environmental and cultural elements can be taken into consideration.

During the past year, **an additional regulation was legalized in South Tapanuli**, bringing the **total number of HCV/HCS areas protected, thanks to the support of the Good Growth Partnership over the past four years, to 173,190 hectares**. This result is the **equivalent of 11.1 million tons of direct CO₂ emissions avoided**. The Good

Growth Partnership continues to support the development of the Pelalawan Peat Protection and Management, the Sintang Plantation Master Plan and the Riau Peat Protection and Management which **target the protection of over 600,000 additional HCV/HCS hectares** and will enable additional important conservation areas to be protected from agricultural expansion.

To guarantee effective protection of HCV/HCS areas, these regulations must be enforced, which requires resources and adequate capacity from stakeholders, as well as a monitoring system. The Good Growth Partnership is keen to continue its collaboration with local governments to support regulation implementation and enforcement.





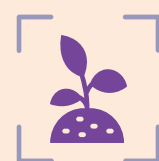
Public consultation LUCM WebGIS Ecosystem and Field-Testing INA-ALERT, Pelalawan, Indonesia, December 2020. Photo: © UNDP Indonesia

Strengthening Indonesian capacity to monitor land use change

In collaboration with Bogor Agricultural University (IPB University) and the Indonesian Institute for Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), **a land use change monitoring tool called EcoSystem was developed** and officially launched in September 2020. Administered by IPB University and accessible to all online, EcoSystem maps extensive areas under cultivation for palm oil, cocoa, coffee, rubber and rice, as well as forest cover and High Conservation Value areas and the agro-climatic suitability for crops. EcoSystem identifies land use cover change over the years, including gain or loss of forests, and is equipped with an early warning system providing updates every eight days and allowing public monitoring through a mobile app.

The Ecosystem tool that provides analysis of land use change will strengthen spatial data that will be generated by SIMONTANA, the national tool providing land cover data established by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and increase publicly available

information and monitoring efforts of the public sector. Two batches of training were conducted in December 2020 and June 2021 for government offices to adopt and widely disseminate the tool. The Ministry of Education committed to financially support its maintenance for the next two years.



1 Land Use Change Monitoring tool developed

Increasing private sector contributions to capacity building of smallholders

With 2.6 million smallholders working on approximately six million hectares of palm oil plantations, Indonesia has a sizeable task to ensure all producers have access to sufficient knowledge and capacity for production that respects sustainability principles. In 2020, the total number of agricultural extension workers supporting farmers on commodity production, including beyond palm oil, was around 74,000, including those hired by government and casual, independent and private sector workers. The limited proportion of extension service workers supporting smallholders is not allowing adequate and sufficient support to them, representing a significant gap in the labour force that would require a considerable amount of extra work and budget to fill. Relying 100 percent on the state budget to meet this gap is unrealistic

and, thus, significantly increasing the number of independent and non-state extension workers appears to be a solution.

The Good Growth Partnership supported the development of the Minister of Agriculture decree No. 40/2020 (legalized in November 2020) which serves as a legal umbrella **to strengthen and foster independent and private agriculture extension services in palm oil producing areas**. The Decree recognizes and mandates palm oil company and independent extension service workers to assist and strengthen technical and



1 national decree

to strengthen agricultural extension services supported and legalized

organizational capacity and capability of independent smallholders, particularly those involved in palm oil replanting programmes, and establishes a system to identify the location of private extension service workers so they can provide support to smallholders nearby concessions. Implementation of the Decree is being prepared with support from the Good Growth Partnership and is about to start, promising a real strengthening of extension service capacities for palm oil, which would support a radical shift in the system towards more sustainability.

In addition, the Good Growth Partnership facilitated **pilot training to demonstrate to local stakeholders how to increase adoption of Good Agricultural Practices by smallholders**. The last phase of the pilot was completed in Pelalawan District, in

partnership with local authorities and Musim Mas, increasing the number of smallholder farmers supported to over 2,700 across Sintang, South Tapanuli and Pelalawan Districts. This pilot, combined with national and district farmer support regulations facilitated by the project (including that mentioned above and three others that promote the partnerships and the alignment of Corporate Social Responsibilities with smallholder support), is expected to lead to systemic change as extension service agents replicate training with public and private sector support. In addition, through co-financing, assistance was provided to more than 40,000 independent smallholders in North Sumatra Province and more than 2,000 of these smallholders have now received the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification and are linked with global purchasers of certified palm oil, such as Unilever and PespiCo.

It takes time to build trust with smallholders. To achieve better results, we need to prepare for a longer engagement time, equip ourselves with capable human resource and a clear scope of work. Government holds the authority and the private sector has sufficient resources; therefore, a good collaboration is necessary to achieve the goals of improving the quality of extension services and eventually benefit the smallholders.

– Olivier Tichit
Director of Sustainability, Musim Mas



As part of the awareness raising efforts of the Good Growth Partnership, a journalist visit was arranged to Pelalawan District and Riau Province. The visit highlighted district and provincial government commitments to enabling sustainable palm oil production through the implementation of subnational and regional action plans and how training helped smallholders shift to more sustainable production. This fed into the public information campaign: “buy the good one (#beliyangbaik)”. Photo: © UNDP Indonesia

Building incentives for companies to change through raising public awareness

In a country that is both a major producer and consumer of palm oil, Indonesian consumers have an influential role to play in driving more sustainable practices. Unfortunately, awareness of the negative impacts of unsustainable palm oil and of the potential benefits of more responsible methods has been low in major Indonesian cities.

The Good Growth Partnership conducted **public awareness campaigns** to generate public conversation on the topic. A live radio talk show about sustainable palm oil was held with Motion FM Jakarta (later posted on YouTube). Social media posts (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) generated over 52,800 engagements. Two public events in 2021 enlisted speakers from the private sector, academia, civil society and consumers to convey messages about palm oil production, sustainable practices

and the role of consumers. Although both events were conducted in a hybrid live-virtual format due to the pandemic, they had significant public and media participation. Each engaged over 300 participants, complemented by over 1,000 views on WWF-Indonesia’s Facebook page, with 51 media outlets in attendance, resulting in 30 separate media coverage pieces.

In 2021, **the percentage of consumers in major Indonesian cities who were aware of the negative environmental impacts of unsustainable palm oil production was up to 60 percent**; not enough yet, but a substantial increase from 50 percent two years ago. The Good Growth Partnership in its phase 2 hopes to empower even more Indonesian consumers to demand palm oil produced without deforestation or habitat conversion.



Number of consumers in major Indonesia cities aware of the negative impact of unsustainable palm oil is

10% higher
than two years ago

Mapping smallholder palm oil supplies to major domestic retailers for transparency

Understanding smallholder palm oil supply chains is of growing importance in Indonesia, where smallholders manage around six million hectares. Furthermore, most supply chain transparency efforts only reach the mill level, leaving third-party suppliers ambiguous. This knowledge gap means that downstream private actors and the government do not have enough information in relation to supply chain compliance with sustainability related laws and standards to design incentives to shift underperforming smallholders towards sustainable production. To meet this challenge, the **Good Growth Partnership** mapped palm oil supply chains from

smallholder plantations in Sintang, Pelalawan and South Tapanuli Districts all the way to retailers in major Indonesian cities, namely Jakarta, Pekanbaru, Medan and Surabaya. In Year 4, the three focal district supply chain maps were validated and training for trainers was conducted to increase capacity on collection and verification of data in order to upscale these mapping efforts. This supply chain data is crucial for national retailers to improve their sustainability efforts, which the Good Growth Partnership is committed to continue supporting in the coming years.



3
districts’ smallholder palm oil supply chains
mapped to retailers in major Indonesian cities



Photo: © Unsplash



Photo: © Shutterstock

Engaging banks on deforestation risk management

Domestic banks in Indonesia provide capital to clients for commodity production which directly and indirectly can drive deforestation. The capacity to address these issues with clients varies among financial institutions and is a key part of robust risk management for the entire financial sector.

The Good Growth Partnership engaged the Indonesia Sustainable Finance Initiative (IKBI) network of banks on deforestation risk management. As part of a critical first phase, a needs assessment study was commissioned and completed by Deloitte highlighting the environmental policies and risk management procedures of a number of banks in Indonesia. The study found that **while many banks were aware of deforestation and the resulting environmental impacts from commodity**

production, few institutions had strong risk management procedures in place to address these risks with clients. The study also analysed the potential impact of new and existing national regulations, such as the Job Creation Law, to better understand how banks can respond to these regulations within their business lines. **The Good Growth Partnership is developing a series of training modules** that will be delivered to the IKBI network commencing in late 2021. The training modules address **deforestation risk awareness, identification and assessment in transactions and mitigation strategies.**

Replication and amplification of this training could be sought in a second phase of the Good Growth Partnership leading to change in the way banks make investment decisions, hence incentivizing sustainable production. Also, in a second phase, the Good Growth Partnership would look at specifically assessing the impact of the training towards system transformation, something that takes a few years to materialize and hence become measurable.

Supplying sustainable palm oil to the domestic market

Most of the demand for sustainable palm oil comes from abroad, but since 14 percent of Indonesia's palm oil is consumed domestically, generating local demand for sustainable palm oil is also important to signal to producers that they should shift to better practices. The Good Growth Partnership has been working with companies to increase awareness in sustainable palm oil among domestic Indonesian retail and manufacturing operations, and facilitated the **first RSPO certified and labelled cooking oil** to be brought to Indonesian retail shelves this year.

To help other companies on their sustainable sourcing journeys, the Good Growth Partnership established a formal partnership with the Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development



1 retail company selling sustainable cooking oil to Indonesian consumers



9 companies increased their capacity to source **reduced deforestation palm oil**

(IBCSD) to mainstream sustainability efforts through the [Green Lifestyle Programme](#), which supports the national agenda for Responsible Consumption and Production.

• **The IBCSD Green Lifestyle Programme offers member companies guidance on commitments and action plans, supply chain insights, opportunities for collaboration with suppliers and ways to shift toward more responsible sources.** Through the platform's monitoring and evaluation system, companies can track their performance to understand their progress compared to their initial commitments and take the necessary actions to achieve their desired outcomes.



Photo: © WWF-Indonesia

Facilitating the development of community plantations

Policy reform and strategic partnerships can lead to effective systemic change. The Government of Indonesia has mandated the private sector to develop and establish community plantations since 2007. However, implementation has been challenging due to unavailability of new land for community plantations and unclear guidance on establishing these plantations.

With Good Growth Partnership support, a **new regulation was enacted by the Ministry of Agriculture in April 2021 that strengthens the legal umbrella to mandate that companies allocate and/or facilitate the establishment of community plantations** on a total of 20 percent of their concessions. To overcome potential obstacles for implementation, alternative options are provided for companies to establish partnerships with the local community when land is unavailable for developing a new plantation, for example establishing Fresh Fruit Bunch (the raw material for palm oil mills) sale partnerships with independent smallholders near the company plantation. This regulation lays out the support that companies need to provide to smallholders and what types of actions they can select (such as offering access to financial support and knowledge in maintaining plantations, etc.) until the community plantation brings about a positive economic impact. In the long run, enforcement of the regulation will **increase capacity of smallholders to produce sustainably** and be linked to higher value markets.

Assessing risks related to deforestation associated with investments in palm oil

Launched in Year 4, a **deforestation value at risk (DVaR) model for palm oil identifies and quantifies the environmental, social, legal, commercial and market risks related to deforestation associated with investments in the production of palm oil in Indonesia.**

The model captures the financial value that a company faces putting at risk by ongoing engagement in deforestation, enabling companies and investors to identify and quantify the actual economic and financial risks that result from unsustainable land use, ranging from biophysical risks at the level of the plantation to reputational and commercial risks further along the value chain. By feeding real-world data into the model, the analysis quantifies exposure to deforestation risks and assesses the resulting financial implications not only for the commodity companies exposed, but also for their investors, shareholders and financial partners.

The development and application of frameworks such as the DVaR model highlight the necessity of collecting more evidence on the business implications of deforestation to convince financial institutions of the importance of deforestation-free supply chains and mobilise them towards that goal. The Good Growth Partnership is looking at replicating this model for other key commodity-driven deforestation supply chains.



Photo: © UNDP Indonesia

The densely forested landscape in North-West Liberia, where the Good Growth Partnership operates, covers more than one million hectares and is home to about 320,000 inhabitants. The area has some of the highest poverty rates in the country. A large portion of the landscape is covered with primary forest and is rich in biodiversity, housing animals such as the endangered pygmy hippo and a variety of monkey species. In this landscape, oil palm development has just started and promises to grow substantially.

Bomi County has experienced the highest accumulated deforestation in the landscape, resulting in significant cultural and economic impacts on local and indigenous communities. Furthermore, deforestation throughout the landscape has become a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions.

To protect these vulnerable areas and sustainably develop the oil palm sector in Liberia at large, the Good Growth Partnership supported a multi-stakeholder dialogue to formulate a national vision and strategy for sustainable oil palm to be implemented collaboratively. Legal frameworks for land use planning have been improved and incentive mechanisms devised which will direct development away from High Conservation Value areas. The Good Growth Partnership ensures that the concerns and considerations of local communities are represented in national decision-making, that land-use conflicts are addressed and conservation agreements are signed and implemented.

4 years in review

Liberia Palm Oil

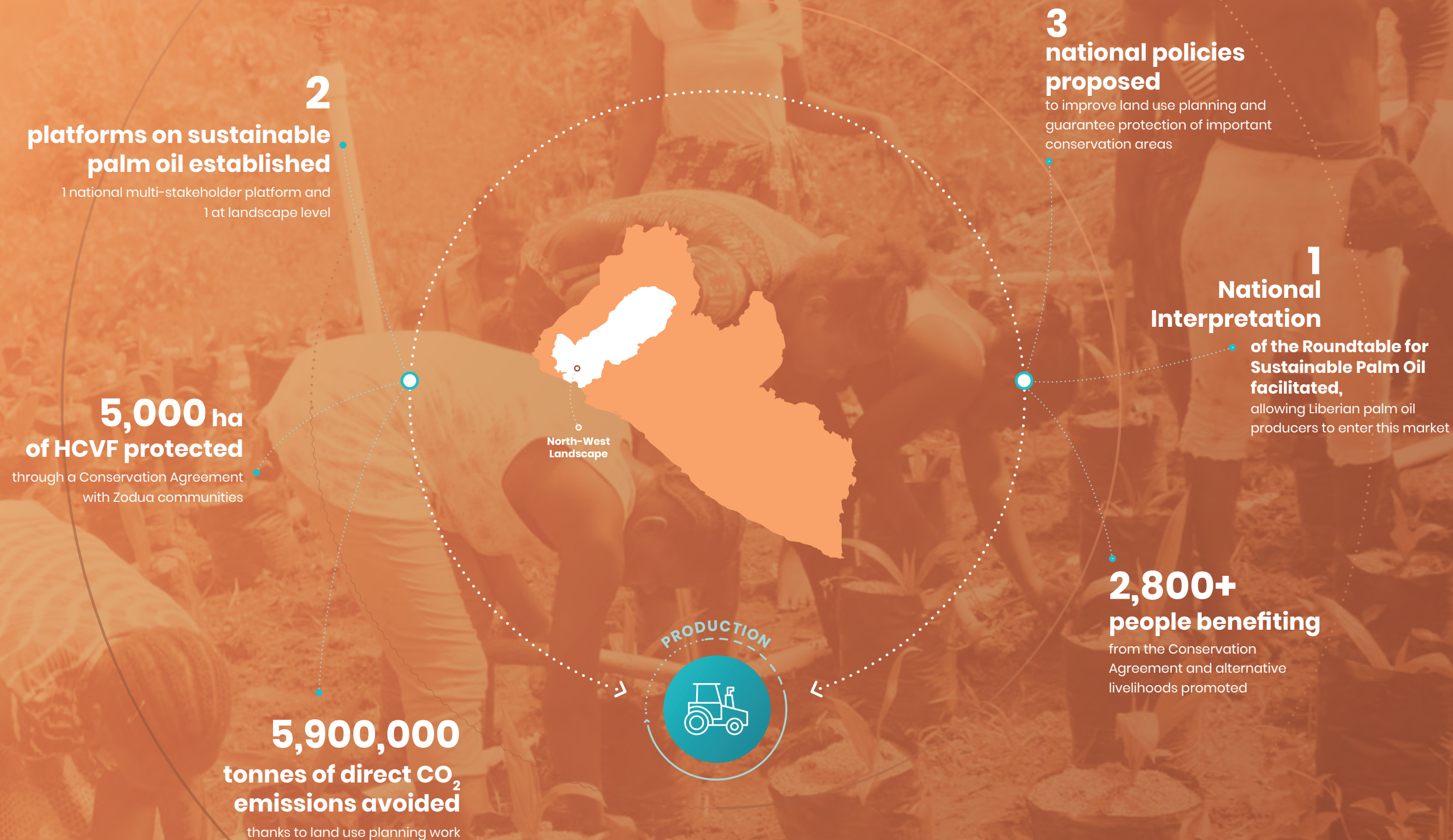


Photo: © UNDP Liberia



Photo: © Lisa Hiller

In the coming years, we envision transforming Liberia’s oil palm development into a sustainable, vibrant, responsible and productive economic sector that contributes to economic growth and wellbeing while maintaining forest cover and biodiversity. The commitment and vision NOPPOL stakeholders share are proof that we are ready to make the change our industry needs.

– Jeanine Milly Cooper
Minister of Agriculture of Liberia, National Sustainable Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan

YEAR 4 LIBERIA: PALM OIL IN THE UPPER GUINEAN FOREST

A national strategy and action plan for sustainable palm oil

A major milestone was achieved in Liberia with the **endorsement of the National Sustainable Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan (NOPSAP)** by the National Oil Palm Platform of Liberia (NOPPOL) Steering Committee. Developed through NOPPOL, under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Forestry Development Authority, **the Strategy aligns stakeholders around the objective of sustainable oil palm** and presents an incredible opportunity for the country to move toward sustainable oil palm production.

The Strategy was formulated via a lengthy process that included work in multi-stakeholder task forces established by NOPPOL, followed by thorough consultations, including five at national level and two at landscape level (in the former Sime Darby plantation in Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties through the North Western Oil Palm Landscape Forum). The consultations looked at the whole palm oil system and harnessed additional information and secured stakeholder buy-in at all levels.

The Strategy covers a diverse range of issues and incentives for sustainable oil palm, such as establishing national standards for the Liberian oil palm sector, providing support for improved livelihoods practices to smallholder palm farmers and communities and developing a conflict resolution mechanism. In preparation for immediate implementation, a costing exercise and monitoring framework are being developed.

As NOPPOL became a central space for dialogue, trust building and action for sustainable oil palm, setting the stage for real systems change in the oil palm sector in Liberia, stakeholders are actively looking into ensuring the long-term operation of the platform by assessing various institutional and financial sustainability strategies. There continues to be an important role for NOPPOL in implementing the National Sustainable Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan and in future policy developments, which are still needed to achieve a transformation of the oil palm sector in the country. The Good Growth Partners hope to continue supporting Liberia in the implementation of the NOPSAP under its next phase.

75
organizations
involved in
consultation
processes at national
and landscape levels

7
priority
objectives
defined in the
action plan



Albert Sembeh, the Conservation Agreement Committee Chair
Photo: © Mike Matarasso/Conservation International

Reforming land use planning

Implementing measures that reduce unsustainable land use change, especially deforestation and land degradation, requires good planning and governance. Currently, no comprehensive land use plan or policy framework exists in Liberia. To address this gap, the Good Growth Partnership, in close collaboration with the government and stakeholders, conducted a study to analyse relevant frameworks for improving land use planning in Liberia. **This served as groundwork for the development of a policy recommendation** that will provide a strong legal land use planning framework at the national level and **ensure production does not occur in important conservation areas** in Liberia.

In addition, at the landscape level, and with the support of the Sustainable Trade Initiative, the North Western Oil Palm Landscape Forum, that was established with the support of the Good Growth Partnership, facilitated discussions on the development of land use plans with Zodia communities, building on a Conservation Agreement previously established. This will help local communities get official recognition of their land rights and strengthen the protection of important conservation areas.



1
policy recommendation
on land use planning developed

Turning Conservation Agreements into a legal framework

To incentivize communities close to High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) to not encroach on them, Conservation International conceptualized Conservation Agreements. They provide alternative livelihoods to communities in exchange for them actively engaging in conserving the forests around them.

A Conservation Agreement was piloted between 2018 and 2020 with support from the Good Growth Partnership with three communities (Gohn, Falie and Kanga in the Zodia Clan) which own a 20,000-hectare community forest. By addressing livelihoods needs raised and negotiated by the communities during preliminary consultations, the Conservation Agreement allowed the **protection of 5,000 hectares of HCVF**. To build on these promising results,



2
policy recommendations
supported to protect important conservation areas

the Good Growth Partnership worked with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Forestry Development Authority to create a mechanism that can provide a legal basis for Conservation Agreements. **Policy recommendations were formulated through a consultative process and submitted to the government for revision.**

This work complements ongoing efforts to improve land use planning in Liberia and strengthens and supports replication of the protection of important conservation areas whose protection was initiated through Conservation Agreements.



632
households from three communities benefiting



5,000 ha
of High Conservation Value Forest protected

More awareness is needed on conservation efforts in nearby communities who are not part of the Conservation Agreement [as these can be a threat for the protection of the 5,000 hectares set aside through the Conservation Agreement]. Community activities within the forest set aside have reduced due to the constant engagement with community dwellers and other surrounding community dwellers.

– Anthony Kiadii
Frontline Conservationist from the Kango community



Formulating Liberia’s national interpretation of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil principles and criteria

Sustainable oil palm production has the potential to generate income and increase livelihood opportunities for communities in Liberia. To ensure sustainable oil palm development, the international coalition of private sector and non-governmental organizations gathered under the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) has formulated global principles and criteria to guide the operations of producers in the sector.

Compliance with the principles is influenced by legal, policy and regulatory frameworks which differ from country to country, such as minimum wage for workers, agricultural expansion and practices. Because of these differences, RSPO principles and criteria are contextualized in each country through their National Interpretation. With support from the Good Growth Partnership, thorough and **multi-stakeholder consultations** were organized to formulate Liberia’s National Interpretation, albeit largely digitally conducted due to COVID-19 precautions. Radio messages were broadcast in four languages (Vai, Gola, Mende and English) in the former Sime Darby landscape (Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties) and at the national level through the Liberia National Broadcasting System and through major daily local newspapers.

The National Interpretation process was supported by a Targeted Scenario

Analysis, that was validated by the NOPPOL Steering Committee in December 2020. This study compared economic gains and losses from different possible oil palm development paths in Liberia. The analysis found that concession development that prioritizes smallholders and environmental sustainability is in the best interest of the concessionaire as well as the Liberian economy and highlighted the value that the RSPO process could bring to Liberia.

Liberia’s National Interpretation was successfully endorsed by the RSPO Standards Group and the Board of Governors in 2021. This represents **a major step for sustainable palm oil production in Liberia, incentivizing producers to shift their production towards sustainability** to access the certification and new markets. Efforts should now focus on increasing the numbers of RSPO-certified producers.

”

GVL considers the development of the first National Interpretation of RSPO principles and criteria for Liberia as a critical contribution to the sustainability of the national oil palm sector. We call on all stakeholders to effectively carry out their respective roles in a constructive and collaborative manner to ensure the desired economic, environmental and human rights outcomes.

– Dr. Michael Abedi-Lartey
Golden Veroleum Liberia, General Manager for Sustainability



Photo: © UNDP Liberia

The semi-arid Chaco region encompasses the entire western portion of Paraguay, covering 60 percent of this landlocked country's land area. The vast lowland landscape is home to indigenous communities, producers and an abundance of wildlife, including the endangered jaguar and puma. The Good Growth Partnership works across the three Chaco departments: Alto Paraguay, Boquerón and Presidente Hayes, with some targeted activities implemented in partnership with indigenous and non-indigenous communities.

To ensure that the growth of Paraguay's beef production is conducted sustainably, the Partnership encourages good livestock practices for sustainable intensification, protection of High Conservation Value areas and respect for indigenous communities. Additionally, the Partnership facilitates a regional sustainable beef dialogue for stakeholders and supported the formulation of an action plan that provides a framework for stakeholders to bring more sustainability to the beef sector and foster active market incentives through connecting global buyers with sustainable beef commitments. Finally, the Good Growth Partnership is increasing the transparency of the beef supply chain from Paraguay and equipping financial institutions with tools, skills and knowledge to include Environmental, Social and Governance considerations in their transaction decisions, thus incentivizing producers to adopt sustainable practices.

4 years in review

Paraguay Beef



Photo: © Dalma Gonzalez/UNDP Paraguay



Photo © UNDP Paraguay

YEAR 4 PARAGUAY: BEEF IN THE CHACO

Reinforcing producer capacity for sustainable beef production

The Good Growth Partnership in Paraguay **strengthens producers' capacity for beef production, while seeking a balance between production and conservation.**

Given the diversity of producers present in the Chaco, the Good Growth Partnership tailored its approaches and implemented a variety of pilot projects, as discussed below.

- To help reduce forest degradation, four indigenous communities in Doctor Pedro P. Peña (Boquerón Department) were supported to put pastures under bush and secure feed for animals during drought. Through techniques adapted to the local context, these communities managing 200 hectares of land are

today better equipped to adapt to drought, achieving better animal, water and land management and increasing productivity without forest loss.

- Producer groups in Virgen del Rosario and Pirizal and the indigenous communities of Macharety and Ignapi (Boquerón Department) were trained in the planning and implementation of a foraging strategy that generates feed for livestock during periods of drought.
- In partnership with Pioneros del Chaco (an organization composed of three cooperatives in Central Chaco) and IDEAGRO (an organization focused on delivery of agricultural training), the Good Growth Partnership delivered a series of 12 technical webinars. The training sessions were made available on the [Commodities Platforms' YouTube](#) channel giving a wider audience access to the information. Topics of the webinars include quality meat

production in semi-arid environments and the potential of forest production for Paraguay, especially in the Chaco.

- Other activities included eight educational field trips with producers, creation of demonstration plots and the preparation of manuals on good agricultural, livestock and dairy production practices. An [online platform with the University of Asuncion](#) was also created for material on sustainable livestock and agriculture production in the Chaco.

These pilot training projects are expected to be replicated and expanded with stakeholder support, which is part of the Chaco beef action plan supported by the project.

As an overarching effort to strengthen the farmer extension system in the Chaco, the Partnership updated a farmer support strategy formed over the past years by adding recommendations that emerged from the **various capacity building sessions** and will further complement the strategy with findings from a study on farmer extension services, before handing it over to public authorities for continued implementation.

3 videos produced

sharing the experiences of producer communities in [Doctor Pedro P. Peña](#), [Macharety](#), [Pirizal](#) and [Virgen del Rosario](#)



8 communities received training and technical assistance on sustainable livestock management



3,180 producers trained on sustainable livestock practices

Macharety is an indigenous community of the Guarani Guarayo people which is mainly dedicated to raising large and small livestock and to agriculture. Two years ago we had a huge drought that affected us a lot, especially the producers. We received training for the preparation of bales [...] We are looking at taking action because we know well that in times of drought we have big problems, producers lose their animals, and we are very aware that we can face other droughts.

-Castor Miguel Saavedra
Vice Leader of the Macharety community



Improved land use planning to maintain connectivity of forests

Connectivity of the forest in the Chaco region was analysed, showing that the landscape is predominantly natural and not anthropogenic. Despite the development and changes in the Chaco due to expansion of agricultural and livestock production, the density of forest area indicates that more than 50 percent of the cover is continuous, mainly due to the forest reserves and windbreaks maintained by producers, in compliance with the country's environmental and forestry legislation.



Photo: © Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (MADES) de Paraguay

To support continued sustainable production efforts, the project worked closely with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES) to jointly **define with stakeholders a criteria to identify areas of environmental and social importance in the Chaco**. This breakthrough approach allowed the identification of important conservation areas in the Chaco.

This key data as well as the study were used in efforts **to improve land use planning**, including the development of two municipal land use plans and two cooperative land use management plans. To complement these efforts and support systemic change through national-level legal reforms, the **formulation of two policies to unify criteria to grant environmental licenses for productive activities** will further consolidate the land use planning system in Paraguay, ensuring production does not happen in important conservation areas.

The identification of a large number of important conservation areas demonstrates the rich environmental value of the Chaco region, where the Good Growth Partnership is committed to further support stakeholder efforts to find a balance between production and conservation for sustainable development.

2 policies supported and 1 regional criteria
defined to improve land use planning



Photo: © UNDP Paraguay

Preventing and improving control of forest fires

In 2019, more than 300,000 hectares of forest were lost in the Chaco region due to lack of knowledge in the control of large-scale fires. To prevent this from happening again, in 2020, the Good Growth Partnership began a series of **training sessions on fire prevention and control**. The training initially was given to foremen and ranch managers who are the first line of action in the event of forest fires. In 2021, the training shifted toward certifying members of the fire department in the capital town of the Boquerón Department, Filadelfia, as forest firefighters, providing them with knowledge for on-the-ground action over this municipality covering almost 1.4 million hectares.

In addition, the project provided support for the **drafting of an ordinance in Filadelfia on prescribed burning**, which allows the municipality, working in coordination with the city's forest firefighters, to have greater control over the burning that occurs in the territory. This regulation, representing the first municipal ordinance on fire prevention and control in the country, sets an example for replication by other Chaco municipalities affected by fires.

30 firefighters
certified as forest firefighters

1 draft ordinance
on prescribed burning

“
The existence of a forest firefighter unit in the area is of paramount importance. As soon as there are enough volunteers, training will be carried out with professional firefighters.
– César Chavez
Chaco producer

Implementing the Chaco sustainable beef action plan and linking it to the national level

The desire for sustainable beef production in the Chaco led to the facilitation of a historic process in the region: the gathering of representatives of the public and private sectors, academia and research, civil society and indigenous communities for the construction of **a Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Beef in the Chaco**, in which the willingness and commitment of the different actors stands out. Adopted in 2019, implementation of the plan was supported and accelerated in 2021 with a prioritization of activities to be implemented, identification of actors in charge and the development of a monitoring framework. Progress was particularly made in addressing producers' needs related to capacity building on sustainable production practices. Implementation of the actions will need to continue in the next years to achieve sustainability of the sector.

At the end of 2020, with support from the Good Growth Partnership, **a national level multi-stakeholder beef platform was established** that is closely linked with the Chaco platform and connected with two other departmental multi-stakeholder beef platforms from the Eastern side of the country. The national platform is a space where political issues are tackled and national-level coherence provided, while ensuring local actors are involved in these processes through consultations with the regional and departmental platforms.

Reducing human-jaguar conflicts

As a predator at the top of the food chain, the jaguar is recognized as an umbrella species, being an indicator of the integrity and quality of forestry resources, as its presence in the ecosystem regulates other species populations. However, due to the threat jaguars represent for cattle, conflict is generated between producers and the animals. But alternatives exist, allowing healthy jaguar populations, safe livestock and protecting producer livelihoods.

The Good Growth Partnership supported MADES in revising the law for protecting jaguar species and facilitated the development of a **protocol looking at solving human-jaguar conflicts**. The policy recommendations made were validated by MADES and are now going through an internal adoption process. Next steps will include moving from legalization to policy enforcement.

We need to advance all together and not seek self-centred development. It is important to work on both productive and social themes, to be inclusive and to bear in mind that sustainable development always has to take into account the different sectors.

– Edwin Pauls

Chair of the Chaco Regional Platform on Sustainable Beef



Photo: © Oscar Rafael Gadea/UNDP Paraguay

Defining “sustainable livestock” in the Paraguayan context

While there is burgeoning interest in improving the beef sector's sustainability among local stakeholders, there is confusion as to what “sustainable livestock” actually is, and the steps that would be needed to achieve it in the Paraguayan context. The Good Growth Partnership works in collaboration with local stakeholders to address this. After a review of public and private initiatives focused on sustainable livestock in Paraguay and globally, a document containing the main principles and criteria for the production of sustainable beef was prepared and, via a survey, shared with over 100 key actors in the sector for comment, complemented by 16 interviews, to gain a deeper understanding with stakeholders.

Armed with this information, the Partnership developed a final draft of the **definition of sustainable livestock**, which was later validated by government representatives and the Rural Association of Paraguay, the

main organisation of beef producers in Paraguay. **Defining sustainable livestock around five key criteria** (efficiency and innovation; animal health and wellbeing; social equity; good management of natural resources and maintenance of landscape connectivity; consumer safety) represents an important step towards a more sustainable beef sector in Paraguay as it gives actors across the public and private sector a unified framework to align messaging and policy. Critically, **it will allow the government to create specific incentives for producers** who meet this definition and offers clarity to international buyers on the origin of beef from Paraguay labelled as sustainable.

1 definition
on sustainable livestock nationally validated





Photo © Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (MADES) de Paraguay

Financial products and fiscal incentives for sustainable land use

The Good Growth Partnership finalized a **study reviewing financial products and services offered by Paraguayan financial institutions that support sustainable land use and, more specifically, zero deforestation commodity production**. The study included a survey of key financial institutions in Paraguay and their capacity to develop and place products to their clients. Subjects that arose included barriers, needs and opportunities to efficiently support sustainable projects in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector and how to align projects and companies with national regulations on environmental impact. The study also highlights the importance for the financial sector to coordinate with other actors,

validating the multi-stakeholder approach facilitated by the Good Growth Partnership.

In addition, as highlighted by the Chaco beef system mapping exercise, fiscal incentives are perceived as an effective lever of change. **A study was conducted that reviewed existing and potentially needed fiscal incentives to promote sustainable land use**. The study's main findings show that, in fact, stakeholders need effective incentives that promote forest conservation and sustainable agriculture development. For the private sector, incentives must translate into obtaining economic benefits, such as opening access to new markets or important tax savings through compliance with certain environmental objectives. Good Growth Partners are identifying and studying the challenges and needs of the main stakeholders, analysing the viability of establishing effective incentives and working toward a regulatory proposal that could generate incentives.

Understanding and increasing the market for Paraguay sustainable beef

Cattle ranching is deeply ingrained in Paraguayan culture and economy and is one of the country's most important exports. The rising global demand for beef presents an opportunity for Paraguayan producers to increase international sales, especially if the industry can differentiate itself from its competitors. At the same time, **international pressure for reduced deforestation products** is growing. Industry actors need to simultaneously act on these market opportunities while increasing sustainability and adapting to the post-pandemic world.

To assist the industry to meet these challenges and seize the opportunities presented, the Good Growth Partnership conducted a **market study on the available supply and demand parameters for beef with sustainability criteria globally**. The study involved consultations with 5 international market experts on sustainability issues and offers strategic market information to industry actors and provides evidence of the existence of markets with sustainability requirements and the advantages of differentiated prices. Based on the study, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, **a strategy was developed to position Paraguay in the international market for sustainable beef**. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is now looking at partnering with cooperatives to implement this "national brand" and thus increase demand for sustainable beef from Paraguay.

Elaborating a "brand" for Chaco sustainable beef can potentially benefit not only beef producers from the Chaco, but the whole country. This requires careful attention and coordination that lets actors involved carry out their roles so that Paraguay sustainable beef is positioned for the long term.

– **Estefanía Laterza**
National Director, Network of Investments and Exportations (REDEX)



1 market study
on international sustainable beef market



1 marketing strategy
developed for Paraguayan sustainable beef



Photo: © Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (MADES) de Paraguay

The Chaco Sustainable Finance Map

Lack of data regarding land use and cover is a key obstacle for the banking sector to incentivize sustainable production through their investment decisions. To solve this gap, **a biodiversity map is being prepared to assist development finance institutions and local banks to define areas in the Chaco region for potential investment and areas with high biodiversity which should be reserved for conservation.** The **Chaco Sustainable Finance Map** will provide information for financial institutions to make tailored policies that support investment in lower risk areas, after due diligence.

Supported by the Partnership, the map project was produced through an extensive collaboration with stakeholders (government, international organizations, national non-governmental organizations and the private sector) and with the Smithsonian Institute leading its development. Dissemination and wide use of this tool could make a real difference and support the financial sector to incentivize sustainable production.



1 decision-making tool

for sustainable investments under finalization



Photo: © Dalma Gonzalez/UNDP Paraguay

The Good Growth Partnership develops, disseminates and helps put into practice tools and resources that increase impact and support systemic change. The Partnership demonstrated that landscape-level interventions and practitioners benefit from the support of a global team, receiving capacity-building opportunities and learning from and sharing with others. Global learning and practice likewise benefits from high-quality knowledge outputs, firmly grounded in field experience and learning.

Photo: © UNDP Indonesia



In 2020 the Green Commodities Community launched a digital learning space to further support connectivity between practitioners and learning through sharing. Photo: © UNDP

Green Commodities Community

The [Green Commodities Community](#) continues offering local commodity practitioners and global changemakers **unique learning opportunities through virtual thematic workshops**, answering the needs identified in the 2019 consultation. These workshops have been facilitated in partnership with five expert organizations, including workshops on land use change monitoring, systems change and practice, farmer support systems, evidence of impact and resilience of agricultural and food systems. Several other workshops will take place during the rest of 2021. Among these, and already under development, are: a workshop on the role of the finance sector in improving the sustainability of soft commodity supply chains; a workshop on using the Soy, Beef and Palm Oil Toolkits in building capacity within companies to source responsibly; and a workshop on applying the Causality Assessment for Landscape Interventions (CALI) methodology based on pilots from five landscapes across Indonesia, Liberia and Paraguay.

The Green Commodities Community also develops guidance, such as *Building long-term sustainability in multi-stakeholder platforms*, incorporating learning shared during virtual interactions. As of June 2021, **52 percent of members surveyed said they had applied learning gained through the Green Commodities Community**. Based on latest interactions with Community members, this percentage is expected to continue increasing in the coming months. The platform has also been valuable for connecting practitioners, whose **exchanges have increased thanks to the recently launched digital learning space**. Finally, in preparation for its next learning cycle, the Green Commodities Community launched a consultation with members, which revealed that the greatest benefits are learning from experts and sharing knowledge and experiences with peers.



1 virtual learning digital platform
10 virtual workshops
200+ members



Training session of the Good Growth Conference 2021. Photo © UNDP

Good Growth Conference 2021

Two years after global and regional leaders met in Lima and the Peruvian Amazon, the [2021 edition of the Good Growth Conference](#) once again brought together changemakers from across the Green Commodities Community. **Over five days (24–28 May), 131 attendees embarked on an interactive virtual learning experience.** Five tailored training sessions delivered by top-tier organizations covered the topics of System, Community and Individual Transformation for Sustainable Commodity Supply Chains. Participants reflected on the benefits of systems practice, learned the foundations of systems mapping and facilitating collaboration, studied how to work with power and through conflict and explored what it means to be a systems leader in a complex world.

Three open High-Level Conversations were good examples of **virtually bringing together changemakers across the supply chain**, including government officials, executives from multinational companies, farmer representatives from Brazil, Indonesia, Liberia and Paraguay, and members of the Good Growth Partnership, to **share and reflect together on what is needed to sustainably transform commodity supply chains.** The agenda promoted as well community building and personal development sessions.

During the last two days of the Conference, the changemakers behind the Good Growth Partnership participated in two workshops to collectively reflect on lessons learned over four years of working together and to build the design seeds of the next phase. This important moment allowed practitioners to be better equipped to address more systemically the challenges

they face in creating sustainable commodity supply chains. **97 percent of the participants shared positive feedback post-event and rated the Conference as good, very good or excellent.** Watch the video of this bi-annual event of the Green Commodities Community [here](#).

I especially enjoyed the training on “Collaborative Partnerships: Working with Power and Conflict” with Elise Willer and David Seibel. It was unique in its offering. It provided me with not only the theory behind conflict management, but practical tools to navigate complex and highly charged situations to reach a mutually beneficial solution. Our work often involves managing complex stakeholder initiatives; these tools are invaluable for approaching our work in a constructive and empathetic manner.

– **Lara Jacob**

Good Growth Partnership Transactions Project Manager and Social and Governance Integration Expert at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)



97%
Satisfaction rate

with the 2021 edition of the Good Growth Conference



131
Attendees



27
Organizations



34
Countries

joined the 2021 edition of the Good Growth Conference



**GOOD
GROWTH
CONFERENCE**

Causality Assessment for Landscape Interventions – CALI: A new tool to assess the effectiveness of landscape and jurisdictional interventions

When implementing landscape interventions addressing deforestation through a landscape or jurisdictional approach, how do we know whether they are being effective? And how can we maximize our chances for impact? To address these key questions, the Good Growth Partnership embarked on the development of the **Causality Assessment for Landscape Interventions (CALI) tool**.

The first version of CALI was finalized in 2021, consisting of a guidebook and a set of templates that allow project managers and their teams to reflect systemically on the validity of their Theory of Change through examining implementation and achievements to date, with a strong emphasis on unpacking causality between and among different levels of results. Conclusions and recommendations grounded in the findings of the assessment allow teams to plan for corrective and/or catalyzing actions to increase their chances of impact contributions within the current or next-phase projects.

Good Growth Partnership country teams are currently piloting the guidebook at the landscape level in the Indonesian districts of Sintang, Pelalawan and South Tapanuli,

the Paraguayan Chaco and the Liberian North-Western landscape. Their experiences will inform an upgraded version of the methodology in a second version of the tool that will support future projects.



1
new tool
to support adaptive
management for
systemic change



Causality Assessment for Landscape Interventions (CALI) guidebook, currently being piloted. Photo: © UNDP



Photo: © Agusriady Saputra/UNDP Indonesia

Supporting companies on their sustainable palm oil journey

Achieving a sustainable palm oil industry has never been more urgent, but it remains shrouded in complexity. The Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard offers clear and specific recommendations for steps that companies, consumers, governments and financial institutions can take to support sustainable palm oil.

Since its launch in January 2020, **the Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard assessed 132 companies** headquartered in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America for progress against supply chain commitments and other efforts to support a more sustainable palm oil industry. While some companies were making commendable progress to support sustainable palm oil, others were doing little or nothing at all. Thus, in the past year, a deeper dive was made into buyer performance related to palm oil supply chains through a case study in which 34 companies participated.

The case study report *Understanding the Journey: Shared experiences from companies on their transition to 100 percent sustainable palm oil* revealed that companies face several common

challenges in meeting their commitments to sustainable palm oil. These include limited accessibility to and demand for Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified palm oil and difficulties tracing palm oil products back to the point of origin. While these companies are encouragingly acting both within and beyond their supply chain, several solutions that are critical to creating a sustainable palm oil industry are less commonplace. For example, less than 60 percent of respondents require suppliers to purchase deforestation-free palm oil or palm oil that is traceable to the mill or plantation.

The case study results emphasize that despite significant progress, various opportunities remain for companies to achieve greater impact. Just the process of engaging companies on their commitments and progress has led many companies to better understand their role in the system and take a closer look at their policies and actions and identify areas for improvement. Because there is no one solution that fits all, the complexity of the palm oil system needs to be embraced and solutions must be tailored, adapted and defined by companies, depending on their size, sustainability level and needs. The Good Growth Partnership is committed to continue accompanying companies on their journey towards sustainability.

E-Learning for sustainable finance in Asia

To meet a need for self-guided Environment Social and Governance (ESG) training for finance professionals in Asia, in mid-2020, the Good Growth Partnership began work on the Asia Sustainable Finance Initiative (ASFI) Academy. This **digital education programme for sustainable finance** is based on the latest science and designed specifically for Asia-based finance professionals.

As of June 2021, the Good Growth Partnership had developed and designed six e-learning courses (part of a larger 18-course curriculum), including a stand-alone course called “Responsible Investment 101: How to get started,” and a five-course series called “Responsible investment across Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF) supply chains.” The courses received accreditation by the Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF) of Singapore, which will enable eligible finance sector professionals to receive continuing professional development points for each hour of course content completed, as well as financial subsidies associated with course enrolment.

The Good Growth Partnership is currently establishing partnerships with key finance sector stakeholders to support the promotion and distribution of the courses to target stakeholders. These efforts were complemented by the design of the ASFI Academy learning management system (LMS), a digital portal that over 70 users have utilized to access the courses. Collectively, these digital learning resources

will **support financial professionals in Asia to better understand both the risks and opportunities associated with ESG issues**. In addition, it will help them to develop the capacity to manage these issues and potentially structure ESG-linked incentives for companies in their portfolios. This work complements other capacity building of financial institutions at the national level, demonstrating the value and need of working at various levels.

Capacity building is a critical component of efforts to create a more sustainable financial ecosystem, and these e-learning courses offer a great way to equip industry practitioners with concrete guidance on how to address sustainability issues across sectors, including agriculture, forestry and fisheries. As a leading sustainable investor, we are glad to have contributed to these courses and helped to illustrate practical ways in which investors can integrate these ESG issues into their investment approach.

– Paul Milon

Head of Stewardship, Asia Pacific, BNP Paribas Asset Management

RESPOND: A tool for responsible investing

An interactive tool for responsible investing called **RESPOND** was developed by the Good Growth Partnership in 2020, providing essential data to help better understand commodity systems. The tool allows comparisons of asset manager performance against a framework to advance Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) integration in portfolios. The tool targets investors whose portfolios include banks (that finance production) and companies (that are buyers of commodities linked to deforestation). **RESPOND makes possible systematic and science-based approaches to integrating natural capital risks into investment decisions** and setting portfolio-level sustainability targets that are forward-looking, science-based and time-bound.

After an initial analysis of the integration practices of 22 large European asset managers, the Good Growth Partnership released an update to the online tool in January 2021, broadening the analysis scope to include eight Asian asset managers. This year's research shows that Asian asset managers fulfil just 43 percent of RESPOND's criteria, suggesting their portfolios may be at greater risk from climate change and natural capital loss. This is compared to Europe's asset managers, who fulfil an average of 72 percent of the criteria. The data underlines that asset managers are not yet consistently safeguarding against natural capital loss in their investment activities despite the significant risks they present to the economy and society. For instance, 80 percent of the asset managers included in RESPOND disclose integrating

deforestation or biodiversity loss into their investment decision-making processes. However, only 30 percent require investee companies to obtain multi-stakeholder sustainability certification or standards to address these issues. To help Asian asset managers close this gap and further develop responsible investment practices, **bilateral training sessions and thematic workshops are being facilitated.**



339
financial professionals
engaged in training



80+
Asia-based
asset managers have **increased capacity to engage companies** in their portfolios on reduced deforestation sourcing and disclosure



RESPOND (Resilient Portfolios that Protect Nature and Drive Decarbonisation) tool.
Photo: © WWF US

Evidensia: Informing sustainable policy and action with credible evidence

[Evidensia](#) is a leading global platform to inform sustainability policy and action in the field with credible evidence about the impacts and effectiveness of market-based sustainability approaches. In Year 4, a new governance structure was put in place that comprises three bodies — an independent Research Council, a Stakeholder Council and a Steering Committee. Each of these bodies has a specific role and contribution toward ensuring that Evidensia's approach and activities are credible, rigorous, transparent and effective in meeting its goals.

In the fourth year of the Good Growth Partnership, Evidensia has grown dramatically, with 14,000+ new users bringing the platform to a **cumulative 23,000+ users across 170 countries** since its launch in June 2019. Twitter followers and newsletter subscriber numbers have risen as well. Trusted by researchers and users, **the platform houses 950+ resources sharing credible evidence on the impacts of market-based sustainability approaches.** Resources include research reports and blogs, articles, webinars and learning events covering topics such as forest-focused supply chain policies, voluntary standards and FPIC, impacts of the Marine Stewardship Council seafood ecolabelling programme and agrochemical and antibiotic use in food and farming impacts of market-based sustainability tools, among many others.



Of users surveyed

8 of 10

found that **Evidensia met their needs**



ISEAL Alliance

Training global banks on risk management, sustainability and credit risk functions

Commodity-driven deforestation at the landscape level is influenced by investment decisions taken at the global level. The Good Growth Partnership developed a series of **training modules for banks focused on identifying, assessing and managing deforestation-related risks in agricultural commodity production.** The training programme is aimed at risk management, sustainability and credit risk functions within the bank to be able to manage deforestation risk. The modules will be delivered via webinars in the second half of 2021 to the UNEP FI global network of banking institutions.

Drawing attention to deforestation in Paraguay through traceability data

The extent of the deforestation challenge in Paraguay remains poorly understood by the international environmental community. In 2019, the Good Growth Partnership helped to close this gap by developing the first **comprehensive, publicly-available supply chain map for Paraguay beef exports.** This exercise revealed that Paraguay's Chaco region is experiencing some of the most intensive deforestation in the world, driven primarily by the cattle industry.

The Good Growth Partnership continued to unveil more information on deforestation in Paraguay as part of the [Trase Yearbook 2020](#), published in July 2020. The Yearbook, which presents new data and insights on the sustainability of global agricultural commodity supply chains linked to tropical deforestation, featured **new briefs on Paraguayan beef and soy.** In an [update](#) published in June 2021, Trase estimated that between 2014 and 2019, pasture-driven deforestation in the Chaco totaled over a million hectares and accounted for nearly all direct deforestation in Paraguay. In 2019, beef exported by just five companies from Paraguay was associated with 94 percent of the deforestation risk of exports from the Chaco. However, not a single company has put a public zero-deforestation commitment in place. This data helps the Good Growth Partnership and other development partners to refine their approach and better target stakeholder engagement.



2 briefs

on beef, soy and deforestation published

Reflecting on an integrated supply chain approach to increasing incentives for sustainable commodity production

While the first phase of the Good Growth Partnership is approaching its end, a **strategic knowledge product** is being developed to examine the value of the Good Growth Partnership's integrated approach, which works across the production, demand and finance spheres of commodity supply chains to improve their sustainability. The report reflects on the effectiveness of taking such an integrated approach to achieve systemic change and on the way the Good Growth Partnership itself implemented this new approach. The report is based on the lessons learned from practitioners involved in the Good Growth Partnership as well as on the experiences of other initiatives using comparable forms of an integrated approach. It makes insightful recommendations that can inform the future of the Good Growth Partnership and strengthen the design and execution of many future projects that would benefit from adopting a robust integrated approach.

Women are essential stakeholders in commodity supply chains. However, a widespread belief still exists that tasks are essentially masculine in commodity supply chains, making women's role frequently invisible. These beliefs pose barriers for women and thwart their ability to be at the forefront of decision-making and change. For instance:

- In the Indonesian palm oil sector, women tend to be hired for maintenance tasks and thus their role is peripheral to the supply chain and often casual in nature, which also limits their power to influence working conditions. In addition, the registration of smallholder palm oil farms in men's names due to a focus on heads of households limits women's access to resources.

- In Liberia, gender roles in palm oil production are highly segmented, meaning that, even though agricultural employment between men and women is somewhat equal, the latter are only involved for harvesting, activities planning and weeding and control over resources is not equal.
- Women are still underrepresented in the Brazilian and Paraguayan value chains. Land titling is an issue in the soy value chain in Brazil. These conditions add up to the fact that women are usually helping rural workers (husbands and fathers) to reach production targets, but often this contribution is not recognized and certainly not reflected in incomes or prices.

Taking action to reduce gender inequality in supply chains has been a central aim of the Good Growth Partnership. Over the initiative's four years, substantial efforts have been made to give women a seat at the table and increase their visibility and capabilities in different processes of commodity production chains.

Raising the profile of female participation in soy supply chain sustainability in Matopiba, Brazil

During Year 4, two main gender-related activities were implemented in Tocantins State, Brazil, with the support of Matopiba Coalition members and the Centre for Advanced Studies in Applied Economics (CEPEA) from the University of São Paulo.

- A survey was conducted to **examine female perspectives on sustainability in soy production**, including gender equality and COVID-19 impacts on the productive sector. The survey was undertaken to better inform actions targeting gender issues in commodities production in Brazil. Starting in September 2021, the results will be shared widely through the productive sector, private companies and state governments.
- A series of **10 thematic booklets entitled Gender Perspectives to a Sustainable Production were prepared**. The booklets discuss key topics in the commodities production agenda and how they relate to transversal gender issues in the Brazilian Cerrado. Subjects include rural environmental regularization, low-carbon agriculture, cattle farming, rural credit, payments for ecosystem services, traditional communities and technological innovation. These materials will be disseminated in 2021 to encourage broader discussion on gender perspectives of sustainable production and practices.



10 booklets
on gender issues
in commodity
production in the
Cerrado

The results of the study 'Women and sustainability in the agro-industrial soybean system' in partnership with Conservation International Brazil under the Good Growth Partnership project shows a positive relationship between female gender and sustainability in the soy chain. It also identifies the sector's challenges in dialoguing on these issues with society in general. Although they face difficulties in understanding sustainability in its multiple dimensions, women in the soy chain consider the issue a major opportunity. The study highlights the need to build agendas that align women's demands with the adoption of sustainable actions in soy production.

– **Natália Grigol**
Researcher, Centre for Advanced Studies
on Applied Economics, University of São
Paulo

Mainstreaming gender in action plans and raising public awareness of gender in the palm oil sector in Indonesia

Taking a systems approach means breaking up silos, including increasing inter-ministerial collaboration. In Indonesia, the Good Growth Partnership engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection to ensure that implementation guidelines for the country's **National Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil** led by the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs contain a **strong gender component and respect women- and child-related issues**, as these groups are often marginalized in the palm oil industry. Mainstreaming gender in the guidelines can have a substantial impact, as these guidelines will lead the establishment and operation of all other multi-stakeholder platforms and action plans for sustainable palm oil in Indonesia, and thus will drive incorporation of gender elements into them. The guidelines stipulate that the Women Empowerment and Child Protection Offices should be part of subnational action plan implementation teams, that programmes should be gender-responsive and explicitly calls for the involvement of women's groups in action plan implementation team's working groups.

After reviewing 15 regulations and observing that sustainable palm oil policies generally do not integrate gender perspectives, **a policy brief is being prepared in 2021 that elaborates how gender mainstreaming perspectives can be accommodated in sustainable palm oil policies.**



Women smallholders from the Amanah Association, Indonesia. Photo © UNDP Indonesia

Besides upgrading skills, women must possess managerial skills to secure key positions in the palm oil supply chain. I support women's safety and gender mainstreaming programmes in the field since women have difficulties upgrading themselves when there is no opportunity.

– **Nursani Mona Surya**
General Treasury, Indonesian Palm Oil
Association (GAPKI), Webinar 'Women
Leadership in Indonesian Sustainable
Palm Oil Development,' 4 December 2020

Gender mainstreaming in national sustainable commodity platforms in Paraguay

To bolster women's participation in dialogue and decision-making spaces, the Good Growth Partnership established and helped strengthen the **Platform of Sustainable Commodities Production Women Leaders in Paraguay**. Participants were enlisted from the private and public sectors, including academia, non-governmental organizations and indigenous communities. The platform is a space for dialogue, planning, decision-making and action of **female leaders in the agricultural sector that are seeking to increase their leadership and contribution in the sustainable production** of beef and soy in Paraguay. It offers a space for networking and is inclusive by ensuring voices are heard of the most marginalized women, such as smaller producers and women from indigenous communities.

So far, five workshops were held in communities of the Chaco region. Participants were encouraged to engage in dialogue on sustainability in the productive sector and efforts were made to empower women through the facilitation of dialogue on leadership and the place of women in the productive sector. In addition, a training plan answering needs identified and shared by women is being co-developed. A communications campaign was launched to raise the visibility of women's roles in sustainable commodity production chains with the dissemination of 25 biographical summaries and life stories.

Meet women of the Paraguayan Platform of Sustainable Commodities Production Women Leaders [here](#).

Mainstreaming gender in the national oil palm platform in Liberia

The National Oil Palm Platform of Liberia (NOPPOL) encourages the active engagement and participation of women in its activities. From the Secretariat to Plenary meetings, women are encouraged to influence the agenda with specific issues and solutions. During the development of the National Sustainable Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan, acknowledgment was made of specific needs from marginalized groups, such as women, and adequate measures are recommended to reduce gender inequality. Women's representation on NOPPOL platforms and NOPPOL national events has increased from 15 percent in 2018 to 24 percent in 2021 and the NOPPOL Secretariat has two women out of five members, equating to 40 percent female representation in this management-level body.



Photo: © UNDP Liberia



This is a space in which women, we can discover our value and learn our capabilities. It is a place to see what we are doing and how we can do more.

– María de las Nieves Díaz

Village leader from Guaraní community,
Pedro P. Peña

Photo: © UNDP Paraguay

The world is starting to awaken to the fact that we all must work together to transform the way we produce, consume and think about food. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals rely to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. A lot still needs to be done, but as seen in this report, addressing the systemic root causes of commodity-driven tropical deforestation using strong partnership arrangements can bear fruit.

Photo: © Day's Edge Productions/WWF-US

Looking forward: an opportunity to multiply impact

Good Growth Partners are committed to continuing this journey and to jointly putting the best of their expertise and experiences at the service of more sustainable supply chains. As the Partnership has proved a successful framework, **a second phase will provide an opportunity to refine the approach, offer a space to scale up and multiply impact and build collaboration with new potential partners.**

In this second phase, taking deforestation out of key agricultural commodity supply chains while boosting small producer livelihoods will be consolidated, strengthened and expanded to more countries, landscapes and commodities. From four years of Partnership, we have learned that even though some incentives for sustainable production exist, they are often misunderstood, unlinked, misaligned or not being implemented. In some cases, appropriate incentives are simply missing. **Purely financial and economic incentives are usually not sufficient and need to be complemented by a set of additional incentives collaboratively developed at all levels** – subnational, national and global. They should include market and demand, production and land use policies and regulations (and enforcement) and related capacity strengthening and financial incentives, as well as human-level incentives that foster behaviour change. They need to be practical and producer-centric.

A more effective use of incentives necessitates a broader understanding of the various actors involved and their motivations, as well as their full participation and engagement in a collaborative action process. By linking, aligning and applying more integrated incentives across the geographic scales and levers of influence, impactful shifts can be made in production practices. Under a second Partnership phase, **enhanced incentive packages will be identified and implemented using systems approaches**, such as systems mapping embracing the complexity of the system at play and multistakeholder collaborative actions defined and agreed in an inclusive and participatory manner, through which all voices are heard.

Good Growth partners are well equipped to do this, with a partnership grounded in trust and four years of experience and learning on how to integrate and work across production, demand and finance at multiple scales and through multi-stakeholder processes to achieve systemic change and sustainable supply chains.

The Partnership, as “GGP 2,” is already set to contribute as an executing partner of the GEF-7 Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program. It will seek to complement interventions and efforts of existing and new partners as part of FOLUR but also beyond, through enhancing incentive packages to alter production practices in selected jurisdictions.

If our work resonates with you as a potential new partner or donor, we invite you to join us in this continued journey to place sustainability and good growth at the heart of commodity supply chains.

“

The production side, the demand side and the finance side have often worked in silos. In their bubbles, they delivered great work, but too often disconnected. This is what the Partnership has found and is trying to address. How we can work with production, demand and finance together in different ways? This, of course, demands new ways of working.

”

—Ulrika Modeer

Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP, during the Good Growth Conference 2021 High Level Conversation: How the Integrated Supply Chain Approach Can Help Achieve Systems Change.

Photo: © UNDP Paraguay

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BRAZIL

CI Brazil

Akel Saliba, André Lemes, Artur Paiva, Bruno Coutinho, Henrique Paula, Iamilly Cunha, Karine Barcelos, Lilian Vendrametto, Marcel Viergever, Maria Clara Marques, Maria Isabel Garcia, Miguel Moraes

FBDS

Camila Rezende, Fabio Scarano, Luis Saporta, Rafael Loyola, Walfredo Schindler

IFC

Cassio Franco Moreira

Proforest

Annelise Lemes, Isabella Vitali, Jane Lino, Marcelo Posonski, Marina Guyot, Pedro Amaral, Pedro Zanetti

Trase (also for Paraguay)

Andre Vasconcelos, Daniel Meyer, Enrique Molas (Paraguay), Helen Bellfield, Toby Gardner

UNEP

Raquel Costa

UNDP Brazil

Andrea Ribeiro Bosi, Carlos Arboleda, Haroldo de Oliveira Machado Filho, Katyna Argueta, Luana Lopes, Maristela Baioni, Rosenely Diegues Peixoto

WWF Brazil

Carolina Siqueira, Edegar Oliveira, Frederico Machado

INDONESIA

CI Indonesia

Anugrah Atiqah Ayu, Anton Ario, Ares Uly, Bradford Castro, Dewantoro Rohadiono, Idris Nassat, Iskandar Dedy Popo, Limbong Asbron Pardamean, Magdalena Lena, Mahani Hani, Manalu Isner Marulitua, Manullang Jusniar, Meilinda Linda, Nainggolan Albert Budiman, Pakpahan Yohanna, Putra Ketut, Rabbani Ahsan, Ramachandra Anurag, Sai Bharaty, Santoso Iman, Saragih Sari, Sinaga Melysa, Sitio Masdany, Tambunan Siswaty, Zulfadhli Zul, Wahyuni Sry, Hasibuan Fitri, Uly Ares, Julianti Difattila

IFC

Ernest Bethe, Helena Lumban Gaol, Triyanto Fitriyardi

UNEP

Emelyne Cheney

UNDP Indonesia

Acep Mubarak, Adinda Silitonga, Afroh Mansur, Agus Prabowo, Agus Hekso Proklamanto, Andreas Budi Rahutomo, Aisyah Sileuw, Anselma Faustina, Ari Agung Prihatin, Christophe Bahuët, Danang Nizar, Deasy Ermawati, Herna Komara, Iwan Kurniawan, Laurine Augustine, Lusi Maulidini, Mariana Sidabutar, Masrofin, Megi Wahyuni, Mulyadi, Norimasa Shimomura, Nugraha Satriyaputra, Piers Gillespie, Pisca Tias, Prasetyo Wicaksono, Rifdan Firmansyah, Rini Indrayanti, Risnauli Gultom, Rusman Heriawan, Singgih Seno Adji, Sophie Kemkhadze, Sri Aryani, Syamsul Rusdi, Tiurmasari Harahap, Tri Widjayanti

WWF Indonesia

Aditya Bayunanda, Angga Prathama Putra, Dedi Wahyudy, Dewi Satriani, Elisabeth Diana Supit, Hermas Rintik Maring,

Indria Wahyuni, Irwan Gunawan, Ismu Widjaya, Joko Sarjito, Maggie Meutia, Muhammad Munawir, Ni Sadharwati, Niki Nofari, Nursamsu, Rachmad Hafiz Zulfifar Alkadrie, Sundari Utami, Swastuti Handayani

LIBERIA

CI Liberia

Edward Massaquoi, George Ilebo, Jessica Allen Donovan, Peter Mulbah, Solomon C. Carlon, Steven Acire, Toushi Itoka

UNDP Liberia

Dorsla Farcarthy, Galah Toto, Gradijah Bou Hussein, Moses Massah, Pa Lamin Beyai, Ronald Cumberbatch, Stephen Rodriques, Violet Baffour

PARAGUAY

IFC

Guillermo Terol, Lorena Ramirez Benitez, Rita Samudio

UNEP

Guillermina Basaglia, Lourdes Lopez Hall, Edmilce Ugarte, Irene Wasilsky

UNDP Paraguay

Alfonso Fernandez, Amílcar Cazal Echague, Ana Marisol Jara Hüttemann, Ariana Leguizamón, Blanca Baez, Celeste Flores, César Meden Példez, Dalma González Núñez, Jorge Martínez, Oscar Emilio Ferreira, Rafael Gadea, Sergio León, Silvia Morimoto, Véronique Gerard, Viviana Villalba

GLOBAL

CI

Amanda Sennert, Danielle King, Fabiano Godoy, Gabriel Levin, Jessica Furmansk, John Buchanan, Mandy Devine, Naomi Taylor

GEF

Asha Bobb Semple, Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Christian Hofer, Claude Gascon, Elsa Gabriella Richardson Temm, Fareeha Iqbal, Gustavo Fonseca, Matthew Brian Reddy, Mohamed Bakarr, Naoko Ishii, Paul Hartman, Robert Bisset, Teayeon Kim, Yasemin E.K. Biro

IFC

Dieter Fischer, Susan Pomar Nuijten

ISEAL Alliance

Kristin Komives, Rita Mendez, Tiba Fazeli, Udit Khare, Vidya Rangan, Poppy Hall

Proforest

Abraham Baffoe, James Parker, Nadia Goodman

UNEP

Ivo Mulder, Jonathan Gheysens, Lara Yacob, Makiko Ashida

UNDP

Aleksandra Atallah, Aline da Silva, Andrea Bina, Andrew Bovarnick, Caroline Petersen, Charles O'Malley, Colleen McNally-Murphy, Cristina Baeza, Ilaria Barbarossa, Jose Arturo Santos, Jose Chung, Kathleen Wood, Laura Acuña, Lavinia Gasperini, Leif Pedersen, Lise Melvin, Luis Hurtado, Marc Gallego, Maria Fernandez del Moral, Margreet Groot, Marlon Flores, Matias Ferreira, Nadia Puerta, Nicolas Petit, Pascal Fabie, Pascale Bonzom, Rebecca Lake, Sandra Andraka, Simon Cooper, Vanessa Briceño

WWF-US

Adnan Hanif, Elizabeth Schueler, Gino Bianco, Jordan Swift, Luis Iseppe, Margaret Arbuthnot, Owen Hauck

WWF-Singapore

Jeanne Stampe, Keith Lee, Lauren Lynch, Lise Pretorius, Marie Gauthier, Michael Guindon, Octyanto Bagus Indra Kusuma



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 Good Growth 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, the United Nations Environment Programme and the 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.