Press release

Proven solutions worldwide and new commitments announced at COP31 signal that deforestation and conversion-free supply chains are becoming the new standard

Denmark joins the Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-Free Value Chains supporting deforestation-free production. Colombia advances zero-deforestation supply chains commitments for coffee, cocoa, and palm oil. Announcements come during the launch of a new WWF report showcasing concrete solutions around the world.

Antalya, November 19, 2026 – Just over a month before the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) begins to apply, a panel discussion at COP31 shows that transparent, deforestation and conversion-free (DCF) supply chains are already becoming the new standard around the world. During the event, which brought together representatives from the governments of Colombia, Brazil, Germany, France and Denmark, as well as representatives from the civil society and local and Indigenous communities, WWF launches a report that demonstrates a wide range of solutions enabling DCF supply chains at scale. It features initiatives involving beef, timber, coffee, cocoa, palm oil and Brazil nuts, alongside monitoring tools, traceability systems and financial mechanisms. As an introduction to this new report, Denmark and Colombia announces commitments to support and scale up the implementation of DCF supply chains.

The event starts with Denmark formally joining the Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-Free Value Chains (TEI), that gathers the EU, member states, cooperation agencies and financial institutions to step up the support to the development of sustainable supply chains, at a time when international support for forest protection is under pressure and the effects of climate change are becoming even more visible. (*About TEI: see below*).

Ole Thonke, Climate Ambassador, Denmark: “I am pleased that Denmark is joining the Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains. Team Europe is playing a leading role in delivering on protecting nature and building resilience in the local communities while at the same time securing our economies. It is a priority for Denmark to work closely with producer countries, and specifically small-scale farmers, to ensure that no one is left behind.”

A cooperation agreement between the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and national federations representing Colombia’s coffee, cocoa, and palm oil sectors was formally announces to advance verified zero-deforestation supply chains. The initiative is expected to contribute to climate change mitigation by preventing deforestation, enhancing land-use governance, and reducing emissions linked to agricultural expansion. Through satellite surveillance, field verification, early-warning systems, and data analysis, the institute provides the evidence needed by governments, communities, producers, and other stakeholders to prevent deforestation, promote sustainable land use and support the transition toward deforestation and conversion-free supply chains.

Representing Colombia, Mr. Andrés Herkrath Sanclemente, General Director, Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), states: “Data alone does not stop deforestation. Decisions do. Our job at IDEAM is to close the gap between what we observe and what others do about it. That means managing the whole data chain: observation, processing, analysis and communication. So, IDEAM turns environmental data

into science-based decisions that save lives, protect ecosystems and enable strategic investment. Our challenge now is to make sure that every hectare we monitor leads to a decision someone can act on."

Following these announcements, the second edition of Time to Act presents initiatives from different regions and commodities, identifying what is needed to scale these solutions, attract investment and strengthen producer participation. According to Jean Timmers, WWF Global Policy and Advocacy Lead for DCF Supply Chains, "deforestation and conversion-free supply chains are already a reality, with successful examples across commodities and regions showing that protecting nature and running profitable businesses can go hand in hand. The next step is to scale up these solutions. Countries and companies that act now will be better positioned to manage risks, attract investment and remain competitive in a world where deforestation-free supply chains are becoming the new normal."

According to data released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), agrifood systems accounted for 35% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2024, including agricultural production, land-use change, transportation, processing, and other stages of supply chains. Agricultural expansion is also responsible for nearly 90% of global deforestation. Commodity production is directly linked to the loss of natural ecosystems. Between 2015 and 2025, the world lost an average of 10.9 million hectares of forest per year, with 86% of that loss occurring in the tropics, including the Amazon forest. The conversion of other natural ecosystems is also a growing concern. Between 2005 and 2020, agricultural expansion led to the loss of up to 95 million hectares of non-forest natural areas, including grasslands, savannas, and wetlands. Yet agriculture depends on the conservation of the ecosystems that sustain agricultural activities. Forests and other natural areas regulate climate, protect water resources, maintain biodiversity, and contribute to long-term productivity. Their degradation increases risks for producers, companies, and markets, while also undermining the livelihoods of local communities.

"Eliminating deforestation and ecosystem conversion from global supply chains is critical to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and securing a liveable future. This is particularly important for tropical forests such as the Amazon, one of the world's largest carbon reservoirs and a vital regulator of the regional climate. Without the rainfall sustained by the Amazon, agricultural production across Brazil and other South American countries could be severely compromised," warns Jean Timmers, from WWF. "Clearing the Amazon to expand agricultural frontiers is pushing the forest closer to its tipping point, undermining the very conditions on which agriculture depends. Crossing this threshold could have devastating consequences for the region's economy, food production, water security and energy generation. Countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay depend on the climate stability and rainfall patterns sustained by the Amazon."

Report Highlights Solutions Already in Operation

The report Time to Act brings together experiences from different regions and productive sectors to demonstrate how progress can be made toward building deforestation and conversion-free (DCF) supply chains. The cases featured in the report illustrate how different approaches can improve the transparency and sustainability of commodity production and trade. Governmental initiatives are key for that, but companies need to advance the implementation of commitments, improve supplier monitoring, and establish commercial relationships that encourage continuous improvement. Financial institutions can direct investments toward responsible production models, while buyers can stimulate demand for commodities with verified origin and socio-environmental performance. Transparent supply chains also help safeguard human rights and ensure respect for the territories of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and other traditional communities.

In Brazil, the Socio-Environmental Observatory, developed by civil society organizations and partners, including WWF-Brazil, is a platform that brings together geospatial data on commodity production, deforestation, ecosystem conversion, climate risks, Indigenous and traditional territories, and socio-environmental conflicts. This information helps companies and other stakeholders identify and mitigate risks while safeguarding the rights of local communities. "To ensure the protection of these territories, we must make progress on land regularization, the demarcation of lands, and the recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities. We also need direct funding so that these communities can protect and monitor their own territories. This is what secures the continued presence of these peoples, the production of food, the performance of rituals, and the transmission of traditional knowledge. Protecting these territories also means ensuring the continuity of our ways of life. In this sense, the Environmental Observatory is an important tool, as it allows for the cross-referencing of technical data with the reality on the ground in these territories and communities. Often, society looks only at statistics, but it is essential to listen to the leaders and those who live in these places to understand what the data

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represents in practice. This combination strengthens our work and helps bring visibility to what is happening within these territories." says Hiparidi Top'tiro, Indigenous leader of the A'uwẽ-Xavante people, geographer, chief in the Sangradouro Indigenous Territory (Mato Grosso) and General Coordinator of Rede Cerrado, with a membership of more than 90 CSOs and 300 IPLC organizations.

In the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, the free, public platform "Selo Verde-MG" (Green Seal-MG) aggregates data to assess the socio-environmental compliance of rural properties and supply chains for coffee, soybeans, sugarcane, planted forests, and livestock. The tool enables the cross-referencing of information regarding production and land use, supporting analyses related to deforestation and the conversion of native vegetation.

In Romania, the national **SUMAL** system enables timber to be tracked from harvesting authorization through transportation and processing. The platform integrates geospatial information and digital records, allowing authorities to verify the origin and legality of timber shipments. A complementary public tool also allows citizens to access information about timber transportation and report potential irregularities.

In East Africa, the **Coffee Canopy Partnership** is developing a coffee-producing area mapping system across six countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The initiative combines high-resolution satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to identify production areas, monitor changes in forest cover, and support decision-making by companies, governments, and producers. It also aims to guide deforestation prevention efforts and strengthen the resilience of coffee-growing regions to climate change.

In Peru, the **Wildnet** platform works with Brazil nut producer associations to integrate information on origin, traceability, conservation, and commercialization. The pilot project involves 38 families and seeks to expand market access, enhance the value of production linked to standing forests, and strengthen producers' ability to demonstrate product origin.

Another important approach involves the development of common standards for information sharing among different stakeholders. The Global Traceability Framework for Beef and Leather provides guidance for recording and tracking information throughout beef and leather supply chains. Meanwhile, the AIM4Commodities initiative, led by the FAO, brings together open-source digital tools for geospatial data collection, farm identification, and deforestation risk analysis.

Although these initiatives differ in scope and methodology, they demonstrate that traceability, environmental monitoring, and socio-environmental verification can be combined to improve supply chain management, support purchasing and investment decisions, and strengthen trust among producers, companies, and buyers.

Financing and Producer Support Are Essential to Scale Results

The report highlights that adopting these solutions depends on conditions that enable their application across different contexts. Integration among information systems, the establishment of common standards, and cooperation among governments, companies, and financial institutions are among the factors that can facilitate the expansion of these initiatives.

Access to financing and technical assistance is also critical. Smallholder producers, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples may face challenges in meeting new traceability and sustainability requirements. Without adequate support, adaptation costs may limit their participation in supply chains and international markets.

Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-Free Value Chains (TEI)

Created at COP28 and part of the European Union's Global Gateway strategy, the TEI is a joint initiative of the European Commission and its Member States to align international support on implementing deforestation-free value chains in partner countries. The TEI is currently supported by the EU, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden - and now Denmark, with Belgium, Italy, Slovenia and Finland being observers. The initiative is active in more than 37 producer countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, supporting implementation activities related to traceability and geolocation, legality requirements, sustainable agricultural production, forest protection, and market access. The initiative was created to support smallholder producers, governments, and companies, to prepare for the requirements of the European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EUDR). More information about the TEI activities and programmes to support zero deforestation at Home - Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains.

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With the announcement, Denmark is emphasizing its commitment to the international target of halting deforestation by 2030, promoting sustainable supply chains and supporting countries producing commodities covered by the upcoming European Deforestation-Free Products Regulation (EUDR). Denmark is committed to a range of projects supporting smallholder coffee producers in Uganda with the transition to agroforestry and to become EUDR-compliant.

Joining the TEI expands Denmark's existing forest agenda. In 2024, the country adopted its Tropical Forest Initiative, aimed at reducing deforestation and forest degradation, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable development. This includes a contribution to the Amazon Fund of 150 million Danish kroner for the 2024–2026 period, as well as a contribution of 116 mio. Danish kroner to Ethiopia 's flagship forest programme, RIP II. In Uganda, the flagship initiative Green and inclusive growth in Uganda's agri-food systems (GRASP) has enabled more than 750.000 coffee fields to be mapped for EUDR-compliance and the project continues to make a concrete difference on the ground.

Birgit Pickel, Director General at Germany's Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), welcomed Denmark as a new TEI member at COP31. "Having Denmark on board will significantly strengthen the TEI on deforestation-free value chains and send an important signal as we enter the EUDR's implementation phase", she said. Previously, Germany has announced additional funding of the Team Europe Flagship programme "Transforming Agricultural Supply Chains" that will contribute to the TEI.

"France remains fully committed to halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 via the full implementation of the EU zero deforestation regulation", says Mr. Michael Mastier, Director for European and International Action at the Ministry of Ecological Transition of France.

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About WWF
WWF is one of the world's leading conservation organizations, active in more than 100 countries and supported by nearly five million people. Its mission is to halt the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

About the Report
The second edition of *Time to Act* brings together international experiences in producing and trading commodities that are free from deforestation and the conversion of natural ecosystems. It highlights tools, cooperation mechanisms, and enabling conditions necessary to scale their adoption.

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