



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sustainable Land Use And Commodity Trade Multi-Stakeholder Africa Dialogue (SL&CT)

1st October 2020

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA OIL PALM MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE,
CONVENED BY THE TROPICAL FOREST ALLIANCE AND PROFOREST

6th October 2020

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND CACAO TRADE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE,
CONVENED BY THE TROPICAL FOREST ALLIANCE AND IDH



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UK 2021**
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Executive Summary

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND COMMODITY TRADE DIALOGUE (SL&CT) AFRICA- MULTISTAKEHOLDER EVENTS

This document captures the salient points raised by 100 participants from government, civil society and the private sector from the first Africa regional multi-stakeholder events supporting the COP26 government-to-government Sustainable Land Use and Commodity Trade (SL&CT) Dialogue. Convened jointly by the Tropical Forest Alliance, Proforest and IDH on 1st October 2020 and 6th October 2020, these events formed part of the multi stakeholder track feeding into the new global dialogue the UK, as COP26 President, is seeking to launch. The first government-to-government Africa regional event will take place on the 22nd October. The perspectives of key regional actors gathered through these multi-stakeholder events, outlining the policy priorities and opportunities for regional and global action on sustainable land use and commodity trade, will support the discussions in the first government meeting. Among the key points raised were:

INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION: sustainable land use and commodity trade is a broad theme that requires the collaboration of various stakeholders from different sectors, ministries and institutions, all of them playing different roles but in a concerted manner. Various participants highlighted increasing inter-sectoral coordination and **improving the legislative and regulatory frameworks to achieve a greater consistency and alignment between the different sectors** (land use planning; land tenure; environment; forest resources; agriculture; etc.) would be an important step forward towards an effective land use planning and in securing land use rights.

INCLUSIVE POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION: A common call from the side of all the categories of stakeholders has been towards the adoption of more inclusive governance. To be sustainable, all the policy process (from design to implementation) undertaken to promote sustainable land use should involve and take into account the inputs of the different actors who may directly or indirectly be impacted by governance decisions. **Policies** and agreements should be designed with an approach of mutual benefit and **need to be properly understood, shared and endorsed by all stakeholders**. In particular, efforts should be made to ensure smallholder farmers and local communities, who are key players in the African agricultural sector and forest management, **are involved through participatory approaches**.

MULTISTAKEHOLDER GOVERNANCE: As a response to the challenge of inclusivity and inter-sectoral collaboration, whether at regional, national or jurisdictional level, multi-stakeholder governance structures have been identified as the most effective approach for the collaboration around sustainable land use and commodity production. The national platforms of the **African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI)** and the **Cocoa Forest Initiative (CFI)** are a great example of a true multi-stakeholder platform, resulting in stronger coordination of policies and programmes at national level, and sustaining the growth of landscape based approaches with a vision to improve economic opportunities and livelihood to local communities in a way that is environmentally and socially sustainable. These initiatives built on the principle of protecting the rich tropical forests of Africa have been well received and valued by the different stakeholder groups – government, private sector and civil society groups in West and Central African countries that participated in the meeting.

LAND USE PLANNING: The need to improve land use planning has been identified as one of the most critical aspects that should be addressed to achieve a sustainable land use and commodity

trade in West & Central Africa. Participants were emphatic that while national governments should lead the process, the relationship between land use planning and **land rights** are such that active involvement of all other stakeholders is crucial for a successful land use planning process and the sustainability of the plan. Participants concluded that for land use planning to be successful, **government-led, inter-sectoral and inclusive approach** is critical. Complementary to the land use planning it is also the need for an adequate and enforceable legislative framework. There was a recommendation that national governments value and leverage on the various existing initiatives currently ongoing in the different countries.

TRACEABILITY, MONITORING & EVALUATION: A reliable traceability and monitoring system from production to consumption is crucial to sustain sustainable production. Participants believe that this would avoid situation where “illegal” products issued from protected areas are incorporated into deforestation free supply chains. In order to avoid conflicting claims, participants recommended a **national traceability system developed through a multi-stakeholder process**. It was also highlighted during the meeting that, **consumer countries are called to play their part** in supporting sustainable consumption and production by collaborating with producer countries in: establishing common tracing laws and aligning monitoring initiatives; brokering alignment between international and regional standard frameworks and sustainable trade laws; and implementing supportive due diligence policies. Participants referred that several elements of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade - Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT-VPA), set up for the timber sector in many African countries, are quite relevant and could be applied to the commodity sector. Finally, a concern was raised, considering that **misalignment on land use data collection** across and within countries was hindering efforts to accelerate traceability.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND FOREST PROTECTION:

A change from current to sustainable production needs to be accompanied **by adequate long term funding that simultaneously supports the development of sustainable value chains at different stages**. Consistent and sustainable finance from multiple sources - government, private sector and development partners should be harnessed, and there is the desire from private sector and government stakeholders for greater transparency of each other’s existing investments. Participants intimated that **a major issue is finance access**: either the procedures to access funds are not efficient or the funding products are not adapted to the required investments. To overcome this challenge there is a need to streamline procedures to make funding more accessible, particularly to smallholders. There was general encouragement to the UK Government to use the COP26 dialogue to focus on the following key actions:

- ◆ Brokering simplified donor rules, creating a coordination mechanism across multiple funds, and commit to improving access to funds community led activity
- ◆ Hosting a donor roundtable to achieve the above, e.g building on the existing forest collaboration between Germany, Norway and the UK (GNU)
- ◆ Brokering agreement between co-producing governments and international commodity companies for transparency in each other’s field-level investments

The need to intervene with relevant **price and incentive policies** to encourage sustainable investments through the supply chain, was also highlighted. Taking into account that trade related incentives wouldn’t be sufficient by their own, considering that some of the commodities are consumed locally and that important drivers of deforestation come from the informal sector. Specific **incentives mechanism should be developed to encourage communities within and around high conservation areas** to protect those areas and to embrace alternative livelihood sources.

