There is a lack of clarity on what progress businesses have made, and plan to make, to implement zero deforestation commitments. To resolve this, companies should increase transparency by reporting on progress made and clearly outline the targets they have set regarding future progress. These more targeted and specific commitments are crucial to ensure concrete, tangible and measurable progress.

Several industry groups as well as individual industry leaders are developing detailed roadmaps for implementation of zero deforestation commitments with clear reporting frameworks; these can be held up as examples of best practice for others to follow. Progress reporting and implementation plans should include sharing of traceability & other relevant supply chain data.

To ensure future supply of sustainable commodities, supply chain actors have a responsibility to go beyond individual supply chains. Landscape or jurisdictional approaches promote sustainable practices by rooting them in governance systems. They offer a practical and impactful way for companies at all nodes of the supply chain to contribute to forest protection, sustainable smallholder livelihoods and economic development in key production landscapes.

Multistakeholder collaboration - between subnational governments, local communities, NGOs, smallholders and supply chain companies - is core to landscape approaches. Several initiatives are already in place, in particular in palm oil landscapes in Southeast Asia and in cocoa landscapes in West Africa. Companies need to engage and invest in these efforts, either directly or through implementing partners. Where the approach is still nascent, such as in soy/cattle landscapes in Latin America, companies should actively support their development. Every company, no matter how far from the production landscape, has a role to play.

1) INCREASE TRANSPARENCY & TRACEABILITY

1.1 Increase transparency by reporting on progress, encouraging an increase of implementation by your peers. Show case your commitment to deforestation free supply chains by publishing clear implementation plans outlining the actions you will take, with ambitious & measurable targets

1.2 As part of such implementation plans, continue to work on traceability and engage your suppliers to ensure their entire supply base is deforestation free; helping to accelerate the entire agri-foods industry towards sustainable supply chains.

2) SUPPORT SMALLHOLDERS: INVEST IN LANDSCAPE APPROACHES

Integrate smallholder support into your commitments and act on them by investing in schemes such as landscape/jurisdictional approaches. Support solutions that address systemic causes of deforestation and contribute to creating sustainable livelihoods and commodity production.

Increase financial and in-kind contribution to landscapes and platforms, or other smallholder schemes; ask your supplier(s) to contribute to approaches linked to your sourcing; support development of proof of concept for landscape approaches & other smallholder support schemes in new commodities.

HOW CAN BUSINESSES SUPPORT FACT?
Focusing on zero deforestation supply chains is important, however it does present the risk of segregating the market: zero deforestation supply chains going to markets with strong sustainability demand, and deforestation linked supply chains going to markets where this demand is less prominent. To ensure we are working towards outcomes that are nature & carbon positive, companies should be developing & communicating their forest positive ambition. Such communications will catalyse collective action as a Forest Positive supply chain can only be created through multi-stakeholder collaboration. Another important channel for action to avoid market segregation and ensure the whole agri-foods industry transitions to forest positive supply chains is to advocate for an enabling policy & regulatory environment that supports action from leaders.

In partnership with the World Economic Forum’s Uplink Initiative, this is an open call to source innovative ideas that bring systemic change in commodity supply chains, helping shift the global production and trade in agricultural commodities away from deforestation towards sustainability. These ideas should deliver benefits globally to the environment while ensuring sustainable livelihoods for people acting in the supply chain. Businesses can supporting winning solutions that have not yet been implemented at scale but need their support to unlock transformative impact.

Support the FACT Tropical Forest Commodities Challenge.

For more info please visit: FACT Microsite or Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn.