



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sustainable Land Use and Commodity Trade Multi-Stakeholder Latin America Dialogue

29, September 2020



Executive Summary



This document captures the salient points raised by 100 civil society and private sector participants of the first Latin America regional multi-stakeholder event supporting the COP26 government-to-government Sustainable Land Use and Commodity Trade Dialogue. Convened by the Tropical Forest Alliance on 29 September 2020, this event forms part of the stakeholder track feeding into the new global dialogue the UK, as COP26 Presidents, is seeking to launch. The first government-to-government Latin America regional event will take place on the 20th October. The perspectives of key regional actors gathered through this multi-stakeholder event, outlining the policy priorities and opportunities for regional action on sustainable land use and commodity trade, will support the discussions in the first government meeting. Among the key points raised were:

1. **CURRENT CONTEXT** - many countries in Latin American are grappling with similar challenges, including diminished fiscal revenues, increasingly polarized societies and uncertainties around the nature of the post-Covid recovery. As such, **the context of the pandemic and the sustainability agenda post-Covid need to be put at the heart of any discussions**, including how the sustainable land use agenda relates to economic growth and food security.
2. **INCLUSION** – at the same time, in many countries there are voices that have historically felt excluded from the sustainable land use discussions, including those of producer and traditional community actors (including, but not limited to, indigenous communities). **Moving forward, farmers/producers and indigenous communities should take a more prominent role in discussions. Smallholder farmers** are another group that risk being excluded as sustainable land use solutions tend to favour those that can work at scale.
3. **IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL PLATFORMS** – the experience of the Tropical Forest Alliance in the region has shown that **the main opportunities for mobilizing action on the ground are through national coalitions**. Brazil, Colombia and Peru already play host to robust coalitions that have worked hard to pull up common Sustainable Land Use agendas between the private sector and local civil society. For the other three countries that participated in the Dialogue – Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina – such coalitions are either at a more incipient phase or have yet to be established but it will be valuable for these to take shape.
4. **LACK OF REGIONAL PLATFORM** – participants felt there was no really effective or comprehensive regional platform that brought all the issues together. Initiatives like the Leticia Pact are political declarations and focusing only on the Amazon misses critical production landscapes across the continent. **The lack of an**

effective regional forum makes working through national coalitions all the more important.

5. **COMMON INTERVENTION POINTS** – there are entry points for action that are common to all the countries that participated in the Dialogue, including (i) **making payment for ecosystem services work – in particular mobilizing local carbon markets, (ii) green/sustainable finance mechanisms, and (iii) national or sectoral traceability systems, all of which would benefit from technical cooperation and investment.**

Finally, (iv) jurisdictional level action was also seen as having the potential for collective action to balance production and protection in key landscapes. While Colombia, Brazil and Peru are all at different stages of nurturing **sub-national jurisdictions, each provides opportunities for directly engaging supply chain companies chain** in sustainable production and ensuring environmental – and social – benchmarks are met across a sourcing landscape. **Greater investment will be required to scale impacts and strengthening of jurisdictional governance will be critical.**

Summaries of key points for each of the five breakout sessions are then provided below:

Entry points in **Colombia include carbon funding linked to a carbon tax, financial products tailored to climate intelligent development, and sustainable reconversion in the cattle sector**, linked to Colombia’s National Sustainable Cattle Ranching Policy. Support is also required in the form of technical cooperation from private companies and international cooperation in **accountability, monitoring and traceability systems** (such as satellite support); and in the **implementation of deforestation free agreements** (palm oil, cacao, beef and dairy).

Priorities in **Peru** also involve sectoral commitments for sustainable production in cocoa, palm oil, coffee and amazon fruits. Two main areas that could benefit from government cooperation are the **Jurisdictional Sustainability Initiative, including showcasing success stories, strengthening governance and mobilizing investment;** and implementation of the **Green Protocol and Financial Ecosystem**, that will ensure both public and private investment in blended finance and payments for environmental services, inter alia.

In **Brazil**, the Brazilian Coalition has identified six priority action areas to address deforestation, including **enhancing surveillance, making advances with the rural land registry – CAR, reserving 10 million hectares of forest for protection and sustainable use, granting finance for social and environmental criteria, transparency around legal deforestation and suspending land settlement processes for properties that have deforested after July 2008.**

The **Partnership for Market Implementation** model – involving the Brazilian government and World Bank – could form the basis of a national, then regional, plan, including solutions to implement carbon markets and payments for environmental services.

