GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

COFFEE & FOREST MAPPING & MONITORING

SUSTAINABLE COFFEE CHALLENGE

UNDERSTANDING DEFORESTATION RISKS IN COFFEE...

Growing coffee takes land. Growing more coffee could mean using more land – potentially doubling the current 10M hectares of land used to supply our morning cup. 60% of the land suitable for coffee production is forest. Only 20% of this is under any formal protection. Meeting future demand for coffee could come at the expense of forests if we as a sector are not careful.

That's why we need to understand the relationship between coffee and forests. Where is the coffee being grown today?

How does this relate to forests? How is this changing over time? We are not able to predict future areas of deforestation. And it's even difficult to understand what is happening today. But there are tools and resources that can help us begin to understand the risks and opportunities.

This short guidance document sets forth some key questions and tools that can help companies, governments and other actors get started in understanding the relationship between coffee and forests.

© CRISTINA MITTERMEIER

UNDERSTANDING STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS AND THEIR NEEDS

Deforestation and forest conservation are complicated issues that affect a wide variety of stakeholders ranging from producers, governments, companies, donors and financial institutions. Each has an interest in showing that their work is effective in eliminating deforestation from coffee production. This requires data and tools that are fit for purpose. The following diagram shows how the existing data and tools support the range of stakeholders and their interests. It also identifies any additional information, incentives, policies or enforcement mechanism necessary to further support their goals and interests.

Producers

Interest: Show they are addressing deforestation in coffee production (market access, incentives).

Needs:

Policy + market incentives for conservation of remaining forest areas

Market incentives for investing in 3rd party assurance of these practices and sharing information with the downstream supply chain.

Producing Country Governments

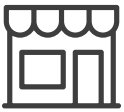
Interest: Show they are addressing deforestation in coffee production.

Needs:

Identify areas of greatest opportunity for productivity enhancement without driving deforestation (e.g. low deforestation x low yields).

International policy +market incentives for conservation forests and collecting and sharing information on coffee producing areas.

Companies (retailers, roasters, traders)



Interest: Show their supply chain is free of deforestation + that investments are not driving deforestation.

Needs:

Policy + market incentives for zero deforestation in coffee supply chains.

Understand where deforestation risks are and the role of coffee as a driver.

Examples of how origin investments include safeguards and monitoring protocols to ensure against deforestation.

Donors/Financial Institutions

Interest: Show that investments are not leading to deforestation and/or are effective in addressing it.

Needs:

Risk profiles of various regions.

Types of safeguards needed to mitigate risks related to investments.

PEOPLE NEED COFFEE TO THRIVE,

AND COFFEE NEEDS PEOPLE AND NATURE TO THRIVE

HOW CAN WE BETTER UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COFFEE AND DEFORESTATION USING EXISTING TOOLS?

Actors throughout the coffee value chain are trying to identify where coffee is a driver of deforestation. Understanding risk is a discovery process like peeling back layers of an onion.

We can start with trying to understand which countries have high deforestation risks, then look at these areas and their overlap with coffee producing regions.

Once we understand this, we can drill down to understand which landscapes pose the greatest risks and determine the role of coffee. If a supply chain is certified or verified, there may be data to mine to understand whether farmers are in compliance with zero deforestation indicators.

If deforestation is an issue, supply chain actors will need to engage with suppliers and understand the root causes, which could include lack of policy, lack of enforcement, insecure land tenure, climate change among others.

Knowing this will help identify the most effective actions. Specific interventions can range from engaging with the suppliers to reforest, discontinuing to source from that supplier, or working in partnership with other roasters, traders, producers and government agencies to develop improved policies, incentives and enforcement programs to mitigate the issue.

Big Question:

Where is the greatest risk of deforestation in my coffee supply chain?

↓

Which countries/landscape have the highest rates of deforestation?

Global Forest Watch

↓

Which countries have the highest risk of deforestation from coffee?

TSC Commodity Mapping Tool

↓

Which landscapes in these countries have the greatest risk of the deforestation from coffee

TSC Commodity Mapping Tool
TRASE

↓

What is the role of coffee in driving deforestation in these landscapes? How much deforestation is due to coffee?

Landscape Assessment Framework

↓

Are there farms in my supply chain associated with deforestation?

Certification or verification data

↓

Are there programs in place to address deforestation in this region?

Action Network, National Platforms. Commitments Hub, etc.

GETTING ANSWERS TO KEY QUESTIONS

A number of tools and resources are available to help decision-makers begin to understand the risks and opportunities associated with deforestation and coffee production. The following table provides an overview of some specific questions to start with, the data necessary to answer those questions and links to specific tools and approaches that can help answer the questions. As you move down the table, the questions become more specific to a place (landscape or farm) and to the role of coffee in driving deforestation. More information on the tools and resources is available in the one-page overviews that follow.

Question	Data Needs	Tools + Resources
Which countries or landscapes have the **highest rates of deforestation?**	Deforestation rates for coffee countries	GLOBAL FOREST WATCH www.globalforestwatch.org
Which countries or landscapes have the highest **potential risk of deforestation from coffee?**	Tree cover loss x coffee production areas Deforestation hotspot x coffee production areas	THE SUSTAINABILITY CONSORTIUM www.sustainabilityconsortium.org (coffee report) trase www.trase.earth (Colombia beta site coming)
In which landscapes is **coffee a major driver** of deforestation?	Percentage of deforestation due to coffee	CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL Contact scc@conservation.org for more information
Which landscapes have **the greatest opportunity for enhanced production** without deforestation?	Deforestation hotspot x coffee production areas Average productivity per hectare	Global Forest Watch or other mapping tools + Subnational productivity data from suppliers and/or government datasets
Which **farms are associated with deforestation?**	Farms failing to comply with zero deforestation indicators	Certification and verification datasets

SUSTAINABLE
COFFEE
CHALLENGE

www.sustaincoffee.org

CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL