



IDH landscape program:

An integrated approach to
Production, Protection and
Inclusion





The IDH landscape program uses an innovative, integrated approach to sustainable natural management. It also works towards preventing deforestation, improving smallholder and community livelihoods, and ensuring supply security for businesses. We focus on landscapes in tropical regions of Asia, Africa and South America that produce globally traded agricultural commodities such as cocoa, coffee, tea, beef, soy, timber and palm oil. Through a three-pronged approach – production, protection and inclusion (PPI approach) – our work supports four key stakeholder groups: companies sourcing sustainably; governments aiming to enable sustainable growth; smallholder farmers who need to diversify their income, secure land rights, and strengthen their position in supply chains; and finally, impact investors and the mainstream finance sector who need bankable projects that deliver impact on SDGs.

The economics of green, inclusive growth

Global population is growing rapidly, creating a rising demand for food, fuel and fibre. Agriculture can deliver on all, yet agriculture is also the largest driver of deforestation, land degradation and depletion of other natural resources. The massive deforestation taking place and other unsustainable use of natural resources lead to biodiversity loss, depleted soils, water risk, and (via increased CO₂ emissions) to climate change, putting agricultural production itself and human wellbeing at risk.

In most tropical countries companies, governments, farmers and communities rely on agricultural and forestry production for food, jobs and economic growth. Forest loss, soil depletion and water depletion threaten their income sources directly. To allow for growing agricultural production without natural resource loss, organizing large scale investments in land use intensification and creating economic incentives is pivotal to securing food, fuel and fibre production for future generation and protecting valuable forests and other ecosystems.



IDH landscape program



The IDH landscape program leverages the powers and interests of companies, governments, local communities and financiers to create areas where agricultural products are grown sustainably; smallholders and communities thrive; and natural resources are safeguarded. Through sustainable land-use management planning, we aim to create a win-win-win situation: sustainable **production** of commodities in an economically efficient way; **protection** of forests and other natural resources; and **inclusion** of smallholder farmers and rural and forest communities to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods. The three elements of PPI are interlinked and one cannot be done effectively without the others:

Production

Increasing the productivity of farmers through land use intensification so they yield more from the same land. This improves their incomes and livelihoods and reduces the incentive to convert native forests into arable land. Better livelihoods and incomes further improves productivity. Companies that wish to source sustainable products can buy from this area.

Protection

Putting in place measures to conserve forests and other natural resources. Measures include supporting local governments enforce forest protection laws, implementing deforestation monitoring systems, capacity building projects to communities, and providing conditional loans or tax reductions to farmers in exchange for protection.

Inclusion

Improving livelihoods of farmers and forest-dependent communities, and thereby reducing their incentives to encroach forests. This is done, among other things, by diversifying income sources and creating local ownership through participatory land use planning.

Where we work

We work in 12 landscapes across 8 countries:



Mato Grosso Brazil



Soy



Beef



Extensive cattle ranching is the main deforestation driver in Brazil. Intensifying cattle ranching from 1,25 to 2 cows per hectare in Mato Grosso, will free up hundreds of thousands of hectares of land for soy and other crop production, which will boost the economy without illegal deforestation. IDH supports this by partnering with government institutions, leading companies from the soy and beef industries, and civil society organizations through the state government-led Produce, Conserve and Include (PCI) strategy. We build PPI compacts to finance responsible cattle intensification and soy production. We also help accelerate land registration, which ensures compliance with Brazil's Forest Code and monitor forests. Finally, we work with private sector partners in Europe to align market demand for responsible beef and soy with continuous improvement efforts of soy farmers in Mato Grosso to accelerate the process.

Cocoa production causes the high deforestation rates in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which together supply 60 percent of the world's cocoa. This is in large part due to smallholder encroachment into forests. Together with the World Cocoa Foundation and the Prince of Wales International Sustainability Unit, IDH has convened the world's top chocolate traders and retailers that directly or indirectly buy from these smallholders, as well as the governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire to develop a Framework of Action to address cocoa-related deforestation in these two countries. In addition, in wider Taï Forest area in Côte d'Ivoire, IDH, the Ivorian government, various companies and civil society organizations work together to establish deforestation-free cocoa supply chains. The program focuses on forest conservation through sustainable land-use planning and alternative sources of livelihood to forest encroachment. Field level activities range from agroforestry pilots to farmer trainings.

Cocoa and Forest areas Côte d'Ivoire & Ghana



Cocoa



Timber



Rubber



Central Rift Valley Ethiopia



Flowers



Fruit & Veg

The region's favorable natural resources – fertile soils, abundant water and forest regulating the climate – have made it the country's economic powerhouse. Vietnam is the world's second biggest coffee producer, 95 percent of which comes from the Central Highlands. Pepper, tea, cashew, flowers, rubber, fruits and vegetables are also produced here. However, massive deforestation, water over-use, and unsustainable agrochemical use has severely degraded these natural resources, leading to droughts that in turn threaten production and community wellbeing. IDH collaborates with coffee roasters and exporters, the Vietnamese government, research institutions and NGOs to safeguard water and soil resources. Activities range from green growth planning with provincial governments to water pricing, farmer training on water use and good agricultural practices, and piloting agroforestry in smallholder farms.

Lake Ziway and its ecosystem in Central Rift Valley is not only a biodiversity hotspot, but also economically significant: the lake is the only freshwater lake in the area, used for drinking water, small scale commercial fishing, and small- and large-scale agricultural irrigation. Unsustainable irrigation, salinization and other human activities have led to a decline in water quantity and quality as well as land availability, threatening local livelihoods. To address these issues, IDH Ethiopia has been convening and facilitating dialogues among key private, public and civil society stakeholders. As a coalition, we develop and implement a sustainable landscape management strategy, as well as co-fund a range of activities such as reforestation, solid-waste management, and training smallholder farmers in good agricultural practices. The program aims to conserve the natural ecosystem, while at the same time enhancing community income and business sustainability.

Central Highlands Vietnam



Coffee



Spices
(pepper)



Tea



South West Mau Kenya



An important source of water for millions of people, wildlife, and the lifeline for tea, timber, hydropower and other businesses, yet the Mau forest has been subject to severe deforestation in the past decades. Deforestation and forest degradation stem mostly from encroachment, illegal logging and charcoal burning by surrounding communities. If not mitigated, further forest loss will lead to prolonged droughts and water scarcity, affecting communities, companies and wildlife alike. Together with public and private partners, we aim to restore and conserve 60,000 hectares and secure water availability in the South West Mau forest, while offering sustainable livelihood sources for the communities. Our activities include rehabilitating the degraded forest by, for instance, replanting; collectively building barriers in forest boundaries to prevent human-wildlife conflict as well as illegal grazing; educational programs on forest protection, water conservation, cattle intensification and alternative energy sources to charcoal and wood.

Much of the forest is still intact in Liberia. Increasing palm oil and other agricultural production and mining, coupled with in-migration is putting increasing pressure on Liberian forests. Sustainable development is crucial to bring many Liberians out of poverty and to revive the country's post-war economy. In all three landscapes, IDH works on smallholder productivity and forest protection in the palm oil or mining sectors. In South-East and Western landscapes, we work with a palm oil company, Liberian government and the community to develop community palm oil farms. This involves training and financially supporting communities to grow their own palm oil as well as other crops to diversify their income sources. In exchange for this support and for additional income, communities protect surrounding forests. In Nimba landscape, we collaborate with the Liberian government, a mining company and the community. Here we support programs aimed at income diversification and bottom-up land-use management planning that combines business and livelihood opportunities with biodiversity conservation.

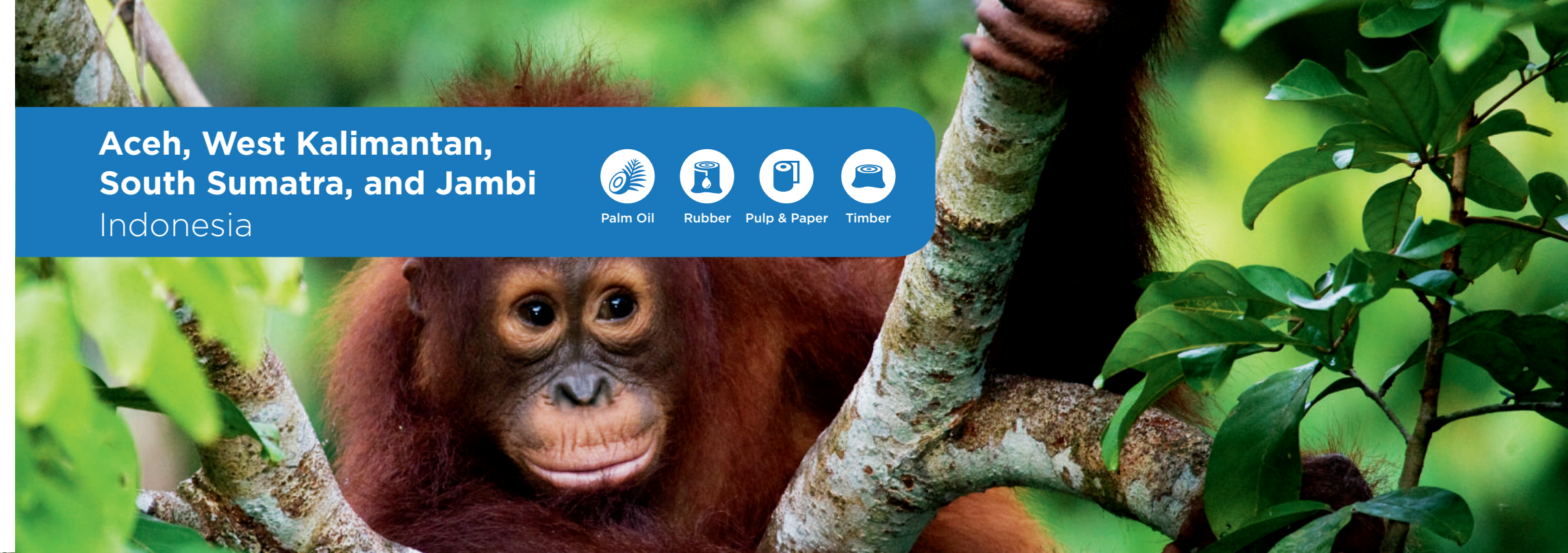
Nimba, South East & Western areas Liberia



Palm Oil

Mining





Aceh, West Kalimantan, South Sumatra, and Jambi Indonesia



Palm Oil



Rubber



Pulp & Paper



Timber

Clearing land for the production of palm oil, timber, pulpwood and rubber is the biggest deforestation driver in Indonesia. Unclear land rights are among the issues that make it difficult to implement laws to conserve forests. In all four landscapes, we support provincial and district governments develop and implement green growth plans that enable responsible agri-commodity production and forest/peat conservation. We finance trainings that improve productivity of smallholders and communities or provide alternative income sources. We develop PPI compacts between the private, public and civic parties at the landscape level. These will lead to verified sourcing areas that will be linked to international markets. In Aceh, we aim to curb deforestation due to the rapid expansion of palm oil production into the Leuser ecosystem, while providing options to

improve productivity. In West Kalimantan, our main protection goals are to protect the remaining natural forest areas on private, state and community land; protect and rehabilitate intact peat areas; and enable landscape connectivity by linking forest blocks and restoring degraded areas. On production and inclusion, we work with companies and communities to enhance palm oil and forestry productivity and create opportunities for alternative income sources including coconuts, coastal fishery, and other non-timber forest products. In Jambi & South Sumatra, we aim to protect the forests and peatland in and around Sembilang-Berbak National Park and Dangku Protected Forest, and pilot jurisdictional certification in Musi Banyuasin Regency for palm oil and other commodities.

What we do

In each landscape, we bring our innovative Production-Protection-Inclusion (PPI) approach. We do this via a number of key innovations:



Green Growth

Regional or provincial governments in many of our landscapes have economic growth targets as well as targets to reduce deforestation/natural resource depletion in their jurisdictions. We help them develop and implement green growth plans to achieve these commitments. Green growth strategies are based on analysis of the environment and socio-economic effects of different growth scenarios of the agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors. And they include sustainable land-use management planning and creating an enabling policy environment.



Governance

Each PPI compact area needs to become economically self-sustaining and self-governing, with roles and responsibilities for public and private sectors, independent monitoring as well as practical implementation of laws and regulations. PPI compacts clearly define the land to be protected, targets for the three components of the project (Production, Protection and Inclusion), a time-bound action plan, roles and responsibilities, a budget for implementation, and a monitoring system to track progress. These are agreed and signed off by the multi-stakeholder coalition, and recognized by local and national governments – shared ownership is key.



PPI Compacts

Across the landscapes we develop PPI compacts. These are agreements between public, private and civil society stakeholders to make land more productive and improve livelihoods, in exchange for protection of natural resources, most notably forests. Conditional de-risking funds help unlock additional investments in more productive land use, forest protection measures and/or alternative livelihoods for forest dependent communities.



Verified Sourcing Areas

We make the link between market demand and production areas. We do this by convening the supply chain and working towards the creation of verified sourcing areas, which provide clear market incentives. We work with brands/retailers/traders to develop supply chain models that recognize (and reward) production with protection by land users at jurisdictional level (beyond the farm gate).

How we do it

Convening

We bring together governments, potential investors, multinational companies, smallholder farmers, local communities and other local, national and international stakeholders in multi-stakeholder coalitions. Through these coalitions, we reach shared understanding of each landscape's sustainability needs, which allows the coalitions to develop regional green growth plans and landscape-level compacts that articulate sustainable production, protection and inclusion targets.

Co-financing

We support these plans by co-funding scalable joint activities and projects to sustainably manage the landscapes, based on well researched proofs of concept.

Learning & Innovation

We share our knowledge and learning in each landscape so that the relevant activities can be replicated elsewhere.

Key partners & donors

Our landscape program is funded by Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) and The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while private sector partners co-invest in pilot activities in every landscape. We always welcome others who wish to join us in our ambition to sustainably source agricultural commodities while contributing towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information, visit:

idhsustainabletrade.com/landscapes



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