

ECA statement on traceability through polygon mapping

15 April 2022

As communicated in our recent position paper, the European Cocoa Association (ECA) welcomes the proposed EU Regulation on deforestation-free products, which has the potential to contribute to a deforestation free cocoa supply chain when supported by an effective enabling environment in cocoa producing countries and supported by cocoa sector-specific guidelines.

Under the due diligence requirements, notably stipulated in Articles 8, 9, and 10 of the proposed Regulation, each operator is called upon to conduct the three-step process of information gathering, risk assessment and mitigation.

To ensure the required transparency of the cocoa supply chain - and to be able to effectively demonstrate that cocoa, and cocoa containing products, are not associated with deforestation or forest degradation - we strongly advocate for the comprehensive application of digital GPS polygon mapping for all cocoa farms thus providing uniquely identified farms for deforestation monitoring.

The European Cocoa Association supports national traceability systems in origin countries linked to registered farmers and polygon mapping as essential building blocks to achieve first mile traceability.

The digital polygon mapping of farms is being actioned today with clear and robust results over many farms. There is no doubt that technology has greatly improved both the capacity and efficacy of traceability.

In our opinion it is only through extensive due diligence procedure that the operator can have the required level of confidence that the cocoa, and cocoa containing products are fully compliant with the Regulation in order to be placed on the EU Market.
