



Swiss Platform for  
Sustainable Cocoa

# SWISSCO ROADMAP



# Impressum

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## Layout

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa, Bern

## Disclaimer

This Roadmap is a consensus-based document developed collaboratively by SWISSCO members and serves as a shared framework for action. While it outlines a common direction, it may not represent every individual member's position in full and does not create any legal obligations.

This Roadmap is accompanied by a **complementary document titled Technical Notes**, which provides additional context and explanations for each ambition. It includes relevant references, outlines applied methods where applicable, and details how each target will be measured, including proposed timelines. The Technical Notes are intended to serve as an evolving document – one that will develop over time and be further developed based on practical experience and feedback from members. Changes in the Technical Notes will not impact the content of the SWISSCO Roadmap.

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# The Cocoa Value Chain

Cocoa is one of the most smallholder-dependent agricultural commodities, grown primarily in West Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Around six million farmers grow cocoa worldwide, supporting the **livelihoods of up to 50 million people**. With relatively low entry barriers and well-established global supply chains, cocoa provides an important source of cash income for smallholder farmers and contributes to rural economic development.

Despite its potential, many cocoa farmers continue to face significant economic challenges. In **Africa, which produces about 70% of the world's cocoa, a large proportion of farmers do not earn a living income**. While global cocoa prices have recently reached record highs, farmers often do not benefit due to factors such as low productivity, small farm sizes, limited market access, and price fluctuations. Adverse weather conditions and plant diseases, including the cacao swollen-shoot virus, have also prompted some farmers to abandon cocoa cultivation, impacting both livelihoods and global supply.

**Low household incomes are closely linked to child labour in cocoa farming, especially in West Africa.** Approximately 1.56 million children are involved in cocoa-related work in Ivory Coast and Ghana, often exposed to hazardous tasks. While some regions in Latin America and Asia have seen recent progress, child labour remains a concern where poverty is widespread and social protections are limited.

**Environmental pressures further complicate the sustainability of cocoa production.** Many plantations struggle with ageing trees, declining soil fertility, and pest infestations. In the absence of sufficient support, some farmers expand cultivation into forested areas, contributing to deforestation and biodiversity loss. Traditional land-clearing practices, such as slash-and-burn, also release significant carbon emissions, highlighting the need for more sustainable farming methods.

**Sustainability challenges in the cocoa sector are marked by key systemic issues in the main producing countries.** Particularly sub-Saharan countries are struggling with widespread, multidimensional poverty, insecure land tenure, and the growing impacts of climate change.

**While the global chocolate market, valued at over USD 130 billion in 2024, continues to expand thanks to strong consumer demand, cocoa farmers often struggle with economic insecurity and environmental risks.** Ensuring better incomes, access to resources, and support for sustainable farming practices is essential not only for improving the livelihoods of farming communities but also for encouraging farmers to remain in cocoa cultivation. Without such incentives, the long-term stability of the cocoa supply chain is at risk, as fewer farmers may choose to continue to grow cocoa amid rising challenges.



Switzerland, home to leading chocolate manufacturers and the world's highest per capita chocolate consumption, plays a prominent role in the global cocoa economy. That said, the country's prominent position in the global cocoa economy carries a major responsibility for addressing sustainability issues. As a centre of chocolate innovation and premium branding, Switzerland is well positioned to help drive efforts toward a more sustainable and inclusive cocoa sector.

**Achieving lasting change will require coordinated action across the entire supply chain.** Governments, companies, and consumers alike have a role to play in supporting a living income of cocoa farmers, preventing child labour, and safeguarding the environment. Sustainable transformation is essential not only for cocoa-growing communities but also for ensuring the long-term future of the chocolate industry.

# SWISSCO's Vision and Theory of Change

Established in 2017, the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) is rooted in Switzerland's strong tradition of **democratic multistakeholder dialogue**. It was founded on the belief that an action-oriented network – characterised by short communication channels and pragmatic solutions – is the most effective way to tackle the significant social, economic, and environmental challenges of cocoa production.

Since SWISSCO was initiated, the platform has gained a wealth of experience and has strived to put the concept of **shared responsibility** among its member sectors – manufacturers & traders, retail, NGOs, academia and the public sector – into practice. A milestone for the platform was the adoption of the **Roadmap 2030** in 2021, which has served as a strategic guide for its members to advance sustainability across the cocoa sector.

## SWISSCO's Vision

The period since the adoption of the Roadmap 2030 has been marked by various developments on the commodity markets, with prices reaching historic highs, and by intensified regulatory efforts concerning sustainability. Both phenomena and their implications for the Roadmap were described in detail in the SWISSCO Mid-Term Report of early 2025. Despite this changing context, SWISSCO's vision for the cocoa value chain for 2030 and beyond has not changed fundamentally.

Therefore, **SWISSCO envisions a cocoa sector where farming households can secure a living income, human rights are safeguarded at every stage of the supply chain, and cocoa production works in harmony with nature.** Building on the six principles for sustainable cocoa already agreed upon in 2019 and in alignment with UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, SWISSCO defines henceforth 6 ambitions, revised from its initial 2021 document, that provide strategic guidance for its members to advance sustainability across the cocoa sector until and beyond 2030.

## Roadmap 2030 Ambitions

- 1 All cocoa farmers with viable farm sizes and sustainable yields earn at least a living income.
- 2 Cocoa production safeguards human rights by ensuring fair labour conditions and eliminating child and forced labour.
- 3 Cocoa production does not contribute to deforestation and actively supports the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems.
- 4 Agroforestry practices are widely adopted in cocoa production.
- 5 Cocoa production aligns with achieving global climate goals through reducing emissions for both near-term (2030) and long-term (2050).
- 6 The physical flow of products containing cocoa to Switzerland relies on fully traceable and transparent supply chains.



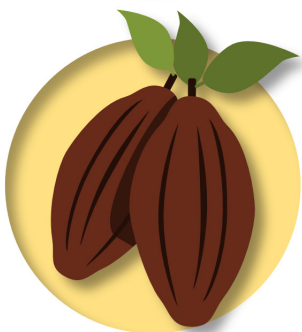
### INPUTS

Peer learning and knowledge exchange, public-private partnerships (PPPs), policy dialogue and accountability mechanisms



### OUTPUTS

Enhanced knowledge, guidance, collaboration, sustainable landscapes, innovation, transparent reporting, investments



### OUTCOMES

Price and yield increased, implementation of HRDD systems, adoption of agroforestry practices, reduction of GHG emissions, deforestation is halted, all cocoa imported is traceable



### IMPACT

Farmers earn a living income, human rights are protected, net zero emissions by 2050, ecosystems are restored and protected

## SWISSCO's Theory of Change

SWISSCO's Theory of Change illustrates how its holistic approach creates a conducive environment to achieve these six ambitions stated beforehand. SWISSCO's efforts are built around **four key action areas** that drive sustainability in the cocoa sector.

**Peer Learning and Knowledge Exchange** facilitate the sharing of expertise, best practices, and research through webinars, workshops, and reports to enhance sustainable practices.

**Public-private Partnerships (PPPs)** mobilise collaborative initiatives between industry, governments, and civil society to pilot and scale innovative and established solutions for economic, social, and environmental challenges.

**Policy Dialogue and International Collaboration** focuses on enabling conditions and regulatory frameworks, aligning with international best practices and policies, and advocating for measures that support sustainable cocoa production. Collaboration with producer countries in West Africa and Latin America is of central importance in this regard.

**Accountability and Transparency** will be strengthened through the establishment of shared sustainability indicators and practices, structured reporting mechanisms, and data-driven insights to track progress and foster trust.

In the accompanying document, the Technical Notes (see also Chapter 3), SWISSCO's Theory of Change is illustrated for each of the Roadmap's six ambitions.

By way of example, the ToC is outlined below for the joint ambition to reach a living income for cocoa farmers.

# Theory of Change - Ambition 1

## Outputs

Companies act on key levers:

- yield
- price, financial incentives
- production, household costs
- income diversification

## Outcomes

- perceived price increased
- yield increased
- costs reduced
- income diversified

## Impact

All cocoa farmers with viable farm sizes and sustainable yields earn at least a living income.





# Roadmap 2030: Ambitions and Target Levels

Based on insights from the Midline Report and feedback from members and partners, SWISSCO has defined **key guiding principles** for the Roadmap 2030:

**Collaboration:** Members work together toward shared goals with mutual accountability, fostering collective impact.

**Impact:** Prioritising measurable outcomes that drive meaningful impact.

**Inclusivity:** Ensuring that voices from producer countries are actively represented in decision-making processes across all SWISSCO initiatives.

**Strategic Focus:** Concentrating efforts on a limited number of ambitions where they will have the greatest impact, avoiding unnecessary distractions.

**Innovation:** Encouraging new solutions and approaches to enhance sustainability in the cocoa sector.

**Gender Equality:** To promote equitable farmer resilience and well-being, the Roadmap adopts a gender-transformative approach, actively challenging structural barriers and restrictive social norms that sustain inequality.

**The following section outlines the six ambitions alongside the key contributions needed to achieve desired outcomes and, eventually, impact.** While the overarching vision and ambitions extend beyond 2030, the Roadmap sets desired outcomes at three differentiated levels to accommodate the varying capacities, resources, and levels of engagement among SWISSCO members through 2030. In addition, the Roadmap identifies the specific outputs SWISSCO will support members in delivering, as well as external factors beyond the platform's direct influence.

**The three ambition levels are intended for supply chain actors, who are free to choose their initial level of engagement in the Roadmap.** It is not required that all measures within a level be implemented from the outset. Hybrid formats are also possible, whereby a company implements measures at different levels. All members are committed to a journey of continuous improvement, both within levels and by moving towards upper levels, advancing at a pace aligned with their resources and capabilities.

**Throughout this process, SWISSCO emphasises action-oriented learning** – recognising that experimentation and adaptation are more valuable than public disclosure. Accordingly, the Coordination Office respects the confidentiality of members and will only disclose information on progress in aggregate form.

Supply chain actors may either rely on **certifications, company-led programmes, or collaborations with NGOs** as part of their efforts to reach a given target level. While such initiatives can be valuable tools, they represent only a starting point. Companies are expected to demonstrate how these approaches contribute to the achievement of each of the six ambitions and must be able to provide transparent and credible information about their scope, implementation, and effectiveness.

**Importantly, the Roadmap extends beyond supply chain actors.** Other member categories, including NGOs, academic institutions, and public sector bodies, are encouraged to actively support the private sector members in achieving the desired outcomes. Their contributions – from mobilising strategic and operational resources to deepening understanding of business realities – are essential for collective success. Constructive feedback and open exchange within the SWISSCO community are central to this collaborative journey aimed at continuous improvement. The following section presents each of the six ambition areas in greater detail.



## Ambition 1: All cocoa farming households with viable farm sizes and sustainable yields earn at least a living income.

Level	Contributions
Level 1	<p>Members implement two of the following levers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial incentives for sustainable production (e.g. premiums), including stabilisation measures in case of low cocoa prices, OR</li> <li>Measures to improve yield and/or reduction of production or household (health/education) costs, OR</li> <li>Income diversification measures, OR</li> <li>Price mechanisms or incentives directly linked to LIB.</li> </ul> <p>Members participate in at least one joint living income-relevant studies (where applicable, see technical notes).</p>
Level 2	<p>Members implement three of the aforementioned levers.</p> <p>Members participate in at least two joint living income-relevant studies (where applicable, see technical notes).</p>
Level 3	<p>Members implement four of the aforementioned levers including price mechanisms or incentives directly linked to LIB.</p> <p>Members participate in all relevant joint living income-relevant studies (where applicable, see technical notes).</p>



Achieving a living income (LI) is essential for cocoa farmers, as it enables small-holder families to afford a **decent standard of living - covering essential needs such as food, housing, healthcare, education, and savings**. Without sufficient income, many cocoa producers remain trapped in cycles of poverty, limiting their capacity to invest in sustainable farming practices (such as agroforestry) or to adapt to challenges like climate change and volatile markets. This not only undermines the resilience of farming households but also threatens the long-term stability of the entire cocoa value chain.

**SWISSCO seeks coordinated action across multiple levers to reduce the living income gap for all farming households.** These levers include productivity to achieve sustainable yields, price and other procurement practices, production and other household costs, income diversification, local governance and other enabling conditions. Throughout, a strong gender perspective must be maintained to ensure inclusivity.

While the ambition is to close the living income gap for farmers with viable farm sizes and sustainable yields, special attention to reduce the gap will be given to the most vulnerable farmers with non-viable farm sizes through better-suited measures like income diversification.

To track household income trends and measure intervention effects, SWISSCO will adopt a joint, data-driven approach aligned with harmonised methods and established initiatives like the Cocoa Household Income Study (CHIS) and Anker's Living Income Benchmark (LIB).

SWISSCO members from the supply chain contribute to achieving this ambition by acting at one of the three levels, each of which involves key levers and outputs.

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### External factors

Some factors lie beyond SWISSCO members' control but still impact outcomes:

- farm size, land ownership, land scarcity and structural inequalities in resource distribution,
- global cocoa market price volatility,
- climate change and its impact on productivity,
- macroeconomic and political conditions (e.g., inflation, currency fluctuations), and
- certain national policies (e.g. fixed farm gate price).

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### SWISSCO's Contribution

**Accountability & Reporting:** Measure income gaps through joint studies using harmonised methodologies (CHIS, LIB, etc.), the joint ISCO monitoring and project monitoring.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Implement joint projects in focus countries that address key income levers collectively, enabling action beyond the scope of individual members.

**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitate continuous exchange of learning about living income, particularly the effects of interventions on farming households' living incomes through peer learning and shared insights.

**Engagement in Policy Dialogue:** Engage in policy dialogue with producing countries to address structural barriers to living income that lie beyond members' direct control (e.g. land tenure, price setting, etc.).

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**NGO Contribution:** Implement projects targeting living income-related levers, in collaboration with other SWISSCO members. Identify trends to assess effective and ineffective approaches for improving living income, particularly for the most vulnerable farmers. Facilitate research efforts by providing on-site support and access to farmers.

**Research Contribution:** Conduct and support studies related to living income (particularly CHIS), potentially including research on farmers' well-being. Involve both senior and junior researchers, with a focus on engaging researchers from the Global South.

**Government Contribution:** Policy dialogue to support living income-enabling environments (e.g. on farm gate price). Funding of studies and interventions via SWISSCO's project facilities.

## Ambition 2: Cocoa production safeguards human rights by ensuring fair labour conditions and eliminating child and forced labour.

Level	Contributions
Level 1	<p>Implement a robust HRDD system in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) to identify, prevent and address child and forced labour risks across operations and supply chains, incl. implementing an effective Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) or equivalent practices that achieve comparable outcomes.</p> <p>Continuously build internal capacity and engage suppliers to build awareness and encourage shared commitments to human rights.</p>
Level 2	<p>Meet all Level 1 requirements, and</p> <p>Scale up monitoring and remediation coverage aimed at 100% of the direct supply chain.</p> <p>Actively participate in or co-lead joint or collaborative projects (e.g. community-based or landscape projects) to address root causes of child and forced labour.</p> <p>Engage in policy discussions and industry-wide collaboration, ensuring alignment with best practices.</p>
Level 3	<p>Fulfil all Level 1 and 2 requirements, and</p> <p>Align CLMRS or equivalent systems with national child protection frameworks, labour inspection mechanisms, or other government-led systems where available, and actively contribute to their development or strengthening where needed.</p> <p>Scale up monitoring and remediation coverage to 100% of the entire supply chain and promote its sector-wide adoption.</p> <p>Work in partnership with government agencies, civil society, and industry stakeholder to ensure coordinated approaches.</p>



Tackling human rights challenges in the cocoa sector – particularly child labour and forced labour - is fundamental to building a sustainable and resilient value chain. These abuses not only violate fundamental rights but also undermine the future of cocoa-farming communities.

**Child labour is often a consequence of poverty and deeper socio-economic vulnerabilities, such as low and unstable incomes, limited access to education and weak social protection measures.**

These challenges are compounded by a lack of access to healthcare, insurance, and social safety nets, which leave cocoa-farming families highly exposed to shocks like price volatility, health crises, and climate-related disasters. As climate change intensifies these risks, families are frequently pushed to adopt harmful coping strategies, including child labour.

Children involved in cocoa production are often exposed to hazardous work that endangers their health and future educational opportunities.

**Businesses have a critical role to play in creating a fair and responsible cocoa supply chain.** Driving systemic improvements goes beyond standard due diligence – it requires partnership and collaboration between companies, governments, and civil society, alignment with national action plans, and sustained, long-term investments. Supportive and well-functioning frameworks in producing countries – such as stable regulatory environments and effective national policies – can significantly enhance the impact of corporate efforts.

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### External factors

- Multidimensional poverty, including financial insecurity and lack of access to basic social services, among farmers lead to harmful coping mechanisms.
  - Weak social protection measures and labour laws and their limited enforcement leave children and workers unprotected and vulnerable to rights violations.
  - Political instability in cocoa-producing regions undermines long-term efforts to improve working conditions.
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### SWISSCO's Contribution

**Accountability & Reporting:** Members report on their CLMRS coverage, the number of child labour cases identified and supported, and the outcomes for affected children.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Facilitate joint projects between member companies, NGOs, academia, and governments to pilot and scale innovative solutions that address the root causes of child and forced labour.

**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Develop and maintain a knowledge hub with insights from research, case studies, toolkits, and lessons learned from members. Organise workshops and other learning events for members to share best practices and experiences.

**Engagement in Policy Dialogue:** Advocate for stronger child and labour protections in producing countries. Facilitate dialogues between cocoa companies, producing country governments, and civil society to promote policy coherence and practical implementation of labour rights. Support the alignment of private-sector initiatives (such as CLMRS) with national frameworks.

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**NGO Contribution:** NGOs play a crucial role by implementing community-based programmes that raise awareness, strengthen child protection systems, and support family livelihoods. They can partner with companies to extend the reach of CLMRS and help design effective remediation strategies tailored to local realities.

**Research Contribution:** Research institutions play an important role by generating and co-creating knowledge across three key areas: understanding the systemic drivers of child and forced labour, and identifying effective intervention strategies, policies, and their impacts. With expertise in research for development, methodologies for data collection and analysis, they help design context-specific and evidence-based solutions. Research actors also contribute financial and human resources via funded research initiatives.

**Government Contribution:** The public sector is essential in creating the enabling environment for long-term change through stronger enforcement of labour laws, education policies, and rural development programmes.

**Ambition 3:**  
**Cocoa production does not contribute to deforestation and actively supports the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems.**

Level	Contributions
Level 1	100% of cocoa in the entire supply chain stems from deforestation-free areas as of December 2025/June 2026 for exports to EU/CH and December 2030 for exports to the rest of the world.  Costs for the development and implementation of tools to comply with the traceability requirements are not at the expense of farmers as a principle.
Level 2	Same as Level 1 and:  Substantial engagement and alignment in landscape initiatives supported by SWISSCO/SECO or others.
Level 3	Same as Level 1 + 2 and:  Substantial investment and alignment in landscape projects or similar initiatives to protect forests and actively support the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems.



A major challenge in cocoa production is deforestation and forest degradation through illicit and illegal land use practices, **which deplete soil fertility, increase greenhouse gas emissions, reduce biodiversity and diminish water availability**. Poverty remains a key driver of this issue.

Smallholder farmers are often pushed to clear new forest areas in search of better yields due to aging farms, low productivity, insecure land tenure as well as the need for land expansion due to family needs such as sharing of land with children. At the same time, **climate change is making traditional cocoa-growing regions hotter and wetter, reducing their suitability for cocoa cultivation and increasing the pressure to expand into forested areas**.

Emerging regulations, such as the EUDR, require cocoa to be proven deforestation-free, demanding robust traceability systems. While these measures enhance supply chain transparency, they also carry the risk of excluding farmers who struggle to comply.

SWISSCO members from the private sector contribute to achieving this ambition by acting at one of the following three levels, no later than 2030 and are encouraged to actively engage in forest protection in high-risk countries.

### External factors

The following factors may lie outside of SWISSCO members' sphere of influence, but will still impact the outcomes:

- local and national policies on deforestation and forest degradation,
- local and national enforcement of laws about deforestation,
- shift towards the cultivation of other crops which are not part of the companies' supply chain and hence sphere of influence or other activities such as illegal gold mining which result in deforestation and forest degradation.

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### SWISSCO's Contribution

**Accountability & Reporting:** Assessment of the share of cocoa stemming from deforestation-free areas in the company's supply chain to establish accountability for the whole cocoa sector. Highlighting the efforts of the cocoa sector on forest conservation by collecting data on forest areas protected and functional ecosystems restored during PPPs or other member activities.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Participating in and/or leading mature landscape projects with a focus on forest protection and restoration. Additionally, participating in innovative projects, which design or optimise measures to ensure traceability of farms or develop other measures for forest conservation and restoration.

**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Sharing best practices on forest conservation, restoration, policy making and traceability with other members (e.g. via Landscape Forum).

**Engagement in Policy Dialogue:** Work towards a common understanding of "deforestation-free" with national governments. Support local governments with forest protection measures such as risk forecasting models (e.g. via satellites) and patrol units as well as forest restoration.

**NGO Contribution:** Partnering with companies to provide in-depth knowledge and experience of local contexts, for example, through the implementation and coordination of projects such as landscape initiatives. Collaboration and knowledge exchange with local governments in producing countries on a national as well as regional level.

**Research Contribution:** Co-creation of knowledge on the causes of deforestation and degradation, design and evaluation of intervention strategies and pathways to halt deforestation and restore degraded land productively. These strategies and pathways can include the design of methodologies, data collection, analysis and validation as well as potential contributions to knowledge-based policy dialogue with origin country governments. Additionally, research can contribute to the achievement of the ambition by providing networks in Switzerland, Europe and cocoa origin countries and by co-funding mechanisms.

**Government Contribution:** Dialogue with producer countries to reach a joint understanding of "deforestation-free" and to develop ways for producers to comply with deforestation-free requirements.



## Ambition 4: Agroforestry practices are widely adopted in cocoa production.

Level	Contributions
Level 1	<p>Basic agroforestry systems adapted to the local context are established on at least 30% of the cocoa growing areas from where cocoa is sourced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with a minimum of 16 multi-purpose trees per hectare,</li> <li>• which include at least three different non-cocoa species.</li> </ul>
Level 2	<p>Advanced agroforestry systems adapted to the local context are established on at least 10% of the cocoa growing areas from where cocoa is sourced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with 30-40% shade cover at maturity on the area under agroforestry,</li> <li>• min. 70 multi-purpose trees/ha,</li> <li>• and min. 5 different species,</li> <li>• 2 strata above cocoa.</li> </ul>
Level 3	<p>Dynamic Agroforestry Systems adapted to the local context are established on at least 10% of the cocoa growing areas from where cocoa is sourced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• multi-strata (min. 3) system with pioneer, secondary and primary species mimicking the natural succession of forests in the first years,</li> <li>• at least 10 different tree species/ha occupying the middle and higher strata above the cocoa tree,</li> <li>• at least 1 biomass tree per each cocoa tree,</li> <li>• capable of providing up to 30-40% shade cover at maturity on the area under agroforestry,</li> <li>• cover crops are widely used.</li> </ul>



Agroforestry plays a key role in carbon sequestration by increasing above-ground biomass and enriching soil organic carbon. More complex agroforestry systems have the potential to turn cocoa farming into a carbon sink, helping SWISSCO members advance towards their Scope 3 emissions reduction targets.

However, recent research by Becker et al., (2024) (in press) **shows that shade tree cover across West Africa remains limited and poorly targeted to areas most vulnerable to climate threats.**

This underscores a significant untapped opportunity: with broader and more strategic adoption, agroforestry could substantially enhance carbon storage and contribute meaningfully to Scope 3 emissions reductions and also has beneficial effects on biodiversity and ecosystems services in general.

In addition, agroforestry is a key strategy to achieve a living income due to various possibilities for income diversification. This is especially relevant for farmers with small farms as explained in Ambition 1.

**Advanced systems, such as Dynamic Agroforestry, offer an especially high potential for carbon capture, biodiversity, ecosystem services and income diversification.** However, these systems are often costly in their initial phase, labour-intensive, and require substantial on-the-ground support, which often limits them to small-scale implementation.

While these complex models are valuable, promoting simpler agroforestry systems is also essential, as they already represent a meaningful improvement over monoculture systems and are more accessible for widespread adoption.



To secure successful long-term adoption of agroforestry, farmers need to be duly compensated for their efforts (see Ambitions 1/5).

SWISSCO members from the private sector contribute to achieving this ambition by acting upon at least one of the three levels latest until 2030.

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### External factors

In pursuing this ambition and adhering to the stated levels above, we may encounter external hindering factors for the successful adoption of agroforestry such as the:

- lack of land tenure rights and tree ownership of farmers, impeding long-term commitment needed for agroforestry,
- lack of market access and/or demand for non-cocoa products from agroforestry,
- climate change,
- limited influence of the company on the cultivation practices in case the company doesn't source directly,
- lack of buy-in of farmers for the adoption of new practices.

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### SWISSCO's Contribution

**Accountability & Reporting:** Assessment of the area and type of agroforestry systems which are implemented to track progress of SWISSCO members through private initiatives as well as through projects in the PPP facility.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Co-funding innovation projects to pilot innovative agroforestry practices. Projects addressing key factors for scaling agroforestry are a crucial step forward after studying innovative practices. Agroforestry should also be an integral part of landscape projects as it targets the various sustainability challenges. Conduct impact studies to assess the effects of different agroforestry systems on climate, nature, living income, and well-being.

**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Fostering peer learning through sharing of best practices and approaches on how to foster the broad adaptation of agroforestry models according to local contexts. According to the needs of members, publications and/or studies about specific agroforestry practices (e.g. pruning, species selection, access to markets for non-cocoa products) could be developed. Additionally, a study of the impact of the implemented agroforestry levels could be conducted.

**Engagement in Policy Dialogue:** Engraining the promotion of agroforestry into local policies.

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**NGO Contribution:** Local implementing entity for companies of projects related to agroforestry due to the NGOs in-depth knowledge of local conditions as well as their network with local actors. Collaboration and knowledge exchange with local governments in producing countries on a national as well as regional level.

**Research Contribution:** Co-creation of knowledge on the most successful agroforestry practices according to local contexts as well as solutions on how to implement agroforestry on a larger scale. Conduction of impact studies on the effects of agroforestry on climate, nature, income, well-being, and food security. Fostering knowledge exchange through the network of research institutions in Europe and cocoa origin countries.

**Government Contribution:** Dialogue with national governments to suggest the promotion of advanced agroforestry systems as part of national environmental and agricultural policies.

**Ambition 5:**  
**Cocoa production aligns with achieving global climate goals through reducing emissions both near-term (2030) and long-term (2050).**

Level	Contributions
Level 1	Report on the concrete actions implemented to reduce their emissions towards net zero, with a special focus on Scope 3.
Level 2	Same as Level 1 and: Establish emission footprint for current cocoa production.
Level 3	Same as Level 1 + 2 and: Commit to Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), with Near-term targets (2030) and Long-term targets (2050).



The cocoa sector is highly vulnerable to climate change, largely due to its reliance on stable rainfall, humidity, and shade, which makes it especially sensitive to drought and disease pressures. In West Africa, widespread deforestation has further accelerated carbon emissions.

However, cocoa farming holds strong potential for carbon sequestration through agroforestry systems that not only capture carbon but also enhance biodiversity (see Ambition 3).

While adaptation efforts are ongoing, the cocoa sector has made notable progress in harmonising approaches to carbon accounting, measuring climate impact, and aligning with sustainability certification schemes. According to the SWISSCO Midline Report, 17 out of 56 SWISSCO members who have cocoa-related emissions in their supply chain have committed to the SBTi near-term targets, and an additional 13 members have committed to Net Zero Targets.

However, it is critical for the cocoa production to align with global climate goals through reducing both near-term and long-term carbon emissions, with common milestones for 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 in line with

the Paris Agreement, towards limiting global warming to 1.5°C. This can only be achieved by taking meaningful and credible actions towards rapid decarbonisation, especially in the next five years.

To support this ambition, differentiated ambition levels are proposed for various member groups, recognising the diversity of starting points and capacities within the sector.

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### External factors

The following factors may lie outside of SWISSCO members' sphere of influence such as:

- lack of coordination across stakeholders to comprehensively assess Scope 3 emissions,
- lack of standardised tools, metrics, and frameworks specific to track carbon emissions in the cocoa value chain can delay the sector's overall progress towards carbon reduction,
- lack of concrete policy dialogue as emissions in origin countries not adequately covered, or if so in the efforts for climate adaptation which hinders measurement and accountability on decarbonisation.

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### SWISSCO's Contribution

**Accountability & Reporting:** Support members in utilising existing carbon reporting tools (including GHG protocol, and the GHG accounting manual for cocoa by World Cocoa Foundation) to measure progress on GHG emission reductions.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Support innovation and landscape projects which focus on creating meaningful progress towards Ambition 5 (and Ambition 3); incentivise concrete partnerships with local authorities at the producer country level to implement climate mitigation and adaptation measures (including carbon sequestration).

**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Support the sharing of best practices in developing climate actions with focus on scope 3; and enable the exchange across companies to develop impactful climate strategies, and target setting.

**Engagement in Policy Dialogue:** Engage in regional and international policy dialogues to showcase actions by its members, promote viable solutions in the cocoa sector, and support long-term policy change to reach the Paris Agreement. It will also focus on creating synergies with the coffee sector.

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**NGO Contribution:** Provide open-source tools and guidance for successful climate actions in the cocoa supply chain; support SMEs in the utilising comprehensive Monitoring, Reporting, Verification (MRV) frameworks for carbon reduction, to increase capacity and credible data.

**Research Contribution:** Provide dedicated guidance on the effectiveness of climate actions in the cocoa supply chain (mitigation), climate adaptation and resilience, and solutions on in-setting (carbon capture), especially regarding mid- and long-term effectiveness to reach net zero.

**Government Contribution:** Strengthen international policy dialogue to enforce Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and gradual progress to achieve the objectives under the Paris Agreement; support bilateral collaboration with origin countries e.g. for carbon credits or other mechanisms to incentivise decarbonisation.

## Ambition 6:

**The physical flow of products containing cocoa to Switzerland relies on fully traceable and transparent supply chains.**



Level	Contributions
Level 1	Imports are based on a sustainable sourcing scheme that aligns with SWISSCO Roadmap ambitions.  Verified by an external party (i.e. not by supplier).  Scheme and assurance information (e.g. MEL/audits reports) shall be shared with Coordination Office based on request.
Level 2	Imports are based on corporate programmes or labels that have been credibly verified by an external party. ISEAL's core criteria concerning independence, verification, monitoring, and evaluation as well as transparency of the underlying assurance scheme are met.
Level 3	Imports are based on recognised standards that meet the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems.

**Traceability and transparency are important prerequisites for more sustainability in the cocoa value chain.** The reasons for pursuing transparent and traceable value chains can vary depending on the different actors in a value chain and their respective roles.

Companies, consumers, NGOs and governments might all be in favour of enhancing traceability, but with different motivations: to improve the supply chain management, to mitigate risks in safety, quality and sustainability of production, to track payments to farmers, to ensure compliance with policies and sustainability regulations, to improve the living condition of farmers, to be assured of the safety or sustainability of the product etc.

The revised Roadmap builds on SWISSCO's well-established annual sourcing statistics. However, it strives to strengthen the credibility of acceptable sourcing schemes by defining four core criteria which address the independence, verification, monitoring and evaluation as well as transparency of the underlying assurance process.

**Thus, the sourcing schemes are more robust and, eventually, are better positioned to serve as "license to operate" in view of current and forthcoming regulations.** SWISSCO members contribute to achieving this ambition by

adhering to one of the following three levels. The traceability dimension has to be seen in combination with ambitions linked to the engagement levels in Ambitions 2 (on human rights) and 3 (on deforestation).

For further details on the accepted schemes you may refer to the Technical Notes.

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### External factors

In pursuing this ambition and adhering to the stated levels above, we may encounter external or hindering factors such as the following:

- lack of clarity on new or forthcoming sustainability regulations may hinder proper alignment by sourcing schemes,
- the development and validation of sourcing schemes developed by SME may take more time and financial resources than expected.

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### SWISSCO's Contribution

**Accountability & Reporting:** Maintain and further develop annual Sourcing Statistics.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Co-fund the development and roll-out of innovative sourcing schemes for SME e.g. linking sourcing scheme to impact).

**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Foster accelerated learning among members through exchanges on sourcing practices and tools (e.g. Regulation Readiness Workshop series to provide guidance to private sector members).

**Engagement in Policy Dialogue:** Alignment of sourcing practices with local policy and governance framework (e.g. local laws and ordinances for organic/sustainable cocoa production including pest management).

**NGO Contribution:** Provide practical support and guidance to improve and further develop sourcing schemes (e.g. Fairtrade Max Havelaar, Rainforest) and Support companies in developing innovative sourcing schemes.

**Research Contribution:** Provide practical guidance and support of how to monitor and assess the effectiveness and credibility of sourcing schemes (possibly became part of an assurance scheme).

**Government Contribution:** Foster alignment with national policies and continue to provide support to key international knowledge partners such as ISEAL and ITC.

# Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

To track progress toward 2030 targets, a strong **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)** framework is essential. It helps SWISSCO and its members assess interventions, identify gaps, and adapt strategies to emerging challenges. Without it, sustainability efforts risk being fragmented or unresponsive to changing conditions in cocoa-producing countries.

A multi-stakeholder monitoring system seeks to integrate perspectives across the cocoa value chain, offering a clearer view of intervention effectiveness, from individual farmers to entire communities.

To ensure credibility and collective impact, **SWISSCO** has established a **member accountability framework** requiring regular progress reporting and transparent data sharing.

The Coordination Office monitors this process and engages members to address gaps, while the Board may take corrective action – including potential exclusion of members – in cases of persistent non-compliance. This system promotes transparency, shared responsibility, and discourages free-riding within the platform.



### Key MEL Pillars

In the following, main MEL pillars that are aimed to mutually reinforce and complement each other will be presented.

#### Sourcing Statistics and annual ISCO Monitoring

Through its Sourcing Statistics, SWISSCO has been actively monitoring the **sustainability of cocoa imports into Switzerland since 2018**. This allows for longitudinal comparisons of the traceability as well as certified and verified sustainability of cocoa imports of SWISSCO members.

The findings from this reporting are presented and shared with the public in SWISSCO's annual report to share progress being made by the platform's members in their sustainability commitments.

The **joint ISCO Monitoring** enhances accountability among large company members (turnover beyond CHF 100 Million) by providing a unified framework for tracking progress on a set of common challenge areas such as traceability, living income, deforestation, and child labour.

This **standardised approach** allows for consistent data collection and analysis, enabling stakeholders to identify gaps, measure advancements, and allow for sector comparisons. Moreover, the collaborative nature of this monitoring fosters shared learning and best practices, supporting the achievement of each platform's sustainability targets and goals.

Since 2023, the ISCOs have been publishing a **Joint ISCO Monitoring Report** to provide a European-wide overview of the progress being made as well as challenges encountered in addressing key issues along the cocoa supply chain.

MEL Pillar	Who	Frequency
<b>Member Surveys</b>	Companies with turnover <CHF 100M Companies with turnover >CHF only for areas not covered by ISCO Monitoring	2025, 2027, 2029, 2031 (Endline) In 2025, each company independently determines which level of the three-level model it seeks to attain.
<b>ISCO Monitoring</b>	Companies with turnover >CHF 100M; smaller companies may join voluntarily	Annually (Q1)
<b>Sourcing Statistics</b>	All importers	Annually (Q1)
<b>Project Monitoring</b>	Members with projects	Annually (Q1) during project cycle
<b>Collaborative Impact Assessments</b>	Selected members Cocoa Household Income Study: all members (at least 1 assessment)	See CHIS calendar in Technical Notes



### Member Surveys

To credibly measure progress in the implementation of the Roadmap 2030, SWISSCO will conduct member surveys every other year (i.e. 2025, 2027, 2029, 2031) to capture the contributions of SMEs across the six Ambitions.

The member survey of 2022 will act as a baseline report, with the Midline Report published in 2024 being an additional point of comparison.

### Project Monitoring

The monitoring of projects co-financed by SECO is another source of information for measuring progress on the Roadmap. Hence, projects shall be linked more explicitly to the Roadmap's ambitions.

Project financing and subsequent reporting will help members to continuously improve their commitment to the six ambitions and the corresponding levels.

### Collaborative Impact Assessments

Beyond monitoring and evaluation, SWISSCO aims to cultivate a **learning-oriented system** that encourages continuous innovation and adaptation.

By institutionalising a culture of learning and adaptive management, SWISSCO members can continually refine their strategies, ensuring that interventions remain effective and responsive to evolving socio-economic and environmental realities.

### MEL Community of Practice (CoP) as supporting body

**A solid MEL system requires a lively exchange between practitioners from all member categories and the opportunity to flexibly integrate and adapt learnings.**

For this reason, the MEL Community Practice shall be strengthened, which will also serve as a Living Lab.

This enhanced CoP will be developed and implemented in close collaboration with Research Sec-

tor in order to strategically use scientific resources for the effective implementation of the Roadmap.

The MEL CoP foresees four fixed dates per year. Next to a core meeting of around 2 hours, the quarterly meetings can be extended to one day with specific blocks and topics that require an in-depth discussion.

Both online and hybrid formats will be explored. On a rotational basis, the CoP will be facilitated by a research member and rely on the SWISSCO office as secretariat.

