



Swiss Platform for
Sustainable Cocoa

SWISSCO ROADMAP

Short Version



Introduction

The SWISSCO Roadmap 2030 sets out a collaborative vision and strategic framework for promoting sustainability throughout the global value chain. The Roadmap 2030 emphasises shared responsibility in tackling the cocoa sector's most pressing economic, environmental, and social challenges.

Reflecting Switzerland's pivotal role and responsibility in the global cocoa value chain, the Roadmap defines six core ambitions to be achieved by SWISSCO members collectively. Each ambition is supported by clear goals, implementation pathways, and differentiated levels of engagement for stakeholders within the supply chain.

SWISSCO's approach to sustainability in the cocoa sector is built on four key action areas:

- **Peer learning and knowledge exchange** foster the dissemination of expertise, best practices, and research through formats such as webinars, workshops, and reports.
- **Public-private partnerships (PPPs)** bring together industry, governments, and civil society to co-develop and scale innovative solutions to economic, social, and environmental challenges.
- **Policy dialogue and international collaboration** aim to create enabling conditions by aligning with international standards and engaging with cocoa-producing countries—particularly in West Africa and Latin America—to support effective regulatory frameworks.
- **Accountability and transparency** are reinforced through shared indicators, structured reporting, and data-driven monitoring to ensure progress and build trust.

A holistic approach that combines measures across these four areas of action is crucial to unfolding sustainability impacts in the country of origin. SWISSCO's Theory of Change is detailed in the Technical Notes, which map out how each of the Roadmap's six ambitions will be achieved.

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.

SWISSCO Roadmap 2030 Ambitions

The Roadmap 2030 sets out six core ambitions, each accompanied by clearly defined contributions needed to achieve meaningful outcomes. To reflect the diverse capacities and resources of its members, the Roadmap introduces three differentiated levels of engagement specifically for supply chain actors. These levels offer flexibility: companies may begin at any level, adopt hybrid approaches across ambitions, and progress gradually in line with their capabilities.

Rather than requiring full implementation from the outset, SWISSCO encourages a process of continuous improvement, grounded in learning, experimentation, and adaptation. Confidentiality is respected throughout, with progress reported only in aggregate form.

Beyond the private sector, the Roadmap calls on civil society, academia, and government to play an active role in supporting implementation. Their contributions—from providing technical expertise and research to facilitating strategic collaboration—are essential to achieving impact.

Open exchange and constructive dialogue among all members underpin the Roadmap's collective, learning-oriented approach.

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

A living income for cocoa farmers enables a decent living for farming households – with access to basic needs such as food, housing, healthcare, education, and the ability to save.

In addition to numerous external factors such as the volatility of global market prices, national policies, or climate change, supply chain members can influence several levers to support the achievement of this strategic goal:

- Financial incentives for sustainable production (e.g. premiums), including stabilisation measures in case of low cocoa prices
- Measures to increase yields and/or reduce production or household costs
- Promotion of alternative sources of income
- Price mechanisms or incentives that are directly linked to the Living Income Benchmark (LIB)

Actual household incomes and the effectiveness of these measures will be regularly assessed through jointly conducted studies to reduce the living income gap of farmer households.

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

The existing risks of child labour and forced labour are often a consequence of poverty and deep socio-economic vulnerabilities – such as low and fluctuating incomes, lack of access to education, and insufficient social protection.

These challenges are further exacerbated by limited access to healthcare, insurance, and social security. This complex social environment requires targeted efforts from members. In the stepwise model, the following measures are prioritised:

- Implementing robust and effective Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD), incl. Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) or equivalent practices within the supply chain
- Engagement in collaborative projects (e.g. community-based or landscape-level approaches) to address the root causes of child and forced labour
- Aligning CLMRS or equivalents with national protection systems

Partnerships with civil society and governments are essential for addressing root causes and structural barriers.





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

Deforestation and forest degradation reduce soil fertility, increase greenhouse gas emissions, decrease biodiversity, and lower water availability. At the same time, climate change is causing traditional cocoa-growing regions to become hotter and more humid – reducing their suitability for cocoa cultivation and increasing pressure on forested areas.

SWISSCO members address these risks by implementing the following measures in accordance with the defined tiered model:

- 100% of cocoa across the entire value chain originates from deforestation-free areas
- Engagement in landscape or similar projects supported by SWISSCO, SECO, or other partner initiatives
- Substantial investment and alignment in landscape projects or similar initiatives to protect forests and actively support the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems

As a key principle, the development and implementation of instruments to fulfil traceability requirements shall not impose a burden on farmers.

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

Agroforestry plays a central role in carbon sequestration – by increasing above-ground biomass and enriching soil organic carbon. Moreover, advanced systems such as dynamic agroforestry offer particularly high potential for biodiversity, ecosystem services, and income diversification.

Widespread adoption of agroforestry practices adopted to local context will be implemented by acting upon at least one of the following three levels.

- Basic agroforestry systems with a minimum of 16 multi-purpose trees per hectare which include at least three different non-cocoa species
- Advanced agroforestry systems with 30-40% shade cover at maturity on the area under agroforestry, min. 70 multi-purpose trees/ha and min. 5 different species as well as 2 strata above cocoa
- Dynamic Agroforestry Systems with 30-40% shade cover at maturity on the area under agroforestry that build on a multi-strata (min. 3) system with pioneer, secondary and primary species mimicking the natural succession of forests in the first years, including at least 10 different tree species/ha, at least 1 biomass tree per each cocoa tree and wide use of cover crops

Ambition 5: Cocoa production aligns with achieving global climate goals through reducing emissions both near-term (2030) and long-term (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. Thus, it is critical for cocoa production to align with global climate goals through reducing both near-term and long-term carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.

Differentiated ambition levels are foreseen for various member groups, recognising the diversity of starting points and capacities within the sector:

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

Ambition 6: The physical flow of products containing cocoa to Switzerland relies on fully traceable and transparent supply chains.

Sourcing tools such as internationally recognized labels or equivalent sustainability systems are key to strengthening the sustainability performance of supply chain actors. By 2030, all imports to Switzerland should rely on credible systems in line with the three levels established below:

- Imports are based on a sustainable sourcing scheme that aligns with the SWISSCO Roadmap ambitions and is verified by an external party (i.e. not by the supplier)
- 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
- Imports are based on recognised standards that meet the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems



Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

To track progress toward its 2030 goals, SWISSCO uses a **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system**, which responds to the capacities and needs of associated members.

Companies with a turnover below CHF 100 million report annually in the SWISSCO sourcing statistics and inform about their Roadmap-related activities through a biennial member survey.

Large companies participate in the annual monitoring round coordinated by the European ISCO alliance, in addition to data collection of potentially missing information through the biennial member survey and the SWISSCO sourcing statistics.

Finally, **all members are encouraged to engage in collaborative impact assessments** to further enhance understanding of what works and why, ensuring that interventions remain relevant and effective. Thus, the **MEL Community of Practice** serves as a platform for knowledge exchange, supporting innovation and adaptive management. It brings together practitioners from various sectors to analyse data, share insights, and refine strategies. This commitment to learning ensures that SWISSCO's approach remains dynamic and responsive to new challenges and opportunities in the cocoa sector.

