



# AidEnvironment Annual Snapshot

2025



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# LETTER FROM CO-DIRECTORS

## **To Our Community, Partners, and Supporters,**

As we look back on 2025, we are filled with a profound sense of gratitude and purpose. This past year was a testament to the resilience of our shared mission and the power of rigorous, action-oriented research and meaningful collaborations. In a world that is increasingly demanding rapid solutions to complex environmental challenges, we saw 2025 open opportunities to connect and advocate further. We are proud that our organization withstood some key transitions, reinforcing our commitment to drive meaningful change in an ever-evolving landscape.

Our wins this year were significant and varied, reflecting the diverse expertise of our team. We successfully published research that challenged the status quo and provided pathways for improvements in key sectors. We are most proud of how this research advances our advocacy and bridges the critical gap between academic inquiry and tangible, on-the-ground impact.

We deepened our engagement with local communities, ensuring that our programmes are not just theoretically sound, but contextually relevant. In collaboration with our colleagues in partner organizations, we have reached people in communities across Uganda, Rwanda, Benin, Burundi, among others. Looking toward 2026, our focus shifts to the power of convergence. We believe that the most important steps in sustainability will not be achieved in silos, but through strategic collaboration. We are eager to expand our impact by joining forces with values-aligned organizations—partners who share our commitment to significant long-term changes rather than band-aid solutions.

Thank you for standing with us and for believing in the necessity of our work. As we step into 2026, we do so with optimism and a renewed pledge to serve our planet and its people with unwavering dedication. Here's to co-creating solutions together!

**With hope and gratitude,**

**Anna, James, and Lysanne**  
**Co-directors, AidEnvironment**

*\*Lysanne took on the role of General Director in January 2026*

# What drives our work

AidEnvironment is a mission-driven, non-profit organization with expertise that combines research and implementation. Everything we do, strives to build and achieve a sustainable world.

We do research, undertake data analysis and provide actionable insights. We implement sustainable solutions to protect and restore biodiversity, agricultural landscapes and improve livelihoods. Our work sits at the intersection of sustainable landscapes and global value chains. We engage with communities and with all stakeholders throughout the value chain.



By combining expert insight, systemic thinking and collaborative action, we develop practical recommendations and implement solutions for companies, NGOs, financial institutions and governments. Together with our partners, we contribute to the protection and restoration of vital ecosystems and the improvement of local livelihoods.

# How we create impact

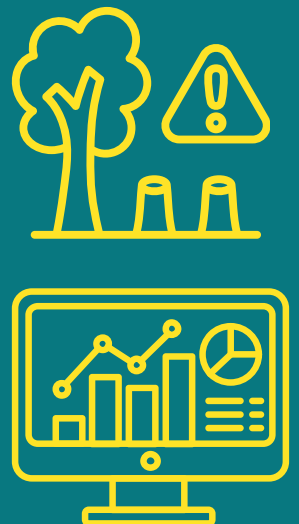
## ADVANCING DEFORESTATION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS

### OUR APPROACH

We adopt a data-driven, accountability-oriented approach to tackling commodity-driven deforestation, as well as legal and human rights violations. This enables us to support a wide range of stakeholders, from public authorities, journalists, and civil society organizations to companies with clear sustainability agendas, and the financial sector. Our work involves actionable research and analysis of land-use change, corporate ownership, supply chains, trade, and financial flows, all supported by satellite imagery and on-the-ground investigations. We identify where corporate action is weak or absent, often uncovering deforestation despite “zero-deforestation” pledges. We help channel this evidence into targeted campaigns, enforcement action, strategic litigation, and investor decision-making to drive the improvement of corporate practices and true accountability.

Our focus covers high-risk commodities such as beef, leather, soy, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, wood and timber, as well as pulp and paper. We operate primarily in the tropical forest regions of Latin America, West Africa, and Southeast Asia. Our work, however, extends beyond countries of production and includes the careful scrutiny of downstream actors, such as importers and investors in consumer markets. We recognize that the social and environmental impacts in commodity-producer regions are deeply tied to demand dynamics in the Global North. Our work therefore connects production landscapes, supply chain dynamics, and governance environments, revealing drivers and potential risks, as well as gaps where current practices fall short, while offering a basis for action and improvement.

We see benchmarking and policy response as integral to this approach. We develop benchmark and research studies on zero-deforestation and responsible-sourcing policies, disclosure, and implementation performance. At the same time, we monitor and feed into key regulatory initiatives, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). We believe that while voluntary corporate commitments are important, strong regulatory frameworks are essential to shifting incentives and actor behavior across the supply chain.



To support this, we focus on three strategic priorities:

(1) strengthening real-time monitoring and supply-chain intelligence to provide timely and verifiable evidence of deforestation and conversion;



(2) supporting effective implementation of regulatory frameworks by translating our analyses into practical insights and tools that assist enforcement; and



(3) expanding the evidence base for strategic litigation through case studies, supply chain mapping, and trade analyses that can drive accountability for environmental damage and linked human rights violations.



Tackling deforestation requires multiple complementary approaches, such as setting robust standards and scaling joint monitoring efforts to strengthen enforcement and accountability mechanisms. We are committed to working with partners to align strategies and drive transparent, evidence-based action that can move the needle forward.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### CASE STUDIES

AidEnvironment develops case studies that track land-use change and risks across agricultural and forestry supply chains. Using high-resolution satellite imagery combined with supply-chain mapping and trade analysis, these case studies provide early warnings of deforestation, degradation, and ecosystem conversion, as well as insights on noncompliance and other violations, including human rights violations. These can be integrated with financial impact analysis and shed light on financial institutions' contribution to ongoing socio-environmental issues.



Our case studies provide evidence that supports regulations focused on corporate accountability and due diligence. This contributes to their effective implementation and serves multiple stakeholders, such as NGOs pushing for accountability, journalists uncovering wrongdoing, lawyers building cases for strategic litigation, and investors managing risk exposure. By producing credible, verifiable evidence tailored to the needs of different actors, we strengthen accountability for deforestation and related human rights violations driven by global supply chains and international trade, while creating leverage for meaningful transformation.

## ***Case study sample: Mighty Earth's Rapid Response series***

In 2025, AidEnvironment continued collaborating on Mighty Earth's Rapid Response series, specifically issues #4 and #5 on Monitoring Deforestation in Brazilian Supply Chains. This research monitors recent deforestation linked to beef and soy supply chains in Brazil. We conducted real-time deforestation analysis, using high-resolution "before" and "after" satellite imagery, and supply chains analysis, linking production sites in the Amazon and Cerrado to major soy traders and meatpackers operating in Brazil. Mighty Earth uses AidEnvironment's case studies to engage with the soy and meat companies, their retail customers, and financiers to push them to act fast to prevent hundreds of hectares of deforestation from expanding even further.



## ***Case study sample: ActionAid UK's "Who pays the price? The cost of HSBC's climate damage" Report***

Together with our partner Profundo, AidEnvironment conducts integrated financial and socioenvironmental impact analyses of various financial institutions. Our work in 2025 for ActionAid UK regarding HSBC Bank was one such case where we assessed the localized impact of HSBC's direct and indirect investments in Brazil (Cargill's soy operations), Tanzania (the East African Crude Oil Pipeline), and Bangladesh (United Payra Power Limited). This included monitoring native vegetation loss, deforestation, and fire events occurring from 31 December 2020 (the EUDR cut-off date) until the most recent available data. Moreover, our analysis covered negative social and environmental impacts in these sourcing areas, ranging from land conflicts and indigenous rights encroachment to forced and child labor. We extended a right of reply to HSBC, TotalEnergies, UPPL, Cargill, and the Chinese National Offshore Oil Company, but received no responses.



## Benchmarking

Our benchmarking work assesses how companies in high-risk supply chains—including leather, beef, soy, cotton, and minerals—address critical sustainability challenges. We evaluate how these actors develop, disclose, and implement policies regarding deforestation, biodiversity loss, and human rights. We then compare their performance against recognized global standards. By creating transparent scorecards, we provide a structured way to compare peer performance. This process highlights best practices and exposes gaps, enabling targeted action where it is needed most and simultaneously offering a transparent comparison that is publicly available.

**Benchmarking Auto Brands on Deforestation-Free Leather**

**15 automakers scored. The bar is low: none made it to 50%.**

**Find out more in our webinar!**

**Thursday 28 August 2025**  
9-10am EDT | 3-4pm CEST

**Jeff Milder**  
Director  
Accountability  
Framework Initiative (AFI)

**Simona Rizzuto**  
Lead Analyst Biodiversity  
LBPAAM

**José de Melo**  
Senior Advisor  
Rainforest Foundation  
Norway (RFN)

**Ingrid Tungen**  
Head, Deforestation-Free Markets  
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**Joana Faggin**  
Deforestation-Free Program Manager  
AidEnvironment

**Rainforest Foundation Norway**

**Accountability Framework Initiative**

This year, we supported a benchmark study focused on the automotive industry’s sourcing of leather, in collaboration with Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN). This analysis assessed 10 leading global automakers and five major car seat manufacturers on their policies and actions to source “deforestation-free” leather. The findings underscored that leather remains a “blind spot commodity” in deforestation-risk supply chains, especially given its connection to cattle ranching and the Brazilian Amazon.

We also participated in a webinar organized by RFN to share the results. It served both as a space to share evidence of where the auto sector stands and as a platform to engage industry, investors and civil society on how to raise ambition and improve performance.

**NEW BENCHMARK:**

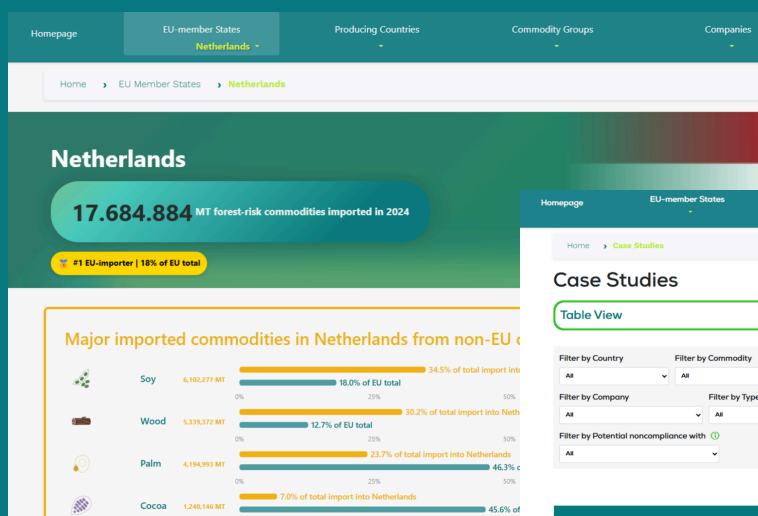
**Auto industry is a laggard on deforestation-free leather**

Rainforest Foundation Norway benchmarks 10 leading global automakers and five major car interior manufacturers on their efforts to source deforestation-free leather. None of the companies scored above 50%.

# Compliance Checker

AidEnvironment is well on its way to launching its Compliance Checker in 2026. Since late 2024, we have published various commodity company accountability reports, showcasing over 50 potential noncompliance cases of deforestation and social violation cases under the EUDR. Big names in commodity trading surfaced, such as Cargill, JBS, JDE Peet's, CamVert, FriGol, and Mondelēz.

We published several reports on wood linked to the EUDR, including those on noncompliant Brazilian wood companies and on the European wood sector. Likewise, deforestation-risk profiles for the 27 EU countries were prepared using our research, which were published together with our partners and funders including the European Climate Foundation, Repórter Brasil, ClientEarth, Earthsight, Mighty Earth, Milieudefensie, and Coffee Watch. The Compliance Checker tool has been presented to a variety of stakeholders. Through it, we collaborate with other NGOs skilled in the collection of actionable evidence on socioenvironmental wrongdoing in global supply chains.



Commodity	Companies	Property Name	Location	Supply chain link	Date	Download
soy	Cargill, SLC Agricola	Fazenda palmares	Borreiros, Bahia (Brazil)	Confirmed	2024-10	Download PDF
soy	Cargill, BrasAgro	Fazenda Serra Grande	Baixa Grande do Ribeiro, Piauí (Brazil)	Confirmed	2024-10	Download PDF
soy	Cargill	Fazenda Primavera I, II, III	São José do Xingu, Mato Grosso	Confirmed	2024-10	Download

# Compliance Checker in numbers

# 56

possible noncompliance cases produced in 2025, covering cattle, coffee, timber, soy, cocoa, and palm oil. Case studies cover Brazil, Myanmar, India, Cameroon, EU27, Côte d'Ivoire, and Indonesia

# 35,811

hectares of noncompliance area investigated in Brazil

Equivalent of  
**9,350,798**  
tonnes of CO2  
emissions  
investigated in  
Brazil.

At least **25**  
key commodity  
traders and  
downstream  
companies  
covered.

*"The EUDR compliance dashboard which AidEnvironment is building is so important—Coffee Watch is going to rely on and collaborate with this for all coffee noncompliance to the EUDR."*

**Etele Higonnet, CoffeeWatch**

## EMMA4EU

This year, EMMA4EU published its “Innovation Report on Deforestation-Free Supply Chains”, which analyzed 43 detailed case studies of compliance, technology and corporate social responsibility tools for forest-risk commodity supply chains. The project also launched an advanced training programme—an online and vocational blended course—to equip professionals and students with the skills needed to act as “Deforestation-Free Supply Chain Managers” under the new EU Deforestation Regulation.

As a central partner of the project alliance, AidEnvironment helped design the curriculum and training modules, provided expertise in deforestation-free supply chains and contributed to the research and publication of the Innovation Report. Through this, AidEnvironment has leveraged its expertise in mapping commodity supply-chains, monitoring deforestation risks, and advising on corporate and policy readiness, thereby strengthening EMMA4EU’s capacity to translate research into practical professional training and industry practice.

# 43

detailed case studies of compliance, technology and corporate social responsibility tools for forest-risk commodity supply chains;

# 23

 students

# 2

 professionals

trained in topics related to advancing deforestation-free supply chains



### PARTNERS IN ADVANCING DEFORESTATION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS



universität freiburg



# WAYS FORWARD

As global scrutiny of deforestation-risk supply chains intensifies, 2026 marks a decisive year for turning commitments into effective action. The 2025 Forest Declaration Assessment shows that in 2024 the world lost roughly 8.1 million hectares of forest - 63% above the level needed to stay aligned with 2030 zero-deforestation goals. This confirms that we are concerningly off track and highlights the need for voluntary corporate pledges to translate into real outcomes while regulatory and governance initiatives on deforestation reduction take hold worldwide. The EUDR is one example of a wider shift toward more decisive action on deforestation and accountability, for which independent data, credible monitoring, and aligned strategies are essential to reveal implementation gaps and create opportunities for better enforcement and intervention.

To continue producing this evidence and to ensure it can be effectively leveraged for impact, we invite partners to collaborate with us in ways that reinforce mutual goals:

- funders can support core and project-specific needs for scaling real-time monitoring and open-access tools based on case study analysis that enable watchdog, enforcement, and litigation actions and help close corporate practice gaps;
- NGOs and CSOs can work with us on joint case development that informs and shapes campaigns, advocacy, and policy work, while also meeting evidentiary needs of legal action;
- journalists and investigative media can draw on our case material and supply-chain intelligence to strengthen fact-based investigations and public-interest storytelling;
- and companies and financial institutions can engage proactively with our findings and tools as part of due diligence exercises and compliance readiness.

With coordinated leadership and continued engagement, 2026 can be the year we accelerate progress toward resilient and future-proof supply chains. AidEnvironment remains committed to serving as a trusted partner, providing credible evidence, tailored insights, and collaborative support to stakeholders ready to push together toward accountable, compliant, deforestation-free supply chains.



Connect and collaborate with us

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Rita Raleira: [raleira@aidenvironment.org](mailto:raleira@aidenvironment.org)

# IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

## OUR APPROACH

Our approach to improving sustainable production is grounded in long-term collaboration and close engagement. We work directly with all stakeholders along the value chain to develop sustainable solutions: producers, cooperatives, sourcing companies, and international companies. With producers, such as coffee farmers, we build trusted partnerships and listen carefully to understand how they operate in practice, the economic realities they face, and their vision for ways forward.

Our work is fully demand-driven. We recognise that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions: each production system, landscape, and community operates within distinct environmental, social, and economic conditions. Our role is to contribute experience and expertise where it is needed most. Drawing on our extensive experience across regions, commodities, and conditions, we adapt proven approaches and lessons learned to meet the specific needs of each setting.



**Our work focuses on diverse but equally relevant priorities:**

**(1) Supporting the transition toward regenerative production practices.**



Together with producers, we explore practical ways to strengthen soil health, improve biodiversity, and build more resilient farming systems. This often includes the introduction of locally produced bio-inputs, such as bio-fertilisers or bio-pesticides, as well as hands-on training that enables farmers to test and refine regenerative practices on their own farms. Through on-farm experimentation and innovation, producers are able to identify approaches that work best within their specific environmental and economic conditions. respond directly to local needs and ambitions, while strengthening the environmental, social, and economic foundations of sustainable production.

**(2) Recognising that sustainability extends beyond production practices alone.**



Social risks within value chains, including issues such as child labour or unequal gender dynamics, can undermine both livelihoods and long-term sustainability. We therefore also focus on analysing these risks to better understand where and why they arise. Through risk assessments and open dialogue with producers and communities, we co-create practical pathways to address these challenges, ensuring that improvements in production are accompanied by stronger social safeguards. In addition, in settings with household-level constraints, we provide training on household finance and on the division of roles and responsibilities within families, recognising that sustainable production is closely linked to social and economic resilience.

**(3) Improving producers' incomes.**



Many producers remain unable to earn a living income despite their central role in global supply chains. To better understand these realities, we conduct living income assessments to help identify the gap between current earnings and a decent standard of living. Together with producers, companies, and other stakeholders, we develop tailored pathways to help close this gap. These may include improving production practices through, for example, regenerative agriculture, to increase and stabilise yields, or exploring improved pricing mechanisms that better reward sustainable production. Across all our work, our approach remains the same: we engage directly in the field, pursue open dialogue and knowledge exchange, and provide context-specific support. This allows us to translate our experience into practical, tailor-made solutions that respond directly to local needs and ambitions, while strengthening the environmental, social, and economic foundations of sustainable production.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### Improving sustainable production towards sustainable income through **Kinazi Living Income**

Launched in August 2025, the Kinazi Living Income project is a three-year public-private collaboration between Dutch coffee roaster Wakuli, Rwandan exporter BAHO Coffee Company, and AidEnvironment, co-funded by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) through the Subsidy Program for Responsible Business (SPVO). The project aims to demonstrate how agroecology and market innovation can contribute to resilient, fair, and regenerative coffee production while advancing living income pathways for smallholder farmers. In doing so, the project offers a practical model that can be scaled by cooperatives and buyers committed to living income goals. Rwanda's coffee sector is characterized by small farm sizes which, despite producing high-quality coffee, often face low yields. The project addresses this challenge by combining regenerative farming practices with stronger farmer organization, hybrid agronomic systems, and long-term purchasing commitments. Together, these measures aim to improve soil fertility and yields, reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers, and strengthen income stability for coffee-growing households.

Throughout 2025, the project focused on a robust inception phase. This included:

- A local impact assessment to identify household-level barriers to achieving a living income
- Desk research and farmer outreach to understand current agronomic practices, price dynamics, and income realities
- In-depth field engagement with farmers, cooperatives, local authorities, and supply-chain partners



The field visits and on-the-ground consultations conducted in 2025 were instrumental in deepening contextual understanding. They provided valuable insights into how key features of the Rwandan coffee sector—such as the community-driven farmer groups—can be leveraged to support farm rejuvenation, joint investment, and capacity building. This foundation is crucial for shaping feasible, locally grounded implementation pathways as the project transitions from inception to implementation in 2026.

# Improving sustainable production for better nutrition and maternal health through **Harvesting Health**

Harvesting Health is an integrated initiative implemented in Kapchorwa District, Uganda, aimed at improving food security and reducing malnutrition. Led by AidEnvironment in partnership with Food for the Hungry Uganda (FHA) and the Kapchorwa Civil Society Organizations Alliance (KACSOA), the RVO-funded Harvesting Health project addresses the interconnected challenges of food availability, access, and



Use. Implemented from 2024 to 2027, Harvesting Health is strengthening food security and nutrition by combining sustainable agriculture, improved diets, and community engagement aimed at benefitting entire households, from newborn children to adults, including pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

## **Key achievements and progress**

The project directly involves farmers, supporting them in the adoption of climate-smart, sustainable agricultural practices that improve soil health and increase productivity while also promoting crop diversification. In doing so, the project helps households access and use a wider variety of foods strategically chosen to boost nutritional value throughout the year. This increases food availability locally and the use of nutrient-dense food by households and communities while reducing their reliance on external inputs.

Nutrition is addressed not only through food production, but also through better food use at household level. Through 37 care groups involving 555 women of reproductive age in different communities, the project seeks to ensure that the food grown and consumed leads to better health outcomes. Communities are supported with practical knowledge on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCAN), facilitating the adoption of balanced diets and healthier food preparation for the whole family.

To reinforce and scale impact, the project has been actively engaging communities through different engagement strategies and channels. Community-led radio programmes, broadcasted on Elgon FM radio, have allowed for information on sustainable agriculture, child health, and nutrition to be shared widely, complementing direct training and reaching increasingly more households and household members. At the same time, schools and youth are also an important focus of the project. Agriculture clubs and kitchen gardens have been established in local schools, helping to build knowledge and skills on food systems and nutrition among the next generation while also providing for vegetables to supplement school meals.

## PARTNERS IN HARVESTING HEALTH:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



FH ASSOCIATION



# Harvesting Health in numbers

**1,600+**

farmers trained in sustainable agricultural practices, including soil conservation, agroforestry, biofertilizer production, and water management.

**54,000**

agroforestry seedlings have been distributed, along with high-iron beans and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, and other crops.

**37 care groups**, involving **555 women** of reproductive age, have been equipped with the knowledge to promote maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCAN).

Community radio broadcasts on Elgon FM have expanded the reach of the project, which engaged over **5,000 listeners** in 2025.

**33 agriculture clubs** established in local schools

**1,320 students (half of them girls) are learning the importance of food systems and nutrition**

## Emergency response

In November 2025, the Sebei subregion, where Kapchorwa District is located, was hit by heavy rainfall and severe mudslides, affecting many of the communities involved in the project. While the immediate response focused on humanitarian relief, Harvesting Health has since resumed its core activities. By focusing on long-term resilience and ensuring food security through sustainable farming techniques and community-based support, the project remains committed to restoring stability and supporting local communities.

# Preserving and restoring natural resources through the Elgon Pamoja Project

Launched in April 2025, the Collective Action for Water, Environment and Natural Resources Conservation in Uganda's Elgon Landscape project is a partnership between Uganda Breweries Limited (UBL) and AidEnvironment, aimed at strengthening sustainable water catchment and natural resources management in the Mount Elgon region in eastern Uganda. Implemented across four districts in the Elgon region—Kapchorwa, Bukwo, Kween, and Bulambuli—the project responds to environmental degradation, water stress, and vulnerable rural livelihoods in areas where barley and sorghum—crucial raw materials for UBL's products—are key crops.

The production of barley and sorghum comes with environmental hazards and lacks opportunities to foster substantial livelihoods for the young population in the area. Due to environmental degradation and the lack of collective action among stakeholders concerning water resource management and landscape restoration, production of raw materials is inadequate and has a negative impact on livelihoods, rendering local communities more vulnerable.

The initiative promotes collective action among farmers, communities, local authorities, and the private sector to restore ecosystems while supporting more resilient and sustainable agricultural livelihoods. It is particularly crucial to ensure adequate water resource management and landscape restoration in the area because Mount Elgon is a source of many springs and streams on which downstream agriculture, domestic water supply, and ecosystems are dependent.

Core interventions in the project include afforestation and reforestation with indigenous trees; soil and water conservation measures to reduce erosion and increase infiltration; rainwater harvesting and small-scale irrigation for farms and households; regenerative agriculture practices; and alternative energy solutions to reduce deforestation



By improving soil health and water availability, the project helps farmers secure more stable yields and incomes, while ensuring a more resilient supply of raw materials for UBL. By linking environmental management and restoration with farm-level resilience, the project seeks to create lasting socioeconomic benefits for farming communities, ensuring continued market access for their sustainable supply of barley and sorghum while safeguarding vital natural resources for current and future generations.

PARTNER IN THE ELGON PAMOJA PROJECT:



## Promoting diversified agroforestry systems in post-conflict areas by **Going Bananas**

The Going Bananas project transformed degraded upland farms in Carmen, North Cotabato by promoting diversified agroforestry systems tailored for smallholder farmers in post-conflict areas. The project operates in Southern Mindanao, in an area inhabited by Muslim, Christian, and Indigenous people which have suffered decades of conflict. After the conflict ended, several unsustainable livelihood measures were promoted - such as the growth of maize for fodder. This required increasing amount of pesticides to sustain yield. Maize is also grown on very steep hills, which leads to the washing away of nutrients, reduced productivity, and the pollution of drinking water. Likewise resulting in increased debts with traders.

The 3R approach - Recharge, Reuse, Retention - played a key role in the success of this intervention. Through the adoption of this approach, in combination with climate-smart and organic practices, farmers have shifted from maize monoculture to intercropping .

The project promoted the shift from monocropping maize to growing organic bananas, intercropped with coconut, fruit trees, and trichantera (shrub used for livestock fodder). This system has improved soil fertility, reduced erosion, and enhanced climate resilience while increasing food security and income diversity.

Implemented by a consortium of partners—AidEnvironment, University of Southern Mindanao, TreeLife, Bern University, and the Local Government of Carmen—the project established, trained and registered the Carmen Organic Slope Farmers Association (COSFA), now representing 2,000 farmers. COSFA not only trains farmers, but also collectively negotiates better prices for their bananas and other crops.

With support from the Provincial Government of Cotabato, the Philippine Coconut Authority, and the Regional Department of Agriculture, farmers have received training, seedlings, equipment, and technical guidance to scale up sustainable farming practices across multiple barangays.



# Promoting diversified agroforestry systems in post-conflict areas by **Going Bananas**

Support for COSFA's operations included hauling vehicles, community buying stations, and post-harvest equipment. COSFA has now received individual subsidy through the regional government and continues to grow and professionalize. The close relationship between farmers, COSFA and the government enables the sustainability of this project, far beyond its official ending.

A Model Farm was established to serve as a hands-on learning hub for climate-resilient agriculture and farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange. The Model Farm also hosts the rollout of support to strengthen COSFA's operations. The Model Farm is currently in progress and expected to enhance market access and supply chain efficiency.

These efforts are laying the groundwork for inclusive development, sustainable production, and long-term peacebuilding in vulnerable upland communities of Mindanao.



*"We came from conflict and poverty, but now we stand as farmers, leaders, and partners in peace. This project didn't just change our farms—it changed our future. We will not go back to the old ways."*

**Marlon Namla Mangelin, Chairman, COSFA**

## PARTNERS IN GOING BANANAS



# WAYS FORWARD

Cultivating sustainable production requires collaboration across value chains and geographies. Our demand-driven, field-based approach is most effective when complemented by partners who share a commitment to long-term engagement, practical solutions, and evidence-based decision-making.

At the same time, producers today are navigating an increasingly complex landscape. International policy shifts, evolving sustainability requirements, and the growing impacts of climate change are placing new pressures on producers and rural livelihoods. These dynamics reinforce the urgency of working collectively towards supply chains that, in addition to being sustainable, are also more resilient and inclusive.

For this reason, we do not and cannot move forward alone. Lasting progress depends on aligned action from a broad set of stakeholders, from producers and communities to companies, governments, and civil society. By working together and building on complementary strengths, local progress can grow into systemic change.

In 2026, we wish to continue this work alongside our partners, strengthening collaboration and deepening our shared commitment to practical solutions that support producers and the long-term sustainability of the value chains they sustain. We invite funders, like-minded organizations, companies, and financial institutions to work with us to strengthen and expand this work.

To strengthen and scale sustainable production outcomes, we invite partners to engage with us in ways that build on shared objectives and complementary roles:

- **Funders** can support core and programme-specific work that enables long-term engagement with producers, strengthens field-based expertise, and scales practical tools and methodologies that improve water management, soil health, good agricultural practices, and organizational capacity at the production level.
- **NGOs and CSOs** can collaborate with us on the design and implementation of locally grounded initiatives, joint learning agendas, and evidence-informed solutions that translate field experience into improved practices and support systems for producers.
- **Companies and financial institutions** can partner with us to strengthen sustainable production strategies, support producer-led improvements, and integrate practical, context-specific insights into due diligence, risk management, and long-term supplier relationships.

Through targeted collaboration and sustained commitment, partners can help reinforce resilient production systems that deliver environmental integrity, social well-being, and lasting benefits for producers and communities across value chains.



Connect and collaborate with us

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# MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES

## OUR APPROACH

Across the world, landscapes are under growing pressure. Flooding, desertification, declining water availability, and degraded ecosystems are increasingly threatening community health, food security, and livelihoods. As climate change intensifies these challenges, restoring and managing natural resources becomes essential for building resilient landscapes and communities.

Nature-based solutions play a central role in this effort. By working with natural systems rather than against them, these approaches can strengthen ecosystems while supporting the people who depend on them. At AidEnvironment, we combine hydrological expertise, landscape analysis, GIS-based assessments, and environmental and social insights with the knowledge of local communities to develop practical and lasting solutions.

Our work focuses on improving the way water and natural resources are managed at the landscape level. This includes measures such as reforestation and afforestation, riverbank stabilisation, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the application of 3R strategies: recharge, retention, and reuse. With a targeted combination of these, we aim to capture water when it falls, store it within the landscape, and make it available when it is needed most. In doing so, we help strengthen water security while contributing to climate resilience, food security, and access to drinking water and sanitation services (WASH).

Our approach follows a structured process:

(1) analysing landscapes and water systems through hydrological studies, GIS-based landscape analysis, and environmental and social assessments, while drawing on the experience and insights of local communities and experts;

(2) jointly designing solutions that are both effective and resilient within their specific context;

(3) implementing solutions either directly by our team or via trusted partners on the ground; and

(4) monitoring progress and outcomes to learn, adapt, and ensure that interventions continue to respond to local needs.



Across all our work, our goal is the same: to translate technical expertise and local knowledge into practical, nature-based solutions that strengthen landscapes and support the communities who depend on them.

## Project Highlights

### Combating water scarcity with **Water Winnen**

In Benin, AidEnvironment collaborates with The Hunger Project in implementing the Water Winnen initiative, funded by the Postcode Lottery. The project introduces a nature-based solution to one of the most pressing challenges in dryland regions: water scarcity. Many people in dry areas in Benin, Burkina Faso and the Sahel face water scarcity in times of drought which leads to shortage and the need to resort to unreliable, less accessible water sources for household consumption. It also leads to increasing food insecurity - with crops not surviving increasingly unreliable rain patterns and prolonged droughts. Sand dams are low-cost, high-impact structures built across seasonal riverbeds, capturing rainwater and sand during the wet season to create underground reservoirs. The stored water remains clean and available year-round, providing reliable water for drinking, farming, and livestock, even during long dry spells that are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change.

By combining The Hunger Project's strong community mobilization model with AidEnvironment's technical expertise and local partnerships with Association des Volontaires pour le Développement au Sahel (VDS) and others, the project ensures that both people and ecosystems benefit.

The first sand dams are being prepared in central Benin, and later on in Burkina Faso, near existing epicenters, where they will enable women and farmers to cultivate crops beyond the rainy season, reduce the burden of fetching water, and promote greener, more resilient landscapes. Ultimately, this initiative lays the foundation for long-term water security, climate resilience, and the training of local partners to become certified sand dam builders, ensuring the model can be scaled across the Sahel.



PARTNERS IN WATER WINNEN

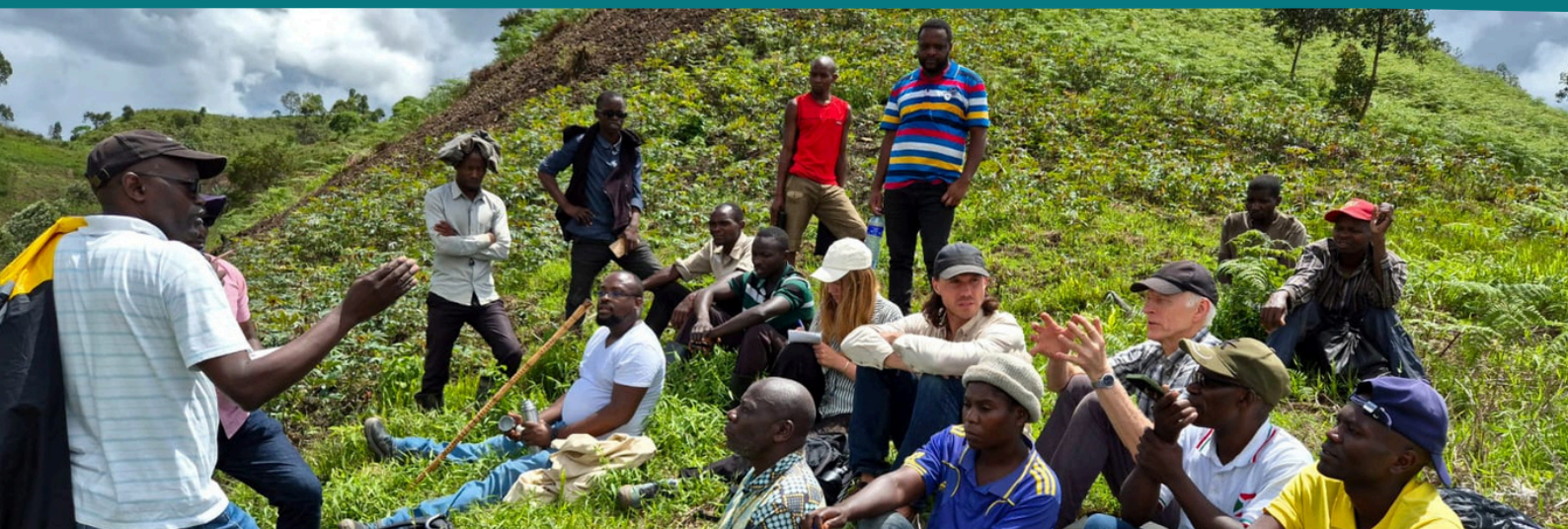


# Advancing agroforestry and water management through **PARCELLE**

AidEnvironment serves as a technical implementing partner and advisor for the PARCELLE project, which lead partner is ZOA and is funded by the Belgian Development Agency ENABEL. The project, located in the Cibitoke Region of northwest Burundi, aims to protect and restore degraded landscapes, focusing on the Nyamagana River Watershed. Our role includes providing technical expertise in watershed management, community forestry, agroforestry, and monitoring systems, particularly in relation to integrated water resources management (IWRM) and forest landscape restoration.

Our contribution has focused on providing expertise in the following areas:

- **Watershed and Landscape Management:** We have assisted in the development of strategies for sustainable land management, including erosion control, riverbank stabilization, and reforestation. This support includes guidance on integrating IWRM principles and ensuring that restoration efforts align with local needs and environmental realities.
- **Community Forestry and Agroforestry:** We have assisted ZOA with establishing community-led forest management systems (Groupes de Gestion Forestière or GGFs) and promote agroforestry practices. We have focused on developing participatory approaches to species selection, enhancing community involvement, and creating long-term plans for forest and soil conservation.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** We have provided technical assistance for establishing a robust monitoring framework to track the impact of restoration activities. This includes developing tools to measure the success of reforestation, erosion control, and watershed health.
- **Technical Tools and Methodologies:** We have introduced tools such as 3D watershed models to improve community awareness and planning. These models visually demonstrate how water flows through the landscape and the effects of interventions, making it easier for stakeholders to understand and support the project's goals.



## Strengthening water management through **water harvesting** in Sudan

In 2025, AidEnvironment and RICOS Consulting collaborated under the UN Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to strengthen Sudan's water resilience amidst ongoing conflict and displacement. Despite the extremely challenging circumstances of a civil war that has disrupted mobility, communications, and access to field sites, the team managed to carry out extensive assessments and organize a pilot project on the ground—a unique achievement in the current context. The project focused on assessing the capacities, gaps, and opportunities surrounding water harvesting across the country. Through a series of in-depth interviews with government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and private sector actors, the team gathered critical insights into the current state of water harvesting in Sudan, highlighting the need for more adaptive approaches that revive traditional knowledge and promote localized innovation.

A key outcome of this work was the identification of five major learning areas:

- the need for adaptive, context-specific design manuals;
- persistent gaps in interdisciplinary capacity;
- weak maintenance and ownership systems;
- the central importance of local participation and inclusion; and
- the creation of a national knowledge-sharing platform.



In addition, a comprehensive catalogue of both established and new water harvesting techniques was developed, showcasing innovations such as recharge basins and modified weirs (low barrier across river or stream that alters water flow) tailored for Sudan's diverse conditions. Four in-depth case studies were conducted to analyse functional and nonfunctional systems, such as hafirs (traditional, man-made ground reservoir or large basin used in dry regions), sand dams, subsurface dams, and water spreading weirs. These case studies, together with the broader capacity assessment and the new catalogue, form the foundation for a national roadmap to improve water harvesting practices, ensuring that future investments are more adaptive, locally grounded, and sustainable.

# Piloting circular water solutions in Columbia through **Partners for Water**

In the final stages of designing the Partners for Water pilot project in Colombia, we focused on an integrated, sustainable solution that combines Black Soldier Fly (BSF) composting technology, a greenhouse system, and water harvesting from roofs. This innovative approach is designed to address key environmental challenges, especially water efficiency, waste management, and nutrient recycling, while being adaptable to the needs of smallholder coffee farmers in the Fundación and Aracataca watersheds. After evaluating various water-saving and waste management technologies in 2025, the consortium decided to focus on a combination of BSF technology, greenhouses, and rainwater harvesting. These solutions are cost-effective, scalable, and tailored to the needs of smallholder coffee farmers in the region.

Our ongoing field visits and collaboration with local stakeholders, such as FNC and Invermar, have provided valuable insights into the practical application of these technologies. The feedback has been crucial in shaping the final design of the pilot and ensuring that the proposed technologies are feasible and sustainable for local farmers.

Construction of the pilot begins in May 2026. The farm has already been selected within the Arhuaco community of Windiwa. Here, we will install the BSF system, greenhouse, and rainwater harvesting setups. This farm will act as a demonstration site where local farmers can see the technologies in action and learn how they can be adapted to their own farms.

This integrated pilot project, combining BSF technology, greenhouse systems, and rainwater harvesting, represents a comprehensive approach to addressing the environmental and socioeconomic challenges faced by smallholder coffee farmers. By demonstrating the benefits of nutrient recycling and water efficiency, we aim to promote a more sustainable future for coffee production in Colombia, aligning with both environmental and economic goals.



## PARTNERS FOR THIS PROJECT:



**PARTNERS  
FOR WATER**  
CO-CREATING IMPACT

**Deltares**



Government of the Netherlands

# WAYS FORWARD

Across the world, landscapes are under growing pressure. Flooding, desertification, declining water availability, and degraded ecosystems are increasingly threatening community health, food security, and livelihoods. At the same time, rising demand for land, water, and natural resources, driven by climate transition, infrastructure expansion, and agricultural intensification, is testing the resilience of both ecosystems and the governance systems meant to protect them. In this context, managing natural resources sustainably is no longer a question of intent, but of execution.

Case-based evidence, independent analysis, and monitoring are essential to understanding how natural resources are being accessed, managed, and governed in practice. Our goal for 2026 is to work with partners to co-create climate-resilient landscapes through nature-based solutions, strengthen water security through catchment analysis and 3R approaches, and invest in long-term food security and WASH services that support healthier communities. Across all collaborations, our aim is to combine scientific and community expertise to develop solutions that are both credible and practical and rooted in adaptive learning, allowing for solutions to remain effective and meaningful over time.

Sustainable progress therefore depends on collaboration. To strengthen this work and ensure it delivers measurable impact, we invite partners to engage with us in ways that advance shared objectives:

- **Funders** can support core and thematic work that expands independent monitoring, spatial analysis, and open-access tools to track natural resource use and performance across sectors and regions.
- **NGOs and civil society organizations** can collaborate with us on joint case development and field-based learning that helps identify, test, and scale context-appropriate solutions based on best practices, scientific evidence, and local knowledge.
- **Research institutions** can collaborate with us to advance applied research and learning that informs landscape management, strengthens nature-based solutions, and helps identify effective practices across different environmental and community contexts.
- **Companies and financial institutions** can engage with our insights and tools to strengthen risk assessments, due diligence, and responsible resource management practices across operations and supply chains.

With sustained collaboration, 2026 can mark a turning point toward more equitable and resilient natural resource management that moves beyond short-term fixes and strengthens communities.



Connect and collaborate with us

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# Outlook: Entering 2026 with Confidence

With a strong and diverse portfolio across coffee, water, food security, sustainable production, and deforestation-free supply chains, AidEnvironment enters 2026 with confidence. Building on our work in 2025, we continue to combine data-driven analysis with field-based engagement, translating evidence into practical, context-specific solutions. The year ahead will not be easy, but our commitment to a more sustainable and just world remains the same while our internal alignment anchors our collective capacity.

We are living through a period of profound change and turbulence. Globally, this period has been marked by increasing political tensions and fragmentation, and a weakening sense of international solidarity. Long-standing budgets that for decades supported international cooperation are being frozen or reduced, placing pressure on development actors and long-term partnerships. At the same time, these dynamics reinforce the importance of working collectively across sectors and geographies to deliver lasting impact.

On a more positive note, the growing potential of East Africa as a global food hub, serving both regional and global markets, presents a significant opportunity. This shift aligns closely with AidEnvironment's long-standing experience in the region and gives us a strategic advantage in supporting the development of a food system that is productive, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.

Additionally, there is a growing recognition that social and environmental due diligence must be a shared responsibility across value chains. In this context, our role continues to evolve. AidEnvironment's strength not only in its technical expertise, but also in its ability to act as driver and broker between diverse actors, is key. Alongside implementation, we act as a connector and facilitator, linking producers, civil society, governments, companies, and financial institutions, helping to translate commitments into practical action and support more accountable and resilient systems.

Progress will depend on aligned and sustained collaboration. We therefore invite partners to work with us in ways that build on our complementary strengths and enable the scaling of impact. Guided by nuanced approaches and drawing from our ability to adapt, AidEnvironment will continue to translate vision into action to build a just and sustainable world.

We thank you for your  
continued support of  
our work.

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