

POLICY POINTER

Q&A for African Exporters: Understanding the EU Deforestation- free Products Regulation (EUDR)

Q1: What is the EU Deforestation-free Products Regulation (EUDR)?

The EUDR is a key part of the European Green Deal, aimed at reducing the EU's contribution to global deforestation and forest degradation. It requires businesses trading certain commodities, such as cattle, cocoa, soy, palm oil, and their derived products, to prove that these goods are deforestation-free and comply with legal standards in their country of origin.

Q2: What are the key commodities and products covered by the EUDR?

The Regulation targets commodities including: Cattle, Cocoa, Coffee, Palm oil, Rubber, Soy and Wood. It also applies to their derived products, such as leather, chocolate, furniture, and tires.

Q3: What are the main requirements for businesses under the EUDR?

Businesses must comply with mandatory due diligence obligations, which involve:

1. Gathering detailed data, including geolocation, quantity, and country of production.
2. Evaluating the risk that a product is not deforestation-free or legal.
3. Implementing measures to address significant risks identified during the assessment.



Additionally, businesses must submit a Due Diligence Statement electronically through the EU's Information System.

Q4: What is the current status of the EUDR and when will it be implemented?

The EUDR was initially set to apply starting 30 December 2024. However, the European Commission has proposed a 12-month extension to provide businesses more time to prepare, potentially delaying enforcement to 30 December 2025. This decision is awaiting final approval by the European Parliament and Council.

Q5: What are the penalties for non-compliance?

Member States are required to implement penalties that are:

- Significant fines (at least 4% of annual EU-wide turnover).
- Confiscation of non-compliant products or revenues.
- Temporary bans from public procurement or access to funding for up to 12 months.
- Repeated violations could result in further market restrictions or revocation of simplified due diligence privileges.

Q6: What are the key challenges for businesses under the EUDR?

1. Businesses face increased documentation and due diligence requirements.
2. Stakeholders have raised concerns about limited guidance from the EU.
3. Short timelines may strain businesses' ability to adapt, especially SMEs.



Q7: Are there any benefits or opportunities?

Yes, businesses that adapt early to EUDR requirements can:

- Position themselves as sustainability leaders in their sectors.
- Enhance their reputation and competitiveness in the EU market.
- Drive innovation and resilience in their supply chains.

Q8: What can businesses do to prepare for the EUDR?

1. Understand the regulation and familiarize yourself with the requirements and how they apply to your supply chain.
2. Build capacity and invest in systems for tracking and verifying product origins.
3. Engage stakeholders and work closely with suppliers, governments, and trade bodies to streamline compliance efforts.
4. Stay informed about the latest developments, including potential delays in implementation.

Q9: How can PACCI support its members in addressing EUDR requirements?

PACCI is committed to helping businesses navigate the challenges of the EUDR by:

- Organizing Workshops and Events to educate businesses about compliance and best practices.
- Providing Guidance on building capacity and aligning operations with the Regulation.
- Engaging with African governments to create enabling environments for businesses to meet these requirements.



Q10: What are the implications for African exporters?

- Smallholder farmers may struggle with the EUDR's stringent traceability and due diligence requirements, potentially leading to exclusion from the EU market.
- The regulation could affect livelihoods dependent on these exports, necessitating support for adaptation.



REFERENCES

[Le Monde](#)

[Ethiopian coffee is threatened by European deforestation regulations](#)

[193 days ago](#)

[Reuters](#)

[Ghana begins pilot program to trace cocoa as EU deforestation law looms, official says](#)

[89 days ago](#)

[Associated Press](#)

[EU offers to delay curbs on forest products after an outcry from trade partners](#)

[62 days ago](#)

Upcoming PACCI Initiatives

PACCI is launching a series of workshops and events designed to equip businesses with the knowledge and tools needed to comply with the EUDR. These initiatives will also provide a platform to share insights and strategies for success.

Stay tuned for further updates, and join us in ensuring that African businesses remain competitive and sustainable in the global market.



Be a part of Intra Africa Trade Fair!
Contact PACCI for more information on how
you can participate.

Connecting African Markets.

IATF2025 Algiers, Algeria

REGISTER TO EXHIBIT

Promoted by



In collaboration with



In collaboration with

