

# EU Deforestation Regulation and Compliance

*Tackling Deforestation with Dimitra Technology*

BELIZE CITY, BELIZE, February 8, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Two thousand years ago, [80 percent of Western Europe was classified as a forest.](#)

Today, that number is only 34 percent. Deforestation affects everyone on this planet. It is responsible for approximately [10 percent](#) of global warming. Without trying to tackle deforestation, it is impossible to combat global warming.



Deforestation is the purposeful clearing of forested land. Furthermore, industrial agriculture accounts for a colossal 85 percent of deforestation worldwide. Slash-and-burn agriculture is just one example contributing to deforestation. It occurs when a farmer burns down trees on their land, allowing the ash to fertilize the land for crops. Despite the fact that this may be sustainable for the farmers for a short period, they have to repeat it as the soil only remains fertile for a couple of years. It is not a sustainable farming method for the planet in the long run. Moreover, it causes long-term harm to the environment.

When farmers are clearing trees to make room for agriculture practices like logging, oil palm, rubber tree plantations, and cattle ranching, the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere increases. Trees play a significant role in the atmosphere because they take in carbon dioxide for photosynthesis, locking it into their wood. When farmers burn the trees, they release this carbon dioxide into the air. As the number of trees continues to decrease, an increasing amount of greenhouse gas collects in the atmosphere. Consequently, this accelerates global warming. In addition to the environmental repercussions listed above, deforestation threatens leaves soil more prone to erosion and forest fires and threatens biodiversity.

The EU is limiting the trade of products linked to deforestation worldwide to help combat the effects of climate change. The new regulation sets strict mandatory due diligence rules. These rules apply to companies that want to place relevant products on the EU market or export them. Once it becomes law, traders and operators have eighteen months to adjust to the regulations. Smaller-scale companies will have two years to adapt.

Traders and operators must prove that the products do not originate on land deforested after the 31st of December 2020. On top of deforestation, operators will need to verify their production complies with the local laws of the producing country.

Examples of these products include:

- Palm Oil
- Cattle
- Soy
- Coffee
- Cocoa
- Timber
- Rubber
- Beef
- Chocolate
- Furniture
- Paper

The metrics will be based on an evaluation of crop-specific criteria, regional or country-specific regulations, as well as EU-specified criteria. When considering the criteria, the metrics set by the EU will be used as the baseline standard. Any other criteria, be it regional, country-specific, or produce-specific, will be taken into account based on the highest of the two standards. If a specific country's criteria are different or have different components, measurements from both will be taken into account. The higher standards will be considered the primary metric.

Farmers around the globe are adjusting their farming practices to adhere to these new environmentally conscious changes. Farmers have to substantiate their farming practices to allow for the export of produce. Otherwise, the importer will [face fines of up to four percent of their annual EU turnover](#).

Apart from avoiding deforestation to make way for farmland, planting new trees can make farms more sustainable. Some crops like coffee and cocoa grow very well under the shade of large trees. In addition, fruit-bearing shade trees can provide additional income for farmers. Nevertheless, reducing deforestation doesn't start and end with the farmers. Influential commodity trading companies are crucial to reducing farmers' pressure to produce more.

Dimitra offers a Deforestation Certification Module as an upgrade to its Connected Farmer and Livestock Guru platforms making deforestation evaluation accessible to combat the climate crisis. The deforestation module makes it possible for producers and traders to prove their goods are unrelated to deforestation. Additionally, it helps regulatory authorities confirm compliance. GPS Track and trace is required to prove compliance with the new EU regulations by being able to show that the product was registered and came directly from the farm.

Origin farms are, by definition, everything in the surrounding geo-fence so that the system can

continuously monitor land use via satellite. When products are being verified, the regulatory authority can trace the product back to its origin farm. Then an assessment can be made if any trees were lost to make way for planting crops. Users also can create a year-over-year user-generated report based on data from their designated geofence inputs for an additional fee.

This technology can impact any party within the agricultural chain. For instance, farmers and cooperatives can consolidate the information on their farms, and governments can provide better compliance and standardized assessment for the buyers and producers of affected products. Moreover, all of this data is written to an enterprise-grade blockchain to provide transparency and take advantage of the blockchain's security and immutable ledger. On top of that, Dimitra adds other values of importance to the EU, including the responsible use of pesticides, waters, and soils, and respect for humans, including labor rights.

With Dimitra's ability to fully automate the capture of deforestation, calculating the loss and coverage with year-over-year reporting, farmers, cooperatives, and governments can improve the accuracy of their information. In addition, they can help combat deforestation while trying to make an impact on climate change. Working towards this goal is crucial to improve the state of the environment globally. In fact, it is an estimation by the assessment from the European Commission that at least 71,920 hectares (278 sq miles) of forest annually - (around 100,000 football pitches) will be under protection with this law. Consequently, it is also an estimation that global carbon emissions will drop by 31.9 million.

To learn more about how technology can help combat global warming, visit [www.dimitra.io](http://www.dimitra.io).

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