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Session Chair		
Presentations	Session 2.3 Session 4.2	<i>Individual presentations: Forest trade and legality. Global Forest Bioeconomy: Continuity or a Pathway to Transformations? (Part 2).</i>

Abstract Session 2.3 – Reducing Commodity-Driven Tropical Deforestation: Political Feasibility and "Theories of Change" for EU Policy Options.

Consumer countries play an important role in driving tropical deforestation through imports of forest risk commodities (FRCs), but their role in reducing deforestation has received limited scholarly attention. We draw on grey literature and a European Commission (EC) public consultation to identify 1,141 policy proposals for the EU and other consumer countries to address tropical deforestation. We summarize these in 86 unique policy options and classify these according to policy instrument and actor targeted. Two-third of the policies are informational and supportive policies, while regulatory and market-based options are less-often proposed. For the 86 summary options, we assess the political feasibility and map the “theory of change” (TOC) - the causal chain through which the policies address tropical deforestation. We identify several feasible options, though most of these rely on less coercive policy instruments. Most policy proposals lack an explicit and proven TOC, reducing their potential impact on reducing deforestation. Due diligence and multi-stakeholder fora stand out as politically feasible and potentially effective policies. To increase the feasibility and impact of consumer-country deforestation policy options, we propose three principles: i) Build policies on a clear theory of change, ii) apply policy mixing and sequencing, and iii) work with stakeholders in key supply-chains and regions, broadening scope over time.

Abstract Session 4.2 – Halting deforestation from afar: identifying and assessing the feasibility of policy options for EU action against deforestation.

Despite public and private efforts, global tropical deforestation continues at alarming levels. Consumer countries, such as the EU, can potentially play a significant role in curbing tropical deforestation through policy initiatives. Here, we identify and assess the feasibility of policy options for EU and its Member States to address deforestation in the tropics. We draw on suggestions from grey literature and a European Commission public consultation to identify more than 1100 policy suggestions proposed by industry, NGOs, knowledge institutions, and the public sector. We classify these by intervention type and target actor and condense them to 85 different policy options for EU action, which capture the range of options suggested. The condensed options span different themes, including due diligence, transparency, certification, technical support, governance capacity building, trade measures and financial regulations. Overall, we find that policies emphasizing cooperation and support –along with voluntary and information-based policies –receive more support than regulative and market-based

measures. We then analyze the political feasibility of each of these options, scoring them on advocacy, cost, institutional setting, and policy design. We discuss the potential effectiveness of the policies, based on both theoretical literature on deforestation policies and data on EUs role in contributing to deforestation through trade and consumption. We find that several politically feasible options exist for the EU to target deforestation, but also that there are trade-offs between feasibility and effectiveness in terms of reduced deforestation.

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