

# BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CHANGE

## The sector partnerships program



### CERTIFICATION AND BEYOND

**Over the past 15 years, UTZ and Rainforest Alliance have built leading certification schemes with practical systems to enable all actors in the supply chain to move towards sustainable sourcing. We are joining forces under the Rainforest Alliance name, and with our bigger network, we can further influence the various sector agendas towards sustainability.**

There are some challenges that certification alone cannot address. Through the Sector Partnerships Program, we are strengthening the capacity of farmers (especially smallholders and female farmers) and civil society organizations in producing countries. We are supporting them to work with governments and companies to tackle issues that require a sector wide approach, including child labor, deforestation, and climate change resilience, among others.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Rainforest Alliance has been researching, designing, and executing R&R financing solutions for smallholder cocoa producers who've already earned Rainforest Alliance certification or are in the process of getting certified.

In 2013, the Rainforest Alliance conducted a feasibility study demonstrating that long-term loans for cocoa R&R were feasible when they were accompanied by adequate farm management plans, and that producers could repay these loans from what they earned through productivity improvements.

### SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY

We are building on the strong foundations of certification by extending our work with actors and initiatives across the sector, particularly civil society – from farmers' associations to NGOs.

Civil society organizations play an important role in driving change, as they represent the interests of local populations and have the legitimacy to advocate on their behalf. They are able to address sensitive issues thanks to their knowledge of and connection with actors in the local context. We have supported partners with over 80 projects to date.

### SOME PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

We believe farmers should earn a wage they can thrive on, not just the bare minimum – but how do you determine what that is? Through collaboration with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Global Living Wage Coalition (GLWC), the SP Program has supported knowledge sharing on how to calculate a living wage. Together, we have successfully advocated for the International Labour Organization (ILO) to adopt the GLWC methodology and develop a toolkit for governments wanting help to calculate the cost of living, to indicate an appropriate living wage. This is a crucial step in **bringing minimum wages closer to living wages**. When countries worldwide start using method, the impact will be... incalculable!

They say it takes a village to raise a child – and when it comes to stopping child labour, it couldn't be more true. Through the SP Program, we are supporting the **Stop Child Labour project**, implemented by our Ugandan partner, Kyagalanyi, in the West Nile sub-region. They are piloting the Child Labour Free Zone approach in the coffee sector, and advocating to end child labour on multiple levels. From schools and households, to working with local & regional authorities, to sharing outcomes with the national coffee platform, they have helped more than 500 children go back to school. Their success was rewarded at the 2018 Rainforest Alliance Gala, winning the Sustainable Standard-Setter Award for these efforts, as well as for the innovative approaches they use in their farmer support programs. But this is just the beginning!

Deforestation and climate change are pressing concerns in Côte d'Ivoire. Under the SP Program, our partner IMPACTUM is supporting cocoa producers in adopting sustainable landscape management practices, and engaging targeted stakeholders in the promotion and implementation of the national Forest Code. Their efforts have had massive reach, with an awareness campaign sensitizing at least 1000 actors from cocoa cooperatives, producers and local communities. Knowledge on the causes, consequences and means of adaptation to climate change was shared, as well as much-needed information on deforestation, management of natural resources and the sustainable management of territories. Producers became aware of the consequences of inaction, as well as adaptation measures such as agroforestry, reforestation and conservation of the last forest blocks. Better for farmers, and better for the future!

### THREE COMMODITIES

Coffee • Cocoa • Tea

### SIX THEMES

- Sustainable productivity
- Living wage
- Child labor
- Climate change adaptation & water management
- Inclusion of smallholder interests & farmer group strengthening
- Gender equality

### OUR PATHWAYS TO CHANGE

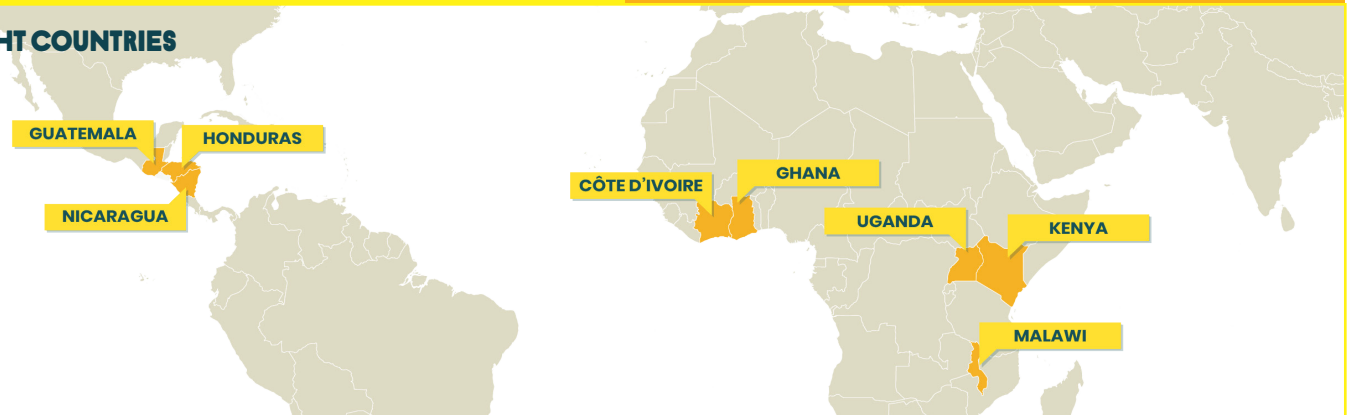
- Direct lobby & advocacy, awareness raising
- Research, pilots, sharing best practices
- Building capacity of civil society organizations
- Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Platforms
- Supporting commodity specific curriculum development

“It is clear how strongly gender is integrated within the program. Apart from specific gender interventions on different levels (high and low) it is clear that gender [knowledge and awareness] is being strengthened among employees within the organization”

**TANJA GONGGRIJP**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department for Sustainable Economic Development)

### EIGHT COUNTRIES



“Certification already benefits more than a million farmers and workers, but we know that we could do more. The Sector Partnerships Program builds on the strong foundations of certification, contributing to our goal of making sustainable farming the norm.”

**HAN DE GROOT**

CEO of the Rainforest Alliance

### THE SP PROGRAM IN NUMBERS

- 14 Curricula supported
- 22 pilots on UTZ tools
- 18 Stakeholder platforms supported
- 43 CSOs supported
- 21 Advocacy strategies
- 38 Pilots & studies

For more information on the Sector Partnerships Program visit: [www.utz.org/what-we-offer/sector-change](http://www.utz.org/what-we-offer/sector-change)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

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