

Proforest's programmes

Proforest aims to make production and supply chains of palm oil, soy, sugar, timber and other commodities more sustainable. Through our consultancy services, we work directly with producers and supply chain companies to support implementation of better practices. But some of the main barriers to change cannot be overcome by individual companies. Collaboration is needed at a wider scale to create an enabling environment for change. Proforest's non-profit programmes support these collaborative initiatives.

Proforest's mission is to help people to produce and source natural resources sustainably.

Achieving sustainable agricultural production and sourcing is complex. It must balance economic, social and environmental demands, which vary between countries and environments. Our consultancy work helps us understand the barriers to progress in different commodities and regions. Our programmes work with local partners to overcome these barriers and to create an enabling environment in which sustainability can flourish.

We provide technical support and build capacity to enable local stakeholders – including governments, private sector, civil society organisations and communities – to understand, participate in and take ownership of sustainability initiatives. We bring people together in multi-stakeholder initiatives to help create robust tools and approaches that can be implemented at a landscape scale.

Our programmes

Our **Multi-stakeholder Initiative Support Programme** provides technical assistance to multi-stakeholder processes including RSPO, RTRS, FSC, UN Global Compact, Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA 2020) and emerging landscape approaches.

Our **International Capacity Development Programme** coordinates our work on developing local capacity through awareness building, formal training and field experience. The **Africa Practitioners Network** is pioneering a long-term approach to building local capacity across West and Central Africa, with a focus on mentoring. Proforest's **Responsible Production and Sourcing Programmes** in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America focus on the key issues in each region and bring together stakeholders to develop practical approaches to implementing sustainability commitments. The **Smallholder Programme** supports the integration of smallholders into responsible supply chains. Proforest is a member of the SHARP Partnership and hosts the secretariat.



A unique perspective

Proforest is a unique non-profit group that works through a combination of consultancy services and programmes.

Through our consultancy services we work directly with companies, supporting them in their transition to better practices.

Our programmes build the enabling environment and address key barriers to better practices by fostering awareness of the issues, and building local capacity and ownership of sustainability initiatives.

By combining these two approaches we are uniquely placed to help bridge the gaps between business, governments and civil society, and to develop practical approaches to responsible production and sourcing that can help transform commodity sectors.



A snapshot of our work

From the wide range of our programme work, a few examples demonstrate the diversity of what we do.

Supporting multi-stakeholder initiatives

We work with **multi-stakeholder initiatives**, such as commodity roundtables, UN processes, networks and partnerships bringing government, civil society and private sector together. We bring our technical knowledge to support their processes for developing guidelines for responsible production of agricultural commodities.

Building capacity for sustainable cattle governance in Brazil

The Brazilian Roundtable on Sustainable Livestock (GTPS) brings together representatives spanning the beef value chain in Brazil, including ranchers, industry representatives, retailers, banks and civil society organisations. With Proforest's support, GTPS has improved its governance and procedures, developed its programme, and attracted significant funding. GTPS is now thriving, attracting new members and developing capacity to find solutions to the pressing sustainability challenges facing the cattle sector in Brazil.



Training and capacity building

We share our expertise in assessing and implementing sustainability standards through our **training and capacity development programmes**. We work with small and medium enterprises, as well as auditors, government and civil society to help them understand, implement and assess progress towards sustainability standards.

Building practical experience

The Africa Practitioners Network (APN) goes beyond training courses to build practical experience for responsible production in the forest and palm oil sectors in West and Central Africa. Working with six civil society partners and nine producer companies in Cameroon, Gabon and Ghana, the APN provides on-site, practical mentoring for local natural resource professionals. Trainees are hosted by producer companies, which gives them an in-depth understanding of the practicalities of responsible production and how sustainability standards are implemented and audited.



Working with smallholders

Ensuring that **smallholders** can access and benefit from markets for responsibly produced commodities is a theme throughout all our programmes. We work with partners and the private sector to expand opportunities for smallholders, reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of commodity production and improve smallholders' livelihoods.

Responsible sourcing for sustainable livelihoods

The Responsible Sourcing from Smallholders (RSS) framework, developed by the SHARP Partnership, aims to help companies manage risks of poor environmental and social practices, while supporting their smallholder suppliers to improve production practices and livelihood security. Proforest piloted the RSS process with Honduran company Jaremar and its smallholder suppliers. This process encouraged the company, NGOs and local groups to openly discuss smallholders' relationship with the company, labour issues, working conditions and land conflicts.

