

EUDR Community of Practice

Ad Hoc Session – Certification Systems
15 July 2026



Ad Hoc Session with Certification Systeme – Agenda

Wednesday, 15 July | 12:00 – 13:30 (CEST)

- 12:00 Welcome & Setting the Scene, key Issues at a glance
- 12:20 EUDR CoP Core Group Reflections
- 12:40 Lightning Perspectives: Insights from Certification Systems
- 13:00 Open Exchange: Certification Systems with the Core Group
- 13:25 Key Takeaways & Next Steps, closing (13:30)

Anti-trust statement

Participants in this discussion meeting are reminded that they must not discuss any matter that relates to competitive issues between the participants. In particular, each participant must strictly avoid any discussions of confidential or competitively sensitive information about its business, including, but not limited to: prices, price levels, pricing strategy, price lists, trends, interest or exchange rates, rebates, discounts, margin changes, percentage price changes or methods of determining or implementing prices; costs, profits, margins; sales conditions, sales volumes/values, market shares; customer and competitor details, such as names, types, importance; allocations/limits (on territories, customers, activities, services, etc.); commercial output, know-how, strategy, developments, innovations. In addition, competitors must not discuss any suggestion of a boycott of third parties or bid-rigging.

Welcome & Setting the Scene

EUDR Community of Practice

- A joint initiative of the EU Sustainable Supply Chains Coalition and the European Forest Institute
- Launched 11 March 2026
- Objective:

To promote **collaborative engagement** between **businesses**, EUDR **Competent Authorities** and the **European Commission**, focusing on the exchange of practical solutions and the identification and resolution of implementation challenges.

Wider Community

(Open Participation)

- Mailing list
- Surveys
- Broad updates
- Open feedback
- TEI HUB



Technical Core Group

(Focused Engagement)

- 25 members
- In-depth discussion
- Issue resolution
- Expert input

Why this discussion?

1. Strong interest from service providers in the EUDR Community of Practice and its Core Group activities.
2. Service providers are playing an increasingly important role in helping operators, producer organizations, and governments prepare for EUDR.
3. This session provides an opportunity to exchange perspectives between the EUDR CoP Core Group and service providers on emerging challenges, lessons learned, and areas where further guidance or collaboration may be needed.
4. The objective - to foster dialogue and improve collective understanding of how support services can contribute to effective and inclusive EUDR implementation.

Housekeeping

- Introduction to Core Group members
- Chatham House Rule applies
- Session is recorded for internal use only
- Summary published (no attribution)
- No promotion of service/solution
- Priority to service providers in Q&A/discussion

Key Issues at a Glance

EUDR CoP Legality Survey

Most challenging aspects of legality due diligence

Key finding: The main challenge is not identifying laws — it is obtaining and assessing evidence.

Key issue is evidencing legality in complex sourcing contexts

Particularly relevant for:

- smallholder supply chains;
- informal tenure systems
- weak administrative systems



Most challenging legal domains

Key finding: Land tenure and rights emerged as the most difficult area across both questionnaires.

Followed by:

- Human rights / labour rights
- Legality of forest conversion
- FPIC / indigenous and local community rights
- Protected areas and land-use restrictions



Use of certification

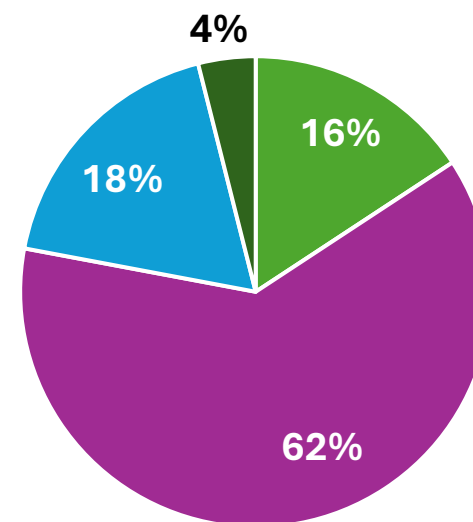
Key findings

Certification is a **major** element of respondent's legality work however; it is rarely considered sufficient on its own.

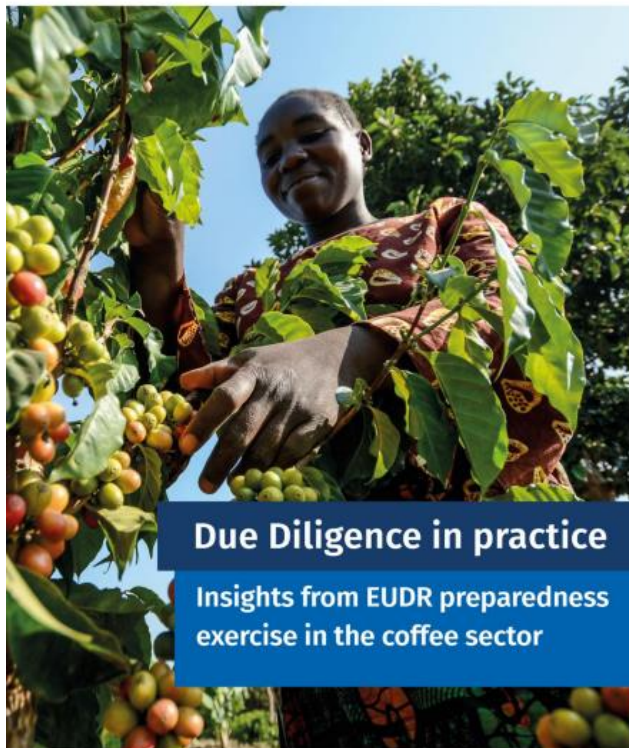
Highlighting the need for clearer understanding of how certification can be effectively integrated into due diligence processes.

What is your approach to third-party certification?

- Certification is not part of our legality work
- Certification is one major element in our legality work
- Certification is one minor element in our legality work
- Certification is the only element in our legality work



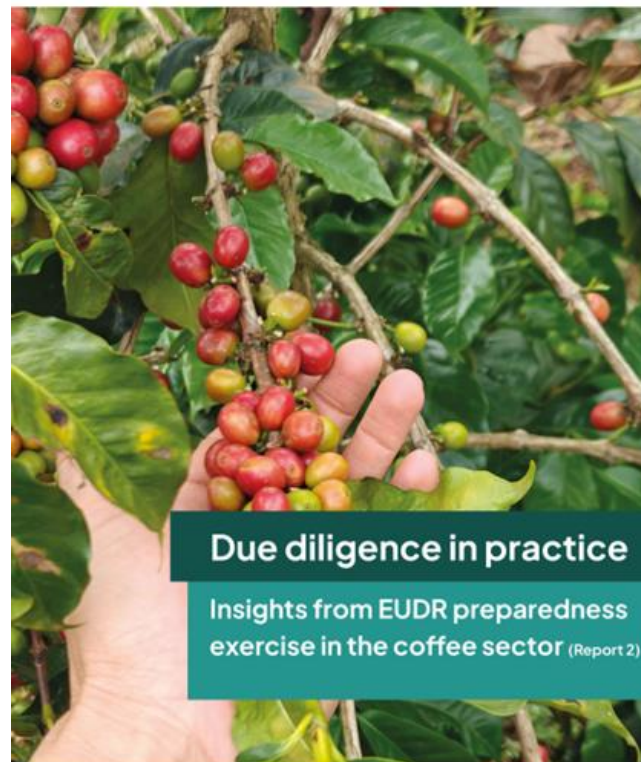
EUDR Dry Runs



Due Diligence in practice

Insights from EUDR preparedness exercise in the coffee sector

Reports: <https://efi.int/partnerships/valuechains>



Due diligence in practice

Insights from EUDR preparedness exercise in the coffee sector (Report 2)



Due Diligence in practice

Insights from EUDR preparedness exercise in the palm oil sector

Key Insights from the EUDR Dry Runs

Key lesson on certification

Certification is an important enabler of EUDR due diligence—not a "green lane". Its value depends on how well it is integrated into an operator's due diligence system, assessed for coverage, robustness and traceability, combined with other evidence sources, and supplemented with appropriate risk mitigation measures.

1. Certification supports due diligence but does not replace it

The clearest and most consistent message is that certification is an input to an operator's due diligence system, not a substitute for it.

Operators remain legally responsible for collecting information, assessing risks, implementing mitigation measures where needed, and documenting their decisions.

2. Certification is most valuable when integrated into a documented due diligence system

The value of certification depends on how it is used. Operators should clearly document:

- which EUDR requirements the scheme helps address;
- any limitations of the scheme;
- additional mitigation measures applied; and
- how certification contributes to ongoing monitoring and risk assessment. This documentation provides transparency for Competent Authorities

3. Operators should assess certification schemes before relying on them

The Technical Facility identifies three key criteria that operators should evaluate:

Coverage – Which EUDR requirements (deforestation, legality, traceability, etc.) are actually covered?

Robustness – How credible is the scheme? This includes governance, accreditation, auditor competence, audit frequency, handling of non-compliance, impartiality and periodic updates.

Traceability – Does the scheme adequately prevent mixing with non-certified products?

Key issues from beneficiaries of certification system for EUDR compliance

1. Risk-averse approaches to legality excluding smallholders
2. Limited information of national / local contexts – national schemes better at supporting this
3. Deforestation-free claims not fully aligned (cut of dates, definitions, compensations)
4. Smallholder exclusion – schemes unable to trace to smallholders who source from intermediaries
5. Data from certification systems are available for not accessible



Nederlandse Voedsel- en
Warenautoriteit
*Ministerie van Landbouw, Visserij,
Voedselzekerheid en Natuur*

Results from dry runs EUDR 2025

Netherlands' Competent Authority

Tieme Wanders



EUDR-dry runs: Looking back

Why dry runs?

Purpose of the dry runs for NVWA
and the participants

How were the dry runs implemented?





EUDR-dry runs

Test inspections for companies that volunteered

- Reasonably hard deadline in order to meet communication possibilities during summer season

25 participants in total

- More companies invited, some later declines
- 2 in cooperation with other NCA (Belgium and Germany)
- No dry runs on timber products (EUTR and EUDR resemble each other a lot)
- New dry runs in 2026



EUDR-dry runs: Summarized results

Due diligence statement

- 14/25 companies had made a DDS in TRACES

Art 9 - Information

- 9/25 companies had collected sufficient information
- 12/25 had a list with relevant legislation

Art 10 – Risk assessment

- 18/25 assessed risks
- 9/25 assessed risks sufficiently
- 16/25 assessed risks related to deforestation

Art 11 Risk mitigation

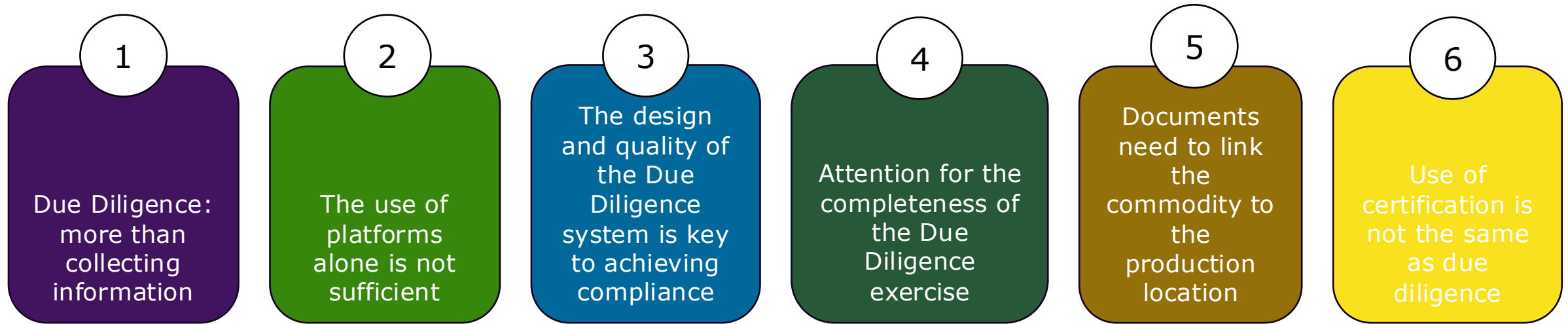
- 8/25 mitigated their identified risks in a satisfying manner

Art 12 – Due diligence system

- 20/25 had a due diligence system
- 4/25 had a 'good' score initially
- 4/25 scored 'good' after adjustments



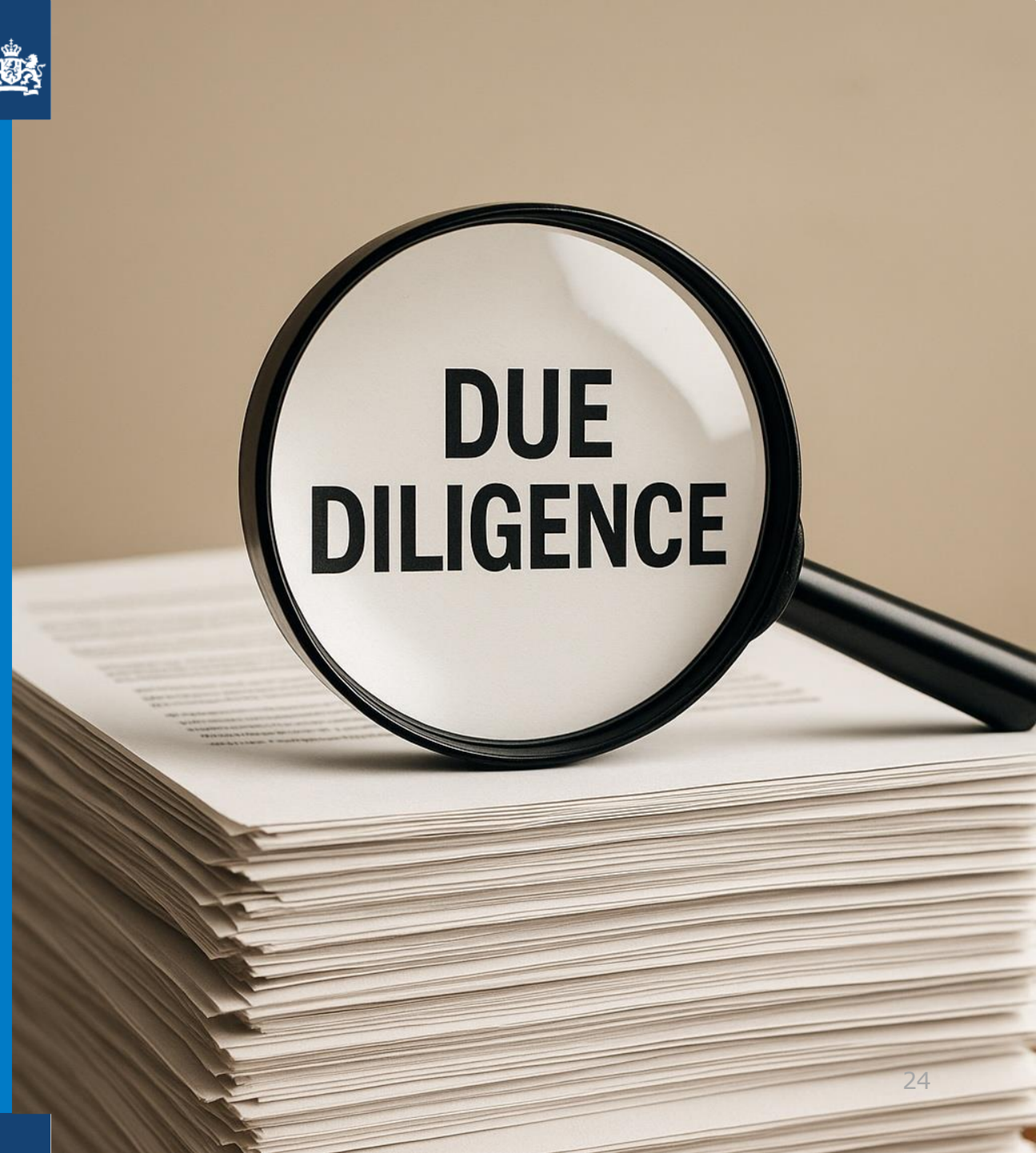
The 6 most important insights





Conclusion

- › All companies have done a lot of work to comply with the EUDR
- › All production locations shown were deforestation free
- › 32% of the companies have come very far with legal compliance
- › Geolocations were an issue for some companies





Basic criteria for acceptance

The vTPA system:

is independent and impartial



checks for compliance with laws and regulations



can demonstrate the performance of participants



has a transparent and effective sanction application



 performs unannounced audits / visits (unpredictable)

sets requirements and monitors the quality of the Certification Bodies (CB)



has insight into the operation of the scheme and has procedures for self-correction



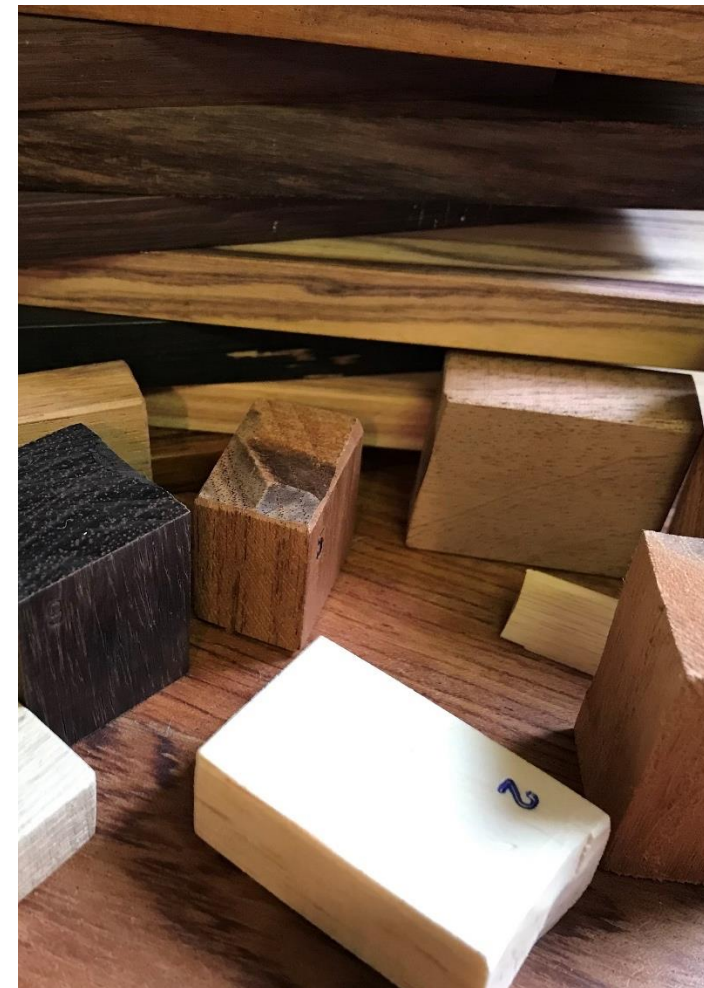
shares information and is transparent





Current situation

- › Two systems were accepted for their governance (FSC, RSPO and MSPO)
- › <https://www.nvwa.nl/ondernemers/toezicht-maatregelen-en-boetes/zelfcontrole-met-behulp-van-private-controlesystemen/overzicht>
- › Next step for these it to determine which elements are checked by the system that the NCA also looks at.
- › N.B: A certification will never replace our supervision. Certified operators can still be inspected



Core Group reflections & questions for Service Providers

One challenge we are facing...

One lesson we have learned...

One recommendation for improving how certification supports EUDR...

Lightning perspectives from Service Providers

1

What is the biggest challenge your clients face?

2

What elements of the EUDR may remain unclear at the moment?

3

What is one lesson learned from EUDR implementation so far?

Open exchange: Service Providers in conversation with the Core Group

Key takeaways & next steps

1. Summary report will be published to the wider CoP
2. Report from ad hoc meeting with certification schemes (July)
3. Public event planned for September 2026: report back from core group sessions (concrete cases...)

The logo for the EUDR Community of Practice, featuring the text "EUDR" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "Community of Practice" in a smaller, regular, sans-serif font below it. The text is white and set against a dark brown, rounded rectangular background.

EUDR
Community
of Practice

Thank you for your
participation