

JURISDICTIONAL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

For low-emission rural development in the tropics

The global movement to slow the loss and speed the recovery of tropical forests has never been stronger, yet forests continue to disappear at alarming rates. Governments and companies are committed to do their part, but partnerships to advance these shared commitments are still rare. For example, only five of the 35 tropical states and regions that signed the Rio Branco Declaration, which aims to reduce deforestation 80% by 2020, have formal partnerships with companies to help achieve that goal¹.

Earth Innovation Institute is conducting a study to document the many types of public-private jurisdictional partnerships that are either under development or already being implemented. The goal is to develop a simple typology of these partnerships, and to identify the elements of success for each type. This work is part of the *Tropical Forest Champions* initiative, designed to make corporate-jurisdiction partnerships simpler and safer.

In this summary, we share some of the initial results of the study, providing a simplified partnership typology with examples of each.

What makes a public-private partnership “jurisdictional”?

- Focused on jurisdiction-wide targets and milestones
- Involves national or subnational government to achieve commitments, objectives and goals
- Involves multiple local stakeholders
- Is inclusive and transparent
- Is mutually beneficial for all stakeholders

Partnership Typology & Illustrative Examples

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Single Jurisdictions (examples)

National

Ecuador-RSPO

Colombia: Cocoa, Forests and Peace Initiative

Subnational

International Standards

RSPO Jurisdictional Pilots, Landscape Standard pilots,

Commodities-Jurisdictions Alliance pilots

Bottom-up Initiatives

Mato Grosso PCI, Brazil; Acre SISA, Brazil

South Sumatra Eco-Region Alliance,

Verified Sourcing Area compacts

Multiple Jurisdictions (examples)

National

Ghana & Côte d’Ivoire: Cocoa and Forests Initiative

Subnational

Peruvian Amazon: Coalition for Public-Private-Partnerships for Low Emission Development
Siak-Pelalawan Landscape Program

Single Jurisdiction Partnerships

Describe many partnerships where single jurisdictions (nations, states, provinces, districts, municipalities, etc.) partner with other stakeholders to advance low emission rural development (LED-R) goals. Some partnerships are applying *International Standards* such as the RSPO² Jurisdictional Certification pilots in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, Sabah, Malaysia and at the national scale in Ecuador. Examples under development include *The Landscape Standard*³ pilots in Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Ghana, the *Commodities/Jurisdictions Alliance*, and others. Other partnerships have been created as *bottom-up initiatives* originating from local stakeholder groups or governments. These include Mato Grosso’s *Produce, Conserve, Include Strategy* and Acre’s *State System of Incentives for Ecosystem Services (SISA)* in Brazil, *The South Sumatra Ecoregion Alliance* in Indonesia, and many others. Single jurisdiction partnerships allow programs and policies to be specifically tailored to partner jurisdictions,

¹ Stickler, et al. 2018. The State of Jurisdictional Sustainability. <https://earthinnovation.org/state-of-jurisdictional-sustainability/>

² Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

³ <https://verra.org/project/landscape-standard/>

particularly when companies source largely from within single jurisdictions or regions.

Multiple Jurisdiction Partnerships

Several partnership models have emerged where multiple governments at national or subnational levels unite to form coalitions with corporate partners, NGOs, finance institutions, sector federations and others to promote low-emission rural development at regional scales or across multiple sourcing regions. Coalitions may buffer partnerships from political or social risks that might arise in any single jurisdiction, and can protect individual corporate brands from “name-and-shame” campaigns. The World Cocoa Foundation’s *Cocoa and Forests Initiative* in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire provides an example at the national level, whereas the *Coalition for Public-Private Partnerships for Low Emission Development* in the Peruvian Amazon and the *Siak-Pelalawan Landscape Programme* in Riau, Indonesia are public-private coalitions operating at subnational levels.

Corporate commitments and supply chain approaches to ending deforestation have proven challenging to implement in the absence of strong linkages with public policies. Complex supply chains complicate the traceability and transparency needed to monitor sourcing policies, and these policies may not always align with local environmental regulations or economic development goals. On the other hand, the international financial and technical support needed by tropical forest governments to implement commitments to low-emission development has been insufficient and slow to arrive.

One of the best ways to overcome these challenges is through jurisdictional public-private partnerships, where governments can implement jurisdictional approaches to sustainable production thereby greening corporate supply chains, and companies invest directly in sourcing regions to eliminate problems related to deforestation and land degradation. Earth Innovation Institute is committed to facilitating new partnerships to unite governments and companies to achieve mutual sustainability goals through our new *Tropical Forest Champions* initiative, including this partnerships research.

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