

## Project Assignment

### Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa, draft proposal for standard suspension of requirement 3.4.8 Reporting on Deforestation Prevention (October 2025)

This is a project assignment that follows the approved suspension request for the requirement.

More information on these procedures can be found on the website:

[https://www.fairtrade.net/content/dam/fairtrade/fairtrade-international/standards/how-we-set-standards/SOP\\_short\\_Development\\_Fairtrade\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.fairtrade.net/content/dam/fairtrade/fairtrade-international/standards/how-we-set-standards/SOP_short_Development_Fairtrade_Standards.pdf)

#### Rationale for and justification of need for the project:

Requirement 3.4.8 Reporting on Deforestation Prevention applicable to traders in the Fairtrade Standard for cocoa has created technical difficulties and is a duplication of efforts, as SPOs are reporting this data as well. The other part of the requirement, which is to report on support to SPOs is not needed since this is covered also in requirement 3.4.4 Supporting producers to prevent and mitigate deforestation.

FLOCERT has also shared concrete examples of legal concerns certified customers have raised due to inability to share information with Fairtrade International (FI) as there are no legal safeguards for data sharing between traders and FI.

#### Risk assessment:

1. If the requirement remains in the Standard, there will be a duplication of effort for traders and burden on the Fairtrade system to resolve technical and auditing matters.

**Mitigation:** Suspend the requirement and remove it from the Standard entirely following decision by the SC or Director S&P.

2. Suspending the requirement indicates that efforts around deforestation prevention of traders are weakened.

**Mitigation:** Clear and transparent communication about the assessment of the requirement in the case of cocoa, where it has been applicable for some time, explaining stakeholders reasoning behind suspension of the requirement that has not added any value. In addition, explain that the suspension does not undermine the commitment Fairtrade holds around protection of forests and prevention and mitigation of deforestation.

#### Project Start Event:

Draft Project Assignment will be uploaded to the FI website for comments by stakeholders

#### Project Start Date:

October 2025

#### Project End Event:

Announcement of the decision and publication of updated standard

#### Project End Date:

Q4 2025

#### Project Goal and Objectives:

##### Goal:

The revision of the Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa is a key instrument to align the standard with the market needs and producer realities.

##### Objectives:

- To follow standard operating procedures to assess the approved suspension request of requirement 3.4.8 Reporting on Deforestation Prevention;

- to request suspension and ultimately removal from the Fairtrade Standard for cocoa entirely following a decision by the Director S&P and as needed together with the SC Chair.

### Connection with Theory of Change (ToC):

This project is connected to the Fairtrade Goals which are to foster sustainable livelihoods, empower small producers, make trade fair and build Fairtrade markets.

For more information on Fairtrade's ToC see this [link](#).

### Project scope:

For more information on Fairtrade Standards click this [link](#).

### Out of scope:

Review of other requirements in the Fairtrade Standard for cocoa;  
Review of other Fairtrade Standards  
Price and Premium review

### Project timelines and information on opportunities to contribute:

**Scoping: October 2025**

**Research: October 2025**

**Consultation\*: October – November 2025 (two weeks)**

**Director S&P decision: November 2025**

**Publication: November 2025**

\* More information will be provided closer to the consultation period on our [website](#). If you are identified as key stakeholders, you will receive an invitation to participate.

### Decision making process:

The final proposal for standard suspension is approved by the Director of Standards and Pricing and the Chair of the Standards Committee, as needed, in their capacities as stipulated in the Standard Operating Procedure.

### Project Owner (Unit):

Alina Amador, Head of Standards

### Project Managers (contact point for the project):

Kerstin Cron (Project Manager Standards)  
[k.cron@fairtrade.net](mailto:k.cron@fairtrade.net)

### Project Team (Unit):

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Fairtrade International | Jon Walker, GPM |
|-------------------------|-----------------|

### Project Environment (stakeholder groups not part of the project team):

- Certified traders and organizations under the Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa
- PNs
- NFOs
- Global Impact unit
- DSU