Bulgaria: A deforestation exposure assessment

Headlines

0.7% of EU's total deforestation exposure is linked to Bulgaria's imports, after adjusting for re-exports

990 ha

Bulgaria's average deforestation exposure in 2019-2021, after adjusting for re-exports

Cocoa

made up 41.2% of Bulgaria's total deforestation exposure in 2019-2021, after adjusting for re-exports

Methodological note

This analysis provides the deforestation footprint of Bulgaria's imports and is useful for highlighting hotspots and trends in deforestation exposure from a global perspective. Results should be interpreted against the methods used and their associated limitations. Please refer to the end of the factsheet for some key considerations, or read the full methods note for more detail.

Direct trade deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

From a direct trade perspective, on average between 2019 and 2021, Bulgaria was most exposed to deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire (326 ha, 41.7%), followed by Ghana (148 ha, 19%) and Malaysia (39.2 ha, 5%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cocoa (518 ha, 66.2%), sunflower seed (55.3 ha, 7.1%) and oil palm (41.9 ha, 5.4%). In Côte d’Ivoire, the most important commodity for Bulgaria's deforestation exposure was cocoa (323 ha, 99.1%), followed by cashew nuts (2.92 ha, 0.9%). In Ghana, the most important commodity was cocoa (148 ha, 100%), followed by wheat (0 ha, 0%).

![Deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity](image-url)
Re-export adjusted deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

After adjusting for re-exports, on average between 2019 and 2021, Bulgaria was most exposed to deforestation in Côte d’Ivoire (218 ha, 22.1%), followed by Bulgaria (216 ha, 21.8%) and Brazil (146 ha, 14.7%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cocoa (408 ha, 41.2%), cattle products (169 ha, 17.1%) and maize (67.9 ha, 6.9%). In Côte d’Ivoire, the most important commodity for Bulgaria’s deforestation exposure was cocoa (181 ha, 83%), followed by cashew nuts (24.8 ha, 11.3%). In Bulgaria, the most important commodity was cattle products (69.5 ha, 32.2%), followed by maize (67.5 ha, 31.3%).

Deforestation exposure by commodity and perspective

Bulgaria’s total deforestation exposure was larger from the re-export adjusted perspective (990 ha), and smaller from the direct trade perspective (781 ha). For more information about these different perspectives, see the accompanying methods note. Numbers are average annual exposure from 2019 to 2021.
Deforestation exposure by commodity over time

The following charts show trends over time in re-export adjusted deforestation exposure, for each commodity. Overall, Bulgaria’s total exposure increased between 2014 and 2021 by 49.1 ha, a change of 5.1%. Of the seven EUDR commodities, the biggest change over the time series, in both absolute and relative terms, was for oil palm, which saw a decrease of -127 ha over the time series (-92.8%). The commodities are shown in decreasing order of deforestation exposure over the time series. Note that there is lower confidence in the last data point in the time series (2021) due to data limitations.

Comparison with deforestation exposure of other EU countries

After adjusting for re-exports, Bulgaria ranks 19th among EU countries for deforestation exposure, accounting for 0.7% of the EU total. Looking instead at the deforestation per 1,000 tonnes of imported material, Bulgaria ranks 14th, with its deforestation exposure per 1,000 tonnes equal to the EU median of 0.14 ha/kt.
Subnational deforestation exposure

Estimates of subnational deforestation exposure presented in this section will differ from the national-level estimates presented earlier in the factsheet, and are not directly comparable. This reflects different definitions of deforestation (in Brazil, for example, the subnational data includes the conversion of any native vegetation, including ecosystems such as the Cerrado), and other methodological differences (e.g. the time periods used to attribute deforestation to particular commodities). See the methods note accompanying the factsheet for more information.

Côte d'Ivoire cocoa: Subnational detail

Trase data shows that Bulgaria was exposed to 13,100 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Côte d'Ivoire cocoa in 2021, the most recent year with subnational data available. Bulgaria's deforestation exposure was highest in the departments of San-Pedro (1,520 ha, 11.6%), Guiglo (397 ha, 3%), and Lakota (326 ha, 2.5%). 36.8% (4,820 ha) of Bulgaria’s deforestation exposure was from indirect sourcing, where it was not possible to determine the department of production. In total, Bulgaria imported Côte d'Ivoire cocoa from 8 exporters in 2021. The exporter groups most exposed to deforestation were TOUTON, SOCIETE AWAHUS SERVICES and COOPAGAGNY (COOPERATIVE), which together account for 78% of Bulgaria’s deforestation exposure. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to Bulgaria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deforestation exposure (ha)</th>
<th>Exporter exposure for exports to Bulgaria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td><strong>TOUTON</strong> 6,310 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 22.4</td>
<td><strong>SOCIETE AWAHUS SERVICES</strong> 2,440 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.4 - 44.2</td>
<td><strong>COOPAGAGNY (COOPERATIVE)</strong> 1,460 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2 - 142</td>
<td><strong>CYRIAN INTERNATIONAL</strong> 1,390 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142 - 212</td>
<td><strong>SUTEC</strong> 880 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212 - 326</td>
<td><strong>CONDICAF</strong> 367 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>326 - 397</td>
<td><strong>TIBONI (COOPERATIVE)</strong> 128 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>397 - 1,520</td>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong> 108 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No sourcing
Interpreting this factsheet

To identify the most important commodities and countries globally for Bulgaria’s deforestation exposure, this factsheet uses the best available data linking commodities to deforestation at the global scale, based on conversion of natural forests with canopy cover of at least 25%. Due to data availability limitations, we are unable to extend deforestation estimates robustly to some more processed materials, particularly affecting rubber and wood-based estimates in our results. Deforestation definitions used and commodity coverage is therefore not in full alignment with EUDR definitions and scope. For these reasons, estimates presented in these factsheets should be interpreted with caution and as likely underestimates of the true deforestation footprint associated with commodity use. We refer you to our methods note for further details.

Contact us

Chris West, Researcher & SEI York Deputy Director, Stockholm Environment Institute York, chris.west@york.ac.uk.

Mark Titley, Senior Research Associate, Global Canopy, m.titley@globalcanopy.org.

For methods information, data sources, and frequently asked questions, please refer to the accompanying methods note.

Keep connected with Trase for future insights trase.earth.