Estonia: A deforestation exposure assessment

Headlines

2.2% of EU’s total deforestation exposure is linked to Estonia’s imports, after adjusting for re-exports

3,310 ha Estonia’s average deforestation exposure in 2019-2021, after adjusting for re-exports

Cocoa made up 69.6% of Estonia’s total deforestation exposure in 2019-2021, after adjusting for re-exports

Methodological note

This analysis provides the deforestation footprint of Estonia’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, Estonia was most exposed to deforestation in Côte d’Ivoire (1,530 ha, 49.5%), followed by Indonesia (762 ha, 24.6%) and Ghana (553 ha, 17.8%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cocoa (2,270 ha, 73.3%), oil palm (718 ha, 23.2%) and industrial roundwood (24.9 ha, 0.8%). In Côte d’Ivoire, the most important commodity for Estonia’s deforestation exposure was cocoa (1,530 ha, 100%), followed by oil palm (0.229 ha, 0%). In Indonesia, the most important commodity was oil palm (717 ha, 94.2%), followed by cocoa (40.5 ha, 5.3%).
Re-export adjusted deforestation exposure by origin country and commodity

After adjusting for re-exports, on average between 2019 and 2021, Estonia was most exposed to deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire (1,420 ha, 43.1%), followed by Indonesia (689 ha, 20.8%) and Ghana (524 ha, 15.9%). Across all origin countries, the most important commodities were cocoa (2,300 ha, 69.6%), oil palm (655 ha, 19.8%) and wheat (66.5 ha, 2%). In Côte d'Ivoire, the most important commodity for Estonia’s deforestation exposure was cocoa (1,410 ha, 99.1%), followed by cashew nuts (6.28 ha, 0.4%). In Indonesia, the most important commodity was oil palm (654 ha, 94.9%), followed by cocoa (29.1 ha, 4.2%).

Deforestation exposure by commodity and perspective

Estonia’s total deforestation exposure was larger from the re-export adjusted perspective (3,310 ha), and smaller from the direct trade perspective (3,100 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, Estonia’s total exposure increased between 2014 and 2021 by 282 ha, a change of 12.1%. Of the seven EUDR commodities, the biggest change over the time series, in both absolute and relative terms, was for oil palm, which saw an increase of 515 ha over the time series (775.1%). 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, Estonia ranks 9th among EU countries for deforestation exposure, accounting for 2.2% of the EU total. Looking instead at the deforestation per 1,000 tonnes of imported material, Estonia ranks 1st, with its deforestation exposure per 1,000 tonnes (0.84 ha/kt) higher than 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 Estonia was exposed to 54,000 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Côte d'Ivoire cocoa in 2021, the most recent year with subnational data available. Estonia’s deforestation exposure was highest in the departments of Lakota (2,180 ha, 4%), Guiglo (1,760 ha, 3.3%), and San-Pedro (1,750 ha, 3.2%). 42.5% (22,900 ha) of Estonia’s deforestation exposure was from indirect sourcing, where it was not possible to determine the department of production. In total, Estonia imported Côte d’Ivoire cocoa from 18 exporters in 2021. The exporter groups most exposed to deforestation were TOUTON, SUCDEN and BARRY CALLEBAUT, which together account for 65% of Estonia’s deforestation exposure. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Deforestation hotspots for exports to Estonia

Exporter exposure for exports to Estonia

- TOUTON: 15,400 ha
- SUCDEN: 11,700 ha
- BARRY CALLEBAUT: 8,050 ha
- OLAM: 5,780 ha
- SOCIETE AWAHUS SERVICES: 5,180 ha
- ECOM: 1,690 ha
- TANMONDIAL: 1,670 ha
- OTHER: 4,620 ha
Indonesia palm oil: Subnational detail

Trase data shows that Estonia was exposed to 1,410 ha of deforestation from its direct imports of Indonesia palm oil in 2020, the most recent year with subnational data available. Estonia’s deforestation exposure was highest in the provinces of Riau (764 ha, 54%), Kalimantan Barat (267 ha, 18.9%), and Kalimantan Tengah (146 ha, 10.3%). Zooming in to a finer spatial scale, Estonia sourced Indonesia palm oil from 82 kabupaten, while 80% of Estonia’s exposure was spread across 13 kabupaten. In total, Estonia imported Indonesia palm oil from 3 exporters in 2020. The exporter groups most exposed to deforestation were MUSIM MAS, WILMAR and ROYAL GOLDEN EAGLE, which together account for 100% of Estonia’s deforestation exposure. To explore the data in more detail, visit trase.earth

Interpreting this factsheet

To identify the most important commodities and countries globally for Estonia’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.

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