



EUDR Report Zimbabwe

2025-2026



This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Horticultural Development Council of Zimbabwe, Enveritas, the Government of Zimbabwe, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



200 km



Background

About Zimbabwe's coffee industry

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, with a diverse economy that includes agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. Agriculture is a crucial sector in Zimbabwe, contributing around 17% to the GDP and employing about 60-70% of the population. Zimbabwe's coffee industry, once a global player, suffered a major decline following the land reforms in the early 2000s, which redistributed land from commercial estates to smallholder farmers, many of whom lacked resources and support to maintain coffee production. Once producing 15,000 tonnes annually, the sector collapsed, and production plummeted to below 400 metric tonnes per annum.

Now, efforts to revive the industry are underway, focusing on quality rather than quantity. Efforts from local governments, and international companies and organizations, such as Nespresso's "*Tamuka MuZimbabwe*" program and TechnoServe, are supporting Zimbabwe's coffee revival, through providing technical assistance, training, and access to premium markets. These initiatives have helped small-scale farmers to re-enter international markets, particularly the European market. The country's coffee production remains small, but Zimbabwe's coffee is noted for its distinctive flavour, which can attract premium prices in global markets, with increasing high potential.

The revival of the coffee industry will not only boost GDP and increase jobs, but will also help coffee growers increase school attendance among growers' children, provide healthcare access, preserve biodiversity, among others. Despite the sector's potential, coffee production has faced challenges, as the sector is transforming from a previously

large-scale dominated to small-scale driven sector. The very low production volumes, regulatory constraints and inadequate funding and support services for farmers, present additional challenges. Climate change also poses a significant threat to coffee production in Zimbabwe, with changing weather patterns and increased temperatures affecting yields and quality.



Zimbabwe's rich biodiversity and forest ecosystems, especially in the Eastern Highlands where coffee is predominantly grown, are critical to both the environment and the economy. These areas are prone to deforestation due to agricultural expansion, firewood collection, and illegal logging. Zimbabwe has several policies aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and forest conservation, including the National Forest Policy and the Environmental Management Act. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement, and the Forestry Commission are important stakeholders in ensuring that Zimbabwean agricultural products meet international standards. Compliance with the new European Union Deforestation Regulation, as detailed in the following section, is an expansion among existing legislation.

Introduction to the law

The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), formally adopted in June 2023 as Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, represents one of the most significant legislative developments in international trade and forest conservation in recent years. The regulation prohibits the placing or making available on the EU market of certain commodities and products, including coffee, unless they have been produced on land that has not been subject to deforestation or forest degradation after December 31st, 2020. The legislation is currently postponed, with existing plans to be implemented for large and medium operators on December 30th, 2026, and a further extension for small and micro primary operators to June 30th, 2027, as of the time of writing this report.

Coffee is one of seven key commodities listed under the EUDR, alongside cattle, cocoa, soy, palm oil, wood, and rubber. Any operator or trader seeking to export coffee to the EU market must demonstrate due diligence by providing geolocation data for all plots of land where the coffee was produced, a country-of-origin risk assessment, and a declaration confirming that the product is deforestation-free and has been produced in compliance with the relevant laws of the country of production.

The EUDR creates a benchmarking system where countries are classified as low, standard, or high risk based on their deforestation profile and the robustness of their governance frameworks. Countries classified as high risk will face heightened scrutiny, with EU authorities required to conduct checks on at least nine percent of operators and fifteen percent of the volume of relevant commodities from those countries. Standard-risk countries are subject to three percent operator checks and five percent volume checks, while low-risk countries face simplified due diligence requirements. The classification of individual producing countries has significant implications for the administrative burden placed on exporters and the likelihood of market access disruption.

For many coffee-producing countries, the EUDR introduces substantial new compliance requirements. Smallholder farmers, who account for the majority of global coffee production, face particular challenges in meeting the geolocation and traceability demands of the regulation, given limited access to digital infrastructure, technical expertise, and institutional support. National governments, certification bodies, and development organisations

are increasingly engaged in efforts to build the data systems and capacity necessary to facilitate compliance, such as those outlined in this report for Zimbabwean coffee farmers.

As Zimbabwe aims to expand its coffee production and exports to the EU, compliance with the EUDR is crucial. This assessment will focus on mapping coffee farms, evaluating environmental sustainability practices, and ensuring that Zimbabwean coffee is free from deforestation-linked activities.

The full text of the EUDR is available [here](#).

Stakeholders

Smallholder coffee farmers are one of the beneficiaries of this project by ensuring that they are in compliance with EUDR to access the European market, improving sustainability practices, and securing higher income through premium pricing for deforestation-free coffee. Coffee cooperatives and exporters, such as the Zimbabwe Coffee Mill, have an interest in expanding market access, enhancing the reputation of Zimbabwean coffee in the EU, and maintaining competitive edge by adhering to international environmental standards. The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Rural Resettlement, has an interest in supporting economic growth through increased coffee exports, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring compliance with international regulations like EUDR. The Environmental Management Agency has an interest in preserving forest ecosystems, promoting deforestation-free agricultural practices, and supporting sustainable development initiatives in coffee-growing regions. European importers and consumers have an interest in sourcing deforestation-free coffee, meeting the EUDR standards, and maintaining ethical supply chains aligned with environmental protection policies.

The Coffee Commodity Association of Zimbabwe (CCAZ) and the Horticultural Development Council (HDC), as sector representatives, support the action, implementation, coordination and follow up. These groups are integral to the success of the project, sharing mutual interests in ensuring the sustainability and profitability of Zimbabwe's coffee industry.

Scope of work

As outlined in the initial contract, the main objective of the consultancy is to assess and map coffee farms in Zimbabwe, ensuring compliance with the EUDR and enabling Zimbabwe's coffee sector to access the European market under the new regulatory framework.

This includes verifying that coffee production is deforestation-free and meets the standards outlined in the EUDR.

Additionally, the EUDR will create a traceability requirement for coffee farmers that will be used by the industry to keep track of producers, add new producers and ensure traceability of coffee beans originating from Zimbabwe. The four specific objectives outlined in the contract include:

1. Geospatial mapping and identifying of coffee farms in Zimbabwe, which includes a detailed map of Zimbabwean coffee farms
2. Carrying out a Deforestation Due Diligence and Risk Assessment, which includes a) a deforestation Due Diligence and Risk Assessment Report for the mapped farms, and b) a final compliance report confirming that the mapped farms adhere to EUDR standards with recommendations for EUDR certification.
3. Developing a traceability system to track coffee production from the farm level through the entire supply chain to ensure coffee imported into the EU can be traced to EUDR-compliant farms.
4. Undertaking a stakeholder engagement report summarizing consultations and feedback.

Methodology

Survey

First, enumerators, through the assistance of project technicians and local farmers, identify a list of coffee farmers in each village. After each village is mapped out across the Province of Manicaland, enumerators navigate to each farm, and conduct a small survey with each farmer if the farmer is at home. Surveys are recorded on an application called CommCare, while polygons, if necessary, are recorded on an application called KoboCollect. If the farm area is below four (4) hectares, a GPS point is recorded from the center of the farm; however, if the farm is four (4) hectares or greater, a polygon is recorded of the coffee farm area by walking the perimeter of the farm. This is consistent with existing EUDR legislation. Both applications, CommCare and KoboCollect, are interacted with from a smartphone.

The survey questionnaire conducted by enumerators consisted of the following components (*asterisks denote components **not** collected if a farmer is not present or does not consent*)

- Farmer name*



- A signed consent form from the farmer, which details how Enveritas collects, uses, protects, and retains personal data from the farmer, and ensures farmers are informed of their rights, how their data will be used, and the measures taken to safeguard their privacy and confidentiality.*
- Geolocation data
- Coffee farm size, recorded in hectares*
- Zimbabwe National ID number*

Field training and team

A Training of Trainers (TOT) was held in Mutare, Zimbabwe with government agricultural extension staff on March 17th, 2026. The training covered an introduction to the project, introduction to the EUDR law, coffee agronomy, farmer consent, field etiquette, protocol, ethics, quality control, and a practice session. Enumerators were hired through local partner M31, and HDC.



Deforestation model

The deforestation model used in this report was developed by Enveritas, a global nonprofit that works to overcome systemic barriers keeping smallholder coffee and cocoa farmers in poverty. The Enveritas deforestation detection solution uses two proprietary in-house models:

1. **2020 Base Land Cover Model:** A deep learning model trained on diverse imagery sources at varying resolutions to classify pixels into specific land cover types (e.g., forest, coffee, palm oil, rubber, water)

within a localized context. The model is designed to be resilient across different sensors and resolutions, as well as to handle cloud cover and missing imagery.

2. **Annual Change Detection Model:** This model compares the land cover before and after the year of interest, incorporating time-series data from the intervening years, to estimate deforestation for the target year.

Together, these models identify areas covered by forest (as defined by the EUDR) as of the end of 2020 and detect subsequent deforestation. All detected areas undergo multiple rounds of manual review by over 600 team members across more than 26 countries, who confirm whether deforestation occurred and validate subsequent land use. This process enables Enveritas to identify locations where forest was converted to cultivation of the commodity of interest after the end of 2020.

For example, for the 2023–2024 harvest cycle, the 2020 base land cover model is compared with the 2021 change detection model, allowing sufficient time for the commodity of interest (i.e. coffee) to mature and begin producing cherries.

The model uses satellite imagery from internationally recognized and commercially available sources, selected based on resolution, spectral bands, and time period. The primary data includes:

- **High-resolution imagery:** Multispectral optical imagery at 0.5-meter resolution where available.
- **Supplementary imagery:** 2.5-meter and 10-meter resolution imagery from additional providers to ensure coverage completeness.
- **SAR imagery:** Used selectively when optical and multispectral data are limited by cloud cover.

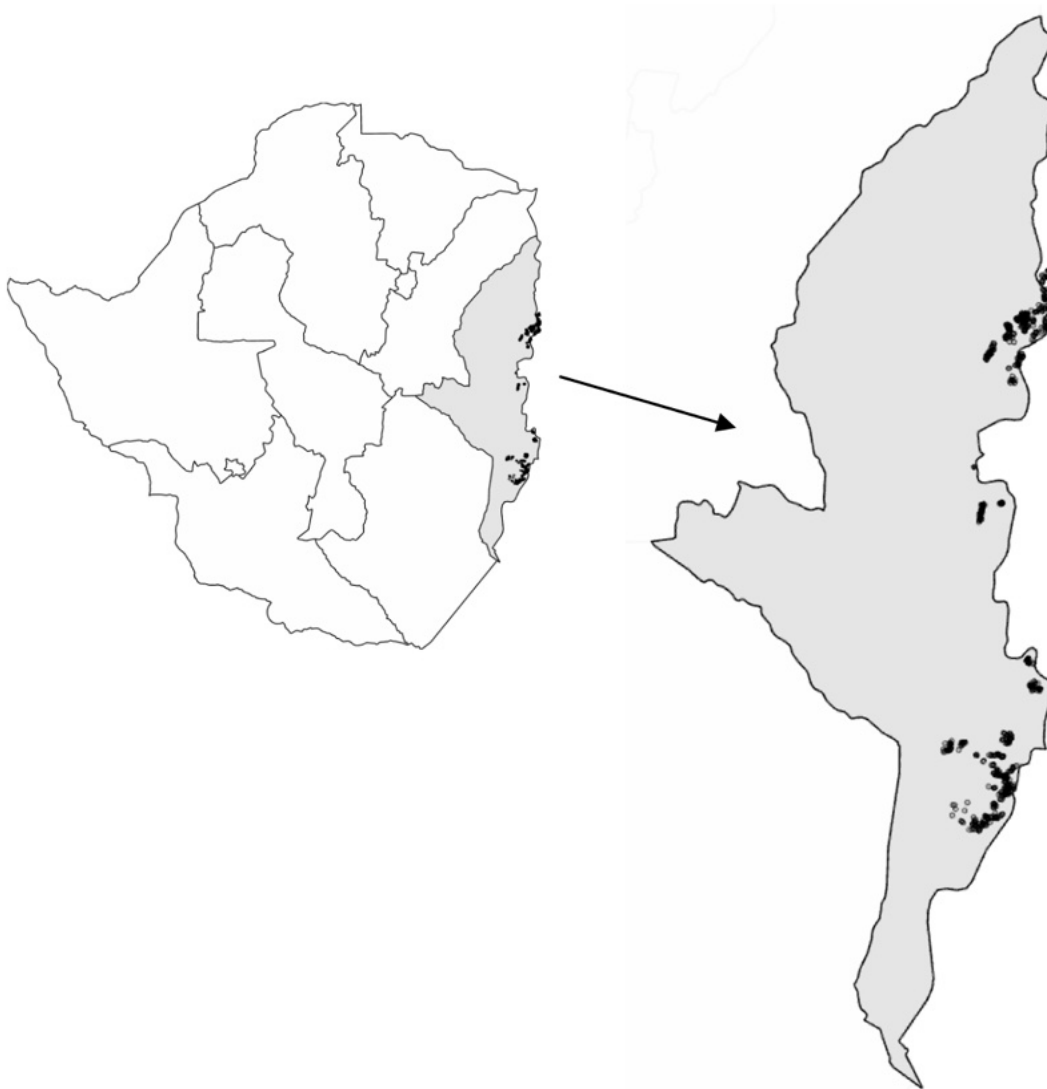
Most other deforestation detection models rely solely on freely available imagery at 10–30 meter resolution. In contrast, the Enveritas model incorporates imagery at resolutions as fine as 50 cm, enabling clearer distinctions between forest and commodities of interest. The deep learning model reconciles multiple input types and resolutions. Training and validation data are sourced from Enveritas field teams worldwide and undergo rigorous quality control.

Results

Geospatial mapping of coffee farms in Manicaland

Field teams recorded 948 coffee farms spread across the Chimanimani, Chipinge, Mutare, and Mutasa Districts of the Manicaland Province. The median farm size of coffee farms visited is 0.25 hectares. Out of the 948 coffee

farms visited, 937 farms were less than four hectares (only GPS point required), and 11 farms were four hectares or larger (polygon required).



Deforestation Due Diligence and Risk Assessment

Enveritas' deforestation model found nine (9) recorded cases of deforestation since December 31st, 2020 on Zimbabwean coffee farms based on the analysis conducted by this project. Cases are confirmed via additional satellite imagery in the attached Annex. Outside of the 9 farms with confirmed deforestation, all other 939 farms visited adhere to the EUDR standards laid out, and are able to export legally to the European market.

Challenges and limitations

Multiple challenges may limit results presented in the report outcomes:

1. Adverse weather conditions and extreme mountainous terrain faced by field teams prevented teams, with the given budget and timeline, from reaching a small select number of farms in the most remote regions of Manicaland. This represents a negligible volume of farmers.
2. Manicaland Province is the only Province covered by this report. Coffee farmers in other Provinces, such as Masvingo and Mashonaland West, are not covered in this project.
3. Farmers who could not be reached, found with all given institutional and local knowledge, or did not consent, are not included in the report. This consists of an estimated 350 farmers across Manicaland, Masvingo and Mashonaland West.

Conclusion and recommendations

These are the options to allow Zimbabwean coffee farmers to export their coffee deforestation-free to the EU:

1. If the areas that were labeled as deforested were not used to cultivate coffee, then they could be resubmitted with polygons drawn only around the land used for coffee and the analysis could be re-run. This may require visiting the nine farms again to verify if the deforested areas are being used to directly grow coffee.
2. The nine reported cases of deforestation could be ground truthed to prove they may be deforestation free.
3. The nine reported cases of deforestation could be removed from the Deforestation Due Diligence statement, allowing all other farms except these nine to be exported to the EU; however, this would require extensive tracing to ensure these farms do not sell their coffee to the EU.

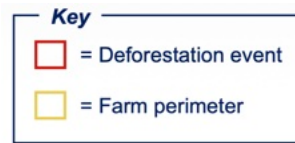
Overall, Zimbabwean coffee has a low risk of deforestation. The vast majority, over 99% of farmers, have not deforested any forest trees since December 31st, 2020. Coffee plays an increasingly important role in Zimbabwe's economy, and ensuring that coffee can be exported to European markets is crucial to smallholder farmers across the country.



Annex

Satellite imagery of deforestation events

Case 1: -18.334893, 32.995529 (farm size: 1.06 ha)



Before deforestation event: October 2020



After deforestation event: August 2023



Case 2: -18.334893, 32.995529 (farm size: 1.06 ha)

Before deforestation event: October 2020



After deforestation event: August 2023



Case 3: -19.128185, 32.706018 (farm size: 0.39 ha)

Before deforestation event: June 2019



After deforestation event: September 2023



Case 4: -18.440871, 32.999933 (farm size; 5.87 ha)

Before deforestation event: July 2019



After deforestation event: October 2025



Case 5: -18.335054, 32.989509 (farm size: 0.59 ha)

Before deforestation event: October 2020



After deforestation event: October 2025



Case 6: -18.438031, 32.884779 (farm size: 0.66 ha)

Before deforestation event: May 2019



After deforestation event: October 2023



Case 7: -19.128185, 32.706018 (farm size: 0.39 ha)

Before deforestation event: June 2019



After deforestation event: September 2023



Case 8: -20.006057, 32.621942 (farm size: 0.74 ha)

Before deforestation event: July 2019



After deforestation event: August 2025



Case 9: -20.268508, 32.636737 (farm size: 0.72 ha)

Before deforestation event: June 2021



After deforestation event: August 2023

