



ISCO SCORECARD

Ranking & grading public-private platforms for sustainable cocoa



MIGHTY EARTH

Contents

Introduction	3
Methodology	7
Limitations	9
Rankings	10
Overall Ranking	10
Ranking by criteria	11
Analysis	12
1. Composition	12
2. Accessibility of Information	17
3. Deforestation and Climate	20
4. Support for Regulation	23
5. Traceability and Transparency	26
6. Living Income	29
7. Agroforestry	32
8. Governance	35
9. Money for Environment	38
10. Child Labor	40
11. Ambition	42
12. Chemical Use and Carbon Pollution	44
Conclusion	47
Acknowledgements	49



Introduction

An opened cocoa pod showing the fresh beans.

Mighty Earth

ISCO SCORECARD: Ranking & grading public-private platforms for sustainable cocoa

In the last four years, the chocolate industry has undertaken a steadily increasing number of reforms to begin to address deforestation, child labor, and other abuses in cocoa.

Amongst other developments for reform, public-private “platforms” for sustainable cocoa have proliferated, commonly referred to as “ISCOs.” These bring together industry, governmental entities, and civil society in several chocolate-consuming countries to promote sustainability in cocoa. Of the six existing platforms, the first such platform in Germany, called “GISCO,” was founded in June 2012, the Swiss and Belgian platforms are under three and two years old

"Without added pressure from civil society and the public, the ISCOs could become a tool for industry greenwashing."

respectively, the Dutch platform was launched only in Spring 2020, and the French and Japanese platforms have launched and are in development. Trailing further behind, the UK and US have failed thus far to develop any platform of this kind.

Facilitating collaboration between industry, government and civil society, the ISCOs create goals, set targets and monitor progress. ISCOs have tremendous potential to enable industry to transition to sustainable cocoa and we applaud the organizations, companies, and institutions that have joined a cocoa sustainability platform to improve social and environmental performance of the cocoa industry.

However, we fear that despite great intentions, the ISCOs will have difficulty turning commitment into

action. Further, we worry that without added pressure from civil society and the public, the ISCOs could become a tool for industry greenwashing. Lastly, if the ISCOs each develop divergent definitions, ambitions, key performance indicators (KPIs), and cut-off dates it could lead to chaos in the world of sustainable cocoa, rather than synergistic global pressure for improvement.

Thus, we have created our ISCO scorecard to exert some pressure for synergy over divergence, for order over chaos, for high-ambition goals over mediocrity, and to highlight successes. We hope this scorecard can help set the course for ISCOs to meet their potential and become their best selves. For the cocoa industry to become truly sustainable, reform in consumer countries is required, and that push for reform will be best served by coherence and clarity.

The purpose of this scorecard is to evaluate these "ISCO" platforms based on 12 key sustainability criteria.

The following page provides a visual overview of the evaluated platforms.

FIG. 1

Cocoa Sustainability Platforms Evaluated

Netherlands: The Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (DISCO)

Launched: August 2020

Belgium: Beyond Chocolate (the Partnership for a sustainable Belgian chocolate industry referred herein as 'BISCO')

Launched: December 2018

Japan: The Platform for Sustainable Cocoa for Developing Countries (herein unofficially dubbed 'JAPANISCO')

Launched: January 2020

Germany: The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)

Launched: June 2012

Switzerland: The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO)

Launched: January 2018

France: Syndicat du Chocolat ('FRISCO') of France

Launched: In development

USA: The United States has failed to begin to develop a platform for industry, government, and civil society to come together and hammer out a way forward for sustainable cocoa imports.

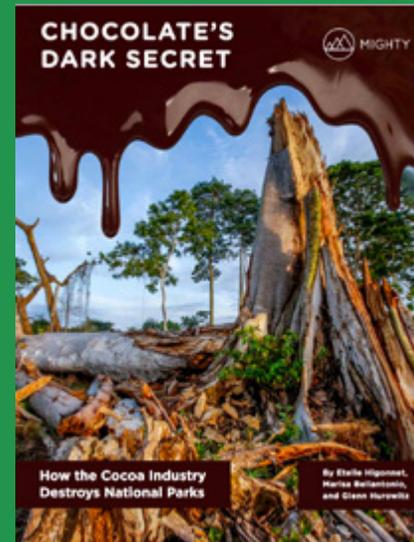
UK: Likewise, the United Kingdom has failed to develop a platform.



Introduction

The 12 sustainability criteria (see page 11) include the platforms' structure, commitments, goals, activities, and policy positions on issues such as traceability and transparency, deforestation, agroforestry, use of chemicals, and child labor. Some of these criteria, such as deforestation, are also familiar to anyone who has read the Mighty Earth publications on cocoa. Most notably, many of these criteria are highlighted in our past Easter [Scorecards](#), wherein we have ranked and graded cocoa traders, manufacturers, and supermarkets on their environmental and social performance, allocating "good," "medium," and "bad" markers for performance on individual criteria and scores for overall corporate performance. Just as cocoa traders and chocolate manufacturers must be held accountable and scored, so too must the platforms that are seeking to reform cocoa at a national level.

Mighty Earth reports on cocoa sustainability (top) and the 2021 Easter chocolate scorecard (bottom) are available on mightyearth.org/reports.



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Easter Chocolate Shopping Guide

MIGHTY EARTH BE SLAVERY FREE INKOTA Green America

Easter is the biggest chocolate shopping holiday of the year. What's really going into the chocolate we buy? Be Slavery Free, Green America, INKOTA, Mighty Earth, and National Wildlife Federation surveyed the world's biggest chocolate companies to find out! Some are rising to the challenge of making cocoa sustainable, but others continue to ignore consumer demand for chocolate that's free of **deforestation**, **farmer poverty**, and **child labor**. This guide informs the choices of consumers like you. Together, we can transform the chocolate industry into one that prioritizes people and the planet.

GOOD EGG AWARDS	ROTTEN EGG AWARD
 for greatest improvement in sustainable policies	 (Werther's, Toffrey, Merc) for lack of transparency and worst-in-class policies.

SCORE KEY

Needs to catch up with the industry	Needs more work	Starting to have good policies to implement	Leading the industry on policy
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Methodology

This study involves five main steps.

1 Criteria

First, through discussions with NGO partners and experts, Mighty Earth developed a set of criteria by which to assess the cocoa sustainability platforms. We shared these draft criteria with both the sustainability platforms and our NGO partners for feedback.

2 Data

Second, we collected information pertaining to the 12 key criteria through desk-based research of reports, websites, and various documents from each platform. We aimed to gather the most up-to-date and publicly available documentation for each platform.

3 Interviews

Third, we requested interviews with a representative from each platform to fill in the gaps, provide any additional information and context.

4 Scoring

Fourth, we used a point system to score each criterion for each platform and categorized the results. For each criterion, the platforms either earned a Green, Yellow, or Red score.

- To calculate the scores, each criterion included subcategories that were each worth 1 point.
- Depending on the number of subcategories, a particular criterion was worth between 2-8 points.
- Depending on the answer we awarded between .5-1 point for each subcategory. Then, depending on the points awarded for each criterion, we assigned a color. For example, if a criterion had 5 subcategories it was worth a total of 5 points.

- If a platform scored between 4-5 points, they received a green score. If they received a total of 2-4 points, they got a yellow. Results between 0-2 points earned a red score.
- Green means that the platform is leading the pack in addressing the key issues relevant to the criterion and is on their way to making progress.
- Yellow means that the platform has partially addressed the issues, but there is still not a logical link between the steps they are taking, and the progress that must be achieved.
- Red means that the platform has taken few or no steps to address the key issues relevant to the criterion.

5 Results

Lastly, results were shared with the platforms in order to facilitate dialogue, receive updates on progress, allow for a chance for all platforms to improve if they wish to do so, challenge any details they felt were incorrect, and verify results.



Limitations

Since the goal of this scorecard is to create a learning opportunity for platforms no matter at what stage they are in building their platform, we included platforms that launched as recently as 2020. As previously mentioned, FRISCO, DISCO, and JAPANISCO are at quite early stages in their development and had much less information publicly available than other platforms at the time this study was conducted. BISCO and SWISSCO are also relatively new platforms compared to GISCO. Therefore, the results are biased towards older platforms, which reflects their higher-ranking performance born out of longer experience and deeper engagement. Nevertheless, we hope this scorecard will inspire platforms to address any issues that need more attention. Further, we hope that platforms can learn from each other through this exercise.

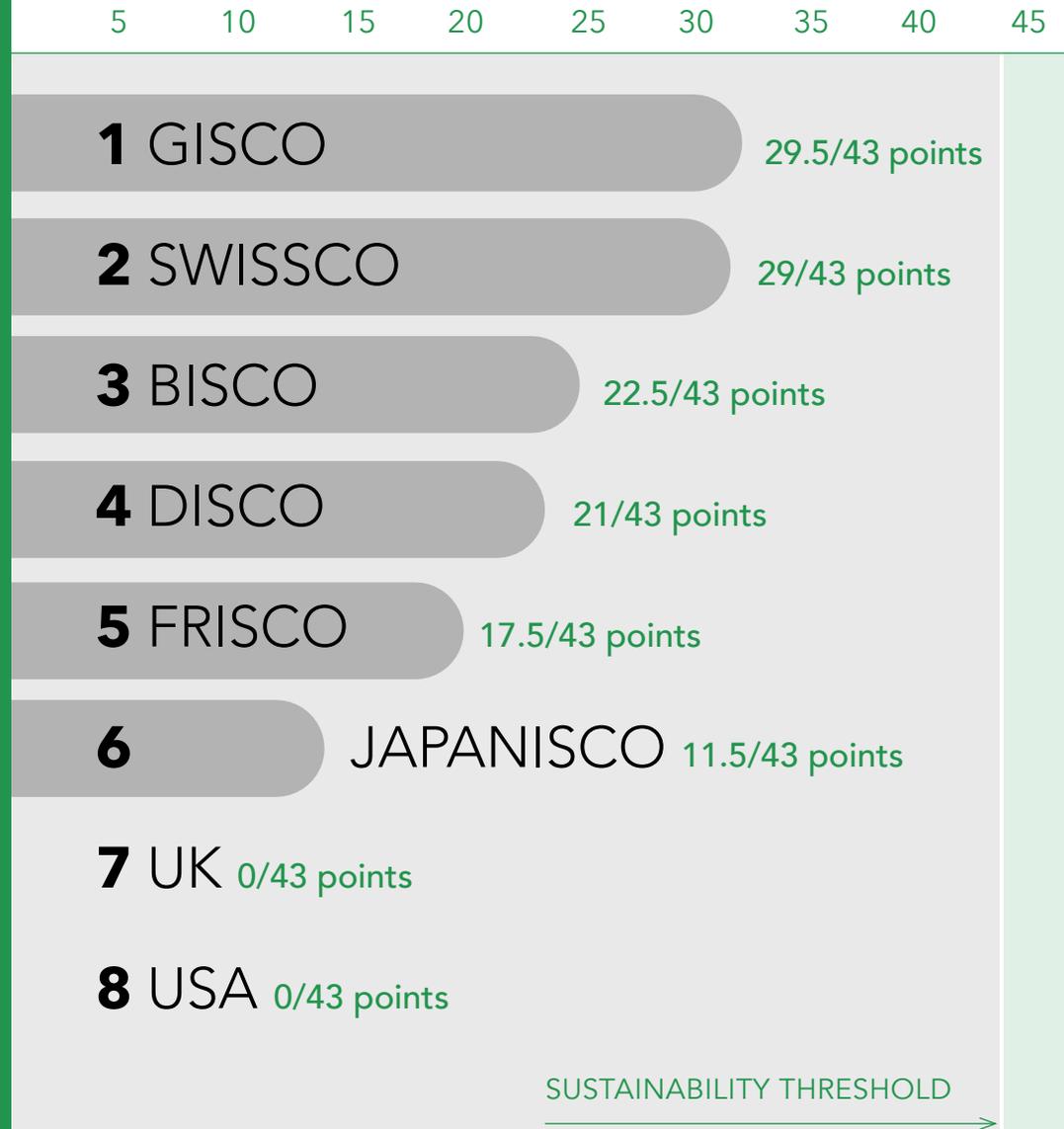
Bagged cocoa beans for export, Côte d'Ivoire.

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Rankings

Overall Ranking



Classement par critères

● Bon ● Juste suffisant ● Mauvais

Platform	1. Composition	2. Accessibilité de l'information	3. Déforestation et climat	4. Soutien à la réglementation	5. Traçabilité et transparence	6. Revenu décent	7. Agroforesterie	8. Gouvernance	9. Financement en faveur de l'environnement	10. Travail des enfants	11. Ambition	12. Utilisation des pesticides
GISCO	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SWISSCO	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
BISCO	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
DISCO	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
FRISCO	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
JAPANISCO	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Royaume Uni	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
États-Unis	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Analysis

1 CRITERION Composition

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Composition” criteria of the scorecard refer to the composition of the platform and evaluates topics described in the table below:

TABLE 2

Composition Sub-Categories and Rationale

COMPOSITION SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The platform is representative of the supply chain.	This is key to ensuring that the platform brings together every influential stakeholder on the journey to a sustainable cocoa industry.
2. The platform reaches out to both consumer and producer country governments.	Recognizes that governments at consumer and producer country level have different interests and should be represented in major decisions about the industry.

(Continued)



TABLE 2 | **Composition Sub-Categories and Rationale** *(continued)*

COMPOSITION SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
3. Decisions are made based on consensus or with consideration from every single stakeholder group in the platform.	Protects the ability for the platform to ensure meaningful and equal participation from every stakeholder group.
4. Decision-makers within industry attend platform meetings.	Since the focus is for industry stakeholders to transition toward sustainability, people with positions of influence are better suited to marshal transformation.
5. The platform includes a representative from farmers' groups.	Sustainability begins at farmer level, but what happens at farmer level is influenced by stakeholders at all levels of the industry. Farmers are an important stakeholder and decisions made by platforms will ultimately affect them. Thus, their voices must be included.
6. The platforms cooperate at international and global levels with an aim to harmonize objectives and combine efforts.	Platforms that work together and collaborate with other global cocoa organizations can set harmonized targets and combine efforts to reach the common goal avoiding the risk of developing leakage markets.
7. The platform secretariat is independent.	Although in practice members and secretariats may feel that they strive for complete independence, it is important for secretariats to be aware of the ways in which funding sources and other structures could potentially impact how secretariats make their decisions. Ideally, funding structures are diversified, however, in the absence of the ideal situation, safeguards must be in place to avoid unequal influence.
8. Civil society is included as part of the Board or Steering Committee of the platform.	As described under sub-category 4, the major objective of the platform is to transition the cocoa industry toward sustainability. The role of civil society is to ensure that the activities taken lead to the ultimate objectives. If civil society is not given an equal seat at the decision-making table, the risk is that industry transitions too slowly, or that industry-driven activities miss the mark.



Results and Discussion

Disappointingly, none of the platforms evaluated included a representative from farmers' groups in their composition. Regarding the addition of farmers' groups, platforms explained that they focused on bringing together national level stakeholders and hoped that civil society would bring farmer perspectives to platform discussions. Further, they cited engagement with producer country governments and cocoa authorities as a method of bringing in farmer points of view. However, considering the power imbalance embedded in our global food systems, bringing in farmer perspectives is an important way to avoid repeating historical and current abuses on the part of consumer-level stakeholders.

Platforms scored as follows for the Composition criteria:

TABLE 3 | Composition Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
● GISCO	1	.5	1	0	0	1	.5	1	5/8
● SWISSCO	1	.5	1	1	0	1	.5	1	6/8
● BISCO	1	.5	1	0	0	1	0	1	4.5/8
● DISCO	1	.5	1	0	0	1	0	1	4.5/8
● FRISCO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1/8
● JAPANISCO	.5	.5	0	0	0	1	1	1	5/8
● UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/8
● USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/8



SWISSCO received the highest score for this section because their general assembly meetings are well-attended by industry representatives.

GISCO and SWISSCO both received higher scores because along with JAPANISCO their secretariats were set up in the most independent way.

DISCO, BISCO, and JAPANISCO all received similar scores for this criterion. Civil society forms part of the board or steering committee for each, they each cooperate at global and international levels to harmonize objectives and combine efforts, they reach out to both consumer level and producer level governments.

FRISCO received a poor score in this section because information about the compositions of its platform was not accessible, and they were unavailable for comment.

The UK and USA have of course failed to achieve any points here – or any other category – by virtue of not having created a platform yet.

We chose to highlight secretariat independence while evaluating platform composition acknowledging that funding for platforms can be determinative of decision-making. For example, in the case of GISCO and SWISSCO, platforms are funded by members and industry members contribute more than civil society. We challenge them to ask whether they would readily be willing to suspend a company that directly contravened platform commitments or refused to engage knowing that they may miss out on membership fees. DISCO and BISCO did not receive any points for this section because their secretariats are hosted by the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), a social enterprise, whose focus remains on industry stakeholders. FRISCO did not receive any points because there has been no decision yet made about the financing of the platform structure. However, FRISCO must ensure that civil society is actively participating in its development. Finally, JAPANISCO received a high score because their secretariat is housed within JICA, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency. It is a government funded agency focused on development.

Recommendations for lower scoring platforms

This should be the easiest place for platforms to quickly improve by immediately extending invitations to missing stakeholders, reaching out to producer country governments, and switching over to improved decision-making with independent secretariats.

Although platforms aimed to represent all aspects of the value chain within their national borders, we encourage platforms to include farmer groups in order to ensure that their views are well represented in decision-making. Platforms should be aware of power imbalances and make consistent effort to get input from farmers and other stakeholders in producer countries about issues that affect them. To get meaningful participation of farmers and their representatives also requires resources, improved capacity and time for them to consult their diverse groups. It is not sufficient for platforms to simply pick an NGO or a government organization to represent the diverse voices of farmers.

Further, we encourage platforms to self-assess the independence of their secretariats and introduce safeguards to ensure independence is not dependent on the people within the secretariats but made institutionally independent.

We encourage platforms to find ways to ensure a fully independent secretariat, to engage with all relevant stakeholders, to find ways to elevate the voices of smallholder farmers, and to deepen cooperation with other platforms. We also encourage platforms to pragmatically consider what roles each of the stakeholder groups are playing in the platforms. Is one group actively or passively resisting the efforts of another group?

"We also encourage platforms to pragmatically consider what roles each of the stakeholder groups are playing in the platforms. Is one group actively or passively resisting the efforts of another group?"

2 CRITERION Accessibility of Information

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Accessibility of Info” criteria assessed are explained in the table below:

TABLE 4 | **Accessibility of Info Sub-Categories and Rationale**

ACCESSIBILITY OF INFO SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The platform articulates key objectives for concepts like living income, child labor, deforestation, and sustainable cocoa.	Issues that the platforms attempt to address are broad. Creating specific and agreed terms, definitions and standards is the first step in developing commitments.
2. Objectives are available to signatories.	Diverse stakeholders can only effectively work together if they have a common understanding of the issues they are trying to change and the goals they are communally working to achieve.
3. The platform has articulated what they view as progress.	Articulating a common vision enables stakeholders to work towards that vision.
4. What metrics the platform uses to monitor progress.	Measuring and monitoring progress enables the platform to reflect on whether their activities are working or whether they need to switch course.
5. The platform has a public grievance mechanism.	Considering the nature of the decisions being made as part of the platform, and that some platforms carry out projects in producer countries, it is important for the public to have a mechanism by which to raise concerns or complaints should issues arise.

Results and Discussion

Platforms that received the highest score all had comprehensive definitions and objectives for at least some of these key concepts. Additionally, they made these definitions and objectives publicly available.

GISCO, BISCO, SWISSCO, and DISCO have established a coalition and shared that they are working on harmonizing definitions, targets, and indicators across all platforms. We applaud these platforms for taking the initiative to begin coordinating their efforts and are looking forward to seeing more public information about the coalition. **JAPANISCO has endeavored to visit and synergize with European platforms** but these plans were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. **The nascent FRISCO platform has yet to synergize with other platforms**, though they have committed to do so. Partial scores were awarded for efforts made by members of the coalition to define key concepts collaboratively where they had not individually developed objectives.

Platforms scored as follows for the Accessibility of Info criteria:

TABLE 5 | **Accessibility of Info Scorecard**

PLATFORM	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
● GISCO	1	1	1	1	.5	4.5/5
● SWISSCO	1	1	1	1	.5	4.5/5
● BISCO	1	1	1	1	.5	4.5/5
● DISCO	1	1	.5	0	.5	3/5
● FRISCO	1	1	0	0	0	2/5
● JAPANISCO	.5	0	0	0	0	.5/5
● UK	0	0	0	0	0	0/8
● USA	0	0	0	0	0	0/8



Recommendations for lower scoring platforms

Since all platforms have decided on key areas of focus, platforms should start by defining these key areas of focus more thoroughly, naming objectives, and making sure that these objectives are not only available to signatories, but to the public as well. Simply publishing any existing definitions and objectives would already constitute a major step in the right direction regarding accessibility of information. Additionally, the coalition of platforms working on harmonized target indicators should ensure that these indicators are made publicly available. This is key for transparency and accountability.

Transparent, clear, and well-researched objectives are key to accountability and progress for all goals.

Public grievance mechanisms should be created in a simple online format, looking at best in class models such as [Unilever's grievance tracker](#).

Harvesting cocoa; Sulawesi, Indonesia. World Agroforestry,

CCBY-NC-SA 2.0



3 CRITERION Deforestation and Climate

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Deforestation and Climate” criteria evaluated the subcategories in the table below:

TABLE 6 | **Deforestation and Climate Sub-Categories and Rationale**

DEFORESTATION AND CLIMATE SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The percentage of deforestation-free cocoa used by corporate members of the platform.	Ambitious targets, and monitoring policies must be accompanied by data collection. This enables the platform to understand who is driving deforestation and where in order to address problematic companies and sectors of the industry.
2. The platform made a commitment to stop sourcing cocoa from deforested areas by a certain date.	Without a strong commitment to stop sourcing from deforested areas, demand for cocoa will continue to drive deforestation.
3. The platform has a deforestation-free monitoring policy or mechanism.	Considering the type of deforestation that occurs most often in cocoa, a robust deforestation-free monitoring policy or mechanism can enable platforms to trace compliance.



Results and Discussion

GISCO, BISCO, FRISCO, and SWISSCO all received yellow scores because they have either begun collecting data regarding the percentage of deforestation-free cocoa, or it is a public goal or indicator for their platform.

FRISCO received a yellow score because despite a lack of information regarding the percentage of deforestation free cocoa they produce, they do have a strong commitment to stop sourcing cocoa from deforested areas and a comprehensive deforestation-free monitoring policy via the SNDI (National Strategy Against Imported Deforestation).

DISCO received a low score although they have an ambitious commitment to stop sourcing cocoa from deforested areas by 2025, because they had no public information regarding a deforestation-free monitoring policy or any targets or information on the percentage of deforestation-free cocoa sourced by members of DISCO.

JAPANISCO received a low score because al-

though deforestation is a major priority for them, at this time they do not intend to commit to a date to stop sourcing cocoa from deforestation as a platform, nor do they intend to measure or monitor the percentage of cocoa coming from deforested areas.

Platforms scored as follows for the Deforestation and Climate criteria:

TABLE 7 | Deforestation and Climate Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	3	TOTAL
● GISCO	1	1	0	2/3
● SWISSCO	1	1	0	2/3
● BISCO	.5	1	0	1.5/3
● DISCO	0	1	0	1/3
● FRISCO	0	1	1	2/3
● JAPANISCO	0	0	0	0/3
● UK	0	0	0	0/3
● USA	0	0	0	0/3

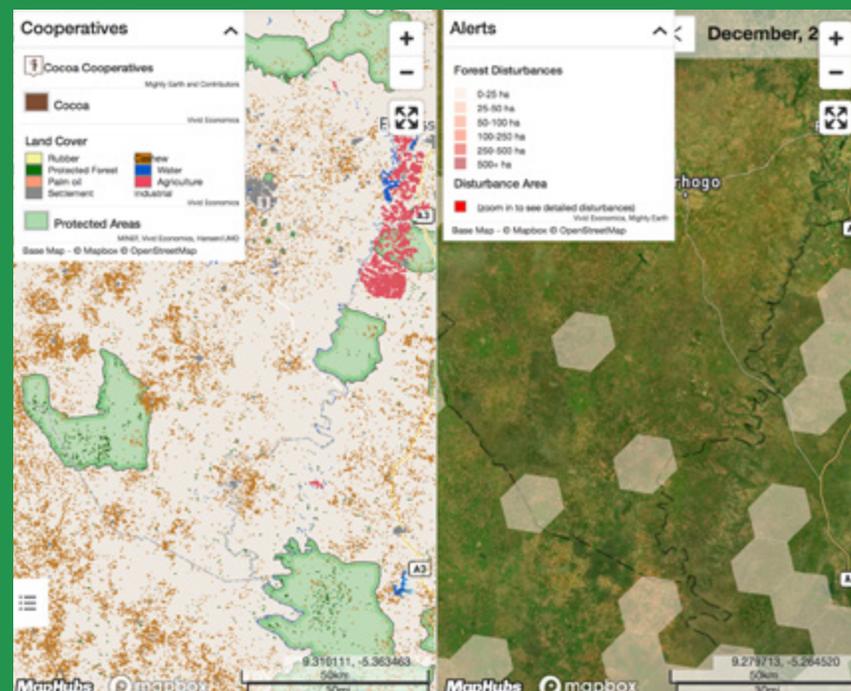


Recommendations for lower scoring platforms

It is not enough to set an ambitious time-bound date to stop sourcing cocoa from deforested areas, platforms must also accompany this goal with a deforestation-free monitoring policy, and targets/efforts to collect data. So far, most platforms measure whether cocoa imported is deforestation free through certification bodies. This is a good first step, but without more, is insufficient. Further, as described below, all platforms struggled to address issues of traceability and transparency in their supply chains. To track and address deforestation as it arises, platforms must invest in serious traceability and transparency mechanisms. One solution would be for the ISCOs to band together and finance a joint monitoring mechanism for deforestation in cocoa supply chains, similar to the Mighty Earth [Cocoa Accountability Map](#), which is similar to what the Cocoa & Forests Initiative pledged to create but has thus far failed to deliver.

Mighty Earth's Cocoa Accountability Map

The map combines cocoa supply chains from nearly every major cocoa and chocolate company operating in Côte d'Ivoire, including an integrated database covering more than 2000 cocoa cooperatives, as well as high-quality deforestation and full national land use data from IMAGES' (Vivid Economics) platform. The webpage also features lists of all legal official 'pisteurs' in the country, though most companies have yet to admit which pisteurs they use.



4 CRITERION Support for Regulation

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Support for Regulation” criteria takes stock of the Sub-Categories outlined in the table below:

TABLE 8 | Support for Regulation Sub-Categories and Rationale

SUPPORT FOR REGULATION SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The platform supports Human Rights regulation in either producer or consumer countries.	As platforms represent a partnership of industry and civil society, they have increased potential to influence government regulation. As corporate liability for environmental and human rights abuses is becoming increasingly transboundary, regulation importantly protects all stakeholders of the cocoa value-chain.
2. The platform supports Environmental Due Diligence regulation in either consumer and/or producer countries.	

Results and Discussion

Platforms scored as follows for the Support for Regulation criteria:

TABLE 9 | Support for Regulation Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	TOTAL
● GISCO	.5	.5	1/2
● SWISSCO	0	0	0/2
● BISCO	0	0	0/2
● DISCO	1	1	2/2
● FRISCO	1	1	2/2
● JAPANISCO	1	0	1/2
● UK	0	0	0/2
● USA	0	0	0/2



FRISCO and DISCO received high scores for this section because they include support for human rights and environmental regulation as a major goal/strategy for their platform. **JAPANISCO received a slightly lower score for this section** because the platform does support regulation of human rights but not of environmental due diligence. **GISCO received partial scores for** both sub-categories in this section. Despite having a major goal to discuss human rights and environmental due diligence regulation among the platform members, GISCO has not made the decision to support such regulation.

BISCO and SWISSCO received lower scores because, although they encourage compliance with regulatory frameworks, they do not engage in policy advocacy or publicly support human rights and environmental regulation despite many of their members having come out to support such regulation.

Deforestation for cocoa.

Mighty Earth



Recommendations for lower scoring platforms

Although some platforms have decided to remain politically neutral, we encourage platforms to take policy positions for human rights and environment regulation in both consumer and producer countries. Platforms may find ways to support regulation without actively advocating for any broader political position. Due to the public-private nature of these platforms, there is high potential to influence regulation. We encourage platforms to employ collective action to achieve a strong regulatory framework for industry stakeholders and an even national and international playing field.

Though this may be politically difficult given the reluctance of certain members of certain platforms to support binding regulation, we note that this is an entirely cost-free element of a platform's sustainability, which they can improve with little to no financial cost to the platform or its members. We also flag for consideration the [large number of cocoa and chocolate companies](#) which have already spoken out *for* regulation, making it even more important for the ISCOs to follow the best-in-class models set for them by many of their member companies.

“Although some platforms have decided to remain politically neutral, we encourage platforms to take policy positions for human rights and environment regulation in both consumer and producer countries.”

4 CRITERION Traceability and Transparency

Sub-Categories and Rationale

All platforms received a low score for this section because of the limited information they had gathered from the members regarding their supply chains. This is unfortunate, as many cocoa and chocolate companies have participated in a traceability and transparency revolution in the last year, with numerous disclosures of all or part of cocoa supply chains now public in a format that the ISCOs could have capitalized on and helped to promote or lead.

The "Traceability and Transparency" criteria assessed the following sub-categories:

TABLE 10 | Traceability and Transparency Sub-Categories and Rationale

TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY SUB-CATEGORY	RATIONALE
1. The tons or percentage of cocoa purchased by platform members that is traceable to coop and or farm level.	Traceability and transparency of cocoa supply chains is key to platforms making progress on many of the issues they strive to address through cooperation.
2. The tons and or percentage of cocoa coops from which platform members receive their cocoa are made public.	

Results and Discussion

Partial scores were awarded for plans by the coalition of platforms to define harmonized traceability and transparency targets. Partial scores were also awarded for efforts by platforms to gather traceability information within their development projects.

The coalition of GISCO, DISCO, SWISSCO and BISCO have begun working together to tackle the issue of traceability among their members. We applaud these efforts to work together and look forward to seeing how results materialize.

Platforms scored as follows for the Traceability and Transparency criteria:

TABLE 11
Traceability and Transparency Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	TOTAL
● GISCO	.5	0	.5/2
● SWISSCO	.5	0	.5/2
● BISCO	.5	0	.5/2
● DISCO	.5	0	.5/2
● FRISCO	0	0	0/2
● JAPANISCO	0	0	0/2
● UK	0	0	0/2
● USA	0	0	0/2



Recommendations for all platforms

Platforms are in a unique position to encourage and support transparency of supply chains. In addition to bringing together a variety of stakeholders, the geographic nature of the platforms can illuminate supply chains for the top-consuming markets.

Cocoa supply chains have historically been shrouded in secrecy, enabling nefarious human rights and environmental abuses to flourish. With the launch of the [Cocoa and Forests Initiative](#), 35 companies committed to ending deforestation and forest degradation in the cocoa supply chain with a view of “strengthening supply chain mapping.” Though this commitment was made in 2017, the CFI have yet to develop or endorse a public joint monitoring mechanism. As a result, Mighty Earth developed its [Cocoa Account-](#)

"In addition to bringing together a variety of stakeholders, the geographic nature of the platforms can illuminate supply chains for the top-consuming markets."

[ability Map](#) to map cocoa supply chains in Ivory Coast and to monitor deforestation alerts.

Other supply chain mapping has been developed to monitor cocoa supply chains outside of Ivory Coast as well. Platforms should work with mappers to make supply chain information collaborative and contribute to joint monitoring mechanisms by disclosing cocoa coops and other supply chain information.

5 CRITERION Living Income

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Living Income” criteria measured platforms based on several issues including the following sub-categories:

TABLE 12 | **Living Income Sub-Categories and Rationale**

LIVING INCOME SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The platform articulates a policy on floor pricing or minimum price guarantees.	Farmer incomes are most vulnerable to price shocks. Floor pricing, which ultimately reaches farmers, is one of the key ways of ensuring that farmers are guaranteed a living income. Platform members can and should use the facilitative power of the platform to negotiate and set a floor price amongst each other, potentially having ripple effects in other markets.
2. Platform members source living income differential (LID) cocoa from Ghana or Cote d'Ivoire.	Platforms should collect information about whether members source LID cocoa and to monitor that the proportion of cocoa sourced increasingly becomes LID.
3. The platform has targets and activities to achieve a living income differential for farmers.	Achieving a living income for farmers is a complex and multi-dimensional issue. Poverty drives deforestation, child labor, and many other issues. Price is one of the key ways of guaranteeing a living income for farmers and can lead to short-term improvement. Other levers include diversification of income through agroforestry practices, for example.
4. The platform measures the impact of these activities.	Measuring the impact of activities ensures that activities meant to address living income issues leads to the intended results.
5. Monitoring progress of these activities is public.	Monitoring of progress must be publicly available in order to ensure that platforms are held accountable and motivated to meet goals.

Results and Discussion

SWISSCO received a high score for this section followed immediately BISCO. GISCO received a lower score because despite having articulated a goal to improve minimum and premium pricing systems, GISCO, along with the other platforms, have a long way to go to adequately address living income issues in the cocoa sector. GISCO does aim to improve the level of minimum prices and premiums, but has not yet committed to a floor price or road maps on how to close the gap to a living income reference price. Additionally, data on pricing and premiums is not publicly available. SWISSCO and BISCO are in discussion about the issue of floor pricing. **DISCO and FRISCO received a yellow score** because despite being quite young, they have articulated objectives on farm gate pricing to improve living income and have some comprehensive strategies and interim checkpoints to guide their work on living income. In all platforms we see a lack of commitment to make sure farmers receive a remuneration that is equal to a living income reference price as [calculated by the VOICE network](#).

JAPANISCO received a low score for living income because although one of their major goals is to realize economic sustainability in developing countries and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to poverty, they have not considered the issues measured by this criterion.

Platforms scored as follows on Living Income criteria:

TABLE 13 | Living Income Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
● GISCO	.5	.5	1	1	0	3/5
● SWISSCO	.5	1	1	1	1	4.5/5
● BISCO	0	1	1	1	1	4/5
● DISCO	.5	0	1	.5	0	2/5
● FRISCO	1	0	1	0	0	2/5
● JAPANISCO	0	0	1	0	0	1/5
● UK	0	0	0	0	0	0/5
● USA	0	0	0	0	0	0/5

Again, the poor performance of ISCOs is especially unfortunate given the landmark work of several cocoa and chocolate companies, like Valhrona and Halba, to pay more for their cocoa, as well as the support and leadership of Ghanaian and Ivorian governments for the LID price which should make it easier for companies to start on a path towards paying a living income.

Recommendations for lower scoring platforms:

Living income issues are directly correlated with deforestation, child labor, and other key issues. It is therefore imperative that platforms consider holistic approaches to improving living income. Floor pricing cannot be sidelined. We recommend floor pricing at farm-gate level in order to protect farmers from price shocks that lead to many other issues in the cocoa sector. For greater detail and guidance on the subject, please refer to the [VOICE Network paper on living income](#).

Sorting and grading cocoa beans.

Mighty Earth



6 CRITERION Agroforestry

Sub-Categories and Rationale

Agroforestry is crucial to sustainability for several reasons, including yields, farmer income, biodiversity, soil health, and reduction of the use of chemicals and pesticides. More information about the need for agroforestry and the type of agroforestry needed is articulated in a paper written by the VOICE network entitled, "[Agroforestry in the Cocoa Sector: A need for Ambitious Collaborative Landscape Approaches.](#)"

The "Agroforestry" criteria evaluated the following sub-categories:

TABLE 14

Agroforestry Sub-Categories and Rationale

AGROFORESTRY SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The percentage of cocoa grown in agroforestry systems.	Platforms should collect information regarding the percentage of cocoa sourced from agroforestry systems as a baseline for increasing that number.
2. The platform has a common definition of agroforestry.	Agroforestry is broadly defined, and members of the platform may subscribe to varied definitions which can ultimately undermine the goal of promoting agroforestry if too diluted.
3. The platform has an agroforestry policy or commitment.	An agroforestry policy or commitment is essential to ensuring that agroforestry systems can affect sustainability within the cocoa industry.

Results and Discussion

Only GISCO received a high score for this section

because they have articulated a specific agroforestry goal, have developed a definition for agroforestry, and have collected some data on cocoa from agroforestry systems through their projects. Despite receiving a green score, GISCO could improve its score by agreeing to a common definition and making this definition public. **BISCO, DISCO and SWISSCO each received a yellow score for this section.** They were able to provide some data on agroforestry efforts through their projects, and are working together, along with DISCO to establish a common definition for agroforestry across these platforms.

All platforms aside from BISCO and JAPANISCO received some points for articulating a goal or commitment related to agroforestry. **FRISCO, and JAPANISCO achieved low scores for this section** because they have limited to no action regarding agroforestry as part of their platform.

Platforms scored as follows for the Agroforestry criteria:

TABLE 15 | Agroforestry Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	3	TOTAL
● GISCO	1	.5	1	2.5/3
● SWISSCO	.5	.5	.5	1.5/3
● BISCO	1	.5	0	1.5/3
● DISCO	0	.5	1	1.5/3
● FRISCO	0	0	1	1/3
● JAPANISCO	0	0	0	0/3
● UK	0	0	0	0/3
● USA	0	0	0	0/3



Recommendations for lower scoring platforms:

There is a body of scientific literature available to support policy on agroforestry in the cocoa sector. Mighty Earth, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute, has published an [e-library](#) which puts the best available science on cocoa agroforestry all in one place. Platforms are urged to consider these resources as they formulate their agroforestry policies and definitions, and we encourage them to be guided by the best available science.

Cocoa agroforestry, El Salvador.

Maren Barbee, cc BY SA



⑦ CRITERION Governance

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Governance” criteria evaluate the following sub-categories:

TABLE 16: **Governance Sub-Categories and Rationale**

GOVERNANCE SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. Global or regional sourcing is covered by the scope of the platform.	Although cocoa is mainly produced in West Africa, it is also produced in countries all over the world. A number of these countries face similar issues and sustainability remains a threat everywhere.
2. The platform aligns with national level frameworks.	National governments have agreed to both domestic and international standards for human rights and environmental due diligence. Alignment with such frameworks can ensure harmonization of target across commodities.
3. The platform has an enforcement mechanism or any type of sanction to ensure adherence of members to their commitments.	Safeguards must be put in place to minimize the risk of greenwashing within platforms. Enforcement mechanisms can range from membership suspensions to publicly calling out companies that refuse to report on their progress.

Results and Discussion

GISCO received the highest score for this section because the platform's scope is global, it has been involved in the development of national plans for cocoa with government, and despite not having an enforcement mechanism for member participation, they have discussions about how to motivate their members.

DISCO, SWISSCO and FRISCO and JAPANISCO each received yellow scores for this section because they met only two of three elements of this criteria. **BISCO received a low score for this section** since they did not align their platform to national frameworks and had no enforcement mechanism for members.

Platforms scored as follows for the Governance criteria:

TABLE 17: **Governance Scorecard**

PLATFORM	1	2	3	TOTAL
● GISCO	1	1	.5	2.5/3
● SWISSCO	1	1	0	2/3
● BISCO	1	0	0	1/3
● DISCO	1	1	0	2/3
● FRISCO	1	1	0	2/3
● JAPANISCO	1	1	0	2/3
● UK	0	0	0	0/3
● USA	0	0	0	0/3

Recommendations for lower scoring platforms:

Although platforms are voluntary, it is important for accountability measures to be built into platform systems. For instance, naming or temporarily suspending members who have refused to share data in reports may be an effective method to motivate members. It is critical for platforms to be vigilant to the dangers of greenwashing. Platforms must strive to avoid tokenism or performance over substance.

Platforms should also consider how to align with increasing national level frameworks for sustainability of imported goods. It is not enough to call for platforms to support regional regulation, while remaining silent about ongoing policy discussion on national-level human rights and environmental due diligence legislation.

Further, although platforms may choose to focus efforts strategically on producing countries that produce the majority of imported cocoa to their country, there should be policies to consider that address imported cocoa from all relevant producing countries - thus widening the scope of the platform.

“It is critical for platforms to be vigilant to the dangers of greenwashing. Platforms must strive to avoid tokenism or performance over substance.”

8 CRITERION Money for Environment

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Money for Environment” criteria measures the following sub-categories:

TABLE 18
**Money for Environment
Sub-Categories and Rationale**

MONEY FOR ENVIRONMENT SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The platform promotes forest protection, restoration, and conservation of protected areas and parks.	Actions of consuming countries continue to fuel deforestation of conservation areas in producing countries. This issue is complex. Not only does it require divestment from deforested areas, it also requires protection of forests and conservation areas.
2. The platform invests resources into environmental protection and conservation.	

Seraya Barat, Bali, Indonesia

cc-BY Tiomax



Results and Discussion

None of the platforms received a green score for this section. The platforms have not invested in environmental protection and conservation with any focus. GISCO and SWISSCO both mentioned that they may invest more resources into this in the future. **GISCO, DISCO, SWISSCO, and FRISCO each received a yellow score for this section**, because they had some goal or commitment toward forest protection, restoration or conservation.

BISCO received a low score for this section because they did not address the topic of conservation, protection, or restoration in any substantial way.

Recommendations for lower scoring platforms:

Platforms should begin to consider how they can collectively address conservation and restoration in a meaningful way.

Platforms scored as follows for the Money for Environment criteria:

TABLE 19 | Money for Environment Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	TOTAL
● GISCO	1	.5	1.5/2
● SWISSCO	1	.5	1.5/2
● BISCO	0	0	0/2
● DISCO	1	0	1/2
● FRISCO	1	.5	1.5/2
● JAPANISCO	.5	.5	1/2
● UK	0	0	0/2
● USA	0	0	0/2



9 CRITERION Child Labor

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Child Labor” criteria evaluates the following sub-categories:

TABLE 20 | Child Labor Sub-Categories and Rationale

CHILD LABOR SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The platform uses and/or commits to using Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS) or an equivalent or better alternative.	Ensures that platforms support and commit to the use of an industry standard system which monitors and remediates cases of child labor.
2. The platform has committed to an imminent date to stop sourcing cocoa produced through the use of Child Labor.	The need to stop sourcing cocoa produced with the use of child labor is urgent. A timebound goal with key targets can ensure that child labor is eliminated from cocoa supply chains as soon as possible.

Results and Discussion

FRISCO, BISCO, DISCO, and SWISSCO received green scores for this section because they articulated both a commitment and use of CLMRS and committed to a date to stop sourcing cocoa produced with the use of child labor. **GISCO received a yellow score** because the platform only commits

to ensuring that households covered by its projects and programs are child labor, not the entire supply chain. It is worth mentioning that GISCO has stated a commitment on the use of CLMRS, but its own project Pro Planteurs, which wants to support 20,000 farmers, does not have a CLMRS.



JAPANISCO received a yellow score. JAPANISCO’s Child Labor Free Zone approach has been implemented as a pilot project in Ghana and may expand to other cocoa growing regions. The child labor free zone approach is designed to eliminate child labor from the entire region by building a self-corrective mechanism in the community beyond the supply chain and is expected to contribute to substantial reductions in child labor from the perspective of sustainability. Nevertheless, JAPANISCO has yet to commit to a date for members to stop sourcing cocoa grown with the use child labor. This is discouraging, as child labor appears to be one of JAPANISCO’s main priorities.

Recommendations for lower scoring platforms:

All platforms should choose an imminent date for when child labor will no longer be part of their supply chains. Platforms must also consider what systems they will use to monitor the use of child labor in their supply chains.

Platforms scored as follows for the Child Labor criteria:

TABLE 21 | Child Labor Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	TOTAL
● GISCO	.5	.5	1/2
● SWISSCO	1	1	2/2
● BISCO	1	1	2/2
● DISCO	1	1	2/2
● FRISCO	1	1	2/2
● JAPANISCO	1	0	1/2
● UK	0	0	0/2
● USA	0	0	0/2



10 CRITERION Ambition

Sub-Categories and Rationale

The “Ambition” criteria measures the following sub-categories:

TABLE 22 | **Ambition Sub-Categories and Rationale**

AMBITION SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The platform’s key dates are progressive.	Targets for issues such as ending child labor, ending deforestation, and achieving a living income for farmers are urgent needs for the sustainability of the cocoa industry and dates should reflect this.
2. The overall targets are high enough, and the actions taken follow a logical pathway to achieving the platform’s goals.	Progressive dates that are not accompanied with achievable activities and targets are indicative of more talk than real action.

Results and Discussion

GISCO, BISCO, DISCO, and SWISSCO received high scores for this section. They demonstrated ambitious yet attainable goals to improve key challenges in the cocoa sector such as living income, child labor, and deforestation. **FRISCO received a**

yellow score because they met one element of the criteria, but not the other. **JAPANISCO received a low score** because they have not set any specific objectives or targets to meet their goals.

Platforms scored as follows for the Ambition criteria:

TABLE 23 | **Ambition Scorecard**

PLATFORM	1	2	TOTAL
● GISCO	1	1	2/2
● SWISSCO	1	1	2/2
● BISCO	1	1	2/2
● DISCO	1	.5	1.5/2
● FRISCO	1	0	1/2
● JAPANISCO	0	0	0/2
● UK	0	0	0/2
● USA	0	0	0/2

Recommendations for lower scoring platforms:

Platforms are encouraged to evaluate whether the measures they are taking will eventually lead to the attainment of their goals. Though many platforms are new and are busy getting their platform off the ground, issues such as child labor, living income, and deforestation continue to come at a huge cost to the industry, not to mention the human cost in producing countries. Ambitious dates must be met with serious action. Dates should also reflect the generalized commitments already made by nearly all the corporate members of these platforms: for example, nearly all cocoa and chocolate companies committed through the Cocoa & Forests Initiative to go deforestation-free, with the operative date being November 2017. Thus, in this case, choosing a later cut-off date would water down and muddle the clear existing ambition of the industry that has *already* been expressed. JAPANISCO has also committed to achieving the SDGs among which Target 15.2 aims to end deforestation and restore degraded forests. Unlike most SDGs which have a target year of 2030, this indicator is set to be achieved by 2020.

II CRITERION **Chemical Use and Carbon Pollution**

Sub-Categories and Rationale

This issue is particularly important considering the US Department of Labor funded [report](#) as part of the Harkin-Engel Protocol from the findings of National Opinion Research Center (NORC) around widespread exposure of children in cocoa to harmful pesticides. Simply put, the cocoa industry should not be poisoning children. All ISCOs must lean in to ensure a reversal of this deleterious trend.

The “Chemical Use and Carbon Pollution” criteria evaluates:

TABLE 24 | Chemical Use and Carbon Pollution Sub-Categories and Rationale

CHEMICAL USE SUB-CATEGORIES	RATIONALE
1. The platform has a policy or goal for the use of highly hazardous pesticides and other chemicals.	Unmonitored, unregulated chemical use has an incredibly negative impact on the health of people and planet. Children and pregnant women in the cocoa sector are at particularly high risk of serious health harms from exposure. The fight for a climate future requires companies and governments to reach net zero carbon emissions at least by 2050. Chemical and emissions pollution affects soil and ultimately impact rain patterns, which directly interrupts the sustainability of cocoa production.
2. The platform has a policy against the use of banned substances in producer and consumer countries for the production of cocoa.	
3. The platform has a plan to limit the use of harmful chemicals.	
4. The percentage of certified organic cocoa used by members of the platform.	
5. The platform has a future organic target.	
6. The platform has a net zero carbon emission policy.	



Results and Discussion

All platforms struggled with this criterion. **GISCO received the highest score, followed by SWISSCO. GISCO received a yellow score** because it has a goal to end the application of hazardous and/or unauthorized pesticides and has made some efforts to meet that goal. Nevertheless, GISCO has not articulated any goals towards organic certification, and/or carbon emissions. **SWISSCO received a yellow score** because of their articulations around climate-smart agriculture, and organic certification of cocoa. However, SWISSCO lacked any policy or commitment around hazardous chemicals specifically and made no mention of organic certification or carbon emissions. **BISCO, DISCO, JAPANISCO and FRISCO all received a low red score** for this section for the limited ways they address chemical use challenges in the cocoa supply chain.

Platforms scored as follows for the Chemical Use criteria:

TABLE 25

Chemical Use and Carbon Pollution Scorecard

PLATFORM	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
● GISCO	1	1	1	1	0	0	4/6
● SWISSCO	.5	0	1	1	0	0	2.5/6
● BISCO	0	0	0	1	0	0	1/6
● DISCO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/6
● FRISCO	0	0	0	0	0	1	1/6
● JAPANISCO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/6
● UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/6
● USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/6

Recommendations for all platforms

This is an area which requires much more attention from the sector. Most platforms did not consider any of the elements evaluated in this criterion. Many consuming countries have strong protection against the use of chemicals but are importing cocoa that may disregard all of those protections. It is important for consuming countries in general, and the ISCOS in particular, to consider their role in curbing the use of chemicals in cocoa-producing countries.

A deforested area.

Mighty Earth





Conclusion

Our goal in this ISCO ranking is not to create antagonistic competition between the platforms, nor is it to penalize recently established platforms for not being further along. Rather, we hope this creates a race to the top and an incentive for all the platforms to learn from each other and help each other do better. We seek to encourage the platforms to better articulate synergistic, shared commitments around issues that are central to the sustainability of the cocoa sector. Additionally, the scores enclosed should not deter companies or civil society from participating more fully in the ISCOs. Instead, we hope that our recommendations provide both industry and civil society with renewed motivation to ensure their ISCO reaches its potential to become a pivotal instrument for a transition to sustainability.

Further, our aim is to support platforms with a roadmap, so that they are enabled to meet their potential and to match the clear need for collaborative approaches to these complex challenges. For newly established platforms, this scorecard can help shape discussions on how your platform will address key issues. For markets that are thinking to develop a platform like the US or UK, this scorecard report/scorecard serves as a place to start.

Action in Japan to create JAPANISCO comes at a fortuitous time, as its creation roughly coincided with the laudable new Japanese government commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. With Japan poised as a global leader who is setting a model for other countries to make similar commitments, it will be crucial for all Japanese industries to take action to meet the official national goals, and this includes the chocolate industry. Thanks to the nascent JAPANISCO, in coming years, the Japa-

nese chocolate industry now has a ready-made forum and system wherein they can collectively strive for zero imported deforestation and promotion of agroforestry, both of which can reduce atmospheric concentrations of CO₂. Given Japanese industry's demonstrated ability to innovate quickly, we hope and believe that JAPANISCO will have success in the cocoa industry and can evolve into a vital model for all cross-commodity zero-deforestation platform for the Japanese food and agriculture industry, encompassing other key feedstocks such as palm oil and helping Japan in the race to net zero.

We encourage all platforms to urgently address all of the critiques in this paper and thus help push the cocoa industry to further along the path to true sustainability.



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49

For more information on ISCOs and Mighty Earth's Cocoa program please write to info@mightyeearth.org

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Cocoa fruit on a tree.

Yakov Oskanov