Coverage of EUDR-Relevant Legal Requirements by EU Organic Certification: Colombian Cocoa

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Colombian Cocoa

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Introduction

This document presents the results of the comparison between the EU organic certification requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and the relevant legal requirements identified in the Legality Due Diligence Tool for Colombian Cocoa.

The comparison allows us to identify to what extent the certification requirements match the legal requirements analysed and to recognise those aspects that need to be verified through other means within the due diligence process. The analysis was prepared by the Technical Facility on Deforestation-free Value Chains, managed by the European Forest Institute (EFI), based on a review of the public documentation applicable to the certification.

About the certification and its selection for the analysis

The European Union organic certification is based on Regulation (EU) 2018/848, which uses the term 'organic production' and sets out its principles and standards, as well as the provisions applicable to certification and the use of references to organic production in labelling and advertising. The Regulation covers the different stages of production, processing, and distribution, and establishes a certification and control system to verify compliance with its requirements. For plant production, it includes, among other aspects, principles and standards on soil management and conservation, biodiversity, use of inputs, pollution prevention, separation of organic and non-organic production, and record keeping.

The system also includes traceability and control requirements throughout the chain. Operators and groups of operators subject to the system must keep records that allow verification of compliance with organic production standards and, in the case of groups, have an internal control system that enables identifying the origin of the products delivered and tracking them through the different stages. Certificates are issued by the competent authorities or by authorised control authorities or control bodies within the system.

For products from third countries, such as cocoa produced in Colombia, the Regulation sets the conditions under which they can be imported and sold in the Union as organic products. These conditions include the involvement of recognised authorities or control bodies and the availability of information that allows for identifying suppliers and the organisations responsible for their oversight, in order to guarantee the traceability of organic or in-conversion products. In general, its scope focuses on how cocoa is produced and certified; it generally does not include requirements on land ownership, labour relations, collective rights, taxation, or foreign trade.

For the purposes of the comparison presented in this document, Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on organic production and labelling of organic products, was used, in its consolidated version available as of March 25, 2025. The matrix focuses on the provisions identified as relevant to the legal requirements analysed, particularly those applicable to plant production.

EFI carried out similar studies on the coverage of other certification standards in Colombia for other products included in Annex I of the EUDR. The selection of the certification systems included in these studies was made by applying four common criteria across the different country and product combinations.

Criterion	Title	Description
C1	Number of selected schemes	For each country and commodity combination, two certification schemes are selected for analysis, with the exception of coffee where three schemes are selected to reflect the greater diversity of certification systems present in EU-bound coffee supply chains. The selection aims to capture both the certification scheme with the strongest presence in exports to the EU market (Scheme 1, C2) and schemes with particular relevance within the national or regional context of the producing country (Scheme 2/3, C3)
C2	Prevalence and scope of certification	Certification schemes must demonstrate a significant presence within the producing country and broad applicability within the commodity sector. This includes consideration of: the volume of certified production or exports associated with the scheme, where data is available; the extent of adoption within the sector (e.g. number of certified producers, cooperatives or exporters); and the breadth of coverage across the supply chain, including the share directed to EU markets. Where quantitative data is limited or unavailable, qualitative evidence from stakeholder consultations and sector reports is used as a complementary basis for selection.
C3	Sector recognition and governance	Certification schemes must be recognised within international commodity supply chains and operate under established governance systems, including clearly defined standards, independent auditing mechanisms and transparent reporting. The first scheme selected typically reflects the certification system with the strongest overall presence in EU-bound supply chains. The second — or third in the case of coffee — may reflect certification systems with particular relevance within the national sector, including national standards developed specifically for the producing country context.

Criterion	Title	Description
C4	Public credibility and documented scrutiny	Where multiple schemes meet the previous criteria, additional consideration may be given to public credibility and documented scrutiny. This includes whether schemes have been subject to documented critiques in sector reports or academic studies, public discussion regarding implementation challenges, or broader reputational considerations within the sector. This criterion does not exclude schemes on the basis of criticism — rather, it supports a balanced assessment by considering transparency, credibility and trust among market actors.

For Colombian cocoa, the study selected Organic and Fairtrade. Organic was identified as the predominant scheme within the small universe of certified production in the sector, while Fairtrade was chosen as the second scheme because of its recognition in the sector and its measurable presence in Colombian cocoa marketing and export chains.

According to the figures available at the time of analysis, about 97% of Colombian cocoa farms are not certified. Of the 3% that do have some certification or quality system, Organic represents approximately 51% and Fairtrade 10%. Fairtrade has ten producer organisations in Colombia, with 59% of its production sold as Fairtrade; 7,511 metric tons are also certified organic.

The joint inclusion of Organic and Fairtrade allows us to consider two relevant schemes within the limited universe of certified cocoa production in Colombia: the scheme with the greatest presence and an international system based on small producer organisations, with sector recognition and documented presence in marketing and export chains.

Scope and Limitations of the Comparative Tables

Certification systems can provide useful information to support the due diligence required by the EUDR. However, certification does not replace the due diligence obligations of operators. Operators must be able to explain why and how the information provided by a particular certification system contributes to meeting the EUDR requirements and assess whether it is sufficient and reliable, taking into account the specific characteristics and risks of their supply chains. For this purpose, the following elements should be considered, among others:

Coverage of legal requirements: these tables analyse to what extent the requirements of organic certification cover the relevant legal requirements identified in the legal due diligence tool for Colombian cocoa. The assessment does not, by itself, mean that actual compliance with the law has been verified.

Robustness of the certification system: this aspect is not evaluated in the present tables. Operators should consider, among other things, the scope of the certification, including the actors in the value chain and the products covered; the governance of the system and its internal review and update procedures; the accreditation and supervision mechanisms for certification bodies; the qualification and independence of auditors; the methodology and frequency of audits; the mechanisms to identify, manage, and correct non-compliances; and the measures aimed at ensuring impartiality and preventing conflicts of interest.

Traceability and risk of mixing: the tables also do not assess the traceability systems used by certification schemes or the existence of proper mechanisms to prevent the mixing or substitution of certified products with non-certified ones. These aspects should be evaluated separately by the operator, taking into account the applicable chain of custody model and the specific characteristics of the supply chain.

Likewise, the tables focus exclusively on covering the relevant legal requirements identified in the legality due diligence tool. They do not assess the coverage of the requirement that products be deforestation-free, which is an independent obligation under the EUDR and may also be fully or partially covered by certain certification systems.

As a result, the results of these tables do not constitute a general validation of the certification system, nor do they automatically allow us to conclude that the certified products comply with the EUDR. The relevance and reliability of the certification as additional information must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and in the context of the operator's due diligence.

Overview of the Results

The analysis shows a limited match between the European Union organic certification and the relevant legal requirements included in the due diligence support tool for Colombian cocoa. Of the 31 requirements analysed, three have full coverage (10%), none have partial coverage, and

28 have no coverage (90%). Using the weighting applied in the analysis — 100% for full coverage, 50% for partial coverage, and 0% for no coverage — the overall weighted coverage level is 10%.

Full coverage focuses on three environmental protection requirements: use of authorised inputs, soil conservation, and biodiversity protection. In the other topics analysed, no specific provisions were identified that are sufficient to cover the relevant legal requirements in Colombia.

In practical terms, the results make it possible to identify the requirements for which organic certification can provide relevant information and show that most legal aspects need to be verified through additional mechanisms within due diligence.

Summary by Topic

The percentage corresponds to the weighted coverage level of each topic, calculated by assigning 100% to full coverage, 50% to partial coverage, and 0% to no coverage, and averaging the rating of the requirements analysed in that topic.

Topic	Analysed requirements	Full coverage	Reason for the rating
Land use rights	6	0%	It does not regulate tenure, ownership, usage contracts, or compliance of the plot with land use planning.
Environmental protection	9	33%	Covers the restricted use of inputs, soil conservation, and biodiversity; it does not check permits, protected areas, waste, water, burning, or deforestation.
Third-party rights and FPIC	3	0%	Does not contain requirements regarding cultural heritage, collective rights, or Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.
Labour rights	9	0%	Does not regulate labour relations, hiring, work hours, wages, social security, or occupational health and safety.
Human rights	2	0%	Does not include specific provisions on child or forced labour.
Taxation, anti-corruption, trade, and customs	2	0%	It does not cover parafiscal contributions, tariffs, or customs duties. Applicable customs obligations must be met when exporting, regardless of their inclusion in the certification.

Summary Coverage Analysis

The following analysis presents, in a concise way, the coverage of organic certification against each of the legal requirements evaluated. For each requirement, the rating assigned—full, partial or no coverage—is indicated, together with a brief explanation of the elements of the standard that support the assessment. This summary makes it easy to quickly read the results; full references and comments are presented later in the complete comparative table.

To make visualization easier, the following criteria were used:

Classification	Interpretation
Full	EU organic certification covers the substantive elements of the legal requirement analysed. The certification criteria provide sufficient verifiable evidence to support the assessment.
Partial	EU organic certification addresses the issue but leaves a condition, authorization, actor or scope that must be verified through other means.
No coverage	EU organic certification does not contain substantive criteria or specific auditable mechanisms sufficient to cover the legal requirement.

Coverage summary against legal requirements related to the EUDR			
Topic	Requirement analysed	Coverage	Reason for the rating
Land-use rights	1.1.1 Land tenure is established by individual private ownership or by possession (regular or irregular).	No coverage	Contains no provisions relating to land tenure or plot ownership. Certification does not require proof of any title, contract or form of tenure to be granted.

Coverage summary against legal requirements related to the EUDR			
Topic	Requirement analysed	Coverage	Reason for the rating
	1.1.2 The farmer exercises the right to produce on the plot through lease, usufruct, sharecropping agreements or provisional allocation contracts.	No coverage	It makes no reference to collective ownership of the land, nor does it distinguish between individual and collective forms of tenure.
	1.1.3 Land tenure is established by collective ownership.	No coverage	It does not address land-use rights arising from lease, usufruct, sharecropping or provisional allocation agreements. It does not require verification of the enabling legal title for the producer to farm the plot.
	1.1.4 The area of production has not been reported due to situations of forced eviction, abandonment or displacement of the original owner.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding the land's history in terms of forced displacement, abandonment or dispossession.
	1.2.1 The plot is located within the Agricultural Frontier; if it is in restricted areas, production is permitted only under certain conditions that must be met.	No coverage	It contains no provisions relating to planning or land-use instruments. It does not verify whether the plot is located in enabling, restricted or exclusion zones.
	1.2.2 Agricultural activity is permitted under land-use planning ordinances.	No coverage	It contains no provisions relating to planning or land-use instruments. It does not require verification that agricultural activity is permitted under municipal zoning.
Environmental Protection	2.1.1 Agricultural activity is prohibited in protected areas or areas subject to legal exclusion, unless provided for in the management documents for these areas or covered by management agreements with the relevant authorities, and in accordance with the established management conditions.	No coverage	It does not verify whether the plot is located within protected areas, forest reserves or legally excluded zones, or environmental determinants. Its general environmental principles (Articles 5 and 6) promote sustainability but do not amount to a verification of compliance with the national system of protected areas.
	2.1.2 Authorised agricultural inputs are used and managed appropriately in accordance with technical procedures.	Full	The organic standard establishes restrictive lists of substances authorised in organic production (Art. 9.3 and Art. 24), expressly prohibiting chemically synthesized pesticides and mineral nitrogen fertilizers. Annex II, Part I, points 1.9.3 and 1.10.2 elaborate on these restrictions by requiring the minimum necessary use of inputs and the maintenance of supporting records. The standard not only

Coverage summary against legal requirements related to the EUDR			
Topic	Requirement analysed	Coverage	Reason for the rating
			determines which products may be used but also how, establishing a stricter standard than the national regime for authorised inputs.
	2.1.4 Solid waste and packaging from agricultural inputs are classified, characterized, identified and disposed of appropriately.	No coverage	It contains no provisions on the sorting, characterization or disposal of solid waste or packaging from agricultural inputs.
	2.1.5 Water is used for irrigation of the production plot only after obtaining a permit or concession and in accordance with the conditions of that permit/concession.	No coverage	It does not require water permits or concessions for irrigation or processing. It promotes the responsible use of water as a principle (Art. 5(c)) but does not perform verification of the legality of such use with the national authorities.
	2.1.8 Producers are obliged to protect and conserve the soil.	Full	Article 6(a) requires the maintenance and improvement of natural fertility, stability, water retention and soil biodiversity, as well as the prevention of organic matter loss, compaction and erosion. Annex II, Part I, point 1.9.1 translates these principles into specific obligations regarding tillage and cultivation, and point 1.9.2 requires multi-year crop rotation with legumes and the implementation of composted organic matter. The standard is stricter than Colombian regulations on soil protection and conservation.
	2.1.9 Agricultural activity does not exceed the legal limits for atmospheric pollutants, and the burning of agricultural waste takes place only after a permit has been obtained and in accordance with legal conditions.	No coverage	It does not set limits on atmospheric pollutants, nor does it require permits for the burning of agricultural waste.
	2.2.1 The producer did not establish new areas of production for relevant products in areas of deforestation after 29 July 2021.	No coverage	It contains no deforestation cut-off date nor provisions on scaling up of areas in forested zones.
	2.2.2 A producer who establishes an agroforestry system or converts their forest plantation into an agricultural production system (including agroforests) on a plot must comply with legal harvesting standards.	No coverage	It does not contain provisions on legal forest management standards when a forest plantation is converted into an agricultural or agroforestry system. It does not require verification that timber harvesting in agroforests is authorised by the national environmental authority.

Coverage summary against legal requirements related to the EUDR			
Topic	Requirement analysed	Coverage	Reason for the rating
	2.2.4 Agricultural activity does not conflict with the protection of threatened species or the conservation of biodiversity.	Full	The organic standard sets the promotion of a high level of biodiversity as the overall objective of the production system (Art. 4(c)). Article 6(d) requires the maintenance of good plant health through the protection of natural enemies of pests, and Annex II, Part I, point 1.10.1 translates these principles into specific operational obligations: prioritization of natural enemies, selection of resistant varieties and crop rotation. The level of biodiversity protection required by the standard is stricter than that of Colombian regulations.
Third Parties' Rights and FPIC	3.1.1 Agricultural activity respects the protection of cultural heritage and does not generate or minimises impacts on sites, resources and habitats of cultural, archaeological or historical importance to indigenous communities.	No coverage	It contains no provisions relating to the protection of the cultural, archaeological or historical heritage of indigenous communities.
	3.3.1 The rights of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples are respected.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding respect for the collective rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
	3.3.2 If agricultural activity generates potential impacts on ethnic communities, the FPIC or Prior Consultation process was respected.	No coverage	The ecological standard contains no provisions on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). There is no coverage.
Labour Rights	4.1.1 If the producer hires workers, they must do so under a contract (written or verbal) that is fixed-term, open-ended (apprenticeship), or temporary, occasional or casual, in accordance with the conditions stipulated by law.	No coverage	It contains no provisions relating to employment contracts or the conditions of employment.
	4.1.2 If the producer employs permanent workers, their working hours must not exceed the working hours established by law; if they do, overtime and Sunday work must be remunerated.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding working hours or the remuneration of overtime or Sunday work.
	4.1.3 Workers' wages must not be lower than the minimum wage stipulated by law.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding the minimum wage or workers' pay conditions.

Coverage summary against legal requirements related to the EUDR			
Topic	Requirement analysed	Coverage	Reason for the rating
	4.1.4 The employer must provide protective equipment and training to workers carrying out hazardous activities.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding the provision of personal protective equipment or training in occupational health and safety.
	4.1.5 For equal skills and working conditions, there is no discrimination between workers based on gender, race, religion, age or other status.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding non-discrimination in employment on the grounds of gender, race, religion, age or other status.
	4.1.7 Workers are free to join a trade union of their choice and may not be penalised for doing so.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding freedom of association or the right of workers to join a trade union.
	4.1.6 The employer complies with the current Social Security regime, including the payment of the corresponding contributions.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding the Social Security system or the payment of contributions by employers.
	4.2.1 The employer must grant pregnant women 18 weeks' maternity leave, grant fathers 8 days' paternity leave, and pay both parties the leave allowance.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding maternity leave or paternity leave.
	4.2.2 The employer shall take measures to prevent, address and sanction workplace harassment and sexual harassment in the workplace, in accordance with current Colombian legislation.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding the prevention, handling or sanctioning of workplace harassment or sexual harassment in the workplace.
Human Rights	5.1.1 No persons under the age of 18 are employed in agricultural work, and those over the age of 15 are permitted under the conditions laid down by law regarding working hours, weekly hours and hazardous work.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding the prohibition of child labour, nor does it establish a minimum age for employment.
	5.2.1 No one is forced into or subjected to forced labour or practices that restrict freedom of employment.	No coverage	It contains no provisions regarding the prohibition of forced labour or the protection of freedom of employment.

Coverage summary against legal requirements related to the EUDR			
Topic	Requirement analysed	Coverage	Reason for the rating
Taxation, anti-corruption, trade and customs	6.1.4 Cocoa buyers, processors or exporters pay the parafiscal contributions and Stabilization Fund defined by law.	No coverage	It does not address the payment of parafiscal contributions or sectoral development levies.
	6.2.1 Exporters are responsible for customs duties and taxes as established by law.	No coverage	It does not set out requirements regarding the payment of customs duties or taxes.

Full Comparative Table

Certification: EU Organic	Commodity: Cocoa	Country: Colombia	
Areas of law	Coverage	Reference	Comments
1. Land Use Rights			
1.1.1 Land tenure is established by individual private ownership or by possession (regular or irregular).	No coverage	N/A	Contains no provisions relating to land tenure or plot ownership. Certification does not require proof of any title, contract or form of tenure to be granted.
1.1.2 The farmer exercises the right to produce on the plot through lease, usufruct, sharecropping agreements or provisional allocation contracts.	No coverage	N/A	It makes no reference to collective ownership of the land, nor does it distinguish between individual and collective forms of tenure.
1.1.3 Land tenure is established by collective ownership.	No coverage	N/A	It does not address land-use rights arising from lease, usufruct, sharecropping or provisional allocation agreements. It does not require verification of the enabling legal title for the producer to farm the plot.
1.1.4 The area of production has not been reported due to situations of forced eviction, abandonment or displacement of the original owner.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding the land's history in terms of forced displacement, abandonment or dispossession.
1.2.1 The plot is located within the Agricultural Frontier; if it is in restricted areas, production is permitted only under certain conditions that must be met.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions relating to planning or land-use instruments. It does not verify whether the plot is located in enabling, restricted or exclusion zones.
1.2.2 Agricultural activity is permitted under land-use planning ordinances.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions relating to planning or land-use instruments. It does not require verification that agricultural activity is permitted under municipal zoning.
2. Environmental Protection			

Certification: EU Organic	Commodity: Cocoa	Country: Colombia	
Areas of law	Coverage	Reference	Comments
2.1.1 Agricultural activity is prohibited in protected areas or areas subject to legal exclusion, unless provided for in the management documents for these areas or covered by management agreements with the relevant authorities, and in accordance with the established management conditions.	No coverage	N/A	It does not verify whether the plot is located within protected areas, forest reserves or legally excluded zones, or environmental determinants. Its general environmental principles (Articles 5 and 6) promote sustainability but do not amount to a verification of compliance with the national system of protected areas.

2.1.2 Authorised agricultural inputs are used and managed appropriately in accordance with technical procedures.	Full	Article 9(3) For the purposes and uses referred to in Articles 24 and 25 and in Annex II, only products and substances that have been authorised pursuant to those provisions may be used in organic production, provided that their use in non-organic production has also been authorised in accordance with the relevant provisions of Union law and, where applicable, in accordance with national provisions based on Union law. The following products and substances referred to in Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 shall be allowed for use in organic production, provided that they are authorised pursuant to that Regulation: (a) safeners, synergists and co-formulants as components of plant protection products; (b) adjuvants that are to be mixed with plant protection products. The use in organic production of products and substances for purposes other than those covered by this Regulation shall be allowed, provided that their use complies with the principles laid down in Chapter II. Article 9, paragraph 3 For the purposes and uses referred to in Articles 24 and 25 and Annex II, only the products and substances authorised in accordance with those provisions may be used in organic production, provided that their use in non-organic production has also been authorised in accordance with the relevant provisions of Union legislation. The following products and substances referred to in Article 2, paragraph 3, of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 will be allowed for use in organic production, as long as they are authorised under that Regulation: a) protectants, synergists, and co-formulants as components of plant protection products. b) Additives for mixing with plant protection products. The use of products and substances for purposes other than those covered will be allowed in organic production. Annex II, Part I, point 1.9.3 When the nutritional needs of plants cannot be met through the measures of points 1.9.1 and 1.9.2, only fertilizers and soil conditioners that have been authorised under Article 24 for use in organic production may be used (and only to the extent necessary). Annex II, Part I, point 1.10.2 When plants cannot adequately protect themselves from pests using the measures in point 1.10.1 [...] only the authorised products and	The organic standard establishes restrictive lists of substances authorised in organic production (Art. 9.3 and Art. 24), expressly prohibiting chemically synthesized pesticides and mineral nitrogen fertilizers. Annex II, Part I, points 1.9.3 and 1.10.2 elaborate on these restrictions by requiring the minimum necessary use of inputs and the maintenance of supporting records. The standard not only determines which products may be used but also how, establishing a stricter standard than the national regime for authorised inputs.

Certification: EU Organic	Commodity: Cocoa	Country: Colombia	
Areas of law	Coverage	Reference	Comments
		substances may be used (and only to the extent necessary) in accordance with Articles 9 and 24 for use in organic production.	
2.1.4 Solid waste and packaging from agricultural inputs are classified, characterized, identified and disposed of appropriately.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions on the sorting, characterization or disposal of solid waste or packaging from agricultural inputs.
2.1.5 Water is used for irrigation of the production plot only after obtaining a permit or concession and in accordance with the conditions of that permit/concession.	No coverage	Article 5(c): the responsible use of energy and natural resources, such as water, soil, organic matter and air; Organic production is a sustainable management system based on the following general principles: c) responsible use of energy and natural resources such as water, soil, organic matter, and air	It does not require water permits or concessions for irrigation or processing. It promotes the responsible use of water as a principle (Art. 5(c)) but does not perform verification of the legality of such use with the national authorities.

2.1.8 Producers are obliged to protect and conserve the soil.	Full	Article 6(a): the maintenance and enhancement of soil life and natural soil fertility, soil stability, soil water retention and soil biodiversity, preventing and combating loss of soil organic matter, soil compaction and soil erosion, and the nourishing of plants primarily through the soil ecosystem; Annex II, Part I, point 1.9.1 In organic plant production, tillage and cultivation practices shall be used that maintain or increase soil organic matter, enhance soil stability and soil biodiversity, and prevent soil compaction and soil erosion. Annex II, Part I, point 1.9.2 The fertility and biological activity of the soil shall be maintained and increased: (a) except in the case of grassland or perennial forage, by the use of multiannual crop rotation including mandatory leguminous crops as the main or cover crop for rotating crops and other green manure crops; (b) in the case of greenhouses or perennial crops other than forage, by the use of short-term green manure crops and legumes as well as the use of plant diversity; and (c) in all cases, by the application of livestock manure or organic matter, both preferably composted, from organic production. Article 6, letter a) Maintenance and improvement of the natural life and fertility of the soil, stability, water retention, and soil biodiversity, prevention of the loss of organic matter, soil compaction, and erosion, and combating these phenomena, as well as supplying plants with nutrients that mainly come from the soil ecosystem. Annex II, Part I, point 1.9.1 In organic crop production, tillage and cultivation practices should be used that maintain or increase soil organic matter, reinforce soil stability and biodiversity, and prevent soil compaction and erosion. Annex II, Part I, point 1.9.2 Soil fertility and biological activity will be maintained and increased: a) [...] through multi-year crop rotation that must include legume crops [...]; b) [...] through short-term legume crops and green manures [...]; c) in all cases, through the application of animal manure or organic matter, preferably composted, from organic production.	Article 6(a) requires the maintenance and improvement of natural fertility, stability, water retention and soil biodiversity, as well as the prevention of organic matter loss, compaction and erosion. Annex II, Part I, point 1.9.1 translates these principles into specific obligations regarding tillage and cultivation, and point 1.9.2 requires multi-year crop rotation with legumes and the implementation of composted organic matter. The standard is stricter than Colombian regulations on soil protection and conservation.
2.1.9 Agricultural activity does not exceed the legal limits for atmospheric pollutants, and the burning of agricultural waste takes place only after a permit has	No coverage	N/A	It does not set limits on atmospheric pollutants nor does it require permits for the burning of agricultural waste.

Certification: EU Organic	Commodity: Cocoa	Country: Colombia	
Areas of law	Coverage	Reference	Comments
been obtained and in accordance with legal conditions.			
2.2.1 The producer did not establish new areas of production for relevant products in areas of deforestation after 29 July 2021.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no deforestation cut-off date nor provisions on scaling up of areas in forested zones.
2.2.2 A producer who establishes an agroforestry system or converts their forest plantation into an agricultural production system (including agroforests) on a plot must comply with legal harvesting standards.	No coverage	N/A	It does not contain provisions on legal forest management standards when a forest plantation is converted into an agricultural or agroforestry system. It does not require verification that timber harvesting in agroforests is authorised by the national environmental authority.

Certification: EU Organic	Commodity: Cocoa	Country: Colombia	
Areas of law	Coverage	Reference	Comments
2.2.4 Agricultural activity does not conflict with the protection of threatened species or the conservation of biodiversity.	Full	Article 4(c): contributing to a high level of biodiversity; Article 6(d): the maintenance of plant health by preventive measures, in particular the choice of appropriate species, varieties or heterogeneous material resistant to pests and diseases, appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and protection of the natural enemies of pests; Annex II, Part I, point 1.10.1 The prevention of damage caused by pests and weeds shall rely primarily on the protection by: — natural enemies, — the choice of species, varieties and heterogeneous material, — crop rotation, — cultivation techniques such as biofumigation, mechanical and physical methods, and — thermal processes such as solarization and, in the case of protected crops, shallow steam treatment of the soil (to a maximum depth of 10 cm). Article 4, letter c) "contribute to a high degree of biodiversity" Article 6, letter d) "Maintaining a good phytosanitary condition through preventive measures, in particular the selection of appropriate species, varieties, or heterogeneous material that are resistant to pests and diseases, proper crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods, and the protection of natural enemies of pests." Annex II, Part I, point 1.10.1 "The prevention of damage caused by pests and weeds will be mainly based on protection through: natural enemies, choice of species, varieties, and heterogeneous materials, crop rotation, cultivation techniques such as biofumigation, mechanical and physical methods."	The organic standard sets the promotion of a high level of biodiversity as the overall objective of the production system (Art. 4(c)). Article 6(d) requires the maintenance of good plant health through the protection of natural enemies of pests, and Annex II, Part I, point 1.10.1 translates these principles into specific operational obligations: prioritization of natural enemies, selection of resistant varieties and crop rotation. The level of biodiversity protection required by the standard is stricter than that of Colombian regulations.
3. Third-Party Rights and FPIC			

Certification: EU Organic	Commodity: Cocoa	Country: Colombia	
Areas of law	Coverage	Reference	Comments
3.1.1 Agricultural activity respects the protection of cultural heritage and does not generate or minimises impacts on sites, resources and habitats of cultural, archaeological or historical importance to indigenous communities.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions relating to the protection of the cultural, archaeological or historical heritage of indigenous communities.
3.3.1 The rights of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples are respected.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding respect for the collective rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
3.3.2 If agricultural activity generates potential impacts on ethnic communities, the FPIC or Prior Consultation process was respected.	No coverage	N/A	The organic standard contains no provisions on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). There is no coverage.
4. Labour Rights			
4.1.1 If the producer hires workers, they must do so under a contract (written or verbal) that is fixed-term, open-ended (apprenticeship), or temporary, occasional or casual, in accordance with the conditions stipulated by law.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions relating to employment contracts or the conditions of employment.
4.1.2 If the producer employs permanent workers, their working hours must not exceed the working hours established by law; if they do, overtime and Sunday work must be remunerated.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding working hours or the remuneration of overtime or Sunday work.
4.1.3 Workers' wages must not be lower than the minimum wage stipulated by law.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding the minimum wage or workers' pay conditions.
4.1.4 The employer must provide protective equipment and training to workers carrying out hazardous activities.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding the provision of personal protective equipment or training in occupational health and safety.
4.1.5 For equal skills and working conditions, there is no discrimination between workers based on gender, race, religion, age or other status.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding non-discrimination in employment on the grounds of gender, race, religion, age or other status.
4.1.7 Workers are free to join a trade union of their choice and may not be penalised for doing so.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding freedom of association or the right of workers to join a trade union.

Certification: EU Organic	Commodity: Cocoa	Country: Colombia	
Areas of law	Coverage	Reference	Comments
4.1.6 The employer complies with the current Social Security regime, including the payment of the corresponding contributions.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding the Social Security system or the payment of contributions by employers.
4.2.1 The employer must grant pregnant women 18 weeks' maternity leave, grant fathers 8 days' paternity leave, and pay both parties the leave allowance.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding maternity leave or paternity leave.
4.2.2 The employer shall take measures to prevent, address and sanction workplace harassment and sexual harassment in the workplace, in accordance with current Colombian legislation.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding the prevention, handling or sanctioning of workplace harassment or sexual harassment in the workplace.
5. Human Rights			
5.1.1 No persons under the age of 18 are employed in agricultural work, and those over the age of 15 are permitted under the conditions laid down by law regarding working hours, weekly hours and hazardous work.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding the prohibition of child labour, nor does it establish a minimum age for employment.
5.2.1 No one is forced into or subjected to forced labour or practices that restrict freedom of employment.	No coverage	N/A	It contains no provisions regarding the prohibition of forced labour or the protection of freedom of employment.
6. Taxation, Anti-Corruption, Trade, and Customs			
6.1.4 Cocoa buyers, processors or exporters pay the parafiscal contributions and Stabilization Fund defined by law.	No coverage	N/A	It does not address the payment of parafiscal contributions or sectoral development levies.
6.2.1 Exporters are responsible for customs duties and taxes as established by law.	No coverage	N/A	It does not set out requirements regarding the payment of customs duties or taxes.

Note on Sources

The following public sources included in the analysis matrix were consulted in preparing this document:

- Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and the labelling of organic products, consolidated version of 25 March 2025. Link.
- European Forest Institute (EFI). Legality Due Diligence Tool for Colombian Cocoa under the EUDR, version 0.3. English version.

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