

Cattle-Coffee Landscape Integration

EUDR Context

Field	Value
eudr_commodity	cattle (cross-commodity with coffee)
country_focus	Colombia
eudr_article9_field	geolocation, deforestation_risk_assessment
eudr_evidence_type	satellite_verification, primary_field_data
deforestation_risk	HIGH (cattle component); MEDIUM (coffee component)
last_updated	2026-05-26

Overview

The EUDR regulates cattle and coffee as separate commodities, but in practice many Colombian farms produce both. Mixed cattle-coffee farms are common throughout the Andean foothills and transitional zones between highland coffee regions and lowland cattle areas. A single farm may have coffee plots on steeper slopes and cattle pasture on flatter areas, creating a situation where the same landowner must comply with EUDR requirements for two distinct commodities simultaneously.

This landscape integration has important implications for EUDR compliance. A landscape-level approach to deforestation risk assessment can serve both commodity supply chains: the same satellite monitoring that verifies deforestation-free status for coffee plots also covers cattle pastures on the same or neighboring farms. Shared geolocation infrastructure, technical assistance programs, and certification services can reduce per-commodity compliance costs when both cattle and coffee operate within the same landscape.

Conversely, the deforestation risk profiles differ significantly between the two commodities. Coffee cultivation in shade-grown agroforestry systems may actively support forest conservation, while cattle pasture on the same farm may be associated with historical forest clearing. The EUDR requires commodity-specific due diligence, meaning operators cannot use coffee compliance to substitute for cattle compliance on mixed farms — each commodity must independently meet all Article 9 requirements.

Colombian Context

The Colombian Andes host a gradient from highland coffee zones (1,200-1,800 meters) to mid-elevation mixed farming zones to lowland cattle areas. In departments like Huila, Tolima, Antioquia, and Caldas, the transition zone supports thousands of mixed cattle-coffee farms. The Colombian Coffee Growers Federation (FNC) estimates that a significant portion of coffee-producing families also raise cattle, using livestock as an economic buffer against coffee price volatility and as a form of savings.

For EUDR compliance, the integration point offers efficiency gains: organizations already providing EUDR technical assistance to coffee farmers (through FNC, cooperatives, or certification bodies) can extend services to cover the cattle component on the same farms. This reduces the marginal cost of cattle EUDR compliance and leverages existing trust relationships and data infrastructure built for coffee. However, it requires cross-commodity traceability platforms that can manage both crop-based geolocation (plot perimeters for coffee) and establishment-based geolocation (single points for cattle) within a unified system.

Cleantech Taxonomy Nodes

Directly relevant: CT-AF-007 (Livestock and Fisheries — cattle component), CT-AF-008 (Crops — coffee component), CT-EX-005 (Community-led reforestation and agroforestry — landscape integration). New extension needed: CT-EX-032 (Cross-commodity EUDR landscape compliance) covering integrated deforestation monitoring for multi-commodity landscapes, shared geolocation infrastructure, and compliance platforms that manage both cattle and crop EUDR requirements on mixed farms.

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