



Tracking and increasing the impact of private sector climate initiatives

Background

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and Ecofys have been working to track, highlight and support the strengthening of cooperative climate initiatives over the past few years. Publications include: [Enhancing Ambition of International Cooperative Initiatives](#) for the Nordic Council of Ministers and a [strategy paper](#) for the Dutch government.

More recently, along with WRI, we launched a public [database of climate initiatives](#)¹. The database offers an online portal for collecting, sharing and tracking information about cooperative initiatives and is already being used as an important tool to support international climate change efforts (for example, the data is being used to feed into the UNFCCC's [NAZCA Portal](#)). The database is now undergoing its next phase of development – enhancing and verifying the data.

Private sector initiative case studies

As part of a project for the German government, CISL and Ecofys are currently carrying out research looking at the impact and potential of a small group of private sector cooperative initiatives. A series of 4 – 5 case studies will be produced which will include a coherent analysis of the initiatives' current and potential future emission reductions, their overlaps with national pledges, and barriers to, and opportunities for, scaling up their impact.

CISL will be actively engaging with stakeholders involved in these initiatives and a series of roundtables are being convened as part of the project. These roundtables aim to refine and deepen the thinking in the initial analysis, agree a set of recommendations and activities to scale up impact, and to potentially even seed new initiatives, if appropriate.

Research is already well underway on the initial selected group of initiatives, which are:

- [*Cement Sustainability Initiative*](#) - a global alliance of leading companies in the cement industry. Cement Sustainability Initiative provides a platform for a shared understanding of sustainability issues, developing and distributing practical tools, facilitating effective stakeholder engagement, and providing sustainable solutions for the cement industry. It is run by WBCSD.
- [*En.lighten*](#) - established to accelerate global market transformation to environmentally sustainable lighting technologies. En.lighten aims to develop a coordinated global strategy and provide technical support for the phase-out of inefficient lighting by 2016. It is run by UNEP.
- [*The Consumer Goods Forum and the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020*](#) - a public-private partnership in which partners take voluntary actions, individually and in combination, to reduce the tropical deforestation associated with the sourcing of commodities such as palm

¹ Only published in Beta form at this point



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

PROGRAMME FOR
SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

oil, soy, beef, and paper and pulp. Member companies of the Consumer Goods Forum have committed to achieving zero net deforestation by 2020. This case study will also highlight the work of the Banking Environment Initiative's 'Soft Commodities Compact' and the New York Declaration on Forests.

- WWF Climate Savers – a global platform to engage business and industry on climate and energy. Climate Savers aims to inspire change in member companies and encourages them to transform themselves in low-carbon leaders to influence market or policy developments by promoting their vision, solutions and achievements.