

# Measures to Address Forest Loss in Nigeria

Tony Atah  
tonyatah@gmail.com

# Some Emission Terms.

- Zero emission refers to an engine, motor, process, or other energy source, that emits no waste products that pollute the environment or disrupt the climate
- Carbon Neutral means the amount of carbon being emitted is equal to the amount of carbon being absorbed from the atmosphere, thanks to carbon sinks such as forests, which absorb and store more carbon from the atmosphere than they emit.
- Net Zero is a similar concept to Carbon Neutral, however it goes beyond just carbon and is typically on a larger scale. Net Zero refers to when all greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere are equivalent to the greenhouse gases being removed from the atmosphere on a global scale
- Zero deforestation means no forest areas are cleared or converted
- Zero net deforestation allows for the clearance or conversion of forests in one area as long as an equal area is replanted elsewhere

# The Burden of Debt and Development

- Climate change impacts and environmental decay are more apparent in developing countries.
- Governments have need to direct all its resources towards improving basic living standards
- Some environmental degradation through deforestation, pollution, land-use changes and infrastructure development is unavoidable.
- In most cases, governments shoulder such intense financial responsibilities that they cannot afford to preserve biodiversity and natural capital.
- To pursue more ambitious environmental policy, developing nations often require a financial incentive that allows governments to shift their priorities.

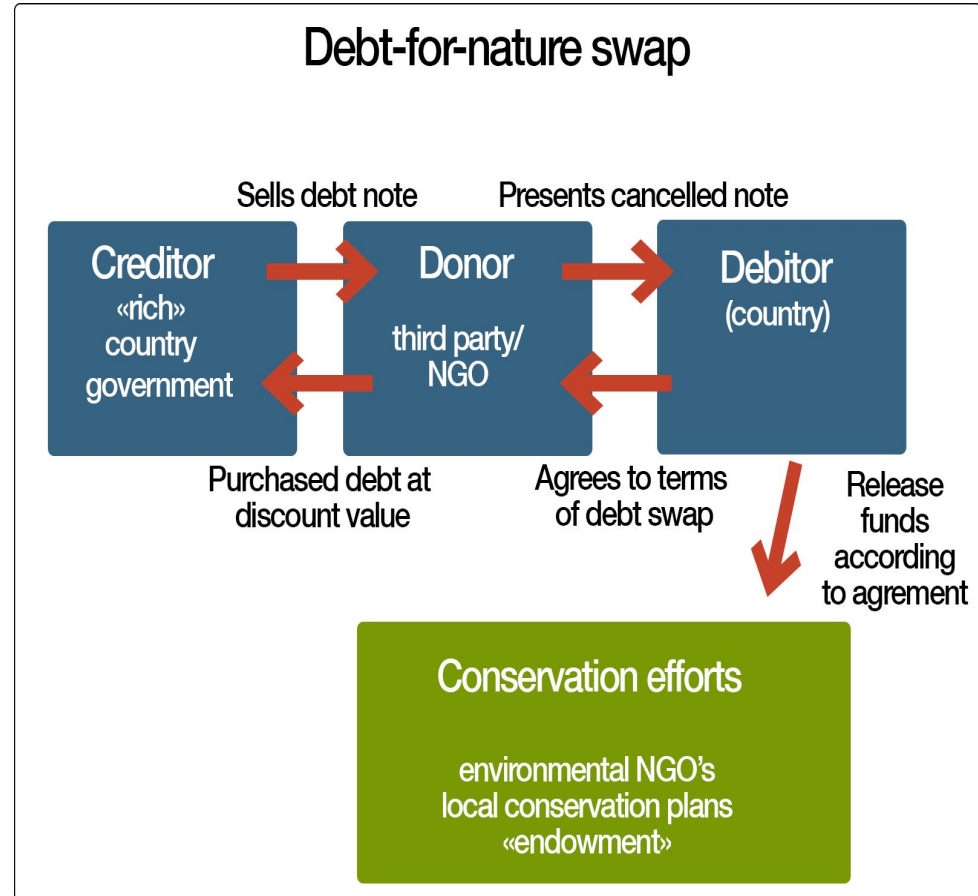
# National Response to Deforestation and Climate Change

- Nigeria has outlined several strategies such as the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and Nigeria Vision 20: 2020, the NDC, to obtain goals that also include addressing problems associated with resource management, socio economic development, and climate change.
- The National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate Change in Nigeria (NASPA-CCN, 2011) revealed that climate change is already having significant impacts on Nigeria.
- In the absence of adaptation, climate change could result in the loss of between 2% and 11% of Nigeria's GDP by 2020, rising to between 6%-30% by the year 2050.
- The impacts of climate change are expected to exacerbate the impacts of human pressure on biodiversity.
- This will further diminish the ability of natural ecosystems to continue to provide ecosystem services and may cause invasion of strange species that are favoured by climate change.

# Some Opportunities

# Debt-for-nature Swaps

- Debt-for-nature swaps are financial mechanisms that allow portions of a developing country's foreign debt to be forgiven, in exchange for commitments to invest in biodiversity conservation and environmental policy measures.



# Debt-for-nature Swap Examples

- In 1987, the environmental NGO Conservation International arranged the world's first debt-for-nature swap, forgiving a portion of Bolivia's foreign debt.
- The agreement cancelled USD\$650 000 of Bolivia's debt.
- In exchange, the Bolivian government agreed to set aside 3.7 million acres of land adjacent to the Amazon Basin for conservation purposes.
- This exchange is an example of a three-party swap, which involves a debtor, a creditor and an environmental NGO acting as a broker.
- In addition to Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy and WWF have been frequent mediators of debt-for-nature swaps.

# REDD+?

- **REDD** = **R**educing **E**missions from **D**eforestation and Forest **D**egradation in Developing Countries
- “+” signifies:
  - + **Conservation** of forests
  - + **Sustainable management** of forests
  - + **Enhancement** of forest carbon stocks



# REDD+ Activities



**Reducing  
emissions  
from  
deforestation**



**Reducing  
emissions  
from forest  
degradation**



**Conservation  
of forest  
carbon stocks**

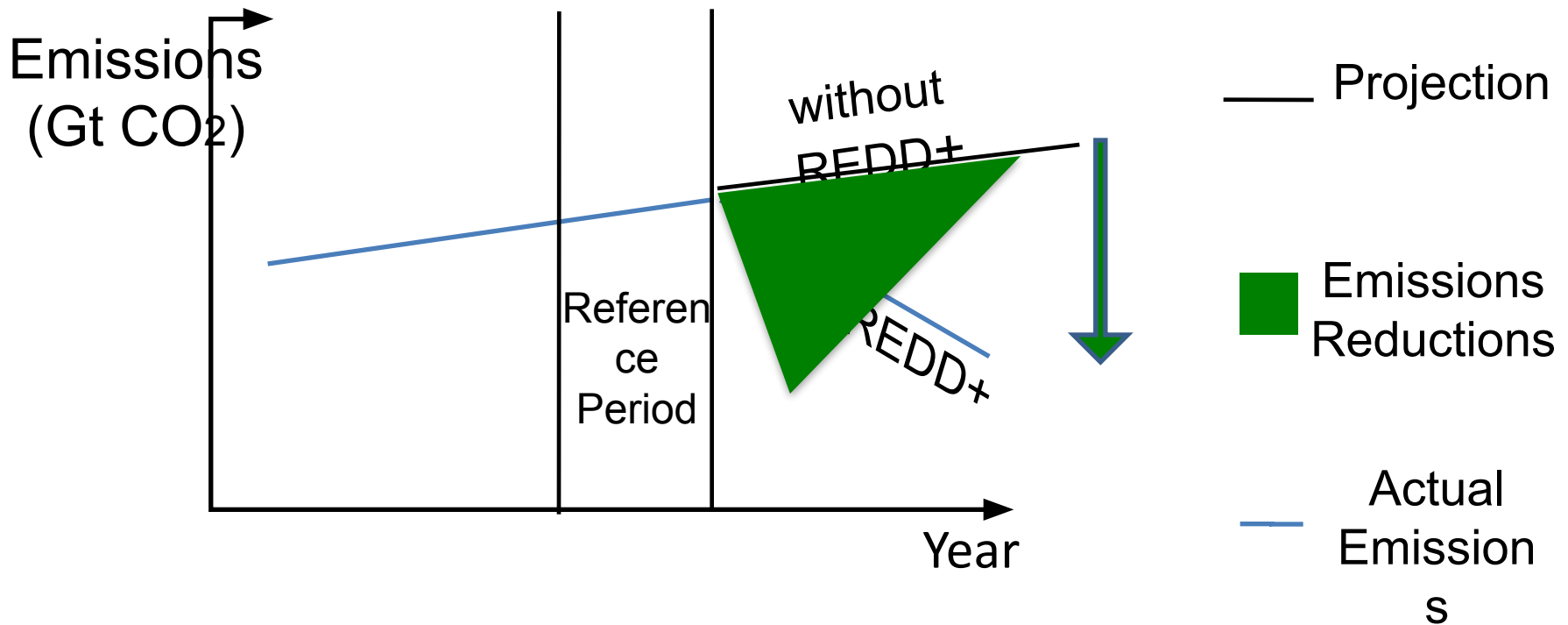


**Sustainable  
Management  
of Forests**



**Enhancement  
of forest  
carbon stocks**

# How does REDD+ work to reduce GHG?



**Green shaded area represents reduced emissions from REDD+ actions**

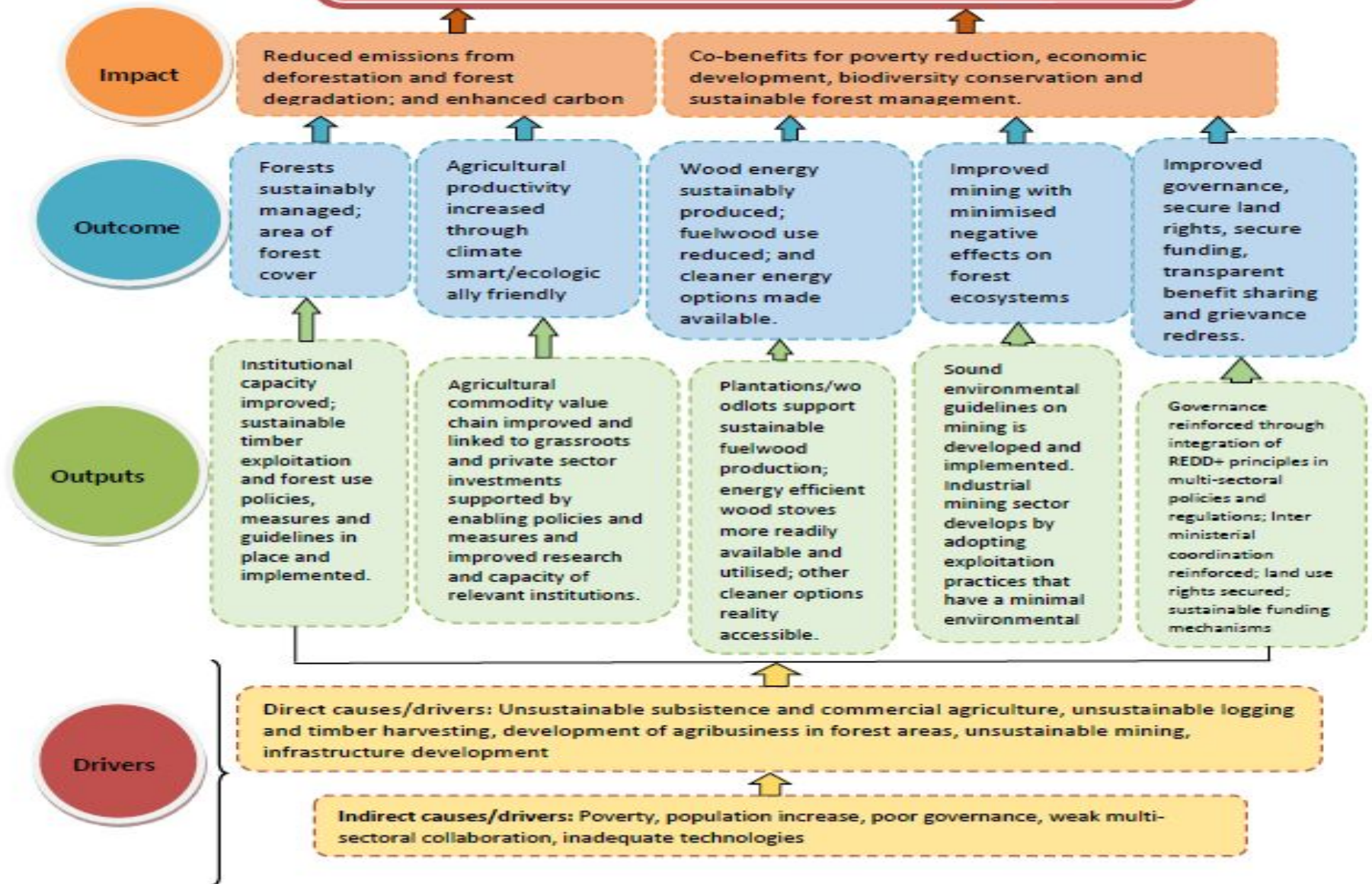
# REDD+

REDD+ helps to mitigate climate change through forests, and provides social and environmental benefits. It includes these essential components: creating incentives for not clearing standing forests, maintaining and expanding forest cover, sustainably managing forest and recovering degraded lands.





# Zero Net Emissions and Resilience to Climate Change



# Two Types of Payments

## **PES**

- Payment of ecosystem services is a variety of arrangements through which the beneficiaries of environmental services, from watershed protection and forest conservation to carbon sequestration and landscape beauty, reward those whose lands provide these services with subsidies or market payments.

## **RBP**

- Results-based payments (also known as performance-based aid, performance-based contracts, impact investments or conditional transfers) provide funding conditional on actions undertaken by target beneficiaries (which are sometimes verified by third parties).

# Achieving REDD+ in Nigeria

- **Vision:** To establish a climate resilient economy through sustainable management of forest to enhance carbon sink, and reduce GHG emissions by at least 20% by year 2050.
- **Goal:**
  - **Short-term (2021 – 2025).** Improve institutions, governance systems, spatial plans and investment environment.
  - **Medium-term (2026 - 2035).** Implement governance systems and their application to the spatial and financial mechanisms to achieve targeted 20% reduction in emissions by 2035.
  - **Long-term (2036-2050).** Nigeria's forests and land areas become a net carbon sink by 2050 and contribute to achieving the country's NDC.

# Nationally Determined Contributions

- NDCs are where countries set targets for mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and for adapting to climate impacts.
- The plans define how to reach the targets, and elaborate systems to monitor and verify progress so it stays on track.
- Since climate finance is key to implementing the plans, NDCs ideally also detail a financing strategy.
- **Nigeria's NDC** builds on the 2012 Nigeria Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy which aims to foster low-carbon, high growth economic development and build a climate resilient society. It seeks to promote sustainable development with policies and measures seeking to deliver immediate development benefits that do not compromise sustainable growth.
- Nigeria's has increased its conditional contribution from 45 per cent to 47 per cent while retaining the unconditional target of 20 per cent."

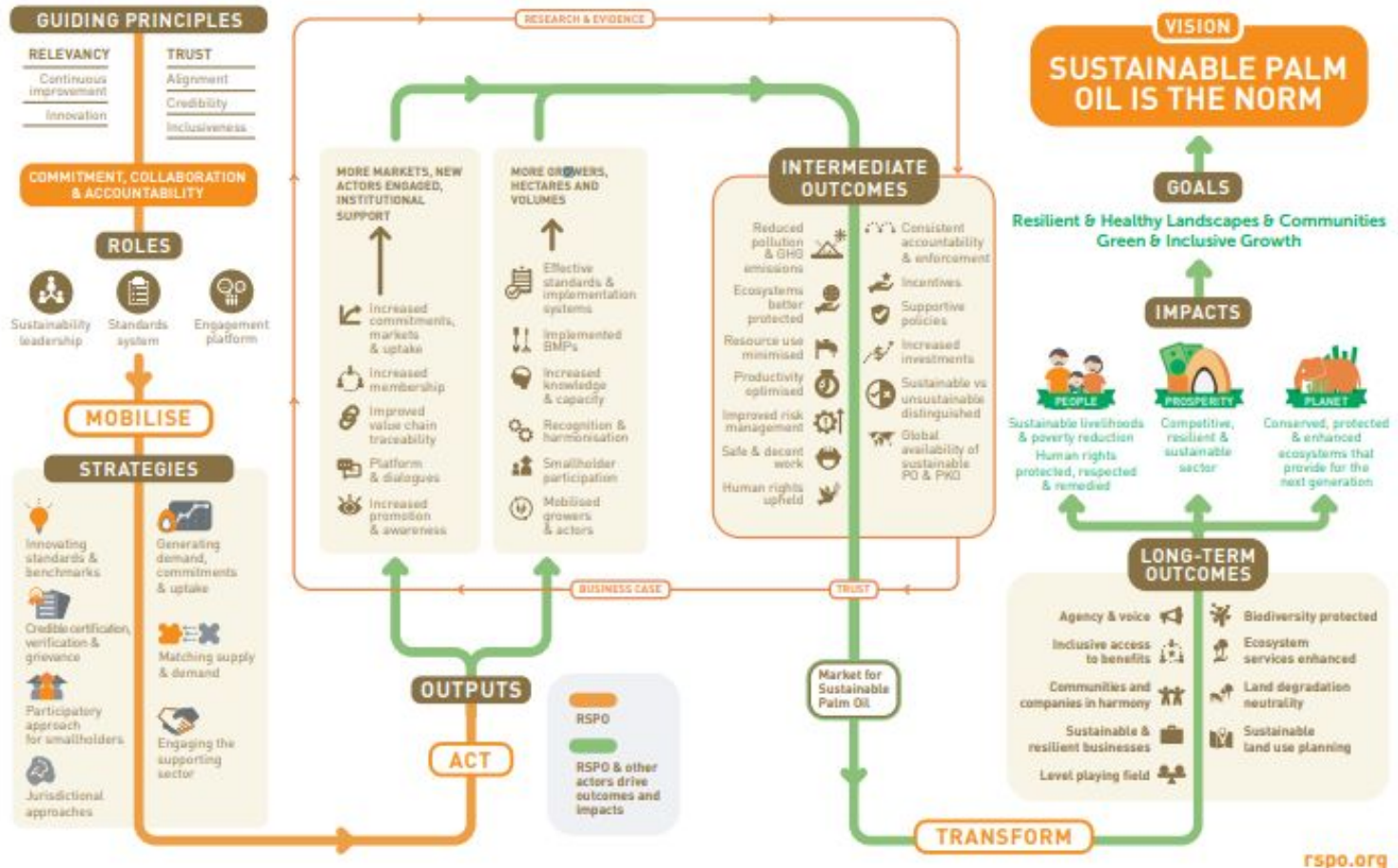
- Chile has set a goal in its NDC of reaching peak emissions no later than 2025. It intends to cut emissions across its economy, working closely with the private sector and applying tools such as carbon budgets. It will take steps to protect the ocean given its extensive coastline and **move to a circular no-waste economy.**
- Colombia aspires to be carbon neutral by 2050 and will use its NDCs to make that happen, with a plan to get halfway to net zero by 2030. It will green its energy system through NDC implementation agreements with the energy, agriculture and industrial sectors. Increasing commitment to adaptation is reflected in comprehensive progress indicators integrated in national monitoring.
- Rwanda was the first country in Africa to revise its initial NDC, with a bold goal to cut emissions by 38 per cent by 2030. It will pursue reductions across key sectors of its economy and has set up a system of indicators to track adaptation in water, agriculture, land and forestry, human settlements, health, transport and mining.



# Commodity Value Chain Development

- **RSPO**: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil was established in 2004 with the objective of promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil products through global standards and multi-stakeholder governance.
- Traceability is a key concept, defined as knowing all palm sources within one's supply chain all the way to plantation level (incl. smallholders) and traceability to the oil mill is an intermediary step in achieving full traceability.
- Nigeria has a National interpretation of the RSPO principles and criteria for the production of sustainable palm oil.
- The Nigeria National Interpretation is based on the RSPO 2018 and was revised by the Nigeria National Interpretation Working Group.

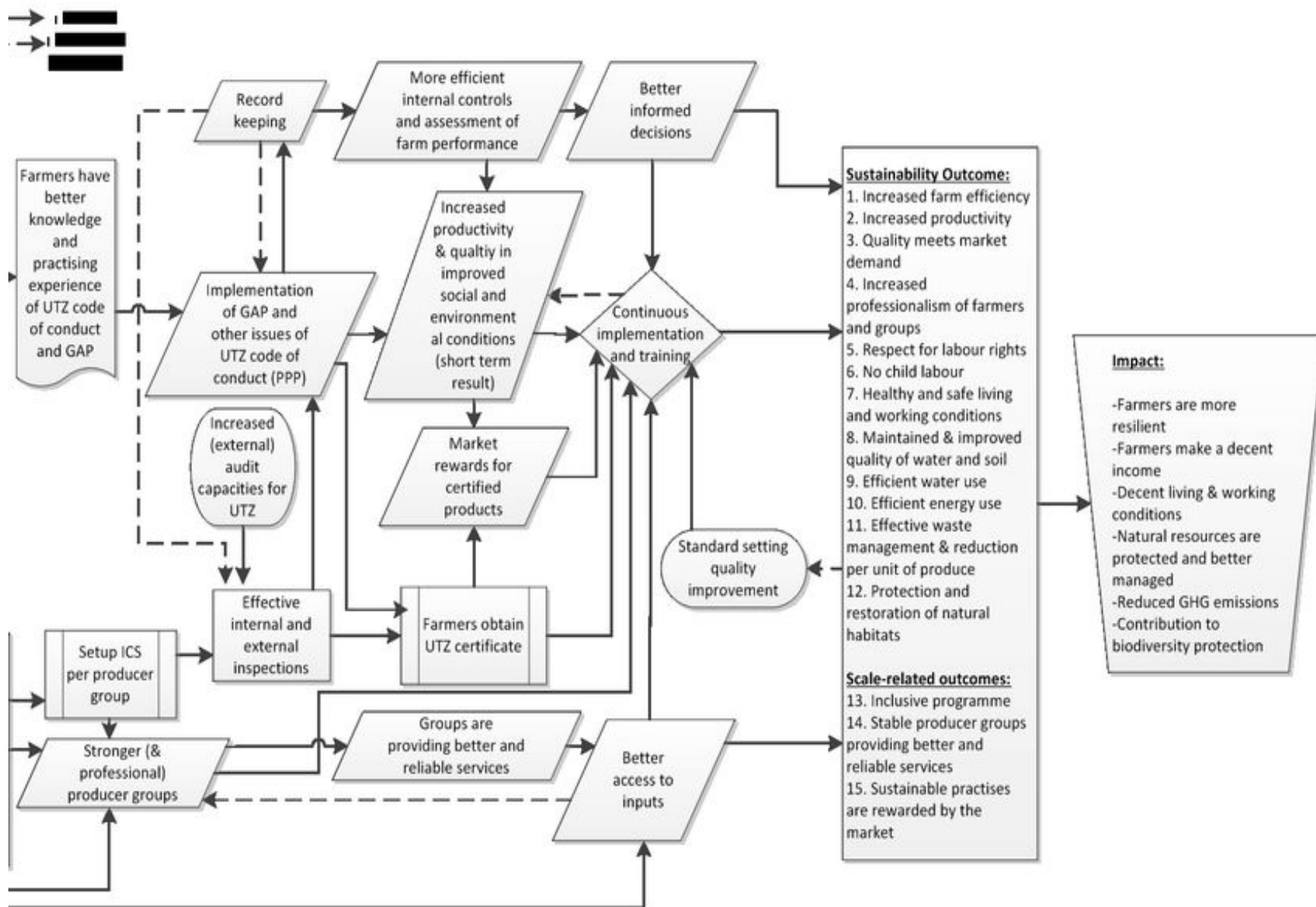
## THEORY OF CHANGE RSPO'S ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL



# Responsible Cocoa Sourcing Programmes

- Fazer
- SCS Global Services
- UTZ certified
- Rainforest Alliance
- Fairtrade

# Theory of Change for Responsible Cocoa Farming





# Some community based actions

## Land use/forest management planning



## Tree nurseries/reforestation





# Gender, Development and Governance



# Community engagement issues







Let's act now to save us all.  
Thank you!