

## Side event 24 | Learnings from cross-sectoral sustainability assessments: from multinational corporations to regional initiatives in West and Central Africa

### Organized by:

- World Benchmarking Alliance
- Proforest
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Thursday, 26 October; 8.30 – 9.45 (UTC+2)  
Iran Room & via Zoom

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### Abstract

This session will feature the launch of the World Benchmarking Alliance's 2023 Food and Agriculture and Nature Benchmarks, assessing the world's 350 most influential food and agriculture companies as well as introducing Proforest's Africa Sustainable Commodity Initiative (ASCI) as a functional multistakeholder platform for responsible commodity agriculture in Central and West Africa, including the Congo Basin. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development will share their work on Food and Nutrition Security and highlight the role of corporate commitment in closing the accountability gap. With the aim of closing the corporate accountability gap, the session will dive deep into how the private sector can play a role in farmers' livelihoods and the health of people and the planet. The link will be made on how using the tools and instruments available for assessing private-sector performance can drive action and accountability.

### Objectives

- Present findings from the World Benchmarking Alliance's 2023 Food and Agriculture and Nature Benchmarks assessing the performance of the world's 350 most influential companies.
- Share learnings on how to ensure that commodity production brings social benefits to farmers, communities and indigenous people while protecting forests and environment via introducing the Africa Sustainable Commodities Initiative.
- Share key findings and best practices along the value chain and in key areas.
- Discuss actions needed to be taken by the private sector to close the corporate accountability gap.

### Key messages

- Companies need to ensure adequate social benefits toward small-scale producers, indigenous communities and women along their commodity supply chains.
- The vast majority of companies fail to recognise their responsibility to protect the planet and feed the world in an equitable way.