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## Scaling Out Sustainable Land Use Systems –slus– for Forest Conservation and Peacebuilding in Colombia

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### Abstract

Nowadays, most agricultural practices can reduce the ability of ecosystems to provide goods and services. To enhance environmentally friendly food production and to maximise social and economic benefits, sustainable land use systems (SLUS) are one of the most important strategies increasingly/strongly promoted by donors organisations, international agencies and policymakers. This process involves the question how SLUS can be scaled out also large-scale landscapes and not merely isolated experiments. As SLUS are context specific, scaling out SLUS is a complex multidimensional. To achieve diffusion and replication of successful SLUS in different communities requires the identification of main criteria that facilitate a scaling out process. This study aims to identify the main criteria for scaling out SLUS for forest conservation and peacebuilding in Colombia. A case study approach is applied, investigating the scaling out process of SLUS in cocoa and livestock sector within peacebuilding territories in Colombia, specifically, in the Cesar and Caquetá region. These two regions are contrasting, but both have land use problems. Presently, Caquetá is one of the most deforested departments in Colombia, and Cesar has some of the most degraded soils in Colombia. Following a qualitative research approach, semi structured interviews are conducted with silvopastoral or agroforestry experts in both region to analyse (1) what does it mean a sustainable land use system in Cocoa/Livestock, specifically in Caquetá or Cesar and (2) to identify the criteria that should be taken into account in order to replicate and spread SLUS among more producers at the level of the following dimensions: biophysical, economic and profitability, market, social, policy and institutions. The results of the study will shed light on the question of how SLUS can have an impact across large-

scale landscapes and how the scaling out process can be set up best in order to be successful across different contexts. This shall help policy makers and practioners to plan and implement SLUS as approach to sustainable food systems more efficiently.

**Keywords:** Cocoa, Colombia, land use, livestock, scaling out, sustainability