

## **ECOM Agroindustrial Corp Ltd. and Fronterra Nature Based Solutions Sign Agreement to Develop Grouped Conservation and Carbon Projects in the Peruvian Amazon**

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**Pully-Switzerland, Paris-France, Lima-Peru.**

**ECOM Agroindustrial Corp. Ltd.**, a global leader in soft commodity commerce and sustainable supply chains founded in 1849, and **Fronterra** Nature Based Solutions, a pioneer in nature-based carbon and biodiversity projects, have signed a first commercial agreement to develop grouped conservation and carbon projects in the Peruvian Amazon. This strategic move for both companies aims to work closely with native communities to drive sustainable land use and climate resilience across vast landscapes in the region.

This investment agreement will start with an ambitious project centred on peasant and native communities in the Amazon. The project will focus on stabilizing land use by promoting **sustainable cocoa-based agroforestry systems**, adhering to strict **non-deforestation safeguards**. The initiative not only aims to restore degraded lands with cocoa-based agroforestry systems and enhance agricultural productivity of small farmers but also to preserve their forest ecosystems, demonstrating a harmonious balance between economic development and environmental protection.

Furthermore, the project will follow strict **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes** and **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) due diligence**, in full adherence to the **International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards**. These frameworks ensure that local communities are fully informed and involved at every stage of the project, prioritising their rights and well-being, ensuring sustainable development.

### **Key Components of the Agreement:**

- **Sustainable Agroforestry:** The project will invest in cocoa-based agroforestry systems that generate long-term economic benefits for communities while ensuring zero deforestation.
- **Strengthening Territorial Control:** By improving control and surveillance of the territories, the initiative will help native communities protect their land from illegal activities, such as deforestation and land grabbing. The project supports communities to finalise the formalisation of the land tenure, so the property rights are secured.

- **Enhancing Community Governance:** The partnership will provide resources and capacity-building programmes to strengthen the governance bodies of the native communities, empowering them to make informed decisions and manage their resources sustainably.

The first project under this partnership is expected to expand across a broader landscape in the Peruvian Amazon, setting the foundation for future conservation and carbon capture initiatives. The initial investment could unlock further capital for a portfolio of **nature-based solutions** projects across **Latin America**, contributing to the global fight against climate change while driving sustainable development in the region.

*"This project reflects our commitment to protecting our forests while improving our livelihoods," said Guillermo Alvarado Asho, a leader from Canchauaya Native Community in the Peruvian Amazon. "For years, we have sought ways to develop economically without harming the land that sustains us. By partnering with **FRONTERRA and ECOM**, we can invest in sustainable agriculture and safeguard our territory, ensuring that future generations can continue to live in harmony with the forest."*



*Photo: "Cacao and Light", by Fronterra.*



*"We are excited to take this first step in building a portfolio of conservation and carbon projects that not only deliver climate benefits but also create lasting economic opportunities for local communities,"* said Mónica Mariño, **Carbon Credits Manager of ECOM.**

*"By partnering with our **community brothers and sisters and ECOM**, we aim to scale up nature-based solutions that reduce deforestation and forest degradation, but most importantly create sustainable livelihoods for communities as without alternative development and investments, there is no future for our rainforests. This agreement is a significant milestone toward achieving our long-term vision of protecting large ecosystems in **Latin America**. By partnering with local communities, who are the key actors in these efforts, we are taking meaningful steps toward safeguarding the future of our shared planet,"* said **Juan Carlos Gonzalez Aybar, Founder of Fronterra.**

The collaboration marks a pivotal moment in the growing global movement to use environmental markets and sustainable agriculture practices to address rural poverty and climate change. As the world looks to ramp up efforts to protect tropical forests by centring the actions on the action of local communities as the stewards of their natural resources, this deal highlights the potential for **public-private- community partnerships** to unlock scalable, impactful solutions.

#### **About ECOM**

**ECOM Agroindustrial Corp. Ltd.** is one of the world's largest commodity trading companies, committed to promoting sustainability across its value chains, with a focus on coffee, cocoa, and cotton. Through its numerous initiatives, ECOM integrates economic development with social and environmental responsibility.

#### **About Fronterra Nature Based Solutions:**

Fronterra Nature Based Solutions is an innovative European leader with a Latin American focus specialised in the design, development, implementation and operation of large-scale community-based nature-based solutions projects, focused on tackling rural poverty and exclusion, protecting biodiversity, restoring ecosystems, and generating carbon credits through sustainable forestry and agroforestry practices. The company partners with local peasant and native communities to ensure that conservation and restoration efforts are driven by those who own, love and depend on the land.

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