Indonesia’s Aceh and North Sumatra are two important regions for agriculture, contributing significantly to local and national supply chains, driving economic development and supporting thousands of smallholder farmer livelihoods.

Healthy forest supports the production of agricultural commodities — including oil palm, cocoa, coffee and rubber — and provides smallholders and nearby communities with natural resources that:

- Supply ecosystem services, such as the provision of fresh water, medicines and cultural values
- Reduce risks of flooding and landslides
- Buffer against the impacts of climate change, such as uncertain weather patterns that lead to drought and crop failure

Unfortunately, smallholders and surrounding communities currently face large challenges due to low crop yields and environmental degradation, both of which threaten social, economic and environmental sustainability across the landscape.

Numerous stakeholders — including government, private sector, farmers, communities and civil society organizations — recognize these challenges and many are working on solutions to drive sustained forest management while also improving agricultural practices that benefit farmer livelihoods and continued regional economic development.

However, many of these efforts are small in scale, disconnected throughout the landscape and misaligned across stakeholders. As a result, these efforts are not able to achieve their desired impacts at a landscape level.
The Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods (CSL) addresses this problem by bringing together a network of public, private and civil society stakeholders to collaborate, bridge and align efforts through a sustainable landscape approach in Aceh and North Sumatra. CSL works to optimize impacts and solve problems holistically by strengthening coordination and integration across current efforts and initiatives. Through this collaboration and collective action, CSL aims to achieve common objectives for smallholder livelihoods, sustainable agricultural production and conservation in Aceh and North Sumatra.

CSL considers the economic, social and environmental context of these provinces and aims to benefit stakeholders across the entire landscape:

- **Smallholder Farmers**: Improved production and access to markets seeking sustainable products
- **Government**: Strengthened government programs, through capacity building, investments in the region, and alignment with policies and priorities for conservation and sustained economic development, improving Aceh and North Sumatra’s role in global supply chains
- **Private Sector**: Achievement of sustainable supply chain commitments as well as improved engagement and alignment with local stakeholders and government priorities
- **Communities**: Improved forest management for long-term use, providing alternative income options and reducing flood risks
- **Civil Society Organizations**: Strengthened capacity for program implementation, access to shared knowledge and resources, and improved efficiency through alignment with stakeholders

There’s a place for everyone in the CSL — we need you to bring your voice and expertise to pave a path forward. Your participation — through working groups, a CSL workshop and collaboration — will address key questions vital to success, including:

- **GOVERNANCE**: What is the governance model for CSL and how do interested organizations participate?
- **GROWTH**: How will CSL grow and expand?
- **METRICS**: How will CSL measure success?
- **PILOT LANDSCAPES**: What are the action plans for pilot initiatives in Aceh and North Sumatra?

Your collaboration and input will shape and inform action and investment plans, creating a common roadmap for CSL stakeholders to achieve our collective vision for the landscapes of Aceh and North Sumatra.

For more information, please contact CSL@conservation.org or visit conservation.org/CSL to learn more.