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INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON DEFORESTATION-FREE REGULATION (EUDR) POLICY TOWARDS ACHIEVING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TARGETS WITHIN THE PARIS AGREEMENT FRAMEWORK IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A NORMATIVE APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) IN THE 5.0 ERA

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Abstract.

Climate Action is the 13th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) agreed upon by 193 UN member countries. However, the latest SDGs report shows that 2023 is the hottest year in almost the last 2 centuries. The Paris Agreement failed to reduce the rise in global temperature in recent years. It seems that this treaty only stops at regulations without significant action from state leaders for various reasons. Therefore, in mid-2023, the European Union established a controversial regulation called the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR). EUDR integration has great potential in helping developing countries achieve greenhouse gas emission targets within the framework of the Paris Agreement, which will ultimately also achieve the 13th SDG. EUDR focuses on protecting forests, which are one of the main carbon sinks, thereby increasing the achievement of greenhouse gas emission targets. However, the various challenges of implementing EUDR are not easy to overcome. One of them is the limited technological capacity and resources needed, as well as concerns about the risk of reducing the competitiveness of export commodities from plantations, which are the economic foundation of developing countries such as Indonesia. This paper aims to explore how EUDR can be integrated into national strategies to effectively achieve the Paris Agreement's targets. A normative approach is used to analyze the alignment of international policies with local needs and conditions. With proper integration, EUDR can become a strategic instrument to ensure that developing countries can achieve greenhouse gas emission targets, in order to realize SDGs in the 5.0 era.

Keywords: EUDR, Paris Agreement, Climate Action, SDGs, deforestation

1. Introduction

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today. Developing countries, which are often the main victims of the impacts of climate change, are faced with the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while maintaining economic growth. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, sets out a global framework to limit the rise of global temperature and encourages countries to endorse emissions reduction commitments. However,



achieving these targets is often hampered by various factors, including deforestation and land degradation. As we all know and can feel, climate change is increasingly increasing drastically, July 21 2024 was recorded as the hottest day in the world in history, with the global average surface air temperature reaching 17.09 degrees Celsius and in April 2024, the sea surface temperature globally reached 21.04 degrees Celsius, which is the hottest record in history.

On May 16, 2023, the European Union proposed and established an anti-deforestation regulation called the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). This regulation proposed by the European Union aims to reduce deforestation caused by products traded on the European market. This policy has the potential to provide incentives for developing countries to protect their forests, which in turn could contribute to reducing GHG emissions. Through a normative approach that prioritizes sustainable development, EUDR policy integration can be the key to achieving emissions targets within the Paris Agreement framework.

For developing countries that produce commodities such as palm oil, rubber, and wood products, which are often linked to deforestation, this policy brings both challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, there are concerns that it will become an economic burden, and on the other hand, EUDR provides an opportunity to strengthen commitments to sustainable development and adaptation towards a green economy. A normative approach is needed to bridge international policies such as the EUDR with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the industrial era 5.0, where digital integration and sustainability are the main things.

In addition, EUDR is aligned with SDGs targets, especially on points related to climate change (13th SDG), sustainable production and consumption (12th SDG), and preserving terrestrial ecosystems (15th SDG). In the 5.0 era, digital technology and innovation play an important role in helping developing countries achieve global sustainability standards. Implementing technologies such as blockchain can increase supply chain transparency and ensure compliance with the EUDR.

2. Method

This study employed a normative approach with a constitutional approach and a comparative approach, where the author compared the contents of the Paris Agreement and EUDR to find a correlation between the two regulations and how they can work together to support especially the achievement of 13th SDG (Climate Action), also 12th SDG (Sustainable Production and Consumption) and 15th SDG (Preserving Terrestrial Ecosystems).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Paris Agreement

3.1.1 A Brief Explanation of the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement was a watershed moment in global climate action, uniting countries around the world in a shared effort to address the urgent challenge posed by climate change. The negotiation process that culminated in this landmark agreement was marked by an unprecedented level of international collaboration and commitment. Delegates from nearly 200 countries gathered in Paris in December 2015, driven by a collective desire to limit global temperature rise and set strong emissions reduction goals. The negotiations were complex and multifaceted, reflecting the diverse interests and priorities of participating countries. Ultimately,



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the agreement emerged as a testament to the power of diplomacy and a recognition that climate change knows no borders, requiring a concerted global response. The Paris Agreement's primary goal is to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an aspiration to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Achieving this ambitious target will require substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, a goal explicitly outlined in the agreement. The negotiation process involved extensive discussions on how to balance the needs of developing and developed countries, ensuring that all countries can contribute to climate action in a fair and sustainable way. This collaborative spirit is at the heart of the Paris Agreement, which embodies a shared commitment to a sustainable future for our planet.

The ratification of the Paris Agreement by member states is a significant milestone that reinforces their commitment to the goals outlined in the agreement. By formally ratifying the agreement, countries signal their dedication to taking meaningful action on climate change and their willingness to adhere to the emissions reduction targets set. This commitment is critical, as it lays the foundation for a coordinated global response to one of the most pressing challenges of our time. The act of ratification not only strengthens a country's resolve but also fosters trust and accountability among countries, creating an environment conducive to collaboration.

Emission reductions are a critical component of limiting the rise in global temperature, and the Paris Agreement provides a framework for countries to set and achieve their own targets. Each country is encouraged to develop its own Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which outlines specific actions and policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The collective impact of these commitments is critical to meeting the agreement's core objectives. As countries ratify the Paris Agreement, they are contributing to global momentum that emphasizes the importance of continued and ambitious climate action, reinforcing the idea that we are all in this together.

For the Paris Agreement to achieve its ambitious goals, it is critical that countries engage civil society in the climate action process. Public engagement is not simply a complement to government efforts; rather, it is a critical element that can significantly increase the effectiveness of climate initiatives. Civil society, including non-governmental organizations, community groups, and the private sector, plays a critical role in advocating for climate action, raising awareness, and holding governments accountable for their commitments. By fostering a culture of engagement, countries can harness the collective power of their citizens to drive meaningful change.

In addition, active public participation can generate innovative solutions and grassroots initiatives that complement national and international efforts. Engaging multiple stakeholders allows for a more comprehensive understanding of local challenges and opportunities, ensuring that climate action is tailored to the specific needs of communities. As countries work towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, it is important to create platforms for dialogue and collaboration between governments and civil society, recognizing that effective climate action is a shared responsibility that transcends traditional boundaries.

Technological innovation is at the forefront of efforts to reduce emissions and meet the goals set by the Paris Agreement. Countries are increasingly leveraging technology to develop and implement solutions that address climate change while promoting economic growth and sustainability. From renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power to advances in energy efficiency and carbon capture technologies, innovation plays a critical role in enabling countries to meet their emissions reduction targets.



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Integrating technology into climate action negotiations is critical to creating a more resilient and sustainable future. By investing in research and development, countries can accelerate the adoption of clean technologies and increase their capacity to combat climate change. Furthermore, collaboration between governments, the private sector, and research institutions can facilitate knowledge sharing and the dissemination of best practices, fostering a global environment that supports innovation. As we confront the complexities of climate change, it is clear that technological advances will play a critical role in supporting the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement sets out a long-term vision for sustainable development, setting global climate action goals that transcend political and economic boundaries. By committing to reducing emissions and limiting temperature rise, countries are not only addressing the immediate impacts of climate change but are laying the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable future. The agreement recognizes that climate change poses significant risks to ecosystems, economies, and societies, and calls for a transformative approach to development that prioritizes environmental sustainability.

3.1.2 9 Years of Implementation of the Paris Agreement

In the nine years since the Paris Agreement was signed, we have seen countries around the world make significant efforts to achieve their emission reduction targets. Analysis of the impact of emission reductions on climate change shows that despite progress, the challenges remain enormous. For example, many countries have succeeded in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy and energy efficiency policies. However, the impact of these emission reductions is still felt unevenly, depending on the capacity and commitment of each country.

When comparing national targets with the Paris Agreement commitments, a significant gap is evident. Some countries have set ambitious targets, but their implementation is often hampered by various factors, including limited resources and political support. This shows that although the Paris Agreement provides a clear framework for emission reduction, achieving these targets requires further efforts and closer collaboration between countries, especially in terms of sharing technology and resources. The political and economic reasons of each country are the main reasons for the slow implementation of the Paris Agreement commitments in each country. Therefore, a breakthrough policy is needed so that countries can pay more attention to the Paris Agreement commitments, in particular, and Sustainable Development in general.

3.2 European Union on Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR)

Since 1970, the European Union has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental protection through a series of increasingly sophisticated policies. Initially, the focus of the EU's environmental policy was more on pollution and waste management. However, as awareness of global environmental issues grew, the policy began to encompass a wider range of aspects, including biodiversity protection and climate change control. One important step along this journey was the development of the zero-deforestation regulation, which emerged in response to the serious threat posed by climate change. Deforestation, which contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, was a major concern, and the EU took the initiative to ensure that products entering the European market did not originate from harmful deforestation practices. In this way, the regulation not only served to protect forests but also to support global efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change.



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The European Union on Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) covers a wide range of sectors, from timber to agricultural products. One of the key steps in this regulation is the establishment of standards that require all products entering the European market to be proven to be free from deforestation. This encourages producing countries to implement sustainable agricultural and forestry practices. Sustainability standards set by the European Union also play an important role in international trade, as countries wishing to export their products to Europe must comply with the criteria set. Thus, this regulation not only protects the environment but also creates opportunities for countries to improve their sustainability practices, which in turn can increase their competitiveness in the global market.

3.3 Relationship Between EUDR, Paris Agreement, and SDGs

The term “Sustainable Development” is mentioned 12 times in the Paris Agreement and 6 times in the EUDR. While the term “Paris Agreement” is mentioned 5 times in the EUDR document. From the comparison below, it appears that the EUDR was indeed created as one of the steps to realize the Paris Agreement within the framework of achieving the SDGs.

Table 1. “Sustainable Development” and “Paris Agreement” Term Regulations

“Sustainable development” in the Paris Agreement	
Considers	Emphasizing the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses, and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty,
Article 2(1)	This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:
Article 4(1)	In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.
Article 6(1)	Parties recognize that some Parties choose to pursue voluntary cooperation in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions to allow for higher ambition in their mitigation and adaptation actions and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity.
Article 6(2)	Parties shall, where engaging on a voluntary basis in cooperative approaches that involve the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes towards nationally determined contributions, promote sustainable development and ensure environmental integrity and transparency, including in governance, and shall apply robust accounting to ensure, inter alia, the avoidance of double counting, consistent with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.
Article 6(4)	A mechanism to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable development is hereby established under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties,



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“Sustainable development” in the Paris Agreement	
	serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement, for use by Parties on a voluntary basis. It shall be supervised by a body designated by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement, and shall aim: (a) To promote the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions while fostering sustainable development;
Article 6(8)	Parties recognize the importance of integrated, holistic and balanced non-market approaches being available to Parties to assist in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a coordinated and effective manner, including through, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building, as appropriate. These approaches shall aim to:
Article 6(9)	A framework for non-market approaches to sustainable development is hereby defined to promote the non-market approaches referred to in paragraph 8 of this Article.
Article 7(1)	Parties hereby establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.
Article 8(1)	Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.
Article 10(5)	Accelerating, encouraging, and enabling innovation is critical for an effective, long-term global response to climate change and promoting economic growth and sustainable development. Such effort shall be, as appropriate, supported, including by the Technology Mechanism and, through financial means, by the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, for collaborative approaches to research and development, and facilitating access to technology, in particular for early stages of the technology cycle, to developing country Parties.
“sustainable development” and “Paris agreement” in EUDR	
Considers (11)	Member States have repeatedly expressed their concern about persistent deforestation and forest degradation. They have emphasised that since current policies and action at global level on conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests do not suffice to halt deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss, enhanced Union action is needed in order to contribute more effectively to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by all United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015. The Council has specifically supported the Commission announcement in its communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests, that it would assess additional regulatory and non-regulatory measures, and that it would present proposals for both types of measures. The Union and Member States have also endorsed the UN



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“Sustainable development” in the Paris Agreement	
	Decade of Action for the SDGs, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the UN Decade of Family Farming.
Considers (13)	Combating deforestation and forest degradation constitutes an important part of the package of measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to comply with the Union’s commitments under the European Green Deal as well as with the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (3) (the ‘ Paris Agreement ’), and the Eighth Environment Action Programme adopted by Decision (EU) 2022/591 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 Of The European Parliament And Of The Council, 2023)(4), and with the legally binding commitment under Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council (5) to reach climate neutrality at the latest by 2050 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % compared to 1990 levels by 2030.
Considers (19)	The Union is committed to promoting and implementing ambitious environment and climate policies across the world, in accordance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Article 37 thereof which provides that a high level of environmental protection and the improvement of the quality of the environment is to be integrated into the policies of the Union and ensured in accordance with the principle of sustainable development . As part of the external dimension of the European Green Deal, action under this Regulation should take into account the importance of existing global agreements, commitments and frameworks contributing to the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation such as the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and its Global Forest Goals, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (UNFCCC, 2015)and the Paris Agreement , the CBD and its Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as the multilateral framework in support of tackling the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation, such as the SDGs and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
Considers (22)	This Regulation should also respond to the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use issued at the November 2021 UN Climate Change Conference, which recognises that ‘to meet our land use, climate, biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals, both globally and nationally, will require transformative further action in the interconnected areas of sustainable production and consumption; infrastructure development; trade, finance and investment; and support for smallholders, indigenous peoples, and local communities’. The signatories committed to working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 and stressed that they would strengthen their shared efforts to facilitate trade and development policies, internationally and domestically, that promote sustainable development and sustainable commodity production and consumption, and that work to countries’ mutual benefit.
Considers (26)	In line with its communication of 22 June 2022 on the power of trade partnerships: together for green and just economic growth, the Commission is stepping up engagement with trade partners to foster compliance with international labour and environmental standards. The communication envisages robust chapters on sustainable development ,



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“Sustainable development” in the Paris Agreement	
	containing clauses on deforestation and forest degradation. Ensuring the enforcement of current and the conclusion of new trade agreements with such chapters will complement the objectives of this Regulation.
Considers (43)	Many international organisations and bodies, such as the FAO, the IPCC, the UN Environment Programme, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, have been active, and international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the CBD, have been concluded in the field of deforestation and forest degradation, and the definitions in this Regulation build on that work.
Article 29(4)	The assessment referred to in paragraph 3 may also take into account: (c) whether the country concerned has national or subnational laws in place, including in accordance with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement , and takes effective enforcement measures to tackle deforestation and forest degradation, and to avoid and penalise activities leading to deforestation and forest degradation and in particular whether it applies penalties of sufficient severity to deprive of the benefits accruing from deforestation or forest degradation;
Article 6(8)	Parties recognize the importance of integrated, holistic and balanced non-market approaches being available to Parties to assist in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a coordinated and effective manner, including through, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building, as appropriate. These approaches shall aim to:
Article 6(9)	A framework for non-market approaches to sustainable development is hereby defined to promote the non-market approaches referred to in paragraph 8 of this Article.
Article 7(1)	Parties hereby establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.
Article 8(1)	Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.
Article 10(5)	Accelerating, encouraging, and enabling innovation is critical for an effective, long-term global response to climate change and promoting economic growth and sustainable development . Such effort shall be, as appropriate, supported, including by the Technology Mechanism and, through financial means, by the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, for collaborative approaches to research and development, and facilitating access to technology, in particular for early stages of the technology cycle, to developing country Parties.

3.4 Influence, Challenges, and Opportunities of EUDR on SDGs

3.4.1 Effect of EUDR on Deforestation and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Deforestation is one of the main causes of increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Forests store large amounts of carbon. Forests, through their biochemical processes, such as photosynthesis, play a key role in removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and constitute important carbon sinks (Psistaki et al., 2024). Trees and other plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow. This is converted into carbon and stored in the plant's branches, leaves, trunks, roots, and in the soil (Gorte & Sheikh, 2010). According to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), around 10 million hectares of forest are lost each year due to land conversion for agriculture, logging, and urbanization (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2020). In developing countries, where economies often depend on natural resources, deforestation often occurs without considering the long-term impacts on the environment. The producing countries, which are mostly developing countries, still do not pay much attention to the importance of strictly implementing the Paris Agreement commitments. They secretly still prioritize large-scale economic exploitation for the prosperity of their own countries.

The importance of synergies between forest protection and emission reduction cannot be overstated. Forests serve as vital carbon sinks, and their loss means a loss of their ability to absorb greenhouse gas emissions. According to the IPCC report, the land use sector, including deforestation, accounts for about 23% of total global emissions (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2019). By integrating EUDR policies, developing countries can create policies that focus not only on emission reductions but also on protecting forest ecosystems.

With the EUDR, the international supply chain conditions will change to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement as one of the steps towards Sustainable Development in the 5.0 Era. Products originating from illegal deforestation will not be accessible to the European market, thus putting pressure on producing countries to implement more sustainable forest management practices. On the other hand, producing countries that have implemented sustainable agriculture and forestry practices will receive rewards in the form of being able to enter the European market, so they can sell their commodities at better prices.

3.4.2 Challenges and Opportunities for Implementing EUDR in the Context of Sustainable Development

While the integration of EUDR policies offers many opportunities for a more serious implementation of Sustainable Development 5.0, the challenges in its implementation must also be considered. One of the main challenges is the capacity of institutions in developing countries to enforce existing policies. Often, the lack of adequate resources and infrastructure is a barrier to the implementation of forest protection programs. An example is Indonesia, which has adopted various policies to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) program has been one of the main strategies in this effort. However, challenges remain, especially in terms of law enforcement and monitoring. With the EUDR, Indonesia can leverage international support to strengthen existing policies and practices, so that it can achieve the emission targets set in the Paris Agreement.

SDG emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in advancing research, technology, and investments in clean energy (Zarghami, 2025). Therefore, technological and financial support from developed countries and international organizations is essential to ensure the success of EUDR integration. More modern technologies, including the application of



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Artificial Intelligence (AI), from developed countries and international organizations, need to be shared with developing countries so that they can produce more efficiently and without damaging the environment. With more efficient production techniques that do not damage the environment, of course, these developing countries will switch to these greener methods.

In addition to the country-to-country approach as explained above, an inclusive and participatory approach to decision-making is essential. This approach is needed so that local communities understand the intent and purpose of technology transfer and green finance that have been attempted at the country level. As implementers of sustainable development, local communities and stakeholders must be involved in the planning and implementation process of policies to ensure that the policies implemented are in accordance with local needs and conditions. For example, programs that involve indigenous communities in forest management have proven effective in reducing deforestation and improving community welfare (Rahman & Bakri, 2020).

4. Conclusion

The European Union on Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) is normatively proven to be a continuation of the Paris Agreement policy which aims to encourage the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially 13th goal related to climate change, namely Climate Action, also other goals like also 12th SDG (Sustainable Production and Consumption) and 15th SDG (Preserving Terrestrial Ecosystems). The integration of EUDR policies has the potential to significantly increase the achievement of greenhouse gas emission targets in developing countries participating in the Paris Agreement. By strengthening the synergy between forest protection and emission reduction, these countries can create a model of Sustainable Development and be responsive to the challenges of climate change. However, to achieve these goals, challenges in policy implementation must be overcome through international technological and financial support, strengthening institutional capacity, and an inclusive approach. Only in this way can developing countries take advantage of EUDR policies to achieve sustainable development in Era 5.0.

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