



Summary of Company Initial Action Plans for Côte d'Ivoire

1. WHAT IS THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE?

The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and the world's leading cocoa and chocolate companies [signed landmark agreements](#) in November 2017 to end deforestation and promote forest restoration and protection in the cocoa supply chain.

This new public-private partnership – called the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative \(CFI\)](#) – has been organized by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), IDH - the Sustainable Trade Initiative, and The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit (ISU), in partnership with the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The Prince of Wales [launched CFI](#) in March 2017 in London and reviewed implementation progress in November 2018.

The Frameworks for Action for [Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#) define core commitments, verifiable actions, and timebound targets required for a deforestation-free and forest-positive supply chain.

The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana play a critical leadership role in establishing the national strategy, enabling policy environment, and governance structure for CFI implementation. They ensure that CFI is linked to similar initiatives with other commodities, and fully aligned with the national REDD+ Strategy and other relevant national strategies and plans. They provide key operational guidance, and baseline economic, environmental, and social data, to help companies identify and plan the most effective and efficient private investment activities for CFI.

The Governments have prepared comprehensive National Implementation Plans ([Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Ghana](#)) that outline key public sector priorities, actions and timelines, following extensive consultation with all stakeholders. During the first year of CFI, both governments have launched work on the key building blocks for successful CFI implementation, including important revisions to the legal framework for sustainable forest management, preparation of up-to-date boundary maps of protected areas, and collection of socio-economic and land use data for the priority investment areas.

Thirty-three companies¹, accounting for about 85% of global cocoa usage, have now joined CFI. Each company has agreed to prepare a detailed individual action plan that spells out the specific

¹ Arysta Callivoire, Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Cémoi, Chocolats Halba, Cocomect, Cococo Chocolatiers, ECOM Group, Fazer, Ferrero, General Mills Inc., Godiva Chocolatier Inc., Guittard Chocolate Company, The Hershey Company, Indcresa, Lindt & Sprüngli Group, Marks & Spencer Food, Mars Wrigley Confectionery, Meiji Co. Ltd., Mondelēz International,

actions it will take in 2018-2022 to deliver the commitments set out in the Framework. Each company will decide for itself how to best support the achievement of the Framework objectives, based on their role in the supply chain, their corporate strategic priorities, and their cocoa sustainability goals.

Almost all companies have now completed initial action plans. These initial plans will be updated and finalized in 2019 after the governments have completed the ongoing legal and operational policy changes, the mapping of protected areas, baseline data collection, and other building blocks needed for full investment programming.²

Given their unique role in the cocoa supply chain, the three retailer companies collaborated on the development of a [common action plan](#). They agreed on collective actions to deliver on their CFI commitments through their engagement with trading partners and suppliers.

CFI has been supported by several global development partners, including the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Commodities Program of the United Nations Development Program.

CFI is coordinated closely with a wide range of global and local environmental organizations and partnerships, including the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, Amsterdam Declaration Partnership, Partnerships for Forests, the Rainforest Alliance, and World Resources Institute.

2. WHAT ARE THE KEY COMMITMENTS IN THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE?

The Frameworks for Action are structured around three critical themes of (1) forest protection and restoration, (2) sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods, and (3) community engagement and social inclusion.

The first priority is the protection and restoration of forests that have been degraded. To this end, the governments and companies have pledged no further conversion of forest land for cocoa production, and have committed to the phased elimination of illegal cocoa production and sourcing in protected areas.

Both countries are introducing a differentiated approach for improved management of forest reserves, based on the level of degradation of forests. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use, socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, and detailed operational guidelines covering forest management and land-use are being developed and will be publicly disclosed.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these commitments, companies have pledged to develop verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to the first purchase point for their own purchases of cocoa, and to work with governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability encompassing all traders in the supply chain.

Nestlé, Olam Cocoa, PBC Limited, Sainsbury's, SIAT, Tesco, Toms Group, Touton, Tree Global, Unilever, Valrhona, and J.H. Whittaker & Sons

² The actions pending further information are marked "to be determined" in the initial company action plans.

The next critical priority is sustainable agricultural production and increased farmer incomes. These are essential pre-requisites for reducing pressure for agricultural encroachment into forests and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farmers to climate change.

The governments and companies have agreed to accelerate investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow “more cocoa on less land.” Key actions include: provision of improved planting materials, training in good agricultural practices, soil fertility, land tenure reform, and capacity building of farmers’ organizations. Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers will be accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, and development of mixed agro-forestry systems.

The final area of focus is strong community engagement and social inclusion, with a particular focus on women and youth. The governments and companies have committed to full and effective consultation and participation of cocoa farmers in the design and implementation of key actions, and promotion of community-based management models for forest protection and restoration. The governments will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of any proposed land-use changes on affected communities.

The set of public-private actions represent unprecedented commitments on forest protection and restoration, and sustainable cocoa production and farmer livelihoods. These combined actions, which are aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement, will play a crucial role in sequestering carbon stocks and thereby addressing global and local climate change.

3. WHAT ARE THE KEY COMPANY ACTIONS FOR CÔTE D’IVOIRE?

The companies’ initial action plans cover activities over a five-year period (2018-2022) in Côte d’Ivoire. Annual targets will be provided when the action plans are updated in 2019. Where possible, companies have targeted actions in the five priority regions identified in the National Implementation Plan (Guémon, Cavally, Nawa, San-Pedro and La Mé). These areas were chosen based on criteria related to forest preservation, cocoa production and population density, and include National Parks and Reserves, classified forests, as well as the rural domain.

The key actions are reviewed below and a summary table is included in Annex 1.

Forest Protection and Restoration

Companies have committed to prohibiting and preventing activities in the cocoa sector that cause or contribute to any further deforestation or forest degradation. Companies are following national regulations and using methodologies such as High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) on forests to determine priority forests, as well as identify areas for establishing forest corridors.

Beginning January 1, 2018, companies implemented systems to end sourcing from farmers producing cocoa in National Parks and Reserves.

To ensure that the cocoa that is being purchased is deforestation free, companies are investing in improving supply chain mapping, with the goal of 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. The companies are working with the government and other experts to develop an action plan for traceability applicable to all international and national traders by end-2019.

Companies are conducting farm mapping within their direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries polygon data to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands in the rural domain, National Parks and Reserves, and classified forests. Companies have agreed to a phased approach, with 569,400 farms mapped by end-2019. This information will also help establish a government deforestation monitoring system including real time alerts of deforestation.

Companies are conducting deforestation risk assessments throughout their sourcing areas. Deforestation risk assessments will help ensure that they are compliant with commitments to eliminate cocoa sourcing from protected areas and ensure that cocoa is not causing further deforestation. Recognizing the need of a harmonized approach towards calculating deforestation risk of small farmers, companies will work towards establishing greater alignment on methodology along with the government in 2019.

One of the critical concerns is the encroachment of cocoa farms in the classified forests. To address this, the Ministry of Water and Forests has developed a differentiated approach to land-use in the classified forests based on the level of degradation of forests. The new Forest Code, which is expected to be approved by the National Assembly after it reconvenes in April 2019, will provide the necessary policies and guidance for companies to promote cocoa agroforestry and forest restoration in the classified forests and rural domain.

Specific commitments related to activities and investment in forest protection and restoration will be provided during the updating of the company plans in 2019, after the governments complete the preparation of operational guidance on the new land use classifications and collection of land-use and socio-economic data for the classified forests.

Companies will promote cocoa agroforestry as a driver for forest restoration and protection in both the classified forests and rural domain. A cocoa agroforestry system is a mixed land-use system where cocoa trees are combined on the same area as non-cocoa tree species and other agricultural crops.

To promote the development of agroforestry, companies have committed to supporting the distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees or native trees for on- and off-farm planting. Companies will support farmers to develop agroforestry systems based upon the specific agronomic, economic and environmental conditions on the farm and needs of the farmer. The [Conseil du Café Cacao](#) is leading national efforts to develop cocoa agroforestry [recommendations](#), and companies are working with government, farmer organizations, and NGO technical experts to develop scalable models for cocoa agroforestry systems. Companies have committed to establishing 244,400 hectares of cocoa agroforestry and the distribution and planting of 8.3 million native trees for off-farm restoration.

To support the efforts for forest protection and restoration, companies are developing and investing in innovative financial models. For example, in partnership with the national REDD+ program, companies are promoting payments for environment services (PES). Through PES, farmers are incentivized to protect and restore forested areas. So far, companies have committed to supporting 215,900 farmers with PES contracts.

The government plans to create a national conservation and rehabilitation fund for the protection and restoration classified forests, and companies and development partners are encouraged to support this fund. Companies will review potential investments with the fund once the fund details have been developed by the government in 2019.

Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods

Sustainable agricultural intensification in the rural domain is an essential pre-requisite for reducing pressure for agricultural encroachment into forests. Under CFI, industry and governments are focused on boosting long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow “more cocoa on less land” and improve the profitability of farming for cocoa farmers.

Through the work on improving traceability, companies will improve their outreach and engagement with the farmers and cooperatives they purchase cocoa from. Companies have committed to training 444,400 farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs), crop nutrition and soil fertility providing them with the key skills and knowledge to professionalize cocoa farming and improve farm-level productivity and profitability.

Companies will continue to work with the government to accelerate sustainable cocoa production on environmentally suitable land, through improved planting materials and rehabilitation of diseased or aged farms, in line with the government’s longer-term cocoa sector development strategy. Specific targets will be developed in consultation with the government and aligned with its future cocoa sector strategy.

In addition to accelerating sustainable production, companies will help promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers. Companies will work with a total of 230,600 farmers on farm-level crop diversification, including the promotion of cocoa agroforestry.

Companies will similarly promote financial inclusion to deepen farmers’ access to working capital and investment funds. They plan to offer financial products to 113,500 farmers, including the development of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) supporting 32,400 farmers. The VSLA model is targeted towards women and therefore contributes to gender equality and social empowerment goals.

Community Engagement and Social Inclusion

Companies recognize that effective engagement and empowerment of cocoa-growing communities and civil society organizations is essential to end deforestation and forest degradation in the cocoa sector.

Over the next four years, companies will organize a number of consultations with communities around forested areas to sensitize them to the commitments and actions in the Framework for Action. Companies will develop community programs including a specific focus on both women and youth. In total, companies plan to work with 3,400 communities.

Moreover, companies will support communities to promote forest protection and restoration activities. They will support Community-Based Natural Resource Management mechanisms. These are any community-based structure with the decision-making authority over the management of natural resources. These can be designed with varying levels of structure, legal recognition, purpose, and authority, but they generally preside over the environmental and economic impacts of natural resource management including benefit-sharing arrangements between community members. Specific targets will be developed in 2019 in consultation with the government, after the approval of the new Forest Code and development of related operational guidelines.

Measurement and Monitoring

Measurement and monitoring of progress at national and landscape level will be critical to ensure accountability and transparency, and promote learning and mid-course corrections.

Companies are supporting the government to adopt a transparent satellite-based monitoring system, including deforestation alerts, with the aim to have a system adopted by 2019. National monitoring will be directly aligned with REDD+ monitoring, reporting and verification systems. Companies will produce annual reports on CFI progress and are already working with a number of service providers to monitor deforestation in their individual supply chain.

Annex 1: Summary Table of Company Initial Action Plans for Côte d'Ivoire

| Commitment | Actions | To be delivered by 2022 |
|--|---|--|
| Forest Protection and Restoration | | |
| 1. No further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations, and using HCS and HCV methodologies) for cocoa production. | 1.1 Conduct farm mapping within direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests | 569,400 farms mapped |
| | 1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all direct sourcing areas | # ha included in deforestation risk assessment: TBD |
| 2. Elimination of cocoa production and sourcing in National Parks and Reserves in line with promulgation and enforcement of national forest policy and development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers | 2.1 Adopt and publish a system for excluding farmers in the direct supply chain with cocoa production in protected areas | Yes |
| | 2.2 All farms found in National Parks and Reserves reported to government | % farms in Natl Parks & Reserves reported to government: TBD |
| | 2.3 Support cocoa farmers' transition to alternative livelihoods | # of total farmers in protected areas receiving assistance for alternative livelihoods: TBD |
| 3. No sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through companies' traceable direct sourcing programs . | 3.1 Implement traceability tools/technology to ensure no cocoa purchases originate from National Parks or Reserves (all forest areas) | 100% of direct sourced cocoa is traceable to farm-level |
| 4. A differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for classified Forests will be developed and translated into a national forest restoration strategy | 4.1 Support the restoration of Classified Forests by working with cocoa farmers, the government and the forestry industry to implement contracts for mixed agroforestry as a restoration and livelihoods | # farmer 'agroforestry restoration' contracts signed: TBD # hectares restored in Classified Forests: TBD |
| | 5.1 Cooperate with the government on enforcement to prevent deforestation in the legally protected forest estate (rural domain) | # hectares of forest in rural domain protected: TBD |
| 6. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use for the different forests, and socio-economic data on cocoa farmers developed and publicly disclosed, and detailed operational guidelines prepared | 6.1 Support the government's forthcoming adaptive management plans for different forest areas to benefit the livelihoods of forest-dependent cocoa communities | Yes |
| | 6.2 Participate in the development and operation of land-use and land-use planning at national and regional levels by sharing existing land use maps with government | Yes |
| 7. Public enforcement of the new Forest Code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened | 7.1 Promote and participate in awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on the new Forest Code | 374,600 farmers reached at awareness events |
| | 7.2 Update farmer engagement materials and training with the revised Forest Code | Yes |
| 8. Public-private collaboration to mobilize resources for forest protection and restoration | 8.1 Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration | \$ mobilized towards forest protection and restoration: TBD |
| | | # hectares with forest protection and restoration financing: TBD 215,900 farmers participating in PES contracts |
| 9. Public-private collaboration to identify good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration and agro-forestry | 9.1 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry | 12,995,100 multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting 244,400 hectares cocoa agroforestry developed |
| | 9.2 Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation) | 8,306,600 native trees planted off-farm # ha of forest area restored: TBD |
| 10. Government creation, in collaboration with all stakeholders, of a public-private fund to support financing of protection and restoration of HCV forest areas. | 10.1 Support the creation of the public-private forest conservation and rehabilitation fund | \$ contributed to fund: TBD |

| Commitment | Actions | To be delivered by 2022 |
|--|--|--|
| Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods | | |
| 11. Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow "more cocoa on less land" | 11.1 Distribute improved cocoa planting material | # improved seedlings distributed to farmers: TBD |
| | 11.2 Establish and/or provide cocoa nurseries with improved cocoa planting material | # of nurseries with improved cocoa seedlings: TBD |
| | 11.3 Train farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) | 444,400 of farmers trained in GAPs |
| | 11.4 Support cocoa farm rehabilitation | # of hectares of cocoa rehabilitated: TBD |
| 12. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers | 12.1 Promote farm-level crop diversification | 230,600 farmers applying crop diversification |
| | 12.2 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry | 12,995,100 multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting 244,400 hectares cocoa agroforestry developed |
| 13. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds for production and farm renovation | 13.1 Promote farmer savings | 100,200 farmers in supply chain with a savings account 32,400 farmers participating in VSLA groups |
| | 13.2 Offer financial products to farmers | 113,500 farmers offered a financial product |
| 14. Improve supply chain mapping, with the goal of 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. An action plan will be developed for traceability, which will be implemented step-by-step to achieve full traceability and verification, applicable to all by end-2019. | 14.1 Conduct farm mapping within direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests | 569,400 farms mapped within direct supply chain |
| | 14.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in direct supply chain | 100% of direct sourced cocoa traceable from individual farms to first purchase point |
| Social Inclusion and Community Engagement | | |
| 15. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes. | 15.1 Organize cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Frameworks for Action | 3,400 communities with consultation sessions |
| 16. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration | 16.1 Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management programs for forest restoration/protection | # of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program: TBD |
| | | # hectares under CBNRM: TBD |
| 17. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive. | 17.1 Develop forest protection & restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are gender and youth sensitive | # cocoa communities with gender-focused programs: TBD |
| | | # cocoa communities with youth-focused programs: TBD |

TBD = To Be Determined, following additional inputs from Government