



Summary of Company Initial Action Plans for Ghana

1. WHAT IS THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE?

The Governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire 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 Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The Prince of Wales [launched CFI](#) in March 2017 in London and reviewed implementation progress in November 2018.

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

The Governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire 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 ([Ghana](#), [Côte d'Ivoire](#)) 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 actions it will take in 2018-2022 to deliver the commitments set out in the Framework. Each

¹ Arysta Callivoire, Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Cémoi, Chocolats Halba, Cocoonect, 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, Nestlé, Olam Cocoa, PBC Limited, Sainsbury's, SIAT, Tesco, Toms Group, Touton, Tree Global, Unilever, Valrhona, and J.H. Whittaker & Sons

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.

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.

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

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 GHANA?

The companies’ initial action plans cover activities over a five-year period (2018-2022) in Ghana. Annual targets will be provided when the action plans are updated in 2019. Where possible, companies have targeted actions in the six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) in the cocoa forest landscape as defined under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program. These HIAs have the highest deforestation rate and cover 2.5 million hectares in the Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Central, Eastern and Western Regions of Ghana.

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, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource 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 government will adopt regulations that require verifiable traceability from farm to first purchase point by end-2019, and ensure compliance by national and international traders thereafter.

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 National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Wildlife Resource Reserves, and forest reserves. Companies have agreed to a phased approach, with 451,900 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 forest reserves. To address this, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is developing a differentiated approach to land-use in forest reserves based on the level of degradation of forests.

Specific commitments related to activities and investment in forest protection, restoration and agroforestry through the Modified Taungya System (MTS) 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 forest reserves. The government will also provide detailed maps on where the “admitted farms” in forest reserves are situated as well as exact boundaries to ensure no encroachment is allowed beyond those limits. Admitted farms have an existing legal status based on historic entitlements that often outdates the creation of the reserve.

Companies will promote climate smart cocoa (CSC), including shade grown cocoa and agroforestry systems, in off-reserve and in the forest reserves through the MTS as drivers of forest restoration and protection. CSC is the practice of sustainable cocoa farming while taking into account climate change adaptation including a focus on intensification, shade trees, food security and diversification. The government is currently developing a national CSC standard. MTS is an agroforestry system under which farmers receive land to grow food crops alongside the planted cocoa trees and other trees during the early years of plantation development. Companies will train 302,500 farmers in CSC best practices.

To promote the development of shade grown cocoa and agroforestry systems, 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 these systems based upon the specific agronomic, economic and environmental conditions on the farm and needs of the farmer. Companies are working with government, farmer organizations, and NGO technical experts to develop scalable models and have committed to establishing 151,900 hectares of shade grown cocoa and agroforestry systems and the distribution and planting of 4,290,700 native trees for off-farm restoration.

Companies will support the government’s efforts to incentive land owners and users to conserve trees on their farms and in the farming landscape through the promotion of land and tree tenure reforms. Companies will work through the existing governance structures and legal requirements to assist farmers in officially registering trees and acquiring the necessary documentation for tenure. In total, companies will assist 13,000 farmers to acquire land tenure documentation and support farmers to register 1.7 million trees.

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.

Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods

Sustainable agricultural intensification in the rural zone 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. In alignment with the training in CSC, companies have committed to training 380,000 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. Companies have committed to distributing 21.7 million improved seedlings to farmers to rehabilitate aged and diseased farms.

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 108,500 farmers on farm-level crop diversification, including the promotion of climate smart cocoa best practices and the establishment of shade grown cocoa and agroforestry systems.

Companies will similarly promote financial inclusion to deepen farmers’ access to working capital and investment funds. They plan to offer financial products to 145,700 farmers, including the development of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) supporting 36,100 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 3,900 communities.

Moreover, companies will support communities to promote forest protection and restoration activities. They will support Community-Based Natural Resource Management mechanisms, including community-based structures with 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, including sanctions. Specific targets will be developed in 2019 in consultation with the government.

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 several service providers to monitor deforestation in their individual supply chain.

Annex 1: Summary Table of Company Initial Action Plans for Ghana

Commitments	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 supply chain to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest land	450,300 farms mapped
	1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all sourcing areas.	# hectares included in risk assessment: TBD
2. No production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms with existing legal status.	2.1 All farms found in protected areas will be reported to the Government	Yes
	2.2 Adopt and publish a system for excluding farmers in the supply chain with cocoa production in protected areas.	Yes
3. A differentiated approach for Forest Reserves will be adopted, based on level of degradation; with elimination of sourcing of cocoa in less degraded reserves (Cat.1) as of 31 December 2019; and production and sourcing for a period up to 25 years through MTS in more degraded reserves (Cat. 2).	3.1 End sourcing from all farms identified within Category 1 Forest Reserve areas by 31 December 2019.	Yes
	3.2 Support farmers in Category 2 Forest Reserve areas in their restoration and reforestation programs	# hectares of Category 2 Forest Reserve areas restored: TBD
4. In highly degraded off reserve forest lands, cocoa production and sourcing will continue, supported by climate smart cocoa and MTS.	4.1 Train farmers in off-reserve forest lands in CSC production including cocoa agroforestry systems	301,500 farmers trained in CSC best practices
	4.2 Train farmers in Modified Taungya System (MTS)	# farmers trained in MTS: TBD
5. In all areas, a multi-stakeholder landscape approach will be followed, with an initial focus on the six Climate-Smart Cocoa Hotspot Intervention Areas as defined under GCFRP.	5.1 Join one/several HIA(s) in the cocoa-sourcing area	6 companies join HIAs in cocoa sourcing areas
	5.2 Implement GCFRP CSC Good-Practice Guidelines with farmers within the HIAs	# farmers within HIAs have adopted CSC best practices: TBD
6. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use, socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, and detailed operational guidelines covering Category 1 and 2 reserves, will all be developed and publicly disclosed.	6.1 Share maps and data with appropriate government bodies	Yes
	6.2 Participate in the development of operational guidelines for Category 1 and 2 Forest Reserves	Yes
7. Land and tree tenure reforms, and benefit sharing arrangement to incentivize land owners and users to retain naturally regenerated trees will be accelerated, including approval of CREMA mechanism.	7.1 Support farmers with tree registration	1,734,900 trees registered
	7.2 Support cocoa farmers to acquire land (tenure) documentation	13,000 farmers with secure land titles
8. Public sector forest law enforcement and governance will be strengthened	8.1 Promote awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on forest law enforcement and tree tenure provisions	215,700 farmers reached at awareness events
9. Public-private collaboration to mobilize new sources of funding for forest protection and restoration, and to incentivize farmers adoption of environmentally sustainable cocoa production will be developed.	9.1 Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration	Amount of \$ mobilized towards forest protection and restoration: TBD
		# hectares with forest protection & restoration financing: TBD # farmers participating in PES contracts: TBD
10. Public-private collaboration will be enhanced to identify good practices and technical guidance for forest conservation and restoration, shade grown cocoa, and MTS in Forest Reserves.	10.1 Support distribution and planting of multipurpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	8,631,100 multipurpose trees distributed for on-farm planting 151,500 hectares of cocoa agroforestry
	10.2 Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation)	4,290,700 native trees planted off-farm # hectares of forest area restored: TBD
	10.3 Train farmers in Modified Taungya System (MTS)	# farmers trained in MTS: TBD

Commitments	Actions	To be delivered by 2022
Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods		
11. Promote investment in long-term productivity of high quality cocoa in environmentally sustainable manner and grow "more cocoa on less land."	11.1 Distribute improved cocoa planting material	21.7 million improved seedlings distributed to farmers
	11.2 Establish and/or provide cocoa nurseries with improved cocoa planting material	950 nurseries with improved cocoa seedlings
	11.3 Train farmers and producer organizations in the latest Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	379,900 farmers trained in GAPs
	11.4 Support cocoa farm rehabilitation	# of hectares of cocoa rehabilitated: TBD
12. Develop implementation plans, including mapping of exact areas to intensify establishment of shaded cocoa landscapes in line with GCFRP, with the promotion of Climate Smart Cocoa and the national Climate Smart Cocoa Standard.	12.1 Promote the Climate Smart Cocoa Standard	# of farmers adopting CSC: TBD
13. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers.	13.1 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	8,631,100 multipurpose trees distributed for on-farm planting 151,500 hectares of cocoa agroforestry
	13.2 Promote farm-level crop diversification	108,500 farmers applying crop diversification
14. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and cocoa farm rehabilitation and renovation.	14.1 Promote expansion of farmer savings	72,500 farmers in supply chain with a savings account 36,100 farmers participating in VSLA groups
	14.2 Offer financial products to farmers	145,700 farmers offered a financial product
15. Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. An action plan will be developed that maps out key principles, steps, and milestones to achieve this step, encompassing all national and international traders.	15.1 Conduct mapping to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries polygon data	450,300 farms mapped within direct supply chain
	15.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in 100% of supply chain by end-2019	100% cocoa supply traceable from individual farms to first purchase point
Social Inclusion and Community Engagement		
16. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes.	16.1 Organize cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Frameworks for Action	3,900 communities with consultation sessions
17. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration.	17.1 Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programs for forest restoration/protection	# cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program: TBD # hectares under CBNRM: TBD
18. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.	18.1 Develop forest protection & restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are youth and gender sensitive	# cocoa communities with gender-focused programs: TBD # cocoa communities with youth-focused programs: TBD

TBD = To Be Determined, following additional inputs from Government