



## **Cocoa, Forests and Peace Initiative in Colombia**

### **Joint Framework for Action**

#### **1. Preamble**

Considering that the Cocoa and Forests Initiative – led by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) – was launched at a high level meeting hosted by The Prince of Wales in March 2017; and that the Cocoa and Forests Initiative subsequently agreed two Joint Frameworks of Action with the Governments of Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire, along with the principal cocoa producers and traders in these countries, to achieve zero-deforestation cocoa;

Considering that Colombia is one of the lead countries of the Food and Land Use Coalition, one of the objectives of which is the construction of a Roadmap for a New Food and Land Use Economy for the Peace in Colombia, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sustainably increasing agricultural productivity, and conserving and restoring Colombia’s forests and ecosystems, among other goals;

Understanding the importance of public-private partnerships in achieving sustainable and inclusive economic development, and our commitment to support the achievement of the New York Declaration on Forests, the Bonn Challenge, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals;

Acknowledging that Colombia has a National Strategy for the Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; a Comprehensive Strategy to Control Deforestation and Sustainably Manage Forests, the ‘Forests, Territories of Life’ program led by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; and that the Presidential Agency for the Post-Conflict has been working to identify alternative sustainable production and livelihoods strategies within the framework of the Integrated Rural Development Strategy for the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement;

Recognizing that in order to implement Colombia’s commitment to zero net deforestation in the Amazon by 2020, the Government of Colombia – with the support of Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom and the Global Environment Facility, among other partners – created the Amazon Vision Program in 2015; also recognizing that in 2015, together with the same countries, Colombia signed the Joint Declaration to Reduce National Levels of Deforestation that reaffirms the goal to reduce deforestation and promote zero deforestation agreements within agricultural supply chains as public policy milestones;

Noting the vital role and potential of the cocoa sector in Colombia in terms of employment and income generation for local communities, in particular in areas of the post-conflict, and the positive impact that cocoa can have on the conservation of ecosystems and forests;



Noting the importance of the cocoa sector in national social and economic development, the reduction of rural poverty, and in accelerating the transition to sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers who grow cocoa;

Recognizing the importance of rural reform in the Final Peace Agreement and the need to advance in the clarification of land tenure and the multi-purpose cadaster to achieve sustainable rural development;

Emphasizing the critical role of tropical rainforests, biodiversity and conservation in addressing global climate change, regulating the local and regional climate, and providing other critical ecosystem services that underpin the resilience of the cocoa sector and local livelihoods;

Acknowledging the current processes of forest degradation and the need to end agricultural expansion in Colombia, and recognizing the potential contribution of cocoa to sustainable rural development while closing the agricultural frontier, as well as to avoided deforestation, the restoration of forests and the creation of resilient landscapes;

Conscious of the need to strengthen Colombia's capacity to establish better and bigger national and international markets for its products while at the same time reducing deforestation rates;

Considering that Colombia has already defined its agricultural frontier and that it has made progress in establishing an environmental land use plan in more than 200 municipalities, including those belonging to the Territorially Focused Development Plans (or 'PDETs'), where environmental land use criteria must be taken into consideration to guarantee sustainable rural development and guide current and future investments;

Aware of the need to promote, foster and accelerate the economic and social development of Colombia, in order to improve the living standards and well-being of the population and to secure peace without overlooking the need for protection and conservation of renewable natural resources;

**We, the Government of Colombia – the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – together with the National Federation of Cocoa Producers, Casa Luker, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), and supported by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), commit to work together to end deforestation and promote forest protection and restoration in the cocoa supply chain in Colombia through this Joint Framework for Action.**

The Framework is structured around the following three themes:

1. Forest protection and restoration: to guarantee that cocoa contributes to the protection and restoration of forests in Colombia, according to the country's environmental land use planning and definition of the agricultural frontier;
2. Sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods: to guarantee the sustainable intensification and diversification of cocoa production, in order to increase farmers' yields and income and to reduce pressure on natural forests, and;
3. Community engagement and social inclusion: to guarantee that cocoa production leads to increased participation and social inclusion in communities, in particular in critical areas of the post-conflict in Colombia.

The Framework will consider deforestation to be the direct and/or induced conversion of **natural forest**<sup>1</sup> cover to another type of cover over a given **period of time**. The initial date has been defined according to the official information on natural forest cover that is generated by the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System of Colombia and Resolution 0261 of 2018 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. This Resolution establishes the National Agricultural Frontier, excluding areas that were forest in 2010 and allowing for the restoration of deforested areas after 2010.

Based on the previous consideration, areas with cocoa plantations will be considered to have led to deforestation if the change in forest to non-forest cover occurred after January 1, 2011.

## **2. Core Commitments**

By signing the Framework, the Colombian Government, the National Federation of Cocoa Producers and signatory companies and partners agree to eleven core commitments:

1. Prevent activities that cause or contribute to any further deforestation or forest degradation in the cocoa sector;
2. Ensure cocoa production takes place in accordance with the country's environmental land use planning, assessment of soil aptitude and the delimitation of the agricultural frontier;

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<sup>1</sup> The definition of **natural forest**, which is the object of conservation of this Framework, was established by Colombia's IDEAM as: "*land occupied mainly by trees that may contain shrubs, palms, guaduas, herbs and lianas, in which tree cover predominates with a minimum canopy density of 30%, a minimum canopy height (in situ) of 5 m at the time of identification, and a minimum area of 1.0 ha. Tree cover of commercial forest plantations (conifers and/or hardwood) is excluded.*"

3. Respect the rights of cocoa farmers, including identifying and mitigating social risks, and sequencing the implementation of actions to minimize potential adverse social and economic impacts;
4. Promote the effective restoration and long-term conservation of protected areas, as well as areas of special environmental interest, including forests and ecosystems within or adjoining the cocoa landscape;
5. Implement agreed actions in the context of a broader landscape-level approach, making strong links with similar initiatives in other commodities, and in full alignment with the nation's Comprehensive Strategy to Control Deforestation and Sustainably Manage Forests ('Forests, Territories of Life'), the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 Colombia, the 20x20 Initiative led by WRI, the WEF New Vision for Agriculture, and other relevant national strategies and plans;
6. Jointly establish a process of participatory dialogue with multiple stakeholders interested in key elements of the Agreement, to develop effective implementation plans and foster shared learning and knowledge exchange;
7. Contribute to the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement, through its Implementation Plan for points 1 and 4, with a particular focus on the Peace Agreement's provisions concerning Integrated Rural Reform, ensuring the closure of the agricultural frontier, adequate use of the soil, and the protection of strategic ecosystems.
8. Monitor levels of forest cover associated with cocoa plantations as a foundation for decision-making regarding conservation and management.
9. Provide effective monitoring and reporting on progress on commitments and actions to ensure transparency and accountability.
10. Communicate the concept of zero deforestation cocoa in the national and international market and raise awareness among different actors in the supply chain on the relevance and impact of zero deforestation in regard to the provision of environmental services, strengthening the quality of life of cocoa producers, increasing the climate resilience of the cocoa sector, and ensuring greater access to markets.
11. Provide support to sustainable markets for cocoa products that contribute to the restoration and protection of natural forests.

### **3. Priority Area 1: cocoa for the protection and restoration of forests**

Signatories recognize the critical importance of protecting Colombia's forests and of restoring forests that have been previously degraded.

They commit, according to their respective roles in the supply chain, to do the following:

- A. Ensure that the cocoa sector in Colombia does not contribute to current or future deforestation or to the degradation of forests in the country;
- B. Ensure that cocoa plantations established outside the agricultural frontier, as defined by Resolution 261 of 2018, have as their objective the restoration and/or recovery of degraded areas;

- C. Establish at the level of individual companies quantifiable goals for short-, medium- and long-term production and supply of deforestation-free and forest degradation-free cocoa, with milestones to achieve by 2020 and aspiring to reach a fully transparent and traceable supply chain that is free of deforestation and forest degradation by 2025;
- D. Establish cocoa supply policies for producers and intermediaries which incorporate non-deforestation and product traceability criteria, and which favor the producers of deforestation-free cocoa; ensuring that these policies recognize the variety of primary producers and their need for support, capacity-building and association as part of their inclusion in a deforestation-free value chain;
- E. Contribute to the conservation, restoration and connectivity of forest patches in cocoa farms and landscapes, in order to protect water resources, biodiversity and the soil;
- F. Increase public-private collaboration to mobilize new sources of funding for forest protection and restoration, and to encourage the adoption of environmentally sustainable cocoa production practices. Key opportunities include, inter alia, support for innovative financial mechanisms (such as payments for ecosystem services, carbon finance, and public-private trust funds) to fund greater implementation of climate smart cocoa production;
- G. Improve public-private collaboration, working together with local and global experts, to identify good practices and technical capacity-building to support forest conservation and restoration in the cocoa supply chain.

#### **4. Priority area 2: Sustainable production and improved livelihoods for cocoa producers**

Signatories recognize that sustainable agricultural intensification in environmentally suitable areas, and increased farmer income, are essential prerequisites for reducing pressure on forests from agricultural encroachment, making adequate use of the soil, protecting strategic ecosystems, and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farming to climate change. Improving cocoa production is also critically important in providing jobs and livelihoods for rural people in the post-conflict. The signatories commit, in accordance with their role in the supply chain, to the following joint actions:

- A. Promote investment in the long-term productivity of high quality cocoa in an environmentally sustainable manner and in growing “more cocoa on less land,” through the replanting of aging, low-productivity plantations, sustainable intensification of farming practices, provision of improved planting materials, introduction of yield-enhancing methods, and the implementation of good agricultural practices, including crop protection, crop nutrition and soil fertility.
- B. Support the intensification of cocoa production by creating and fostering sustainable landscapes, based on the environmental land use planning to be implemented in the post-conflict, as well as the cocoa suitability mapping carried out by UPRA (the Unit for Agricultural and Rural Planning);
- C. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including through diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, agroforestry and silvopastoral

systems, the development of shade-grown cocoa, and other income-generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income;

- D. Promote technical assistance with components that include sustainable and diversified harvesting and post-harvest technologies, as well as incorporating reduced deforestation into producer agreements;
- E. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to the working capital and investment funds required for cocoa production and farm rehabilitation and renovation;
- F. Develop marketing and promotion strategies for national and international cocoa markets associated with zero-deforestation and the protection of biodiversity and water resources.

### **5. Priority area 3: Community engagement and social inclusion in the cocoa sector**

Signatories recognize that effective engagement with and empowerment of cocoa-growing communities, with a particular focus on women, youth, and civil society organizations in the Framework for Action process is essential to end deforestation and forest degradation in Colombia. They commit to the following:

- A. Ensure information sharing, to facilitate full, effective and informed participation by cocoa producers and communities involved in the implementation of the Agreement, within the framework of applicable legal obligations on participation and consultation;
- B. Promote community-based management models of forest protection and restoration, including engagement of local communities and farmers in awareness-raising campaigns on the status of protected areas and the critical role that forest plays in climate regulation;
- C. Develop action plans for sustainable agricultural intensification and capacity-building for value chains which incorporate a gender focus.

### **6. Measurement and Monitoring**

Measurement and monitoring of progress at national and landscape level will be critical to ensure accountability and transparency, and to promote learning and mid-course corrections. A transparent, credible and scientifically rigorous process will be developed to measure and monitor progress towards meeting the Framework's actions and to establish a monitoring system for the implementation of the Joint Framework in Colombia's Forest and Carbon Monitoring System.

The monitoring system for the Framework will be integrated with the forest monitoring tools developed by Colombia's National Meteorological Institute (IDEAM), in particular its National Forest and Carbon Monitoring System, the National Forestry Inventory and Colombia's Data Cube. Partners will work together to generate a baseline for deforestation associated with cocoa production.

### **7. Implementation and Governance**



The Government, the National Federation of Cocoa Producers and signatory companies and partners agree to implement the actions in the Framework in the context of a broader landscape-level approach that takes into account all drivers and agents of deforestation, as well as links with similar initiatives in other commodities. The Initiative will be implemented through this Joint Framework and/or through other specific agreements which will determine the rights and specific obligations of the parties.

The signatories shall define, within a period of no more than one month from the signing of this agreement, which signatory shall exercise the Technical Secretariat. This entity shall propose the Framework's rules of operation and shall convene the signatories to jointly construct a short-, medium- and long-term action plan, to be completed at the latest by the end of 2018. The Secretariat will rotate each year between the signatory entities, and will be responsible for convening plenary meetings, coordinating progress and reporting the results of the Framework, as well as for representing the Framework. The Joint Framework will remain open to be signed by cocoa companies, cocoa buyers, government institutions, producer organizations and civil society linked to the cocoa supply chain, with the signing up process to be defined in the forthcoming rules of operation.

This Joint Framework for Action, is signed in Bogotá, Colombia, on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

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