

Summary of Company Phase II Action Plans for Côte d'Ivoire

1. THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE: COLLECTIVE ACTION TO END COCOA-RELATED DEFORESTATION

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 35 leading cocoa and chocolate companies, representing 85% of global cocoa usage, joined together in the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#) to end deforestation and restore forest areas. Their combined actions play a crucial role in protecting and restoring biodiversity, sequestering carbon stocks in West African forests, and addressing climate change in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative delivers on Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is a public private partnership based on frameworks for action ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) and action plans for the private sector and public sector ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) that spell out commitments to:

- protect and restore forests,
- promote sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods,
- engage communities and boost social inclusion.

The [World Cocoa Foundation](#) (WCF); [IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative](#); and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana drive the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. King Charles III (then known as The Prince of Wales) launched the Initiative in March 2017 and reviewed implementation progress in November 2018.

Deforestation of tropical rainforests is a major issue in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which together produce nearly two-thirds of the world's supply of cocoa, the main ingredient in chocolate. [Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#) respectively lost 26% and 9.3% of their humid primary forest between 2002 and 2020, with a significant portion of deforestation attributable to cocoa farming expansion.

Cocoa provides crucial income to communities in rural West Africa, but farmers are too often faced with poverty. Poverty is one of the causes of deforestation. Accelerating a transition to sustainable livelihoods is essential for farmers' economic security and a healthy planet.

The Cocoa and Forests Initiative is an example of successful collaboration between cocoa origin governments and cocoa supply chain companies working together with cocoa producing communities to strengthen the sustainability of the cocoa sector by ending deforestation, promoting reforestation and improving sustainable livelihoods for cocoa farmers and their communities.

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

The first priority is the protection and restoration of forests that have been degraded. To this end, the signatory 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. In 2019, the government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted and published a new forest code which, among other things, put forth policies for the promotion of cocoa agroforestry to restore degraded land, improve forest cover, and promote sustainable livelihoods and agriculture in the classified forests and rural zones. Both governments have shared maps on forest cover and land-use, and continue to update the maps, including socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, to inform private sector investments. Companies have made significant investments in the promotion of cocoa agroforestry and the restoration of degraded forests.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these commitments, companies have pledged to develop traceability from farm to the first purchase point for their own purchases of cocoa. They also work with governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability encompassing all traders in the supply chain and to anticipate forthcoming due diligence legislation. The companies will similarly share information with the national satellite monitoring platforms to effectively monitor progress on CFI, as well as proactively address threats of new deforestation.

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 participating governments and CFI signatory companies are accelerating investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow “more cocoa on less land.” Key actions include provision of planting materials for the promotion of cocoa agroforestry, training in good agricultural practices, soil fertility, land tenure reform, and capacity building of farmers’ organizations. Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers are being accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, and development of mixed agroforestry systems and shade-grown cocoa.

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 have adopted social and environmental safeguards and are assessing and mitigating the social impacts and risks of any proposed land-use changes on affected communities.

3. CFI PHASE II CONTEXT

We have reached an important milestone for The Cocoa & Forests Initiative with the successful completion of the collaboration’s first phase. Over the past five years, the signatory governments and companies have made significant progress towards eliminating deforestation and restoring forest areas. Building on this partnership, there is a strong commitment from the companies and government, and other stakeholders, towards the continued and growing success of CFI.

Both private sector and the governments agree that for the second phase of CFI (2023-2025) to be successful, we must accelerate and scale impact on the ground by building collective action

and co-investment in priority landscapes in addition to supply-chain investments. Therefore, the focus of the second phase of CFI is to also implement public-private collaborations in priority landscapes to improve livelihoods, conserve forests and restore degraded area, thereby protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services, reducing and sequestering carbon, and establishing zero-deforestation landscapes. The second phase of CFI will also play a key role in building alignment with EU (and potentially other) due diligence legislation on deforestation.

The Governments have adopted comprehensive plans (Côte d'Ivoire National Action plan ([French](#) and [English](#)), [Ghana National Implementation Plan](#)) for the second phase of cfi that outline key public sector priorities, actions and timelines in line with this common goal. The CFI signatory companies have developed new action plans that set their targets for the second phase of CFI (2023-2025) in alignment with the national plans and Frameworks for Action.

ANNEX 1: SUMMARY TABLE OF COMPANY ACTION PLANS: CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2025 Target (Oct 2024-Sept 2025)	Target - TOTAL (Oct 2022- Sept 2025)
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	# and % of farms mapped in direct supply chain	804,962	
	1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all direct sourcing areas	# of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed	1,524,348	
2. No sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through companies' traceable direct sourcing programs .	2.1 Implement traceability tools/technology to ensure no cocoa purchases originate from National Parks or Reserves (all forest areas)	% of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point	100%	
3. 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	3.1 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 intervention	# hectares restored in Classified Forests	2,535	3,745
4. Legal protection and management status for the remaining forests of Côte d'Ivoire in the Rural Domain	4.1 Support farmers with tree registration	# trees registered	153,500	350,500
	4.2 Support cocoa farmers to acquire land (tenure) documentation	# and % of farmers with land tenure agreements/documentation etc. obtained via company support	9,737	16,781
5. Public enforcement of the new Forest Code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened	5.1 Promote and participate in awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on the new Forest Code	# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code, law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	157,693	
6. Public-private collaboration to mobilize resources for forest protection and restoration	6.1 Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration	# Individuals receiving incentives to protect and restore forests and / or adopt agroforestry (e.g., PES): New	18,433	70,941
		# Individuals receiving incentives to protect and restore forests and / or adopt agroforestry (e.g., PES) Total Active	68,218	
7. Public-private collaboration to identify good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration and agro-forestry	7.1 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# farmers applying agroforestry in development	203,788	
		# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	6,274,420	18,612,540
	7.2 Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation)	# hectares cocoa agroforestry in development	121,241	495,173
		# of trees distributed for off-farm planting	632,490	1,996,050
7.3 Train farmers in CSC production including cocoa agroforestry systems	# ha of forest area restored in rural zone	874	2,617	
8. Government creation, in collaboration with all stakeholders, of a public-private fund to support financing of protection and restoration of HCV forest areas.	8.1 Support the creation of the government led public-private forest conservation and rehabilitation fund	\$ contributed to fund	TBD	TBD

Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods				
9. Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow "more cocoa on less land"	9.2 Train farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	# Farmers provided with technical assistance and support based on plans to professionalize & optimize cocoa farming practices	439,850	
10. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers	10.1 Promote farm-level crop diversification	# Individuals provided with technical assistance and support based on plans to increase income from non-cocoa sources / IGA's	115,457	
	10.2 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting # hectares of cocoa agroforestry	Already reported 7.1	
11 Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds for production and farm renovation	11.1 Offer financial products to farmers and promote farmer savings	# Individuals provided with technical assistance and support to save money and access finance (e.g., VSLA).	243,104	
		# of members of VSLA groups in the current year	186,349	
		# of VSLA groups in the current year		
12. 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.	12.1 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	# and % of farms mapped in direct supply chain	Already reported 1.1	
	12.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in direct supply chain	% of direct sourced cocoa traceable from individual farms to first purchase point	Already reported 2.1	
Social Inclusion and Community Engagement				
13. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes.	13.1 Organize cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Frameworks for Action	# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code, law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	Already reported 5.1	
14. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration	14.1 Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management programs for forest restoration/protection	# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program	555	871
		# hectares under CBNRM	7,956	55,595
15. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.	15.1 Develop forest protection & restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are gender and youth sensitive	# of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities	78,030	
		# of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (age 15-35)	10,127	

*TBD = To Be Determined, following additional inputs from Government