

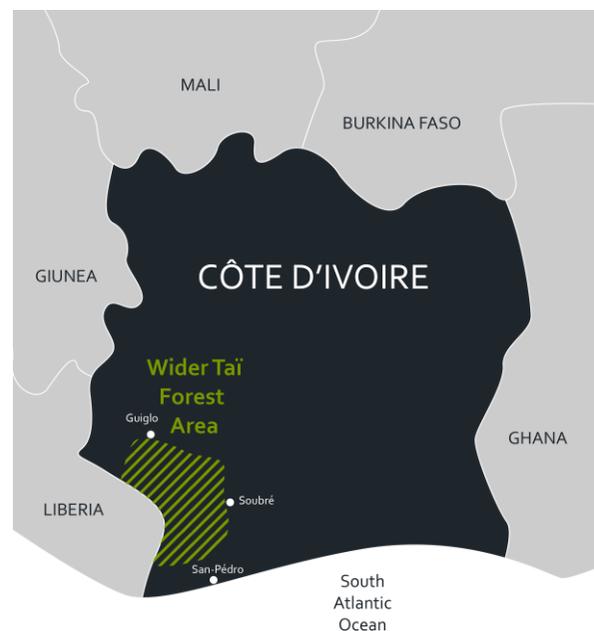
PUBLIC PRIVATE GOVERNANCE FOR THRIVING LANDSCAPES

The wider Tai Area, Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer and processor of cocoa and one of Africa's leading producers of palm oil, rubber and coffee. International companies depend on sourcing these commodities, from hundreds of thousands of smallholders, who rely on them for their livelihoods. About 40 % of the 1,500,000 MT of annual cocoa production, as well as large portions of the other commodities, are grown in the areas around Taï National Park. Located in south-western Côte d'Ivoire, the Taï forest is an ecologically vital tropical rainforest, rich in biodiversity and home to many endemic and endangered species such as forest elephants and the pigmy hippopotamus. The forest also provides ecosystem services like climate regulation on which agricultural production depends.

Over the past decades, agricultural expansion and population growth have been the main reasons for massive deforestation and land degradation in the forests around Taï National Park (the "wider Tai area") and throughout Côte d'Ivoire.

As a result, climatic irregularities that affect harvests as well as food security are increasingly becoming the norm. This has serious implications both for the Ivorian economy, which largely depends on



agriculture, especially cocoa exports, and for international supply chains that depend on the region for raw materials. Naturally, this means that conservation of wider Tai area goes hand-in-hand with improving livelihoods, economic growth and international supply security.

Halting deforestation and promoting green growth

A key issue in forest conservation in Côte d'Ivoire concerns *forest reserves* which are heavily encroached and in high need of protection. Today over 500,000 people live in the forest reserves, producing about 25% of the country's annual cocoa output as well as many other commodities.

The wider Tai area has the highest population density in the country and is home to a diverse population of local communities and migrants. The area's ecological, economic and social assets are under high pressure, calling for a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach to green economic growth.

Commitments

The forests of Côte d'Ivoire are central in both government and industry policies. The Ivorian president has committed to the New York declaration on forests, including working towards a zero net deforestation agricultural sector by 2017; halting deforestation by 2020 and targets to reforest and raise forest cover to 20% by 2023. Moreover, cocoa, oil palm and industries have made commitments towards 'zero net deforestation'.

ISLA program in Côte d'Ivoire

IDH's landscapes program in Côte d'Ivoire leverages and coordinates these commitments into actionable public-private investment plans that balance forest, agriculture and people in the wider Taï area.

The scalable, sustainable land management model through an integrated landscape approach focusses on the following 5 key issues:

1. Forest cover restoration
2. Land-use planning
3. Sustainable livelihoods
4. Developing financial incentives
5. Creating a public-private investment facility.

A total of EUR 2,000,000 is available to match at least the same amount of partners' investments in activities related to these themes and taking place in the wider Taï area.



Activities 2016 – 2020:

- Prototyping approaches that bring together agricultural production and forest protection
- Facilitating public-private collaboration and dialogue on production-protection agreements
- Coordinating regional planning approaches and monitoring
- Creating a common understanding of (cocoa) agroforestry
- Harmonizing sensitization tools and messages on forest conservation
- Encouraging diversification of farmers' economic activities
- Mobilizing public and private investment for upscaling

Activities in 2017

In the Cavally Region:

- Support a "Schema Regional" and develop a Green Growth Strategy;
- Support and monitor pilots on forest mapping, cocoa intensification and agroforestry, tree titles and sensitization;
- Enable SODEFOR and OIPR to further improve forest protection;
- Explore active engagement with the rubber and timber companies.

At national level

- Facilitate the dialogue on the Cocoa & Forest Initiative towards a Joint Framework of Action
- Drive the learning journey on agroforestry
- Actively support Conseil's PPPP thematic group on Environment and Climate Change.

Quick facts Côte d'Ivoire

90% of the 16 M ha of native forest lost since 1960s. Only 2 M ha remains today.

75% of deforestation due to agricultural expansion of (e.g.) cocoa, palm oil, rubber.

Cocoa:

- 15% of Ivorian GDP/ 40% of foreign currency
- Employs 800,000 Ivoirians directly;
- Contributes to livelihoods of 8 million people (35% of the population) indirectly.
- Total cocoa output per annum: 1,500,000 MT; 40% comes from wider Taï area.

About

The Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA) is a program of IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative with co-funding of the Dutch and Norwegian governments. It addresses sustainability issues beyond farm level by combining a value chain approach with a landscape approach. IDH brings its experience in convening coalitions of the public and private sector on sustainability and market transformation and co-funding capacity in activities and proof of concept projects proposed by both private and public partners. IDH has landscape programs in 11 areas in Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Indonesia Kenya, Liberia, Vietnam.

For more information, please contact

Renske Aarnoudse (Côte d'Ivoire):

Aarnoudse@idhtrade.org | +225 47 30 41 57

Sanne Heijnen (The Netherlands):

Heijnen@idhtrade.org | +31 6 47 90 04 35

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