



Joint Framework for Action **Côte d'Ivoire**

1. Preamble

Recognizing the vital role of the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire in bringing jobs and wealth to local communities, while at the same time seeking to be environmentally and socially sustainable and striving to protect Côte d'Ivoire's forests;

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

Emphasizing the critical role of forests, 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 role of agricultural commodity development, including the cocoa sector, in deforestation and forest degradation, and recognizing the contribution that the cocoa sector can make in Côte d'Ivoire to the restoration of forests and resilient landscapes;

Understanding the importance of public-private partnerships in 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; and

Conscious of the need to promote, foster and accelerate the economic and social development of Côte d'Ivoire, in order to improve living standards and people's well-being;

Recognizing that the challenges that this Initiative faces are demanding and will require support from all stakeholders, across multiple sectors, to resolve, and not just the signatories;

We, the signatories of the Joint Framework for Action, commit to work together both technically and financially for the preservation and rehabilitation of forests, according to and as defined in prevailing national forest policy, in Côte d'Ivoire.

2. General

This Framework builds on the [Statement of Intent](#) launched at a High-Level Meeting in London hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales in March 2017. It defines core commitments, verifiable actions, timebound targets and other prerequisites required for a deforestation-free cocoa supply chain in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Framework was developed through a multi-stakeholder process that brought together government, private sector, including farmer and farmers' organizations, national and international civil society organizations, development partners, and other stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire and at the global level. It is structured around the following three themes:

- **Forest protection and restoration:** this covers the conservation of National Parks and Reserves, improving the forest cover in the rural domain, as well as restoration of Classified

Forests that have been degraded by human activities, in particular encroachment by cocoa farms among other factors;

- **Sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods:** this covers sustainable intensification and diversification of production in order to increase farmers' yields and income and to reduce pressure on forests; and
- **Community engagement and social inclusion:** this covers social safeguards through civil society and community engagement.

3. [Core Commitments](#)

By signing this Framework, Government and signatory companies agree to eight core commitments:

1. **Prohibit and prevent activities in the cocoa sector that cause or contribute to any further deforestation or forest degradation** in National Parks and Reserves, Classified Forests, and conserved forests in the rural domain, such as sacred forests.
2. **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;
3. **Promote the effective restoration and long-term conservation of National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests;**
4. **Strengthen supply chain mapping**, with the end goal of full traceability at the farm-level;
5. **Implement verifiable actions and timebound targets** on the basis of sound data, robust and credible methodologies, stakeholder consultation, and realistic timeframes;
6. **Implement agreed actions in the context of a broader landscape-level approach**, with strong links with similar initiatives in other commodities, and full alignment with the national REDD+ strategy and other relevant national strategies and plans;
7. **Work together to implement the Framework actions, and mobilize the necessary financing, resources and technical support for implementation**, including continued engagement in a multi-stakeholder process for dialogue on key issues, development of effective implementation plans, joint learning and knowledge sharing and enable institutional capacity; and
8. **Provide effective monitoring and reporting on progress** on commitments and actions to ensure transparency and accountability.

4. [Actions for Forest Protection and Restoration](#)

Signatories recognize the critical importance of protecting Côte d'Ivoire forests and of restoring forests that have been previously degraded. They commit to the following:

- A. There will be no further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations and using methodologies such as High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) approach) for cocoa production.
- B. Signatory companies and Government commit to the elimination of all cocoa production and sourcing in National Parks and Reserves in line with the promulgation and enforcement of the prevailing national forest policy and the development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers. A plan of action will be put in place by end-2018 to ensure fulfilment of this commitment.

- C. Signatory companies commit to no sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through their traceable direct sourcing programs, including farmer organizations and cooperatives, by 1 January 2018. A plan of action will be put in place by January 2018 to ensure fulfilment of this commitment.
- D. A differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for the current Classified Forests will be developed by Government and translated into a national forest restoration strategy, by end-2018. The characteristics, the number of hectares, timeline, roles and responsibilities will be progressively specified in the land use plans.
- E. A legal protection and management status will be given by Government to the remaining forests of Côte d'Ivoire in the Rural Zone, in particular to the sacred forests by 30 June 2018.

The commitments will be supported by the following actions:

- A. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use for the different forests, and socio-economic data on cocoa farmers and their communities who depend on these forests, will be developed and publicly disclosed by Government by 31 December 2018, and detailed operational guidelines by 30 June 2019, with input as relevant from the private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.
- B. Public enforcement of the new Forest Code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened, including, *inter alia*, awareness raising campaigns, capacity building of forest institutions, stronger surveillance and monitoring, and application of immediate sanctions for any new infringement, as of the date of promulgation of the new Forest Code but no later than June 2018.
- C. Public-private collaboration to mobilize more technical and financial resources for forest protection and restoration, including, *inter alia*, support for innovative financial mechanisms (the appropriate financing mechanisms will be defined in the operational document) to assure Payment of Environmental Services, alternative livelihoods for cocoa farmers affected by land-use changes, implementation of the current government contractualization approach, and development of mixed agro-forestry systems.
- D. Public-private collaboration to identify: good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration, and mixed agro-forestry systems. The Government is developing management models for sustainable agro-forestry development, in consultation with all stakeholders.
- E. The Government, in collaboration with all stakeholders, will create a public-private fund to support the long-term financing of the protection and restoration of high conservation value forest areas. All stakeholders will be encouraged to support this fund.

5. Actions for Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods

Signatories recognize that sustainable agricultural intensification in environmentally suitable areas and increased farmer income are essential pre-requisites for reducing pressure for agricultural encroachment into forests. They commit to the following joint actions:

- A. Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow "more cocoa on less land," through provision of optimal planting materials, training in good agricultural practices, crop nutrition and soil fertility, crop protection, and development and capacity building of farmers' organizations, are critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.
- B. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, development of mixed agro-

forestry systems and shade-grown cocoa, and other income generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income.

- C. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and farm renovation.
- D. Improve supply chain mapping, with the goal of 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. The private sector, in collaboration with the Government, will develop an action plan for traceability with clear timelines, which will be implemented step-by-step to achieve full traceability and verification, applicable to all by end-2019.
- E. Signatory companies are putting in place verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to the first purchase point, operational policies and control systems that effectively monitor the associated risks, including high quality verification.

6. Actions for Community Engagement and Social Inclusion

Signatories recognize that effective engagement and empowerment of cocoa-growing communities and civil society organizations in the Framework for Action process is essential to end deforestation and forest degradation in Côte d'Ivoire. They commit to the following:

- A. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes under the Framework.
- B. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration, including engagement of local communities and farmers in awareness raising campaigns on the status of National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests, and the critical role that forest plays in climate regulation, soil fertility and water circulation.
- C. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.
- D. For National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests, Government will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of proposed land-use changes on affected farmers and their communities, and ensure provision of alternative livelihoods and restoration of standard of living of affected parties, in line with reasonable standards to be agreed upon.
- E. Government will prepare operational guidelines covering resettlement and livelihood restoration of affected parties by 31 December 2018, with input as relevant from private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, in line with reasonable standards to be agreed upon.

7. 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.

A transparent and credible process will be jointly developed to measure and monitor progress on Framework actions no later than 30 September 2018. This will include:

- Strengthening government's capacity upon signature of this Framework, through mobilization of technical and financial partners, for the adoption of a transparent satellite-based monitoring system, including deforestation alert, which will be made publicly available for all stakeholders to measure and monitor progress on the overall deforestation target.
- Adoption of a set of high-level and verified land use, environmental, socio-economic indicators.

- Annual publicly disclosed reporting by signatory companies and Government on progress and outcomes related to the implementation of their specific actions in the Framework.

8. Implementation and Governance

The Government and signatory companies agree to implement the Framework actions in the context of a broader landscape-level approach that takes into account all drivers of deforestation, links with similar initiatives in other commodities, and alignment with the national REDD+ strategy and other relevant national strategies and plans.

Each signatory company will prepare an individual action plan by end-2018 for public disclosure, which will spell out the specific actions it will take to deliver the commitments set out in the Framework, including, in particular, indicative technical and financial support for “Forest Protection and Restoration” and “Sustainable Production and Farmers’ Livelihoods”. The draft action plans will be shared with Government for feedback before being finalized.

The Cocoa and Forests Initiative governance set up to support the development of this joint Framework for Action will continue operating after its signature, and will have the mandate to assist the different partners on the implementation of the action plan based on this Framework.

A Working Group on traceability will be put in place with the objective to 1) develop the action plan for 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point; and 2) explore the feasibility of financial traceability.

The existing National REDD+ Commission will review progress and provide recommendations to the signatories for the diligent implementation of the Framework.

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