



Cocoa &
Forests
Initiative

COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

2018

Taking stock of progress achieved in 2018

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1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Cocoa and Forests Initiative (CFI) is an active commitment of leading cocoa-producing governments and chocolate and cocoa companies. Initiated in 2017 in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which jointly represent approximately 70% of the world's annual supply of cocoa, the CFI expanded to Colombia in 2018. Central to the initiative is a commitment to stop further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production. The companies and governments pledged to eliminate illegal cocoa production in national parks, in line with stronger enforcement of national forest policies and development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers.

This represents unprecedented commitments on forest protection and restoration, sustainable cocoa production and farmer livelihoods. The 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.

This report aims to take stock of progress achieved in the CFI signatory countries throughout 2018. It also provides examples of company actions that contribute to the initiative.

This is the first report developed by CFI, which brings together country-level developments, to demonstrate how the initiative is moving forward – and moving fast – in the signatory countries of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Colombia, the latter of which very recently joined the initiative.

The Global Secretariat of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, led by IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative, aims to publish such reports on an annual basis, with support from the World Cocoa Foundation and local CFI Secretariats.



Joint Statement of Intent

March 16, 2017

35 company signatories

Joint Framework for Action

Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana Nov 16, 2017

Government and company signatories

Implementation Plan for Joint Framework of Action

Côte d'Ivoire June 29, 2018

National Implementation Plan

Ghana July 4, 2018

Cocoa Forests and Paz Framework for Action

Colombia July 17, 2018



2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AT GLOBAL LEVEL

The signature of the Ivorian and Ghanaian Joint Frameworks for Action during the UNFCCC conference in Bonn in November 2017 marked the start of a series of in-country discussions on setting up a relevant and efficient governance structure, and on the development of implementation plans at national level. This was complemented by cross-country learning meetings between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, to support design of the implementation plans.

While the discussions were progressing swiftly in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the initiative triggered much interest in Colombia, where it is being seen as an opportunity to rally public and private actors towards development of the cocoa sector in a sustainable and inclusive way.

2.1 TRANSLATING THE JOINT FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION INTO IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

The first half of 2018 focused on development of implementation plans that translate the Joint Frameworks for Action into detailed plans at national level, covering timelines, roles and responsibilities, monitoring and evaluation, and governance. The implementation plans were shaped by public, private and civil society stakeholders, through a series of strategic and technical discussions.

In both Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the immediate focus is on halting further deforestation and forest degradation at national level. This includes the design and implementation of specific pilot projects in regions where forests are most at risk and have been identified as a high priority in the two countries. In parallel, efforts will focus on establishing a solid enabling environment in terms of public policy, industry frameworks, and financing mechanisms. This will enable all stakeholders to progress towards the extension phase beyond 2020 for a minimum duration of 10 years, while immediately securing the remaining forests in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

In the two countries, discussions on implementation budget have progressed swiftly, led by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) in Ghana, and the Technical Working Groups under leadership of the Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF) in Côte d'Ivoire.

The following priority actions have been defined in the implementation plans as approved on June 29 (Côte d'Ivoire) and July 4 (Ghana), 2018:



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

1. Publication and enforcement of the new Forest Code and its implementing decrees to stop any further deforestation and forest degradation in national parks and reserves, forest reserves, and forests in the rural domain; to improve the forest cover in the rural domain; and to restore forests reserves that have been degraded by human activities, by the end of 2018.
2. Creation of the National Forest Preservation and Rehabilitation Fund by June 2019, for the co-financing of the actions in 2018-2020 and national roll-out beyond 2020.
3. Development and implementation of the national cocoa traceability system by the end of 2019.
4. Development of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track progress, help steer actions, transparently report on these, and improve accountability, by the end of 2018.
5. Implementation of pilot projects in the identified priority regions where all the actions related to protection, production and inclusion will start in October 2018, to test the new policies and actions using a landscape-level approach, and inform the overall design of the program for 2021-2030.
6. Development of agroforestry systems and promotion of sustainable and diversified sources of income for cocoa farmers, by the end of 2020.
7. Empowerment of farmers and local communities to support the inclusive implementation of the CFI.
8. Evaluation of the start-up phase and development of a plan for the roll-out phase 2021-2030.

GHANA

1. Conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the different forest landscapes in Ghana, including forest reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and wildlife resource reserves, by the end of 2019.
2. Creation of a "Deforestation Trust Fund", similar to the Plantations Development Fund in the cocoa landscape, for co-financing the actions in 2018-2020 and the national roll-out beyond 2020.
3. Improvement in supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point by the end of 2019.
4. Development of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track progress, help steer actions and transparently report on these, and improve accountability, by the end of 2018.
5. Development of models for sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including agricultural intercropping, development of shade-grown cocoa, and other income-generation activities designed to boost and diversify household income, by the end of 2018.
6. Building on activities and projects that already started in hotspot intervention areas, to test new policies and actions related to protection, production and inclusion from October 2018 onwards, using a landscape-level approach.
7. Empowerment of farmers and local communities to support the inclusive implementation of the hotspot intervention areas, in accordance with governance principles detailed in the GCFRP.
8. Evaluation of the activities initiated in 2018-2020, and development of a plan for the roll-out phase 2021-2043.

Note: the full implementation plans can be consulted at: cocoaandforests.org



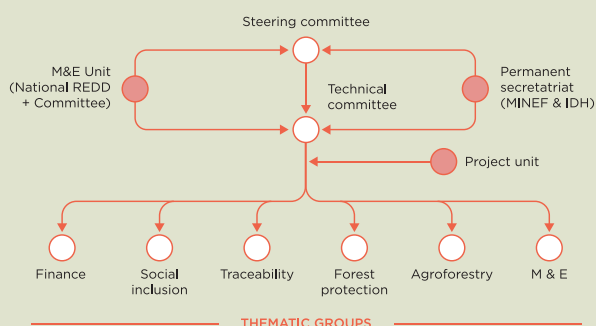
2.2 CONSOLIDATING THE NATIONAL-LEVEL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

More than 100 organizations from the public sector, private sector and civil society are engaged in CFI in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana combined. Governance structures have been designed in such a way that the development and implementation of the plans

can progress swiftly, while being informed by technical experts who ensure the relevance of the plans designed. In both countries, the government has full ownership and leadership of the initiative.

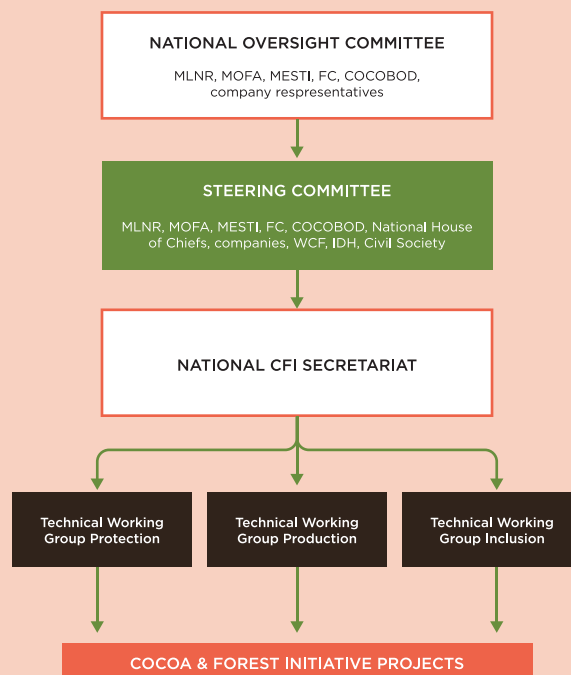
In Côte d'Ivoire, the Secretariat of the initiative is run by the Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF) and IDH, which ensures the coordination of the initiative's activities. In order to better coordinate and supervise the initiative, MINEF set up an internal coordination unit in May 2018 to manage its role within the Secretariat and ensure close collaboration with IDH and the WCF. In addition, the Ministry made its premises available, and assigned dedicated staff to coordinate CFI. Operational guidelines that define the rules and procedures of the CFI Secretariat were also finalized.

The governance of the initiative was institutionalized by an inter-ministerial decree signed by seven ministries on August 1, 2018. The governance includes the Steering Committee and Technical Committee, which are chaired by MINEF and engage all signatories of the Joint Frameworks for Action. The six Technical Working Groups provide support to the Technical Committee and are open to knowledge institutions, civil society and technical partners.



In Ghana, the National Secretariat is headed up by the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources (MLNR), which ensures swift progress of the initiative. Following the signature of the Joint Framework for Action in November 2017, the Ministry led the process that resulted in the setup of a structure to govern implementation of the framework.

By January 2018, the governance structure was set up, and included representatives from industry, civil society, farmers and other stakeholders. The governance is structured with a National Oversight Committee at the highest level, a Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups. The National Secretariat is supported by a Coordinating Team.





Participants in the Second CFI exchange meeting (Accra, May 24, 2018)

2.3 FACILITATING CROSS-LEARNING BETWEEN CFI STAKEHOLDERS

All organizations involved in CFI recognize the value of learning from each other. The facilitation of learning between participating countries is seen as an important tool for successful implementation of the Joint Frameworks for Action. Coordination and exchange of learnings and experiences can help to accelerate the implementation process and overcome barriers in the implementation phase.

In this context, the CFI's second exchange meeting was organized in Accra, on May 24, 2018. More than 50 delegates from the Ivorian and Ghanaian public administration, private-sector partners, and civil-society organizations met during a full-day meeting, to share experience and expertise on the following topics:

1. detailed planning of the implementation of the initiative in each country;
2. monitoring and evaluation framework;
3. mapping tools and methodologies.

Meeting participants confirmed the importance of having this cross-country learning opportunity in order to showcase solutions, generate further reflection on key CFI themes, and discuss possible synergies between the plans designed and implemented in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

This meeting is complemented by high-level meetings between country and company signatories as well as CFI stakeholders, such as:

- The high-level meeting in Accra during the visit of the Prince of Wales, on November 5, 2018;
- The high-level meeting in the Netherlands on November 14, 2018, which aimed to trigger further reflection on cross-country and cross-sector learning and collaboration moving forward.

2.4 EXPANSION OF THE INITIATIVE TO COLOMBIA

In July 2018, Colombia became the first Latin American country to commit to joining the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. Although Colombia represents only 1% of global cocoa production, the Colombian cocoa sector is growing rapidly. The crop has been identified as a priority for Colombian agricultural growth, both for domestic consumption and international export.

Colombia views cocoa as a strategic crop with which to close the forest frontier and restore degraded agricultural lands through agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems comprising cocoa, livestock and trees. To date, cocoa has not been a significant driver of deforestation in Colombia, and the CFI intends to ensure that this continues.

Colombia's membership came about as a result of the country's engagement in the Food and Land Use Coalition, a public-private collaborative effort to develop strategies for sustainable rural economic development. It is also important to highlight that cocoa has been identified as one of the key alternatives to illegal crops, which the new government is committed to promoting under the peace agreement signed in 2016.



National Implementation Plan on Cocoa and Forest Initiative launched

6th Jul 2018 | Source: GNA

Mr Benito Owusu-Bio, a Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, on Wednesday launched the National Implementation Plan (NIP) on the Cocoa and Forest Initiative intended to halt deforestation and degradation within the cocoa supply chain.

The immediate focus for implementing the Cocoa and Forest Initiative is to halt further deforestation and forest degradation from 2018 to 2020, while securing the remaining forest resources in the immediate short-term.

Addressing key stakeholders at the launch in Accra, Mr Owusu-Bio said the Plan aimed to facilitate planning and implementation of the commitments featured in the Joint Framework for Action signed by the Government of Ghana and representatives of chocolate and cocoa industry players during the Climate Change Conference (COP23) in Bonn, Germany, in November last year.

He, therefore, pledged government's commitment to enhance the environmental governance regime in the cocoa sector and implement actions that would enable cocoa producers to adopt cocoa agroforestry systems and practices that were climate compliant.

2.5 GENERATING GROWING INTEREST IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative has triggered quite some interest since its inception. Because it breaks the silos between the private and public sector, it is seen as a very innovative and promising public, private and civil society partnership capable of driving coordinated action to address deforestation.

CFI featured prominently during the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 General Assembly meeting in May 2018, CHOCOVISION in Davos in June 2018, the Innovation Forum Sustainable Landscape Conference in November 2018, as well as many other forums. It also featured in various media at global and national levels, and 240 mentions of CFI have been counted since the Joint Frameworks for Action were launched in November 2017.

This international visibility led various public, private and civil-society stakeholders to knock at the door of the CFI Global Secretariat, asking to contribute or launch such an initiative in other countries. How these requests can be addressed is a point that needs to be further discussed among CFI signatories.



3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS AT COUNTRY AND COMPANY LEVEL

3.1 PROGRESS UPDATE: CÔTE D'IVOIRE

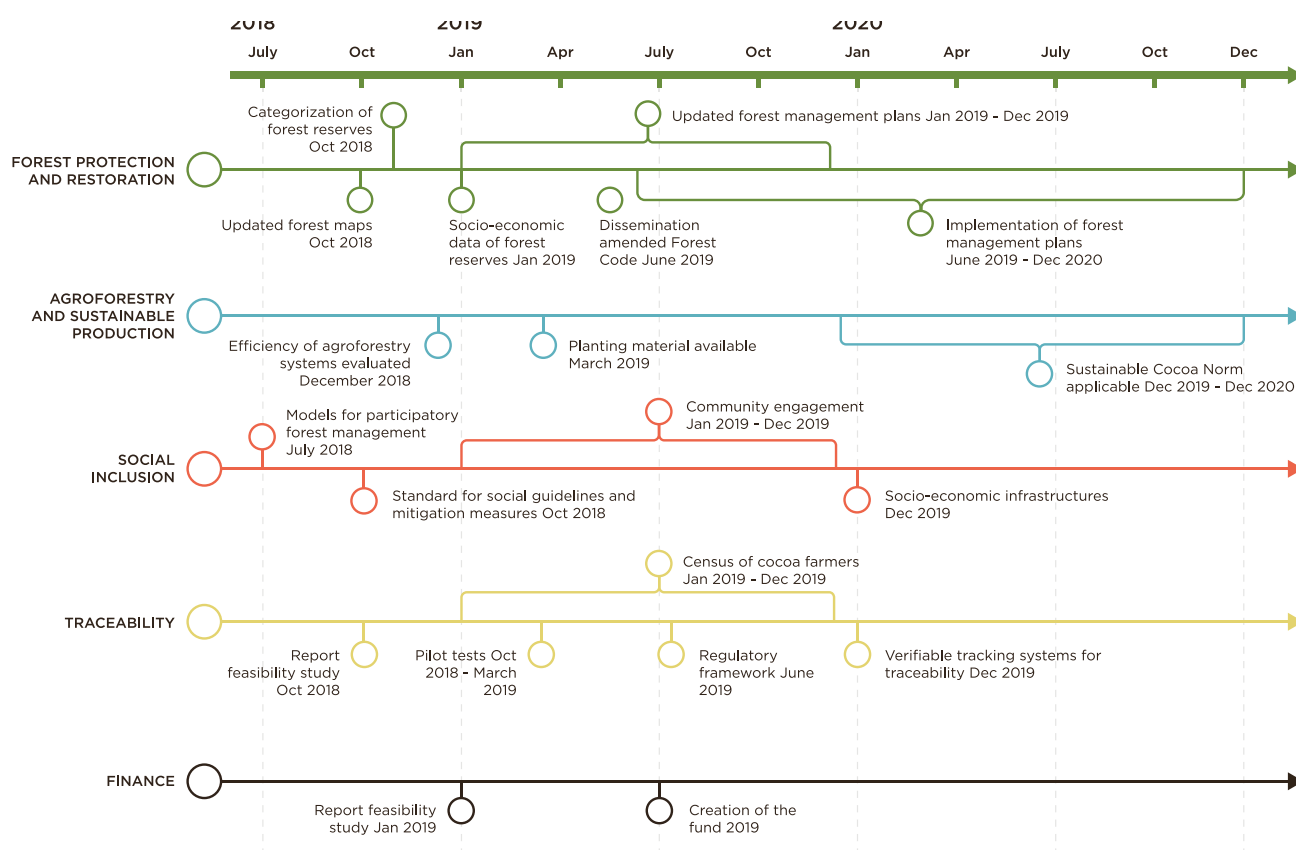
SUMMARY OF COUNTRY-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Joint Framework for Action** signed by the Ministry of Water and Forests and 30 companies (November 15, 2017).
- **National Implementation Plan** released and approved (June 29, 2018).
 - Governance structure established:
 - Made official by Ministerial Decree (August 1, 2018);
 - Led by the Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF);
 - At national level, involves 15 public-sector organizations, 14 private-sector organizations, and 13 civil-society organizations and knowledge institutions.
- **Six Technical Working Groups (TWG)** established on:
 1. Forest preservation and restoration;
 2. Agroforestry and sustainable production;
 3. Social inclusion;
 4. Finance;
 5. Traceability;
 6. Monitoring and evaluation.
- Each TWG has a dedicated chair and vice-chair from the public and private sectors, following up on the main action points of each group and coordinating meetings of the respective TWG on a regular basis. TWGs are open to knowledge institutions, civil society and technical partners.
- **Budget for the first phase of the implementation plan** prepared and approved (November 8, 2018).

KEY MILESTONES 2018



OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TIMELINE (AS APPROVED ON JUNE 29, 2018)



RECENT PROGRESS ACHIEVED

The most recent achievements of the Technical Working Groups include:

- **Development of the first version of the Côte d'Ivoire CFI monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework** under the leadership of the REDD+ Secretariat. The M&E framework and its guidelines are subject to approval in early 2019. To select the structure that will be responsible for putting in place a complete tool for satellite monitoring of the CFI zones, technical meetings will be organized with the M&E TWG and the technical agencies involved.
- **Alignment on social safeguards** is a crucial element of CFI. This means ensuring that social safeguards are put in place to avoid social overflow and respecting human rights in the implementation of the framework's action plan. The Secretariat and the Social Inclusion TWG have initiated discussions with the various stakeholders, including the World Bank, for the adoption of social safeguard measures by the end of 2018.
- **Availability of forest cover maps** and clarification of distribution procedures has been a continued focus since the start of 2018. A technical session on the harmonization of a mapping database was organized, bringing together the executives of SODEFOR, BNETD, and OIPR. For national parks and reserves, the maps have been made available by OIPR, while SODEFOR will soon follow suit with the maps of the forest reserves already available. Exchanges are underway for the production of a uniform mapping database.
- **Two studies are planned under the CFI:**
 - **Traceability study:** Conseil Café-Cacao is currently chairing the Traceability TWG, and is in the process of finalizing the terms of reference on the planned feasibility study. These will be discussed with members of the TWG for finalization.
 - **Establishment of forest fund:** a request for funding has been submitted to the "Fund for Studies" at the Primature to finance the study on the establishment of a forest fund. As next steps, the



Primature decided to coordinate feasibility studies on the three different funds, namely the forest fund, climate fund, and REDD+ fund.

STRENGTHENING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The Ivorian government has adopted a new approach to reclaim and increase the national forest area, which it presents in its policy on Forest Preservation, Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Ministry of Water and Forests, released in June 2018. The policy is based on three pillars:

- Preservation of biodiversity;
- Maintenance of a favorable climate for the development of socio-economic activities and support for agricultural production;
- Respect of Côte d'Ivoire's international commitments.

The main premise of the policy is that the government's efforts for forest preservation, rehabilitation and expansion will be implemented with the participation of the local communities and civil society. The policy will build on private-public partnerships for the implementation and financing of this ambitious policy. The CFI is enthusiastic about this new development and the progressive collaboration with the Ivorian government.

IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

- The Secretariat will coordinate bilateral consultations with government institutions, industry and the financial and technical partners for the presentation of the plan and budget. The objective of these meetings will be to explore the synergies between the CFI and existing and planned programs so as to identify funding needs, and prepare a round-table discussion with these partners to be held before the end of 2018.
- The Social Inclusion TWG will work on alignment of the standards of social safeguards. Before the end of 2018, the partners will agree on which standards to adopt. Subsequently, public and private partners will prepare to apply and adhere to these standards. Based on the draft M&E framework developed under the leadership of SEP-REDD, the full framework will be finalized, including the operational guidelines for approval, in early 2019.
- At the end of November 2018, Conseil Café-Cacao will organize a national workshop on cocoa agroforestry practices to take stock of existing practices and align on a roadmap towards the development of cocoa and coffee agroforestry in Côte d'Ivoire.



CFI second meeting of the Steering Committee (Abidjan, November 8, 2018)

3.2 PROGRESS UPDATE: GHANA

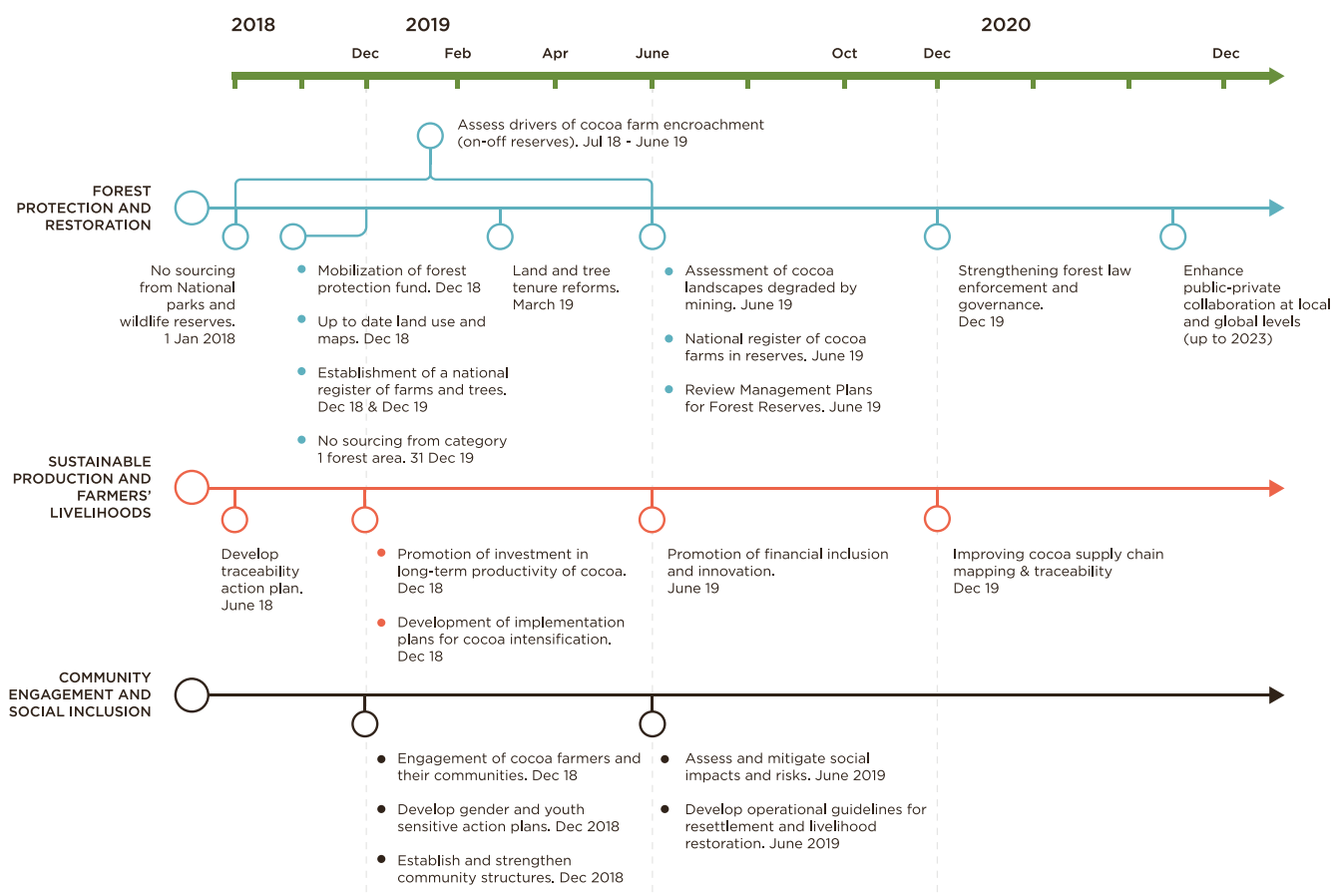
SUMMARY OF COUNTRY-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Joint Framework for Action** signed by the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources (MLNR) and 30 companies (November 15, 2017)
- **Governance structure** established:
 - Led by the MLNR;
 - Involves a total of 85 individuals from eight public-sector organizations, 11 private-sector organizations, three farmer organizations, and 10 civil-society organizations.
- **National Implementation Plan** released and approved (July 4, 2018).
- **Three Technical Working Groups** established on:
 1. Production;
 2. Protection;
 3. Social inclusion.
- **Four Task Forces** established under the Technical Working Groups:
 1. Climate-smart agroforestry;
 2. Mapping;
 3. Monitoring and evaluation;
 4. Traceability.
- **Budget** prepared and in the process of being approved.

KEY MILESTONES 2018



OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TIMELINE (AS APPROVED ON JULY 4, 2018)



RECENT PROGRESS ACHIEVED

The most recent achievements in Ghana following the release of the national implementation plan include:

- The Technical Working Groups completed the second version of a comprehensive budget, which was presented to the Steering Committee for finalization during the next meeting on November 20, 2018.
- A functional coordinating team was established, including MLNR, Forestry Commission, COCOBOD, IDH and WCF.
- A National Secretariat is now running CFI affairs. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is also working to provide an office – this should be completed in the coming months.
- Further alignment was sought among civil-society organizations to ensure effective representation at global, national and regional levels.
- An analysis of ongoing initiatives and active stakeholders in hotspot intervention areas was started. It aims to define who is doing what, and to what extent, and will help prevent stakeholders from working in silos.
- The MLNR identified sources of funding and the approach to mobilize funds for the implementation of the CFI. This included initial engagement with donors on funding the initiative.



IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

The CFI governance bodies will continue working on the priority actions identified in the national implementation plan. In particular, the Technical Working Groups and Task Forces will continue interacting with stakeholders and tracking progress on their respective implementation themes.

- Immediate actions agreed by CFI governance bodies include:
- Organization of a donor conference in late 2018/early 2019 to ensure that activities are funded and can progress swiftly;
- Creation of a new Task Force on Social Safeguards;
- Finalization of areas of focus and entry points for civil-society organizations during implementation.

3.3 PROGRESS UPDATE: COLOMBIA

SUMMARY OF COUNTRY-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Cocoa, Forests and Peace Joint Framework for Action** signed on July 17, 2018 by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Republic of Colombia, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Republic of Colombia, the National Federation of Cocoa Producers, chocolate-company CasaLuker, and the two supporting/convening organizations – IDH and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

RECENT PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

The signatories of the Joint Framework for Action have already started working on the development of guidelines to establish procedures for the administration and operation of the Cocoa, Forests and Peace initiative. This will include the governance structure and its respective functions, the process for adding new members, and the withdrawal of signatory members.



Signatories of the Cocoa, Forests and Peace Joint Framework for Action

3.4 PROGRESS UPDATE: COMPANY ACTIONS

DESIGNING COMPANY ACTION PLANS

As agreed in the Joint Frameworks for Action in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, signatory companies must prepare an individual action plan by the end of 2018 for public disclosure, which outlines the specific actions it will take to deliver the commitments set out in the framework, including indicative support for "Forest Protection and Restoration" and "Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods". The draft action plans will be shared with the government for feedback before being revised and published in early 2019. Companies will leverage their ongoing sustainability efforts as well as new investments to fulfill the commitments outlined in the Joint Frameworks for Action. The companies identified a variety of actions under the three CFI pillars in the first drafts of the action plans, such as agroforestry development, community engagement, farm mapping, and deforestation risk assessments. They will revise their actions as information on national forest policy, map boundaries, and forest classification becomes available in 2019, as well as identifying opportunities to align with donor initiatives to scale up actions.

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO CFI OBJECTIVES

While CFI enables companies and partners to align on strategy and work towards common goals, a number of companies have already started taking action, and are implementing programs that directly contribute to the objectives of the initiative. Below are examples of on-the-ground company actions. This list is not exhaustive; many more signatory companies having already started taking actions, contributing to the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana Joint Frameworks for Action.

Working towards traceability:

Cémoi in Côte d'Ivoire

Cémoi, a global French chocolate manufacturer, launched its Transparence Cacao program in 2015. The program promotes professional entrepreneurs, environmental preservation, higher income for farmers, income diversification, and traceability.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Cémoi Group has started working with their cooperatives to enhance their traceability systems and develop comprehensive mapping of farms. To date, all plantations of farmers working with Cémoi have been mapped. Cémoi's cooperatives train their employees to use a digital tool to collect data on the farms. This tool includes GPS mapping, and enables cooperatives to control the geographical location of their members' plantations in relation to protected areas. With this knowledge, the cooperatives can develop a plan to stop sourcing from protected areas, and to educate their members not to establish cocoa farms in forest reserves. Farmers in the program are also taught to consider trees, the forest and the environment as a potential source of income, through farm diversification and agroforestry, and are encouraged to invest in their plantations as entrepreneurs.

Aligning interventions with CFI pillars:

Mondelēz in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

Mondelēz is one of the world's largest snacks companies. Its Cocoa Life program was launched in 2012, and focuses on transforming farming, community, youth, livelihoods and the environment.

In both Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, Mondelēz organized multi-stakeholder consultative workshops to create working groups and to map out various interventions for each of the CFI pillars. Cocoa Life coordinates the work of each of these working groups, who are responsible for setting targets, timelines, and potential partners. All the inputs were centralized and evaluated internally by the Cocoa Life team, and submitted for feedback to the program's external advisors.



By the end of 2017, Mondelēz trained more than 60,000 farmers in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire on good agricultural and environmental practices, which enable farmers to increase their yields without impacting the environment or resorting to deforestation. Alongside this training, Mondelēz supports farmers through the development of alternative projects and community action plans. Cocoa Life is also mapping the cocoa farms and distributing shade trees. Over one million shade trees have been distributed in Ghana, and the company has plans for an additional 750,000 in Côte d'Ivoire, over the next three years.

Designing and implementing landscape programs:

Olam in Ghana

Olam is one of the world's biggest agribusiness companies, based in Singapore. Olam Ghana and Rainforest Alliance have worked closely on a project with DFID-funded Partnership for Forest (P4F), the Ghana Cocoa Board and the Forestry Commission to conserve biodiversity, increase climate resilience, and sustain community livelihoods in the cocoa forest landscape. A landscape "corridor" will be created around the fragmented forest reserves located within three political districts. The total land mass covers a surface area of 12,773 square kilometers representing 11% of the region's total land area. This means that actions within the corridor would contribute significantly to the protection of 97,612 hectares of forest reserves.

In its first year of implementation, the project has delivered a detailed long-term plan for landscape management, developed with all stakeholders, and has established two Landscape Management Boards (LMBs) to improve participatory forests landscape governance, and to monitor and control the surrounding forest reserves. LMB executives were inaugurated in August 2018; so far, 74 communities have signed up to participate in the project. The LMB facilitates and builds community governance capacities at landscape and community levels, and

organizes farmers in the corridor. It also focuses on increasing wider participation in the project, and extending benefits to communities and farmers. A baseline survey for the M&E framework, which aligns the project with Ghana's national cocoa strategy and policies, has also been undertaken.

Designing and implementing landscape programs:

Touton in Ghana

A global agro-industrial trader, Touton is a key player in the cocoa industry in Ghana. The company has been bold in taking the first step to put its commitment to deforestation-free cocoa into action. In 2017, with support from DFID-funded P4F, Touton led a six-partner consortium into a landscape program – the Partnership for Productivity Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscape (3PRCL) – which is closely aligned with the Forestry Commission's REDD+ efforts. The goals of the 3PRCL landscape project are to increase cocoa productivity and improve farmers' living conditions while conserving forests in Bia-Juabeso districts of the western region. Through catalyzing investment and multi-stakeholder processes that involve public entities, it aims to ultimately preserve around 160,000 hectares of protected forest reserve and deliver socio-economic benefits to an estimated 150,000 people by 2020.

After a year of operation of the 3PRCL project, Touton has established two rural service centers to connect a network of 16 service providers working on the ground with farmers both inside and outside Touton's direct supply chain. It carried out a socio-cultural study to inform the proposed landscape governance structures. Touton also collaborates closely with government entities to develop this governance structure for hotspot intervention areas at regional, district and community levels. In addition, Touton has been working with partners as part of a national committee to develop a landscape standard for assessing climate-smart cocoa. Touton is counting on full participation from all players in the landscape to achieve the common goals. Progress is steady, and collaboration is ensuring success.





4. CONCLUSIONS & 2019 OUTLOOK

Addressing two sides: enabling environment and on-the-ground action

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is an unprecedented effort to end cocoa-related deforestation globally. Its innovation lies in the fact that this is a truly multi-stakeholder process, which involves governments, companies, civil-society organizations, farmer organizations, research institutions and many others. The initiative aims to move fast, as its members realize that forests continue to disappear while discussions on the “how” are progressing. The implementation plans aim to address this by not only focusing on changes that need to happen in the enabling environment (e.g. development of maps, feasibility studies, design of new policies, etc.), but also action on the ground in Ghana (in six hotspot intervention areas) and Côte d'Ivoire (in five priority regions). The initiative is also innovative in that it acknowledges that sustainable cocoa production, forest protection and restoration, and community inclusion go hand in hand. This is why it promotes adoption of a landscape approach, which will also require the creation of multi-stakeholder processes at landscape level. Forests can only be protected when communities are engaged and their needs are catered for.

2019: a critical year for demonstrating on-the-ground impact

The coming year will be crucial for all stakeholders involved in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative to move from paper-based plans to implementation. In January 2019, the companies will finalize the first drafts of their plans, and will start bringing them to life in collaboration with governments and civil-society organizations in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Implementation will focus on the Ghanaian hotspot intervention areas and Ivorian priority regions, with new sources of funding being mobilized to support implementation. A monitoring system with satellite imagery will also be put in place to ensure progress is being measured and reported. In parallel, a detailed implementation plan will be designed in Colombia, thereby ensuring that the progress of cocoa farming will not have a negative impact on forests, but that it will contribute to forest restoration and improvement of livelihoods.

The spotlight will be on the two founding countries of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative to demonstrate that they can deliver, and on Colombia to develop its plans. The CFI's targets are ambitious, but we are confident that this coordinated action can deliver positive impact on sustainable production, forest protection, restoration, and community inclusion.



ANNEX 1: 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' livelihood:** 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 the 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.

These 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

- A. 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:
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and farm renovation

- E. 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
- F. 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 protected areas 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.



ANNEX 2: JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION, GHANA

1. PREAMBLE

Recognizing the vital role of the cocoa sector in Ghana in bringing jobs and wealth to local communities, while at the same time seeking to be environmentally and socially sustainable and striving to protect Ghana's 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 the almost one million smallholder farmers who grow cocoa;

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 role of agricultural commodity development, including the cocoa sector, illegal mining (galamsey), logging, and bushfires, as drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and recognizing the strong positive contribution that the cocoa sector can make in Ghana 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 Ghana, in order to improve living standards and people's well-being;

We, the Government of Ghana – through the Minister of Land & Natural Resources – and undersigned companies, commit to work together to end deforestation and promote forest protection and restoration in the cocoa supply chain in Ghana through this Joint Framework for Action.

The 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, and timebound targets required for a deforestation-free and forest positive cocoa supply chain in Ghana.

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

- **Forest protection and restoration:** this covers the conservation and rehabilitation of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Wildlife Resource Reserves, Forest Reserves, and unprotected off-reserve forest lands;
- **Sustainable production and farmers' livelihood:** 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.

2. CORE COMMITMENTS

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

1. **Prohibit and prevent activities that cause or contribute to any further deforestation or forest degradation** in the cocoa sector;
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, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Wildlife Resource Reserves, Forest Reserves, and unprotected off-reserve forest lands;
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, new Ghana Cocoa Sector Development Strategy II, and other relevant national strategies and plans;
7. **Embrace shared responsibility to implement the Framework actions**, including continued engagement in a multi-stakeholder process for dialogue on key issues, development of effective implementation plans, and joint learning and knowledge sharing; and
8. **Provide effective monitoring and reporting on progress** on commitments and actions to ensure transparency and accountability.

3. Actions for Forest Protection and Restoration

Signatories recognize the critical importance of protecting Ghana 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 as of 1 January 2018.
- B. There will be no production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms with existing legal status, as of 1 January 2018.
- C. A differentiated approach for Forest Reserves will be adopted by Government by 31 December 2018. It will be based on the following categories and will specify the number of hectares, timeline, roles and responsibilities, budget and fund-mobilization strategy for each category:
 - **Category 1:** The less degraded Forest Reserves (classified as condition 1, 2, and 3 in the national system) will be managed under a strict protection status by 31 December 2019, which will exclude cocoa production and sourcing,

timber extraction, or other types of productive and extractive activities. Signatory companies will stop sourcing cocoa from these forests as of 31 December 2019.

- **Category 2:** In the more degraded Forest Reserves (classified as condition 4 and 5 in the national system), cocoa production and sourcing will continue for a period up to 25 years (the cocoa tree lifecycle) through the Modified Taungya System (MTS)¹. Government will sign contracts with farmers that include tree benefit sharing arrangements, targeted restoration and reforestation programs with the end goal of progressively restoring the forest to a healthy intact state, and cessation of cocoa farming (but allowing some sustainable economic use of the forest, including non-timber forest products).

- D. In highly degraded off reserve forest lands (which are held under the customary land ownership sector), cocoa production and sourcing will continue, supported by substantial investment and adoption of best practices in climate smart cocoa and MTS.
- E. In all these areas, a multi-stakeholder landscape approach will form the basis for the interventions, with an initial focus on the six Climate-Smart Cocoa Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) as defined under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (GCFRP). The process starts with establishment of consortiums of key stakeholders, followed by development and implementation of integrated landscape management plans with a strong focus on climate-smart cocoa initiatives.

These commitments will be supported by the following actions:

- A. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use for these areas, socio-economic data on cocoa farmers and their communities in these areas, and detailed operational guidelines covering forest management in

1. The Modified Taungya System (MTS) is an agroforestry system under which farmers receive land to grow food crops alongside the planted cocoa trees during the early years of plantation development. The legally binding arrangement stipulates that the benefits must be shared between the Forestry Commission, the farmers, the traditional landowners, and the forest-adjacent community.



Category 1 Forest Reserve, and the mixed-use approach in Category 2 Forest Reserve, will all be developed and publicly disclosed by Government by 31 December 2018, with input as relevant from the private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. In particular, this will include the development of a national registry of any farms with legal status in Forest Reserves.

- B. Land and tree tenure reforms, and benefit sharing arrangement to incentivize land owners and users to retain naturally regenerated trees on off-reserve farmlands and in the farming landscape of MTS will be accelerated by Government. This will include approval of the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) mechanism, which will help secure land owners and users' rights to manage and derive economic benefits from forest resources.
- C. Public sector forest law enforcement and governance will be strengthened, including awareness raising campaigns, capacity building of forest institutions and community policing, stronger surveillance and monitoring, and application of stronger sanctions for infringement, covering forest encroachment and degradation from agriculture, logging and galamsey, as of 1 January 2018.
- D. 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. Key opportunities include inter alia, support for innovative financial mechanisms (such as payments for environmental services, carbon finance, and public-private trust funds), implementation of MTS and phased approach to land-use change, alternative livelihoods for cocoa farmers affected by land-use change, development of shade-grown cocoa systems, climate-smart cocoa production.
- E. Public-private collaboration, in partnership with local and global experts, will be enhanced to identify good practices and technical guidance for forest conservation and restoration, shade grown cocoa, and MTS in Forest Reserves.

4. ACTIONS TOWARDS 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, and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farming to climate change. They commit to the following joint actions:

- A. Promote investment in long-term productivity of high quality cocoa in environmentally sustainable manner and grow "more cocoa on less land," through intensification of farming practices, provision of improved planting materials, introduction of yield-enhancing methods, training in good agricultural practices, crop protection, and crop nutrition and soil fertility. Continued land tenure reform to strengthen farmers' land and property rights, and development and capacity building of farmers' organizations, are critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.
- B. Develop implementation plans, including mapping of exact areas to intensify establishment of shaded cocoa landscapes in line with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP), with the promotion of Climate Smart Cocoa and the national Climate Smart Cocoa Standard in environmentally suitable areas, with a first focus on Climate Smart Cocoa Hotspot Intervention Areas (CSC HIAs).
- C. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, development of shade-grown cocoa, and other income generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income.
- D. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and cocoa farm rehabilitation and renovation.
- E. Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point by 31 December 2019. Private sector and Government will develop a joint action plan that maps out key principles, steps, and milestones to achieve this step, encompassing all national and international traders, by 30 June 2018. 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. Signatory companies are putting in place verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to first purchase point, operational policies and control systems that effectively monitor the associated risks, including high quality verification, by 31 December 2019.

5. ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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

- E. 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.
- F. 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 protected areas and the critical role that forest plays in climate regulation.
- G. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.
- H. For the approach in Forest Reserves, Government will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of proposed land-use changes on affected cocoa farmers and their communities, and ensure provision of alternative livelihoods and restoration of standard of living of affected parties, in line with global standards.
- I. Government will prepare operational guidelines covering resettlement and livelihood restoration of any affected parties by 30 June 2018, with input as relevant from private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, in line with global standards.

6. 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 developed, in line with Ghana's national forest monitoring system, to measure and monitor progress Framework actions no later than 31 December 2018. This will include:

- Adoption of a transparent satellite-based monitoring system, the results of which are independently validated, and which provide a deforestation alert, complemented with ground-truthing, as soon as possible upon signature of this Framework, 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, building on the indicators and indices developed for the Climate-Smart Cocoa Standard and the national Safeguards Information Systems.
- Annual publicly disclosed reporting by signatory companies and Government on progress and outcomes related to the implementation of their specific actions in the Framework.

7. 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 Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme and other relevant national strategies and plans.

Each Signatory company will prepare an individual action plan by 31 December 2018 for public disclosure that spells 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 provide strategic guidance on the implementation of the plan.

The National REDD+ Secretariat will review progress and provide practical guidance on the implementation of the Framework, based on recommendations of Technical Working Groups, bringing together public, private and civil society experts. The Technical Working Groups will be formed to develop guidance on key questions that are critical to the framework implementation.

ANNEX 3: 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 forest²** 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

2. 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."



accordance with the country's environmental land use planning, assessment of soil aptitude and the delimitation of the agricultural frontier;

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 17th July, 2018.



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