



Roadmap to  
Deforestation-free  
Cocoa

# ROADMAP TO DEFORESTATION-FREE COCOA IN CAMEROON

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Towards a sustainable cocoa sector that protects forests  
and enhances farmers' livelihoods in Cameroon

JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



A process facilitated by:



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

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<b>AFR 100</b>	<a href="#"><u>African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)</u></a>
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>FPIC</b>	Free Prior and Informed Consent
<b>FLEGT</b>	<a href="#"><u>Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade</u></a>
<b>FSC</b>	Forest Stewardship Council
<b>HCS</b>	High Carbon Stock
<b>HCV</b>	High Conservation Value
<b>ISO</b>	<a href="#"><u>International Organization for Standardization</u></a>
<b>MINADER</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MINEPDED</b>	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
<b>MINFOF</b>	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
<b>NAPA</b>	National Adaptation Programme of Action
<b>ONACC</b>	National Observatory on Climate Change
<b>PLADDT</b>	Local Sustainable Development Plans for the Territory
<b>PES</b>	Payment for Environmental Services
<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
<b>TFA</b>	Tropical Forest Alliance
<b>UN</b>	United Nations



## DEFINITIONS

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### AGROFORESTRY:

- The interaction of agriculture and trees, including the agricultural use of trees. This includes trees on farms in agricultural landscapes, agriculture in forests and along forest edges and tree crops, including cocoa, coffee, rubber and oil palm. Interactions between trees and other components of agriculture can be important at different scales: in fields (where trees and crops are grown together), on farms (where trees can provide fodder for livestock, fuel, food, shelter or income from products such as wood) and in landscapes (where agricultural and forestry uses combine to determine the provision of ecosystem services).
- Agroforestry System: The traditional definition of the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) is the following: “a collective name for land use systems and practices in which woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit”. Agroforestry is generally practiced with the intention of developing a more sustainable form of land use that can improve farm productivity and the welfare of the rural community (leakey, 1996).

Source: ICRAF

### DEFORESTATION:

Natural forest loss resulting from: i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land uses; ii) conversion to a forest planting; or iii) a serious and sustained damage.

- *This definition pertains to no-deforestation supply chain commitments, which generally focus on preventing the conversion of natural forests.*
- *Severe degradation (scenario iii in the definition) constitutes deforestation even if the land is not subsequently used for a non-forest land use.*
- *Loss of natural forest that meets this definition is considered to be deforestation regardless of whether or not it is legal.*
- *The Accountability Framework’s definition of deforestation signifies “gross deforestation” of natural forest where “gross” is used in the sense of “total; aggregate; without deduction for reforestation or other offset.”*

Source: [Accountability Framework Initiative](#)





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### DEFORESTATION FREE:

Production of commodities, supply or financial investments that do not cause or contribute to deforestation of natural forests. The term “deforestation-free” is used in favour of “zero deforestation” because “zero” can imply an absolutist approach that may be at odds with the need sometimes to accommodate minimal levels of conversion at the site level in the interest of facilitating optimal conservation and production outcomes.

Source: [Accountability Framework Initiative](#)

### FINE OR FLAVOR COCOA:

Fine cocoa is defined as cocoa that is free of defects in flavor while providing a complex flavor profile that reflects the expertise of the producer and the “terroir”, or sense of the particular environment where the cacao is grown, fermented and dried. Fine cocoa meeting these basic criteria may also offer important genetic diversity, as well as historical and cultural heritage.

Flavor cocoa is defined as cocoa that has little to no defects in flavor and provides valuable aromatic or flavor characteristics that have been traditionally important in blends.

Fine or flavor cocoa that meets these basic quality criteria may also offer important genetic diversity, as well as historical and cultural heritage.

Source: *ICCO (2018). Working definition*

### FOREST:

Forests are defined as land covered by a plant formation based on trees or shrubs, with a minimum area of 0.5 ha including vegetation in which the trees and shrubs have a minimum cover of 10%, and can reach a minimum height of 3 m at maturity. Exception is made of monospecific agro-industrial plantations with a purely economic vocation and which use essentially agricultural management techniques. Areas formerly forested and affected by natural disturbances that have reduced their cover by less than 10% and that are likely to regain their past status are still considered as forests.

Source: *MINEPDED (juin 2018). Stratégie Nationale de Reduction des Emissions Issues de la Déforestation et de la Dégradation des Forêts, Gestion Durable des Forêts, Conservation des Forêts et Augmentation des Stocks de Carbone*



### DEFINITION OF THE PERMANENT AND NON-PERMANENT FOREST ESTATE ACCORDING TO THE FOREST LAW OF 1994

Section 20: (1) **The national forest estate** shall comprise permanent and **non-permanent forests domains**. (2) Permanent forests shall comprise lands that are used solely for forestry and/or as “wildlife”habitat. (3) Non-permanent forests shall comprise forest lands that may be used for other purposes than forestry.

Section 21: (1) **Permanent or classified forests** shall be forests situated in the permanent forest estate. (2) Permanent forests shall comprise

(a) State forests

(b) Council forests.

Section 25: (1) **State forests shall form** part of the private property of the State. (2) They shall be classified by a statutory instrument which shall determine their geographical boundaries and, in particular, their categories. They may be production, recreation, protection or multi-purpose forests encompassing production, environmental protection and the preservation of the diversity of the national biological heritage. The instrument aforesaid shall serve for the establishment of a land certificate for the State. (3) The classification of State forests shall take into account the land use plan of the ecological area in question. (4) Forest subject to classification or forest that have been classified according to former regulations shall remain in the private property of the State, except where the duly approved land use plan of the area in question state otherwise. (5) The Procedure for classification of State forests shall be laid down by decree.

Section 30: (1) In this law, “**council forest**” means any forest that have been classified on behalf of a local council or has been planted by the local council. (2) The classification instrument shall determine the boundaries and the management objectives of such forest which may be same as for a State forest, as well as the exercise of logging rights by the local population. It shall serve for the establishment of a land certificate for the local council concerned. (3) Council forests shall form part of the private property of the local council concerned. (4) The procedure for the classification of council forests shall be laid down by decree.

Section 34: **Non-permanent or unclassified forests** shall be forests on non-permanent forest .and. Non-permanent forests shall be: a) communal forests; (b) community forests; (c) forests belonging to private individuals.

*Source: Part III of the forest FOREST LAW N ° 94/01 of 20th January 1994 governing forests, wildlife and fishing.*

### HIGH CARBON STOCK (HCS):

The approach on HCS is a methodology that distinguishes forest areas for protection from degraded lands with low carbon and biodiversity values that may be developed. The methodology is being developed since 2015 with the aim to ensure a practical, transparent, robust, and scientifically credible approach that is widely accepted to implement commitment to halt deforestation in the tropics, while ensuring the rights and livelihoods of local peoples are respected. Guidelines for the application of the HCS approach in countries with high forest cover are being developed for the agricultural sector.

*Source: <http://highcarbonstock.org/the-high-carbon-stock-approach/>*





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### HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS:

High Conservation Value (HCV) areas are defined as natural habitats where these values are considered to be of outstanding significance or critical importance. The HCV concept was originally developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to help define forest areas of outstanding and critical importance - High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) - for use in forest management certification.

This approach is now widely used (since 2007) in the standards and norms applicable to the agricultural sector. Guidelines for the application of the HCV approach have been developed for the forest sector in Cameroon.

Source: <https://hcvnetwork.org/>

### LIVING INCOME:

The net income a household would need to earn to enable all members of the household to afford a decent standard of living. Elements of a decent standard of living include: food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events.

Source: [\*The Living Income Community of Practice\*](#)

### SUSTAINABLE COCOA:

Cocoa that is produced in accordance with economic, ecological and social requirements, which means that its production is economical, environmentally friendly and socially responsible, without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs.

Source: [\*the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa\*](#) (2019)

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMPTION:

Encouraged to use resources and energy efficiently, to develop sustainable infrastructure and ensuring universal access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life. They contribute to the implementation of general development plans, to reduce the economic, environmental and future social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty.

Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/sustainable-consumption-production/>

### TRACEABILITY:

The ability to identify and track the history, distribution, location and application of products, parts and materials to ensure the reliability of sustainability claims in the areas of human rights, labour (including health and safety), the environment and anti-corruption.

Source: [\*UN Global Compact\*](#)

# 1. PREAMBLE

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Recognizing the vital role of the cocoa sector in Cameroon in job creation and wealth to local communities, while at the same time seeking to be environmentally and socially sustainable and striving to protect Cameroon'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 towards sustainable livelihoods for 600 000<sup>1</sup> smallholder farmers who make a living from cocoa production;

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

Considering the crucial role of agriculture, mining, logging, infrastructure, bushfires and overall poor forest and land governance in driving deforestation and forest degradation, and recognizing the contribution that the cocoa sector can bring in the protection, restoration of forests and resilient landscapes in Cameroon;

Recognizing that in the Rural Sector Development Strategy Document, the Cameroonian Government intends to engage in a constructive multi-stakeholder dialogue leading to a partnership that will ensure sustainable growth and competitiveness and in which the roles of the Government, the private sector, decentralized local authorities and civil society will be clearly defined;

Understanding the importance of public-private partnerships, civil society in sustainable and inclusive economic development, and signatories' commitment to support the achievement of the New York Declaration on Forests, the Bonn Challenge, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Berlin Declaration of the Forth World Cocoa Conference, and the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT);

Confirming the anchoring of the Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa in the five-year action plan for the development and sustainability of the Cameroonian landscape and in the Cameroonian Government's National Development Strategy;

Recognizing that the challenges that the signatories of this Framework for Action face are demanding and that solving them will require support from stakeholders at all levels of the cocoa value chain as well as a consultation and collaboration framework with multiple sectors, such as the timber, palm oil or rubber sectors;

Welcoming the sustainable commitment of the oil palm sector through the eight national principles of the Cameroon Sustainable Oil Palm Initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED); the zero net deforestation commitment of actors of the rubber sector in Cameroon; the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the Government of Cameroon and the European Union, which helps strengthen the governance of the timber sector within the context of the European Union Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT);

**We, the signatories of this Joint Framework for Action to Deforestation Free Cocoa in Cameroon, commit to working together both technically and financially and to implement programs and their budgets towards the sustainable production and marketing of cocoa, the preservation and rehabilitation of forests in Cameroon and the inclusion of communities.**

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1. Source: [Plan de relance et de développement des filières cacao et café du Cameroun à l'horizon 2020](#).





## 2. GENERAL

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This Framework for Action builds on the [Statement of Intent](#) launched at the meeting held in London in March 2017, hosted by HRH the Prince of Wales, which mobilised representatives of the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana governments and the cocoa and chocolate industry. It defines core commitments, verifiable actions, time bound targets and other prerequisites required for a deforestation-free cocoa supply chain in Cameroon.

The Framework for Action was developed through a multi-stakeholder process that brought together representatives from the Government of Cameroon, private sector, farmers' organisations, national and international civil society organisations, research institutions, development partners and other stakeholders in Cameroon and at the global level.

**It is structured around three pillars:**



### FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

This covers the conservation as well as the restoration of the forests in the permanent and non-permanent forest domain that have been degraded over time by human activities, in particular by expansion of cocoa farming among other factors;



### SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

This covers the development and implementation of guidelines that support sustainable production, forest protection, while having a positive social and economic impact in Cameroon, as well as the repositioning and commercialisation of Cameroonian origin cocoa on the international market;



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

This covers inclusion of farmers and their communities in the process as well as social safeguards.

### 3. CORE COMMITMENTS

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By signing this Framework for Action, the Government, companies, farmers' organisations and civil society commit to:

**3.1 Comply with the Law N° 94/01 of 20 January 1994** governing forests, wildlife and fishing in Cameroon and its future amendments, and **prevent activities in the cocoa sector that cause or contribute to any form of deforestation or forest degradation in the permanent forest domain**;

**3.2 Promote the long-term conservation and, when needed, the restoration of the permanent forest domain**, through among others, engagement in multi-stakeholder planning programs, and particularly the five-year action plan for sustainable development and management of Cameroon's landscape, in accordance with the Law N°. 2011/008 of 06 May 2011 on Guidance for Sustainable Land Use Planning and Development in Cameroon;

**3.3 Promote the conservation and sustainable management of forests of the non-permanent forest domain and sustainable production of cocoa in non-forest areas** (degraded forest and anthropogenic savannah);

**3.4 Secure a living income to cocoa farmers** by strengthening producers' entrepreneurship, and enhancing cocoa productivity over time to produce "more cocoa on less land";

**3.5 Implement full traceability from farm gate - warehouse - port of export** through enhancement of the supply chain mapping and of the identification of cocoa farmers and the geo-referencing of their farm;

**3.6 Respect the rights of cocoa farmers and communities in production areas**, in particular through application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and identification and mitigation or possible social risks to minimize potential adverse social and economic impacts;

**3.7 Implement agreed actions in the context of a broader landscape-level approach, starting with a pilot phase to test their feasibility**, linking it to similar initiatives in other commodities such as oil palm, timber, rubber, just to name few, and through full alignment with the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the National REDD+ Strategy, the National Planning and Sustainable Development Policy of Cameroon, the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) and other relevant national strategies and plans;

**3.8 Embrace shared responsibility to implement actions defined in the Framework for Action, as well as mobilize the necessary financing resources and technical support required 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 to enable institutional capacity;

**3.9 Provide effective monitoring and reporting on progress** achieved on commitments and actions to ensure transparency and accountability.





## 4. KEY ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

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The actions to be taken are built around three pillars which are; the protection and restoration of forests, sustainable production and marketing of cocoa free of deforestation, and the community engagement and social inclusion.

### 4.1 ACTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF FORESTS

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The signatories recognise the critical importance of protecting Cameroon forests and of restoring forests that have been previously degraded, of protecting community rights with a focus on community tenure and of the promotion of land and forest governance.

The signatories will collaborate with the public sector, private sector, civil society and farmers' organisation to design and implement multi-stakeholder landscape approaches that can help prevent the expansion of cocoa production in the permanent forest domain. They will strengthen their collaboration with other sectors which activities put pressure on forests such as the timber, rubber or palm oil sectors, and will build on already existing processes such as the TFA Africa Palm Oil Initiative or the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process.

This will be done by working on the mobilization of more financial and technical resources for forest protection and restoration and for forest governance, as well as by enforcement of the related regulations, in particular through the REDD+ mechanism and by developing payment for environmental services (PES) schemes that can help promote high biodiverse agroforestry programs.

The signatories will collaborate to identify good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for conservation and restoration of forests and agroforestry programs in the context of a multi-stakeholder landscape approach.

#### The signatories will work together to:

- A.** Prohibit and prevent the conversion of the permanent forest domain for cocoa production as from the date of signature of this Framework for Action and work to restore forests in the permanent forest estate that have been degraded by cocoa farming.
- B.** Prohibit and prevent the conversion of High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests for cocoa production as soon as the corresponding maps are available, by the 31st of December 2022.
- C.** Gradually end the production and marketing of cocoa from the permanent forest domain for a total elimination of supply from these forests by the end of 2025<sup>1</sup>.
- D.** Phase out the production and purchase of cocoa from HCV and HCS forests by end 2025<sup>2</sup>.
- E.** In the non-permanent forest domain, promote sustainable cocoa production that is more environmentally friendly and favours the maintenance of the forest cover in order to prevent further expansion of cocoa production at the expense of forests. These will include:
  - a. Encourage the rehabilitation, densification, intensification and diversification of existing cocoa farms outside of HCV and HCS forests, as well as the creation of cocoa farms in fallows;
  - b. Promote cocoa agroforestry systems as an alternative to cocoa monoculture (open sun cocoa production)

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1. This deadline takes into account the social impact of this commitment, and in particular the need to put in place accompanying measures for the farmers concerned.

2. This deadline takes into account the social impact of this commitment and in particular the need to put in place accompanying measures for the producers concerned, once the HCV and HCS areas have been identified



This will be supported by the following activities:

#### ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MAPPING AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

- A. The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) will update maps of the Cameroon Forest Atlas, and in particular the maps of forests of the permanent forest domain and HCV and HCS forests in the non-permanent forest domain. They will be supported by both public and private signatories and in particular by the REDD+ Technical Secretariat as well as the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC).
- B. MINFOF and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) will conduct an inventory of the presence of cocoa in the permanent forest domain. This will include a diagnosis of the age of cocoa farms to determine if they were existing before the creation of permanent forest domain.
- C. MINFOF will collaborate with MINEPDED and the REDD+ Technical Secretariat to set up a satellite-based monitoring system with deforestation alerts, coupled with on the ground protection measures, to prevent the creation of new cocoa farms in the permanent forest domain, and ensure that those being relocated will not remain productive.

#### ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF FOREST-RELATED LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- D. MINFOF, MINADER, as well as other relevant Ministries and Government agencies, will proceed to an analysis of the social impacts of implementing existing laws related to the presence of agricultural land in the permanent forest domain, and will establish a roadmap for the possible relocation of the concerned populations, ensuring the protection of their customary rights, the provision of alternative livelihoods and access to land, to guarantee jobs and social peace.
- E. In the case of permanent forest land converted almost entirely by long-standing agriculture, and where relocation of populations and restoration of forest cover is out of reach, MINFOF and the agencies concerned will consider a change in land status by giving priority to agroforestry in these areas.

#### ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT FARMERS AND THEIR ORGANISATIONS:

- F. The signatories will work together to support farmers and their communities, in particular women, through information, sensitisation, capacity building and advisory support tailored to their needs. In particular, they will carry out actions to raise awareness and help sensitize on the existing legislation, law enforcement and redress mechanisms (forest law, land law, land use planning, communal development plans, environmental services, study results and research, etc.).
- G. The signatories will work together to develop and implement incentives to encourage deforestation-free production of cocoa oil palm, timber, rubber amongst others, as well as the development of alternative models to sustainably secure community livelihoods.

#### IMPLEMENTATION IN THE FIELD:

- H. The signatories will work towards the long-term conservation and, if necessary, restoration of forests in the permanent forest domain;
- I. For this purpose, they will use a multi-stakeholder and cross-sectorial landscape approach, which will form the basis of the interventions. The process should, as a priority, build on existing land use planning tools, as well as those under development or adoption, such as:
  - The Local Sustainable Development Plans for the Territory (PLADDT)
  - The Municipality-level Development Plan
  - The Development Plan of the Technical Operational Unit or of the Protected Area
- J. The signatories will create synergies with other processes and programs such as REDD+, AFR 100, or the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC), building on approaches focusing on carbon stocks and other environmental services generated by cocoa-based agroforestry systems.

## 4.2 ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DEFORESTATION-FREE COCOA

The signatories recognize that sustainable agricultural intensification in appropriate production areas and an increase in revenue for farmers are essential prerequisites for reducing agricultural expansion in forests and enhancing the resilience of cocoa production to climate change.

The signatories will work together, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Commerce, to:

- A.** Ensure the traceability of 100% of the cocoa supply from farm gate - warehouse - port of exit by the end of 2025, with gradual implementation from the date of signature of this Framework for Action. The Ministry of Commerce will work in close collaboration with the private sector and producer organizations to develop a traceability action plan, with clear deadlines, to be implemented step by step to ensure full traceability and verification.
- B.** Develop, promote and implement guidelines for a deforestation-free and sustainable cocoa in Cameroon, whose objective is to increase the quality and sustainability of cocoa in Cameroon, while providing the market, with the guarantee of a cocoa that is free from deforestation and adapted to climate change.
- C.** Jointly work toward securing a living income for cocoa farmers by strengthening cocoa farmers' entrepreneurship, enhancing cocoa productivity and diversifying their sources of income.
- D.** Promote alternative and sustainable sources of income for farmers among others, through the promotion of agroforestry programs, PES schemes, community forest management, etc.
- E.** Enhance long-term productivity of cocoa in order to produce "more cocoa on less land" through the development and intensification of good agricultural practices, the rehabilitation of ageing cocoa farms, the provision of improved seeds and plants, soil fertility and crop protection.
- F.** Promote financial inclusion and innovation in order to improve producers' access to investment facilities and technologies necessary for the production and innovation of cocoa farms.







**This will be supported by the following activities:**

**A.** The signatories will work together in close collaboration with producers and their communities to put in place a rigorous traceability system throughout the cocoa supply chain. This will include:

- Mapping, identification of cocoa producers and geo-referencing of all cocoa farms in the production basins;
- the development and implementation of a rigorous control and monitoring system to ensure compliance with the classification of cocoa by grade and origin.

**B.** The development of Guidelines for a deforestation-free and sustainable cocoa will be conducted through a multi-stakeholder process led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Commerce that will bring together the public sector, private sector, research institutions, farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, amongst others. It will build on similar initiatives developed at international level (such as ISO 34101 on sustainable and traceable cocoa, African Norm-ARS 1000, Ghana Climate Smart Cocoa Standard) and at the national level.

These Guidelines will include:

- Identification of criteria for defining conventional cocoa;
- Creation of a deforestation-free and sustainable cocoa sector with a positive social and environmental impact;
- Creation of a fine or flavour cocoa sector in Cameroon;

In particular, the initiatives related to productivity and improving farmers' source of income will require the implementation of the following activities, under the supervision of the MINADER and the Ministry of Commerce:

- C.** Develop and promote a diversified manual offering a multitude of crop associations with cocoa, which reflects the habits and needs of local populations;
- D.** Strengthen actions of research institutions aimed at developing and disseminating techniques for enhancing productivity, in particular agroecological techniques, in existing farms as well as the production and dissemination of improved varieties of cocoa and shade trees with multiple economic, cultural and social benefits;
- E.** Support and strengthen the organisations of farmers (Cooperatives and other forms of farmers' association) and strengthen their entrepreneurial and managerial skills. In particular, support the development of women's and youths' activities and income through technical capacity building, organisational, managerial, financial skills and facilitating their access to the market;
- F.** Develop and implement theoretical and practical training modules on good agricultural practices, including on cocoa pruning, input use, soil fertilisation techniques, disease and pest control, sustainable water management, as well as on climate change impacts related to deforestation;
- G.** Promote producers' access to banking services such as bank accounts or mobile payment services.

### 4.3 ACTIONS FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The signatories recognise that effective engagement and empowerment of communities living in cocoa production basins and civil society organisations in the Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa are essential to fight against deforestation and forests degradation in Cameroon.

The signatories will work together to:

- A.** Ensure the full and effective participation of civil society organisations and organisations representing farmers and communities in the governance defined to implement this Framework for Action, with an emphasis on women and youth participation and representation.
- B.** Ensure comprehensive and effective information sharing, consultation and informed participation of farmers, farmer organizations and their communities in programs developed to implement the commitments identified in this Framework.
- C.** Ensure the participation of indigenous and forest communities and producers in awareness campaigns on the state of forests and the vital role forests play in climate regulation, soil fertility and water cycle. Particular attention will be given to the participation of women and youth;
- D.** Develop an action plan to mitigate the social impacts of law enforcement, including an accompanying plan for the possible relocation of the communities concerned, ensuring the protection of their customary rights, the provision of economic alternatives and access to land, in order to guarantee jobs and social peace (as mentioned earlier in section 4.1).







**This will be supported by the following activities:**

- A.** Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) should be used during decision making on land use and land rights;
- B.** Disseminate good practices of community management models in the protection, restoration of forests and related conflict management:
  - Conduct a study to identify and document community models for forest management, forest protection and restoration of and conflict resolution;
  - Develop by the end of 2021, a manual or technical guidelines different from of the approach related to the Free Prior and Informed Consent approach, which are inclusive and adapted to the local context;
  - Implement community management plans designed based on these principles.
- C.** Develop sensitisation actions including but not limited to the following:
  - Raise community awareness on the Forest Code;
  - Develop sensitization tools adapted to communities;
  - Organise sensitization campaigns involving communities and farmers as sensitizers with respect to the FPIC guidelines;
  - Develop a conflict management mechanism.
- D.** Promote access to land titles or other type of land tenure, to help strengthen programs implementation;
- E.** Systematically take into account gender and youth in all the Framework implementation plans;
- F.** Promote and encourage partnership between farmers from the cocoa agroforestry systems and actors in other agroforestry systems;
- G.** Within the context of the Roadmap to mitigate social impacts, set-up a framework for multi-stakeholder consultation at the local level with the following objectives:
  - Assess the potential risks of the initiative to local and forest communities;
  - Develop a risk management framework to mitigate these risks;
  - Monitor and evaluate compliance with equity in the implementation of commitments made;
  - Throughout the process, ensure community participation and social inclusion and access to information by all stakeholders at all stages.
- H.** Civil Society Organisations put in place a monitoring, evaluation and multi-stakeholder consultation framework at local level with the objective to:
  - Ensure the implementation of the various commitment made;
  - Facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of activities being implemented.



## 5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

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Monitoring and evaluation of progress on the above activities at the national and landscape levels is paramount to ensure accountability and transparency, promote learning and identify mid-term corrective measures

A transparent and credible multi-stakeholder process will be developed jointly to measure and monitor progress made through the actions of this Framework for Action, as soon as it is signed.



### This will include:

- The development of a transparent satellite monitoring system, including a deforestation alert system, led by MINFOF, with support from the National Institute of Cartography, the World Resources Institute MINEPDED and the REDD+ Technical Secretariat, amongst others, which results will be independently validated by field verification by end 2021 at the latest. The data will be made available to the public so that all stakeholders can measure and track progress on general goals related to deforestation.
- The adoption of a series of generic and verifiable monitoring indicators on the contribution of the cocoa sector to the government's objectives of mitigating deforestation in Cameroon especially on land use, the environment and the socio-economic situation.
- An annual report on the progress and results relating to the implementation of their specific Framework actions will be made publicly available by the signatory companies and the Government.



## 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND GOVERNANCE

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### 7.1 IMPLEMENTATION

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This Joint Framework for Action will be implemented through a phased approach. A pilot phase will test the feasibility of the actions and the means to be mobilized before scaling up in all cocoa production regions. This pilot phase will be based on the Green Commodity Landscape Program, as well as on any other relevant multi-stakeholder landscape programs.

Thereafter, the Government and signatory stakeholders will commit to implement the various actions recognized as positive and as having a high impact on the development of the sector, in a context of a broader landscape approach covering all agricultural sectors and taking into account other drivers of deforestation, in line with the National REDD+ Strategy and other relevant national strategies and plans.

Knowledge sharing will be promoted throughout the implementation of the Framework for Action.

### 7.2 GOVERNANCE

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As soon as the Framework for Action is signed, a governance including working groups will be established for the implementation of the Framework for Action. It will be responsible for accompanying the signatories in the implementation of the commitments and activities within the deadlines defined in this Framework for Action.



## 7. FINANCING OF ACTIONS

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### It is understood that:

- The financing of the accompanying measures and activities to be implemented under this Joint Framework for Action must not be detrimental to the income of cocoa farmers, who must be the primary beneficiaries of programmes aimed at ensuring that cocoa is deforestation-free;
- Signatories will collaborate to mobilize the necessary financing resources and technical support required for the Roadmap implementation through, amongst others, fundraising activities;
- IDH, a foundation under Dutch law, will act as a facilitator during the process of developing and implementing the Roadmap to Deforestation-free Cocoa and related Green Commodity Landscape Program pilot in Cameroon, and in particular the mobilization of donors and the private sector to raise the necessary funds and expertise.

