



**Cocoa &
Forests
Initiative**

A low-angle photograph of a tall tree trunk reaching towards a cloudy sky. The tree trunk is light-colored and textured, with a thick, gnarled base. The canopy is dense with green leaves. In the foreground, there are various green plants and leaves, some with small brown spots. The sky is blue with white clouds.

COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

GHANA 2020



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CCSVD	Cocoa Swollen shoot Virus Disease
CFI	Cocoa & Forests Initiative
COP	Conference of Parties
COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
CMS	Cocoa Management System
CRIG	Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana
CRP	Cocoa Rehabilitation Program
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CSC	Climate Smart Cocoa
CSDS	Cocoa Sector Development Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ERP	Economic Recovery Program
FC	Forestry Commission
FDMP	Forestry Development Master Plan
FGRM	Framework for Governance Redress Mechanism
GAP	Good Agriculture Practice
GCFRP	Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme
GFIP	Ghana Forest Investment Programme
GRS	Ghana REDD+ Strategy
ha	hectare
HCS	High Carbon Stock
HCV	High Carbon Value
HIA	Hotspot Intervention Area
IDH	Sustainable Trade Initiative
JFA	Joint Framework for Action
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KCA	Kakum Conservation Area
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
MTS	Modified Tuangya System
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NYD	New York Declaration on forests
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
PA	Protected Areas
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stock)
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ToT	Trainer of Trainers
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
WCF	World Cocoa Foundation



Executive Summary



The Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) began implementation in 2017, after the Signatories of the [Joint Framework for Action](#) committed to end deforestation and forest degradation in the cocoa supply chain through no further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production. The purpose of CFI is to provide the enabling environment for cocoa players to positively contribute to the preservation of forests in Ghana. The main objective of CFI, as outlined in the Joint Framework for Action, is for the private sector to partner with the government of Ghana and align with national strategies and objectives for reducing deforestation in the cocoa sector.

The 2020 progress report has been developed to present cumulative achievements by signatories of the Joint Framework for Action. The report is based on field evidence through data collection using the CFI Results Framework, interviews with the project implementing partners and interactions with project beneficiaries. The report focuses on the functioning and effectiveness of the multi-sectorial governance structure and progress under the three main pillars of CFI namely (1). forest protection and restoration (2). sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods and (3). community engagement and social inclusion.

The CFI multi-sectorial governance structure over the last few years has proven to be a useful tool for cocoa and forests related dialogue by providing a platform for multi-stakeholder engagements. Stakeholders during a stocktaking workshop in 2020 described CFI as indeed a public private concerted effort to halt deforestation in the cocoa supply chain and also rated the involvement of all key stakeholders in the initiative as high as a result of the well-structured and functioning governance system. Engagements at all levels of the governance

structure have been all-inclusive and participatory, which resulted in fruitful, transparent and significant discussions on issues such as cocoa traceability, recategorization of forest reserves, social and environmental safeguards, updated boundary maps and national forest monitoring system.

The implementation of the first pillar of CFI (Forest Protection and Restoration) actions and activities have been relevant to conserve, restore and rehabilitate Ghana's 21 wildlife protected areas and also halt further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production. The public sector has contributed to the first pillar by strengthening forest law enforcement and governance. Key achievements by the public sector includes (1). restoration of 225,833.9 ha of forest area within cocoa landscape, (2). training of 44,200 farmers in MTS, (3). 5 updated management plans for forest reserves and (4). the development of national satellite monitoring framework. Cocoa and chocolate companies have also invested in activities to contribute to forest protection and restoration in Ghana. Since the inception of CFI, they have distributed a total of 5 million forest trees. This includes 3.2 million forest trees handed out in 2020, with almost 263,000 to restore forested area. When farmers own the forest trees on their farms, they are in a better position to protect them. This is why companies have been supporting farmers to gain ownership of almost 50,000 non-cocoa trees this year. Sensitization is progressing with more than 256,000 farmers trained in climate smart cocoa practices and 185,000 farmers informed on forest policy. Finally, chocolate consumers want to understand better where their cocoa comes from, so companies have invested heavily in traceability, mapping almost 250,000 farms in 2020 and achieving 82% traceability.



Implementation progress towards pillar 2 (Sustainable Cocoa Production and Farmer Livelihood) has also been significant to ensure more cocoa on less land and better income for farmers to reduce cocoa driven encroachment into forest reserves and ensure biodiversity conservation. Actions by both the public and the private sector are collectively addressing the needs of farmers with better information, access to know how, and good agroforestry practices. Public sector achievements include (1). 10,945.3 ha of cocoa farms rehabilitated (2). 8,879 farmers benefited from cocoa rehabilitation (3). 7,800,000 hybrid cocoa seedlings supplied to beneficiary farmers (4). 5,427,947 plantain suckers supplied to provide temporary shades for young cocoa farm and (5). 192,252 farmers benefited from hand pollination. To boost farmer income and promote more cocoa on less land, cocoa and chocolate companies have distributed more than 6 million improved cocoa plants in 2020. Agroforestry is developing, with more than 86,000 hectares created, the distribution of almost 3 million forest trees for farms, and 67,000 farmers supported for agroforestry. Training in good agricultural practices was provided to almost 300,000 farmers and more than 255,000 are now familiar with climate smart cocoa. Communities need access to financial products to develop their livelihoods: cocoa and chocolate companies provided this to almost 200,000 farmers in 2020. A further 62,000

individuals, mostly women, were involved in more than 2,500 Village Loans and Savings Association (VLSA) supported by companies in 2020.

Progress under the last pillar (Community Engagement and Social Inclusion) have been significant. Some of the achievements by the public sector include (1). 6 high level landscape forums held at all the six hotspot intervention areas (2). training of 40,826 farmers in additional livelihood interventions (3). 10 CREMAs supported with social or technical services (4). 60,199 women and youth trained in various skills including GAPs. Cocoa and chocolate companies focused on women and youth. In 2020, almost 53,500 community members participated in women's empowerment activities and almost 3,500 in youth focused projects. Companies also want to encourage communities to take ownership of natural resource protection. This was done in 2020 through formal programs in 920 communities.

Overall, both the public sector and the private sector have contributed significantly towards halting further conversion of forest areas for cocoa production. The first phase of the Initiative has ended and the second phase of the Initiative (2021-2025) has been approved by the signatories of the Joint Framework for Action. Both the public sector and the private sector will build on the efforts put in place in the first phase to achieve commitments.



Forest Protection & Restoration

226,000 ha 

of degraded forest area restored with cocoa landscape

44,200 

farmers trained in Modern Tuagyan System (MTS)

200 

frontline staff and lead farmers trained in forest law enforcement

- **4 Management** plans for forest and wildlife Reserves updated
- **National Forest Monitoring System Framework** developed
- **3 Hotspots** adopted multi-stakeholder landscape approach as basis for interventions implementation
- **2,019** land use and land cover maps developed by FC in collaboration with KNUST and Ecometrica under the Forest 2020 project and the next step is to make it public



Sustainable cocoa production and Farmer's livelihoods

192,000 

farmers benefitted from hand pollination

229,000 

farmers trained in GAPs

7.8 million 

hybrid cocoa seedlings supplied to beneficiary farmers

8,870 

cocoa farmers benefitted from rehabilitation with additional compensation to enhance farmers livelihoods

5.4 million 

plantain suckers supplied to provide temporary shades for young cocoa farm establishment

4.4 million 

multi-purpose trees distributed to coca farmers

11,000 ha 

of cocoa farms rehabilitated

- New Climate Smart Cocoa standard developed and expected to be validated by Q2 of 2021
- Average yield of cocoa increased from 450 kg/ha to 500 kg/ha



Community & Social Inclusion

60,000 

women and youth trained in various skills including GAP

40,000 

trained in additional livelihoods interventions

- **4 High-level** Landscape Forums held and attended by 500 key stakeholders at four CFI Priority Areas
- **10 CREMA's** supported with social, economic and technical services
- **Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)** developed
- **Grievance Redress Mechanism Framework** for affected cocoa farmers and their communities developed
- **FGRM** disseminated in 3 HIA

3.2 million 

forest trees distributed overall in 2020

5 million 

total forest trees distributed since 2018

262,000 

trees distributed for forest restoration

2,300 

farmers supported with land tenure agreements/documentation

49,000 

trees registered

159,000 

trees registered since 2018

82%

of cocoa in direct supply chain traceable with 251,000 farms mapped in 2020

256,000 

farmers trained in climate smart cocoa

2.9 million 

multi-purpose trees distributed to farmers and 86,602 hectares of cocoa agroforestry established

4.8 million 

multi-purpose trees distributed and 107,396 hectares of cocoa agroforestry established since 2018

67,000 

farmers supported to establish cocoa agroforestry

6.2 million 

improved cocoa seedlings distributed to rehabilitate aged and diseased farms

- **21 million** seedlings distributed since 2018
- **292,000** cocoa farmers trained in GAPs
- **256,000** farmers trained in climate smart cocoa
- **192,000** farmers with financial products
- **2,500** VSLA groups consisting of 61,000 members

920 

communities with active forest restoration and protection programs under CBNRM

53,500 & 3,400 

individuals participated in women and youth focused projects respectively in Ghana

MINISTRY OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES



Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor
Minister for Lands and Natural Resources

Let me first commend my predecessors for the bold steps to commit to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, which has been described by many as a unique multi-stakeholder approach which provides the platform for the government, the private sector and the civil society groups to discuss issues relating to sustainable cocoa production, forest protection and restoration.

I also wish to appreciate the effort from our partners to see out the implementation of the first phase of the initiative from 2017 to 2020. Just like any other journey, we did not expect a smooth sail. Over the few years of implementation, we have recorded some significant achievements and some challenges.

With a fully functional Secretariat under the Ministry, lessons learnt during the implementation of the first phase of the initiative have been well documented and will guide the implementation of the second phase of the initiative from 2021 to 2025.

The 2020 annual progress report presents highlights of cumulative achievements from signatories of the Joint Framework for Action and it reflects progress by CFI to halt further deforestation and forest degradation in the cocoa supply chain.

The government of Ghana will remain fully committed to the CFI processes and the Ministry will continue to support the CFI Secretariat to provide the needed leadership to coordinate the initiative through the second phase of implementation.

Looking forward to a fruitful partnership and collaboration with all partners.

WORLD COCOA FOUNDATION



Richard Scobey
President - World Cocoa Foundation

Dear friends of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative,

We have learned so much this year from the challenges and difficulties affecting people around the world. It reminds us that we are all linked, across borders, from cocoa farmers to chocolate consumers, and that our collective destiny is based on the well-being of all.

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative was conceived from the outset as a partnership, where everyone acts to achieve joint goals. This difficult year has strengthened our collective resolve. The report that you hold in your hands testifies to the quality of our collaboration. We particularly welcome the partnership of the Ghanaian government, under the leadership of Minister of Lands and Natural Resources Samuel A. Jinapor.

This year has also confirmed to us the urgency of stepping up the fight against deforestation and climate change. Global Forest Watch announced in 2020 a decrease in deforestation in West Africa. We have taken note of this good news, which seems to indicate that our work is going in the right direction, and we remain fully committed to achieving our goal: protect and restore forests and ensure environmentally sustainable cocoa farming.

At the start of the pandemic, cocoa and chocolate companies worked on the health emergency with financial donations, and by using their cocoa supply chains to promote the messages and preventative actions of the government. Then they quickly adapted to the new situation and continued the crucial work of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

Despite the challenges of the crisis, companies have made rapid progress in achieving 100% traceability of their direct cocoa supply. And to extend this transparency to the entire supply chain, we are working with the Ghanaian government on a unified traceability system.

Another success of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative: agroforestry has become a clear priority for all. It is now necessary to accelerate our efforts to cover more territory and amplify the distribution of multipurpose trees.

Finally, our commitment to grow more cocoa on less land is coming closer to reality, with progress in training farmers. In addition, we are helping them gain access to financial services and helping them grow other crops to gain more sources of income.

Our strategy is clear for the 2021/2022 period ahead. Landscape approach projects are being set up with collaborations between the private sector, local and traditional governments, communities, and NGOs, to rebalance land use in certain regions. We will also focus our efforts on restoring more degraded land and promoting agroforestry.

Finally, we would like to see a robust national system of satellite imagery and deforestation alerts implemented to better monitor our progress.

IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative



Jonas Mva Mva
Cocoa Program Director - IDH

The bold steps which were taken from 2017, culminated into a Joint Framework of Action in 2018 and translated into implementation plans with specific commitments, actions and activities for both public-private and support from CSOs, have demonstrated that a multi-stakeholder approach is the surest way to achieve impact at scale.

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative, an active commitment made between the leading producing countries (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) and chocolate and cocoa companies to stop further conversion of any forest land, and zero production and sourcing of cocoa from protected areas, has now come under review for accountability to enhance the transparency of informing the public of what the Initiative set out to do and what has been achieved.

The CFI 2020 Annual Report is a cumulative joint achievement by the implementing partners at the

end of the first phase of the Initiative (2018-2020). As a neutral convener and facilitator of CFI, our approach should be to forge more inter-sectoral collaboration within the relevant public institutions and leverage on-going and upcoming initiatives, including European sustainability platforms.

The ownership of CFI by the Governments of Ghana is admirable and we look forward to the CFI secretariat being integrated into the main stream of the MLNR to develop innovative strategy, explore collaboration with additional donors, development partners and private sector partners and CSOs/ NGOs to mobilize additional source of funds as the 2nd phase of the CFI (2021-2025) has been approved by the signatories. IDH will continue to play its critical role of challenging the signatories for more accountability towards achieving the various commitments of the initiative.

PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTS



Victoria Wiafe
Regional Director - Partnership for Forests (West & Central Africa)

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is an excellent example of how public-private-people partnership can drive nature-based transformations in the production and trade of a forest-risk commodity, with high social, economic, and environmental impact. We see continued commitment and sustained momentum from cocoa companies, civil society and the Governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, in pursuit of a deforestation-free cocoa sector, five years after signing the Cocoa & Forests Initiative joint declaration.

It has been a remarkable journey with good progress. Notable results are the tree tenure policy reforms underway, the development of the national cocoa management traceability system in Ghana, the multi-stakeholder-validated Monitoring and Evaluation framework for assessing CFI progress and the provision of industry toolkits and guidance documents on landscape approaches and agroforestry.

I applaud the CFI partners for sustained facilitation of CFI implementation despite COVID-19, adapting to the 'new normal' of engaging stakeholders to drive actions, and the early movements by industry players towards greater pre-competitive collaborations in priority forest hotspot areas in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, which is critical to addressing the common menace of deforestation, unsustainable production, and impoverished farmers, in the cocoa sector. Against this backdrop, Partnership for Forests (P4F) has, over the past five years, provided grant support to facilitate the CFI in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, and to some CFI members to implement practical actions in partnership with communities and farmers, to deliver on CFI commitments.

But we are not there yet. We need to do more to accelerate partnerships, collaboration, and financing to protect and restore forests and increase community inclusion as the new normal. We are excited to be part of this progress and look forward to greater impact, to achieve transformation at scale.



The Cocoa & Forests Initiative: Collective Action to End Cocoa- Related Deforestation

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

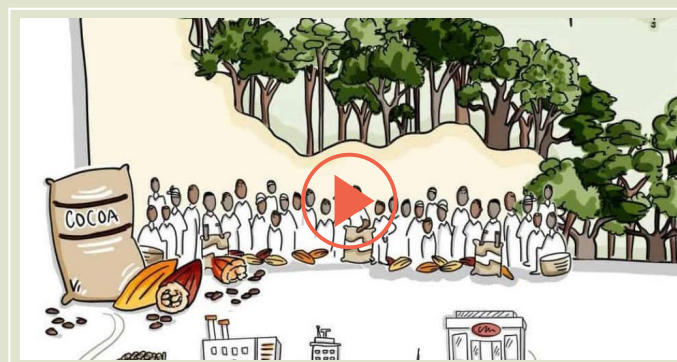
CFI is a public private partnership driven by the [World Cocoa Foundation](#) (WCF); IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative; and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. This initiative is based on frameworks for action ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) and action plans for the private sector ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) and public sector ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) that spell out commitments to:

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

CFI has been supported by several global development partners, including the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Commodities Program of the United Nations Development Program, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the United States Agency for International Development, and the World Bank. CFI is coordinated closely with a wide range of global and local environmental organizations and partnerships, including the Amsterdam Declaration Partnership, Beyond Chocolate, the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, Partnerships for Forests, Proforest, Rainforest Alliance, Tropical Forest Alliance, World Resources Institute, and the World Wildlife Fund.

Signatory companies

Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company (1), Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Cémoi (1), Chocolats Halba (2), Cococo Chocolatiers, ECOM Group (2), The Export Trading Group, Ferrero, GCB Cocoa (1), General Mills Inc., Godiva Chocolatier Inc., Guittard Chocolate Company, The Hershey Company, Indecres (2), JB Foods (1), Kuapa Kokoo (2), Lindt & Sprüngli Group, Marks & Spencer Food, Mars Wrigley, Meiji Co. Ltd.(2), Mondelēz, Nestlé, Olam Cocoa, Puratos (1), Sainsbury's, SIAT (1), Sucden, Tesco, Toms Group (2), Touton, Unilever (1), UPL, Valrhona, J.H. Whittaker & Sons (2) (1) Côte d'Ivoire only (2) Ghana only.



Watch a video on the Challenge of Chocolate and Forests

Governance and Monitoring & Evaluation



GOVERNANCE



Musah Abu-Juam

*Technical Director - Forestry
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources*

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative over the last two years has proven to be a useful tool by providing a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement and discussions. A fully functional Governance Structure offers all stakeholders equal opportunity to dialogue, criticize, and recommend on issues of interest to CFI implementation and other issues on sustainable cocoa production, deforestation, forest degradation, forest restoration and protection.

One of the transformational policy reforms undertaken by the Ministry is the Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Scheme. This policy provides motivation for cocoa farmers to increase timber tree stocks within the cocoa landscapes. Farmers are supported to plant at least 18 trees per hectare on cocoa farm as recommended by Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG).

Many key stakeholders including the private, public and civil society organization groups have lauded CFI multi-sectorial governance structure and its functionality. During a stocktaking workshop which was one of the dialogue events held in 2020, stakeholders described CFI as indeed, a public-private concerted effort to halt deforestation caused by cocoa and rated the involvement of the public-private-CSOs involvement in the CFI process as very high. This is attributed to a well-structured and functioning governance system which has ensured an all-inclusive and participatory collaboration between the signatories of the Joint Framework for Action, and other stakeholders with regards to information sharing.

The Oversight Committee met and approved the CFI Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which was critical and useful by capturing data needed for this progress report. The committee also provided the platform to discuss the way forward for key issues such as cocoa traceability, recategorization of forest reserves, updated boundary maps, social and environmental safeguards and national satellite monitoring system which will be the focus for the second phase of CFI (2021-2025).

The Steering Committee, also met on four occasions in 2020. It is noteworthy to say that discussions at the Committee level have always been fruitful, transparent and significant to the progress of the CFI process. One innovative strategy by the committee to ensure the participation and involvement of stakeholders was to welcome discussions on issues not directly linked to the CFI implementation but of interest to support government efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

The technical working groups and the various taskforces have contributed significantly to the CFI process. Regardless of the hard times imposed by COVID 19, the taskforces devised ways to work by using virtual platforms for engagements and meetings. Thanks to the technical expertise of the taskforces, the M&E Framework was finalized and has been approved, significant progress on the social and environmental safeguards document was made, great discussion and inputs into cocoa traceability and agroforestry guidelines. The Coordinating Team as usual supported all the structures to play their role. The National Secretariat is fully functional and held weekly meetings throughout the year.

With these positives, there have also been some challenges. Going into the second phase of CFI (2021-2025), the Ministry will support the National Secretariat to look for opportunities to address the challenges that were faced in the first phase of implementation.

As readers of this report, let me first thank you and also assure everyone that CFI will continue to provide the platform for signatories of the Joint Statement for Action to dialogue with all key stakeholders to ensure a deforestation free cocoa supply chain. The Ministry is also grateful to the World Bank for supporting the Tree Tenure and Benefit sharing policy initiative.

MONITORING & EVALUATION



Roselyn Fosuah Adjei

*Director - Climate Change
Unit/REDD+ Secretariat*

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative performance measurement and monitoring fit perfectly with the implementation of the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ (GCFRP) mechanism, making it a useful and viable vehicle of alignment to promote transparency, accountability and learning to synergize on the national agenda on monitoring progress for both CFI and GCFRP.

In line with the above, The National REDD+ Secretariat led the coordination of the development of the CFI Results Framework, data collection and CFI progress report for the first phase of CFI (2018-2020). This was done in close collaboration with the CFI Secretariat and the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) taskforce.

The process involved a Trainer of Trainer (ToT) Workshop that provided a platform for field level project implementors to review the draft M&E framework outlining the key performance indicators (impact, outcome and output) that have been identified to monitor the overall progress of each of the three thematic areas and to agree on a reporting template for data collection.

Subsequently, a well-coordinated landscape level supervision activity in all the six priority areas of CFI was undertaken by the NRS team and the data received from public, private and other stakeholders were collated, analyzed and populated to show progress. The first draft report was reviewed by a core team from the REDD+ Secretariat, M&E Taskforce and the CFI Secretariat including representatives from World Cocoa Foundation and IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative.

The 2019 M&E final report showed a significant achievement in each of the three thematic areas. It demonstrated that a stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration at the landscape level is an important building block to avoid duplication of efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and more importantly to achieve impact at scale. The key highlights of the achievements across the thematic areas include but are not limited

to the development of the 2019 land use/landcover maps, the restoration of about 225,833.9 hectares of forest area within cocoa landscapes, the steady progression of the National Forestry Monitoring System framework and process, the increase of the average yield of cocoa per hectare from 450kg/ha to 500kg/ha, the rehabilitation of about 10,945.36 hectares of cocoa farms with support of quality planting materials supplied to about 118,000 cocoa farmers as well as Framework for Grievances Redress Mechanisms (FGRM) for affected cocoa farmers and their communities developed by FC-Climate Change Unit. Full list of achievements are presented under each of the thematic areas.

The implementation of some key actions of the commitments was disrupted by the COVID19 global pandemic. Other challenges include some indicators which were not by default being collected by some institutions and the need to review some indicators to reflect institutional practices for measurable data acquisition whilst others need to be removed due to data unavailability.

We recommend that there should be provision of a sustainable landscape financing vehicle for key CFI commitments implementation to ensure that target dates are met.

On behalf of the REDD+ Secretariat, we are grateful to have supported the CFI Secretariat in this process and we look forward to such future collaboration and engagements.



Watch this video on the role of the M&E task force



Forest Protection and Restoration



The Cocoa & Forests Initiative emphasizes the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of Ghana's 21 wildlife protected areas with different forests landscapes networks and a focus on forest reserves, unprotected off-reserves forest lands, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and wildlife resource reserves in the six CFI priority landscapes. The signatories of the Joint Framework of Action (JFA) made five commitments and spelled out nine specific actions to halt conversion of any forest land for cocoa production and eliminate production and sourcing of cocoa from national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and wildlife resource reserves except for farms with existing legal status.

COMMITMENTS

C1: There will be no further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations and using methodologies such as High Carbon Stock and High Conservation Value Approach) for cocoa production.

C2: There will be zero production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms with existing legal status.

C3: A differentiated approach for Forest Reserves will be adopted by the government. It will be based on two categories and will specify the number of hectares, timelines, roles and responsibilities, budget and fund-mobilization strategy for each category.

C4: In highly degraded off-reserves forest lands (which are held under the customary land ownership sector) cocoa production and sourcing will continue, supported by substantial investment of best practices to climate-smart cocoa and MTS.

C5: In all these areas, a multi-stakeholder landscape approach will form the basis for the interventions, with an initial focus on the six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) as defined under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme. The process starts by establishing consortia of key stakeholders, followed by development and implementation of integrated landscape management plans with a strong focus on climate-smart cocoa initiatives.

Public Sector Achievements

- 2019 land use and land cover maps developed by RMSC in collaboration with Ecometrica and KNUST under the Forest 2020 project and to be made public.
- 225, 833.9 hectares of forest area restored within cocoa landscapes.
- 4 management plans for forest and wildlife reserves updated.
- 5 management plans for forest reserves updated.
- National Forest Monitoring System Framework developed.
- 1 integrated landscape developed and 2 are on-going.
- Significant progress on tree tenure reforms discussion.
- 44,200 farmers trained in MTS.
- 3 HIAs have adopted multi-stakeholder landscape approach.
- 200 lead farmers and local officials sensitized on forest law enforcement and governance.



Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement



Mr. John Allotey
CEO - Forestry Commission

Protected Areas (PAs) are relatively defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed through legal and other effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. Forest protected areas help conserve ecosystems that provide habitat, shelter, food, raw material, genetic materials, a barrier against disasters and many other ecosystem goods and services.

There are 21 wildlife species protected areas in Ghana totaling about 1,347,600 hectares which correspond to 5.6% of the total land area of Ghana. All the six priority areas of CFI have at least one distinct protected area with some consisting of National Park and Resource Reserves. Notably among them are the Bia Conservation Area and the Kakum Conservation Area (KCA). In the context of KCA, it comprises the Kakum National Park and the Assin Attandanso Resources Reserve which is one of the 16 protected areas established and managed by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission.

KCA covers an area of 360 km (36000 hectares) conservation area surrounded by 52 settlements and hamlets with a population of about 48,000. It serves as a watershed for major streams/rivers and provides a unique microclimate suitable for agriculture and, as a result, it is surrounded by a mosaic of farms such as oil palm, cocoa and rubber plantations. Being an ecotourism destination, KCA receives over 100,000 tourists annually making it the most visited protected area in Ghana.

In spite of its importance, the Kakum Conservation Area, like many other protected areas within the CFI Priority areas, faces a number of challenges and threats such as hunting of wildlife, including wholly protected species, illegal logging, farm encroachments and fringe land conversion for food and cash crops. Research conducted under the GCFRP indicates that deforestation is estimated at 3.2% per annum and considered to be one of the highest in the sub-region. It is against this background that the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Forestry Commission, under the JFA, outlined some of the key actions to address the challenges. This was expressed in the commitments made that, ***“In highly degraded off-reserves forest lands (which are held under the customary land ownership sector) cocoa production and sourcing will continue, supported by substantial investment of best practices to climate-smart cocoa and MTS.”***

The actions and activities include restoration of cocoa landscapes degraded by small-scale mining, review of management plans for category 1 and 2 Forest Reserves, strengthening of forest law enforcement and governance.



Watch this video on strengthening forest law



Private Sector Actions to Conserve Forests and Restore Degraded Lands

In alignment with national policies, companies are prioritizing investments in the six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) as defined under the GCFRP. Companies have continued to implement policies and carry out mapping exercises to ensure they are not sourcing cocoa from national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and wildlife resource reserves. As part of this, WCF and companies are engaging with COCOBOD and the National REDD+ Secretariat on national resettlement policies.

Companies are making investments to restore deforested and degraded land outside of cocoa farms. In 2020, companies distributed 262,853 trees to restore 241 hectares of forested area. Companies are also piloting an integrated High Carbon Stock (HCS)/High Carbon Value (HCV) assessment to better prioritize forest areas to be conserved as well as inform models for farmer-based incentives for forest conservation.

This work has been further strengthened by an agreement signed between WCF and the Ghana Forestry Commission in March 2021 to accelerate collaboration to protect and restore forests. The memorandum of understanding aims to build stronger alignment between the GCFRP and the Cocoa & Forests Initiative through greater coordination and the promotion of public-private partnerships and landscape approaches in the HIAs.

Payment for Environmental Services

CFI signatory companies are piloting innovative approaches to incentivize farmers to adopt new practices and behaviors in forest protection and restoration through Payment for Environmental Services (PES) agreements. For example, PES support farmers in the initial years of implementation of cocoa agroforestry. Last year, companies supported a total of 2,506 individuals to receive PES and a total of 3,794 individuals received PES since the inception of CFI.

Land and Tree Tenure

Cocoa farmers often face legal constraints to land and tree tenure that can become a barrier to tree replanting in cocoa plots. Land and tree tenure security is not just a productivity enabler – it is a catalyst for farmer prosperity, community empowerment and the protection and restoration of forests. In Ghana, companies are piloting activities in both land and tree registration, supporting 2,359 farmers with land tenure agreements / documentation and enabling farmers to register 49,274 trees. Since 2018, companies have supported farmers to register 159,359 trees.



“In Ghana, we’re particularly excited about the collaboration with UNDP utilizing in-kind incentives to promote forest regrowth. Communities are assigned areas of forest to plant new tree seedlings in, and are able to grow crops there while the forest area regrows. We’re seeing that the in-kind payments such as seedlings, tools and labor are helping farmers diversify, grow crops that support family nutrition, and ultimately increase the household income – as well as restoring forests.”

Jephthah Mensah

Agricultural and Environmental Manager, Cocoa Life Ghana, Mondelez International

“Ghana’s timber policy had produced outcomes that have never been aligned with the interests of customary landowners whose land management decisions had direct impact on forest cover and called for the tree tenure law and policy on both planted and naturally nurtured trees to be transferred to landowners/farmers”.

Barima Siaw-Panin III

Gyasehene of Twifo Tradtional Area.



“Fully Own My Trees, and Plant More of Them”

Portia Sani, Sefwi Elluokrom, Western Region, Ghana

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Portia Sani is a 32-year-old cocoa farmer from Sefwi Elluokrom in the Western North region of Ghana. She successfully manages her own cocoa farm as well as a family of six, including four children. Her farm is part of Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) activities and has seen significant yield improvements since Portia started implementing agroforestry, planting shade trees, and getting ownership documentation for her trees.

Portia said, “I heard about landscape management and the tree tenure initiative in 2018 and decided to get involved to learn how to better sustain my cocoa farm. Three years later, I realize that the shade trees have really helped my cocoa fruits grow well. The shade trees serve both as a sun and a wind break that protects the cocoa branches. Comparing with neighboring farms, which are not part of the program, I realize that they face many more difficulties during the dry season. Their cocoa trees end up in very bad shapes, and sometimes even die!”

Portia and her community of cocoa farmers were briefed about the positive impact of shade trees but also the added advantages of owning the trees (tree tenure). Tree tenure opens the door for easier access to financial

services, such as loans to buy good quality seedlings or inputs, to manage cocoa farms and ecosystems more sustainably. She receives support from CFI partners for the planting, maintenance of the trees, and tenure paperwork. She has also become an advocate for the program, mentoring other farmers who have lost cocoa trees due to last year’s drought.

“Going through the tree documentation process is not easy, but I am happy to pursue this initiative and hope to get the trees registered under my own name to prevent unlawful cutting of them. My husband is also very supportive with this process. I plan on continuing with this program: not only to fully own the trees, but also to plant more of them on my farm and teach this technique to my children and other farmers in the community,” she said.

In addition to the tree tenure program, Portia is also engaged in vegetable farming and soap production for the community to further diversify her income.

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Landscape Approaches

Numerous companies are implementing landscape activities across cocoa growing regions (e.g. Asunafo-Asutifi, Bia-Juaboso, Kakum and Sefwi-Bibiani), in partnership with the national REDD+ programs. Companies are collaborating with the National REDD+ Secretariat to align their activities in the GCFRP HIA. They are conducting landscape assessments to determine the needs and opportunities within the landscape, developing governance structures based upon the traditional Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs). CREMAs are protected areas with community-based governance. For this, companies are working with communities and partners to develop management plans to protect and restore forests, promote sustainable cocoa production, and improve farmers' livelihoods.

WCF is actively working with companies and other partners to identify opportunities for stronger collaboration and collective action in order to achieve greater scale and impact of their investments. In 2020, WCF started working with Proforest to convene eight companies to collaborate in the Asunafo-Asutifi HIA. Proforest completed a socio-economic and ecological landscape assessment and is leading efforts to develop participatory governance structures and a landscape management plan. All the partners are looking forward to scaling implementation of activities to end deforestation and restore forest areas in the region in 2021.

“

“We can only succeed in protecting and restoring forests with the help of local communities. Together with our partners, we are developing Participatory Landscape Management Plans (PLMPs) to help local communities take responsibility for landscape management and build capacity to address the challenges and threats they face as a result of climate change and forest degradation.”

Kennedy Ntoso

Cocoa Sustainability Head, Ghana, Olam Cocoa

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“To guarantee sustainability, we need collective action to ensure all cocoa is grown sustainably – not just the amount we use. That’s why landscape approaches are crucial, alongside offering the potential for holistic benefits such as addressing farmer income. At Cocoa Life, we’re working on a number of landscapes approaches and are pleased two have translated into Consortiums, including the Asunafo Region Consortium in Ghana, which is working with government on validating their landscape management plan.”

Cedric van Cutsem

Associate Director Cocoa Life, Operations, Mondelez International

“To address a complex issue like deforestation and achieve a sustainable transformation of the cocoa sector, new solutions and forms of collaboration and collective action are needed. We must start to look beyond our own supply chain and integrate our efforts into the wider landscape we are sourcing from. This is why Lindt & Sprüngli is engaging in programs adopting a landscape approach, which aims to bring all the stakeholders in the landscape together, build local governance systems and promote the conservation of forests around cocoa communities connected to our sourcing regions.”

Nicole Moret

Sustainability Manager, Lindt & Sprüngli





Sustainable Cocoa Production and Farmers Livelihoods

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative has a ‘More Cocoa on Less Land’ strategy, with sustainable cocoa production and increased cocoa productivity contributing to forest protection and enhanced livelihoods for farmers. Public, private and civil society partners of the CFI recognize that sustainable agriculture intensification in environmentally suitable areas and better incomes for farmers reduce pressure for cocoa driven encroachment into forest reserves, ensure biodiversity conservation and strengthen the resilience of cocoa farming against climate change. The phase one of CFI spelled out five key commitments and four actions on sustainable cocoa production and farmers’ livelihoods. During the reporting period under review both the public and private sector partners took specific actions to respond to the commitments.

Public Sector Achievements

- 192,252 farmers benefitted from hand pollination
- 1947 hybrid cocoa seedlings nursery site established
- 292,432 farmers trained in GAPs
- Average yield of cocoa increased from 450 kg/ha to 500 kg/ha
- 10,945.3 ha of cocoa farms rehabilitated
- 7,800,000 hybrid cocoa seedlings supplied to beneficiary farmers
- 8,870 cocoa farmers benefitted from rehabilitation with additional compensation to enhance farmers livelihood
- 5,427,947 plantain suckers supplied to provide temporary shades for young cocoa farm establishment
- 4,793,926 multi-purpose trees distributed
- New climate smart cocoa standard drafted (to be validated in 2021)
- 15 dialogue events with experts and stakeholders to enhance land and tree tenure registration

COMMITMENTS

- C1:** Promote investment in long-term productivity of high-quality cocoa in environmentally sustainable manner. Grow “more 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, 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.
- C2:** Develop implementation plans, including mapping of exact areas to intensify establishment of shade-grown cocoa landscapes in line with the GCFRP with the promotion of climate-smart cocoa standards in environmentally suitable areas, with an initial focus on HIAs.
- C3:** 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.
- C4:** Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers’ access to working capital and investment funds required for production and cocoa farm rehabilitation and restoration.
- C5:** Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchasing point. Government and private-sector companies will develop a joint action plan that maps out key principles, steps and milestones to achieve this commitment, encompassing all national and international traders. Government will adopt regulations that require verifiable traceability from farm to first purchasing point and ensure compliance by national and international traders thereafter. Signatory companies will put in place verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to first-purchase point, as well as operational policies and control system that effectively monitor the associate risks, including high-quality verification.

Cocoa Farms Rehabilitation and Diversification

It is estimated that 22% of cocoa tree stocks in Ghanaian cocoa farms are over 30 years old and about 17% of farms are cocoa swollen shoot virus disease (CCSVD) infected. This has resulted in dipping production particularly in the western frontiers which contributed about 38% of the productivity volumes.

The cocoa rehabilitation project (CRP) predates the economic recovery program (ERP) with support from the World Bank and the IMF in the 1980s. However, the focus and the intensity of the recently initiated CRP as part of CFI commitments has been ground-breaking in the history of the cocoa sector in Ghana. The goal of COCOBOD starting in 2017 and for the next ten years is to undertake the rehabilitation of old/moribund farms by removing 162 million trees covering 147,000 hectares by 2022 and additional 162 million trees covering 147,000 hectares by 2027. COCOBOD has a corresponding target of planting materials including hybrid cocoa seedlings, plantain suckers and economic trees to establish a cocoa agroforestry system to mitigate against climate change (COCOBOD 2018).

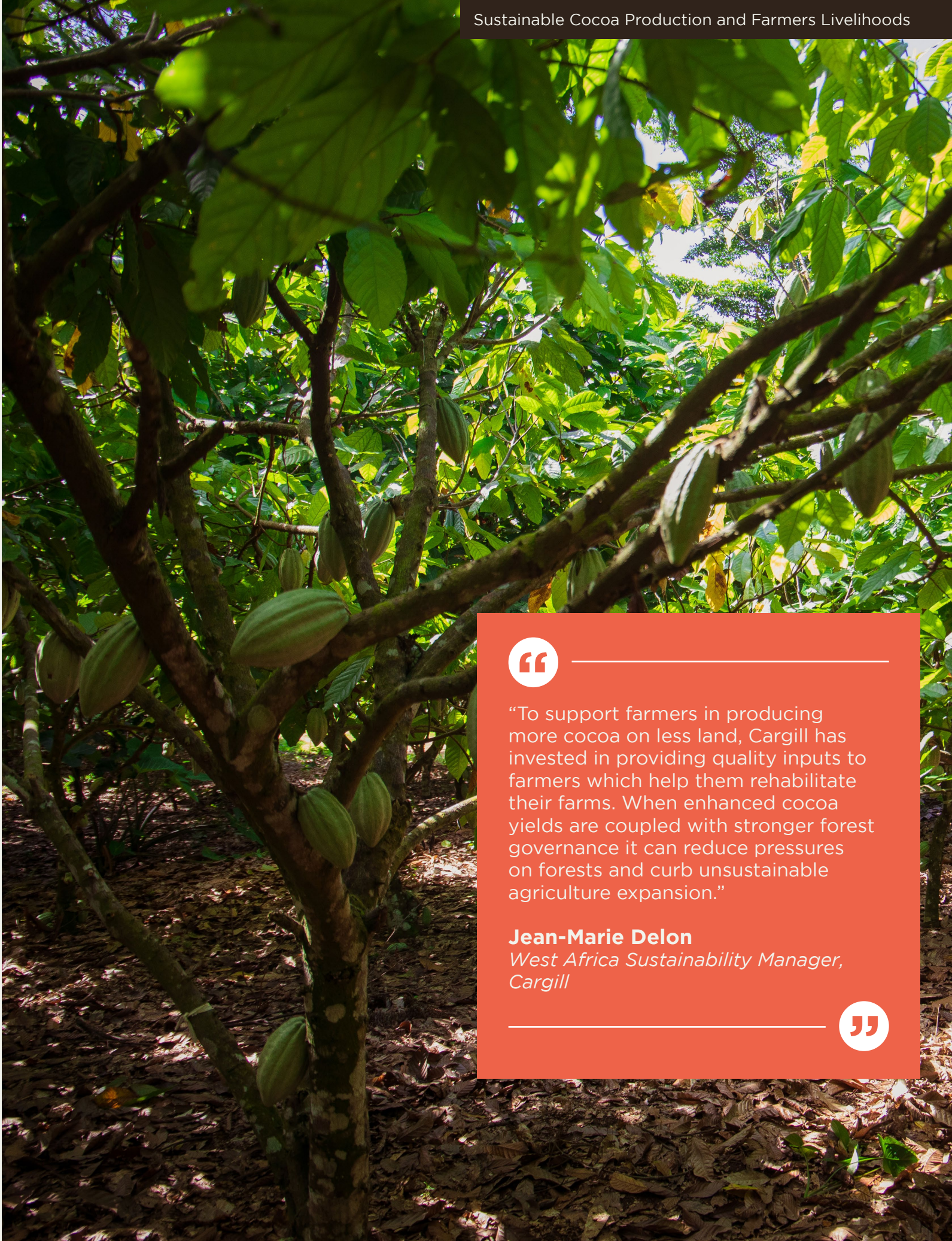
From 2018 till date, COCOBOD has rehabilitated about 11,000 hectares of cocoa farms for about 8,870 beneficiary farmers in the western north region. The process involved the removal of 120 million tree stocks, supply of 78 million hybrid cocoa seedlings and same number of plantain suckers with about 2.5 million economic permanent trees, creation of better jobs for youth through hand pollinators. According to 30-year-old Eric Asamoah from Nsowakrom, “indeed the project has provided us the opportunity to create business by supplying plantain suckers and other planting inputs beside my farm and I have used the income to open a community communication center to help my village”.



Watch this video on cocoa rehabilitation

Companies will continue to work with the government to accelerate sustainable cocoa production on environmentally suitable land, through improved planting materials and rehabilitation of diseased or aged farms, in line with the government’s longer-term cocoa sector development strategy.

In Ghana, companies have in 2020 distributed 6,196,652 improved cocoa seedlings to farmers to rehabilitate aged and diseased farms. Since 2018, they have distributed 21,110,811 seedlings.



“To support farmers in producing more cocoa on less land, Cargill has invested in providing quality inputs to farmers which help them rehabilitate their farms. When enhanced cocoa yields are coupled with stronger forest governance it can reduce pressures on forests and curb unsustainable agriculture expansion.”

Jean-Marie Delon
West Africa Sustainability Manager, Cargill



“Increasing Cocoa Yield with the Same Amount of Land is Possible”

Hamidu Isaka, Community Development Manager, Nyonkopa /Barry Callebaut-Kumasi, Ghana

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Hamidu Isaka, 35, has always had a passion for supporting farmer livelihoods in Ghana. “I first volunteered with an agribusiness growth initiative to support cocoa farmer livelihoods when I was in college.” Fast forward past his agricultural studies, MBA, and the wealth of knowledge he gained from working in various roles with NGOs and the private sector in the cocoa industry, to the present. For the past few years, Hamidu has worked as a Community Development Manager for a chocolate and cocoa company that is a member of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI).

Based in Kumasi, at the heart of Ghana’s cocoa region, Hamidu helps cocoa farmers acquire key skills and knowledge to improve their lives and communities by employing responsible labor practices, professionalizing their farms, increasing productivity, and increasing resilience against climate change.

Hamidu believes the mapping of farms is one of CFI’s most important activities. Mapping is critical to ending deforestation, as it indicates if a farm is located in a protected forest area or near a protected area. Farm mapping allows the company he works for to continue its steady progression towards a more transparent supply chain. Mapping also brings many benefits to the farmer.

“We often find that a farmer has no idea of the size of his farm, which may not seem like such a huge problem. But, for example, if a farmer thinks his plot is 10 hectares, when it is in fact only two hectares, consider the substantial cost savings he could make by buying fertilizer for only two hectares. In addition, it also prevents the farmer from applying too much fertilizer, which has a detrimental impact on yield. Mapping gives farmers a better understanding of their own operations.”

Mapping extends beyond measuring the size and geographical location of a cocoa farm. Household data is also collected, which allows for the development of tailored, individualized farmer plans. The plans offer services to farmers ranging from individual coaching,

agricultural inputs, and tools to planting materials and crop and livestock diversification. Providing farmers with the appropriate offering, based on their individual situation and farm profile, supports their journey out of poverty.



“When farmers see the end results of applying good agricultural practices, it enables them to look beyond this season’s crop, and to a more sustainable farming future. They see that increasing cocoa yield with the same amount of land is possible.”

Hamidu believes a key step in the success of engaging with farmers and farming communities is establishing trust.

“We’re working hard to show farmers that rehabilitating their existing farmlands and diversifying their income with other crops, for example, will not hurt their current income and, in fact, is very likely to increase it.”

“Achieving trust with farmers and communities involves frequent visits, being visible in the community, undertaking regular farmer training and being available to provide guidance and support when needed. Showing farmers real, tangible results also achieves buy-in. An example here is the work we do with underplanting, whereby we prune back the older cocoa trees, clear weeds, and plant young seedlings underneath. Farmers see that the older trees suddenly start producing more – and they ask me why this is happening. I explain that by pruning, clearing waste and underplanting, the older trees can become healthier, whilst the young ones are growing. This is the same situation when shade trees are planted. Shade-grown cocoa improves soil quality and can increase biodiversity on the cocoa farm.”

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“New Ways of Cultivating Cocoa”

Isaac Boafo & Comfort Owusuaa, Cocoa Farmers, Assin Bereku, Ghana



Comfort Owusuaa and Isaac Boafo are two cocoa farmers from Assin Bereku, in central Ghana. In this region, where cocoa production is the major source of income, the Cocoa & Forests Initiative supports farmers with actions to improve their livelihoods, while protecting their environment and local forests.

Comfort and Isaac benefitted from training by agronomists to cultivate vegetables with a double objective to improve nutrition in the community and generate extra income, especially during light crop seasons.

Comfort, 48, explains, “My husband passed away, which means that I own and manage my own cocoa farm to feed my 10 children. I was looking for new ways to provide for my family, when in December 2019, I decided to try the training program to grow vegetables on top of cocoa. The agronomists distributed vegetables seedlings to me and many other farmers in the community. I sat up a one-acre vegetable farm and applied the vegetable farming techniques that I learned. After only four months of cultivation, I was really happy when I sold my okro and tomatoes’ harvest: I made 2,000 Ghana Cedis (approx. 290 euros)!”

Isaac continues, “I started cocoa farming in my own plantation 10 years ago, and I work also as a cocoa purchasing clerk. I like to diversify my possibilities to take good care of my wife and child. This is why I joined the vegetable farming program in 2019. Selling the tomatoes that I cultivated myself on one acre of land got me 5,500 Ghana cedis this season (approx. 797 euros)!”

A total of 96 farmers, including 58 women, benefitted from diversifying crop production.

More revenues and nutritional benefits should come from the recent distribution of eggplant and pepper seedlings. New income generating opportunities are important as they lessen the need for cocoa farmers in the region to cut local forests for expanding cocoa plantations.

Improving the yield of existing cocoa trees is another key to preventing deforestation. This is achieved by teaching good agricultural and agroforestry practices, such as planting shade trees and nursing cocoa seedlings.

Comfort explains, “The shade trees that I planted are helping my cocoa grow better and stop them from dying. I look forward to reviving my cocoa plantation with new trees that I will get from the nursery we set up. I wanted to join the shade tree and cocoa nursery groups because I know this is important and I hope other farmers in the community and my children will understand it too.”

Isaac adds, “Since I planted the shade trees, I can definitely see the positive impact on the environment and the yield of my cocoa plantation. I receive great support from local sustainability staff who help me with running the day-to-day activities. I advocate for planting shade trees and renewing cocoa trees by taking part into the cocoa nursery initiative. This is all positive and there is nothing that will make me quit these new ways of cultivating cocoa in a climate smart way.”



Farmer Training and Climate-Smart Cocoa

Along with the distribution of seedlings for farm rehabilitation, cocoa and chocolate companies also provide farmers the skills and knowledge to professionalize cocoa farming and improve farm-level productivity and profitability. 292,432 cocoa farmers were trained in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) in 2020.

By improving traceability, companies have increased and improved outreach and engagement with farmers and cooperatives in Ghana. Some companies are shifting from group trainings into more tailored capacity building workshops based on farmer segmentation. They are using innovative solutions to provide packages of trainings and services to support good agricultural practices tailored to address farmers' specific needs. Companies are also developing innovative decision-making tools to support farm management plans and offer tailor-made services to farmers.

Companies are supporting farmers to be more climate resilient with training in climate-smart cocoa (CSC) best practices. CSC farming considers climate change adaptation, including a focus on intensification, shade trees, food security and diversification, resulting in more sustainable cocoa farming and more resilient and prosperous cocoa farmers. Companies are utilizing CSC training materials such as those developed through WCF's Feed the Future Partnership for Climate Smart Cocoa Program. In 2020, companies trained 256,576 farmers in CSC best practices.

Companies are promoting CSC, including shade-grown cocoa and agroforestry systems, off-reserve and in forest reserves through the Modified Taungya System (MTS), as drivers of forest restoration and protection. MTS is an agroforestry system under which farmers receive land to grow food crops alongside planted cocoa trees and other trees during the early years of plantation development. In 2020, companies trained 6,161 farmers in MTS.



Agroforestry

Companies are incorporating agroforestry models within their farm rehabilitation models for sustainable livelihoods and income diversification.

Cocoa agroforestry has the potential to deliver multiple benefits for the farmer and the environment. Unlike cocoa planted as a sole crop under full sun, a cocoa agroforestry system combines cocoa trees, non-cocoa tree species and other agricultural crops (e.g. fruit, timber, nuts) in the same area as a way to deliver environmental and economic benefits. WCF is working with companies, government, national and international experts to align on cocoa agroforestry best practices that meet the needs of farmers.

To support the establishment of cocoa agroforestry, companies are working with technical experts and are supporting the distribution and on-farm planting of multipurpose trees, including native trees. In 2020, companies supported 67,360 farmers to establish cocoa agroforestry and distributed 2,931,822 multi-purpose trees to farmers to establish 86,602 hectares of cocoa agroforestry. In total, companies have distributed 4,793,926 multi-purpose trees and established 107,396 hectares of cocoa agroforestry since 2018.

“Deforestation must be stopped. A paradigm shift in the cocoa sector must take place. For HALBA, Dynamic Agroforestry is the way forward. This holistic approach can bring a profound and long-term productivity improvement in cocoa plantations and thus an improvement in the living conditions of smallholder farmers and in ecosystem services of the whole area.”

Petra Heid
Head of Sustainability, Chocolats Halba

Income Generating Activities

Income Generating Activities (IGAs) are another strategy to improve livelihoods. IGAs are activities undertaken by a cocoa farmer to market and sell non-cocoa crops, livestock or off-farm products to generate additional income for the household. In 2020, companies supported 49,820 individuals to participate in IGAs. Companies are also helping farmers establish market linkages to sell crops and products to improve farmer livelihoods.

Financial Inclusion

Cocoa and chocolate companies are promoting financial inclusion to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds. They are providing financial products and services including credit and savings accounts, or various types of insurance and innovative products to 191,962 farmers in Ghana in 2020.

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) are a key component of many cocoa and chocolate companies' sustainability initiatives. As part of CFI, VSLAs support entrepreneurship and farm diversification. VSLA participants, mostly women, are encouraged to save, increasing their resilience, and benefit from loans. The loans allow them to cover emergencies or invest in business opportunities, which hopefully will generate more income in the future. In 2020, companies reported they were supporting 2,615 VSLA groups consisting of 61,573 members.



Golden Eggs: Better Income, Better Nutrition, Better Cocoa

Janet Awuku, Cocoa Farmer, Wuruyie, Ghana

Thirty-year-old Janet Awuku lives in Wuruyie, a community of 600 people in the Ashanti region of Ghana. A mother of five, Janet has grown cocoa on her own farm since 2011.

As part of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, cocoa and chocolate companies help prevent deforestation by improving farmers' livelihoods and wellbeing through diversified income sources. When farmers can make a living on existing farms, they are less tempted to go into forests to plant cocoa. Community development officers started working with Janet's village in 2019 and introduced the community to poultry farming. They now have 86 birds and have produced over 16,000 eggs!



"Breeding chickens has had a positive impact on my family and community. We never used to eat eggs before. Now my children enjoy chicken eggs regularly and benefit from this new source of protein. We also sell the extra eggs during the light crop season, which provides us with a very valuable extra source of money,"

said Janet.

The selling of chicken eggs has generated an extra 1,200 euros from January to July 2020 for the Wuruyie community. The poultry farm is run by the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), with 25 women members including Janet. She said, "on top of poultry farming, I engage in backyard gardening. Gardening vegetables was introduced to diversify our crop and income even more."

These initiatives are championed by Janet, but her family is also very supportive as they can see the tangible benefits. "My family is really enthusiastic about these initiatives. My husband helped build the chicken coop and we even use the chicken droppings as an organic fertilizer on our cocoa farm. The productivity of our cocoa trees has improved at no extra cost. I plan on continuing with the poultry farming because it has really been good for us, both financially and with regards to nutrition. I plan on encouraging other friends to join so their families can benefit from it too."

Cocoa Management System: The Journey to 100% Cocoa Traceability



Dr. Emmanuel Opoku
*Deputy Chief Executive
(Operations)-COCOBOD*

Over the years, the Ghanaian cocoa supply chain has been traceable from the ‘society level’ where cocoa buying companies, through their purchasing clerks in the cocoa-growing communities, purchase cocoa beans from the farmers. Each purchasing clerk has a unique identification number that enables the cocoa beans supplied to the companies’ district warehouse to be traced to the society or the small cocoa-growing village where the cocoa beans were purchased.

The traceability system in place does not make it possible to track the cocoa beans to the farmer or the farm(s) and this resulted in the introduction of voluntary cocoa certification schemes in the cocoa supply chain over a decade ago. The idea of cocoa certification was to promote and maintain a framework of sustainable cocoa production based on the principle of continuous improvement that enabled cocoa companies, and farmer cooperatives that subscribed to the certification schemes, to be able to differentiate certified cocoa beans from conventional cocoa beans. This system of traceability enabled cocoa purchased to be traced to farmers who sold their beans as certified products and therefore earned extra income from premium payment. This resulted in improving the livelihoods of farmers. This practice allowed the buying companies to track the physical movement of certified cocoa beans (sustainably produced) through specified stages of the supply chain – from the farm level, haulage from the warehouses to the port, and marketing to specific buyers and processors.

Notwithstanding the significant strides made by the introduction of the voluntary cocoa certification scheme, the practice is skewed to only companies or farmer cooperatives who were involved. The current COCOBOD regulated traceability system is not grounded on the cocoa certification standards used

by private sector players. Although recognized, voluntary certification is not an industry-wide practiced traceability framework. Furthermore, since the current approved cocoa traceability system does not start from the farm level, it prevents cocoa companies or other third-party independent bodies from verifying whether the cocoa they are purchasing meets their sustainability criteria of deforestation-free cocoa supply chain.

It is against this background that signatory companies and COCOBOD, under the JFA, made specific commitments, and spelled out actions and activities to establish a standard traceability system that is able to directly trace cocoa beans from the farm level. This action aims to address cocoa driven deforestation, prevent farmers from producing cocoa from protected forests, and improve supply chain mapping with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable to the farm level.

To address these key challenges on traceability, COCOBOD has developed a comprehensive Cocoa Management System (CMS). The CMS is based on the collection of in-depth socio-economic data on cocoa farmers and will include their farm information and the cocoa growing communities as a whole. The CMS will consist of a database of all cocoa farmers in Ghana and will be used to facilitate all cocoa related transactions. Authorized cocoa industry entities and their transactions will be made visible in real time on the system. The system will streamline the operations of the various divisions of COCOBOD to make informed management decisions and other players such as financial institution and inputs service providers will now have credible data about cocoa farmers to transact business with them. Once fully operational, the CMS will ensure compliance by all industry players in the cocoa supply and value chains including national and International traders.

In November 2020, the CFI secretariat facilitated a meeting between COCOBOD and signatory companies to get further clarity on the status of development of the system, the data collection process and use, and more importantly, the supporting role of private signatory companies to hasten the process of building a robust traceability system for the cocoa sector in Ghana. The outcome of the meeting resulted in the formation of a working group that has representation from COCOBOD, WCF, Forestry Commission, and the CFI Secretariat. The working group is currently working together to address any related issue on traceability and hasten the process of making the CMS fully operational.

Private Sector Actions

For cocoa and chocolate companies, identifying where exactly cocoa comes from and how it is grown is critical to put in place measures to prevent deforestation and child labor, better target farmer interventions and meet any regulatory requirements in origin and consumer countries. In 2020, companies continued their efforts and achieved 82% traceability in their direct supply chains from the farm to the first purchase point.

What is traceable cocoa?

Under CFI, companies can declare cocoa as traceable only if:

1. All the cocoa plots for the farmer have been mapped.
2. The farmer has a unique ID number.
3. Cocoa was tracked from the farm to the first purchase point.

This report year, companies mapped 250,774 farms in their efforts to improve traceability. Companies also reported full traceability through the national traceability system. Companies continue to invest in innovative efforts to improve cocoa transparency and traceability including farm polygon mapping, barcodes to trace individual bags of cocoa from the farmer to the warehouse and point to point digital systems.

To help bring to life effective landscape partnerships, and contribute to national deforestation monitoring, WCF, in partnership with the World Resources Institute and Climate Focus, is working with companies to develop a comprehensive dataset of

cocoa plot locations in the direct supply chain and an aligned method for assessing deforestation risk. Companies have been carrying out risk assessments in their own supply chains, but there is a lack of alignment on the methodology. An aggregate view of cocoa plot locations across West Africa will provide a basis for identifying opportunities for pre-competitive collaboration and collective action. This aggregation and the results of the risk assessments will enable the partnership to prioritize areas that matter most for addressing deforestation. The risk assessments will be made available as a freely accessible public good through the World Resources Institute Global Forest Watch platforms to help drive aligned deforestation risk management across the cocoa sector for impact at scale.

“In Ghana, Cargill’s farm mapping and digital bean tracking solutions pave the way for a more transparent cocoa supply chain. They generate insights for our customers about where our cocoa comes from and play a key role in fulfilling our Cocoa & Forests Initiative commitments. We continue to promote and encourage harmonization of traceability systems so that we are able to make more impact collectively.”

Samuel Apana
Sustainability Lead Ghana, Cargill



Watch video on Cocoa Traceability

Community Engagement and Social Inclusion



Forest fringe communities and most communities in cocoa growing landscapes largely depend on the forest, which provides fundamental forest resources and ecosystem services. However, human induced activities of the rural folks to enhance their livelihoods including agriculture, small scale mining, and wood harvesting have a direct impact on the forest cover and therefore play a critical role to ensure protection, restoration and biodiversity conservation particularly in the Forest Protection Areas. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative safeguards the social interaction of local communities and other key stakeholders including public, private and CSOs collaboration in forest and other natural resource management through participatory planning in the use of the resources. Under the JFA of CFI, all signatories made five key commitments and spelled out four relevant actions to ensure community engagement and social inclusion.

Public Sector Achievements

- 6 high-level landscape forums held at all six CFI priority areas
- 10 CREMAs supported with social, economic or technical services
- Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) developed
- Grievance Redress Mechanism Framework for affected cocoa farmers and their communities developed
- FGRM disseminated in 3 Hotspot Intervention Areas
- 60,199 women and youth trained in various skills including GAPs
- 40,826 trained in additional livelihoods interventions

COMMITMENTS

C1: 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.

C2: 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.

C3: Development of action plans for forest protection, restoration and suitable agricultural intensification, which are gender and youth sensitive.

C4: For the Forest Reserves approach, the government will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of proposed land-use changes on affected cocoa farmers and their communities, and ensure the provision of alternative livelihoods and restoration of standards of living of affected parties, in line with global standards.

C5: Government will prepare operational guidelines covering resettlement and livelihood restoration of any affected parties with relevant input from the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, in line with global standards.

Landscape Forums: A tool for Community Engagement and Sensitization



Kofi Afari

Administrator - CFI Secretariat

Prior to CFI, various legislative instruments and by-laws established more forest reserves and other policies to sustainably manage and protect forest ecology. The paradigm shift in formulating forest policies from prerogative authority and ownership strictly by government to a more liberal approach which seeks to embrace multi-actors in the management of forest reserves aligns with relevant CFI commitments. Thus full and effective information sharing, consultation and participation of cocoa farmers and the communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes are planned under the framework.

To promote information sharing, the CFI Secretariat organized high level landscape forums in four priority areas in Ahafo, Ashanti, Eastern and Central regions Hotspot Intervention Areas from September 2020. The forums were attended by high level representatives from traditional authorities, security services, judiciary, Regional and District Coordinating councils, CSOs, NGOs, Forest Commission, COCOBOD, National Disaster Management, Ghana Education service, farmer cooperatives and private sector signatories at the landscapes. A total of about 345 high-level landscape stakeholders an average of 85 participants attended the forum per locations.

The Administrator of the CFI Secretariat, Mr. Kofi Afari, indicated that relevant CFI core commitments were explained to participants and, during the discussion session, stakeholders provided feedback as to how stakeholders can mutually work together to effectively protect the forest and restore degraded forest.



The Regional Minister on Bono, Hon. Evans Opoku Bobbie, guest speaker at the forum at Asufiti/Asunafo, highlighted the unique importance of forest reserves and said, “the issue of forest protection and sustainable cocoa production are shared responsibility by all.”

The paramount Chief of Gaoso Traditional Area, Nana Kwasi Bosomprah I, who chaired one of the functions expressed his willingness and readiness to play a role as a “brand ambassador” of CFI to reach out to larger groups of cocoa farmers within cocoa growing communities to support initiative to halt deforestation and promote sustainable cocoa production within his traditional jurisdiction.

During the discussion session at the forums, participants also appealed to government to amend the Forest Concession Act and the Timber Resource Management Act 1997 Act 547 to safeguard the country’s remaining forests. According to Mr. Daniel Appiah, a cocoa farmer, “It is unfair and a disincentive to farmers who worked tirelessly for decades to ensure the survival of the tree only

for concessioners to often invade their farms with impunity, cut trees without regards to farmers.”

Otumfuor Amoah Sasraku IV, the paramount chief of Twifo-Hemang who chaired the function at Kakum landscape forum urged participants and their constituents “to see the protection of national forest cover as a moral and civic obligations for their community, national and global gain”.



Watch this short video to see highlights from one of the forums

Raising Awareness in Communities and Community-based Management: Private Sector Action

Cocoa and chocolate companies are reinforcing public sector efforts by also organizing consultations with communities around forested areas to sensitize them to deforestation issues and the goals of CFI. So far, a total of 185,093 farmers have been informed, trained and/or consulted on forest policy, law enforcement, forest protection and restoration.

Moreover, companies are supporting communities to have decision making power and actively manage forests and other natural resources.

Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) mechanisms are community structures with authority over the management of natural resources. These can be designed with varying levels of structure, legal recognition, purpose, and authority, but they generally preside over the environmental and economic impacts of natural resource management including benefit-sharing arrangements between community members. In 2020, companies supported 921 communities with active forest restoration and protection programs covering a total of 261,305 hectares under CBNRM. In total, companies have supported 1,298 communities and 317,739 hectares under CBNRM since 2018.

Women and Youth

Many companies are committed to the promotion of women's inclusion and the creation of employment opportunities for youth in rural areas. These activities are typically linked to companies' broader sustainability programs. This report year, 53,492 individuals participated in women's empowerment projects and activities and 3,402 individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities in Ghana.



“

“What makes the CFI approach so strong is the integrated focus on education. Education is key! That’s what our 15 years of working for sustainable development in Ghana have shown us. This not least education and support for children and the youth. In a few years they must take over and continue the development, we seek to set in motion in partnership with their parents. They are the ambassadors of the much-needed sustainable change.”

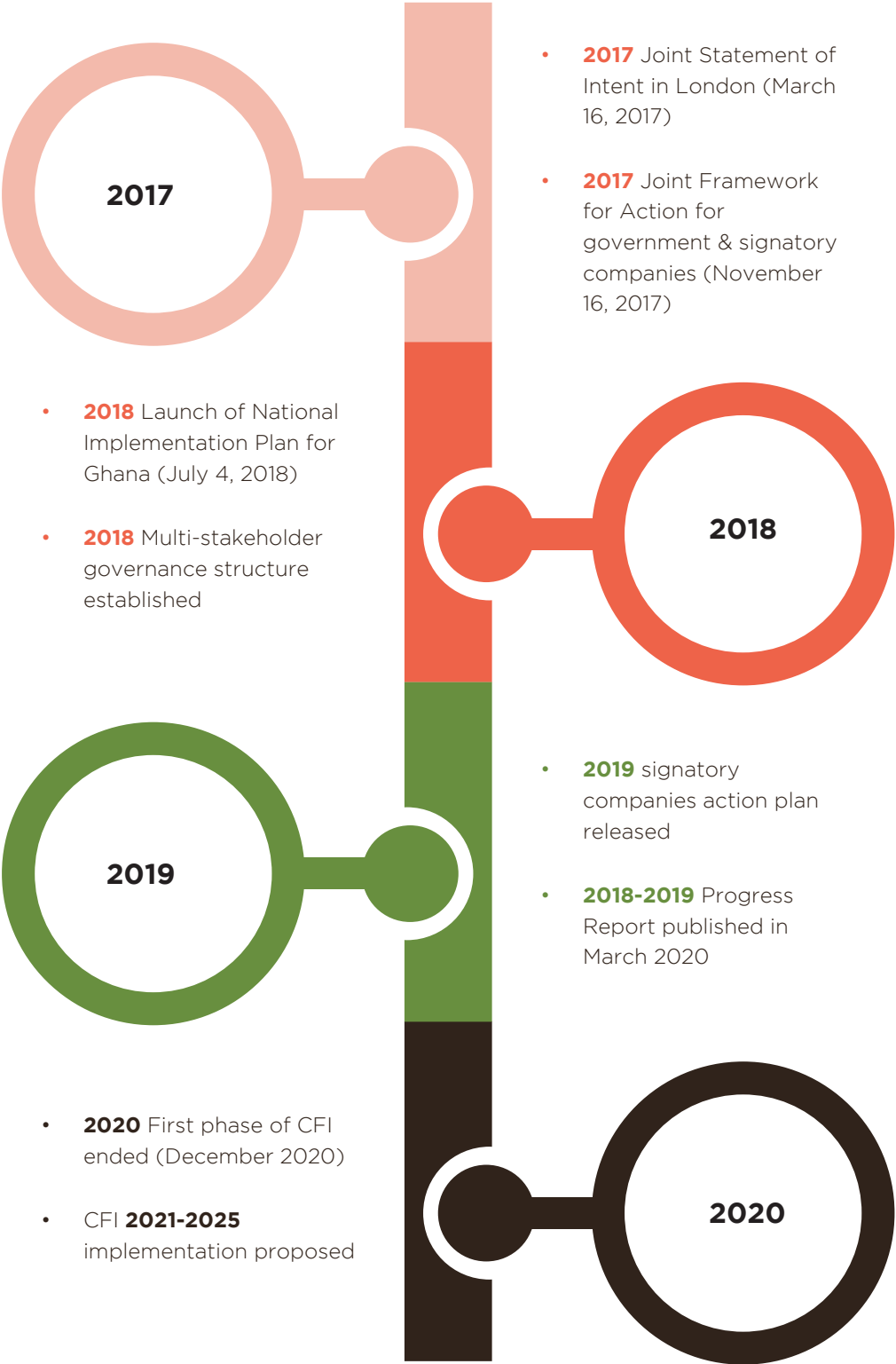
Lea S. Holm
*CSR & Communications Manager,
 Toms Group*

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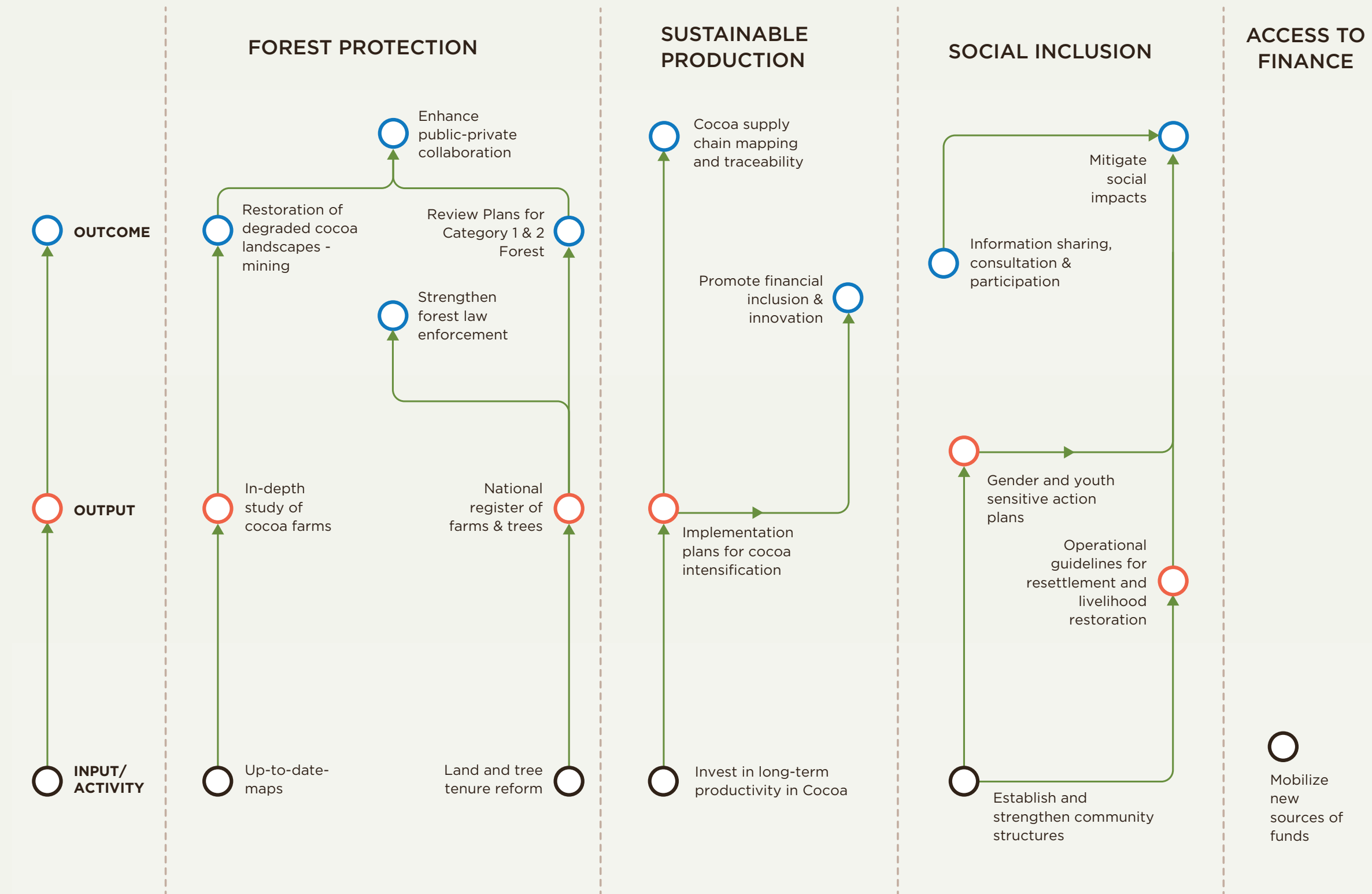


Appendices

COCOA & FOREST INITIATIVE SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES



CFI Logical Framework



COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE COMPANY TRACKING TABLES - GHANA

	COMMITMENTS		ACTIONS	INDICATORS	2022 TARGET Through Direct Investment	# DIRECT INVESTMENT Oct. 2019-Sept. 2020	# TOTAL DIRECT INVESTMENT Since 2018
FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION							
1	No further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations, and using HCS and HCV methodologies) for cocoa production	1.1	Conduct farm mapping within supply chain to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest land	# of cocoa plots mapped in direct supply chain	Revised indicator: targets will be re-assessed in 2022	483,606	N/A
				# of cocoa farms mapped in direct supply chain		250,744	N/A
		1.2	Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all sourcing areas	# of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed	Reported by companies		
2	No production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms with existing legal status	2.1	Implement traceability tools/technology to ensure no cocoa purchases originate from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves (all forest areas)	% of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point	100%	82%	N/A
3	A differentiated approach for Forest Reserves will be adopted, based on level of degradation; with elimination of sourcing of cocoa in less degraded reserves (Cat.1) as of 31 December 2019; and production and sourcing for a period up to 25 years through MTS in more degraded reserves (Cat. 2)	3.1	Support farmers in Category 2 Forest Reserve areas in their restoration and reforestation programs	# hectares of Category 2 Forest Reserve areas restored	1,750	955	979
4	In highly degraded off reserve forest lands, cocoa production and sourcing will continue, supported by climate smart cocoa and MTS	4.1	Train farmers in off-reserve forest lands in CSC production including cocoa agroforestry systems	# farmers trained in CSC best practices	331,625	256,576	N/A
		4.2	Train farmers in Modified Taungya System (MTS)	# farmers trained in MTS	45,500	6,161	N/A
5	Land and tree tenure reforms, and benefit sharing arrangement to incentivize land owners and users to retain naturally regenerated trees will be accelerated, including approval of CREMA mechanism	5.1	Support farmers with tree registration	# trees registered	1,786,120	49,274	159,359
		5.2	Support cocoa farmers to acquire land (tenure) documentation	# of farmers with land tenure agreements/documentation obtained via company support	13,186	2,359	2,778

COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE COMPANY TRACKING TABLES - GHANA

COMMITMENTS			ACTIONS		INDICATORS	2022 TARGET Through Direct Investment	# DIRECT INVESTMENT Oct. 2019-Sept. 2020	# TOTAL DIRECT INVESTMENT Since 2018
FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION								
6	Public sector forest law enforcement and governance will be strengthened	6.1	Promote awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on forest law enforcement and tree tenure provisions	# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on forest policy/law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	212,289	185,093	N/A	
7	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	7.1	Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration	# individuals receiving PES: new	N/A	2,506	3,794	
				# individuals receiving PES: total receiving	10,880	3,714	N/A	
8	Public-private collaboration will be enhanced to identify good practices and technical guidance for forest conservation and restoration, shade grown cocoa, and MTS in Forest Reserves	8.1	Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# farmers applying agroforestry	New indicator: targets will be assessed in 2022	67,360	N/A	
				# multipurpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	6,812,413	2,931,822	4,793,926	
				# hectares cocoa agroforestry in development	170,134	86,602	107,396	
		8.2	Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation)	# of trees distributed for off-farm planting	285,600	262,853	262,853	
				# hectares of forest area restored off-reserve	580	241	262	
		8.3	Train farmers in Modified Taungya System (MTS)	# farmers trained in MTS	Already reported in 4.2			

COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE COMPANY TRACKING TABLES - GHANA

COMMITMENTS		ACTIONS		INDICATORS	2022 TARGET Through Direct Investment	# DIRECT INVESTMENT Oct. 2019-Sept. 2020	# TOTAL DIRECT INVESTMENT Since 2018
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND FARMERS' LIVELIHOODS							
9	Promote investment in long-term productivity of high quality cocoa in environmentally sustainable manner and grow “more cocoa on less land.”	9.1	Distribute improved cocoa planting material	# improved cocoa seedlings distributed to farmers	29,463,976	6,194,652	21,110,,811
		9.2	Train farmers and producer organizations in the latest Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	# of farmers reached by GAP training programs	370,874	292,432	N/A
10	Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers	10.1	Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# multipurpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	Already reported 8.1		
				# hectares cocoa agroforestry in development			
		10.2	Promote farm-level crop diversification	# individuals participating in additional Income Generating Activities (IGA's)	Revised indicator: targets will be re-assessed in 2022	49,820	N/A
11	Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and cocoa farm rehabilitation and renovation	11.1	Promote expansion of farmer savings	# individuals in the current reporting year enrolled in a formal financial products and services (loans, insurance, digital payments, and savings [bank/mobile]) with support from companies (excluding cocoa bean pre-financing)	105,791	191,962	N/A
				# of members of VSLA groups in the year	110,417	61,573	N/A
				# of VSLA groups in the year	New indicator: targets will be assessed in 2022	2,589	2,607
12	Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. An action plan will be developed that maps out key principles, steps, and milestones to achieve this step, encompassing all national and international traders.	12.1	Conduct mapping to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries polygon data	# farms mapped within direct supply chain	Already reported in 1.1		
		12.2	Implement traceability system to farm level in 100% of supply chain by end-2019	% of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point	Already reported in 2.1		



COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE COMPANY TRACKING TABLES - GHANA

COMMITMENTS		ACTIONS		INDICATORS	2022 TARGET Through Direct Investment	# DIRECT INVESTMENT Oct. 2019-Sept. 2020	# TOTAL DIRECT INVESTMENT Since 2018
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT							
13	Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes	13.1	Organize cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Frameworks for Action	# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on forest policy/law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	Already reported in 5.1		
14	Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration	14.1	Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programs for forest restoration/protection	# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program	1,176	921	1,298
				# hectares under CBNRM	215,500	261,305	317,739
15	Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive	15.1	Develop forest protection & restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are youth and gender sensitive	# of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities	Revised indicator: targets will be re-assessed in 2022	53,492	N/A
				# of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (age 15-35)	Revised indicator: targets will be re-assessed in 2022	3,402	N/A





World Cocoa
Foundation



the sustainable
trade initiative



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



WORLD BANK GROUP

Report prepared by the CFI National Secretariat of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources,
IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative and the World Cocoa Foundation