



## Cocoa & Forest Initiative (CFI)

### GCB Action Plan

#### 1. Introduction

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and the world's leading cocoa and chocolate companies [signed landmark agreements](#) in November 2017 to end deforestation and promote forest restoration and protection in the cocoa supply chain.

This new public-private partnership – called the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative \(CFI\)](#) – has been organized by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), IDH - the Sustainable Trade Initiative, and The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit (ISU), in partnership with the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The Prince of Wales [launched CFI](#) in March 2017 in London and reviewed implementation progress in November 2018.

The Frameworks for Action for Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana define core commitments, verifiable actions, and timebound targets required for a deforestation-free and forest-positive supply chain.

The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana play a critical leadership role in establishing the national strategy, enabling policy environment, and governance structure for CFI implementation. They ensure that CFI is linked to similar initiatives with other commodities, and fully aligned with the national REDD+ Strategy and other relevant national strategies and plans. They provide key operational guidance, and baseline economic, environmental, and social data, to help companies identify and plan the most effective and efficient private investment activities for CFI.

The Governments have prepared comprehensive national implementation plans ([Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Ghana](#)) that outline key public sector priorities, actions and timelines, following extensive consultation with all stakeholders. During the first year of CFI, the Governments have launched work on the key building blocks for successful CFI implementation, including important revisions to the legal framework for sustainable forest management, preparation of up-to-date boundary maps of protected areas, and collection of socio-economic and land use data for the priority investment areas.

Thirty-five companies<sup>1</sup>, accounting for about 85% of global cocoa usage, have now joined CFI. Each company prepared a detailed individual action plan that spells out

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<sup>1</sup> 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, Indcresa(2), JB Foods(1), Kuapa Kokoo(2), Lindt & Sprüngli Group, Marks & Spencer Food, Mars Wrigley, Meiji Co. Ltd.(2), Mondelēz, Nestlé, Olam Cocoa, PBC Limited(2), Sainsbury's, SIAT(1),

the specific actions it will take in 2018-2022 to deliver the commitments set out in the Framework. Each company will decide for itself how to best support the achievement of the Framework objectives, based on their role in the supply chain, their corporate strategic priorities, and their cocoa sustainability goals.

CFI has been supported by several global development partners, including the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Commodities Program of the United Nations Development Program.

CFI is coordinated closely with a wide range of global and local environmental organizations and partnerships, including the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, Amsterdam Declaration Partnership, Partnerships for Forests, the Rainforest Alliance, and World Resources Institute.

## 2. Key Commitments of CFI

The Frameworks are structured around three critical themes of (1) forest protection and restoration, (2) sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods, and (3) community engagement and social inclusion.

**The first priority is the protection and restoration of forests that have been degraded.** To this end, the governments and companies have pledged no further conversion of forest land for cocoa production, and have committed to the phased elimination of illegal cocoa production and sourcing in protected areas.

Both countries are introducing a differentiated approach for improved management of forest reserves, based on the level of degradation of forests. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use, socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, and detailed operational guidelines covering forest management and land-use are being developed and will be publicly disclosed.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these commitments, companies have pledged to develop verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to the first purchase point for their own purchases of cocoa, and to work with governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability encompassing all traders in the supply chain.

**The next critical priority is sustainable agricultural production and increased farmer incomes.** These are essential pre-requisites for reducing pressure for

agricultural encroachment into forests and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farmers to climate change.

The governments and companies have agreed to accelerate investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow “more cocoa on less land.” Key actions include: provision of improved planting materials, training in good agricultural practices, soil fertility, land tenure reform, and capacity building of farmers’ organizations. Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers will be accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, and development of mixed agro-forestry systems and shade-grown cocoa.

**The final area of focus is strong community engagement and social inclusion, with a particular focus on women and youth.** The governments and companies have committed to full and effective consultation and participation of cocoa farmers in the design and implementation of key actions, and promotion of community-based management models for forest protection and restoration. The governments will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of any proposed land-use changes on affected communities.

The set of public-private actions represent unprecedented commitments on forest protection and restoration, and sustainable cocoa production and farmer livelihoods. These combined actions, which are aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement, will play a crucial role in sequestering carbon stocks and thereby addressing global and local climate change.

### **3. GCB’s Overall vision for the Cocoa & Forest Initiative**

GCB joined the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) in early 2020 as part of our commitment to ensure a greener supply chain. By joining the CFI, we aim to show our support for their commitment to end deforestation and restore forest areas by excluding any further conversion of forest land for cocoa production. Additionally, our participation in the CFI acts as a stepping stone that will help us achieve our target to have zero cocoa beans sourced from protected areas by 2030 from our **Good Cocoa & Beyond** direct sourcing network.

As cocoa-related deforestation is brought about by many other complex factors, our Good Cocoa & Beyond program will also address other factors such as farmer poverty to complement the CFI commitment to end deforestation. As a signatory of CFI, GCB will work closely with the various relevant parties to ensure a successful implementation of our CFI Action plan.

### **4. Overview of GCB’s Action Plan**

GCB's action plan was developed in full accordance with CFI's framework and requirements for Cote d'Ivoire. It includes CFI's three pillars of Forest Protection and Restoration, Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods, and Community Engagement and Social Inclusion. The action plan will span two years, from 2020 to 2022.

Some activities in the action plan are to be determined and will be finalised when there is further information from various parties like stakeholders and the Ivorian government. The plan will be revised annually together with reports of our progress, and any updates will be indicated accordingly. GCB worked closely with CFI for the development of this action plan, which was shared with the relevant government partners before publishing.

The following shows the key activities planned for each CFI pillar that will be implemented and completed by 2022 and a summary table is included in Annex 1.

#### **4.1 Forest Protection and Restoration**

GCB has committed to prevent sourcing of cocoa beans from deforested or protected areas, in line with CFI's commitment to protect and restore forests. We will invest in farm mapping and traceability capabilities to ensure that none of the cocoa beans we source are from deforested or protected areas. This will bring us closer to achieving our goal of 100% traceable cocoa from our direct cocoa bean sourcing network by 2025 as well.

- Map all 4,000 farms from our Good Cocoa & Beyond program by 2021
- Deforestation risk assessments will be carried out for these farms and all direct sourcing areas to ensure no deforestation will take place within our program
- Traceability tools will be used to ensure that 100% of our direct sourced cocoa can be traced to the farm level, and ensure that none originates from the protected areas (national parks, reserves, forest areas). This will also complement our efforts to ensure 100% traceable cocoa by 2025 from our Good Cocoa & Beyond cocoa bean direct sourcing network.
- Cooperate with government ministries on relevant policies and actions to prevent deforestation and ensure proper land use planning to benefit the cocoa communities

#### **4.2 Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods**

It is essential to improve the productivity of farms to "grow more cocoa on less land" in order to reduce the pressure for encroachment into forests to grow more cocoa. As such, together with CFI, we will work closely with the farmers and government to sustainably improve the productivity levels of cocoa farms.

- In order to improve productivity and income of farmers, we will train all 4,000 farmers in Good Agricultural Practices and promote farm level crop diversification
- Improve financial liquidity of farmers by promoting and offering financial literacy and life insurance for farmers

### **4.3 Community Engagement and Social Inclusion**

In order for the action plan to be effective, community engagement and empowerment are extremely important in helping to prevent further deforestation. We aim to hold community consultations over the next 2 years to sensitize farmers and their communities to the CFI framework and the related activities.

- To involve all farmer communities in the initiative, we will organise community consultations and aim to reach all our farmer communities by 2022
- Develop gender and youth focused programs across 200 cocoa communities
- Support the development of operational guidelines on resettlement and restoring living standards

## **5. Looking forward and beyond**

Over the two years that our action plan will be implemented in Côte d'Ivoire, we will monitor our progress closely and publish annual reports on our CFI progress to ensure transparency and accountability. As we keep learning and gaining more experience with the implementation of this action plan, we will continue improving and expanding the scope of our action plan to drive further impact.

## Annex 1: Summary Table of GCB Initial Action Plans for Côte d'Ivoire

Commitment	Company Actions	Target
<b>Forest Protection and Restoration Actions</b>		
1. There will be no further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations and using methodologies such as High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) approach) for cocoa production.	1.1 Conduct farm mapping within direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries polygon data to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests	4,000  100% of farms  Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.
	1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all direct sourcing areas	10,000 hectares  Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.
2. Signatory companies and Government commit to the elimination of all cocoa production and sourcing in National Parks and Reserves in line with the promulgation and enforcement of the prevailing national forest policy and the development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers. A plan of action will be put in place by end-2018 to ensure fulfilment of this commitment.	2.1 A system will be adopted and published for excluding farmers in the direct supply chain with cocoa production in protected areas	Yes  Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.
	2.2 All farms found in National Parks and Reserves will be reported to the Ministry of Water and Forests	GCB will avoid working with farmers in National Parks and Reserves. If any farms are found in National Parks and Reserves, it will be reported appropriately.
	2.3 Support cocoa farmers' transition to alternative livelihoods via technical assistance for on- and off-farm enterprises	GCB will avoid working with farmers in National Parks and Reserves. If any farms are found in National Parks and Reserves, it will be remediated appropriately.

<p>3. Signatory companies commit to no sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through their traceable direct sourcing programs, including farmer organizations and cooperatives, by 1 January 2018. A plan of action will be put in place by January 2018 to ensure fulfilment of this commitment.</p>	<p>3.1 Implement traceability tools/technology to ensure no cocoa purchases originate from National Parks or Reserves (all forest areas)</p>	<p>100% of direct sourced cocoa traceable to farm-level.</p> <p>Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.</p>
<p>4. A differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for the current Classified Forests will be developed by Government and translated into a national forest restoration strategy, by end-2018. The characteristics, the number of hectares, timeline, roles and responsibilities will be progressively specified in the land use plans.</p>	<p>4.1 Support the restoration of Classified Forests by working with cocoa farmers and partnering with SODEFOR and the forestry industry to implement contracts for mixed agroforestry as a restoration and livelihoods intervention</p>	<p>We will offer support in the form of trees to CCC.</p>
<p>5. A legal protection and management status will be given by Government to the remaining forests of Côte d'Ivoire in the Rural Zone, in particular to the sacred forests by 30 June 2018.</p>	<p>5.1 Cooperate with Ministry of Water and Forests on enforcement to prevent deforestation in the legally protected forest estate (rural domain)</p>	<p>All the farmers of our network will be trained in order to prevent deforestation.</p>
<p>6. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use for the different forests, and socio-economic data on cocoa farmers and their communities who depend on these forests, will be developed and publicly disclosed by Government by 31 December 2018, and detailed operational guidelines by 30 June 2019, with input as relevant from the private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>6.1 Support the government's forthcoming adaptive management plans for different forest areas to benefit the livelihoods of forest-dependent cocoa communities</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>6.2 Participate in the development and operation of land-use and land-use planning at national and regional levels by sharing existing land use maps with government</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>7. Public enforcement of the new Forest Code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened, including, inter alia, awareness raising campaigns, capacity</p>	<p>7.1 Promote and participate in awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on the new Forest Code</p>	<p>4,000</p> <p>Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Refresher courses at regular intervals.</p>

<p>building of forest institutions, stronger surveillance and monitoring, and application of immediate sanctions for any new infringement, as of the date of promulgation of the new Forest Code but no later than June 2018.</p>	<p>7.2 Update farmer engagement materials and training with the revised Forest Code</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Refresher courses at regular intervals.</p>
<p>8. Public-private collaboration to mobilize more technical and financial resources for forest protection and restoration, including, inter alia, support for innovative financial mechanisms (the appropriate financing mechanisms will be defined in the operational document) to assure Payment of Environmental Services, alternative livelihoods for cocoa farmers affected by land-use changes, implementation of the current government contractualization approach, and development of mixed agro-forestry systems.</p>	<p>8.1 Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration such as: new financing mechanisms (to be specified), contribution to conservation funds, development of payments for environmental services (PES) schemes</p>	<p>GCB will participate once the fund is created by the government.</p>
<p>9. Public-private collaboration to identify: good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration, and mixed agro-forestry systems. The Government is developing management models for sustainable agro-forestry development, in consultation with all stakeholders.</p>	<p>9.1 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via mixed agroforestry</p>	<p>4,000 multi-purpose trees will be distributed for farm restoration. Additional 5,000 multi-purpose trees will be donated each year to CCC until 2022.</p> <p>Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.</p>
	<p>9.2 Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation)</p>	<p>10,000 hectares</p> <p>Depends on the results of our forest assessment and our strategy once that is done for limiting further deforestation.</p>
<p>10. The Government, in collaboration with all stakeholders, will create a public-private fund to support the long-term financing of the protection and restoration of high</p>	<p>10.1 Support the creation of the public-private forest conservation and rehabilitation fund</p>	<p><i>TBD</i></p>



<p>conservation value forest areas. All stakeholders will be encouraged to support this fund.</p>		
<b>Sustainable Production and Livelihoods Commitments</b>		
<p>11. Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow “more cocoa on less land,” through provision of optimal planting materials, training in good agricultural practices, crop nutrition and soil fertility, crop protection, and development and capacity building of farmers’ organizations, are critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.</p>	<p>11.1 Distribute improved cocoa planting material</p>	<p>GCB will participate in this activity as permissible by local regulations.</p>
	<p>11.2 Establish and/or provide cocoa nurseries with improved cocoa planting material</p>	<p>GCB will participate in this activity as permissible by local regulations.</p>
	<p>11.3 Train farmers and producer organizations in the latest Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)</p>	<p>4,000 farmers</p>
	<p>11.4 Support cocoa farm rehabilitation</p>	<p><i>TBD</i></p>
<p>12. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including through food crop diversification, agricultural intercropping, development of mixed agro-forestry systems and shade-grown cocoa, and other income generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income.</p>	<p>12.1 Promote farm-level crop diversification</p>	<p>1,400 farmers  35% of 4,000  Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.</p>
	<p><i>See Company Action 9.1</i></p>	<p>1,400 farmers  35% of 4,000  Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.</p>
		<p>3,500 hectares  35% of the 10,000 hectares</p>

13. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and farm renovation	13.1 Promote expansion of farmer savings	2,800 farmers with a savings account.  70% of 4,000  Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.
	13.2 Offer financial products to farmers	35% of 4,000 farmers  Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.
14. Improve supply chain mapping, with the goal of 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. The private sector, in collaboration with the Government, will develop an action plan for traceability with clear timelines, which will be implemented step-by-step to achieve full traceability and verification, applicable to all by end-2019.  Signatory companies are putting in place verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to the first purchase point, operational policies and control systems that effectively monitor the associated risks, including high quality verification.	<i>See Company Action 1.1</i>	4,000 farms  100%
	14.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in direct supply chain	100% of direct sourced cocoa traceable to farm-level.  Start ASAP when COOPs are selected. Completion in end 2021.
<b>Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Commitments</b>		
15. 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.	15.1 Organize cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Frameworks for Action	50 communities (25%) by 2021  100 communities (50%) by 2022

<p>16. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration, including engagement of local communities and farmers in awareness raising campaigns on the status of National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests and the critical role that forest plays in climate regulation, soil fertility and water circulation.</p>	<p>16.1 Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management programs for forest restoration/protection</p>	<p>100 communities by 2022 with Awareness programs by Commercial teams about good practises.</p>
<p>17. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.</p>	<p>17.1 Develop forest protection &amp; restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are youth and gender sensitive</p>	<p>200 of cocoa communities with gender-focused programs. 200 of cocoa communities with youth-focused programs.</p>
<p>18. For National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests, Government will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of proposed land-use changes on affected farmers and their communities, and ensure provision of alternative livelihoods and restoration of standard of living of affected parties, in line with reasonable standards to be agreed upon.</p>		<p>GCB will participate and support Government initiatives.</p>
<p>19. Government will prepare operational guidelines covering resettlement and livelihood restoration of affected parties by 31 December 2018, with input as relevant from private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, in line with reasonable standards to be agreed upon.</p>	<p>19.1 Support the development of operational guidelines on resettlement and restoring living standards</p>	<p>Yes</p>

*TBD* = To Be Determined, following additional inputs from Government