

Annual Progress Report - Côte d'Ivoire -

1. BOLD PUBLIC-PRIVATE ACTION: COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE

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 organised by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative, and The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit (ISU). The Prince of Wales launched CFI in March 2017 in London, and reviewed implementation progress in November 2018.

Thirty-four companies, accounting for 85% of global cocoa usage, have now signed the Frameworks for Action for [Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#). These Frameworks define core commitments, verifiable actions, and timebound targets required for a deforestation-free and forest positive supply chain.

In March 2019 each signatory company released initial action plans for 2018-2022 that spells out the specific actions they will take to deliver the commitments set out in the Framework. Each company explained how they will support the Framework objectives, based on their role in the supply chain, their strategic priorities, and their cocoa sustainability goals.

WCF published a summary of the initial action plans for the cocoa and chocolate industry ([Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Ghana](#)).

The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana establish national strategies, policy environments, and governance structures for CFI implementation. They ensure that CFI is linked to similar initiatives with other commodities, and fully aligned with the national REDD+ strategies and other relevant national strategies and plans. The Governments have prepared comprehensive National Implementation Plans ([Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Ghana](#)) that outline public sector priorities, actions and timelines.

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, Amsterdam Declaration Partnership, Partnerships for Forests, the Rainforest Alliance, and World Resources Institute.

2. WHAT ARE THE KEY COMMITMENTS IN THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE?

Cocoa & Forests Initiative activities proceed from three priorities: (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. In 2019, the government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted and published a new forest code which, among other things, put forth policies for the promotion of cocoa agroforestry to restore degraded land, improve forest cover, and promote sustainable livelihoods and agriculture in the classified forests and rural zones. The Ivorian government is currently finalizing the operational decrees that provide further guidance on the new forest policies. Both governments have shared maps on forest cover and land-use, and are currently updating the maps, including socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, which will further inform private sector investments.

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 companies will similarly share information with the national satellite monitoring platforms (in development) to effectively monitor progress on CFI, as well as proactively address threats of new deforestation.

The second critical priority is sustainable agricultural production and increased farmer incomes. These are essential prerequisites for reducing pressure for agricultural encroachment into forests and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farmers to climate change.

The governments and companies are accelerating 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 are being accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, and development of mixed agroforestry systems and shade-grown cocoa.

The third 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 have adopted social and environmental safeguards and will be assessing and mitigating 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. UNILEVER'S OVERALL VISION FOR COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE

Deforestation is a major contributor to climate change, accounting for up to 15% of global CO₂ emissions. In 2014, Unilever announced that deforestation would become one of our three priorities for transformational change, committing to working with our supply chain, the wider commodities and consumer goods sectors, governments and civil society to driving deforestation out of commodity supply chains and implementing solutions at scale. Unilever is already working with several organisations and partnerships including the Consumer Goods Forum, the Tropical Forest Alliance, IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative, and Global Forest Watch (convened by the World Resources Institute), to drive progress and align business action with public policy. We believe joining CFI is an important and coherent next step in our ambitious journey. Please look at Annex 1 to access our Disclosure of Company Action Plan.

By the end of 2019, 89% of our cocoa derivatives were sourced sustainably through certification schemes such as the Rainforest Alliance (RA), UTZ and Fairtrade that allow buyers like us to work with suppliers within existing sustainability frameworks. For further detail, see [Targets & performance](#) in our Sustainable Living Report.

We continue to believe in the role of certification as a key tool in driving industry change. At the same time, we are committed to continuous improvement and we believe that further strengthening of certification standards is an important step in the journey to deforestation-free cocoa cultivation.

We are committed to help end deforestation in the cocoa industry through close collaboration with key suppliers and believe the Cocoa & Forests Initiative of the World Cocoa Foundation will play a pivotal role in creating a broader industry platform connecting with government and NGOs to deliver upon these objectives.

4. OVERVIEW OF UNILEVER COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN AND RESULTS

This Action Plan (see Annex 1) presents our company's key activities planned over the period 2018-2022 to fulfil CFI commitments to end deforestation and forest degradation in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire (as we do not have any dedicated cooperatives in Ghana) and our achievements to date.

The priorities outlined in this action plan align with the priorities developed in the CFI national implementation plans for Côte d'Ivoire. Several activities from our initial action plan are still to be determined pending government input.

PILLAR 1: FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Unilever does not source directly from any cocoa smallholders since we are not originators. However, through our suppliers, we maintain long-term relationships with dedicated cooperatives in Côte d'Ivoire. As such, we felt we should become signatories of CFI and publicly commit to no sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through the traceable direct sourcing programmes of our Tier 1 suppliers.

As is true for all CFI signatories, part of our commitment to halt further conversion of any forest land included conducting a deforestation risk assessment in all sourcing areas where our dedicated cooperatives are based. This geospatial risk assessment combined satellite imagery and other geographical information to identify where deforestation is or is likely to occur based on land cover and recent land cover changes. To date, we have mapped approximately 17,000 farm plots.

Our commitment to report on all farms found in National Parks and Reserves to the Ivorian Ministry of Water and Forests is operational and the farmer list is available. The transfer of this information to the government (from our Tier 1 Suppliers) is dependent on agreement on social safeguards

Once the mapping of our dedicated farmers in Côte d'Ivoire is complete, and a differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for the current Classified Forests is developed, we will be in a position to firm up a progressive strategy based on findings, a prescribed timeline and key roles and responsibilities specified in the land use plans. This process requires inputs from the government which is currently finalizing the operational decrees that provide further guidance on the new forest policies, which will further inform our remediation and investments; we are hoping to be able to update this information in mid-2020.

Our top priority will be to assist farmers who are in National Parks, or in close proximity, to find alternative livelihoods in accordance with industry guidelines.

We are also supporting the distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration, and by 2022, we will have distributed over 100,000 seedlings.

Since 2012, Ben & Jerry's has been piloting how mixed agroforestry and payments for environmental services can help raising incomes for cocoa farmers in Latin America. We hope to use their insights to develop a similar programme in Côte d'Ivoire replicating the successes we have seen to date. By 2022, we expect to have developed about 1,250 hectares of cocoa agroforestry.

We will also consider, depending on the scope and governance model, to support the creation of a public-private fund that the Ivorian government and other stakeholders are planning to launch to support the long-term financing of the protection and restoration of high conservation value forest areas. We are looking forward to learning more about this area from WCF in 2020.

PILLAR 2: PRODUCTIVITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Productivity enhancements in cocoa are closely linked to improved livelihoods. We are committed to promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow "more cocoa on less land" through provision of training in good agricultural practices, and the development and capacity building of farmers' organisations which are critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.

To date, via our suppliers, we have reached over 12,000 farmers with training to comply with Rainforest Alliance Certification requirements. We have enabled the assessment of the development needs for sixteen farmers' groups and the ad-hoc support in developing improvement plans such as the provision of cooperative management training and the finance of transportation.

We recognize the importance of access to financial mechanisms for farmers to enable them to invest in their farms and diversify their incomes. Specifically, we are planning to promote access to saving and credit, including the establishment of Village Loans and Savings Associations.

PILLAR 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

We believe that gender empowerment and the creation of alternative livelihoods for farmers will play a crucial role in fighting deforestation. Over the last two years in partnership with our suppliers, we have launched two pilot programmes which target women and reach a total of about 500 farmers to test income diversification strategies on intercropping and entrepreneurship. These initiatives provided a wealth of learnings hence we decided to upscale the programme in more communities in 2020.

The aim of this second phase is to support farmers diversifying their crop production into other crops as well as exploring additional sources of off-farm income.

5. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020 AND BEYOND

Since 2018, signatory companies have been working to fulfil their commitments to end deforestation and restore degraded forests in the cocoa sector. In 2019, the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana delivered on numerous commitments which have informed company

planning. Companies like ours will now be able to further develop their activities, moving from planning to implementation. As the governments continue to provide critical information (e.g. socio-economic assessments, updated land-use maps, operational decrees for implementation of the new forest code), we will continue to ramp up our delivery of CFI activities in alignment with government priorities. This will include identifying opportunities for landscape level collective action, as well as building partnerships with global development partners to drive forest positive impact on the ground,

ANNEX 1

CFI Company Tracking Table for Côte d'Ivoire

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	Total achieved to date (Sep 2018 - Dec 2019)
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 direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests	# farms mapped	21000	17850
	1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all direct sourcing areas	# ha included in deforestation risk assessment	59000	47000
2. Elimination of cocoa production and sourcing in National Parks and Reserves in line with promulgation and enforcement of national forest policy and development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers	2.1 Adopt and publish a system for excluding farmers in the direct supply chain with cocoa production in protected areas	Yes/No	yes	yes
	2.2 All farms found in National Parks and Reserves reported to government	% farms in Natl Parks & Reserves reported to government	Commitment operational. Farmer list available. Transfer to government dependent on agreement on social safeguards	
	2.3 Support cocoa farmers' transition to alternative livelihoods	# of total farmers in protected areas receiving assistance for alternative livelihoods	tbd	tbd
3. No sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through companies' traceable direct sourcing programs.	3.1 Implement traceability tools/technology to ensure no cocoa purchases originate from National Parks or Reserves (all forest areas)	% of direct sourced cocoa is traceable to farm-level	100% of direct sourced farms	85% of direct sourced farms
4. A differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for classified Forests will be developed and translated into a national forest restoration strategy	4.1 Support the restoration of Classified Forests by working with cocoa farmers, the government and the forestry industry to implement contracts for mixed agroforestry as a restoration and livelihoods intervention	# farmer 'agroforestry restoration' contracts signed	tbd	tbd
		# hectares restored in Classified Forests	tbd	tbd

5. Legal protection and management status for the remaining forests of Côte d'Ivoire in the Rural Domain	5.1 Cooperate with the government on enforcement to prevent deforestation in the legally protected forest estate (rural domain)	# hectares of forest in rural domain protected:	Subject to the government granting legal protection and management status to the remaining forests of Cote D'Ivoire in the Rural Zone	
6. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use for the different forests, and socio-economic data on cocoa farmers developed and publicly disclosed, and detailed operational guidelines prepared	6.1 Support the government's forthcoming adaptive management plans for different forest areas to benefit the livelihoods of forest-dependent cocoa communities	Yes/No	yes	yes
	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	Yes/No	yes	yes
7. Public enforcement of the new Forest Code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened	7.1 Promote and participate in awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on the new Forest Code	# farmers reached at awareness events	14000	7872
	7.2 Update farmer engagement materials and training with the revised Forest Code	Yes/No	yes	yes
8. Public-private collaboration to mobilize resources for forest protection and restoration	8.1 Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration	\$ mobilized towards forest protection and restoration:	tbd	tbd
		# hectares with forest protection and restoration financing	2600	0
		# farmers participating in PES contracts	100	0
9. Public-private collaboration to identify good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration and agro-forestry	9.1 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	104000	52000
		# hectares cocoa agroforestry developed	1250	748
	9.2 Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation)	# native trees planted off-farm	0	tbd
		# ha of forest area restored	0	tbd
10. Government creation, in collaboration with all stakeholders, of a public-private fund to support financing of protection and restoration of HCV forest areas.	10.1 Support the creation of the public-private forest conservation and rehabilitation fund	\$ contributed to fund	tbd	tbd
Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods				
	11.1 Distribute improved cocoa planting material	# improved seedlings distributed to farmers	Depending on CCC approval.	

11. Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow "more cocoa on less land"	11.2 Establish and/or provide cocoa nurseries with improved cocoa planting material	# of nurseries with improved cocoa seedlings		
	11.3 Train farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	# of farmers trained in GAPs	17000	12000
	11.4 Support cocoa farm rehabilitation	# of hectares of cocoa rehabilitated	tbd	tbd
12. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers	12.1 Promote farm-level crop diversification	# farmers applying crop diversification	6000	1751
	12.2 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	Already reported 9.1	
13. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds for production and farm renovation	13.1 Promote farmer savings	# farmers in supply chain with a savings account	4000	2690
		# farmers participating in VSLA groups	1800	0
	13.2 Offer financial products to farmers	# farmers offered a financial product	3800	6300
14. Improve supply chain mapping, with the goal of 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. An action plan will be developed for traceability, which will be implemented step-by-step to achieve full traceability and verification, applicable to all by end-2019.	14.1 Conduct farm mapping within direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests	# farms mapped within direct supply chain	Already reported 1.1	
	14.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in direct supply chain	% of direct sourced cocoa traceable from individual farms to first purchase point	Already reported 3.1	
Social Inclusion and Community Engagement				
15. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes.	15.1 Organize cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Frameworks for Action	# communities with consultation sessions	28	26
16. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration	16.1 Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management programs for forest restoration/protection	# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program	10	1
		# hectares under CBNRM	10	2.5
17. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.	17.1 Develop forest protection & restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are gender and youth sensitive	# cocoa communities with gender-focused programs	28	20
		# cocoa communities with youth-focused programs	28	24

