

MAY 2020



**Cocoa &
Forests
Initiative**



**INTERMEDIATE PILOT PHASE APPRAISAL
OF THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE
JANUARY 2018 - DECEMBER 2019**





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INDEX OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS —

- VSLA** : Village Savings and Loan Association
- BNETD** : National Engineering Studies and Development Office
- BSSI** : Special Intervention and Surveillance Brigade
- JFA** : Joint Framework for Action
- CHC** : Cavally Rubber Growing Company
- CNS** : National Security Council
- COP** : Conference of Parties
- COFIL** : Steering Committee
- CT** : Technical Committee
- FACI** : Côte d'Ivoire Armed Forces
- FAO** : Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- GT/BG** : Breakout Groups
- CFI** : Cocoa & Forests Initiative
- IDH** : The Sustainable Trade Initiative
- Le Conseil du Café-Cacao (CCC)** : The Council on the Regulation, Stabilization and Development of the Coffee-Cocoa Sector
- MEF** : Ministry of Economy and Finance
- MINEF** : Ministry of Water and Forests
- NES** : Environmental and Social Standards
- OIPR** : Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves
- OIREN** : Ivorian Observatory on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- ILO** : International Labour Organization
- CSOs** : Civil Society Organisations
- PES** : Environmental Service Payments
- FIP** : Forestry Investment Programme
- NDP** : National Development Plan
- OP** : Operational Policies
- PPREF** : Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Policy
- ERP** : Emissions Reduction Programme
- TFPs** : Technical & Financial Partners
- REDD+** : Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
- SEP REDD+** : REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat
- SODEFOR** : State Forest Management Agency
- SPREF** : Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Strategy
- GBV** : Gender Based Violence
- WCF** : World Cocoa Foundation
- WCF** : Wild Chimpanzee Foundation



FOREWORD



Alain-Richard DONWAHI
Minister of Water and Forests

Dear partners of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative,

“Just over two years ago, the governments of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana joined forces with leading companies in the cocoa and chocolate industry under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI)¹, which aims to eliminate deforestation in the cocoa supply chain. To this end, in November 2017, on behalf of the Government of Côte d’Ivoire, I signed the Joint Framework for Action (JFA) of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) with my counterpart from Ghana, the honourable Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. What a lofty and challenging commitment!

Recognizing the complexity of the issues to be addressed and the need for consultation and engagement of many stakeholders required for the successful implementation of the CFI, the signatories of the JFA decided to implement a pilot phase covering the period 2018-2020. After two years of implementation of the CFI, it is gratifying to note that significant results milestones have been achieved, particularly in terms of the policy, legislative and regulatory framework for the forest sector and the implementation of agroforestry activities.

Such results have been achieved through collaboration and consultation between the relevant state institutions on the one hand, and between public and private sector actors on the other. Challenges have also been identified, in particular with regard to the raising of the funds required for the implementation of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. The signatories to the JFA intend to address those challenges.

I assure you that efforts will be continued and strengthened by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire to create conditions conducive to the successful implementation of the CFI. I call on all CFI partners to sustain the momentum gained after these two years and to step up their efforts to carry out tangible projects on the ground, despite the decline in activities caused by the health crisis triggered by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Finally, I urge the entire cocoa supply chain, together with the Government of Côte d’Ivoire and the Technical and Financial Partners, to combine their efforts to ensure a smooth and gradual transition to «zero deforestation» cocoa farming and thereby contribute to safeguarding Côte d’Ivoire’s forest heritage as well as the Planet Earth.”



¹Signatory companies to the Joint Framework for Action in Côte d’Ivoire: : The number of signatory companies has increased from 12 in November 2017 to 35 to date. They are: Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Cémoi, Cocomect, Cococo Chocolatiers, Fazer, Ferrero, GCB Cocoa, General Mills Inc., Godiva Chocolatier Inc., Guittard Chocolate Company, The Hershey Company, Lindt & Sprüngli Group, Marks & Spencer Food, Mars Wrigley, Mondelez, Nestlé, Olam Cocoa, Sainsbury’s, SIAT, Sucden, Tesco, Touton, Unilever, UPL and Valrhona

A WORD FROM THE WCF PRESIDENT



Richard Scobey
President of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)

“Ms. Yao Ahou, a cocoa farmer in N’denou, a community located in the Lagunes Region of Côte d’Ivoire, told us in no uncertain terms: «there is less rain because all the big trees have been cut down. We cut down every large tree that could turn up the steam to attract the rain. If only we could have some of those big trees on our cocoa trees (...) it would cover the cocoa trees, at least protect them from the sun. Ms. Yao turned her beliefs into practice and planted forest trees on her cocoa farm, including a beautiful acacia tree that not only provides shade but also protects against some insects, generates fodder for farm animals and helps reclaim the soil, in addition to other benefits.

Ms. Yao is one of more than one million people actively involved in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative: ranging from cocoa farmers to private sector companies as well as government authorities. This collective effort is reaching an important milestone today: this report is focusing on the first two years of implementation of interventions under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. What have been the successes since the release of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative Joint Framework for Action in November 2017 and the initial action plans in March 2019?

First, and most importantly, companies have begun to deliver on the promises made under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, with a special focus on traceability within their direct supply chains, by establishing mechanisms to eradicate deforestation from their cocoa supply processes, by reclaiming land degraded due to reforestation, by increasing forest cover and sustainable production through the promotion of cocoa agroforestry, and by emphasizing the involvement of local communities.

Secondly, the partnership was expanded to 35 companies (versus 12 initially) that are signatories of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

Thirdly, our partnership with the governments of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana is being strengthened, as is our partnership with other key stakeholders. In the course of 2019, the national authorities have delivered on important promises to promote new private sector investment, in particular by enacting new laws, sharing baseline data and maps, adopting social and environmental safeguards and establishing new forest policies to promote cocoa agroforestry.

As we look back on the first two years of implementation, we are proud of the early steps taken by the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, and we are resolved not to lose sight of the overarching goal of halting cocoa-related deforestation and rehabilitating forest areas. We are still a long way from this goal and we need to scale up our efforts. In 2020, we will, in particular, accelerate the collaboration with private sector in the cocoa landscape and, in partnership with governments, implement effective tools to monitor and prevent further deforestation.

For Ms. Yao, her children and her children’s children.”



MESSAGE FROM IDH CEO



Joost Oosthuizen
CEO, IDH -The Sustainable Trade Initiative-

“Prior to the inception of the CFI, a multi-stakeholder platform where governments, industry and cocoa farmers worked together was non-existent. Some might even say that it was unthinkable. Two years later, the commitments made by governments and companies to halt deforestation in the cocoa supply chain, and the willingness to work together to achieve this, are as strong, if not stronger, than when we started.

It is important to note that these commitments have also dramatically raised sensitization of the issue of cocoa-related deforestation and have mobilized efforts from the grassroots up to the government level. In this connection, the impact of government buy-in to the process, with commitment at the highest ministerial level, cannot be overlooked. Not only in terms of enacting laws to create an enabling environment for change, but also in inspiring real deeds, from cocoa farms to corporate boards of directors - because we all operate with greater conviction when our desire for change is backed by political will.

Although we had set up a strong governance body for the CFI; with hindsight, IDH realized that a critical voice was missing because the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) were not co-signatories to the commitments. We are now ensuring that these organisations play a key role, both in the design of the CFI plans and in the implementation on the ground. Their input into the success of the initiative is vital, not only to ensure community representation, but also to hold signatories accountable for their commitments.

In implementing stricter monitoring and evaluation measures at the top of our governance task list, we are striving to achieve full transparency of CFI’s outcomes. Again, CSOs and neutral third parties will play a major role in the independent observation and credibility of the signatories’ activities.

Such activities must be carried out not only in cocoa-producing countries, but also in the boardrooms of consumer countries. As the largest importer of raw cocoa, the EU can have an equally important impact on the cocoa industry - in terms of due diligence measures or incentives for farmers. We will strive to create synergies with sustainable chocolate platforms in Europe and beyond.

Of course, strains could arise between stakeholders, but as we move forward, I call on all CFI signatories and partners to focus on the dynamics, rather than the stumbling blocks. To concentrate on the dynamic, rather than blaming each other for failure to act. And finally, on making real progress, by shifting the focus from theory to practice.”





Cocoa pod

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Framework for Action (JFA) of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI), signed in November 2017, in Bonn, Germany, on the sidelines of the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP 23) on the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, by the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, with around thirty companies from the cocoa and chocolate industry, began its operationalization phase in January 2018. The Joint Framework for Action outlines basic commitments, major activities, verifiable objectives and measures, with a timeline for implementation, for a deforestation-free and forest-positive supply chain.

The overall objective of the CFI is to halt deforestation in the cocoa value chain.

As a platform for public-private partnerships, the purpose of the CFI is to bring into play a synergy of efforts, on the one hand, between the projects and programmes of the signatories of the Joint Framework for Action and, on the other hand, between the programmes and projects implemented, ongoing and future, with other partners, aiming at the same objectives as those of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

The implementation of the CFI started in January 2018 with a three-year pilot phase, in five priority regions: La Mé, Nawa, Cavally, San Pedro and Guémon.

After two years of implementation, significant results have been achieved, challenges have been identified and opportunities have been explored.

The main results are related to forestry protection and rehabilitation, sustainable cocoa production and agroforestry, cocoa traceability, social inclusion and monitoring-evaluation.

With regard to the protection and rehabilitation of forests, legislation and regulations in the forestry sector were passed in a consensual manner. Sensitization activities for more than 177,000 cocoa farmers and forest monitoring by teams from the Ministry of Water and Forests have been carried out using monitoring tools such as Images and Starling. They have made it possible to note a downward trend in deforestation in 26 classified forests in 12 administrative regions across the country. Furthermore, the provision of updated cartographic data on the boundaries of national parks and reserves and the boundaries of classified forests to be updated, to companies that are signatories to the Joint Framework for Action made it possible for private companies to map 492,900 farms and set up systems to ensure that they do not source cocoa from national parks and reserves and to initiate deforestation risk assessments in all their supply areas.

Besides, memorandums of understanding have been signed by the Ministry of Water and Forests with some CFI partners who have expressed their intention to assist in the management of four classified forests covering more than 580,000 ha. The companies have provided nearly 94,000 trees of local species for reforestation as part of the «one day, one million trees» operation initiated in 2019 by the Ministry of Water and Forests. This operation, which was carried out with several private partners, resulted in the planting of more than 1.2 million trees.

With respect to agroforestry and sustainable cocoa growing, The main results include the distribution by the private sector of more than 2 million multipurpose forest trees to farmers and the training of nearly 445,000 farmers in good agricultural practices. These efforts are aimed at improving the productivity of cocoa plantations and promoting agroforestry, as well as improving farmers' incomes and relieving stress on residual forests.



In terms of social inclusion, in line with their commitments to respect human rights, JFA signatories have established environmental and social safeguards that are consistent with those of the World Bank. Additionally, aware of the need to involve communities in the fight against deforestation, JFA signatories, particularly private sector companies, have worked with 1,680 rural communities, mostly women, to promote CFI's activities.

In relation to traceability, the data from the census of farmers being carried out by “Le Conseil du Café-Cacao” will feed into the traceability system for which the feasibility study has been initiated.

As for financing matters, a donors' round table is slated for 2020, in order to raise the financial resources required for the implementation of the Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Strategy (SPREF) and the CFI, whose budget for the pilot phase is F CFA 126 billion, i.e. \$ 210 million, or euro 193 million. At the same time, companies are developing innovative financial models, including Environmental Service Payments (ESP) Contracts. In addition, they are promoting financial inclusion to increase farmers' access to working and investment capital. The total financing mobilized by the private sector, within the framework of the CFI, for the year 2019, has been estimated by the WCF at F CFA 14.7 billion i.e. \$ 24,5 million. In view of the financial commitments actually secured in relation to the required financing needs (126 billion), the remaining challenge is clearly linked to the mobilization of additional financial resources.

Regarding monitoring-evaluation, with technical assistance from the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP REDD+), performance indicators and the CFI planning scheme were agreed upon. The monitoring-evaluation manual drafted is in the process of being finalized.

In 2020, in the light of the situation of the coronavirus pandemic, priority will be given to completing the activities initiated in the first two years and preparing the post-2020 prospects.

The main achievements of the first two years include the establishment of a policy, legislative and regulatory framework for the forest sector, the institutional framework (governance bodies) and the sensitization of the various stakeholders of the deforestation issue and its harmful effects on cocoa farming, in particular, and the environment in general. These achievements were obtained thanks to the sound collaboration observed, both between the relevant state institutions and between public and private sector partners.

The major challenge is to mobilize the financial resources required for the implementation of large-scale field activities. The building of trust between partners and the need to extend the public-private partnership platform that the CFI offers to other value chains of perennial crops such as rubber and oil palm, to bring into play the synergies of efforts, are also challenges that need to be addressed. The last challenge concerns the strengthening of the Technical Secretariat's capacities in terms of both human and financial resources, in order to strengthen the coordination and synergy of activities carried out by all stakeholders.

The post-2020 period should be devoted to consolidating and scaling up the activities and results achieved during the pilot phase. It will have to be especially devoted to the completion of large-scale on-site activities requiring substantial financial resources, in particular the updating of the boundaries of the classified forests and those of all the enclaves, the carrying out of an inventory in these classified forests, the rehabilitation of forests, in priority those of the 5 regions of the pilot phase, the implementation and operationalisation of the national traceability system.



Agroforestry landscape with cocoa



Cocoa pods and cocoa beans



I. CONTEXT

Côte d'Ivoire lost more than 70% of its forest cover between 1960 and 2015, from 12 million hectares in 1960 to 3.4 million hectares in 2015 (FAO/BNETD, 2016). This means a residual forest cover rate of 11%. The main cause of this loss of forest cover is extensive agriculture by farmers in search of more fertile forest land, with cocoa as a major speculation.

Mindful of the economic, social and environmental stakes of deforestation and land degradation on the lives of the people, the Ivorian State has initiated three major moves to preserve and rehabilitate forests, namely:

- The approval of the new Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Policy (PPREF) in May 2018;
- The signing in November 2017 of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) Joint Framework for Action (JFA) with some thirty companies in the cocoa and chocolate industry aimed at eliminating deforestation in the cocoa supply chain;

- Adherence to the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism since 2012. This mechanism aims to incentivise developing countries to protect their forest resources, improve their management and make wise use of them, thus helping to combat climate change.

These three major steps aim, on the one hand, to combine forestry and agriculture and, on the other hand, to protect and extend the residual forest heritage. Pooling forestry with sustainable agriculture will strengthen the control of deforestation and contribute to improving the productivity of agricultural crops.

The present report reviews the implementation of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative covering the period from January 2018 to December 2019. It is based on the various reports of the JFA governing bodies and on the feedback from the questionnaire administered to partners in February-March 2020. It is structured around the main components of the CFI. The activities carried out in accordance with the commitments are shown in the attached matrix.



II. INTRODUCTION TO THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE

2.1 What is the Cocoa & Forests Initiative?

Why do cocoa and chocolate manufacturers get involved in forest conservation and rehabilitation?

Having become aware of the positive effects of forests on the sustainability of cocoa production as well as the negative effects of deforestation on cocoa farming and the environment, the cocoa and chocolate industry has started to brainstorm on how to mitigate the effects of climate change, eliminate deforestation in the cocoa supply chain and thereby reduce its carbon footprint.

Thus, the Cocoa & Forests Initiative is the brainchild of consultations between the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and the cocoa and chocolate industry, since March 2016, with Prince Charles' leadership, the IDH facilitation and the commitment of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), to achieve this goal.

These consultations led to the signing of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) Joint Framework for Action on 17 November 2017, in Bonn, Germany, on the sidelines of Cop23. The Framework aims at halting deforestation and promoting forest conservation and rehabilitation within the cocoa sector. The Joint Framework for Action (JFA) sets out basic commitments, major activities, verifiable measures and time-bound objectives for a deforestation-free and forest-positive supply chain.

The CFI is seen as the gateway between cocoa farming and forest development. Thus, it is in line with the Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Strategy (SPREF). It is a key component of this strategy and is led by the Ministry of Water and Forests.

The CFI is a public-private partnership platform between the above-mentioned governments and the cocoa and chocolate industry. Accordingly, it is intended to leverage a synergy of efforts, on the one hand, between the projects and programmes of the signatories to the Joint Framework for Action and, on the other hand, between ongoing and upcoming programmes and projects with other partners (Private Sector, Civil Society and Technical & Financial Partners), aiming at the same objectives as those of the

Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

2.2. Objectives

The overall objective of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative is to contribute to halting deforestation and forest degradation in the global cocoa supply chain.

The specific objectives of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative are to:

- Promote sustainable intensification of cocoa farming and agroforestry;
- Contribute to the preservation and rehabilitation of forests;
- Promote social inclusion.

2.3. Commitments

CFI's Joint Framework for Action includes eight main commitments:

- i. Prohibit and prevent activities in the cocoa sector causing or contributing to further deforestation or degradation of National Parks and Reserves, Classified Forests and Protected Forest Estate Forests (Rural Property);
- ii. Respect the rights of cocoa farmers, including through the identification and reduction of social risks and the progressive implementation of actions to minimize potential adverse impacts on social and economic aspects;
- iii. Promote the effective rehabilitation and long-term conservation of national parks and reserves as well as classified forests;
- iv. Enhance mapping of the supply chain, with the ultimate goal of achieving full traceability down to the farm level;
- v. Implement time-bound tangible objectives and activities on the basis of stakeholder consultations and a realistic timeline;
- vi. Implement customized activities within the context of a broader territorial approach, creating strong links with similar initiatives on other agricultural crops, and fully aligning with the national REDD+ strategy and other relevant national plans



and strategies;

vii. Partner in the implementation of the Framework's activities and in the mobilization of financial resources and technical expertise required.

viii. Provide effective monitoring and reporting on the progress of commitments and activities to ensure transparency and accountability.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. Operationalising the Joint Framework for Action and establishing the Institutional Framework.

To start the process of operationalizing the Joint Framework for Action, the Ministry of Water and Forests hosted the Cocoa & Forests Initiative kick-off workshop on the 17-18 of January 2018. The main directions of CFI's activities were defined by the Ad Hoc Working Groups set up during the workshop.

Following this workshop, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, through the Ministry of Water and Forests, set up the institutional framework for the implementation of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative through the interministerial Order N° 00632 MINEF/CAB of 03 July 2018 establishing the governance bodies, namely (i) the Steering Committee (COFIL), (ii) the Technical Committee (TC), (iii) the Permanent Technical Secretariat and the Thematic Groups (GT).

The Steering Committee (COFIL) is tasked with providing strategic guidance and impetus for the functioning of the governance bodies set up within the JFA, approving the proposals made by the Technical Committee, ensuring governance in the process of implementing the Joint Framework for Action, and so on.

The Technical Committee (TC) is responsible for coordinating the actual implementation of the activities outlined in the JFA, supervising the work of the various breakout groups and validating their action plans, making proposals to the Steering Committee and preparing the various meetings of the Steering Committee.

The Permanent Technical Secretariat is in charge of preparing and organizing the COFIL and TC meetings, assisting the signatories in the preparation and implementation of the Action Plan,

coordinating activities to mobilize funding for the Action Plan, preparing the progress report of the activities, assisting the BGs in their functioning and ensuring the follow-up of their work, coordinate, through administrative support, the carrying out of studies in collaboration with the Working Groups, ensure information sharing with all Cocoa & Forests Initiative stakeholders, raise funds for the operational functioning (governance, communication and monitoring-evaluation) of the Initiative.

The Thematic or Working Groups (WGs) are mandated to formulate a detailed plan of action with a road map specifying the objectives, timeline and budget, to recommend performance indicators for the achievement of the identified objectives, and to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation of the detailed JFA plan of action.

Also, for the purpose of supervising, coordinating and capitalizing on the achievements of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, the Ministry of Water and Forests set up the Cocoa & Forests Initiative Project Coordination Unit pursuant to Ministerial Order 00639 MINEF /CAB of 1 August 2018. This Unit represents the Ministry of Water and Forests within the Technical Secretariat of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. Thus, it works in close collaboration with IDH and WCF to handle the Secretariat and the facilitation of the CFI in Côte d'Ivoire.

The operationalization process thus launched led to the design of the CFI implementation plan, in a participatory and inclusive approach, with the public and private sector institutions concerned (Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Conseil du Café- Cacao, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, REDD+ Executive Secretariat, the Ministry for Employment and Social Protection, partners from the private sector and civil society). The action plans focus on six main themes or components, i.e.:

- 1. Forest Conservation and Rehabilitation;**
- 2. Agroforestry and Sustainable Cocoa Farming;**
- 3. Traceability of cocoa associated with the establishment of a monitoring and warning system for deforestation due to cocoa farming;**
- 4. Social inclusion aimed at ensuring the effective involvement of affected popula-**



tions and taking social and environmental safeguards for the respect of their rights;

5. Financing through the search for innovative financing mechanisms;

6. Monitoring and evaluation.

The CFI Steering Committee adopted the implementation plan in November 2018. Its implementation involves two (2) stages:

- A pilot phase lasting three years (2018-2020) with a budget of F CFA 126 billion, i.e. euro 193 million, excluding the budgets of companies in the cocoa sector and the chocolate industry; the pilot phase relates to five (5) priority regions: Nawa, La Mé, Cavally, Guémon and San Pedro;
- An extension phase of ten (10) years (2021-2030).

3.2. Implemented Activities and results

The activities carried out are described according to the main components of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative:

- *Protection and rehabilitation of forests;*
- *Agroforestry and Sustainable Production;*
- *Traceability;*
- *Social inclusion;*
- *Monitoring and evaluation;*
- *Financing.*

3.2.1. Protection and rehabilitation of forests

Under forest protection, legislation and regulations have been laid down. Monitoring and awareness-raising activities have been carried out. The results obtained are as follows:

- Equipping the Forestry Authority with vehicles to facilitate the monitoring of residual forests;
- Development and dissemination of the Land Use Map (REDD+) towards a better knowledge of the forest heritage;
- The passing of Act N°2019-675 of 23 July 2019 on the Forest Code and the issuing of nine (9) regulatory instruments for

the enforcement of the said code, four (4) of which are relevant to the CFI (Decree N°2019-828 of 09 October 2019 on the creation of agro-forestry, Decree N°2019-977 of 27 November 2019 on procedures for classifying forests and agro-forestry, Decree N°2019-978 of 27 November 2019 on the granting of licences for the management of the private forest estate of the State and local authorities and Decree N°2019-979 of 27 November 2019 on the terms and conditions for the development of agro-forestry, the harvesting of agricultural estates and the marketing of agricultural products in agro-forests); in all, twenty-eight (28) instruments for the enforcement of the new 2019 Forest Code have been drawn up in a participatory process with all stakeholders. The process of validation and adoption of the other regulations implementing the Forest Code is ongoing;


- The development of forest monitoring tools, such as STARLING and IMAGES in liaison with the Ministry of Planning and Development;

- The provision of updated mapping data on the boundaries of national parks and reserves, as well as the administrative boundaries of classified, «groomed» forests and the associated digital data to companies that are signatories to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative's Joint Framework for Action on May 21, 2019; these mapping data, disseminated on the REDD+ website, have enabled private companies to set up systems to ensure that they do not source cocoa from national parks and reserves. The data also enabled companies to initiate deforestation risk assessments across all their supply areas. This approach is part of their commitment to eliminate cocoa from protected areas and to ensure that cocoa production no longer causes deforestation;

- The provision of the list of enclaves in classified forests, including contact details for some of them, via the companies that are signatories to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative's Joint Framework for Action on December 14th, 2019. Such data also contribute to deforestation risk assessments across all their supply areas and contribute to their commitment to eliminate cocoa from protected areas and to ensure that cocoa production no longer causes deforestation;

- The start of sensitization activities for



communities and local authorities on the issues and activities of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative in October 2019; these activities will be pursued in 2020 

- The implementation of sensitization, control and surveillance activities by forest police officers, SODEFOR, backed by the new Special Intervention and Surveillance Brigade (BSSI) of the Ministry of Water and Forests, the Côte d'Ivoire Armed Forces (FACI), the National Gendarmerie and the Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR), in 26 classified priority forests in the Ivorian forest zone through the programme to secure classified forests financed through the National Security Council (CNS) ; BSSI's interventions led to the dismantling of 4 illegal gold washing sites; the seizure of the equivalent of 3,578 felled trees, i.e. 872 ha of natural forests destroyed, equivalent to 1,246 soccer fields; the seizure of 10 containers of Venetian wood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*); the seizure of 35 vehicles, and arrests of several offenders, among others. Following these awareness raising, control and monitoring activities, a downward trend in deforestation is observed in some classified forests in 12 administrative regions of the country (classified forests of Cavally, Sangouiné, Tiapleu, Krozialé, Mont Nieton in the West; Bossématié, Béki, Brassué, Tamin, N'to, Mabi-Yaya, N'zodji, Hein and Songan in the East and Southeast, mainly). This finding stems from the observation made on the restoration of native forest in selected classified forests in the East (e.g. Brassué and Mabi, part of which has just been established as a nature reserve) and in the South (e.g. Irobo and Mopri with the return of elephants). We also note the voluntary departure of farmer from many classified forests, namely in Séguéla (in the centre), Haute Dodo (in the South) and Scio (in the West). The same is true for the Mount Péko National Park.

- Sensitization of 177,300 farmers on environmental and sustainable production issues in general, including those of the CFI, by partners of the cocoa private sector, according to the WCF report;

- Conversion by Decree No. 2019-897 of October 30, 2019, of part of the classi-

fied forests of Mabi and Yaya into the Mabi-Yaya Nature Reserve, covering an area of 61,282 ha 559 ares, in the region of La Mé, for better protection and conservation.

Efforts have also been made in the area of governance, so as to enhance the protection of forests. These include:

- The carrying out of independent monitoring activities, as part of a partnership signed between the Ministry of Water and Forests and the NGO Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF);

- The development of the Governance Index of the Ministry of Water and Forests with the establishment of a partnership with the rating agency Bloomfield Investment Corporation on October 23rd, 2019, to produce a sector risk study and produce the index. The 2019 Sector Risk Report, officially submitted to the Ministry of Water and Forests in January 2020, has a rating of 4.4/10, i.e. a moderate risk. This report will be publicly released during the round table for the financing of the forestry strategy.

With regard to forest rehabilitation, preparatory activities for the development of some classified forests, as well as reforestation projects, were carried out by the Ministry of Water and Forests and private sector cocoa partners:

- The conclusion of partnership protocols with selected private sector companies, for their involvement in forest management; These protocols cover four (4) classified forests (Goin-Debé, Haute-Dodo, Rapides-Grah and Arrah) covering an area of 582,306 ha, mainly in the CFI pilot regions;

- The socio-economic studies carried out in the classified forest of Goin-Débé by SODEFOR, co-financed by the IDH, provide useful data to better conduct the pilot implementation of agro-forestry in the context of the SPREF;

- The organization by the Ministry of Water and Forests of the national tree planting day, called «One day, One million trees», on 15 November 2019. On that day, nearly 1.2 million trees were planted, equivalent



to 5,845 hectares of reforested forests, by 129,468 volunteers and 171 schools;

- The start of the implementation of the **Forestry Investment Programme (FIP)** in the Rapides-Grah, Haute-Dodo and Goin-Débé classified forests (COMPONENT 1: Sustainable Management of the targeted classified forests); in particular by initiating detailed studies aimed at precisely updating the key baselines for the preparation of sustainable management plans at the landscape scale of the selected classified forests, thus creating large-scale innovation pilots for the implementation of the new forest policy

- The implementation by private partners in the cocoa and chocolate industry of major agroforestry projects, including, according to the World Cocoa Foundation report (WCF):

- *The provision of 94,000 trees of local species to be distributed for reforestation;*

- *The implementation of Environmental Service Payments contracts to benefit 1,340 farmers;*

- *The implementation of landscape approaches in CFI priority regions, such as Cavally, La Mé, Nawa and San Pedro.*

- *The start of the implementation, in connection with REDD+, of the country's first CO2 Emissions Reduction Programme, which aims to sequester 16.5 million tons of carbon around Tai National Park over the period 2020-2024.*

- Compensatory reforestation and reforestation operations undertaken by timber operators, under partnership agreements, in classified forests, covering areas of 2 263 ha and 2 898 ha respectively.



Young cocoa tree in production





Dr FOFANA Mamadou
Advisor to the Prime Minister

“As part of the REDD+ mechanism, Côte d’Ivoire has shown its commitment to developing a national forest monitoring system, in line with the Warsaw Framework. The Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ministry of Water and Forests, via the national Forest Development Company (SODEFOR, the state forest management agency) have launched two deforestation monitoring and early warning system pilots, called Images and Starling respectively.

Alongside these actions, the governments of Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire and the world’s leading cocoa and chocolate corporations signed a joint action framework in November 2017, in order to end deforestation and promote the restoration and protection of forests in the cocoa supply areas. This new and historic public-private partnership – named the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) – is facilitated by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH).

This initiative also provides for the “adoption of a transparent satellite-based monitoring system, including deforestation alert, which will be made publicly available for all stakeholders to measure and monitor progress on the overall deforestation target.”

The evaluation of these two tools, conducted by the CFI, revealed the need for more cooperation among stakeholders in order to take their needs into consideration and come up with a suitable tool.

Following consultations with stakeholders conducted under the aegis of the Prime Minister’s office, the specifications of this system were outlined. The next step is to gather the technical and financial propositions of the operators that will be supporting Côte d’Ivoire in developing this system.

Lobbying will need to be done at the WCF so that its members may contribute to the system’s financing and development.”



Colonel Major TONDOSSAMA Adama
Director General, Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR)

“The OIPR is involved in all Cocoa & Forest Initiative’s working groups, through which we have suggested activities that would allow us to better protect National Parks and Reserves. As such, we see the CFI as a major initiative that helps us reach our goals in conserving Côte d’Ivoire’s protected areas.



However, there are several challenges. The first is to ensure the local populations respect the National Parks' and Reserves' boundaries. This is essential if we are to conserve these protected areas and prevent them from being converted into cocoa farms or any other types of farms. The second challenge involves improving farming techniques. Current techniques are poorly developed and inefficient, constantly require new land, and therefore lead to deforestation. We need to help growers improve their farming practices to avoid extensive farming, which is one of the main causes of deforestation in rural and protected areas managed by the government. Furthermore, improving farming practices does not only apply to cocoa farming, but also to other cash crops such as rubber, oil palm and subsistence crops. To conclude, the last challenge for the OIPR is fighting poaching and illegal gold mining. There are certain groups that enter the National Parks and Reserves and practice these activities. To solve this problem, the government is studying increased surveillance measures, namely by using drones."



Colonel Major Mamadou SANGARÉ,
Director General, State Forest Management Agency (SODEFOR)

"Forests are vital for the whole world, because without them, rainfall is affected; and without water, there is no agriculture. The forest is therefore so vital for life on earth.

SODEFOR is the State Forest Management Agency of Côte d'Ivoire. Our role is to protect classified forests against illegal infiltration, to plant trees and to regenerate degraded areas. Therefore, there are many synergies linking CFI's commitments and our objectives regarding the restoration of classified forests that have been degraded by human activities. Similarly, alignment with the government's National Strategy for the Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension of Forests remains a priority.

This issue of tree planting is a very delicate one. Forest regeneration is not an easy task. It requires large financial and human resources. But if the government of Côte d'Ivoire prioritizes the forest as a national priority and if all CFI's partners strengthen and increase their financial support to the forest sector, we will be able to more effectively serve our mission. This is a very complex but surmountable issue.

Without the support of the cocoa sector, Côte d'Ivoire would not be able to restore the degraded areas of classified forests, through improved control of agricultural production areas, ensuring sustainable agriculture."





Andrew Brooks,
VP, Head of Cocoa Sustainability, Olam Cocoa

“At Olam we have taken a number of actions to stop deforestation, with a focus on education and training, distributing forest and fruit tree seedlings to be planted, and working hand-in hand with the Ivorian government to protect areas at high risk of deforestation.

we’ve been working in partnership with our customers to actively promote agroforestry, encouraging farmers to plant forest and fruit trees alongside cocoa, restoring lost tree cover as well as improving income. Over 773,000 new forest and shade trees were distributed last year to our farmers.

In Cote d’Ivoire we have also committed to protect and support the restoration of 460,000 hectares of classified forests and to take long-term action in partnership with the Ministry of Forests and Water.

Since the new Forestry Code has been published together with SODEFOR and the World Bank FIP program we launched a tender for an in-depth mapping exercise and long-term management plan.

Olam Cocoa has been a leading partner in the 1 day 1 million trees campaign by the Ministry of Forests and Water with a contribution permitting 60,000 ha of degraded forest to be restored.”



Siriki DIAKITE
Director, West Africa, Rainforest Alliance

“The Rainforest Alliance committed to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative right from the beginning, as one of the largest certification organizations, especially in Côte d’Ivoire. We are particularly involved in the Traceability and Agroforestry breakout groups. Our role is partly an advisory one, and we also make suggestions to the cocoa and chocolate industry concerning the implementation of action plans in accordance with the commitments made.

For us, a major step forward in 2019 was the release of the administrative boundaries of classified forests to cocoa industry stakeholders. That was solid progress, since the boundaries of protected areas are the official basis on which decisions can be made when certifying farmers working close to such areas.

A major challenge for us is the issue of enclaves within classified forests. Thanks to the discussions held as part of the CFI, the Ministry of Water and Forests shared a list of enclaves with the



cocoa industry. This inventory is essential so that they can be geo-localized and farmers' statuses can be confirmed under our programmes. This will then facilitate our verification process, as part of the certification of cocoa cooperatives. We welcome the distribution of forest seedlings and the awareness-raising activities aimed at farmers. It is now crucial to guarantee and ensure that the trees also reach ripeness, and to develop these two activities in all supply areas.

We also hope that the process of operationalizing the new forest code will move forward successfully amidst the Coronavirus crisis, as this is necessary to develop long-term plans for certified farmers' groups."



Mano Demeure,
Development Director, SIAT Group

"As a leading economic player in the Cavally region, through its affiliate CHC (Cavally Rubber Growing Company), SIAT is actively involved in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative as a newly formed member of the WCF, although it has no direct trade interests in the Cocoa value chain.

This citizen-based approach is spurred by our group's desire to contribute to key paradigm shifts in agricultural value chains, by mobilizing its operational agricultural expertise, and by harnessing new technologies such as geomatics and biotechnologies. The promotion of sustainable projects in the agricultural and forestry sectors must therefore reflect the reality on the ground, which is very demanding in the classified forests which Goin-Débé is a part of.

SIAT has shown great interest in contributing to the implementation of Côte d'Ivoire's new forest policy. This interest led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Water and Forests and SIAT in connection with the management of the Goin-Débé classified forest.

Thanks to World Bank funding under the Forestry Investment Programme, the assessment of Goin Débé's CF, together with a development plan, will be completed in the course of this year 2020.

We salute the collaborative efforts of the governmental players in this fortunate partnership, that is, the Ministry of Water and Forests, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, with their respective technical bodies, SODEFOR, the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat and the General Coordination Unit for projects supported by the World Bank. The development of the classified forest of Goin-Débé can be considered as a pilot operation of the new Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Strategy and the CFI.

The priority objective for 2020 is to develop an innovative management plan, tailored to the new legal framework, including the elements of the new forest policy and the contributions of new technologies and trends in sustainability and innovative finance, which are key to achieving large-scale impacts."



3.2.2. Agroforestry and Sustainable Production

This involves initiatives to improve the productivity of cocoa farms, particularly through agroforestry, and projects to improve farmers' incomes. These activities are mainly carried out by private sector partners and also aim to reduce the pressure on classified forests. Thus, according to the progress report on private sector activities shared by the World Cocoa Foundation, the following main activities have been carried out by private sector cocoa companies:

- The distribution of 2,141,500 multi-purpose forest seedlings to farmers for agroforestry purposes;
- Training of 445,100 farmers in good

agricultural practices;

- The granting of aid to 190,100 farmers for crop diversification;

- The supervision of 120,000 farmers who received aid for financial products;

- 58,000 farmers were provided with advisory, financial and training services on savings and credit.

The Government, through "Le Conseil du Café-Cacao", has initiated the development of the sustainable cocoa standard as part of the partnership between "Le Conseil du Café-Cacao" and the Ghana Cocoa Board. The draft standard is being submitted to the African Standardization Body.





Yves Ibrahima KONE
Director General, "Le Conseil du Café-Cacao"

"The forest is our best ally in reducing the adverse effects of climate change on agricultural productivity.

"Le Conseil du Café-Cacao" therefore takes the problem of deforestation and its corollaries very seriously. We have focused our strategy on three major pillars: the promotion of agroforestry, the establishment of a national cocoa traceability system, and the improvement of cocoa farmers' incomes.

Indeed, we actively encourage the introduction of trees in farms. This will increase the carbon sequestration of the farms, improve shade which is beneficial to the cocoa tree, and diversify farmers' incomes. In doing so, our teams are working in collaboration with experts from the relevant structures on strategies to make quality forest seedlings available to farmers and to support them in the development of a production system based on agroforestry. The objective is to have cocoa farms that are more resilient to climate change in the future. Thus, more than 60 million trees will be introduced into cocoa orchards over the next four years to support the Government's efforts to reconstitute the forest cover.

With respect to the national traceability system, we have mobilized the necessary funds to conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a system that is technically, economically, financially and socially viable. At the same time, we are carrying out, with our own funds, the important census of cocoa farmers and their orchards throughout the production zone. This census, which is scheduled to be completed in 2020, is the basis of a reliable traceability system, which will ensure that cocoa does not come from protected areas, in accordance with the commitments of the CFI signatories. Our strategy to significantly improve the farmer's income is primarily based on the introduction, in collaboration with Ghana, of a Living Income Differential (LID) for cocoa farmers. As a result, the living and working conditions of farmers will improve as they will have the means to make the necessary investments to improve the productivity of their farms and thus stabilize the cultivated areas and preserve the forests. Finally, the development of the African Standard for Sustainable Cocoa will enable us to ensure that all the cocoa produced in Côte d'Ivoire complies with environmental and social requirements agreed with all parties.

Ultimately, the Cocoa & Forests Initiative is in line with the strategy adopted by "Le Conseil du Café-Cacao" for the promotion of sustainable Ivorian cocoa, both from the point of view of combating deforestation and improving the living conditions of cocoa farmers."





Marco GONÇALVES
Chief Procurement Officer & Hazelnut Company Manager, Ferrero

“With the Cocoa & Forests Initiative we are bringing meaningful and lasting change into the cocoa sector. As Ferrero, we are very proud to contribute to this collective initiative and it is in line with our commitments and values as a family company. Moving forward, Ferrero will continue working to strengthen its cocoa sustainability program with a positive and lasting impact on the cocoa value chain.”



John AMENT
**Global Vice President,
Cocoa, Mars Wrigley**

“Our Cocoa for Generations” plan embodies our cocoa sustainability strategy, with protecting people and the planet at its core. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is a key component of that strategy. To achieve our 2025 ambition of a deforestation-free cocoa supply chain, we will ensure 100% traceability for the cocoa we source. We believe legislation has a role to play in improving governance and transparency and encourage all cocoa supply chain stakeholders to contribute expertise in support of existing and evolving government regulation in cocoa origin and consuming countries. That regulation could drive positive measurable change in the areas of human rights and deforestation. We are proud to share our activities and progress, because we know the world we want tomorrow starts with how we do business today.”



Loes WIERSTRA
Senior Environmental Project Manager, Cocoanect

“In Côte d’Ivoire, Cocoanect has established strong partnerships with Advans, the country’s leading financial service provider, and Callivoire, an agricultural solutions company, in order to facilitate smallholder farmers’ access to finance for transitioning towards increasingly sustainable and resilient agroforestry-based livelihoods. We’ve referred to existing studies and emerging technologies to develop our approach. The lessons learnt and best practices we’ve identified will be used by Advans to engage with suitable third parties to conduct further studies aimed at pin-pointing the key criteria for successful agroforestry loan systems in the cocoa sector.”



3.2.3. Traceability

One of the CFI's key commitments is the establishment of a national cocoa traceability system. It aims to verify the origin of cocoa beans in the supply chain, with the objective of 100% traceable cocoa supply from the farm to the first point of purchase.

To this end, the government has taken the following steps:

- Preparation for the start of the feasibility study of the national traceability system, financed by "Le Conseil du Café-Cacao", in particular through an open and inclusive screening process for the consultant tasked with carrying out the study; the im-

plementation of the national system will be based on the achievements of already established and operational traceability systems by some of the signatory companies of the Joint Framework for Action;

- Census of farmers and their cocoa orchards, in progress, with funding from "Le Conseil du Café-Cacao"; the results of the census will be available by the end of 2020 at the latest. Census data will feed into the national traceability system.

On this subject, companies are investing in improved supply chain mapping. In two years, for example, they have mapped 492,900 ha of farms.



Jean-Marie DELON
Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate, West Africa Sustainability Manager

"Traceability is an essential element in gaining consumer confidence. Consumers want to know where cocoa comes from. We have launched a geographic information system to map cocoa farmers from which we directly source cocoa. Today, nearly 90% of our supply chain in Côte d'Ivoire and over 70% in Ghana have been mapped. This data is a primary tool for us to identify risk and tackle deforestation through tailored Cargill Cocoa Promise programs."



Oliver Von HAGEN
**Global Ingredients Sustainability & Carbon/Forest Program,
Barry Callebaut**

"In 2019, we really focused on big data and technology to enable us to scale our efforts. We built unique cocoa farmer databases and provided tailor-made farm services. We have now mapped the geographical location, as well as the size of 222,723 cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana."





Cedric van CUTSEM
Associate Director Cocoa Life Operations, Mondel z International

“Another main activity in our company action plans is mapping Cocoa Life registered farms. We have mapped 100% of the farms that were registered with Cocoa Life in Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire and Indonesia when we set our targets in 2018, and we are well on our way to mapping farms newly registered in 2019 – so we know that our cocoa is not being sourced from protected forest areas.”

3.2.4. Social inclusion

Social inclusion is one of the key dimensions of the CFI. It aims at involving local communities, taking environmental and social safeguards to minimize the social and environmental impacts linked to the implementation of activities. The signatories of the JFA are committed to respecting human rights. In addition, they recognize that effective engagement and empowerment of cocoa-producing communities and Civil Society Organizations are paramount to halt deforestation and forest degradation in the cocoa sector.

In this regard, the following activities are being undertaken:

- The adoption by the Steering Committee, through a silent procedure, of the environmental and social safeguard standards of the World Bank, under the umbrella of the CFI;
- The on-going preparation of a study on the operationalisation of the environmental and social safeguard measures (evaluation and financing of the costs linked to the environmental and social safeguard measures, etc.).

On the **involvement of local communities**, private sector companies have initiated consultations with farmers about forest areas to raise their sensitization of deforestation issues and the purpose of the CFI. Based on the WCF

report, companies are developing social programmes that specifically target women and youth. Over the past two years, companies have worked with **1,680** rural communities in Côte d’Ivoire to promote the work of the CFI. In addition, sensitization activities initiated by the Technical Secretariat began in October 2019, designed to engage all stakeholders in general and communities living in priority regions and to facilitate the implementation of pilot projects identified during the pilot phase of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.





Colonel Major ZOUZOU-Mailly Joëlle
**Director General for Forests and Wildlife,
Ministry of Water and Forests**

“The third component of the CFI, social inclusion, aims to involve local communities in forest conservation and reduce any negative impacts from implementing the actions. Cocoa agroforestry will be promoted, including in severely degraded classified forests, called ‘agro-forests’. This goal and these actions are part of our policy.

Of course, there will be areas where cocoa farmers will be relocated, because we aim to recover 20% of national forest cover by 2030. Furthermore, environmental and social safeguarding measures will be implemented, as human rights are a key aspect of the new forestry policy.”



Youssouf DOUMBIA
**President of the Executive Board, OIREN (National observatory for
sustainable management of natural resources in Côte d’Ivoire)**

“OIREN is a civil society umbrella platform for several environmental organizations. It is involved in the various CFI working groups, and in particular in the Social Inclusion and Community Engagement group. We play an observer role to ensure that the commitments made by the signatories are upheld. To do so, we closely monitor how certain issues are taken into consideration, in particular those concerning farmers’ incomes and the support available to farmers and their families in the agro-forest creation process. The major focus of our action is to safeguard the welfare of populations and this includes better distribution of the benefits generated by farming activities.

One of OIREN’s key recommendations is to help civil society organize consultations with local communities with the purpose of creating conditions conducive to discussion between these communities and private sector partners. This will help establish a climate of trust and facilitate the implementation of activities with support from the communities.

We are a credible, inclusive and reliable platform, offering suggestions for the planning and drafting of implementing decrees for the Forest Code. We stress the importance of being able to carry out consultations with the communities in question, to better target their concerns and gain their support so that the CFI is successfully implemented. We encourage honest, peaceful and constructive dialogue.”





Annemarijn NIJMEIJER
Ph.D., Environmental Program Manager, Cocoanect

“Since November 2019 Cocoanect and Nestlé have joined forces to develop a range of targeted sensitization tools, including video materials to be used during community consultation sessions across key cocoa landscapes in Côte d’Ivoire. A short video will be used to raise communities’ awareness on the revised Forest Code, focusing on its implications for tree ownerships, natural resource use restrictions and regulations. An additional sensitization video will address the benefits of sustainable, nature-compatible agroforestry-based cocoa production over the current monoculture systems, while also providing practical guidance to farmers on how to implement agroforestry best practices.”



Abdoulaye GADIERE
**Senior Environmental Specialist,
World Bank, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire**

Relevance of the use of the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative; Challenges and Recommendations

“The World Bank would like to extend its compliments to the authorities and all stakeholders in Côte d’Ivoire for the recognition and acceptance of sustainable development as the main paradigm for the development of the cocoa sector. The Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative have the advantage of facilitating sound sustainable development planning and informed decision making in general, via, on the one hand, the upstream identification of risks and negative impacts and, on the other hand, the implementation of measures, approaches and alternatives intended to avoid, mitigate or compensate for such risks and negative impacts as well as the consequences of related development proposals.

The ESS, adopted by the World Bank’s Board of Directors in August 2018, goes beyond the Operational Policies (OP) of environmental and social safeguards that seek only to prevent adverse impacts on the biophysical environment and human communities to leverage the positive impacts for which a project or programme is implemented.

Thus, with the adoption of the Environmental and Social Standards, the CFI is demonstrating its clear resolve that gender issues, social inclusion, non-discrimination, transparency, ethical responsibility, the fight against child labour, particularly in cocoa production, and governance will be its fundamental benchmarks in the implementation of its Action Plan. The same applies



to the commitment of stakeholders, the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV), the influx and management of labour, the health and safety of communities, etc.

An important factor in the adoption of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards is that they mainstream environmental and social protection requirements advocated by other multilateral institutions and promote the use of international good practice. Therefore, in adopting the World Bank Standards, the CFI recognizes the requirements of the environmental and social safeguard policies and standards of all the other Technical & Financial Partners (TFPs) operating in Côte d'Ivoire, through the harmonized framework represented by the World Bank's ESS.

While this option is to be welcomed, challenges remain in implementing the ESS within the CFI framework. Since the ESS are in the very early stages of implementation even within the World Bank, conflicting interpretations could arise and lead to a fragmented implementation of these standards. Similarly, few consultants are currently trained on the objectives and use of the Environmental and Social Standards. This could lead to the production of safeguard instruments that are out of sync with the spirit of the ESS. Beyond these two risk factors, not all the stakeholders in the chain of implementation of the Cocoa Forest Initiative Action Plan are necessarily conversant with these standards, which is a further challenge.

In analysing these challenges, a number of recommendations are made to ensure the effective implementation of the Environmental and Social Standards within the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. These include the conduct of a series of information and training sessions on these standards, the use of consultants knowledgeable about the Environmental and Social Standards and their operationality for the development of the Action Plan's safeguard instruments. But also the adoption of an adaptable management approach to impacts and risks, the enlargement of the current team for Social Inclusion to include skills in environmental safeguarding, and the establishment of a single team dedicated to Environmental and Social Safeguarding within the CFI. It is in this way that the adoption of the Environmental and Social Standards by the CFI will have a real positive impact in implementing its Action Plan."

3.2.5. Monitoring and Evaluation

As per its terms of reference, the CFI's monitoring-evaluation was entrusted to the Monitoring-Evaluation Working Group chaired by the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat.

Following a participatory process involving government agencies, private sector companies and civil society organizations, the fol-

lowing activities were undertaken:

- The development and validation of performance indicators and the CFI's monitoring-evaluation system.
- Development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Procedures Manual. The handbook is in the process of being finalized.





Colonel AHOULOU Kouamé Ernest
Coordinator, Permanent REDD+ Executive Secretariat

“The Permanent Executive Secretariat of the National REDD+ Commission was mandated to monitor and evaluate the Cocoa & Forests Initiative by acting as chair of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) group. As such, based on the results of the five other breakout groups, namely (i) Traceability, (ii) Social inclusion and community engagement, (iii) Forest preservation and restoration, (iv) Agroforestry and sustainable production and (v) Finance, the CFI action plan was finalized by fine-tuning the indicators suggested by each group.

The M&E group also worked to draw up the CFI planning schedule (multi-year action plan) and the results framework, which were then approved by the CFI Technical Committee. The CFI M&E handbook is currently being finalized. It is mainly intended to provide official, standardized M&E procedures and tools. The handbook is the cornerstone to ensuring the M&E system functions, and provides guidelines on data collection, the methodology to follow for the collection, analysis and interpretation of technical and financial data, and for the assessment of the socio-economic results and impacts of the initiative. The document will be completed in March 2020 and will be submitted to the CFI Steering Committee for validation.

M&E activities will continue this year with the first data collection. To ensure these activities are correctly implemented, financial resources need to be mobilized so that the M&E group can fulfill its role. A draft budget has been drawn up. There should be a particular focus on the methods of data collection by the private sector and the dissemination of data, as confidentiality is key to this sector.”

3.2.6. Funding

JFA signatories committed themselves to mobilize more technical and financial resources for forest protection and restoration through the search for innovative financing facilities, including the establishment of a public-private fund to support CFI activities.

Preparatory efforts to meet this commitment included the budgeting of the pilot phase of the CFI.

Thus, the budget for the pilot phase of F CFA 126 billion, or US 210 million, or euro 193 million was approved in November 2018 by the

Steering Committee. This budget does not account for the individual budgets of the signatory companies, which were not available in November 2018.

The budget for the pilot phase of the CFI is part of the Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Strategy’s total budget over 10 years of CFAF 616 billion, i.e., approximately 1 billion dollars, or 939 million euros.

A roundtable of donors is envisaged in 2020 in order to mobilize the financial resources required for the implementation of SPREF and the CFI.



Concurrently, companies are developing innovative financial models, in particular Environmental Service Payments (ESP) contracts. With the ESP, farmers are incentivised to protect and restore forest areas in return for payment. Companies have supported 1,340 farmers through ESP contracts. In addition, they promote financial inclusion to improve the access of farmers, especially women, to working and investment capital. They provide financial products to 120,000 farmers, including through Village Savings and Loan Association (VLSA) that support farmers.

Total financing mobilized by the private sector, under the CFI for the year 2019, has been estimated by the WCF at **F CFA 14.7 billion ie US 24,5 million.**

Additionally, “Le Conseil du Café-Cacao” is financing, to the tune of **F CFA 6 billion**, the operation to carry out a census of cocoa orchards and farmers nationwide, including classified forests. Although the results of the census will enable progress to be made on traceability, this amount is not included in the CFI

budget. “Le Conseil du Café-Cacao” is also financing the feasibility study for the implementation of traceability for cocoa of Côte d’Ivoire origin as well as the kick-off and validation workshops to the tune of **F CFA 125 million.**

The World Bank’s contribution, as part of the FIP, in the classified forests of Goin-Débé, Rapides-Grah and Haute-Dodo, estimated at **F CFA 675 million**, should make it possible to provide these forests with management plans.

As for the setting-up of the CFI Fund, consultations are being held so as to identify the vision or national framework of the Fund to be created to meet all the financing requirements for activities to protect and preserve forests and the environment in Côte d’Ivoire. This is still unresolved.

In the light of the financial commitments actually mobilized as compared to the financing requirements (F CFA 126 billion), the remaining challenge is clearly linked to the mobilization of financial resources.



Colonel Major ME Kouamé Martial
Deputy Chief of Staff , Ministry of Water and Forests

“Our greatest challenge is to raise the funds needed to implement the Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Strategy and the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) Action Plan. The funding required is approximately CFA 616 billion (euro 939 million) over ten years, including the cost of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative pilot phase. The State budget obviously cannot provide funding alone. We are therefore seeking greater commitment from the private sector to raise the financial resources required. Successful implementation of the CFI and the new forestry policy requires citizen buy-in across the country; this means the population, local communities, and regional and local authorities need to change their behaviour and mindset towards trees and the forests. One of the key remaining challenges is promoting tree growing.”

3.3. Activities scheduled for 2020

Looking ahead to 2020, bearing in mind the pandemic situation due to coronavirus, priority will be given to completing the activities

initiated in the first two years. These are the priority interventions outlined in the following message from the Ivorian Minister of Water and Forests:





Didier Lohoury GBOGOU
Chief of Staff, Ministry of Water and Forests

“The evaluation focused on the results achieved by the signatories to the Joint Framework of Action and, above all, identified the challenges to be addressed as well as the considered activities to tackle them.

To this aim, we have drawn up a list of priority actions for 2020, which has been approved by the Steering Committee. They are:

- Continue sensitization activities related to the Cocoa & Forests Initiative;
- Develop at least three new pilot projects;
- Produce initial monitoring and evaluation reports of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative;
- Set up a satellite forest monitoring system to track cocoa-driven deforestation;
- Set up at least three traceability pilots based on the feasibility study carried out;
- Update the boundaries of classified forests that have been the subject of partnerships with certain companies;
- Updating the boundaries of all enclaves in classified forests, to enable companies to properly ensure cocoa marketing operations;
- Elaborate the operational action plan and the cost of environmental and social safeguards;
- Strengthen the protection actions in the 26 classified target forests of the forest area, to avoid the return of the farmers;
- Continue the implementation of the FIP in targeted classified forests;
- Organize the MINEF’s national tree planting day, called «1 day, 5 million trees»;
- Create a public-private fund to finance the activities of the ICF.
- Set out an action plan to continue the Cocoa & Forests Initiative for the 2021-2024 period;

This list of priority activities is a roadmap to complete the 2018-2020 pilot phase and initiate the active implementation of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative beginning in 2021.

However, the health situation due to the coronavirus pandemic will certainly have an impact on the implementation of the priority actions identified. Therefore, I invite the Technical Secretariat and the Technical Committee to assess the impact of Covid-19 on the implementation of the priority actions and propose an updated roadmap at the next Steering Committee meeting.

The completion of the pilot phase and the deployment of the active phase require solutions to be found for the following major challenges:



-
- Raising the financial resources necessary to implement tangible actions in the field;
 - Strengthening transparency and trust between stakeholders;
 - Coordination and collaboration across the actions conducted by all stakeholders.

I believe that the signatories of the Joint Framework for Action will work together to overcome these challenges. In doing so, we will set an example for the entire world, showing that the public and private sectors can together accomplish tangible actions, driven by respect and mutual trust for the good of the industry, the forest and most importantly, of rural communities.”



Richard SCOBNEY
President, World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)

“We are proud of the first steps taken by the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. The first annual report for private sector activities shows that we are making progress together to reach our 2022 objectives. For example, in Côte d’Ivoire in 2018 and 2019, cocoa and chocolate companies planted more than two million trees to develop agroforestry systems and restore degraded areas, mapped out almost 500,000 plantations and trained more than 445,000 farmers in good agricultural practices.

We are rolling out our “More Cocoa on Less Land” strategy. Sustainable agricultural production and higher income for farmers are fundamental prerequisites to reduce the pressure from agriculture on forests and strengthen the resilience of cocoa farmers.

In 2020, we want to speed up our progress with more efficient tools to monitor and stop any further deforestation.”



Colonel Major
TONDOSSAMA Adama
**Director General, Ivorian
Office of Parks and
Reserves (OIPR)**

“In 2020, the priority will be to update the management plans of the National Parks and Reserves in the cocoa belt. As a reminder, every forest park has its own ten-year management plan. These plans must be updated after five years of implementation, to factor in the realities on the ground and most importantly, emerging challenges. We aim to work with the private sector, especially towards public-private co-funding of these management plans, thereby making it possible to conserve protected areas that have been degraded by cocoa farming and are still at risk of deforestation.

A number of planned actions have been delayed due to the delay in funding. A donors roundtable is to be held in 2020, to ensure activities can be rapidly launched. However, I wish to stress the urgency of the situation, because the forests of Côte d’Ivoire continue to be degraded day after day.”





David SOLANO
Resource Mobilisation Expert, FAO

“The enactment of the new forest code is a very major effort on the part of the Ivorian government. This process was conducted in a very inclusive fashion engaging all stakeholders including public and private sector actors, Technical & Financial Partners, donors, and Civil Society Organisations. In summary, all key stakeholders actively participated in the development of the Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Strategy and the implementing orders of the new forest code. This was a truly collaborative process where we shared documents and provided feedback to the Ministry of Water and Forests teams that drafted the statutory instruments.

In terms of deforestation, this is a very serious problem in view of the alarming loss of forest areas. We cannot wait another decade to amend the laws, so the speed with which the forest code is being discussed is a commendable effort. Possibly in the future we will have to rectify some of the mistakes, but for now the most important thing is to give the stakeholders a guarantee that they can invest in forests safely, and to make them aware of the fact that a great deal of value comes from forests. By including all the concerns of the population, we can make the different land uses compatible.

Going forward to 2020, FAO wishes to capitalize on the CFI in developing its projects, thereby allowing a degree of alignment and creating synergies between our interventions. This is particularly the case for the selection of geographical areas for projects focusing on the restoration of natural areas, territorial resilience, and investment in sustainable cocoa farming in close cooperation with the government and other agencies/donors such as UNDP, UNEP, IOM, etc., each lending its comparative advantage to iron out complex problems together. We are, for example, working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to strengthen the inclusion of the dimension of the fight against child labour.”

IV. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Combating deforestation requires not only the consideration of complex issues, but also the involvement of several players from the public sector, the private sector and civil society. Moreover, the implementation of large-scale activities over the medium and long term requires careful and concerted preparation.

Thus, in two years, significant achievement has been obtained, including:

- The establishment of the CFI governance bodies, such as the Steering Committee, the Technical Committee, the six Working Groups, the Technical Secretariat and the

Coordination and Capitalisation of CFI Achievements Unit at the Ministry of Water and Forests;

- The development and approval of the action plan and budget for the pilot phase in November 2018, with contributions from all stakeholders;
- The enactment of the new forest code in July 2019 and the issuance of nine regulations for its enforcement;
- The establishment of communication, both between private sector partners and between the public and private sectors;
- Increased sensitization on the issue of



deforestation and agroforestry, which is reflected in the establishment within most companies of services dedicated to forest protection, agroforestry and sustainability;

- The setting up or strengthening of forest seedling production centres;
- The commitment of “Le Conseil du Café-Cacao”, the regulatory body of these two commodity chains, to combine cocoa regeneration with the planting of forest trees, as part of agroforestry;
- The intention expressed by some JFA signatory companies to contribute to the management of classified forests, reflected in the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of Water and Forests. These companies are thus demonstrating their commitment to reducing their carbon footprint, without waiting for all the conditions to be met by the government;
- The start of synergy creation with specific projects and programmes aiming at the same objectives as the CFI, in particular with the Forest Investment Project (FIP) and the Emissions Reduction Programme (ERP) of the World Bank, resulting in the agreement of this institution to contribute to the financing of the management plans of three classified forests (Goin-Debé, Rapides-Grah, Haute-Dodo) located in the priority regions of the CFI;
- The downward trend in deforestation observed in some classified forests in 12 administrative regions of the country; this comes from the observation made on the restoration of natural forests in some classified forests in the East and South (e.g. Irobo and Mopri with the return of elephants). This trend is also seen in the Cavally classified forest in the west of the country.

V. CHALLENGES

5.1. Challenges to be addressed

While some progress has been made during the first two years of the CFI’s pilot phase, si-

gnificant challenges remain for the implementation of large-scale concrete interventions on the ground.

These include:

- Mobilizing the financial resources required by both the State and the private sector for implementing tangible activities on the ground is the major challenge. Therefore, a round table of Technical & Financial Partners, private sector partners (including stakeholders from the cocoa and chocolate industry) is scheduled to take place in 2020 to finance the forestry strategy and the Cocoa & Forests Initiative;
- The building of trust and transparency among JFA signatories, by improving mutual knowledge and understanding among partners. In so doing, the mobilization of financial contributions by the co-signatories of the JFA will be facilitated, and information-sharing among partners will be increased. Consultations are being initiated to identify and agree on the terms and conditions for the full participation of the private sector and selected government institutions in the process of mobilizing funding, based on a win-win partnership framework. To be productive, this partnership will require mutual respect, trust and transparency on the part of the stakeholders;
- Strengthening governance, primarily through an improved integration of key government institutions and the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the CFI, addressing the social impacts related to the implementation of the forestry strategy and the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. The strengthening of governance also involves building the capacity of the Technical Secretariat in terms of human, technical and financial resources, thus improving the coordination and synergy of the activities conducted by all stakeholders;
- Coordination and synergy of field activities by all stakeholders to maximize technical and financial resources for the attainment of the CFI Objectives;
- The extension of the CFI platform to other perennial crop value chains, such



as rubber and oil palm, which are also sources of deforestation, the aim being to bring into play operational synergies;

- Consolidation and extension of the downward trend in deforestation witnessed during these first two years to all forests classified in cocoa production zones, by pursuing the fight against illegal deforestation, with the implementation of an early warning system for deforestation and a national traceability system;
- The necessary balance to be struck between institutional promotion and positioning efforts, with specific field activities.

Indeed, such challenges were confirmed by

CFI's private sector partners in the answers to the questionnaire administered as part of the preparation of the CFI stocktaking workshop. As a matter of fact, the major CFI challenge for the private sector is to build trust among partners.

From the public sector, TFPs and CSOs standpoint, the main challenge is to facilitate the contributions of the private sector and the mobilization of government funds. Local and regional authorities and civil society should also be more involved in the implementation of the CFI's interventions.

5.2. Arrangements to address challenges

The steps to be taken to tackle the major challenges are set out in the table below.



KEY CHALLENGES	STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THEM
<i>Mobilizing financial resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting private sector contributions to CFI activities only • Increasing the financial contribution of the private sector • Embed CFI in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021- 2025 • Strongly involve the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) • Organising the donors' round table • Create the fund to finance CFI's activities
<i>Confidence-building</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen transparency and communication between partners
<i>Better integration of key state institutions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a joint meeting of the signatories to the CFI with the appropriate institutions to identify, discuss openly and jointly tackle issues.
<i>Information/data sharing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the nature of the data and the conditions for data sharing • Clarify ownership rights related to such data • Respecting the confidentiality of sensitive data • Agree on the choice of the data manager (neutrality)
<i>Involvement of civil society and local authorities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve sensitization and communication on the CFI (issues, commitments, etc.), the forest code and its regulations. • Building the capacity of the civil society
<i>Strengthening of the technical secretariat</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the format of the secretariat. (The current format could be a liability for the initiative. The solution would be to have a single entity with dedicated people to run the process for greater coordination, capitalisation and sustainability of the achievements. • Provide the Secretariat with appropriate technical and financial resources
<i>Expanding the CFI platform to other perennial crop value chains, such as rubber and oil palm</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct consultations with those in charge of other sectors to analyse the conditions that are conducive to promoting synergistic activities. • Involve the responsible public sector institutions to foster an institutional anchoring of the consultation platform encompassing all sectors.



VI POST-2020 PROPOSALS

The 2018-2020 period was devoted to preparing the actual implementation phase of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. It will indeed have made it possible to meet the prerequisites, i.e. to set up the political, institutional, legal and regulatory environment necessary to complete the specific field activities. It will also help to create the conditions for effective communication and trust between the signatories of the JFA.

The post-2020 period will be used to consolidate and scale up the activities and results achieved during the first two years of the pilot phase. It should be mainly devoted to the implementation of «heavy-duty» activities requiring significant financial resources. Subject to in-depth consultations among the signatories to the JFA, these include, inter alia:

- Update and publish the boundaries of classified forests, starting with the five

priority CFI regions (list attached);

- Take stock of the status of the classified forests and produce bankable management plans;
- Produce national traceability maps, coupled with a map for monitoring private sector supply;
- Set up and operationalize the national cocoa physical and financial traceability system;
- Deploy the environmental and social safeguard policy, including the collection of socio-economic data on category three reserved forests in the five priority regions.
- Set up and operationalize the Forestry Fund, including the Public-Private Fund to finance the CFI.

VII CONCLUSION

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is attracting real interest on the one hand from all the signatory members of the Joint Framework for Action and, on the other hand, from civil society, Technical and Financial Partners and other private actors committed to preserving forest heritage and saving the planet.

In the first two years of the CFI implementation, major results have been recorded, particularly in terms of the establishment of the CFI governance, the policy, the legislative and regulatory framework of the forest sector, the

implementation of agroforestry activities, and the implementation of a new forest management plan.

A number of hurdles have also been identified that need to be overcome to sustain the momentum and implement tangible activities to meet the commitments made. Among such problems, raising financial resources remains the major challenge. Meeting this challenge requires the mobilization of all stakeholders in the cocoa supply chain alongside the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, Technical & Financial Partners, towards a smooth and gradual transition towards «zero deforestation» or «forest friendly cocoa».





ANNEXES

Cocoa pod

ANNEX 1: Status of implementation of commitments at 30 March 2020

COMMITMENTS	ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE COMMITMENT	TARGET DATE	STATUS AS AT 30 MARCH 2020
CONTENT			
<p>A. There will be no further diversion of any forest areas (as specified in national regulations and by methodologies such as High Carbon and High Conservation Value) for cocoa production.</p>	<p>Update forest cover and land use maps for different forests</p>	<p>Dec. 2018</p>	<p>* Official submission of administrative boundaries of classified forests, updated boundaries of parks and reserves including the accompanying numerical data as well as the categorization of classified forests to cocoa private sector partners on May 21st 2019.</p> <p>* Dissemination of the above-mentioned numerical data on the SEP REDD+ website.</p> <p>* Official handover of land use maps to private sector partners on July 25th 2019</p> <p>* Conduct of sensitization, control and monitoring activities by forest police officers, supported by the activities of the new Special Intervention and Surveillance Brigade (BSSI) under the Ministry of Water and Forests, in 35 classified forests that have led to a decrease in deforestation, particularly in forests located in 15 regions of the country.</p> <p>*Development of the Starling tool by SODEFOR on the Cavally forest and Image on 3 regions in the west of the country (Cavally, San Pedro and Guémon)</p> <p>* Completion of an IDH-funded study on the evaluation of satellite monitoring systems and monitoring platform to select the national forest monitoring and warning system.</p>
	<p>Collecting socio-economic data on cocoa farmers and their forest-dependent communities</p>	<p>Dec. 2018</p>	<p>*" Le Conseil du Café-Cacao" ongoing census of farmers</p> <p>*Socio-economic studies performed in the classified forest of Goin-Débé; similar studies are in preparation for the classified forests of Rapides Grah, Haut Dodo and Arrah.</p>

COMMITMENTS	ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE COMMITMENT		STATUS AS AT 30 MARCH 2020
	CONTENT	TARGET DATE	
<p>B. Signatory Companies and the Government are committed to eliminating all production and supply of cocoa in National Parks and Reserves in accordance with the enactment and implementation of existing national forest policy and the development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers. An action plan will be developed by the end of 2018 to ensure that this commitment is met.</p>	<p>Amend and publish the forest code</p>	<p>June-18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The CFI Action Plan was prepared in a participatory and inclusive manner and adopted in November 2018; * Law on the forest code adopted by the National Assembly on July 17th, 2019 * The Act establishing the forest code was enacted on July 23rd 2019. The main regulations have been drafted and stakeholder consultations are underway for their adoption. A total of 28 regulations have been drafted, 9 of which have been adopted by the Government. * A decree on the terms and conditions for the creation of Agro-Forests was adopted by the Council of Ministers on October 9th, 2019.
<p>C. Signatory companies commit not to source cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through their direct and traceable supply programs from farmers' organizations and cooperatives by January 1st , 2018. An action plan will be drawn up at the end of 2018 to ensure compliance with this commitment.</p>	<p>Stop sourcing cocoa from National Parks and Reserves</p>	<p>Jan. 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Development of a communication strategy on the Cocoa & Forests Initiative by all stakeholders * Start of sensitization activities (meeting of the Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire Regions and Districts; Information workshop for the authorities of the La Mé region, October 24th, 2019, etc.). <p>*Commitment was met.</p>
	<p>Establish an action plan to ensure that this commitment is met.</p>	<p>Dec. 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Adoption of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative implementation plan since November 2018

ENGAGEMENTS	CONTENU	DÉLAI	ETAT D'AVANCEMENT AU 30 MARS 2020
<p>D. A differentiated approach based on the level of forest degradation will be developed by the Government for the current Classified Forests, and will be turned into a national forest restoration strategy by the end of 2018. Characteristics, surface areas, timing, roles and responsibilities will be gradually specified in the development plans as they are developed.</p>	<p>Categorize forests according to their degree of degradation through the national forest conservation strategy</p>	<p>Déc. 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Forest Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension Strategy was adopted in February 2019. *The categorization of classified forests was circulated to cocoa private sector partners on 21 May 2019. * Stakeholder consultations for the preparation and adoption of implementing orders are under way. A total of 28 implementing orders have been drafted, 9 of which have been adopted by the Government.
<p>E. A legal status of protection and management will be granted by the Government to the residual forests of the protected forest estate (rural estate) of Côte d'Ivoire, in particular sacred forests, by June 30th 2018.</p>		<p>June-18</p>	<p>Section 26 of Act No. 2019-675 of July 23rd 2019 on the forest code grants legal protection status to sacred forests. Implementing legislation is in the process of being adopted.</p>
<p>Promote investment in the long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally appropriate areas in order to grow "more cocoa on less land",</p>	<p>Identify good practices, technical itineraries and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration, and mixed agroforestry systems.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * An overview of agroforestry systems in Côte d'Ivoire was carried out by stakeholders during a workshop held in November 2018. * Ongoing work within the Agroforestry Breakout Group for information collection on existing agroforestry systems and analysis of their economic viability. * TOR available for the study of extension tools * Major agroforestry projects are being carried out by private partners in the rural sector.
	<p>Ensuring the supply of improved planting material, training in good agricultural practices, crop nutrition, soil fertilization and pest and disease control</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Project sheets developed and validated by all stakeholders as part of the implementation of the Strategy for the Conservation, Rehabilitation and Extension of Forests and the Cocoa & Forests Initiative; actions taken into account and in the process of implementation in partners' projects. * CFI's private partners are still training farmers on Good Practices in Sustainable Cocoa Production (GAP).

ENGAGEMENTS	CONTENU	DÉLAI	ETAT D'AVANCEMENT AU 30 MARS 2020
	Develop, in consultation with all stakeholders, sustainable agroforestry models.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ongoing discussions within the Agroforestry Work Group to gather data on agroforestry systems and conduct analysis of the economic efficiency of these systems and make recommendations to improve partner interventions. * Agroforestry models are currently being implemented (tested) by some of CFI's private partners, mainly through the Transparency and Forest Friendly Cocoa projects.
<p>D. Improve mapping of the supply chain, with the ultimate goal of 100% of cocoa being traceable from the farm to the first point of purchase. The private sector, in collaboration with the Government, will develop a traceability action plan with a timeline that will be implemented step by step to achieve full and verifiable traceability, applicable to all by the end of 2019.</p>	Carry out a feasibility study on physical and financial traceability;	Dec. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Terms of reference finalized by the members of the Work Group Traceability since April 2019 * Call for applications launched on 26 June 2019 * Call for applications rejected on 18 July 2019 by the Opening and Award Committee * New call for applications launched in November 2020 and selection of the service provider in December 2020. * Clarification and continuation of the Call for expressions of interest process with firms that had already submitted proposals.
<p>The signatories recognize that the effective engagement and empowerment of cocoa-producing communities and Civil Society Organizations in the Policy Framework is central to halting deforestation and forest degradation in Côte d'Ivoire.</p>	Promote community-based models of forest protection and restoration with the participation and commitment of the communities concerned.	Dec. 19 (Cf PAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * World Bank Safeguard Standards adopted by the CFI Steering Committee * Start of the recruitment process of Consultants for the conversion of these standards into an operational action plan for the CFI. * Start-up of sensitization activities on the localities.
	Develop an action plan for 100% traceable cocoa from the farm to the first point of purchase and explore the feasibility of financial traceability.		Updated and available schedule of activities

ENGAGEMENTS	ACTIONS POUR SOUTENIR L'ENGAGEMENT		ETAT D'AVANCEMENT AU 30 MARS 2020
	CONTENU	DÉLAI	
<p>The signatories recognize that the effective engagement and empowerment of cocoa-producing communities and Civil Society Organizations in the Policy Framework is central to halting deforestation and forest degradation in Côte d'Ivoire.</p>	<p>Assess and take (government) steps to reduce the social impacts and risks of proposed land use changes on farmers and their communities.</p>	<p>Dec. 19 (Cf PAA)</p>	<p>This activity will be carried out following the submission of the findings of the study on the operational implementation of environmental and social safeguard standards.</p>
	<p>Prepare (government) operational guidelines on resettlement and restoration issues of living standards of affected populations</p>	<p>Dec. 2018</p>	<p>This initiative will be carried out immediately after the results of the study on the operational enforcement of environmental and social safeguard standards are available.</p>
<p>By 30 September 2016, a transparent and credible process will be jointly developed to measure and monitor progress on the Framework's activities.</p>	<p>Develop a monitoring-evaluation system</p>		<p>*CFI Planning and Results Framework was developed in consultation with all stakeholders in April 2019. * The CFI M&E procedures manual was drafted with members of the M&E working group and the SEP REDD+. Validation of the manual is underway.</p>
	<p>Adopt a set of broad and verifiable monitoring indicators on land use, environment and socio-economic situation</p>		<p>*Indicators identified in the CFI Results Framework developed in April 2019</p>
	<p>Annual reporting, to be made public, by the signatory companies and the Government on the progress and results of the implementation of their specific activities related to the Policy Framework.</p>		<p>* Finalization of the recruitment of a monitoring-evaluation specialist (SEP REDD+ officer) to draft the monitoring-evaluation manual and collect data.</p>

ENGAGEMENTS	ACTIONS POUR SOUTENIR L'ENGAGEMENT		ETAT D'AVANCEMENT AU 30 MARS 2020
	CONTENU	DÉLAI	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize more technical and financial resources to protect and restore forests, through the search for innovative financing facilities. 	<p>Create a public-private fund for the long-term financing of actions to preserve and rehabilitate forest areas with high conservation value.</p>	<p>Dec. 2018</p>	<p>The Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office have held meetings on the subject (15 March 2019, 23 March 2019, 12 February 2020).</p> <p>These consultations, initiated under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office, are being pursued with a view to devising the appropriate sustainable forest management fund option.</p> <p>A round table for the financing of the SPREF and the CFI is planned for 2020.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote financial inclusion and innovation as a way to facilitate farmers' access to working and investment funds needed for production and plantation renovation. 		<p>Dec. 2018</p>	<p>The companies' individual action plans have been posted on their respective websites starting in January 2019.</p>
<p>By the end of 2018, each signatory company will prepare an individual action plan, which will be made public. (P6 JFA).</p>		<p>Nov. 18</p>	<p>The Government has submitted its comments on the companies' consolidated action plan.</p> <p>The companies' consolidated action plan has yet to be fine-tuned.</p>
<p>Before being finalized, the draft individual action plans will be shared with the Government for feedback.</p>			<p>The initiative's governance decree was shared by hard copy to all partners at the Steering Committee meeting on November 8, 2019.</p> <p>This is the interministerial order N°00632 MINEF /CAB of 03 July 2018 on the establishment, operation and management of the Steering Committee of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative's Joint Framework for Action activities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry has set up a CFI Coordination Unit pursuant to a decree, located at the Ministry of Water and forests, to build on and ensure the sustainability of the gains made by the CFI.</p>
<p>The Cocoa & Forests Initiative governance system established to assist in the development of this Joint Framework for Action will continue to operate after its signature, and will be mandated to support the various stakeholders in the implementation of the Framework's activities.</p>			<p>Redd+ Secretariat has been entrusted with the monitoring and evaluation of CFI's activities. The procedures manual for monitoring-evaluation is being developed.</p>
<p>The National REDD+ Commission already established will be tasked with reviewing the progress made and will make recommendations to the signatories to ensure diligent implementation of the Policy Framework.</p>			

ANNEX 2 : List of classified forests and protected areas in the pilot areas under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative

N°	NAME	Surface Area (ha)	REGION	CATEGORY
1	CAVALY Classified Forest	67 327	Cavally	1
2	N'GUECHIE Classified Forest	3 657	La Mé	1
3	YAYA Classified Forest	2 444	La Mé	1
4	MABI Classified Forest	10 087	La Mé	2
5	BESSO Classified Forest	23 485	La Mé	2
6	N'TO Classified Forest	13 253	La Mé	3
7	N'ZODJI Classified Forest	13 426	La Mé	3
8	TYONLE Classified Forest	4 300	Guémon	3
9	FRANSOBLI Classified Forest	14 191	Guémon	3
10	HEIN Classified Forest	11 102	La Mé	3
11	SEMIEN Classified Forest	2 917	Guémon	3
12	KOUIN Classified Forest	8 548	Guémon	3
13	MOUNT TIA Classified Forest	25 119	Guémon	3
14	SCIO Classified Forest	89 753	Cavally	3
15	DUEKOUÉ Classified Forest	52 009	Guémon	3
16	AGBO 1 Classified Forest	15 748	La Mé	3
17	CAVALY MONT SAINTE Classified Forest	15 037	Cavally	3
18	GOIN-DEBE Classified Forest	130 931	Cavally	3
19	MONT KOURABAHI Classified Forest	3 366	Nawa	3
20	MASSAME Classified Forest	3 340	La Mé	3
21	RAPIDES GRAH Classified Forest	225 388	San-Pédro	3
22	HAUTE DODO Classified Forest	212 193	San-Pédro	3
23	MONOGAGA Classified Forest	39 862	San-Pédro	3
24	Tai National Park	508 186	Cavally Nawa San-Pédro	Park
25	Mont Peko National Park	34 000	Guémon	Park
	TOTAL	1 529 669		



**Cocoa &
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