



**Cocoa &
Forests
Initiative**

COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT GHANA 2019

Accelerating progress to protect
and restore the forests of Ghana



The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is an active commitment of top cocoa-producing countries, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and leading chocolate and cocoa companies to end deforestation and restore forest areas, through no further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production.

Ghana produces approximately 20% of the world's cocoa and is home to 6.3 million hectares of forests, which play a vital role in regulating climate and providing other critical ecosystem services. As a forest crop, cocoa needs these forests to thrive. But cocoa production has been identified as one of the main drivers of deforestation. We are partners to save our cocoa as well as our forests.

CONTENTS

OPENING REMARKS	6
OUR STORY SO FAR	8
Raising the bar for sustainable cocoa	8
Empowering change from government to growers	9
OVERALL PROGRESS	13
Good governance for greater progress	13
Focused interventions in key areas	16
Company Action Plans	18
Monitoring and Evaluation	20
WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2019	22
PROTECTION	25
Prevent activities that cause or contribute to deforestation and forest degradation	26
Ensuring no cocoa is produced in or sourced from national parks and reserves	28
Satellite monitoring	29
PRODUCTION	31
Towards 100% traceable cocoa	32
Empowering cocoa farmers to prosper and thrive	34
INCLUSION	38
Protecting the livelihoods of forest communities	39
Engaging community support	40
OUR VISION FOR TOMORROW	42
Moving forward with the momentum	42

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Opening Remarks



**Honorable Kwaku
Asomah-Cheremeh**

*Minister of Lands and Natural
Resources*

“The CFI is closely tied to the future of sustainable cocoa production and holds great opportunities for protection and restoration of our forests. It is based on a multi-stakeholder partnership, as it is critical for stakeholders to work closely together to make it possible. So far, the consultative process has been good with some rocky patches but we believe that to fully deliver on our commitments, we need a fruitful collaborative partnership.

In 2020, priorities will focus on monitoring and evaluating the initiative, finalizing the guidelines to social and environmental safeguards, Ghana’s deforestation monitoring system, forest recategorization and working with COCOBOD to come to a common understanding on traceability from community to farm level.

The government of Ghana’s commitment to a successful implementation of the initiative stays strong. We look forward to actions that will further reduce the rate of deforestation emanating from cocoa production, ensure sustainable production and community inclusion.”



Our story so far



RAISING THE BAR FOR SUSTAINABLE COCOA



Richard Scobey
President, World Cocoa Foundation

“The Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) is a landmark collaboration between 35 cocoa and chocolate companies and the governments of Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire to end deforestation and restore degraded lands.

This partnership was motivated by an urgent and complex challenge: over a ten-year period, about 820,000 hectares of forest area have been cleared in Ghana, with cocoa being one of the drivers of deforestation. This situation is not sustainable. Forests play a vital role in addressing global climate change, regulating the local and regional climate, and providing other environmental services. They are key to the resilience of the cocoa sector and local livelihoods.

Our groundbreaking approach has been to bring together all the stakeholders who can contribute to solving this crisis in a public private partnership. Our strategy is based on three pillars: first, forest protection and restoration; second, sustainable livelihoods and sustainable cocoa production or ‘More Cocoa on Less Land’; and third, community development and social inclusion.

Since 2017, we’ve been working on spelling out specific commitments, actions and targets for Cocoa & Forests Initiative company signatories, and are now reporting on our first two years of implementation. Our report shows significant progress by cocoa and

chocolate companies, notably on traceability (farm mapping), systems to eliminate deforestation from cocoa sourcing, cocoa agroforestry, and community engagement.

As activities get underway, we want to stay transparent on what’s being done on the ground, what’s working well, and what we need to improve. For instance, the [World Resources Institute](#) 2019 global study of deforestation shows that Ghana had the fastest deforestation rate in 2018. Even though the government of Ghana finds the figures in the report to be limited in scope and estimation, such independent assessments keep us focused on accelerating impact. Together, let’s keep our eyes on the prize: end deforestation and restore forest areas.”



EMPOWERING CHANGE FROM GOVERNMENT TO GROWERS



Jonas Mva Mva
Program Director Cocoa, IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative

“As a facilitator of the CFI, IDH’s role is, simply put, to ensure that everybody plays their role. Having been instrumental in formulating the CFI commitments, developing implementation plans and establishing related roles and responsibilities, our task is now making sure that all signatories, whether cocoa companies or government bodies, meet their commitments. Key to this is communication: coordinating regular meetings and discussions and clarifying any misunderstandings that may arise. And, critically, making sure that signatory governments take ownership of the Initiative by setting up national secretariats to coordinate their plans and actions. This is fundamental to supporting an enabling environment for change, and we are pleased that the Ghana government is now operating a fully staffed Secretariat in charge of leading the CFI progress.

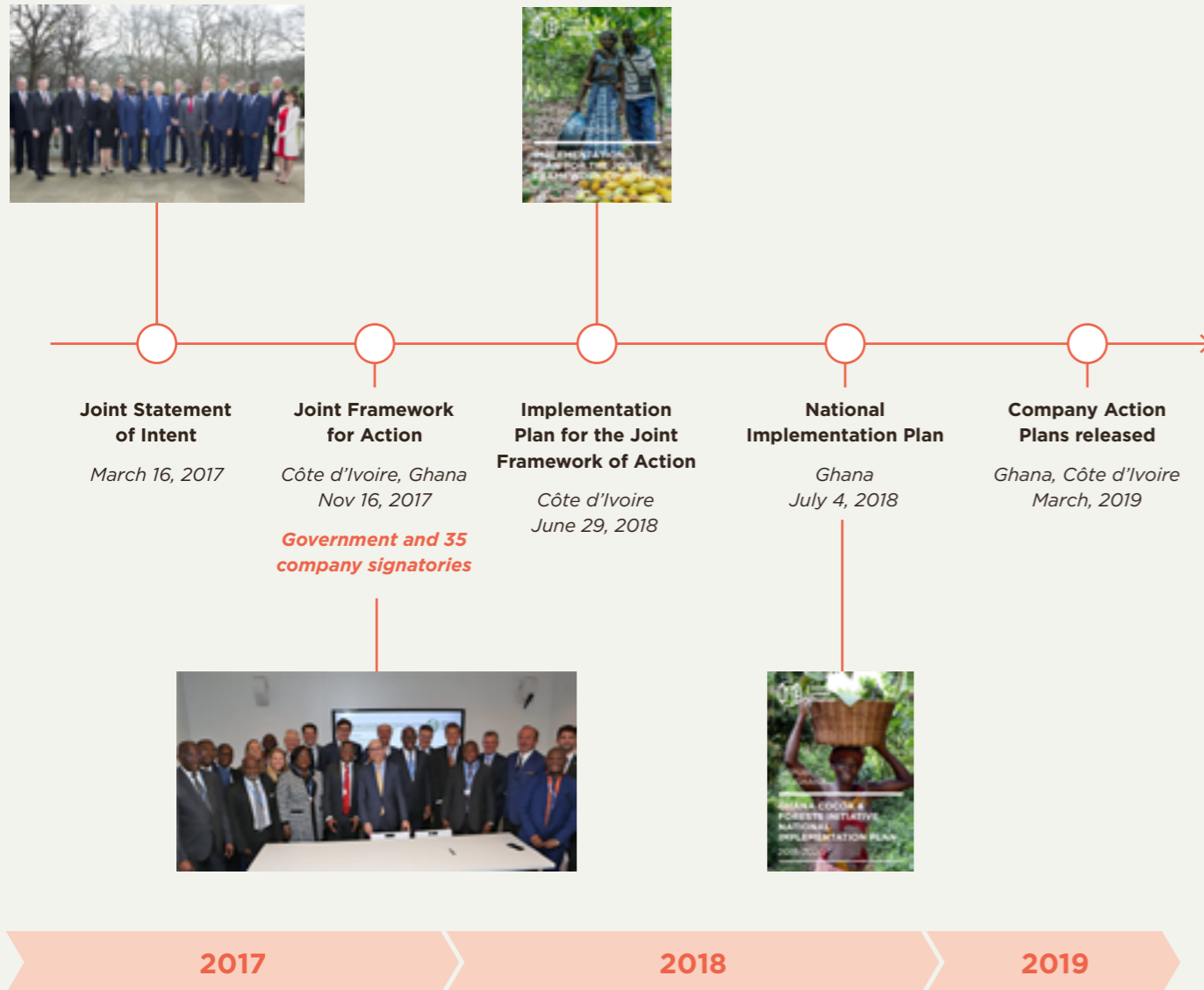


Reflecting on the past two years, as facilitators of this important initiative, IDH has huge appreciation for the commitment between the government and the private sector to continue to work on reducing deforestation from their supply chain. When CFI was launched two years ago, we did not measure the magnitude of this work, but we have made bold progress despite obstacles. We still have a long way to go but there is a willing, clear and open discussion occurring, between government and private sector, who all agreed to move this process forward.

The time for action is now. To materialize the agreements into concrete actions. To put in place a simple but efficient system to evaluate progress towards the CFI commitments and communicate measurable achievements to the world. For governments of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana to fully take over the secretariats and take ownership of the CFI. For all of us to think beyond cocoa and start negotiations with other sectors to collaborate on the protection of forests. It is with this vision that I look forward to our continued collaboration in protecting Ghana’s forests, and further restoring degraded natural landscapes.”



COCOA & FOREST INITIATIVES TIMELINE



Public-private-civil society partnerships such as CFI are critical to reducing commodity driven deforestation and building a forest positive future. Driving collective action based on trust and pre-competitive collaboration however takes time and requires continuous support and willingness for partners to work towards a common goal. Two years after the signature of the CFI Framework for Action, TFA applauds the progress achieved by CFI partners, and acknowledges that this is just the start of a long journey. As a platform with in-depth experience in convening partnerships, we are also bringing our support to CFI, to ensure this partnership flourishes and brings high impact over the long term.

Justin Adams

Executive Director, Tropical Forest Alliance



Partnerships for Forests (P4F) believes that collaborative action is essential to address the challenge of commodity-driven deforestation. We support effective partnerships between the private sector, public sector and communities to foster the enabling conditions that allow these partnerships to have impact, which is why we were early funders of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative since its inception.

Bruce Cabarle

Team Leader, Partnerships For Forests





Overall Progress



GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR GREATER PROGRESS



Musah Abu-Juam

*Technical Director –
Forestry, Ministry of Lands
and Natural Resources*

“Two years ago, on 11 November 2017, Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire, together with, at that time, 12 companies, signed up to a commitment to end deforestation caused by our major cash crop, cocoa. We called it the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

Most of the first year was used to set up systems: most importantly a governance structure to allow us to implement the program. Right at the top of that structure is what we call the Oversight Committee, comprised of 8 of the now 35 signatory companies, three ministries – Environment, Agriculture and Lands and Natural Resources – and the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), and of private sector cocoa manufacturing industries.

The task of this committee is to review the progress of our implementation. At the last meeting of 2018, we approved the National Implementation Plan of the government here in Ghana and set up a secretariat at the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources (MLNR) to begin implementation. We also have a Steering Committee that draws representation from all our partners, involving civil society, company representatives, as well as institutional representation from the MLNR, the Forestry Commission and COCOBOD.



OUR COMMITMENT

Embracing shared responsibility to implement the Framework actions, including continued engagement in a multi-stakeholder process.

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- Fully operating CFI governance, with 6 Taskforces leading the technical work and a Technical Working Group, supported by a Steering Committee and Oversight Committee, as well as a Secretariat within MLNR and a Coordination Team.

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Strengthening and accelerating inter-governmental and international collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Mobilizing long-term funding
- Sharing the working groups’ Annual Plans for 2020 with the Oversight Committee after approval from the Steering Committee in February





CFI GOVERNANCE IN GHANA

STRUCTURE

- Oversight Committee
- Steering Committee
- 1 Technical Working Group
- 6 Taskforces
- Secretariat and Coordination Team

CHAIR

Government of Ghana

FACILITATORS

IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative and the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)

ENABLERS

The CFI high level commitments were transformed into a National Implementation Plan in 2018

IMPLEMENTERS

More than 55 organizations including companies and civil society organizations are involved in shaping and jointly implementing the CFI National Implementation Plan

CFI SIGNATORIES IN GHANA

Barry Callebaut • Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate • Chocolats Halba • Cococonnect • Cococo Chocolatiers • ECOM Group • Fazer • Ferrero • General Mills Inc. • Godiva Chocolatier Inc. • Guittard Chocolate Company • The Hershey Company • Indcresa • Kuapa Kokoo • Lindt & Sprüngli Group • Marks & Spencer Food • Mars Wrigley • Meiji Co. Ltd. • Mondelēz • Nestlé • Olam Cocoa • PBC Limited • Sainsbury's • Sucden • Tesco • Toms Group • Touton, Valrhona • J.H. Whittaker & Sons

Below that, we set up a Technical Working Group and six (6) Taskforces to develop the technical work plans: Mapping, Traceability, Agroforestry, M&E, Fundraising and Safeguards. These are then supported by a Coordinating Team that works as a side silo across all the structures to implement the plans of the Taskforces, which have been reviewed by the Steering Committee and approved by the Oversight Committee.

In November 2019, we met again to review the progress that has been made over the year and got recommendations from the public and private sector leaders of the Oversight Committee.

It was a very close discussion, transparent and down to earth. We have some tensions of course, but real progress is being rolled out, and will continue. We are proud to present those achievements and future plans here for everybody to see. It's all about reducing deforestation and tackling the aspects of it that have to do with cocoa driven deforestation and forest degradation. And key to that is continuing our inclusive and collaborative approach. Working together to mobilize sustainable funding to make further progress with our commitments, especially in key areas of satellite monitoring and forest recategorization. Strengthening our knowledge-sharing with Côte d'Ivoire, and further involving communities to improve livelihoods as well as ensuring full engagement in forest protection and addressing critical issues such as tracking carbon footprint and biodiversity.

We are now ready to enter a second phase of the CFI, moving from essential preparation to now-critical implementation. As we make the transition, I would like to thank all of you, as readers of this report, for taking an interest in the commitments the CFI has made, and call upon you to keep challenging and pushing us to do better."



In order to transform the cocoa sector we need a better enabling environment for reforms, as well as effective investment. First and foremost, we need to recognize that many of the underlying problems in the sector are of a policy and political, even societal nature, and require action specifically targeted at this type of problem. To address these underlying political and societal challenges requires a willingness to address these challenges and to deliberate through an inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue process – a goal CFI is yet to achieve.

Henk Hoefsloot

*Programme Coordinator,
Tropenbos International*

Our wellbeing as a people is intrinsically linked to the wellbeing of our environment. A healthy environment means a healthy people and also an impoverished environment means an impoverished people. This implies any degradation or any activity with a negative impact on the environment could lead to impoverishing us as a people. As the Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), the Ministry with oversight responsibility for environmental issues, I find CFI's objective of addressing deforestation as critical to our survival as a people.

Levina Owusu

*Chief Director, Ministry of Environment,
Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI)*



FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS IN KEY AREAS



Musah Abu-Juam

*Technical Director –
Forestry, Ministry of Lands
and Natural Resources*

“The CFI’s efforts to tackle cocoa-related deforestation in Ghana are focused on six implementation areas in the forest zone. Over the course of 2019, we commissioned an inventory of existing initiatives in these priority regions, with the aim of synergizing activities and triggering further collaboration. At the end of November, we were happy to share a work-in-progress report with key stakeholders, enabling a first oversight of the existing programs that are continuing, and showing a strong trend in companies adopting landscape approaches to tackle key issues, and aligning with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ program that was launched in October 2019.

Several government led programs are playing important roles in triggering additional projects on the ground and the government recognizes the contribution that CFI is making towards the shared objectives. Standard MoUs between landscape stakeholders have been developed and an implementation methodology is currently being refined.

Although the final results of the inventory study are yet to be verified, the government, companies and civil society are already beginning to explore gaps and move towards partnerships in bridging them.”



OUR COMMITMENT

Implementing agreed actions in the context of a broader landscape-level approach in alignment with relevant national strategies and plans

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- First findings of the inventory of existing initiatives in the 6 Hotspot Intervention Areas drafted by the CFI Secretariat

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Synergizing efforts and coordinating plans for streamlined action in HIAs



CFI IN GHANA



- 1 Ahafo Ano South / Atwima Mponua / Atwima Nwabiagya (Ashanti Region)
- 2 Asunafo / Asutifi (Ahafo Region)
- 3 Atiwa / Denkyembaour / East Akim (Eastern Region)
- 4 Bibiani / Anwiaso / Sefwi Wiawso (Western North Region)
- 5 Juabeso Bia (Western North Region)
- 6 Kakum (Central Region)



As a company we really try to promote the landscape approach. We’ve set up a very successful partnership with the Forestry Commission, COCOBOD and the Rainforest Alliance around the Sui River landscape, which is a multi-stakeholder platform of over 200 communities covering some 125,000 ha, successfully setting up a landscape management board which enables training of over 10,000 farmers in climate smart agriculture, promoting agroforestry, and tree registration.

Andrew Brooks

Head of Cocoa Sustainability Africa, Olam



COMPANY ACTION PLANS



Ethan Budiansky
*Director of Environment,
 World Cocoa Foundation*

“In 2019, we achieved a major milestone in combating cocoa-related deforestation in Ghana. All Cocoa & Forests Initiative companies published initial Company Action Plans that spell out the key investments that they’ll be making over the next five years to fulfil their commitments to end deforestation.

For example, to ensure that cocoa is not coming from deforested areas or causing deforestation, the industry has committed to 100% traceability. Companies are also focused on restoring forest cover, including a commitment to developing more than 150,000 ha of shade-grown cocoa agroforestry. Cocoa and chocolate companies are working with farmers to gain ownership of trees on their farms. This incentivizes them to protect and plant trees. With the adoption of new national forests policies, companies will support farmers to register 1.7 million trees.

Companies are also committed to training close to 380,000 farmers in good agricultural practices, with a focus on growing more cocoa on less land. Moreover, companies are promoting income generation activities by supporting 100,000 farmers trained on farm-level diversification. To increase their resilience to climate change, they are training over 300,000 farmers in climate smart cocoa best practices. WCF has developed a specific training curriculum through the climate [smart cocoa program](#).

And then, finally, in order to ensure greater participation, companies are promoting community-based management strategies.

In 2020, the private sector is [reporting on progress](#) towards these targets.”



OUR COMMITMENT

Implementing verifiable actions and timebound targets with signatory companies preparing individual action plans for public disclosure.

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- 29 companies have signed up in Ghana
- Signatory companies published their initial action plans at the end of March 2019

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Plans will be completed with additional strategies for Forest Reserves when classification and operational guidelines are updated
- Annual progress reports due March 2020



COMPANY ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- Improving cocoa traceability from farm to first purchase point with a focus on farm mapping
- Putting in place systems to ensure no cocoa is sourced from protected areas
- Conducting deforestation risk assessments throughout sourcing areas
- Promoting cocoa agroforestry as a driver for forest restoration and protection
- Supporting farmers to register trees on their farm and secure land tenure rights
- Investing in sustainable agricultural intensification to grow more cocoa on less land, through, e.g. training of farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs), crop nutrition, and soil fertility
- Promoting sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers
- Promoting financial inclusion to deepen farmers’ access to working capital and investment funds
- Scaling up work with communities to protect and restore degraded forests, with a specific focus on women and youth



Since joining CFI, we’ve been impressed by the expertise that the collaboration brings to issues related to forest protection. Our efforts at traceability and farm mapping have taken on an entirely new priority for us. We’re particularly interested in the potential benefits of the landscape approach - which is why Sucden is a supporter of the Asunafo-Asutifi Landscape Program in Ghana. We look forward to better understanding how this broader geographic approach can help farmers and communities protect their forested environments and recover areas that have had forest loss.

Paul Davis

Head of Cocoa, Sucden

Our biggest achievement is bringing all the industry together and acting as one industry behind one goal. This is extremely powerful; it has never been done in industry before, and credit to everybody around the table.

Pablo Perversi

Chief Innovation, Sustainability & Quality Officer; Global Head of Gourmet, Barry Callebaut



MONITORING AND EVALUATION



Roselyn Fosuah Adjei

Director, Climate Change, REDD+ Secretariat

“As part of national level actions to synergize Ghana’s REDD+ process implementation with the CFI, the National REDD+ Secretariat of the Forestry Commission received the collaborative request to coordinate the development of a robust M&E framework for the CFI in line with key performance indicators for REDD+ implementation, as both processes target same commodities, people and landscapes.

The objective of this process is to maximize the full potential of the national level REDD+ implementation process as a ‘useful vehicle’ to address multiple stakeholder needs and complement the achievement of global commitments such as the CFI. In this regard, the Forestry Commission together with other stakeholders such as the Ghana Cocoa Board, IDH, WCF and other signatory companies which make up the CFI M&E taskforce are working round the clock to launch a national M&E framework for the CFI. This framework is built on and aligned with the REDD+ process to avoid any duplication of efforts, ensure wise use of both human and other capital resources and streamline reporting both nationally and globally.”



OUR COMMITMENT

Effectively monitoring and reporting on CFI progress

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- Draft M&E Framework developed by M&E Taskforce
- Independent consultant engaged to refine and ensure robustness and alignment with REDD+ M&E framework

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Oversight Committee to work directly with Taskforce to review and approve framework for M&E and satellite monitoring
- Frameworks to be ready and shared with Oversight Committee for approval by the first 2020 OC meeting
- All CFI signatories to publicly share an annual report on progress and outcomes of actions towards their commitments



Mercy Serwah Owusu Ansah

Director, Tropenbos Ghana

“A robust, effective monitoring and evaluation framework that allows us to measure and report at national and landscape level is critical to the success of the CFI. Tracking progress of the actions signatories take to realize their commitments ensures CFI remains not only transparent, but accountable. Moreover, this ethical necessity has a practical benefit: by sharing our learnings, we can better guide our actions and make corrections mid-course in order to reach our objectives more effectively and efficiently.

Of course, we then need to ensure we are tracking complete indicators. As noted by Levina Owusu, Chief Director of MESTI, our current reporting really needs to dig deeper to ensure we do not paint too rosy a picture of our progress. It is simply not sufficient to report, for example, that 40,000 trees have been distributed; far better would be to track how many of those trees were planted and survived after a year.

To honor CFI commitment to providing effective monitoring and reporting, we set up the M&E Taskforce to develop a transparent and credible process in line with Ghana’s existing national forest monitoring system. Over the course of the year, the Taskforce has developed a framework that will help monitor progress against the CFI commitments. The framework is being refined by an independent consultant and will be hosted by the REDD+ Secretariat who will also ensure alignment.

Once the framework is approved in March 2020, all CFI signatories will report annually on progress and outcomes of actions towards their commitment, making the results publicly available.”



We need clear deadlines, clear objectives and a clear, transparent and public monitoring and evaluation system, so we can say at regular intervals ‘that has been achieved’, ‘that needs to be strengthened’, and ‘that could not be delivered as promised’. Clear deadlines. Clear objectives. And inclusiveness. These are key in this process if we don’t want CFI to lose its momentum.

Amourlaye Toure

Mighty Earth Representative, Ghana & Côte d’Ivoire



What we achieved in 2019



Dr Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh

Deputy Chief Executive,
COCOBOD

“As we commemorate the second anniversary of the signing of the CFI joint Framework of Action, it’s important to look at the pathway taken and examine the future implementation activities in order to secure the success of CFI.

As we know, cocoa cannot thrive without forests, and cocoa has become an integral part of the forest landscape. Yet estimates suggest that forests are depleting at a rate of 3,2 percent per annum. We are at a critical point for which urgent action is needed to protect the symbiotic relationship between forests and cocoa.

The CFI platform is a clear demonstration of how stakeholders, whether public, private or civil society, can work together towards a sustainable cocoa sector that increases economic opportunities for our farmers and their communities without compromising the integrity of our existing forests. Essentially, *our* cocoa farming, for the restoration of *our* forests.

In this respect, COCOBOD, as regulators of the Ghana cocoa sector, is implementing a number of programs aimed at ensuring a sustainable future environment for the production of cocoa and supporting other CFI signatories to achieve their commitments. The joint Framework for Action defines these commitments, verifications, actions, and time bound-targets for a deforestation-free and forest-positive cocoa supply chain in Ghana, set out against three key themes: forest protection and restoration, sustainable production and farmers’ livelihoods, and community engagement and social inclusion. And it is against this background that our progress in 2019 is measured.”





Protection



Kofi Afari

*Administrator, CFI
Secretariat, Ministry
of Lands and Natural
Resources*

“As CFI signatories, we are all committed to prohibiting and preventing activities in the cocoa sector that cause or contribute to any further deforestation or forest degradation. That means, firstly, zero production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves and secondly, preventing further conversion of any forest land for agricultural production.

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has been mandated to execute all forestry-related projects in the country, which include the Cocoa & Forests Initiative as well as the Ghana Forest Investment Program (GFIP), which aim to address the underlying factors of deforestation and catalyze change by mobilizing funds.

This has involved a number of initiatives, including Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs), where groups of people in the community come together and devote themselves to protecting the forests and reporting any illegal activity to the mandated institutions and implementing alternative livelihood programs that discourage forest encroachment by upskilling communities with new means of income generation.



Another major initiative is the government's policy reform on Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing. The policy reform ensures that the people who nurture trees can register as their owners and enjoy 100% of their benefits. As we move towards finalizing the policy reform, CFI can really help the process with awareness creation, to encourage and enable them to plant and grow more trees, and register and protect naturally occurring trees to secure their stake in them.

But I think the biggest achievement of CFI is getting everyone to the table and keeping them collaborating. CFI is one of the few, if not the only, initiatives that has been able to bring the private sector, the government and NGOs together in the name of trying to save the forests. For the first time the government and the private sector are ready to work together to achieve a common cause. The CFI has therefore brought these entities together and we are working together to streamline our resources to protect and restore our forests.”

PREVENT ACTIVITIES THAT CAUSE OR CONTRIBUTE TO DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION

Land and Tree Tenure Policy



Musah Abu-Juam

*Technical Director –
Forestry, Ministry of Lands
and Natural Resources*

“Cocoa farmers’ participation in the management and protection of Ghana’s forest and tree resources is essential in any program that aims to conserve and restore the natural landscape. So under the leadership of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, we are implementing a system that gives farmers 100% ownership of naturally occurring forest trees on their farms, as well as the 20 new trees per hectare we are encouraging them to plant. They can then register the trees in their names, to secure 100% benefits from the trees, and 100% control over how they are managed.

It’s a lot easier with planted trees, as it’s clear who planted, registered, and owns them. And private sector companies are supporting farmers with this process. With naturally occurring trees, we needed to agree on a process. The policy underwent a lot of consultation from farmers, private sector, and civil society agencies. And it’s thanks to the CFI that we can see all these people talking together. Now we have finalised consultation with the timber companies. As part of the benefits farmers are set to receive are what we call timber tending tool, and we needed to agree on the fee and where it’s coming from.

We will now be rolling things out, first through administrative policy, to test, before we legislate. And we look forward to the CFI’s continued support in terms of provision of seedlings to farmers and supporting them financially and administratively in tree registration.”



OUR COMMITMENT

Land and tree tenure reforms, and benefit sharing arrangement to incentivize land owners and users to retain naturally regenerated trees on off-reserve farmlands and in the farming landscape

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- Policies drafted to give farmers 100% ownership of trees they plant as well as naturally occurring trees registered under their care
- Policy reforms on Tree Tenure and Benefit sharing under development
- Tree registration process under review
- Over the past two years, 105,400 trees were registered and 8,800 farmers secured their land titles through support by signatory companies

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Finalize policy on Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing
- Finalize Tree Registration Process
- Resolve areas of admitted farms in dispute
- Intensify tree registration in cocoa farms



We’ve also been testing an innovative approach to register trees with an app in order to give farmers in Ghana ownership of the trees. It’s not an easy one, it takes some time, and in the time being that process is quite expensive. But we have successfully registered 38,124 trees in Ghana so far. We hope to continue scaling this project up and rolling it out in additional cocoa-growing districts, but in order to do this, extensive collaboration and investment is needed from all parties.

Cedric Van Cutsem

Global Operations Manager, Cocoa Life Program, Mondelez International



ENSURING NO COCOA IS PRODUCED IN OR SOURCED FROM NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

Updated maps and forest reserve categorization



Joseph Osiakwan

Chief Planning Officer and Policy Coordinator, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

“Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land use are an essential foundation for ensuring none of Ghana’s cocoa is produced in and therefore also sourced from protected forest areas. However, we have in Ghana one exception: admitted farms. These are farms that were operational within a forest reserve before that area was gazetted.

By collecting socio-economic data from farmers, the private sector and COCOBOD, the technical wing of the Forestry Commission will ascertain GPS coordinates of all admitted farms in forest reserves. Once the disputed borders from these findings are resolved, maps of these farms will be made publicly available.

In parallel, to help signatory companies on their journey towards a deforestation-free supply chain and, particularly, in refining their CFI action plans, the Forestry Commission has provided land cover maps defining the borders of the different forest categorizations and will soon provide the boundaries of admitted farms.

However, there is still ongoing work on the different levels of forest reserve classifications, which has been delayed due to lack of funding. The boundaries of admitted farms still need to be ground truthed, so as to ensure that cocoa farmers are not incorrectly excluded. The next step includes securing funding for the relevant body of Forestry Commission to carry out the task. This will move us closer to the goal of a deforestation-free cocoa supply chain.”



OUR COMMITMENT

Updating forest cover and land use maps and developing operational guidelines for forest reserves

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- Protected area boundaries and latest land cover maps distributed in July 2019

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Forestry Commission and Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to align on objectives and timeline of re-categorization of forest reserves

SATELLITE MONITORING



Mohammed Yakubu

Head of Mapping Task Force, Forestry Commission



OUR COMMITMENT

Adoption of a transparent satellite-based monitoring and alert system that will be available to all stakeholders to track progress on deforestation targets

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- National workshop for Mapping & Satellite monitoring in February 2019
- Assessment of existing satellite monitoring systems and monitoring platform completed
- Recommendations for a National Forest Monitoring system under discussion

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Framework to be aligned with REDD+ by end of April
- Satellite-based monitoring system to be selected as soon as possible

“To stop deforestation in its tracks, we need to know precisely where and when it’s happening. We need the most up to date data, in the most timely manner, to take the most effective actions — and remote sensing is a critical tool that will allow us to respond dynamically in real time. Currently in Ghana, there are several Satellite Monitoring systems set up by public or private entities, but none that include deforestation alerts, independent validation, and can be made publicly available to all stakeholders. This makes the identification of the most relevant national satellite monitoring system to monitor forest cover loss and reforestation progress one of our most urgent needs.

Over the past few months, the Mapping Taskforce has been reviewing existing satellite monitoring systems providing land cover maps in order to inform recommendations for a National Satellite Monitoring System.

In the coming weeks, the Taskforce intends to work with key stakeholders such as REDD+ to come up with a comprehensive and well aligned recommendation for a national satellite monitoring system. Our next step is to develop terms of reference, based on the analysis of the gaps of the selected system. These terms will be used to seek funding and finalize the system selected.”





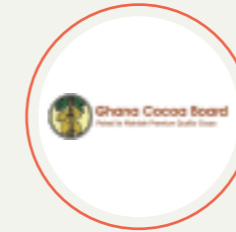
Touton supports the Bia-Juabeso landscape through the implementation of the ‘Partnership for Productivity, Production & Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL)’ program. The program is implemented by a number of organizations with COCOBOD and Forestry Commission as co-conveners who ensure the program is fully in-sync with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (GCFRP). We needed maps to have a more granular understanding of the landscape dynamics, and to build a traceable deforestation free supply chain. We have worked closely with a service provider to develop these maps, which help us in our work. However, to ensure consistency, comparability and alignment with the national reporting framework, there is the need for renowned map makers, quality assurance institutions and display platform providers to team up with a mandated national institution to provide high quality data and services to supply chain actors.

Ernest Dwamena

Country Manager, Sustainable Sourcing, Touton



Production



Dr Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh

Deputy Chief Executive,
COCOBOD

“With regards to the second theme of the CFI framework — sustainable production and farmers’ livelihoods — the Cocoa Sector Strategy Development, CSDS2, spells out various interventions and policies to ensure enhanced productivity and 100% traceability across the supply chain.

One sure way of ensuring sustainability and tackling climate change is the link between cocoa sales and full traceability, that is to farm level. COCOBOD currently ensures traceability of cocoa beans to the community level; however, with the current farmer database collection, full traceability is bound to follow, once information of farmers, including geo-location of farms is established.

In line with climate smart cocoa production, COCOBOD is also forging partnerships and scaling up activities to address climate change. We have set up a committee that includes representatives from various cocoa stakeholders to draw up the Climate Smart Cocoa Standard document. Based on this document COCOBOD aims at increasing cocoa yield income, building resilience and adapting to climate change, and reducing greenhouse gas emission through agroforestry.

Thanks to CFI, we now have industry and government collaborating, so COCOBOD and the Forestry Commission are running programs alongside the industry. Which means at the end of the day a lot more farmers and a lot more areas will achieve the goals of agroforestry and improved farmer livelihoods, in a shorter time.”



Sustainable production of cocoa comes with a number of challenges. In the first place, unpredictable weather, or climate change. In places where, 50 years ago, cocoa used to flourish, it’s becoming more and more difficult to grow, especially up north or in the middle belt of the country, and production has pulled south, and into the forests. There is also the challenge of competing land use, for other crops, residential purposes, illegal mining, and other activities. The timber industry is also destroying forest trees, as well as cocoa trees and farms. And of course there are never enough resources for everything, so in terms of human resources and financial resources, there’s always a limitation. For example, the number of extension agents to educate farmers on sustainable production, which COCOBOD now has the challenge of trying to increase.

Michael Owusu-Manu

Acting Deputy Director M&E, COCOBOD



TOWARDS 100% TRACEABLE COCOA

Traceability



Dr Betty Annan

Country Director, World Cocoa Foundation

“Traceability, simply put, is the ability to trace cocoa throughout the value supply chain. It is key to ensuring that the cocoa we produce and source is cultivated in designated agricultural areas, and not in protected forest zones. Our belief is therefore simple: no sustainability without traceability.

As part of Ghana’s CFI National Implementation plan, we committed to improving supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point by December 31, 2019. In June 2018, government and private-sector companies developed a joint action plan that mapped out key principles, steps and milestones to achieve this commitment, encompassing all national and international traders.

To support this, government pledged to adopt regulations that require verifiable traceability from farm to first purchase point by the end of 2019, and ensure compliance by national and international traders thereafter.

Over the past year, signatory companies have been putting in place verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to first purchase point, as well as operational policies and control systems that effectively monitor the associated risks, including high-quality verification.

Nevertheless, nationwide traceability to farm level has not yet been achieved and remains a key challenge for the CFI to address in 2020. In order to achieve our CFI commitments and eliminate deforestation from the cocoa sector, we have to work together to prioritize the development of our pathway to full traceability of the cocoa sector in Ghana.”



OUR COMMITMENT

Strengthening supply chain mapping to ensure 100% of cocoa sourcing is traceable from farm to first purchase point.

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- Traceability is down to the society level and signatory companies are mapping out farms in their direct supply chain
- Over the past two years, 557,900 farms were mapped by signatory companies

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Current cocoa traceability system to be extended to farm level, pending approval from COCOBOD
- High-level Traceability Taskforce meeting to take place with COCOBOD in first half 2020



A host of companies can trace their cocoa supply chain to the level of cooperative groups and LBCs. However, there is no pooling of all key data, nor coordinated monitoring of progress, despite general agreement on the need for alignment. Instead, there is wasteful duplication. We are calling on increased collaboration between companies and government for a more transparent cocoa supply chain.

Etele Higonnet

Senior Campaign Director, Mighty Earth

We first need to have a transparent picture of our cocoa supply chain in order to identify risks of forest loss and prioritize our actions accordingly. This is why we set up the Olam and Farmers Information System to map all our buying locations. When farmers are found to be close to forest areas, we then conduct a greater level of mapping - polygon - and superimpose this data onto the maps of protected areas that we have. The result is that we can highlight deforestation risk hotspots and, working closely with the Forestry Commission, conduct farm visits to determine if the farms have fully respected the forest border. Once we have this deeper insight, we can better target our interventions and get ahead of deforestation before it happens. For example, we can channel resources into one-on-one, anti-deforestation coaching and continue to support farmer’s progress every year.

Isaac Sackey

Sustainability Manager, Olam

Mapping is a critical thing if you really want to deal with deforestation because we have various players within the same system and farmers sometimes subscribe to various traders. If you don’t have data in place that gives you accurate information of the farmers yield, you end up pushing the farmer to source from protected areas.

Fred Kukubor

Cocoa Plan Manager, Nestlé



EMPOWERING COCOA FARMERS TO PROSPER AND THRIVE

Sustainable farming techniques and agroforestry



Dr Emmanuel Agyemang Dwomoh

Deputy Chief Executive,
COCOBOD

“To address the challenges of sustainable production, COCOBOD has embarked on an intensification of cocoa production, which is all about using less land to cultivate more cocoa — increasing the yield per hectare — rather than expanding areas for cultivation.

The adoption of Climate Smart Cocoa Production, which seeks to adapt to and mitigate further effects of climate change, has seen an increasing interest in climate smart agroforestry: the combination of cocoa and shade trees for economic benefit coupled with climate resilient properties. This has resulted in a notable increase in tree planting in Ghana during 2019.

With respect to rehabilitation and replanting it is estimated that 22% of the country’s current tree stock is over 30 years old. Around 17% of farms are also infected with cocoa swollen shoot virus disease (CSSVD), requiring rehabilitation to provide good foundation for improved production activity and sustainability. The rehabilitation program underway seeks to solve these issues by removing old moribund diseased trees and replanting new hybrid disease-and drought-tolerant varieties.

Another initiative that seeks to ensure sustainable cocoa production and improve farmers livelihoods is artificial pollination. There is strong evidence to the fact that this initiative has the potential to enhance productivity sustainably. It is one that can be carried out in all classes of cocoa and can be done all year round subject to availability of flowers on trees.



OUR COMMITMENT

Investing in long-term productivity of high-quality cocoa in an environmentally sustainable manner and growing “more cocoa on less land”

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- New Climate Smart Cocoa standard produced and currently under review by COCOBOD
- Climate Smart Cocoa manual in the process of being finalized
- Over the past two years, signatory companies collectively distributed 2,144,440 multi-purpose trees to farmers for agroforestry, and trained 224,500 farmers in climate smart cocoa. Additionally, signatory companies provided the following supports to farmers:
 - 497,900 farmers trained in good agriculture practices
 - 18,750,000 improved cocoa seedlings distributed to farmers
 - 118,000 farmers supported on crop diversification
 - 41,890 farmers supported with financial products
 - 37,970 farmers participating in a village savings and loan association

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Approval and implementation of the Climate Smart Cocoa standard
- Climate Smart Cocoa Manual finalized and disseminated



COCOBOD currently trains and deploys youth as pollinators to assist farmers with their skills required. The number of these tree pollinators is aimed at 30,000 by the end of 2019.

Productivity enhancement programs such as extension services undertaken by COCOBOD under the new strategy direction have identified that the ratio of extension agents to cocoa farmers is woefully inadequate. Ghana currently has a ratio of one extension agent to 2,500 farmers as opposed to the FAO recommendation of one agent to 500 farmers. The target of the strategy is therefore to improve the ratio to the recommended rate. And as you know, we have already done the recruitment, employing about 1,300 agricultural students ready to train for extension activities. There are also efforts underway to strengthen industry partnerships agreements for extension delivery.”



Stopping deforestation and restoring forests can be powerful solutions to address climate change and biodiversity loss. For agroforestry to benefit both forests and farmers, early engagement with farmers is key. That is why we work with communities to understand the drivers of deforestation and design community-based agroforestry programs to mitigate those.

Sebastiaan van der Hoek

Forest Advisor, Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate

The Kakum Cocoa Agroforestry Landscape Program in Ghana is an exciting new partnership launched on 24 January 2019 by Hershey with the Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC), Ghana’s Forestry Commission, the Ghana Cocoa Board and our supplier, Ecom Agrotrade Ltd. The purpose of the program is to transform the cocoa-forest landscape into a more sustainable cocoa agroforestry system.

Beatrice Moulianitaki

Head of Sustainable Sourcing,
The Hershey Company





As President of the Cocoalife programme on my farm, one of my duties is to teach people the importance of trees and how to protect them. Trees help the cocoa grow well by protecting the ground from harsh sunlight. UNDP has given us trees to plant in our farms. Some are matured, others are coming up, and we are about to start nursing new ones. All cocoa farms are going to get some so that our cocoa can grow well. If we plant more trees in our cocoa farms, the coming generation will come to benefit from them.

Felicia Doe

*President Cocoa Life Program,
Bonkuku, Eastern Region*

It is now part of COCOBOD's inherent policy that every cocoa farm should have a given number of trees. If there are existing trees, you add to the number of trees. If there are no trees, you plant 16 trees per hectare. And COCOBOD makes these trees available to farmers for free. We have other programs supporting this, like the Forest Investment Program and the Environmental Sustainability Program, run by COCOBOD and the Forestry Commission so farmers can intensify the tree populations on their farms.

Michael Owusu-Manu

Acting Deputy Director M&E, COCOBOD



Inclusion



Daniel Nsowah
Head of The CFI Safeguards Taskforce, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

“The third pillar of the CFI joint Framework for Action – community engagement and social inclusion – was established to ensure the rights of cocoa farmers are respected by mitigating the social impact of changes in land use and forest management plans. Many cocoa farming communities are living in or encroaching on forest areas, and to stop deforestation, these communities sometimes need to find alternative livelihoods or be resettled and receive compensation.

To make sure this is done in a respectful and inclusive way requires full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and communities affected by the framework. And this is where the CFI Safeguards Taskforce comes in. Composed of CFI signatories, civil society organizations and technical partners, it establishes guidelines for social safeguards and raising community awareness and engagement on the importance of forest protection and restoration.

As part of this approach, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has begun developing policies to help people farming cocoa in protected areas to find alternative sources of income outside of the forests, supported on the ground by private companies through their CFI Action Plans, and supplemented by the work IDH and other CFI signatories and CSOs who are carrying out community awareness and engagement campaigns and training people on the amended Forest Codes.”



PROTECTING THE LIVELIHOODS OF FOREST COMMUNITIES

Social safeguards



Daniel Kofi Abu
Coordinator of the EU Program Landscape Actors Project, Tropenbos Ghana

“It’s very exciting that, even prior to the CFI, the Forestry Commission has come out with social as well as environmental safeguards. Their resettlement plan, launched in 2017 in partnership with the World Bank, has some very inclusively devised and enshrined safeguards, but the challenge has always been the political will to get things implemented. As such, enforcement of safeguards is one of the biggest tasks ahead of the CFI.

Cocoa is about the people. The forests are about the people. It’s all about inclusivity: inclusive development, inclusive decision making, in terms of responsibility, inclusive monitoring. How do we bring communities on board?

A decentralized and localized approach to social safeguards is the way forward. We need a platform that allows community participation and decision-making regarding issues of cocoa. We should encourage participation from the community level, to allow people to voice in, especially when it concerns their livelihood. Protecting the livelihoods of forest communities and community participation and engagement are key themes enshrined in the CFI, and social safeguards that encourage that is the perfect way to go. We should adopt an inclusive landscape approach.”



OUR COMMITMENT

Respecting the rights of cocoa farmers

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- Draft operational guidelines for Environmental and Social Safeguards developed

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Safeguards guidelines to be revisited and finalized taking into account the REDD+ Safeguards



ENGAGING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Sensitization activities




Samuel Oracca-Tetteh
Executive Director, Network for Health and Relief Foundation (NHRF), CFI Social Safeguard Taskforce

“Ensuring that the CFI commitments and what they mean in practice are understood by everyone in the cocoa value chain is a key component of its implementation. The Technical Working Group therefore set out to develop key content messages for sensitization about CFI and identify channels of dissemination to all key stakeholders. Particularly, we want to ensure that landscape level stakeholders understand the commitments made by government and companies, and what these commitments mean in practice to them. And through that, promote a real sense of ownership of the initiative.

First we had to establish what messages are most important to share at landscape level. These ranged from the importance of protected forest areas, how cocoa contributes to deforestation, and why farmers do not have to encroach into forests to cultivate cocoa. We also covered the importance of traceability, and the benefits of agroforestry and sustainable agricultural practices. And of course the rights of farmers is another top priority for us to communicate: from tree-tenure provisions to safeguards for those who have already encroached on protected areas.

Next, we identified two landscapes to pilot the CFI sensitization campaigns: Sefwi-Wiawso and Sefwi-Essam. We then set a date for a workshop with representatives from government, cocoa companies, NGOs, CSOs, traditional authorities, farmer groups, CREMAs and even local media houses.

 **OUR COMMITMENT**
 Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities

ACHIEVED IN 2019

- Key messages and communication tools defined
- Two high-level sensitization campaigns carried out in Sefwi-Essam and Sefwi-Wiawso
- Over the past two years, 1,300 community consultations were convened by signatory companies

ON THE AGENDA FOR 2020

- Key messages and communication tools shared with signatory companies to complement sensitization dissemination at the landscape level
- High-level sensitization campaigns carried out in the remaining CFI targeted areas
- Ongoing company awareness events, as part of awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on forest law enforcement and tree tenure provisions

Most recently we were in Sefwi-Wiawso for the sensitization program, and it was a beautiful thing to watch, the way we brought everyone together and the way everyone was able to express themselves. We did it in the local language, so people understand exactly what we are trying to tell them — I did the translation myself from English. And the role of the traditional authorities was also key. The minister was there too, showing everyone how we had government support for what we were doing.

We need to move along like this with everyone now, with the implementation of policies. Collaboration is key — on the ground, to get grass-roots level engagement, and also at a high level. We need to get companies, NGOs and CSOs aligned and working together to disseminate our messages to more communities, and to jointly address the issue of funding for these activities on which the success of CFI so strongly depends.”



The participants of this workshop, including me as a chief farmer need to spread the message that forests are a key factor in our lives. To improve our farming, we have to adopt best practices and plant more trees.

Mr Bogya
Chief Farmer Sefwi-Wiawso

We are very happy with the outcomes of today’s workshops. We have learned that destruction of the natural forests is the reason why we don’t get rain at the right time anymore. It has taught us a lot about what we can do to protect the forests and our farms by planting trees.

Alex Boadu
Cocoa Farmer & Educationist

The objective is not unattainable. But it requires hard work. I am all for it. I believe in it. The government commitment is very good. But it needs commitment of all stakeholders.

Hon. Kingsley Aboagye Gyedu
Regional Minister, Western North



Our Vision for Tomorrow



MOVING FORWARD WITH THE MOMENTUM



Joost Oosthuizen
CEO, IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative

“Before the establishment of the CFI, a multi-stakeholder platform where government, industry and farmers in the cocoa sector worked together was unprecedented — some might even say unthinkable. Two years on, the commitments from government and companies to end deforestation in the cocoa supply chain, and the willingness to work together to do so, are as strong, if not stronger, than when we set out.

Importantly, these commitments have also dramatically raised awareness about the issue of cocoa-related deforestation, and mobilized action from grassroots to government.

In this respect, the impact of having government own the process, with engagement at the highest ministerial level, cannot go unmentioned. Not only in terms of passing laws to create an enabling environment for change, but in inspiring real action from cocoa plantations to company boardrooms — because we all act with more conviction when our desire for change is backed by political will.

Although we have established a strong governance structure in the CFI, in hindsight, IDH realized a critical voice was missing as CSOs were not co-signatories of the commitments. We are now ensuring that these organizations play a vital role, both in the design of the CFI plans as well as in the field-level implementation. Their contribution to the success of the initiative is critical, not only in ensuring community representation, but in holding signatories accountable to their commitments.

Such accountability is indeed difficult to enforce, but with the implementation of more stringent monitoring and evaluation measures at the top of our governance to-do list, we are striving towards full transparency in the CFI results. Again, CSOs and neutral third parties will play an important role in validating the CFI reporting and bringing credibility to the actions of signatories. Actions that need to happen not just in the field of cocoa-producing countries, but in the boardrooms of consumer countries. As the largest importer of raw cocoa, the EU can have an equally large impact on the cocoa industry — from due diligence to producer incentives. And we will be working towards building synergies with sustainable chocolate platforms in Europe and beyond.

Of course, tensions between our stakeholders arise, but to move forward, I call on all CFI signatories and partners to focus on the momentum, rather than on the stumbling blocks. On jointly taking action, rather than blaming each other for inaction. On shifting from the theoretical to the practical and for demonstrating real progress.”



Transparency and inclusiveness will be key for the future of CFI. It's very surprising to hear, in Côte d'Ivoire, and in Ghana, when you ask the farmers and people working on the ground, and they have never heard of this initiative, which is so important for these countries. Our suggestion to CFI would be to include all the main stakeholders — the local NGOs, the farmers and also COCOBOD and CCC — in order to be more inclusive and transparent about what is being done, so that the information can be shared and collective action can be taken.

Amourlaye Toure,
*Mighty Earth Representative,
Ghana & Côte d'Ivoire*

It is our conviction that CFI has important potential, but that it can and must do better. Moreover, CFI can only succeed if there is strong support for it and partnership with consumer countries. Reform processes take time, it is legislation that gets things done and instituting independent third-party regularly auditing will help to keep the process moving. We see a lot of energy and promise in CFI to not just be another sustainable cocoa programme, and to truly impact policy, governance, and a transformational agenda for a truly sustainable cocoa sector 2.0.

Henk Hoefsloot,
*Programme Coordinator,
Tropenbos International*



Going forward, CFI can make the most progress by finalizing preparatory tools — i.e. the mapping tools, norms / standards — and by increasing its presence in the field. As the main limiting factor is time, it will be important to proceed appropriately and judiciously in order to avoid mistakes. This is how we took precautions when we started, and adjustments can be considered for the future. The most important thing is to keep the momentum and build synergies of actions. This dynamic is set in motion knowing that the stakeholders are aligned with the idea of agroforestry to stop deforestation and fight forest degradation. Now is the time to take action in the field. To invest progressively to reach the objectives and to demonstrate to communities that not only can they cultivate cocoa with trees, they need the trees to improve their agricultural output, increase their assets and income, to create more alternative livelihoods, to be more resilient — and to secure a better future for future generations.

David Solano,
Expert, Resource Mobilisation, FAO





World Cocoa
Foundation



the sustainable
trade initiative



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Report prepared by IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative,
with input from CFI stakeholders.

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