



World Cocoa
Foundation

Overview of Cocoa & Forests Initiative

In 2017, following on the articulation of the GCFRP, the top cocoa producing countries Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, together with the leading chocolate and cocoa companies, launched the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI); an unprecedented commitment to a no-deforestation supply chain for nearly two-thirds of the global supply of cocoa. The CFI Frameworks for Action pledges no further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production. The companies and governments pledged to eliminate illegal cocoa production in national parks, in line with stronger enforcement of national forest policies and development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers.

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

Both countries announced plans to introduce a differentiated approach for improved management of forest reserves, based on the level of degradation of the forests. Chocolate and cocoa industry agreed to introduce verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to the first purchase point for their own purchases of cocoa and to work with the two governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability for all traders in the supply chain.

The two governments and companies agreed to accelerate investment in long-term sustainable production of cocoa, with an emphasis on “growing more cocoa on less land”. Key actions include provision of improved planting materials, training in climate-smart agricultural practices and development and capacity-building of farmers’ organizations. Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers will be accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, development of mixed agro-forestry systems, and other income generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income while protecting forests.

For more information visit: <https://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/initiative/cocoa-forests-initiative/>