

Annual Progress Report ***- Côte d'Ivoire -***

1. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative: Collective Action to End Cocoa-Related Deforestation

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 35 leading cocoa and chocolate companies, representing 85% of global cocoa usage, have joined together in the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#) to end deforestation and restore forest areas. Their combined actions play a crucial role in sequestering carbon stocks in West African forests and addressing climate change, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative delivers on Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is a public private partnership based on frameworks for action ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) and action plans for the private sector ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) and public sector ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) that spell out commitments to:

- protect and restore forests,
- promote sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods,
- engage communities and boost social inclusion.

The [World Cocoa Foundation](#) (WCF); [IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative](#); and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana drive the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. The Prince of Wales launched the Initiative in March 2017 and reviewed implementation progress in November 2018.

Deforestation of tropical rainforests is a major issue in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which together produce nearly two-thirds of the world's supply of cocoa, the main ingredient in chocolate. [Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#) respectively lost 25% and 8% of their humid primary forest between 2002- 2019, with a significant portion of deforestation attributable to cocoa farming expansion.

Cocoa provides crucial employment and income to smallholders in West Africa. An accelerated transition to sustainable livelihoods is essential for ensuring their long-term economic security. Thanks to public and private sector actions, notably through the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, this transition is under way, with recent reports (from [Global Forest Watch](#) and the [United Nations](#)) showing that the rate of primary forest loss was halved in both Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana from 2018 to 2019.

To help realize effective landscape partnerships, and contribute to deforestation monitoring, the World Cocoa Foundation and Climate Focus in partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI) are working with companies to develop a comprehensive dataset of cocoa plot locations in the direct supply chain and an aligned method for assessing deforestation risk.

An aggregate view of cocoa plot locations across West Africa will provide a basis for identifying opportunities for pre-competitive collaboration. Paired with the outputs of the risk assessment, collaboration can proceed in the areas that matter most for addressing deforestation.

The risk assessment will be made available as a freely accessible public good through WRI's Global Forest Watch platforms to help drive aligned deforestation risk management across the cocoa sector for impact at scale.

To learn more, follow #cocoaandforests on social media, or visit cocoaandforests.org and WorldCocoa.org.

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

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative key commitments focus on three priorities: (1) forest protection and restoration, (2) sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods, and (3) community engagement and social inclusion.

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

Both countries are introducing a differentiated approach for improved management of forest reserves, based on the level of degradation of forests. In 2019, the government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted and published a new forest code which, among other things, put forth policies for the promotion of cocoa agroforestry to restore degraded land, improve forest cover, and promote sustainable livelihoods and agriculture in the classified forests and rural zones. Both governments have shared maps on forest cover and land-use, and are currently updating the maps, including socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, which will further inform private sector investments.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these commitments, companies have pledged to develop verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to the first purchase point for their own purchases of cocoa, and to work with governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability encompassing all traders in the supply chain. The companies will similarly share information with the national satellite monitoring platforms (in development) to effectively monitor progress on CFI, as well as proactively address threats of new deforestation.

The next critical priority is sustainable agricultural production and increased farmer incomes. These are essential pre-requisites for reducing pressure of agricultural encroachment into forests and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farmers to climate change. The governments and companies are accelerating investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow "more cocoa on less land." Key actions include provision of improved planting materials, training in good agricultural practices, soil fertility, land tenure reform, and capacity building of farmers' organizations. Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers are being accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, and development of mixed agroforestry systems and shade-grown cocoa.

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

3. UNILEVER'S OVERALL VISION FOR THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE

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

We believe joining CFI in 2018 was an important and coherent next step in our ambitious journey.

In 2020 we took our commitment further and announced that by the end of 2023 key forest-related raw materials, including cocoa, will come from places that are verified as deforestation and conversion free. Please look at Annex 1 to access our Disclosure of CFI Company Action Plan.

By the end of 2020, 100% of our cocoa derivatives were sourced sustainably through certification schemes such as the Rainforest Alliance (RA), UTZ and Fairtrade that allow buyers like us to work with suppliers within existing sustainability frameworks. For further detail, see Targets & performance in our Sustainable Living Report.

We continue to believe in the role of certification as a key tool in driving industry change. At the same time, we believe certification alone is not enough to halt deforestation. We are committed to continuous improvement, and we believe that further strengthening of certification standards as well as strengthening our requirements towards suppliers via our people and nature policy are important steps in the journey to deforestation-free cocoa cultivation.

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

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

This Action Plan (see Annex 1) presents our company's key activities planned over the period 2018-2022 to fulfil CFI commitments to end deforestation and forest degradation in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire (as we do not have any dedicated cooperatives in Ghana) and our achievements to date. The priorities outlined in this action plan align with the priorities developed in the CFI national implementation plans for Côte d'Ivoire. Several activities from our initial action plan are still to be determined pending government input. Our CFI actions detailed below are implemented with the support of our suppliers that are working with over 24,000 cocoa farmers.

PILLAR 1: FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

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

As is true for all CFI signatories, part of our commitment to halt further conversion of any forest land included conducting a deforestation risk assessment in all sourcing areas where our dedicated cooperatives are based. This geospatial risk assessment combined satellite imagery and other geographical information to identify where deforestation is or is likely to occur based on land cover and recent land cover changes. To date, we have mapped 24,797 farm plots.

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

Once the mapping of our dedicated farmers in Côte d'Ivoire is complete, and a differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for the current Classified Forests is developed, we will be able to firm up a progressive strategy based on findings, a prescribed timeline and key roles and responsibilities specified in the land use plans. This process requires inputs from the government currently finalizing the operational decrees that provide further guidance on the new forest policies, which will further inform our remediation and investments; we are hoping to be able to update this information in mid-2021.

Our top priority will be to assist farmers who are in National Parks, or in proximity, to find alternative livelihoods in accordance with industry guidelines. A remediation programme is already planned with local partners in the area of Cavally. More details on progress and achievements will be shared in next year report.

We are also supporting the distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration, and by 2022, we are planning to distribute 354,000 seedlings. Over 133,000 multi-purpose trees were distributed as of 2020 and 1,998 hectares of cocoa agroforestry are in development.

Public enforcement of the new Forest Code and its subsequent guidelines will be key to the success of CFI. As such we are running training and awareness-raising campaigns via suppliers and implementers to educate almost 5,000 farmers in high-risk areas.

We will also consider, depending on the scope and governance model, to support the creation of a public-private fund that the Ivorian government and other stakeholders are planning to launch to support the long-term financing of the protection and restoration of high conservation value forest areas. We are looking forward to learning more about this area from WCF in 2021.

PILLAR 2: PRODUCTIVITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Productivity enhancements in cocoa are closely linked to improved livelihoods. We are committed to promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa to grow “more cocoa on less land” through the provision of training in good agricultural practices, the subsidization of inputs, and the development

and capacity building of farmers' organizations which are critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.

To date, via our suppliers, we have trained 18,697 farmers on good agricultural practices to comply with Rainforest Alliance Certification requirements.

We have also enabled the assessment of the development needs for twenty farmers' groups and the ad-hoc support in developing improvement plans such as the provision of cooperative management training and the finance of transportation.

We recognize the importance of access to financial mechanisms for farmers to enable them to invest in their farms and diversify their incomes. Specifically, we are promoting access to saving and credit, including the establishment of Village Loans and Savings Associations for over 3,500 farmers.

PILLAR 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

We believe that gender empowerment and the creation of alternative livelihoods for farmers will play a crucial role in fighting deforestation. Over the last three years in partnership with our suppliers, we have launched pilot programmes which target women and reach a total of over 3,000 farmers to test income diversification strategies and entrepreneurship. These initiatives provided a wealth of learnings hence we decided to upscale the programme in more communities in 2022. The aim of this programme is to support farmers diversifying their crop production into other crops as well as exploring additional sources of off-farm income.

5. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021 AND BEYOND

Since 2018, signatory companies have been working to fulfil their commitments to end deforestation and restore degraded forests in the cocoa sector. In 2020, the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana delivered on numerous commitments which have informed company planning. Companies like ours are now able to further develop their activities, moving from planning to implementation. As the governments continue to provide critical information we will continue to ramp up our delivery of CFI activities in alignment with government priorities. This will include building partnerships with global development partners to drive forest positive impact on the ground identifying opportunities including collective action at landscape level.

The Cavally region is a landscape of particular relevance for us since it is an area of huge importance for biodiversity and forest conservation and at high risk of deforestation. Therefore in 2021 we launched a radio series in the areas of Guiglo and Zagne to raise awareness of deforestation and the need for conservation, and to inform farmers of the existence of the new Forest Code. The mini drama series is expected to reach over one million listeners in French and five local dialects across three local radio stations.

2020 CFI Company Progress Report Tracking Table for Côte d'Ivoire

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)
Forest Protection and Restoration					
1. No further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations and using HCS and HCV methodologies) for cocoa production.	1.1 Conduct farm mapping within direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests	<i># of cocoa plots mapped in direct supply chain</i>	26.328	24.797	24.797
		<i># of farms mapped in direct supply chain</i>	24.083	20.877	36.293
	1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all direct sourcing areas	<i># of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed</i>	59.000	69.241	122.265
2. No sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves	2.1 Implement traceability tools/technology to ensure no cocoa purchases originate	<i>% of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the</i>	100%	88,00%	

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)
through companies' traceable direct sourcing programs .	from National Parks or Reserves (all forest areas)	<i>farm to the first purchase point</i>			
3. A differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for classified Forests will be developed and translated into a national forest restoration strategy	3.1 Support the restoration of Classified Forests by working with cocoa farmers, the government and the forestry industry to implement contracts for mixed agroforestry as a restoration and livelihoods intervention	<i># hectares restored in Classified Forests</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	
4. Legal protection and management status for the remaining forests of Côte d'Ivoire in the Rural Domain	4.1 Support farmers with tree registration	<i># trees registered</i>			
	4.2 Support cocoa farmers to acquire land (tenure) documentation	<i># and % of farmers with land tenure agreements/documentation etc. obtained via company support</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
			<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>
			<i>F</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>F</i>
5. Public enforcement of the new Forest Code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened	5.1 Promote and participate in awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on the new Forest Code	<i># farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code, law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration</i>	<i>14.000</i>	<i>4.573</i>	
			<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>	
			<i>F</i>	<i>F</i>	

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)
6. Public-private collaboration to mobilize resources for forest protection and restoration	6.1 Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration	# Individuals receiving PES: New		Total	Total
				M	M
				F	F
		100	1.543		
		M	M		
		F	F		
7. Public-private collaboration to identify good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration and agroforestry	7.1 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# farmers applying agroforestry	Total	1.998	1.998
			M	M	M
			F	F	F
		104.000	133.482	185.843	
		1.250	1.998	2.746	
		20.000		5.320	

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)
	7.2 Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation)	<i># ha of forest area restored in rural zone</i>	2.000		4
	7.3 Train farmers in CSC production including cocoa agroforestry systems	<i># farmers trained in CSC best practices</i>	0	851	
M			M		
F			F		
8. Government creation, in collaboration with all stakeholders, of a public-private fund to support financing of protection and restoration of HCV forest areas.	8.1 Support the creation of the public-private forest conservation and rehabilitation fund	<i>\$ contributed to fund</i>	N/A		
Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods					
9. Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow "more cocoa on less land"	9.1 Distribute improved cocoa planting material	<i># improved seedlings distributed to farmers</i>	<i>Depending on CCC approval.</i>	<i>Depending on CCC approval.</i>	
	9.3 Train farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	<i># of farmers reached by GAP training programs</i>	17.000	18.697	
			M	M	

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)
			F	F	
10. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers	10.1 Promote farm-level crop diversification	# individuals participating in additional Income Generating Activities (IGA's)	6.000	167	
			M	M	
			F	F	
	10.2 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	Already reported 7.1		
		# hectares of cocoa agroforestry			
11 Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds for production and farm renovation	11.1 Offer financial products to farmers and promote farmer savings	# and % individuals in the current reporting year enrolled in a formal financial products and services (loans, insurance, digital payments, and savings [bank/mobile]) with support from companies (excluding cocoa bean pre-financing)	13.000	3.521	
			M	M	
			F	F	
			4.000	0	

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)
		# of members of VSLA groups in the current year	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>	
		# of VSLA groups in the current year	<i>F</i>	<i>F</i>	
12. Improve supply chain mapping, with the goal of 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. An action plan will be developed for traceability, which will be implemented step-by-step to achieve full traceability and verification, applicable to all by end-2019.	12.1 Conduct farm mapping within direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests	# of cocoa plots mapped in direct supply chain		Already reported 1.1	
	12.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in direct supply chain	% of direct sourced cocoa traceable from individual farms to first purchase point		Already reported 2.1	
Social Inclusion and Community Engagement					
13. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers	13.1 Organize cocoa community consultations on	# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code,		Already reported 5.1	

Commitment	Actions	Indicator	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)
and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes.	the implementation of the Frameworks for Action	<i>law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration</i>			
14. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration	14.1 Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management programs for forest restoration/protection	<i># of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program</i>	10		1
		<i># hectares under CBNRM</i>	10		3
15. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.	15.1 Develop forest protection & restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are gender and youth sensitive	<i># of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities</i>		-	4.700
			M	M	
			F	F	
		<i># of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (age 15-35)</i>	Total	Total	
			M	M	
			F	F	
# Farmers in direct supply/ member sustainability programs			24.204		