



Cocoa  
Forests  
Initiative

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REPUBLIC  
OF GHANA

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**GHANA COCOA &  
FORESTS INITIATIVE  
NATIONAL  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
2018-2020**

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# Cocoa & Forests Initiative

## GHANA COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018-2020

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REPUBLIC  
OF GHANA



MINISTRY OF LANDS  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Ghana Cocoa Board  
Poised to Maintain Premium Quality Cocoa



World Cocoa  
Foundation





## FOREWORD

IDH applauds the government of Ghana and companies for their braveness and bold steps. We are humbled by the trust they have placed in us, to convene such a powerful coalition and help them formulate concrete, actionable plans. It's with great admiration and pride that we reflect on this implementation plan of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative (CFI), and the steps that have come before it. It's the first plan of its kind, translating unprecedented commitments, to end deforestation and restore forest areas, into concrete steps that will guide stakeholders into the next phase.

Public and private stakeholders have kept up enthusiasm and pace, to meet their commitments. NGOs have provided strategic input and guidance. Tangible changes are taking place in sector governance and business practices. This implementation plan represents a milestone and an opportunity, for the cocoa sector and for Ghana. Though implementation still needs to take place, and a commitment of this scale will require financial support from both CFI members

and the international community, we are well on our way.

As a piece of IDH's mission and mandate is to create functioning public-private platforms, we have supported in the development of many similar coalitions. We have also actively facilitated the cocoa sector's journey, to improve sustainable production for the last 10 years. With all of this as a back drop, I'm happy to say, that the Cocoa and Forests Initiative is distinct.

We call on all stakeholders to continue the progress. And in more cocoa producing countries, join forces and sign the commitment! Together, we can make cocoa the first deforestation free commodity sector.

**Jonas Mva Mva**

Program Director, Cocoa

IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative



## PREFACE BY THE MINISTER OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES, GHANA

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It is a pleasure to finally have an Implementation Plan for the Cocoa and Forest Initiative. This has been a journey which demonstrates our commitment to the initiative and our collective efforts to halt deforestation and forest degradation related to the cocoa value chain.

Cocoa and forests are two important sectors of Ghana's economy. Cocoa is the second largest foreign exchange earner for Ghana after Gold while timber is the fifth after oil and tourism. The government of Ghana values any initiative which promotes cocoa and forest resources and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is leading this process with great anticipation.

After the signing of the Joint Framework for Action in November 2017, in Bonn, the Ministry has diligently worked with other partners and experts to develop this National Implementation Plan of the Cocoa and Forest Initiative. I wish to commend all stakeholders for their contributions to this document. Without your inputs, this process would not have been as comprehensive as we have it. There has been a great collaboration between government and industry, both with a burning desire to eliminate deforestation and land degradation from the cocoa supply chain.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to IDH and the World Cocoa Foundation for supporting the Cocoa and Forest Initiative (CFI) Process.

Over the last couple of months, the consultative processes and partnerships have been very encouraging and this is an indication of our preparedness to work towards the achievements of the commitments in the framework for Action.

It is important to acknowledge that, apart from the CFI, the government of Ghana is making other commitments in addressing deforestation and forest degradation under different programmes such as the Forest Investment programme (FIP), the multi-sectoral Mining Integrated Project (MMIP), the REDD+ programme, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), the Forest Plantation Development programme, and policy reforms on Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Schemes.

This plan, has therefore, taken into account the existing commitments to ensure that there are synergies between the various interventions to avoid duplication of efforts. The Government of Ghana, now wishes to invite all private sector partners who have signed to the framework, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations to invest resources into achieving the commitments in the Joint Framework for Action.

**Hon. John Peter Amewu**



## PREFACE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD COCOA FOUNDATION

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The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and its members representing the global chocolate and cocoa industry warmly welcome the significant milestone that has been achieved by the government of Côte d'Ivoire in developing its Implementation Plan for the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

The Implementation plan is a very promising accomplishment that points to a future where cocoa is no longer a cause of deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire. It is another sign of progress along the journey that we began together in early 2017, when we met in London in the presence of Prince Charles. This journey has also taken us to Bonn, where in November 2017 on the margins of the UN Global Climate Conference, Minister Donwahi and I signed the joint Framework for Action.

Since the formal launch of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative in Côte d'Ivoire this past January, the Ivorian government has successfully brought together both public and private sector leaders to focus on the important work to agree upon actions to fulfill the commitments in the Framework for Action. This has been a remarkable process. It is always a challenge to reach agreement on complex issues that have no easy solutions. Nevertheless, we persevered and along the way established mutual trust as we embraced the key principle of shared responsibility for past actions and future solutions.

We have now crossed a significant threshold – identifying the specific actions, timelines, accountabilities, and next steps for implementation of the commitments that we have set out in the Framework

for Action. WCF and nearly 30 companies are committed to support the implementation of the Ivorian government's new strategic directions. We will remain a trusted partner to ensure the sustainability of cocoa, the health of the planet, and the prosperity of Ivorian cocoa farmers.

**Richard Scobey**

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>CFI</b>	Cocoa & Forests Initiative
<b>COP</b>	Conference of Parties
<b>COCOBOD</b>	Ghana Cocoa Board
<b>CSDS</b>	Cocoa Sector Development Strategy
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>FC</b>	Forestry Commission
<b>FDMP</b>	Forestry Development Master Plan
<b>GCFRP</b>	Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme
<b>GFIP</b>	Ghana Forest Investment Programme
<b>GFPS</b>	Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy
<b>GRS</b>	Ghana REDD+ Strategy
<b>GSGDA</b>	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
<b>HIA</b>	Hotspot Intervention Area
<b>IDH</b>	Sustainable Trade Initiative
<b>ISU</b>	The Prince of Wales International Sustainability Unit
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
<b>JFA</b>	Joint Framework for Action
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicator
<b>MESTI</b>	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
<b>MLNR</b>	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
<b>MOFA</b>	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
<b>NIP</b>	National Implementation Plan
<b>NYD</b>	New York Declaration on forests
<b>RPF</b>	Resettlement Policy Framework
<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stock)
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WCF</b>	World Cocoa Foundation

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ghana's cocoa production belt also serves as the main forests repository of the country. Cocoa farming is both a direct and indirect driver of deforestation in Ghana (UNEP, 2008). This implies that critical interventions are needed to deal with deforestation emanating from cocoa production.

The World Cocoa Foundation and the Sustainable Trade Initiative in collaboration with the International Sustainability Unit of the Office of the Prince of Wales have partnered with governments of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire and private cocoa companies to initiate the Cocoa and Forests Initiative (CFI). The CFI aims at providing the enabling environment for the cocoa sector players to positively contribute to the preservation of forests in Ghana and the country's economy.

The initiative takes a holistic approach to tackle the complex problem of deforestation in cocoa production with a prime focus on three thematic areas: 1) sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods, 2) forest protection and restoration, and 3) community engagement and social inclusion. These are codified in an overarching Framework for Action for Ghana and its National Implementation Plan (NIP).

The main objective of the CFI as outlined in the Joint Framework for Action is for private sector to closely partner the government of Ghana and align with national objectives and strategies for reducing deforestation in the cocoa sector. Thus, national efforts will be complemented by the implementation of individual private companies' action plans focusing on some or all the elements of the NIP. Public and private partners in the cocoa sustainability and forest management sectors will demonstrate that agricultural production and forest management can go hand in hand in a sustainable manner to attain sustainable development.

The NIP is strongly hinged on enhancing and aligning with existing initiatives and ongoing projects and programs by government of Ghana and private companies including the Ghana Cocoa Board and Forestry Commission's REDD+ program on sustainable cocoa production, farmers' livelihood, Community Engagement and Social Inclusion as well as initiatives on reducing deforestation and forest degradation. The Initiative will also contribute to long-term goals set by government and industry through a phased approach.

The immediate focus for implementing the CFI will be on halting further deforestation and forest degradation from 2018 to 2020 in the six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) identified in the Ghana Cocoa Forest Landscape which has the highest deforestation rate covering 2.5 million hectares in the Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Central, Eastern and Western Regions of Ghana.

As established in the Joint Framework for Action, the basis for CFI interventions in Ghana involves a multi-stakeholder landscape approach which will enable all stakeholders to progress towards national roll-out beyond 2020 while securing the remaining forests in Ghana in the immediate short-term. Thus from 2018 to 2020, the Initiative will focus on eight overarching objectives, namely:

1. Assuring the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the different forest landscapes in Ghana including; Forest Reserves, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Resource Reserves, by end of 2019;
2. Creation of a "Deforestation Trust Fund" similar to the Plantations Development Fund in the cocoa landscape, for the co-financing of the actions in 2018-2020 and the national roll-out beyond 2020;
3. Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point by 31 December 2019;
4. Development of a Monitoring & Evaluation mechanism to track progress, help steer actions and transparently report and be accountable, by the end of 2018;
5. Development of models for sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, development of shade-grown cocoa, and other income generation activities designed to boost and diversify household income, by the end of 2018;
6. Build on activities and projects that already kick-started in HIAs, to test new policies and actions related to protection, production and inclusion from October 2018 onwards, using a landscape-level approach;

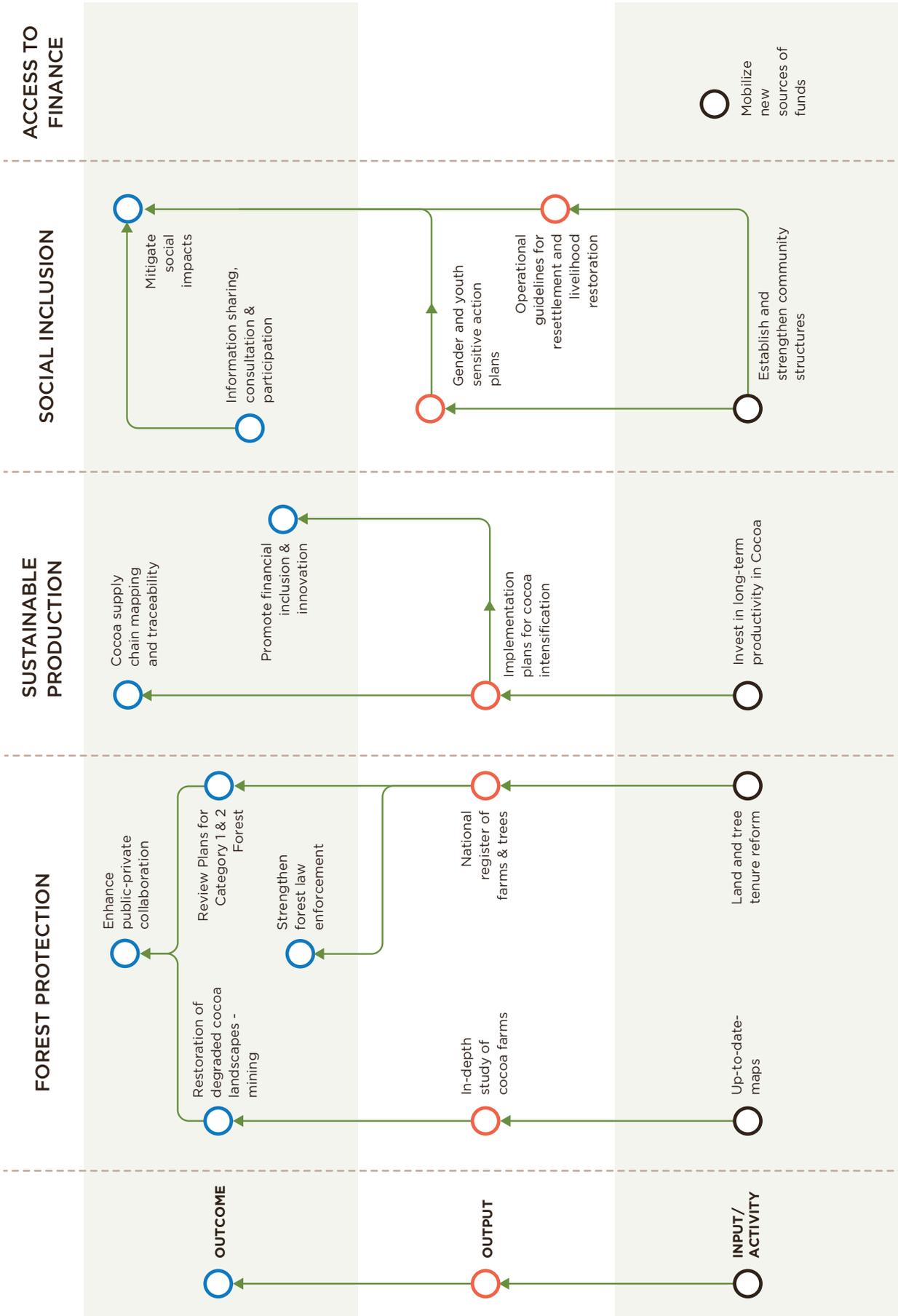
7. Empowerment of farmers and local communities to support the inclusive implementation of the HIAs, in accordance with governance principles detailed in the GCFRP.
8. Evaluation of the activities initiated in 2018-2020 and development of the plan for the roll-out phase 2021-2043.

To achieve the above, the government of Ghana will create an enabling environment through law enforcement, setting up a Fund and establishment of a robust national traceability system.

For effective implementation of this National Implementation Plan, government of Ghana and private sector will make diverse investments in the targeted areas to protect the remaining forests while supporting farmers and local communities to thrive. It is believed that this will help prepare the partners of the Initiative for national rollout and enable impact at scale in the long run.

An estimated amount of \$53 million dollars will be provided by government, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders to implement Ghana's National Implementation Plan of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative.

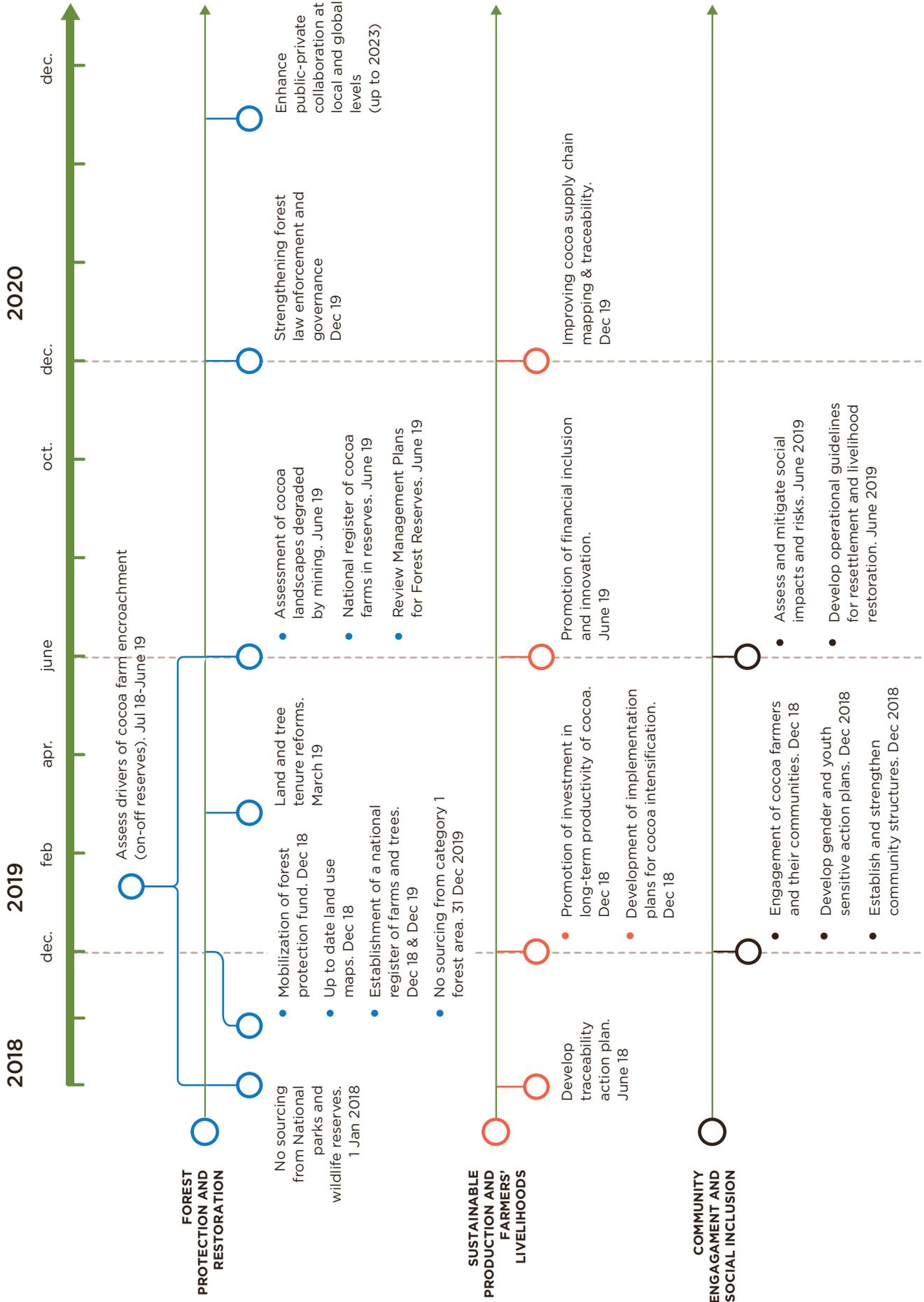
FIGURE 1. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK



**FIGURE 2.** SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIONS DEFINED IN THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

	FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION	SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND FARMERS' LIVELIHOODS	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
MAPS/STUDY	<p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>NO.1</b> Up to date maps</p> <p><b>NO.2</b> In depth study of cocoa farms in on- and off-forest reserves</p> <p><b>NO.5</b> Restoration of degraded cocoa landscapes caused by small scale mining</p> <p><b>NO.6</b> Review Management Plans for Forest Reserves</p>	<p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>NO.1</b> Promotion of investment in long-term productivity of high quality cocoa</p> <p><b>NO.2</b> Development of implementation plans for cocoa intensification</p> <p><b>NO.5</b> Promotion of financial inclusion and innovation</p> <p><b>NO.6</b> Improving cocoa supply chain mapping and traceability</p>	<p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>NO.1</b> Promote information sharing, consultation and participation of cocoa farmers and their communities</p> <p><b>NO.2</b> Establish and strengthen community structures</p> <p><b>NO.3</b> Develop gender and youth sensitive action plans (Links to ● and ●)</p> <p><b>NO.4</b> Assess and mitigate social impacts and risks (Links to ● and ●)</p> <p><b>NO.5</b> Develop operational guidelines for resettlement and livelihood restoration (Links to ● and ●)</p>
POLICY	<p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>NO.3</b> Land and tree tenure reform on farm trees</p> <p><b>NO.4</b> National register of farms and trees</p> <p><b>NO.6</b> Review Management Plans for Forest Reserves</p> <p><b>NO.7</b> Strengthening forest law enforcement and governance</p>		
COLLABORATION	<p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>NO.8</b> Mobilization of new sources of funds (Links to ● and ●)</p> <p><b>NO.9</b> Enhancing public-private collaboration at local and global levels (Links to ● and ●)</p>		

FIGURE 3. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE





# 1. INTRODUCTION

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## BACKGROUND

Ghana is the second highest cocoa-producing country in the world, after Côte d'Ivoire, with the sector producing about 970,000 metric tons of cocoa in 2017 (COCOBOD, 2017). Ghana's cocoa sector continues to be a fundamental contributor to the country's economy. It represented 21.5% of the nation's GDP in 2014, and an average of 25.6% between 2009 and 2014 (ISSER, 2014) – this amounts to a major proportion (16.9%) of the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP. More than 800,000 farming families in Ghana depend on cocoa for their livelihoods (COCOBOD, 2017). Cocoa therefore plays a significant role in Ghana's development and in rural livelihoods, and there is no doubt it will continue to experience a surge in cultivation in the foreseeable future, given the current rapid population growth. This is, however, likely to result in the clearance of large tracts of forest for cocoa cultivation, threatening the country's forests.

In Ghana, the cocoa-growing regions are in the southern tropical belt, where the majority of the nation's richest forests occur. Over a quarter of agriculture conversion in the country stems from cocoa expansion in the area. Cocoa farming is both a direct and an indirect driver of deforestation in Ghana (UNEP, 2008). Cocoa production is increasingly

being recognized as a significant driver of deforestation and forest degradation in the country, and addressing the issue has become a heartfelt concern to both private and public stakeholders in the cocoa sector.

On March 16, 2017, twelve leading cocoa companies signed the Cocoa & Forests Initiative Statement of Intent in London, committing to halting deforestation and forest degradation related to the cocoa value chain, with an initial focus on Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana: the world's two largest cocoa-producing nations. Following this commitment, Joint Frameworks for Action were developed for Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, facilitated by the Prince of Wales International Sustainability Unit (ISU), IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), and the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF).

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) in November 2017 in Bonn, Germany, these Joint Frameworks for Action – which focus on ending deforestation and restoring forest areas, increasing sustainable cocoa production, and supporting farmer livelihoods – were signed by the governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, and leading chocolate and cocoa companies. At the heart of the Frame-

works is the commitment to no longer convert forest land for cocoa production. Along with governments, chocolate and cocoa companies are committed to ending illegal cocoa production, in line with stricter enforcement of national forest policies and the development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers.

Following the signing of this Joint Framework for Action, the government of Ghana and industry partners have initiated the operationalization phase of the Framework by drawing up a detailed National Implementation Plan (NIP). This includes a roadmap for concrete actions on the ground and the enabling environment to scale up efforts nation-wide.

In recognition of Ghana’s commitment to implement the Joint Framework for Action, the Ghanaian government’s Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) has made it a priority to transform and integrate the Framework into a National Implementation Plan (NIP). This will serve as a guideline document to the private sector and civil society in the development and implementation of their own action plans. The NIP outlines strategic actions focusing on three key pillars/themes – Forest Protection and Restoration, Sustainable Cocoa Production, and Community Engagement and Social Inclusion – to stop deforestation and forest degradation associated with cocoa growing in specific regions in Ghana.

### GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The National Implementation Plan aims to facilitate planning and implementation of the commitments featured in the Joint Framework for Action signed

by the government of Ghana, represented by the MLNR, and the representatives of Chocolate and cocoa industry during the COP 23, last November 2017 in Bonn . It specifies the actions and activities required for each of the commitments; it also includes a precise calendar of activities, provisions on measurement and monitoring of the framework, roles and responsibilities, and a provisional budget.

The National Implementation Plan (NIP) will serve as a basis for companies to develop their individual action plans. Once the NIP is approved by the National Oversight Committee, industry signatories will begin developing their individual plans for public release by December 2018. The CFI will then take stock of companies’ action plans and assess industry’s collective contribution to the achievement of the NIP objectives, and to the design and implementation of the pilots in priority regions.

### METHODOLOGY

#### policy alignment

To generate support and gather experience and expertise, the NIP capitalized on existing international and national policies and programs including: the Ghana Cocoa Forest Redd+ Programme (GCFRP), the National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan (2016–2020), the Ghana Forest Investment Program (GFIP), Ghana Forest Plantation Development Strategy, the Sustainable Development Goals Commitments, Convention on Biological Diversity and more.

FIGURE 4. INFORMATION ANALYSIS AND DRAFTING OF THE NIP



A participatory approach was adopted to involve a wide range of stakeholders in the development of the National Implementation Plan. Through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Ghanaian government worked with the conveners (IDH and WCF) to ensure the process remained inclusive and acceptable to all stakeholders.

Following an initial meeting between government technocrats to analyze the Joint Framework for Action (JFA) and plot the path for the National Implementation Plan on January 23–25, 2018, a consultative meeting was held between government and industry partners in the cocoa and forestry sectors on February 15, 2018, giving government and industry the opportunity to discuss alignment on the National Implementation Plan. Those present included:

- The government of Ghana, led by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR). Others from the government included the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, COCOBOD and Forestry Commission;
- Industry – chocolate-producing companies and other industry partners;
- IDH and the World Cocoa Foundation, as conveners of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

During the February 15 meeting, the parties debated the detailed plan and agreed on a set of activities that would be shared with civil society, donors and other sector representatives at a stakeholder meeting later in the month.

On February 27, a stakeholder meeting was held to share and further discuss the draft National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the JFA. Over 80 participants from government, industry, civil society, donor community, farmer groups, traditional authorities and more worked in groups to contribute to the draft NIP. The output of this meeting was used as a source document for the Technical Working Groups, which further refined and produced the first draft of the NIP. This draft was then taken to the Steering Committee for initial review on April 17. Task Forces were then set up to deep-dive into specific areas and further improve the plan with strong technical input, before the Steering Committee carried out its final review. The document was then approved by the Oversight Committee.

### Challenges with timing

Having signed the JFA in November 2017, it was assumed that the participatory process of drafting the National Implementation Plan would naturally kick into motion. This was not the case, however. Initial work on the plan did not begin until late January, and the multiple levels of stakeholder consultations and technical activities took the process into late June. This meant that the plan was not ready until July 2018.

In light of the above, there are obvious challenges in terms of timing. Original dates targeted in some areas of the framework are no longer realistic for the newly developed plan. Faced with this dilemma, the Technical Working Groups (TWG) in some instances made suggestions to put more realistic dates into the National Implementation Plan.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT

The National Implementation Plan aims to facilitate planning and implementation of the commitments featured in the Joint Framework for Action. It specifies the actions and activities required for each of the commitments; it also includes a precise calendar of activities, provisions on measurement and monitoring of the framework, roles and responsibilities, and a provisional budget.

The National Implementation Plan focuses on the first phase of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, from 2018 through 2020, to prepare for its expansion phase from 2021 through 2043.

The National Implementation Plan is organized in five main sections:

**Section 1:** provides an introductory overview of the context of the NIP, its goals, and a summary of the method used in its development.

**Section 2:** outlines the design and implementation of pilots in priority HIAs.

**Section 3:** focuses on the three key thematic areas of the NIP, giving a concise list of commitments, actions and activities to be implemented, as well as discussing the implementation areas of the initiative.

**Section 4:** explains how performance will be measured and monitored.

**Section 5:** outlines the institutional and governance arrangements.



## 2. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

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The Ghana's Framework for Action of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative (CFI) was signed at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) in November 2017 to help reverse deforestation caused by cocoa production in the cocoa production belt of Ghana. This National Implementation Plan is to serve as a reference point for public and private stakeholders to outline and carry out critical actions to contribute to the effort of reducing deforestation focusing on forest protection and restoration, sustainable production and farmer livelihoods, and community engagements and social inclusion. For a successful implementation of this Implementation Plan, the following strategies and guiding principles will be considered:

### **Public Private Partnership**

The NIP will be implemented through a public-private partnership in which government of Ghana led by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Ghana Cocoa Board will provide leadership for the coordination of efforts carried out by Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as private cocoa trading and chocolate manufacturing companies.

### **Multi-stakeholder participation**

Just like the process for the development of the CFI Framework for Action and the NIP, the implementation process of the NIP will be participatory to allow

all stakeholders to contribute in diverse ways towards achieving the set goals. Civil Society Organizations, local authorities, traditional authorities, farmers and farmer-based organizations in particular, will be placed at the centre of consultations and participation at all levels.

### **Regional Approach**

The targeted countries for CFI are Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. Apart from the two countries being close neighbours, they are also the two leading cocoa producing countries in the world. As a first step, a Joint Framework for Action for both countries was signed and a Joint Working Group for the two countries have been set up as part of the governance arrangements to steer the implementation through a regional approach. There will be regular exchanges, lessons sharing, set common indicators to ensure replication and scale up of success stories across the two countries.

### **Alignment**

The CFI will not reinvent the wheel and with the principle of maximizing resources and avoiding duplication, it will align with existing government and private sector efforts such as Ghana REDD+, the GFIP, the ERP and other stakeholders' initiatives that seek to reduce deforestation, promote climate smart cocoa production and environmental protection.

**Resource mobilization and financing**

To ensure adequate financing for the implementation of the NIP, private sector organizations will commit financial resources to implement actions that are in tandem with the NIP. The government of Ghana will also make provisions of financial and in-kind resources to implement the NIP.



### 3. IMPLEMENTATION AREAS

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The Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) will be implemented in two successive phases starting from 2018–2020, followed by a longer phase from 2021 through 2043.

During the 2018–2020 period, government, industry, farmers and their associations, civil society, development partners, and other stakeholders will work together to halt further deforestation and forest degradation, and to create and secure an enabling environment and investment mechanisms for scaling up past 2020. To maximize the impact for forests and farmers, and to optimize use of available financing, the field-level activities during the 2018–2020 period will focus on the six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) identified in the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP), covering 2.5 million hectares, where the deforestation rate is the highest in the country. These areas have been delineated as groups of districts and selected areas based on the assessment and comparison of key parameters, such as deforestation trends, drivers of deforestation, cocoa production and population.

Cocoa companies are encouraged to enter into dialogue with the government to start work on the ground, with a specific emphasis on the six selected regions where the elements of the Joint Framework

for Action and its National Implementation Plan will be tested. Based on the ongoing activities in these regions and a gap assessment, the CFI will start as quickly as possible, securing priority goals on forest protection, and directly implementing and testing key interventions such as public policy, cocoa agroforestry, forest restoration and traceability. This will inform the national-level policy design, as well as the target setting and roadmap for the CFI's long-term 2021–2043 agenda.

As the Cocoa and Forest Initiative focuses on halting deforestation and forest degradation related to the cocoa value chain together with private-sector partners, governments, civil-society organizations, and other critical stakeholders, it is important for the CFI to be linked to existing initiatives in Ghana such as the REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) and TFA2020.

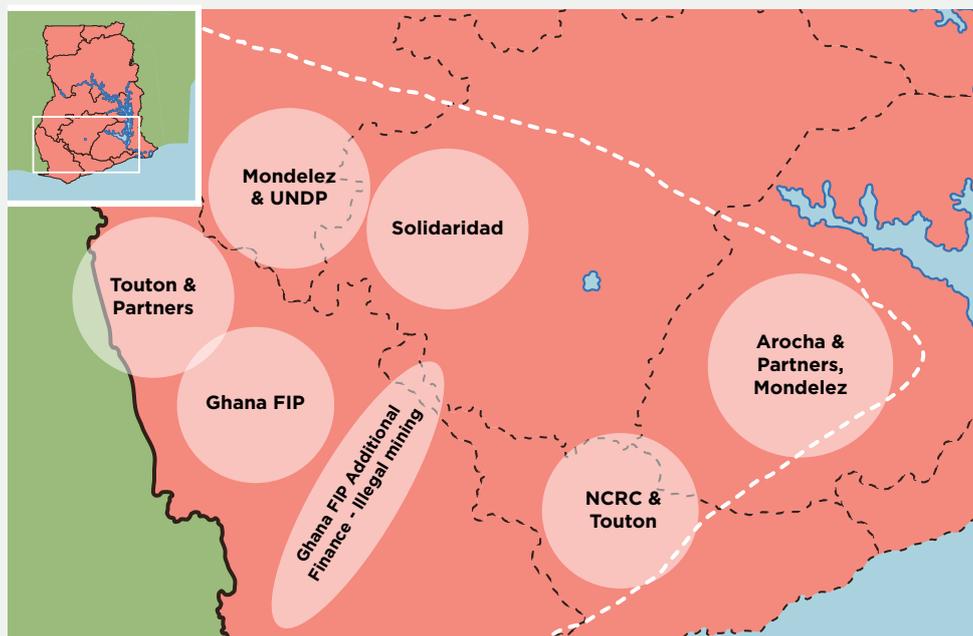
Each HIA will be governed by a local governance board of land owners, land users, and community leaders (including minority groups). A formal consortium of private-sector cocoa companies, NGOs and government partners will work together to bring resources and implement activities on the ground.

As established in the JFA, the basis for CFI interventions in Ghana involves a multi-stakeholder land-

scape approach. Some signatories of the Framework have already started implementing projects targeted at reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the HIAs. The area targeted by the CFI's National Implementation Plan are located in the Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Central, Eastern and Western Regions of Ghana:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. <b>Ahafo Ano South/<br/>Atwima Mponua/<br/>Atwima Nwabiagya</b> | Ashanti Region     |
| 2. <b>Asunafo/Asutifi</b>  | Brong-Ahafo Region |
| 3. <b>Atiwa/Denkyembour/<br/>East Akim</b>                         | Eastern Region     |
| 4. <b>Bibiani/Anwiaso/<br/>Sefwi Wiawso</b>                        | Western Region     |
| 5. <b>Juabeso Bia</b>  | Western Region     |
| 6. <b>Kakum</b>  | Central Region     |

**FIGURE 4. COCOA PRODUCING AREAS OF GHANA**



**Legend**    GCFP Boundary    Ghana Boundary    Administrative areas

The initial implementation process will focus on establishing key stakeholder consortiums, followed by developing and implementing integrated landscape management plans with a strong focus on climate-smart cocoa initiatives.

Key steps in the process are described below:

- By end October 2018, a thorough diagnostic of the ongoing activities within each of the HIAs will be completed to identify current implementation gaps and needs. In particular, the partners active in the regions will be systematically mapped out and brought together to discuss and agree on region-level collaboration.
- By October 2018, full land cover maps of these regions will be completed. This will include definition of forest boundaries, and clarity on the level of forest degradation.
- This information will allow us to reconfirm the categorization of each of the forests by October 2018 (Category 1 or 2), based on which forest management plans will be developed by January 2019.
- On the basis of this diagnostic, a detailed action plan and budget will be developed for each of the HIAs by December 2018, describing roles and responsibilities, detailed timelines for implementation, and the mobilization of funds and further fundraising.

- Formalized partnerships will be sought between HIA stakeholders, for initial Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to be signed by October 2018.
- The actions described above will enable pilots related to forest protection (zero conversion), restoration, implementation of agroforestry schemes, or resettlement (depending on the category of forest reserve and related action plan) in these regions, from end-2018 onwards. Engagement and inclusion of the local population will be ensured based on the standards and models that will start being developed and defined over the second half of 2018.
- By the end of 2018, the national traceability system will be tested in one of the selected HIAs; from 2019 onwards, it will be implemented throughout the other HIAs.

In each of the HIAs, a measurement and monitoring system will be developed (by the end of 2018) and piloted to enable measurement of the impact of the actions tested on the ground, which will inform national-level policymaking and framework design. Regular cross-learning workshops will also be organized for the HIA stakeholders to learn from each other and enable cross-regional collaboration.



## 4. THEMATIC AND FOCUSED AREAS OF THE COCOA & FOREST INITIATIVE - COMMITMENTS, ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

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Stakeholders often have diverging interests in terms of management and use of natural resources – forest, land and water – and rely on them for a wide range of purposes. Multiple use of a single resource like forest across different sectors is therefore inevitable. Without effective coordination to create and maintain a good balance, increasing the use of a particular resource to improve productivity in one sector may limit its availability for use in another sector. With the current issue of rapid population growth, there is and will continue to be an increasing demand for forests (and other natural resources), increasing pressure on them and seriously threatening their availability. There is real danger of depletion of essential services provided by forest ecosystems (e.g. micro-climate

regulation, water provisioning, erosion control, flood control, and so on). To curb this danger, the plan adopts a three-pronged approach – **Protection, Production, Inclusion** (PPI) – to ensure sustainable management of cocoa-forest landscapes.

These form the three themes of the National Implementation Plan.

## THEME 1: FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION: COMMITMENTS, ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

This theme focuses on the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the different forest landscapes in Ghana, including Forest Reserves, unprotected off-reserve forest lands, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves.

Signatories of the JFA recognize the critical importance of protecting Ghana's forests and restoring previously degraded forests. This plan therefore commits to halting conversion of any forest land for cocoa production starting January 1, 2018; zero production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms with existing legal status, will occur from this date onward. The plan also states that less degraded Forest Reserves will be managed under a strict protection status by December 31, 2019, which will exclude cocoa production and sourcing, timber extraction, and other types of productive and extractive activities. There will be zero sourcing of cocoa from these forests as of December 31, 2019. In the more degraded Forest Reserves, cocoa production and sourcing will continue for a period of up to 25 years.

Five key commitments were made under this theme (see table below). A number of actions were identified by the working groups – these actions are summarized as follows:

**ACTION 1:** Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land use for these areas, by the end of 2018.

**ACTION 2:** In-depth study of cocoa farms in on- and off-forest reserve areas, including socio-economic data on cocoa farmers and their communities in these areas, by the end of June 2019.

**ACTION 3:** Acceleration of the development of land and tree tenure reform to retain naturally regenerated trees on off-reserve farmlands and in the farming landscape, by December 31, 2018.

**ACTION 4:** Establishment of a national register of farms and trees by June 2019.

**ACTION 5:** Restoration of degraded cocoa landscapes caused by small-scale mining by the end of June 2019.

**ACTION 6:** Review of management plans for Category 1 and 2 Forest Reserves by the end of June 2019.

**ACTION 7:** Strengthening of forest law enforcement and governance by December 2019.

**ACTION 8:** Mobilization of new sources of funds throughout 2018–2020.

**ACTION 9:** Enhancement of public-private collaboration at local and global levels throughout 2018–2020.

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/Actors	Collaborating Institutions
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### COMMITMENTS:

1. There will be no further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations and using methodologies such as High Carbon Stock and High Conservation Value approach) for cocoa production.
2. There will be zero production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms with existing legal status, starting January 1, 2018.

1	Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land use for these areas		
1.1	Develop up-to-date land use maps (imagery) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish different land uses;</li> <li>• Provide information on deforestation trends for the past 10 years (so that deforestation hotspots can be identified);</li> <li>• Are available on a portal for easy consultation;</li> <li>• Can be complemented by deforestation alerts.</li> </ul> <p><i>By December 31, 2018</i></p>	Forestry Commission and COCOBOD	Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority, CERSGIS and KNUST <sup>1</sup>

1 Further collaboration with key international initiatives – e.g. Global Forest Watch, SERVIR, Ecometrica etc.

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/ Actors	Collaborating Institutions
1.2	Adopt and mainstream best existing intensification practices		
2	In-depth study of cocoa farms in on- and off-forest reserve areas, including socio-economic data on cocoa farmers and their communities in these areas		
2.1	Based on deforestation maps developed in activity 1.1 described above, assess the drivers of cocoa farm encroachment in forest reserves and other protected areas <i>June 30, 2019</i>	Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board	Survey and Mapping Division of the Lands Commission, Private Survey Firms
2.2	Assess deforestation driven by cocoa production in off-reserve areas. <i>March 31, 2019</i>	Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board	KNUST, CERSGIS and MOFA (Crop Production Unit)
2.3	Collect socio-economic data <i>31st March 2019</i>	Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board	Ghana Statistical Service, KNUST and UENR
2.4	Based on studies above, create a national register of cocoa farms with legal status in forest reserves and other protected areas, including admitted farms and their boundaries <i>31st March 2019</i>	Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board	CSOs Private sector
3	Acceleration of the development of land and tree tenure reform to retain naturally regenerated trees on off-reserve farmlands and the farming landscape		
3.1	Develop complete land and tree tenure policies <i>December 31, 2018</i>	MLNR and Forestry Commission	National House of Chiefs, CSOs, MMDAS and private-sector timber and cocoa companies

### COMMITMENT 3

A differentiated approach for Forest Reserves will be adopted by the government by 2018. It will be based on two categories and will specify the number of hectares, timelines, roles and responsibilities, budget and fund-mobilization strategy for each category.

**Category 1:** The less degraded Forest Reserve (classifications 1, 2 and 3 in the national system) will be managed under a strict protection status by December 31, 2019, which will exclude cocoa production and sourcing, timber extraction, and other types of productive and extractive activities. Signatory companies will stop sourcing cocoa from these forests starting December 31, 2019

**Category 2:** In the more degraded Forest Reserves (classifications 4 and 5 in the national system), cocoa production and sourcing will continue for a period of 25 years (the cocoa tree lifecycle) through the Modified Taungya System (MTS). The government will sign contracts with farmers that include tree benefit-sharing arrangements, targeted restoration and reforestation programs, with the end goal of progressively restoring the forest to a healthy intact state, and cessation of cocoa farming (but allowing some sustainable economic use of the forest, including non-timber forest products).

4	Establishment of a national register of farms and trees		
4.1	Develop a policy to support registration of naturally regenerated trees <sup>2</sup> <i>June 30, 2019</i>	Forestry Commission (FC)	COCOBOD, FC, CSO, private-sector cocoa companies
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a national register of cocoa farms with legal status in Forest Reserves and other protected areas</li> <li>Create a national register for cocoa farms in off-reserve areas</li> </ul> <i>June 30, 2019</i>	COCOBOD	FC and MOFA private sector
4.3	Support farmers to register their trees through a collaborative effort of government and the private sector <i>December 31, 2019</i>	FC and COCOBOD	Private-sector companies and CSO

<sup>2</sup> Activity is ongoing, led by MLNR. Tree registration form has been developed. The estimated cost indicated will cover any additional activities envisaged to be undertaken in completing the policy framework.

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/ Actors	Collaborating Institutions
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### COMMITMENT 3

In highly degraded off-reserve forest lands (which are held under the customary land ownership sector), cocoa production and sourcing will continue, supported by substantial investment and adoption of best practices in climate-smart cocoa and MTS.

5	Restoration of degraded cocoa landscapes caused by small-scale mining		
5.1	Assess the state of degradation caused by mining activities in cocoa landscapes <i>June 30, 2019</i>	MLNR	FC, COCOBOD, Minerals Commission, private-sector cocoa and mining companies, CSOs, EPA and CSIR-SRI
5.2	Develop and implement strategies for restoring degraded areas <i>June 30, 2019</i>	MLNR	FC, COCOBOD, Minerals Commission, private-sector cocoa and mining companies, CSOs, EPA and CSIR-SRI
5.3	Restore degraded cocoa farm landscape destroyed by illegal small-scale mining activities <i>June 30, 2019</i>	MLNR	FC, COCOBOD, Minerals Commission, private-sector cocoa and mining companies, CSOs, EPA and CSIR-SRI
6	Review of management plans for Category 1 and 2 Forest Reserves		
6.1	Review detailed Manual of Procedure covering forest management in Category 1 Forest Reserves <i>June 30, 2019</i>	Forestry Commission	CSOs, land owners, timber industry, FORIG and other research institutions
6.2	Review mixed-use approach for Category 2 Forest Reserves <i>June 30, 2019</i>	Forestry Commission	COCOBOD, identified farmers groups, timber companies, plantation developers, CSOs and private sector
7	Strengthening of forest law enforcement and governance		
7.1	Fast-track policy and law backing registration of naturally occurring trees-on-farm and wildlife bill <i>December 31, 2019</i>	MLNR	FC, Attorney General's Office and CSOs
7.2	Build capacity and raise awareness of forest law enforcement and governance with a focus on populations and local officials <i>January 2018</i>	FC, MOFA and COCOBOD	CSOs, Attorney General's Office, ISD and MMDAs
7.3	Halt all further attempts to expand cocoa production in forest reserves through laws enforcement <i>June 2019</i>	FC	CSOs, MOFA and COCOBOD
8	Mobilization of new sources of funds		
8.1	Set up a "Deforestation Trust Fund" similar to the Plantations Development Fund in the cocoa landscape <i>December 31, 2018</i>	MLNR	FC, MOFA, COCOBOD, private-sector cocoa and timber companies, Ministry of Finance and donors
8.2	Actively promote private sector investments and interventions in landscapes initiatives using sound business case and models <i>December 31, 2018</i>	MLNR	FC, MOFA, COCOBOD, private-sector cocoa and timber companies, Ministry of Finance and donors

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/ Actors	Collaborating Institutions
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#### COMMITMENT 4

In all these areas, a multi-stakeholder landscape approach will form the basis for the interventions, with an initial focus on the six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) as defined under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme. The process starts by establishing consortia of key stakeholders, followed by development and implementation of integrated landscape management plans with a strong focus on climate-smart cocoa initiatives.

9	Enhancement of public-private collaboration at local and global levels		
9.1	Strengthen cocoa forest multi-stakeholder dialogue <i>December 31, 2020</i>	FC and COCOBOD	CSOs, farmer groups and private-sector cocoa companies
9.2	Develop and implement integrated landscape plans focusing on climate-smart cocoa initiatives in HIAs with local participation. <i>December 31, 2018</i>	FC and COCOBOD	HIA consortia
8.2	Enhance knowledge sharing between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire on cocoa and other commodities <i>April 2018 – 7December 31, 2023</i>	CFI Secretariat	National Oversight Committee/ Technical Working Groups

## THEME 2: SUSTAINABLE COCOA PRODUCTION AND FARMER LIVELIHOOD: COMMITMENTS, ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

This theme focuses on the expansion and diversification of cocoa production in a sustainable manner, as a means of improving farmers' yields and income, while decreasing pressure on forests. By focusing on sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods, Cocoa & Forests Initiative stakeholders recognize that sustainable agricultural intensification in environmentally suitable areas and increased farmer income are essential pre-requisites for reducing pressure for agricultural encroachment into forests, and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farming to climate change.

Five key commitments were made under this theme (see table below). A number of actions were identified by the working groups – these actions are summarized as follows:

**ACTION 10:** Promotion of investment in long-term productivity of high-quality cocoa by December 31, 2018.

**ACTION 11:** Development of implementation plans for cocoa intensification by December 31, 2018.

**ACTION 12:** Promotion of financial inclusion and innovation by June 2019.

**ACTION 13:** Improvement in cocoa supply chain mapping and traceability by December 31, 2019.

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/ Actors	Collaborating Institutions
<b>COMMITMENT 1</b>			
Promote investment in long-term productivity of high-quality cocoa in environmentally sustainable manner. Grow “more on less land” through intensification of farming practices, provision of improved planting materials, introduction of yield-enhancing methods, training in good agricultural practices, crop protection, crop nutrition and soil fertility. Continued land tenure reform to strengthen farmers’ land and property rights, and development and capacity building of farmers’ organizations, are critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.			
10	Promotion of investment in long-term productivity of high-quality cocoa		
10.1	Enhance/scale up tree tenure reform through farm registration <i>December 31, 2018</i>	MLNR and COCOBOD	Private-sector companies and NGOs
Adopt and mainstream best existing intensification practices			
10.2	Adopt and mainstream best existing intensification practices <i>December 2018</i>	CCOBOD	Private-sector companies
10.3	Provide farmers with access to services such as planting material, inputs including shade trees, food crops, etc. <i>December 2018</i>	CCOBOD and FC	Private-sector companies

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/ Actors	Collaborating Institutions
10.4	Design operational mechanism and dialogue to enhance current policies on land tenure registration and ongoing consultation on land tenure  <i>December 31, 2018</i>	MLNR	Lands Commission, COCOBOD and National House of Chiefs
10.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise farmers' awareness of climate-smart intensification of cocoa production on farms</li> <li>Target farms with COCOBOD's hand pollination, irrigation adaptation and mitigation measures</li> </ul> <i>June 2018</i>	COCOBOD	Private-sector companies

## COMMITMENT 2

Develop implementation plans, including mapping of exact areas to intensify establishment of shade-grown cocoa landscapes in line with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) with the promotion of climate-smart cocoa standards in environmentally suitable areas, with an initial focus on Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs).

11	Development of implementation plans for cocoa intensification		
11.1	Implement climate-smart cocoa Guidelines on farms.  <i>December 31, 2018</i>	COCOBOD	FC, private-sector companies and CSOs

## COMMITMENT 3

Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, development of shade-grown cocoa, and other income-generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income.

Activity is under Theme 3.

## COMMITMENT 4

Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and cocoa farm rehabilitation and restoration.

12	Promotion of financial inclusion and innovation		
12.1	Develop, identify and facilitate access to suitable financial products within financial institutions that promote cocoa farming  <i>June 30, 2019</i>	Private sector (WCF)	Private sector, financial institutions (formal and informal) and farmer-based organizations
12.2	Facilitate overcoming barriers to financing cocoa production  <i>June 30, 2019</i>	CFICU, MOFA and COCOBOD	Private sector, financial institutions and farmer-based organizations
12.3	Develop programs and approaches for using farmer groups/co-operatives to enhance farmer access to funds at scale  <i>June 30, 2019</i>	MOFA, COCOBOD and CFICU	Financial institutions and FBO

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/ Actors	Collaborating Institutions
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#### COMMITMENT 5

Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point by December 31, 2019. Government and private-sector companies will develop a joint action plan that maps out key principles, steps and milestones to achieve this commitment, encompassing all national and international traders, by June 30, 2018. Government will 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. Signatory companies will put 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, by December 31, 2019.

13	Improving cocoa supply chain mapping and traceability		
13.1	Develop action plan together with private sector <i>June 2018</i>	CFICU	Private sector, COCOBOD and FC
13.2	Establish a traceability system approved by COCOBOD <i>December 31, 2019</i>	COCOBOD and MLNR	Private sector, certification bodies and voluntary standard owners

## THEME 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: COMMITMENTS, ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The livelihoods of rural communities largely depend on the forest, and they play a key role in its conservation and protection. Therefore, like other stakeholders, community involvement remains a key component in forest and other natural resource management efforts.

This theme safeguards the social involvement of local communities and civil society in forest and other natural resource management activities through participatory planning for resource use.

Five key commitments were made under this theme (see table below). A number of actions were identified by the working groups – these actions are summarized as follows:

**ACTION 14:** Promotion of information sharing, consultation and participation of cocoa farmers and their communities by December 31, 2018.

**ACTION 15:** Establishment and strengthening of community structures (phased approach) by December 2020.

**ACTION 16:** Development of gender- and youth-sensitive action plans by December 2018.

**ACTION 17:** Assessment and mitigation of social impacts and risks by June 2019.

**ACTION 18:** Development of operational guidelines for resettlement and livelihood restoration by June 2019.

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/Actors	Collaborating Institutions
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### COMMITMENT 1

**Full and effective information sharing, consultation and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes under the Framework.**

14	Promotion of information sharing, consultation and participation of cocoa farmers and their communities		
14.1	Develop and identify an effective communication system regarding cocoa-driven deforestation for affected cocoa farmers and their communities, which addresses the needs of all target groups  <i>December 2018</i>	Forestry Commission	CSO, information services department and private sector
14.2	Develop and implement a communication strategy for the Cocoa Forest Initiative  <i>December 2018</i>	Communication consultant	CSOs and private sector

### COMMITMENT 2

**Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration, including engagement of local communities and farmers in awareness-raising campaigns on the status of protected areas and the critical role that forest plays in climate regulation.**

15	Establishment and strengthening of community structures		
15.1	Develop and disseminate extension material on forestry that complements COCOBOD's and MOFA's extension systems  <i>December 2018</i>	Forestry Commission	COCOBOD, MOFA and private sector

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/ Actors	Collaborating Institutions
15.2	Review, Upscale and resource Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) and other community structures in off-reserve areas to improve its scale, depth, business case and sustainability for conservation and development. <i>December 2020</i>	Forestry Commission	CSO
15.3	Develop operational guideline for the implementation of the wildlife bill <i>June 2018</i>	Forestry Commission	CSOs
15.4	Hold legislative reform consultations regarding the wildlife bill <i>December 2020</i>	Forestry Commission	CSOs
15.5	Define and implement the benefit-sharing scheme (e.g. MTS) <i>December 2018</i>	Forestry Commission	CSO, land owners, private sector and farmers
15.6	Develop and disseminate extension materials on concrete solutions for improving land tenure in cocoa landscapes <i>December 2018</i>	Forestry Commission	Land owners, farmers, customary lands, administrator of stool lands, COCOBOD and private-sector companies

### COMMITMENT 3

Development of action plans for forest protection, restoration and suitable agricultural intensification, which are gender and youth sensitive.

16	Development of gender- and youth-sensitive action plans		
16.1	Develop extension approach for youth participation in cocoa <i>December 2018</i>	Forestry Commission	Civil society organizations
16.2	Develop and integrate gender- and youth-sensitive action plans that build on existing strategies <i>December 2018</i>	Forestry Commission	Civil society organizations
16.3	Measure social impacts on, and risks towards, affected cocoa farmers and their communities, and develop actions to mitigate these risks <i>June 2019</i>	Forestry Commission	Civil society organizations

### COMMITMENT 4

For the Forest Reserves approach, the government will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of proposed land-use changes on affected cocoa farmers and their communities, and ensure the provision of alternative livelihoods and restoration of standards of living of affected parties, in line with global standards.

17	Assessment and mitigation of social impacts and risks		
17.1	Develop a grievance redress mechanism for affected cocoa farmers and their communities <i>June 2019</i>	Forestry Commission	Civil society organizations, traditional authorities, farmers, district assemblies, and parliamentary select committee on lands and natural resources

#	Actions	Lead Institutions/ Actors	Collaborating Institutions
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#### COMMITMENT 5

Government will prepare operational guidelines covering resettlement and livelihood restoration of any affected parties by June 30, 2018, with relevant input from the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, in line with global standards.

18	Development of operational guidelines for resettlement and livelihood restoration		
18.1	Establish and implement resettlement plan including livelihood restoration <i>June 2019</i>	Forestry Commission	Civil society organizations, traditional authorities, farmers, district assemblies, and parliamentary select committee on lands and natural resources
18.2	Undertake consultations for developing a resettlement policy in classifications 1, 2 and 3 of Forest Reserves <i>June 2019</i>	FC and COCOBOD	MMDAs, CSO, TA, research and academia, private sector and mining companies

#### Social safeguards

The Cocoa and Forest Initiative, like other projects that entail involuntary resettlement, requires well thought-out social safeguards. Significant potential social and environmental impacts will become important during the implementation of the project activities. Mitigation guidelines are needed to address these impacts. Responsibility for implementing social safeguards will rest with staff at the National Secretariat who will work in collaboration with REDD+ to oversee the implementation of actions to mitigate adverse environmental and social impacts within the CFI implementation areas.

Closely aligned with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme, the CFI intends to make use of their Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), which clearly lays out how project stakeholders will address

compensation issues relating to affected properties/livelihoods, including land- and income-generating activities during implementation. Addressing deforestation and forest degradation presents a number of challenges due to the complex drivers of these issues. The REDD+ RPF includes a list of proposed strategies for addressing identified drivers of deforestation/forest degradation, which will be incorporated by the CFI. Provisions are made in the RPF to accommodate all potential situations, including cases that involve actual displacement/resettlement, and livelihood restoration assistance.



## 5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING

Measuring results and monitoring progress will be carried out at national and HIA levels to promote transparency and accountability, as well as to allow for corrections and to promote learning during the process.

A transparent and credible process aligned with the REDD+ Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will be developed to measure and monitor the progress of CFI implementation. This process will be in line with the national forest monitoring system. It will include the adoption of a transparent, satellite-based monitoring system complemented by on-the-ground surveillance, to sound the alert if deforestation occurs. The results of this system will be independently validated. Signatory companies and the government

will also report annually on the progress and outcomes of specific actions in the plan.

The following sections outline the key performance indicators that have been identified to monitor progress for each thematic area.

### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

The table below outlines the key performance indicators (KPIs) for commitments made regarding forest protection and restoration.

Commitments	KPIs
<p><b>COMMITMENT 1</b></p> <p>There will be no further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations and using methodologies such as High Carbon Stock and High Conservation Value approach) for cocoa production.</p> <p>There will be zero production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms with existing legal status, starting January 1, 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of land preserved and restored</li> <li>• Total production of cocoa from protected forest area</li> </ul>

## COMMITMENT 2

A differentiated approach for Forest Reserves will be adopted by the government by 2018. It will be based on two categories, and will specify the number of hectares, timelines, roles and responsibilities, budget and fund-mobilization strategy for each category:

**Category 1:** The less degraded Forest Reserve (classifications 1, 2 and 3 in the national system) will be managed under a strict protection status by December 31, 2019, which will exclude cocoa production and sourcing, timber extraction, and other types of productive and extractive activities. Signatory companies will stop sourcing cocoa from these forests starting December 31, 2019.

**Category 2:** In the more degraded Forest Reserves (classifications 4 and 5 in the national system), cocoa production and sourcing will continue for a period of 25 years (the cocoa tree lifecycle) through the Modified Taungya System (MTS). The government will sign contracts with farmers that include tree benefit-sharing arrangements, targeted restoration and reforestation programs, with the end goal of progressively restoring the forest to a healthy intact state, and cessation of cocoa farming (but allowing some sustainable economic use of the forest, including non-timber forest products).

- Existence of cocoa traceability system to monitor and reduce sourcing from protected areas
- Effective MTS and safeguards implemented to cover the 25-year period

## COMMITMENT 3

In highly degraded off-reserve forest lands (which are held under the customary land ownership sector), cocoa production and sourcing will continue, supported by substantial investment and adoption of best practices in climate-smart cocoa and MTS.

- Adoption of climate-smart cocoa practices and MTS

## COMMITMENT 4

In all these areas, a multi-stakeholder landscape approach will form the basis for the interventions, with an initial focus on the six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) as defined under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme. The process starts by establishing consortia of key stakeholders, followed by development and implementation of integrated landscape management plans with a strong focus on climate-smart cocoa initiatives.

- Adoption of the multi-stakeholder landscape approach in all HIAs

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND FARMER LIVELIHOOD

Commitments	KPIs
<b>COMMITMENT 1</b> Promote investment in long-term productivity of high-quality cocoa in an environmentally sustainable manner. Grow “more on less land” through intensification of farming practices, provision of improved planting materials, introduction of yield-enhancing methods, training in good agricultural practices, crop protection, crop nutrition and soil fertility. Continued land tenure reform to strengthen farmers’ land and property rights, and development and capacity building of farmers’ organizations, are critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adoption of climate-smart cocoa standard</li><li>• Secured farmers’ property rights (tree tenure)</li><li>• Financial mechanisms set up to facilitate farmers’ access to finance</li></ul>
<b>COMMITMENT 2</b> Develop implementation plans, including mapping of exact areas to intensify establishment of shade-grown cocoa landscapes in line with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) with the promotion of climate-smart cocoa standard in environmentally suitable areas, with an initial focus on Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management plan and governance structure of HIAs in place</li></ul>
<b>COMMITMENT 3</b> Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including agricultural inter-cropping, development of shade-grown cocoa, and other income-generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activity is under Theme 3</li></ul>
<b>COMMITMENT 4</b> Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers’ access to working capital and investment funds required for production and cocoa farm rehabilitation and restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effective working capital and investment fund operational</li></ul>

Commitments	KPIs
<p><b>COMMITMENT 5</b></p> <p>Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point by December 31, 2019. Government and private-sector companies will develop a joint action plan that maps out key principles, steps and milestones to achieve this commitment, encompassing all national and international traders, by June 30, 2018. Government will 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. Signatory companies will put 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, by December 31, 2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective functioning of national forest monitoring system</li> <li>• Effective cocoa Public Private Partnership platform operational</li> </ul>

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Commitments	KPIs
<p><b>COMMITMENT 1</b></p> <p>Full and effective information sharing, consultation and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes under the Framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of transparency and effective involvement of stakeholders in decision making</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMMITMENT 2</b></p> <p>Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration, including engagement of local communities and farmers in awareness-raising campaigns on the status of protected areas and the critical role that forest plays in climate regulation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of models of forest protection and restoration</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMMITMENT 3</b></p> <p>Development of action plans for forest protection, restoration and suitable agricultural intensification, which are gender and youth sensitive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of gender- and youth-sensitive action plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMMITMENT 4</b></p> <p>For the approach in Forest Reserves, the government will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of proposed land-use changes on affected cocoa farmers and their communities, and ensure the provision of alternative livelihoods and restoration of standards of living of affected parties, in line with global standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption and implementation of REDD+ safeguards</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMMITMENT 5</b></p> <p>The government will prepare operational guidelines covering resettlement and livelihood restoration of any affected parties by June 30, 2018, with relevant input from the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, in line with global standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of resettlement plan in line with global standards</li> <li>• Development and implementation of livelihood plans in line with global standards</li> </ul>



## 6. FUNDING

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The National Implementation Plan will be financed through a combination of public and private funds. Some parts of the plan will be financed by resources already mobilized and secured by pre-existing programs and initiatives. However, a close collaboration between technical partners and donors will be needed to raise additional funds that are required to fund some actions that have no resource allocation as yet.



## 7. INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

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### INSTITUTIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Stakeholder consultation and responsibilities

Partners from government, including relevant Ministries (such as Lands and Natural Resources, Food and Agriculture, Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation), Ghana Cocoa Board, Forestry Commission, industry partners, civil society, traditional authorities, farmers and educational institutions were consulted in an all-inclusive process through bilateral meetings, organized workshops, technical roundtables and stakeholders' programs. IDH, ISU and WCF served as the conveners and coordinating body until November 2017, after which IDH and WCF continued as conveners.

Technical Working Groups (TWG) and Task Forces played a strong role in closely collaborating with a broad spectrum of stakeholders to detail out the Joint Framework for Action, which was developed into this National Implementation Plan. A similar process took place in Côte d'Ivoire, and both Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire worked with the International Co-ordination Body while exchanging knowledge and experiences, during an exchange meeting that took place on May 24, 2018.

Responsibility for the implementation of this plan is distributed among three key institutions. These are the lead institutions for specific activities, based on their mandate and technical expertise:

- **Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR)** – The MLNR will oversee the acquisition of appropriate technology for forest monitoring, and will fast-track the promulgation of policies and laws backing implementation of the plan. It will also oversee the establishment and strengthening of multi-stakeholder dialogues and consortia among key actors.
- **Forestry Commission (FC)** – The FC will lead the implementation of commitments related to forest protection and restoration in particular, and will collaborate on implementing commitments under other themes. The FC will also lead the process for developing an extension system to complement that of COCOBOD and MOFA.
- **Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD)** – The COCOBOD will be the lead institution implementing most of the commitments around sustainable production of cocoa and enhancement of farmers' livelihoods.

In addition to these lead institutions, several other institutions like the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, the Attorney General's Office, private-sector companies, civil society organizations as well as academic and research institutions, will collaborate on the implementation of the plan. Annex 2 gives a preliminary list of lead and collaborating actors to implement specific activities under each theme.

## COMMUNICATION PLAN

A communication strategy will be developed to address the following communication needs:

1. Building confidence among different stakeholders
2. Keeping stakeholders informed
3. Changing attitudes among stakeholders
4. Building credibility
5. Communicating about the higher, deforestation-free standard of Ghanaian cocoa
6. Creating a market for high-grade cocoa from Ghana
7. Connecting to innovative and new sources of funding

Communication will be carried out in close collaboration with the Secretariat. All parties must notify each other of any external communication that will include the promotion of the Initiative, and must allow a reasonable period of time to provide feedback on the messages to be communicated. This applies to all means of communication, including events, public presentations, interviews, blog posts, and so on.

Regarding branding, the partners of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative agree that:

- The CFI logo must appear on all communication materials;
- The logos of all the donors must appear on all communication materials;
- The logos of MINEF, WCF and IDH must be included either all together or not at all;
- The URL ([www.cocoaandforests.org](http://www.cocoaandforests.org) or [www.cacaoetforets.org](http://www.cacaoetforets.org)) must be included on all communication materials;
- The boiler plate (below) must be provided to all media when publishing information about the Initiative.

## Boiler plate

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) is an active commitment by top cocoa-producing countries, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, together with leading chocolate and cocoa companies, to end deforestation and restore forest areas through no further conversion of any forest land for cocoa production. The commitment was signed in the form of a Joint Framework for Action at the 23 United Nations Climate Change Conference, and plays a crucial role in supporting forest carbon sequestration and thereby mitigating global and local climate change. Companies and governments are taking action to eliminate illegal cocoa production in national parks, in line with stronger enforcement of national forest policies and the development of alternative livelihoods for affected farmers. More than 50 stakeholders are engaged in the implementation of the Framework, championed by chocolate and cocoa companies and high-level government officials. They are actively supported by the expertise of development partners, research organizations, environmental and civil society organizations, and farmer associations. The CFI is chaired by the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and is facilitated by the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF).

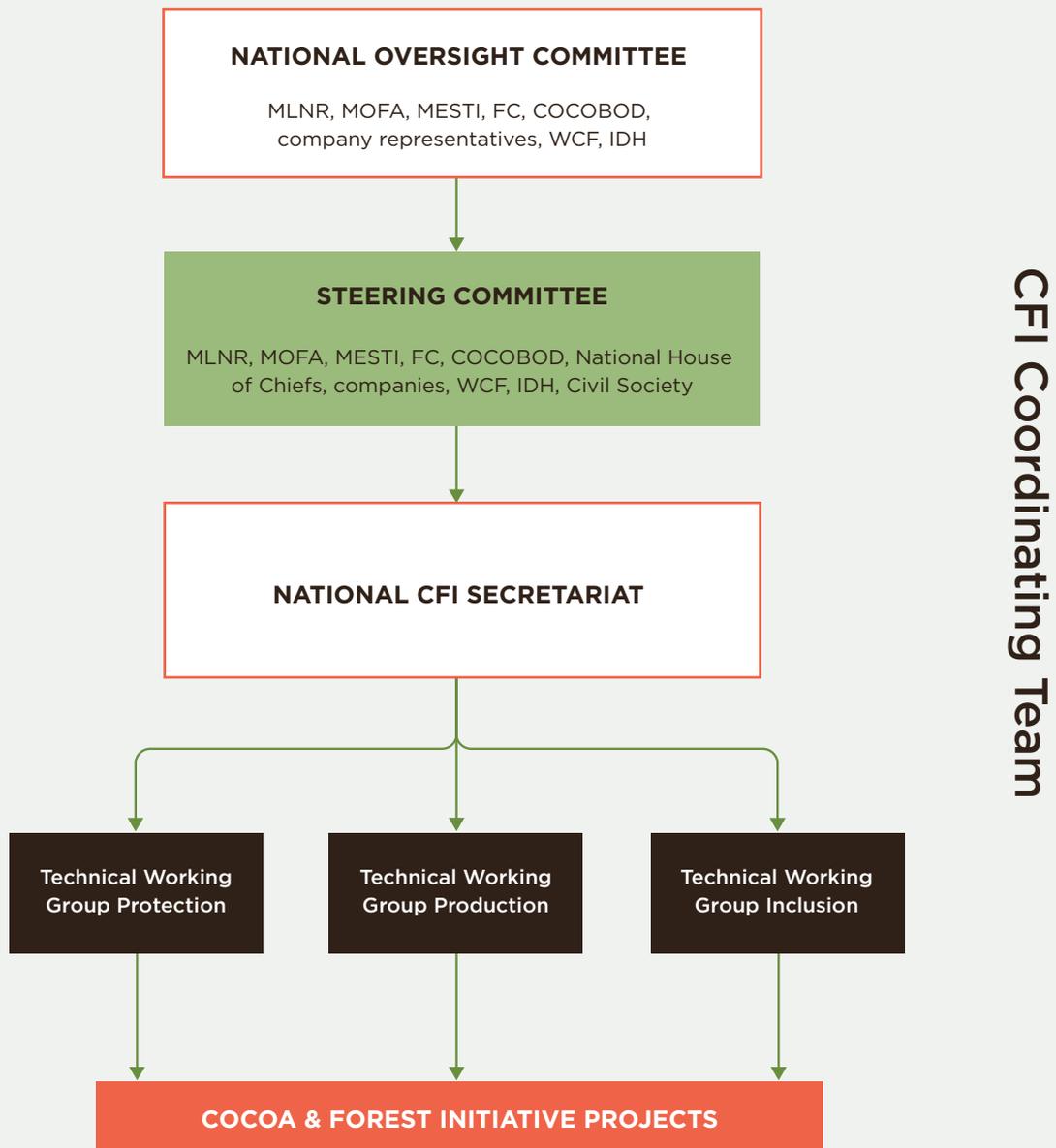
## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

A governance structure has been set up to oversee implementation of the Joint Framework for Action. The structure (in Figure 5 on page 42) consists of:

1. **National Oversight Committee (NOC)** – This committee is at the highest level of the governance structure that oversees the work of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. It consists of Ministers, Chief Executive Officers of relevant government institutions, and country heads of private companies. This committee is chaired by the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR).
2. **Steering Committee** – Members of this committee fall under the NOC, and it is made up of senior representatives from relevant Ministries, government institutions, private companies, and civil society organizations. Based on the relevant public policies, the committee gives strategic guidance to the Initiative's Coordinating Team and the Technical Working Groups on the development and implementation of the plan of action, ensuring the validation of the final version of the plan by the government of Ghana, and its alignment with public policy formulation. This committee is co-chaired by COCOBOD and the Forestry Commission (FC).

- 3. National CFI Secretariat (NS)** – This unit is led by the MLNR, and facilitates the operation of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative. Members include representatives of IDH and WCF (conveners of the Initiative) and other members of the Coordinating Team.
- 4. Technical Working Groups (TWG)** – These groups consist of key technical members of COCOBOD, MLNR, FC, civil society, IDH and WCF, and give technical support to the Coordinating Team. The groups are broken down into the three thematic areas of the Joint Framework for Action, and are supported by dedicated Task Forces when specific expertise is needed:
- a. Protection
  - b. Production
  - c. Inclusion
- 5. Coordinating Team** – The Coordinating Team serves at all levels of the governance structure, and comprises key team members from the MLNR, COCOBOD, and conveners IDH and WCF.

**FIGURE 5.** GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF THE CFI



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## ANNEX 1

### LINKAGE BETWEEN THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

The National Implementation Plan for the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) is fully aligned with the national framework for addressing key environmental challenges such as deforestation, sustainable commodity sourcing and climate change. The JFA is also in synch with Ghana's commitments to international environmental treaties and agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Change Accord, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Bonn Challenge.

#### **The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA)**

The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) serves as Ghana's medium term national development framework. Both GSGDA I (2010 – 2013) and GSGDA II (2014 – 2017) recognized climate variability and change as major threats to na-

tional development. In addition, GSGDA I & II placed emphasis on accelerated agriculture transformation and sustainable natural resource management as important pathways to enhance Ghana's socio-economic development. The GSGDA therefore provides a sound basis for implementation of the activities outlined in the framework for the Cocoa and Forests Initiative (CFI). Some complementary strategies outlined in GSGDA II for sustainable natural resources management include: reclamation and afforestation of degraded areas and adoption of the principles of green economy in national development planning.

#### **National Environment Policy**

The National Environment Policy places emphasis on the need for balance to be attained between economic development and environmental sustainability. The policy recognizes unsustainable environmental challenges such as land degradation, deforestation, biodiversity loss and climate change which require adequate and immediate remedial actions. One of the aims of the National Environment Policy is therefore to take appropriate measures to protect critical ecosystems, including the flora and fauna they contain against destructive practices.

#### **National Climate Change Policy**

The National Climate Change Policy is Ghana's integrated response to the challenges of climate change within its socio-economic context. The four policy themes and strategic focus areas of the National Climate Change Policy are: (i) Agriculture and Food Security; (ii) Disaster Preparedness and Response; (iii) Natural Resource Management; and (iv) Equitable Social Development. The policy action areas for agriculture include improving and harmonizing research activities in climate-smart agriculture, promoting diversified land use practices (e.g. agroforestry), and promoting alternative livelihoods systems to diversify incomes. The policy also seeks to promote plantation development and management in off-reserve areas through private and public-private partnerships, rehabilitate degraded natural ecosystems through enrichment planting in degraded forest reserves and off-reserve areas, support initiatives such as REDD+ and support agro-forestry programs initiated to conserve trees in association with crops.

#### **Forestry Development Master Plan**

In 2016, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources developed a 20-year Forestry Development Master Plan (FMDP) to implement the goals, objectives and strategies of the 2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy. The

FMDP has a vision of “achieving a just, prosperous and sustainable forestry sector that inclusively and continuously optimizes welfare and provides adequate means of livelihoods to all Ghanaians”. A key thematic area that forms the basis for implementing the FMDP is to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices whilst contributing to poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation.

### **National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan (2016 – 2020)**

The National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan seeks to operationalize the National Climate Change Policy within the Food and Agriculture sector. The Action Plan serves as the overarching national framework for climate-smart agriculture. The Action Plan specifically aims to:

- a. Develop climate-resilient agriculture and food systems for all agro-ecological zones;
- b. Develop human resource capacity for climate-resilient agriculture;
- c. Elaborate on the implementation framework and the specific climate-smart agriculture activities to be carried out at the respective levels of governance.

### **Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy**

The goal of the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy (GFPS) is to achieve sustainable supply of goods and services from planted forests to deliver a range of socio-economic and environmental benefits. The GFPS seeks to attain this goal through the establishment and management of 625,000 ha of forest plantations in degraded forests, enrichment planting of 100,000 ha, support for the incorporation of trees-on-farms within 3.75 million ha of agricultural landscapes and maintenance and rehabilitation of 235,000 ha of existing forest plantations, over a 25-year period, commencing from 2016.

### **Draft Ghana Cocoa Sector Development Strategy II**

The Ghana Cocoa Sector Development Strategy II (CSDS II) will serve as the blueprint for the cocoa sector. Although, the document is yet to be validated, the final draft outlines a vision of creating a modernized, resilient and competitive cocoa environment where all stakeholders strive towards a sustainable cocoa economy. The CSDS II will amongst others, aim to enhance productivity levels from 450 kg/ha

to an average of 1,000 kg/ha and promote the adoption of climate-smart cocoa production practices.

### **Ghana REDD+ Strategy**

The vision of REDD+ in Ghana is to significantly reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation over the next twenty years, whilst at the same time addressing threats that undermine ecosystem services and environmental integrity so as to maximize the co-benefits of the forests. Ghana’s REDD+ Strategy (GRS) outlines a set of large scale sub-national programs targeted at attaining this vision. These programs follow ecological boundaries and are defined by major commodities and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The GRS articulated the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme as the programmatic intervention for the High Forest Zone.

### **The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme**

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GC-FRP) has been endorsed for implementation by the Carbon Fund of the World Bank. The GC-FRP is a landscape-wide program targeted at significantly reducing emissions driven by the expansion of cocoa farms into forested areas and other drivers through the promotion of climate-smart cocoa production system, a landscape standard as well as other cross cutting actions. By tackling these drivers, Ghana aims to secure the future of its forests, make the cocoa sector climate-resilient, whilst sustaining and enhancing income and livelihood opportunities for farmers and forest users across the program area. Initial implementation of the GC-FRP will be concentrated in six out of the nine Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIA) identified by the program. The HIAs are made up of a number of districts and were selected on the basis of deforestation trends, drivers of deforestation, cocoa production and population. The CFI framework is aligned with the objectives of the GC-FRP. It will use the six HIA to be selected under this program as its initial implementation focus for some activities and will serve as an important avenue for attainment of the objectives of GC-FRP.

### **Climate-Smart Cocoa Standard**

The Climate-Smart Cocoa Standard, which is currently awaiting validation, will serve as the strategic national document that defines the framework for climate-smart cocoa production practices for specific sites and across the entire cocoa landscape of Ghana. This standard aims to facilitate the adoption

of site-specific sustainable practices that ensure higher yields, conservation, protection, management and the effectual use of resources within cocoa landscapes to enhance the living standards of farmers, local communities and the country. The Climate-Smart Cocoa Standard was developed in line with the CFI and seeks to contribute to the fulfilment of the commitments made under each theme of the Joint Framework for Action.

### **Ghana Forest Investment Programme**

The Ghana Forest Investment Programme (GFIP) was approved by the Climate Investment Fund to finance transformative co-management and benefit sharing approaches in two regions of Ghana's High Forest Zone. The overall goal of FIP-finance activities in Ghana is to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity within the Western and Brong-Ahafo regions. The aim of GFIP is to: (i) ensure the integrity, restoration, and sustainable management of forest reserves by introducing more inclusive management practices and benefit sharing models, financial incentives, and investments; (ii) restore forest cover in off-reserve areas by securing tree tenure and benefits, forest plantations and landscape restoration, and rehabilitation of degraded forest land; (iii) increase trees and enhance carbon stocks in the farming system by promoting sustainable cocoa and agriculture practices; and (iv) develop viable alternative livelihoods for local communities by addressing a broad range of technical, financial and market incentives, to reduce pressure on existing forests.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of global development goals which are targeted at ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and tackling climate change by 2030. Goals 13 and 15 of the SDGs are particularly relevant for the CFI framework. These goals are as follows:

- a. Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- b. Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

### **Paris Climate Change Agreement**

The Paris Agreement is the globally negotiated agreement which seeks to consolidate and strengthen global response to the threat of climate change. The Agreement was ratified by Ghana's Parliament in August 2016. Article 5 of the Paris Agreement encourages countries to implement and support REDD+ interventions.

### **New York Forest Declaration**

The New York Declaration on forests (NYD) is a voluntary and non-legally binding political declaration by world leaders and other key stakeholders to reduce the rate of deforestation by 50% and strive to end it by 2030. This declaration was made at the UN's Climate Summit held in New York in 2014. The NYD calls for support from the private sector to eliminate deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities; restore a minimum of 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2030 and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

### **The Bonn Challenge**

The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to restore 350 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2030. The Bonn Challenge was launched in September 2011 by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and later extended by the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 UN Climate Summit. The government of Ghana committed to restoring 2 million hectares by 2030, as part of this global initiative.

## ANNEX 2

### JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION GHANA

#### Preamble

Recognizing the vital role of the cocoa sector in Ghana in bringing jobs and wealth to local communities, while at the same time seeking to be environmentally and socially sustainable and striving to protect Ghana's forests;

Noting the importance of the cocoa sector in national social and economic development, the reduction of rural poverty, and in accelerating the transition to sustainable livelihoods for the almost one million smallholder farmers who grow cocoa;

Emphasizing the critical role of tropical rainforests, biodiversity and conservation in addressing global climate change, regulating the local and regional climate, and providing other critical ecosystem services that underpin the resilience of the cocoa sector and local livelihoods;

Acknowledging the role of agricultural commodity development, including the cocoa sector, illegal mining (galamsey), logging, and bushfires, as drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and recognizing the strong positive contribution that the cocoa sector can make in Ghana to the restoration of forests and resilient landscapes;

Understanding the importance of public-private partnerships in sustainable and inclusive economic development, and our commitment to support the achievement of the New York Declaration on Forests, the Bonn Challenge, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals; and

Conscious of the need to promote, foster and accelerate the economic and social development of Ghana, in order to improve living standards and people's well-being;

**We, the Government of Ghana - through the Minister of Land & Natural Resources - and undersigned companies, commit to work together to end deforestation and promote forest protection and restoration in the cocoa supply chain in Ghana through this Joint Framework for Action.**

The Framework builds on the Statement of Intent launched at a High-Level Meeting in London hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales in March 2017. It defines core commitments, verifiable actions, and time-bound targets required for a deforestation-free and forest positive cocoa supply chain in Ghana.

The Framework was developed through a multi-stakeholder process that brought together government, private sector, farmers and farmers' organizations, national and international civil society organizations, development partners, and other stakeholders in Ghana and at the global level. It is structured around the following three themes:

- **Forest protection and restoration:** this covers the conservation and rehabilitation of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Wildlife Resource Reserves, Forest Reserves, and unprotected off-reserve forest lands;
- **Sustainable production and farmers' livelihood:** this covers sustainable intensification and diversification of production in order to increase farmers' yields and income and to reduce pressure on forests; and
- **Community engagement and social inclusion:** this covers social safeguards through civil society and community engagement.

#### Core Commitments

By signing the Framework, Government and signatory companies agree to eight core commitments:

1. **Prohibit and prevent activities that cause or contribute to any further deforestation or forest degradation in the cocoa sector;**
2. **Respect the rights of cocoa farmers**, including identifying and mitigating social risks, and sequencing the implementation of actions to minimize potential adverse social and economic impacts;
3. **Promote the effective restoration and long-term conservation of** National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Wildlife Resource Reserves, Forest Reserves, and unprotected off-reserve forest lands;
4. **Strengthen supply chain mapping**, with the end goal of full traceability at the farm-level;
5. **Implement verifiable actions and time-bound targets** on the basis of sound data, robust and credible methodologies, stakeholder consultation, and realistic timeframes;
6. **Implement agreed actions in the context of a broader landscape-level approach**, with strong links with similar initiatives in other commodities, and full alignment with the national REDD+ strategy, new Ghana Cocoa Sector Development Strategy II, and other relevant national strategies and plans;

7. **Embrace shared responsibility to implement the Framework actions**, including continued engagement in a multi-stakeholder process for dialogue on key issues, development of effective implementation plans, and joint learning and knowledge sharing; and
8. **Provide effective monitoring and reporting on progress** on commitments and actions to ensure transparency and accountability.

### Actions for Forest Protection and Restoration

Signatories recognize the critical importance of protecting Ghana forests and of restoring forests that have been previously degraded. They commit to the following:

- A. There will be no further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations and using methodologies such as High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) approach) for cocoa production as of 1 January 2018.
- B. There will be no production and sourcing of cocoa from National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Resource Reserves, except from farms with existing legal status, as of 1 January 2018.
- C. A differentiated approach for Forest Reserves will be adopted by Government by 31 December 2018. It will be based on the following categories and will specify the number of hectares, timeline, roles and responsibilities, budget and fund-mobilization strategy for each category:

**Category 1:** The less degraded Forest Reserves (classified as condition 1, 2, and 3 in the national system) will be managed under a strict protection status by 31 December 2019, which will exclude cocoa production and sourcing, timber extraction, or other types of productive and extractive activities. Signatory companies will stop sourcing cocoa from these forests as of 31 December 2019.

**Category 2:** In the more degraded Forest Reserves (classified as condition 4 and 5 in the national system), cocoa production and sourcing will continue for a period up to 25 years (the cocoa tree lifecycle) through the Modified Taungya System (MTS)<sup>3</sup>. Government will sign contracts with farmers that include tree benefit sharing

arrangements, targeted restoration and reforestation programs with the end goal of progressively restoring the forest to a healthy intact state, and cessation of cocoa farming (but allowing some sustainable economic use of the forest, including non-timber forest products).

- D. In highly degraded off reserve forest lands (which are held under the customary land ownership sector), cocoa production and sourcing will continue, supported by substantial investment and adoption of best practices in climate smart cocoa and MTS.
- E. In all these areas, a multi-stakeholder landscape approach will form the basis for the interventions, with an initial focus on the six Climate-Smart Cocoa Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) as defined under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (GCFRP). The process starts with establishment of consortiums of key stakeholders, followed by development and implementation of integrated landscape management plans with a strong focus on climate-smart cocoa initiatives.

These commitments will be supported by the following actions:

- A. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use for these areas, socio-economic data on cocoa farmers and their communities in these areas, and detailed operational guidelines covering forest management in Category 1 Forest Reserve, and the mixed-use approach in Category 2 Forest Reserve, will all be developed and publicly disclosed by Government by 31 December 2018, with input as relevant from the private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. In particular, this will include the development of a national registry of any farms with legal status in Forest Reserves.
- B. 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 of MTS will be accelerated by Government. This will include approval of the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) mechanism, which will help secure land owners and users' rights to manage and derive economic benefits from forest resources.

<sup>3</sup> The Modified Taungya System (MTS) is an agroforestry system under which farmers receive land to grow food crops alongside the planted cocoa trees during the early years of plantation development. The legally binding arrangement stipulates that the benefits must be shared between the Forestry Commission, the farmers, the traditional landowners, and the forest-adjacent community.

- C. Public sector forest law enforcement and governance will be strengthened, including awareness raising campaigns, capacity building of forest institutions and community policing, stronger surveillance and monitoring, and application of stronger sanctions for infringement, covering forest encroachment and degradation from agriculture, logging and galamsey, as of 1 January 2018.
- D. Public-private collaboration to mobilize new sources of funding for forest protection and restoration, and to incentivize farmers adoption of environmentally sustainable cocoa production will be developed. Key opportunities include inter alia, support for innovative financial mechanisms (such as payments for environmental services, carbon finance, and public-private trust funds), implementation of MTS and phased approach to land-use change, alternative livelihoods for cocoa farmers affected by land-use change, development of shade-grown cocoa systems, climate-smart cocoa production.
- E. Public-private collaboration, in partnership with local and global experts, will be enhanced to identify good practices and technical guidance for forest conservation and restoration, shade grown cocoa, and MTS in Forest Reserves.

#### **Actions towards Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods**

Signatories recognize that sustainable agricultural intensification in environmentally suitable areas and increased farmer income are essential pre-requisites for reducing pressure for agricultural encroachment into forests, and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farming to climate change. They commit to the following joint actions:

- A. Promote investment in long-term productivity of high quality cocoa in environmentally sustainable manner and grow "more cocoa on less land," through intensification of farming practices, provision of improved planting materials, introduction of yield-enhancing methods, training in good agricultural practices, crop protection, and crop nutrition and soil fertility. Continued land tenure reform to strengthen farmers' land and property rights, and development and capacity building of farmers' organizations, are critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.
- B. Develop implementation plans, including mapping of exact areas to intensify establishment of shaded cocoa landscapes in line with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP), with the promotion of Climate Smart Cocoa and the national Climate Smart Cocoa Standard in environmentally suitable areas, with a first focus on Climate Smart Cocoa Hotspot Intervention Areas (CSC HIAs).
- C. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, development of shade-grown cocoa, and other income generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income.
- D. Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and cocoa farm rehabilitation and renovation.
- E. Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point by 31 December 2019. Private sector and Government will develop a joint action plan that maps out key principles, steps, and milestones to achieve this step, encompassing all national and international traders, by 30 June 2018. Government will adopt regulations that require verifiable traceability from farm to first purchase point by end-2019, and ensure compliance by national and international traders thereafter. Signatory companies are putting in place verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to first purchase point, operational policies and control systems that effectively monitor the associated risks, including high quality verification, by 31 December 2019.

#### **Actions for Community Engagement and Social Inclusion**

Signatories recognize that effective engagement and empowerment of cocoa-growing communities, with a particular focus on women and youth, and civil society organizations in the Framework for Action process is essential to end deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana. They commit to the following:

- A. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes under the Framework.
- B. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration, including engagement of local communities and farmers in awareness raising campaigns on the status of protected areas and the critical role that forest plays in climate regulation.
- C. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.

- D. For the approach in Forest Reserves, Government will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of proposed land-use changes on affected cocoa farmers and their communities, and ensure provision of alternative livelihoods and restoration of standard of living of affected parties, in line with global standards.
- E. Government will prepare operational guidelines covering resettlement and livelihood restoration of any affected parties by 30 June 2018, with input as relevant from private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, in line with global standards.

### Measurement and Monitoring

Measurement and monitoring of progress at national and landscape level will be critical to ensure accountability and transparency, and promote learning and mid-course corrections.

A transparent and credible process will be developed, in line with Ghana's national forest monitoring system, to measure and monitor progress Framework actions no later than 31 December 2018. This will include:

- Adoption of a transparent satellite-based monitoring system, the results of which are independently validated, and which provide a deforestation alert, complemented with ground-truthing, as soon as possible upon signature of this Framework, which will be made publicly available for all stakeholders to measure and monitor progress on the overall deforestation target.
- Adoption of a set of high-level and verified land use, environmental, socio-economic indicators, building on the indicators and indices developed for the Climate-Smart Cocoa Standard and the national Safeguards Information Systems.

- Annual publicly disclosed reporting by signatory companies and Government on progress and outcomes related to the implementation of their specific actions in the Framework.

### Implementation and Governance

The Government and signatory companies agree to implement the Framework actions in the context of a broader landscape-level approach that takes into account all drivers of deforestation, links with similar initiatives in other commodities, and alignment with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme and other relevant national strategies and plans.

Each Signatory company will prepare an individual action plan by 31 December 2018 for public disclosure that spells out the specific actions it will take to deliver the commitments set out in the Framework, including, in particular, indicative technical and financial support for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable production and farmers livelihoods. The draft action plans will be shared with Government for feedback before being finalized.

The Cocoa and Forests Initiative governance set up to support the development of this joint Framework for Action will continue operating after its signature, and will have the mandate to provide strategic guidance on the implementation of the plan.

The National REDD+ Secretariat will review progress and provide practical guidance on the implementation of the Framework, based on recommendations of Technical Working Groups, bringing together public, private and civil society experts. The Technical Working Groups will be formed to develop guidance on key questions that are critical to the framework implementation.