CSOs participated in MoCCPA national level meetings. During these national level meetings, CSOs sought responses from CFi implementers on progress of the initiative.

**Media Training:** Two (2) media trainings were organized during which the media were educated on the CFI commitments and the implementation strategies to enable them to also monitor, report-on and support the CFI implementation at both national and landscape levels. Forty (40) media practitioners benefited from the media trainings.

**HOW THE MoCCPA PROJECT IS GETTING THE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS PARTICULARLY COMMUNITIES (FARMERS) ENGAGED ABOUT CFI COMMITMENTS**

**I.** The 14 communities engaged in the MoCCPA project have been informed on the Cocoa and Forest Initiative (CFI) commitments and process. Through EcoCare Ghana community meetings, communities got their capacity built on the CFI thematic areas and commitments. In the meetings, it was found that affected communities had largely not been informed on the commitments.

**II.** Through the interactions with the project, about 10,000 community members including cocoa farmers were educated about climate change and deforestation and their negative effects on the communities, their farms, the nation and the world as a whole. Community members were also educated and informed about the need to plant trees in their farms and communities, and about climate smart cocoa which speaks about growing and harvesting more cocoa on less land. This helps address the issue of farm extension into forest reserves and deforestation.

**III.** Communities have been educated about farm mapping and traceability issues which are key commitment areas of the CFI programme. Farmers also shared their experience and concerns about these issues. Mapping is already ongoing in most communities that were part of the MoCCPA project.

**IV.** Through district level meetings and national advocacy based on the aggregated monitoring, their voices are included in the CFI processes. This is essential as the communities and farmers are those most affected by the commitments.

**V.** The 14 project communities were supported to implement developmental projects in their respective communities. Items donated include computers for schools, building materials to support the construction of a teachers’ quarters, a police station, a nurses quarters and the construction of a Chief’s palace and plastic chairs for community halls.

**BACKGROUND**

The governments of Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire together with over thirty (30) cocoa and chocolate companies have committed to work together to end deforestation and promote forest protection and restoration in the cocoa supply chain. To achieve this hefty ambition, the Cocoa and Forest Initiative (CFI) was initiated under the patronage of HRH the Prince of Wales in 2017.

Although the CFI was an agreement between private sector actors and governments, it is generally accepted that Civil Society plays an important role in the cocoa sector in terms of accountability and information sharing. This role has earned them the right to be at the table as neutral observers and monitors of the CFI process. At the same time, Rainforest Alliance’s Sector Partnership Program aimed to support Civil Society in the Ghanaian cocoa sector to advocate for progress on important sustainability challenges including climate change and to make processes more inclusive.
The Monitoring CFi Commitment through Participatory Approaches (MoCCPA) Project was launched in 2019 under the Sector Partnership Program to undertake that exact role of sharing information and holding actors accountable for their commitments under CFi.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
The overall objective of the project was to ensure all relevant stakeholders are actively involved in the CFi implementation at both national and landscape levels. The specific objectives were:

- To develop the capacity of civil society and local level stakeholders to actively participate in the CFi implementation activities at both national and landscape levels.
- To undertake national and Landscape level monitoring of CFi implementation against commitments made in JFA and NIP.

PROJECT AREAS:
The MoCCPA Project was implemented in two Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIA) namely; ATWIMA MPOUNA / NWABIAGYA and JUABOSO / BIA. These HIAs were selected because they are key amongst areas in Ghana experiencing high-levels of cocoa-led deforestation, especially in protected areas. In the two (2) HIAs that the MoCCPA project was implemented, seven (7) communities fringing Tano Offin and Krokosua Hills Forest reserves in Atwima Mponua and Juaboso were selected respectively. These fourteen (14) communities were selected based on the proximity of their cocoa farms to forest reserves as well as historic information on their encroachment in forests for cocoa production. Some of these communities are located on the boundaries of the forest reserves and others are inside the forest reserves (admitted communities).

HOW? – THE USE OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES:

Community Monitoring: The MoCCPA project adopted the participatory approach in monitoring the CFi commitments in the landscape level. With this approach, two community members were selected from each of the fourteen (14) project communities to serve as community monitors. The twenty-eight (28) community monitors from the two districts have been trained and equipped with the electronic devices. These devices are used in reporting CFi activities undertaken in the various communities by government and private sector as stipulated in the CFi agreement signed by both government and private sector actors. The aggregated data from the community monitors is used to flag gaps in implementation and feed them back to CFi signatories.

Community Meetings: These were organized to get farmers and community stakeholders well-informed about CFi and thereby enhancing their capacity to actively engage and participate in the CFi implementation process. Six (6) community meetings were organized in each of the 14 project communities. It is estimated that over 10,000 community members in the two HIAs which included cocoa farmers and other stakeholders were sensitized through these community meetings.

District Stakeholders’ Collaborative Meetings: Six (6) stakeholder collaborative meetings were organized at the district level in each HIA to foster collaboration between stakeholders towards the successful implementation of CFi. Monitoring of CFi progress was also done at during the district stakeholders collaborative meetings. In all about 150 district stakeholders consisting of FBOs, LBCs, MOFA, COCOBOD, FC, DAs etc. participated in these meetings.

National Monitoring: At the national-level, a consultant (ResourceTrust) was contracted to use the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI) to monitor and produce annual reports on CFi implementation. One National report was produced and launched during the international cocoa conference on 11th November, 2020. The report showed that not much progress has been made on CFi implementation as against the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the initiative. However, it was observed that most of the private sector actors had developed their actions plans and are in the process of finalizing their activity plans.

Civil Society Organization Meetings: Two (2) CSO meetings were organized to get a broad spectrum of CSOs informed on CFi and to get them involved in the monitoring as well as supporting the CFi implementation process. In all, an estimated 50