

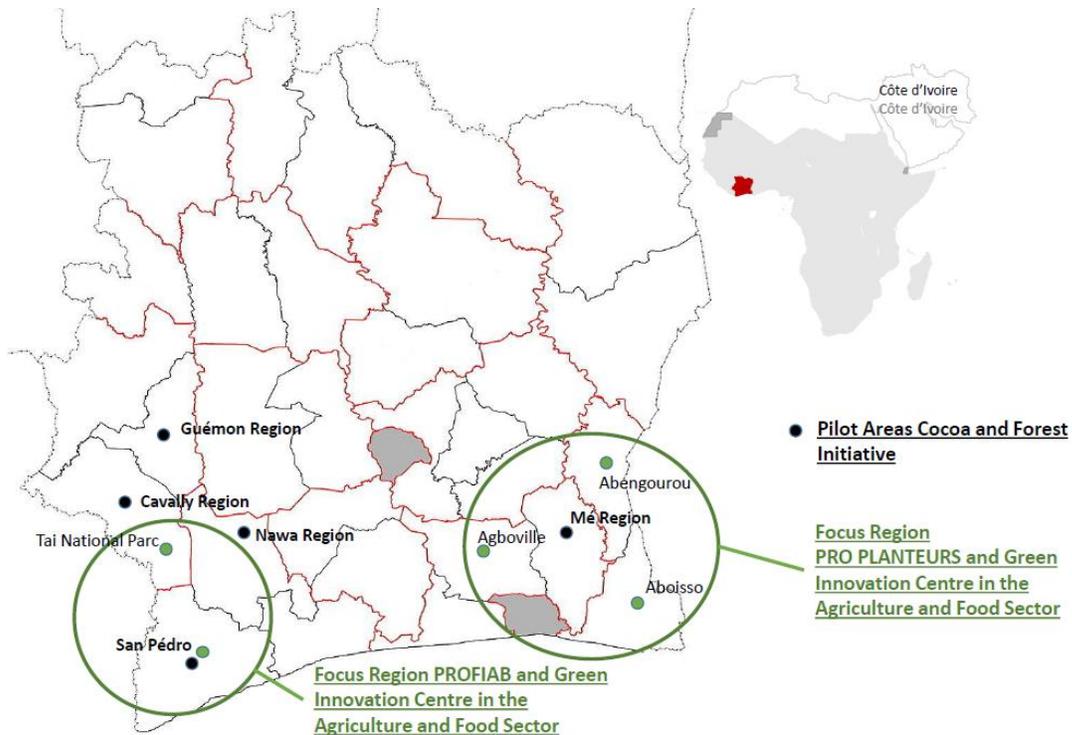
The Cocoa and Forests Initiative

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The Cocoa and Forests Initiative (CFI) is a joint commitment of the main cocoa producing countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and 31 cocoa and chocolate companies with the aim to cooperate and finance a strategy to stop deforestation and degradation of forests and forest areas related to the cocoa value chain. The CFI was launched in 2017, in an effort led by the World Cocoa Foundation, the Sustainable Trade Initiative, and The Prince's International Sustainability Unit. Colombia joined the initiative in 2018.

The members of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative are the following: **(among them 7 GISCO Members): Barry Callebaut; Blommer Chocolate Company; Callivoire; Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate; Cémoi; Clasen Quality Chocolate; Cocoanect; Cococo Chocolatiers; ECOM Group; Ferrero; General Mills, Inc.; Godiva Chocolatier, Inc.; Guittard Chocolate Company; The Hershey Company; Lindt & Spruengli; Marks & Spencer Foods; Mars Wrigley Confectionary; Meiji Co., Ltd.; Mondelēz International; Nestlé; Olam Cocoa; Ovomaltine; Pladis; Purdys Chocolatier; Ritter Sport; Sainsbury's; TCHO; Toms Group; Touton; Tree Global; and J.H. Whittaker & Sons Ltd.**

In Côte d'Ivoire, the initiative aims at supporting the government in the preservation and restoration of forests. For that, two phases have been proposed – the Start-up Phase of 2 years (2018 – 2020) and the Expansion Phase, which is expected to last 10 years. The Start-up Phase provides the opportunity to test key interventions such as public policy, cocoa agroforestry, forest restoration and traceability in the form of pilot operations. The activities within this Start-up Phase will focus on **specific “critical” areas - Guémon, Cavally, Nawa, San-Pedro and La Mé** – thereby covering the largest remaining forests.



The specific objectives for the Start-up Phase are:

- Publishing and enforcing the new Forest code and its decrees for implementation, assuring no further deforestation and forest degradation by the end of 2018
- Creating the National Forest Preservation and Rehabilitation Fund by June 2019, for the co-financing of the actions in 2018-2020 and the national roll-out beyond 2020
- Develop and implement the national cocoa traceability system by the end of 2019
- Developing a Monitoring & Evaluation mechanism to track progress, help steer actions and transparently report on these and be accountable, by the end of 2018
- Implement pilot projects in the identified priority regions where all the actions related to protection, production and inclusion will start in October 2018 to test the new policies and actions using a landscape-level approach, and inform the overall design of the program for 2021-2030
- Development of agroforestry systems and the promotion of sustainable and diversified sources of income for cocoa farmers, by the end of 2020
- Empowerment of farmers and local communities to support the inclusive implementation of the Initiative
- Evaluating the Start-up Phase and developing the plan for the roll-out phase 2021-2030

All stakeholders will be sensitized and mobilized through concrete activities to subsequently contribute to the national goal to end deforestation and restore 20% of forest cover in Côte d'Ivoire by 2030. The Implementation Plan will serve as a basis for companies to develop their individual action plans. Once the Implementation Plan is approved by the Steering Committee, industry signatories will begin developing their individual plans for a public release by December 2018.

The complete Implementation Plan 2018-2020 for the Joint Framework of Action can be downloaded here: <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/publication/cocoa-and-forests-initiative-implementation-plan-for-the-joint-framework-of-action-cote-divoire/>