

# Deforestation and Cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire

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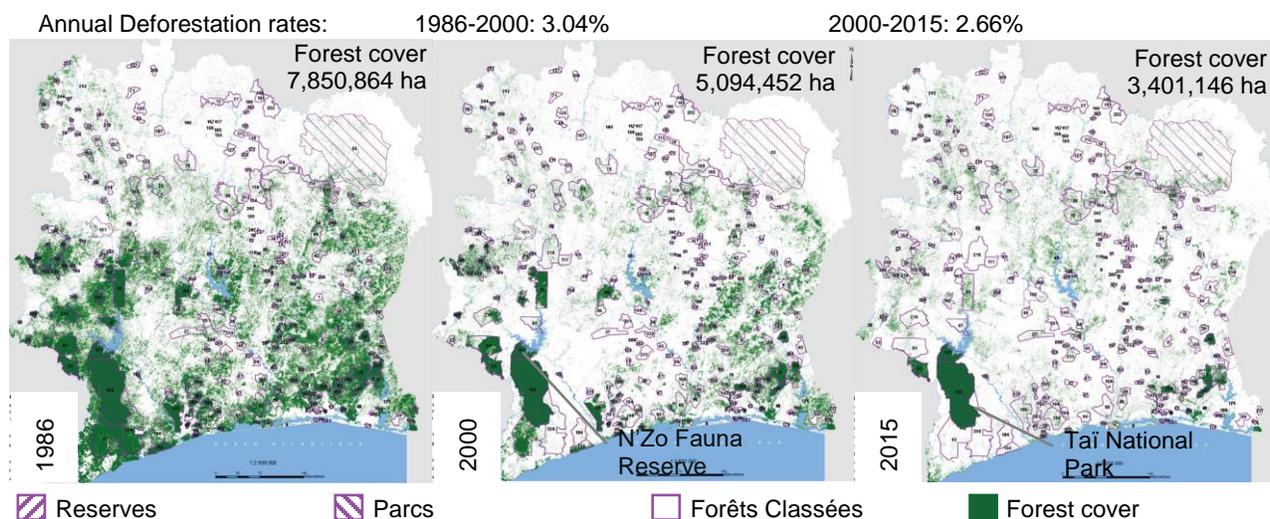


Figure 1: Progress of Deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire 1986-2000-2015. Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) & Secrétariat Exécutif Permanent REDD+. (2017). Données forestière de base pour la REDD+ en Côte d'Ivoire. Cartographie de la dynamique forestière de 1986 à 2015.

Almost 1/3 of the earth's surface is covered by forests. Depending on the collection method and forest definition, between 7.6 million ha<sup>1</sup> (FAO) and approximately 20 million ha (Global Forest Watch) of forest were lost annually in the period 2010-2015. The expansion of agriculture is estimated to cause 55% to 80% of deforestation.<sup>i</sup>

- Palm oil, soya, cattle breeding and wood products account for 40% of deforestation worldwide. This corresponds to 3.8 million hectares per year. In the period of 1988 to 2008, between 2 and 3 million hectares of forest were destroyed globally for cocoa production. Between 1990 and 2008 the then 27 EU Member States purchased cocoa from the equivalent of 0.6 million hectares of deforested land, which accounts for 8% of the EU's imported deforestation.<sup>ii</sup>
- Deforestation related to cocoa production is strongly concentrated in some countries in West Africa and Asia: small farmers in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon increased their cocoa acreage by 3.3% per year between 1988 and 2007. This resulted in a loss of 2.3 million hectares of forest. In Côte d'Ivoire, cocoa producing areas have grown from 1.6 million hectares in 1990 to 2.5 million hectares in 2011. This equals an average annual conversion of about 70,000 hectares of forest into cocoa plantations.<sup>iii</sup>

The Taï National Park is the only park and the N'Zo Fauna Reserve the only reserve that are still widely conserved.

- From 1960 to present, forestland in Côte d'Ivoire has been greatly reduced. The surface of forest areas as defined in the Forestry Act has declined from 16 million hectares in 1960 to 7.8 million hectares in 1990 and 3.4 million hectares in 2015. This resulted in a total loss of forest areas of 79% compared to

A Forêt Classée can be:

- *Forêt d'Experimentation*: development of forestry and silvicultural knowledge through research projects
- *Forêt de Production*: sustainable production of timber and harvesting for wood energy
- *Forêt de Protection*: ecosystem conservation
- *Forêt de Récréation*: recreational site for the population due to its socio-educational and cultural value

<sup>1</sup> The net decrease of forests between 2010 and 2015 amounted to 3.3 million ha according to the FAO.

1960 and a deforestation of on average more than 200,000 hectares per year. The 234 Forêts Classées decreased by more than 70% while the 8 national parks lost on average 30% of their forest cover.<sup>iv</sup>

- The causes of this decline are known: Extensive agriculture, uncontrolled use of forests to meet the demand for timber for construction and energy, and inadequate enforcement by public authorities. According to the Ministry of Water Resources and Forests, deforestation in the Forêts Classées aggravated particularly in the last decade due to lax enforcement. In more detail, SODEFOR, the agency responsible for regulating the Forêts Classées, has a necessity of 30bn FCFA yearly, yet, mobilized funds only cover 23% of needed funds.<sup>v</sup>

Table 1: Land Use Conversion from forests, fallow land, and old coffee and cacao plots to cacao, coffee and rubber plots based on a survey in Gagnoa in 2008.

	Forests	Fallow land, few shrubs	Old coffee and cacao trees	Total
<b>Cacao plots</b>	54%	27%	19%	100%
<b>Coffee plots</b>	67%	31%	2%	100%
<b>Rubber plots</b>	13%	74%	13%	100%
	38%	46%	16%	100%

Note: Cacao and coffee plots have traditionally been planted after forests. Source: Ruf, F. (2012). L'adoption de l'hévéa en Côte d'Ivoire. Prix, mimétisme, changement écologique et social. *Économie rurale. Agricultures, alimentations, territoires*, (330-331), 103-124.

- Changes in climatic conditions can make certain cocoa growing regions unsuitable for cocoa cultivation, increasing the pressure on the remaining forests. Conservative calculations predict that by 2030 the expansion of cocoa cultivation will cause pressure on a further 530,640 hectares of forest.<sup>vi</sup>

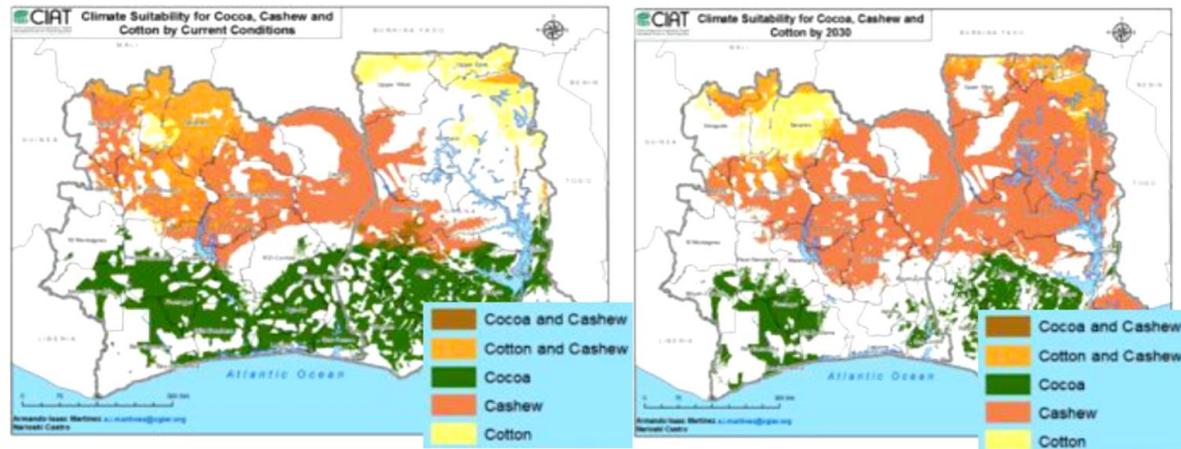


Figure 2: Areas currently suitable for cocoa, cotton and cashew cultivation in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana (left), areas suitable for the same cultivations in 2030 (right). Source: Centre International d'Agriculture Tropicale (CIAT) (2011). Predicting the impact of climate change on the cocoa-growing regions in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

- SODEFOR estimated in 2017 that 40% of Ivorian cocoa comes from protected areas. According to Mighty Earth, researchers estimate that around 195,600 tons of cocoa came from 23 protected areas in 2015. According to SODEFOR, an estimated 40-50% of farms are located in Forêts Classées and around 30% of cocoa comes from Forêts Classées.<sup>vii</sup>

## The forest policy in Côte d'Ivoire<sup>viii</sup>

The new forest strategy is a response of the Ivorian Government to deforestation and the agricultural conversion of forest areas. Moreover, the government estimates 1.4 million people living in protected forests and admits that it does not have the enforcement power to resettle all of them and fully eliminate agriculture within the protected forests. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018, the council of ministers of Côte d'Ivoire adopted the *Strategie Nationale de Preservation, de Rehabilitation et d'Extension des Forêts (PREF)* which was validated by the presidential council on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The finalized version of the PREF constitutes the draft general legal framework for the Forest Act and includes the following approaches: Improving forest governance, strengthening the protection of residual Forêts Classées and forests in the "Domaine Rural", and regenerating the degraded forest areas that are part of Forêts Classées and in the "Domaine Forestier Rural". The PREF targets a forest cover of at least 20% of total land area by 2045 (in 2015 forest area decreased to 11% of total area) and at the same time strives to create the prerequisites for a prospering agriculture, satisfy the demand of timber and firewood, and ensure the well-being of the population. The budget for the strategy is estimated at 616 billion FCFA (approx. 939 million EUR) and it will be implemented between 2019 and 2029.

- 1965: Establishment of state forest and land ownership
- 1966: Creation of SODEFOR
- Launch of the *Plan Directeur Forestier* (1988-2015).
- SODEFORs undergoes different reorganization processes changing its name into EPN in 1980, EPIC in 1985 and EPA 1986. 1993 the institution returns to its name *Société de Développement des Forêts* SODEFOR.
- Coup d'état in 1999. Plundering and infiltration of the forests. The state budget for forest protection falls from FCFA 25 billion to less than FCFA 8 billion.
- 2018: Legal framework for new forest policy in preparation.

Objectives of the policy are the following:

1. Conservation of biodiversity.
2. Preservation of a "national climate" by enabling agriculture and a good quality of life, e.g. by protection of soils and discontinuation of further desertification.
3. Compliance with the targets set by the Paris Agreement in 2015 for a zero-deforestation agriculture by improving the framework for forest rehabilitation and carbon sequestration.
4. Usage of forests for timber and firewood as socio-economic objective.

The new policy includes six major areas of work: (1) The PREF seeks to revise the legislative framework and regulatory system of forest protection and plans the introduction of the system of Agro-Forêts. (2) Certain Forêts Classées will be reclassified as Protected Areas while Forêts Classées will continue to be conserved. (3) The PREF pursues the strict enforcement of the regulations regarding Forêts Classées. (4) The policy introduces a scheme on how degraded forests will be reclassified into Agro-Forêts. (5) The strategy seeks to implement agroforestry systems in rural areas. (6) For the harvest of firewood and timber, the PREF pursues the identification and provision of "Forêts Utiles".

The Ministry of Water Resources and Forests plans to reorganize its structure to achieve the goals. A permanent secretariat for the improvement of forest governance and the decoupling of forest management acts and procedures is planned. Personnel capacity is raised and new equipment purchased to improve enforcement and monitoring. In addition, a Forest Fund for the conservation, rehabilitation and extension of forests complementing the Fund by the Cocoa & Forests Initiative will be established. Further, the ministry will control its actions by setting up a monitoring system.

The new strategy addresses that by relying on public and private partners for the financing of reforestations, the reforested areas will have to have economic value. Furthermore, the policy suggests that also agro-industrial plantations sequester carbon and would contribute to the third objective to comply to targets set in the Paris Agreement.

The National Strategy for the Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Extension of Forests (PREF) reclassifies the 234 Forêts Classées according to four categories:

- I. Category: Forests with a rate of degradation of less than 25% and reforested areas in dense humid evergreen and semi-deciduous moist tropical forest zones
  - Includes 27 forests - 5 natural forests and 22 reforested forests
  - Covers 380,174 ha (9% of total Forêts Classées)
  - Strict protection and no agriculture or human presence allowed
  - Resettlements and social measures for affected population are planned as well as awareness-raising measures and sensitizing of the population
  - Degraded areas will be restored
  
- II. Category: Forests with a rate of degradation between 25% and 75% in dense humid evergreen and semi-deciduous moist tropical forest zones
  - Includes 19 Forêts Classées
  - Covers 366,318 ha (9% of total Forêts Classées)
  - People living in the forests will have to leave (date is not specified) and agriculture in the area will be eliminated. Social programs for people affected are foreseen
  - Within the framework of traditional *Sustainable Forest Management Concessions* there are permissions for sustainable exploitation of the forests
  - It is planned to set up a framework for negotiations for Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in order to implement reforestation programs
  
- III. Category: Forests with a rate of degradation of more than 75% in dense humid evergreen and semi-deciduous moist tropical forest zones (located in the cocoa production area)
  - Includes 76 Forêts Classées
  - Covers a surface of 1,825,528 ha (44% of total area of Forêts Classées). The areas degraded by agriculture in this category are estimated at 1,000,000 ha, of which 750,000 ha are cocoa-cultivated
  - The strategy plans to elaborate and monitor integrated management plans and environmentally friendly agricultural activities under strict conditions (shade-grown cocoa in particular), other supervised economic activities (grazing, ecotourism) and human settlements will be allowed
  - The strategy aims to set up a framework for negotiating *Sustainable Development Agroforestry Concession Agreements* (CAFAD). Management of these areas will take into account the protection of residual forest patches, existing reforestation and the restoration of degraded areas, while resettlement areas are intended to benefit from agroforestry systems, including agricultural intensification. Additionally, social infrastructure will be built-up in resettlement areas.
  
- IV. Category: Forests in dry forest zones and in the savannah
  - Consists of 112 Forêts Classées
  - Covers an area of 1,617,082 hectares (39% of the total Forêts Classées area)
  - These forests generally cover large areas and are foreseen for reforestation programs in partnership with the private sector and for hunting or agro-sylvo-pastoral resource management projects.

### **Joint Framework for Action, World Cocoa Foundation (Cocoa & Forests Initiative, CFI) <sup>ix</sup>**

On 16 March 2017, Prince Charles' International Unit for Sustainable Development, the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), and twelve of the most important companies in the cocoa and chocolate industry agreed on a collective statement of intent<sup>x</sup>. Hereby, they commit to work together, in partnership with other organizations, to halt deforestation and forest degradation in the global cocoa supply chain starting with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Following this, the participating companies developed a project (CWC) framework for joint action to combat deforestation and Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana agreed on a joint approach on 31 October 2017.

The resulting Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) is a joint framework of action plan of the main cocoa producing countries, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and 31 cocoa and chocolate companies<sup>2</sup>. Colombia joined the initiative in 2018. Essential contents of this agreement are:

- Prohibition and prevention of activities in the cocoa sector leading to deforestation or degradation of forest stands.
- Respect for cocoa farmers' rights, identifying and mitigating social risks and taking measures to minimize negative social and economic effects.
- Effective restoration and long-term preservation of national parks, reserves and classified forests.
- Definition of verifiable activities and goals.
- Implementation of agreed activities in an extended context of a landscape approach.
- Joint implementation of the framework and mobilization of the necessary financing, resources and technical support.
- Monitoring and reporting

Implementation of CFI is being coordinated through a steering and a technical committee as well as six working groups. The signatories work together on the following topics:

- Working group 1: Traceability
- Working group 2: Agroforestry and sustainable production
- Working group 3: Forest conservation and reforestation
- Working group 4: Finance
- Working group 5: Social inclusion
- Working group 6: Monitoring and evaluation

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 roll-out 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.

In 2018, the *Implementation Plan for the Joint Framework of Action 2018-2020* for Côte d'Ivoire and the *Ghana Cocoa & Forests Initiative National Implementation Plan 2018-2020* were published. Côte d'Ivoire's *National Strategy for the Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Extension of Forests (PREF)* conforms to the implementation plan. The implementation plans can be downloaded on the website of IDH [here](#).

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<sup>2</sup> The members of the CFI are: Barry Callebaut; Blommer Chocolate Company; Callivoire; Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate; Cémoi; Clasen Quality Chocolate; Cocomect; 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.

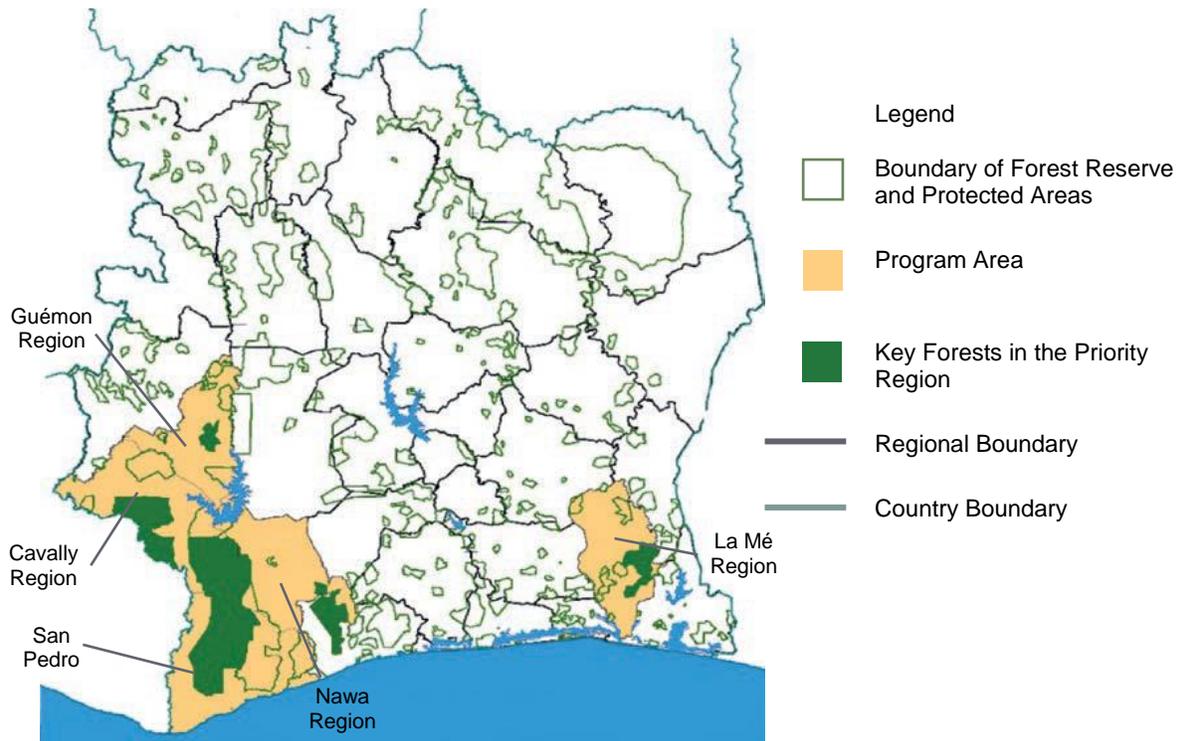


Figure 3: Map of Priority Regions in Côte d'Ivoire for the Cocoa & Forest Initiative Start-up Phase  
 Source: Cocoa & Forests Initiative. (2018). Implementation Plan for the Joint Framework of Action 2018-2020. Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

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.

## The REDD+ Strategy in Côte d'Ivoire<sup>xi</sup>

The REDD+ process was launched in early 2015. At the national level is led by the Permanent Executive REDD+ Secretariat, which is accompanied by the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee (CT-REDD+).

The national REDD+ Strategy was published in 2017. The Ivorian government's aim through REDD+ is to invert natural forest loss and restore the country's forest area to account 20% by 2030. Forests should be managed sustainably, while ensuring the objectives of poverty reduction, sustainable development of local communities within a framework of social, cultural and gender equity.

REDD+ identifies eight strategic options to decrease emissions due to deforestation and degradation of forests, increase forest carbon stock, conserve carbon stocks, and sustainable forest management.

1. Deforestation-free agriculture within the framework of public-private partnerships
2. Sustainable energy based on the use of agricultural biomass
3. Sustainable forestry, conservation of protected areas and sacred forests
4. Afforestation, restoration of forests and degraded areas
5. Environmentally friendly mining
6. Payment incentives for environmental services
7. Land use planning and land security, and
8. National planning and structural reforms for the transition to a green economy.

Regarding cocoa production, the national REDD+ strategy aims at reducing at least 80% of the deforestation being caused by cocoa cultivation by 2030. This translates into a reduction of 44,000 ha per year. As part of the development of the REDD+ strategy in Côte d'Ivoire, various projects have been developed, including two projects in the cocoa sector (FIP World Bank, Ami des Forêts-Mondelez and CEMOI). The four policies and measures stated in the national REDD+ strategy for cocoa production are:

- Decoupling cocoa cultivation and deforestation in the "Domaine Rural", including promotion of agroforestry systems and strengthening of traceability
- Contribution to the sustainable management of Forêts Classées, parcs and reserves and restauration of degraded forests in the cocoa production zone, including contractualisation of the private sector in Forêts Classées
- Engagement of the private cocoa sector by capitalizing on the sustainability program already in progress
- Creation of a working group on climate change within the Public-Private Partnership Platform

To download the national REDD+ strategy for Côte d'Ivoire in French click [here](#).

<sup>i</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2015). *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015: How are the World's Forests Changing?*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. ISBN 978-92-5-108826-5. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4808e.pdf> FAOSTAT

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- <sup>vi</sup> Läderach, P., Martinez-Valle, A., Schroth, G., & Castro, N. (2013). *Predicting the future climatic suitability for cocoa farming of the world's leading producer countries, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.* *Climatic change*, 119(3-4), 841-854. Doi: 10.1007/s1058401307748  
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