

### Companies benefit from supporting the Taï National Park in Ivory Coast

Taï National Park offers important opportunities for enhancing secure supplies and sustainability in the global cocoa and chocolate value chain

- Less rain – less harvest : About 16% of global cocoa production rely on regional climate regulation ensured by 5.000km<sup>2</sup> of intact rainforest in the Taï National Park – the biggest forest remnant in Western Africa.
- Market opportunities : Collaborating with the Taï National Park towards sustainable cocoa production in the Tai region offers prime opportunities for product differentiation.
- Tackling climate change : Cocoa production will likely be affected by climate change in Western Africa. Keeping carbon in the forest is a key response. Support for the Taï National Park showcases corporate responsibility in action.



Taï National Park: The most important rainforest in all Western Africa, and an iconic natural heritage of Ivory Coast

A success story in rainforest conservation : The Taï park is extraordinarily well preserved, protecting more than 5000 km<sup>2</sup> of 'Guinean rainforest' in a single block in the west of the country. Jointly with national and international experts, and in coordination with adjacent local communities and regional governments, the park has up-to-date management plans and sound structures for implementing them.

The Taï park boasts endemic and charismatic species, such as the West-African elephant, chimpanzee, panther, the pigmy hippo and the touraco.



The Taï park is internationally recognized as a UNESCO biosphere reserve and world heritage site. What's more, it is of extra-ordinary socio-economic and cultural importance to the country, as a recent ecosystem service assessment revealed.

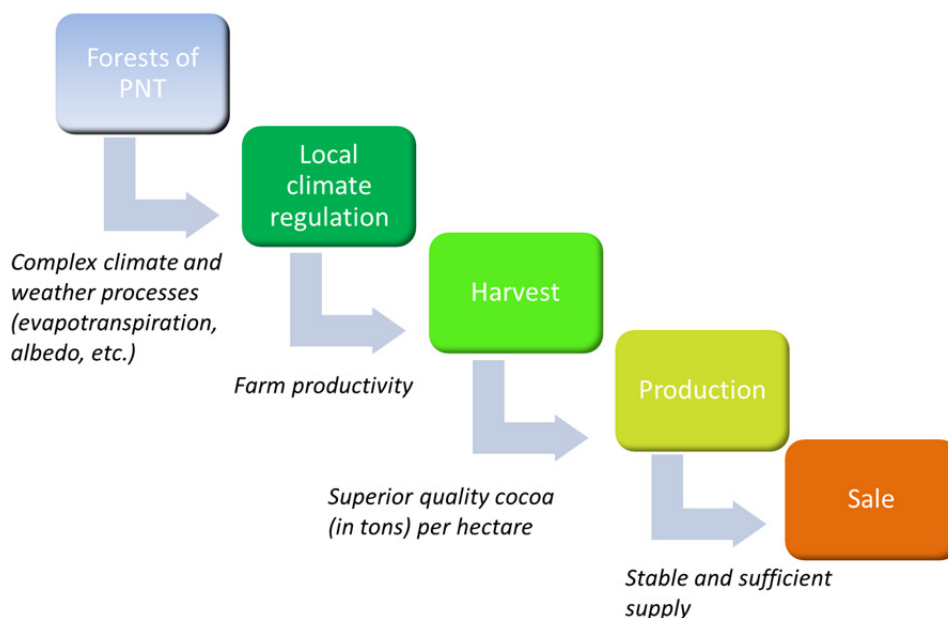
# Recent assessment reveals the park's benefits to companies

Especially the cocoa sector depends on the Taï park

Local climate regulation by the Taï park is critical for cocoa farm productivity

Cocoa farm productivity depends among other factors on farming practices, soil fertility, and climatic conditions. Rather than the total amount of rainfall per year, the length and intensity of the dry season are critical climatic variables for cocoa productivity.

The Taï park protects a large area of intact forest cover. By means of evapotranspiration, this forest directly contributes to local climate regulation in the cocoa producing regions around the park. For cocoa farming, this means more stable meteorological conditions than in the east of the country, which has been largely deforested.



## Key figures :

### - Local climate regulation:

In the cocoa sector, **3.1% GDP**, **40% of national production** representing **480.000t** or **406 billion FCFA turnover** in 2014, and providing income to about **176.000 households** benefit from local climate regulation provided by the Taï park.

### - Carbon sequestration:

Sound conservation management protects the Taï park forests. Carbon sequestration from avoided deforestation has a potential value of **8 billion FCFA / an**

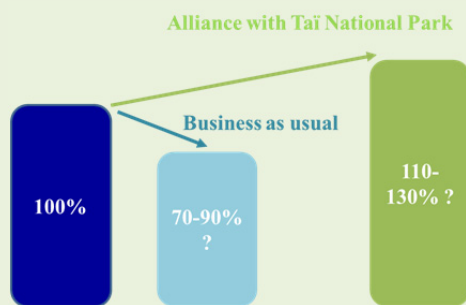
# Recent assessment reveals the park's benefits to companies

## Opportunities for the cocoa sector

The Taï park offers unique opportunities for the cocoa sector

- **Improve sourcing conditions of high quality cocoa beans** by maintaining suitable climatic productivity factors
- **Pro-actively tackle reputation and regulation risks** linked to cocoa driving deforestation, by contributing to the conservation of the Taï park
- **Benefit from existing conservation finance** : donors and carbon credits

### Conserving the Taï park for improved cocoa sourcing



**Scenario 1 : deforestation of the Tai park affects local climate in the region: -10 to -30% harvest**

**Scenario 2: Intensification (+20% production?) and sustainable cocoa production (+10% price?)**

### Example : Payment for ecosystem service initiative for improved water quality and ecological corridors

COCOA  
NECT.



Since 2013, about 200 cocoa farmers participate in a payment for ecosystem services scheme in Djouroutou, west of the Taï park. In exchange for agroforestry training and fertilizer, farmers reforest buffer zones near the Hana river. Project results are measured in terms of harvest increases and biodiversity indicators such as changes in amphibien populations.

# How to contribute to conservation in the Taï park?

## Options for companies

### Financial support

- 1 – Donation to the conservation trust fund FPRCI (Fondation pour les Parcs et Réserves de Côte d'Ivoire) *via* (a) the general desk (b) Taï park desk or (c) the Taï compensation fund;
- 2 – Donation directly to the Taï park authority (OIPR);
- 3 – Benefit sharing of the sale of carbon credits.



### Technical support

- 1 – **Technical cooperation in introducing agro-forestry on cocoa farms** – planting food crops, medicinal plants and locally used tree species to reduce park encroachment pressures, provide shade and respond to requirements for sustainable cocoa certification.
- 2 – **Include biodiversity conservation in farmer trainings** – complement existing trainings by a module on technical, ecological and legal conservation aspects.
- 3 – **Strengthen sustainable fishery on Lake Buyo by means of micro-finance and technical support schemes** – benefits include support to fisherwomen, food security (animal protein), and local livelihoods along a sustainable fish value chain.
- 4 – **Dust road rehabilitation in the park's buffer zone** – to improve access for park rangers and reduce vehicle maintenance costs, to facilitate park management activities in the buffer zone. For biodiversity monitoring, surveillance, and easy access to the park's ecolodge, the use of small aircraft is required.
- 5 – **Partnership with the Taï park authority (OIPR) for local development projects** – for example schools and water pumps are built to improve living conditions in the buffer zone and foster local support for the park.
- 6 – **Contribution to research on local climate change in the Taï region** – sponsoring a scientific study or provision of meteorological data.
- 7 – **Proposal of REDD+ reducing pressures on the Taï park**– jointly with SEP-REDD+.

### Partners



### Support



### Consultants



### Contacts

**Fondation pour les Parcs et Réserves de Côte d'Ivoire (FPRCI)** - Dr. Fanny N'Golo, Directeur Exécutif - 07 33 31 87 / 22 41 71 00 - [fannyngolo@yahoo.fr](mailto:fannyngolo@yahoo.fr)  
[www.fondationparc.ci](http://www.fondationparc.ci)

**Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR)** – Adama Tondossama, Directeur Général - 07 61 75 26 / 22 41 40 59 - [adama.tondossama@oipr.ci](mailto:adama.tondossama@oipr.ci) - [www.oipr.ci](http://www.oipr.ci)  
[www.parcnationaltai.com](http://www.parcnationaltai.com)