



COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE: VALRHONA'S INITIAL ACTION PLAN TO END DEFORESTATION, RESTORE FORESTS AND SUPPORT FARMERS IN GHANA AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE

I. BOLD PUBLIC-PRIVATE ACTION: THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and the world's leading cocoa and chocolate companies [signed landmark agreements](#) in November 2017 to end deforestation and promote forest restoration and protection in the cocoa supply chain.

This new public-private partnership – called the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative \(CFI\)](#) – has been organized by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), IDH - the Sustainable Trade Initiative, and The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit (ISU). The Prince of Wales [launched CFI](#) in March 2017 in London.

The Frameworks for Action for [Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#) define core commitments, verifiable actions, and timebound targets required for a deforestation-free and forest-positive supply chain.

The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana play a critical leadership role in establishing the national strategy, enabling policy environment, and governance structure for CFI implementation. They ensure that CFI is linked to similar initiatives with other commodities, and fully aligned with the national REDD+ Strategy and other relevant national strategies and plans. They provide key operational guidance, and baseline economic, environmental, and social data, to help companies identify and plan the most effective and efficient private investment activities for CFI.

The Governments have prepared comprehensive national implementation plans ([Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Ghana](#)) that outline key public sector priorities, actions and timelines, following extensive consultation with all stakeholders. During the first year of CFI, the Governments have launched work on the key building blocks for successful CFI implementation, including important revisions to the legal framework for sustainable forest management, preparation of up-to-date boundary maps of protected areas, and collection of socio-economic and land use data for the priority investment areas.

Thirty-three companies¹, accounting for about 85% of global cocoa usage, have now joined CFI. Each company has agreed to prepare a detailed individual action plan that spells out the specific actions it will take in 2018-2022 to deliver the commitments set out in the Framework. Each company will decide for

¹ Arysta Callivoire, Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Cémoi, Chocolats Halba, Cococonnect, Cococo Chocolatiers, ECOM Group, Fazer, Ferrero, General Mills Inc., Godiva Chocolatier Inc., Guittard Chocolate Company, The Hershey Company, Indcresa, Lindt & Sprüngli Group, Marks & Spencer Food,



itself how to best support the achievement of the Framework objectives, based on their role in the supply chain, their corporate strategic priorities, and their cocoa sustainability goals.

Almost all companies have now completed initial action plans. These initial plans will be updated and finalized in 2019 after the governments have completed the ongoing legal and operational policy changes, the mapping of protected areas, baseline data collection, and other building blocks needed for full investment programming.²

CFI has been supported by several global development partners, including the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Commodities Program of the United Nations Development Program.

CFI is coordinated closely with a wide range of global and local environmental organizations and partnerships, including the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, Amsterdam Declaration Partnership, Partnerships for Forests, the Rainforest Alliance, and World Resources Institute.

II. WHAT ARE THE KEY COMMITMENTS IN CFI?

The Frameworks are structured around three critical themes of (1) forest protection and restoration, (2) sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods, and (3) community engagement and social inclusion.

The first priority is the protection and restoration of forests that have been degraded. To this end, the governments and companies have pledged no further conversion of forest land for cocoa production, and have committed to the phased elimination of illegal cocoa production and sourcing in protected areas.

Both countries are introducing a differentiated approach for improved management of forest reserves, based on the level of degradation of forests. Up-to-date maps on forest cover and land-use, socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, and detailed operational guidelines covering forest management and land-use are being developed and will be publicly disclosed.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these commitments, companies have pledged to develop verifiable monitoring systems for traceability from farm to the first purchase point for their own

Mars Wrigley Confectionery, Meiji Co. Ltd., Mondelēz International, Nestlé, Olam Cocoa, PBC Limited, Sainsbury's, SIAT, Tesco, Toms Group, Touton, Tree Global, Unilever, Valrhona, and J.H. Whittaker & Sons

² The actions pending further information are marked "to be determined" in the initial company action plans



purchases of cocoa, and to work with governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability encompassing all traders in the supply chain.

The next critical priority is sustainable agricultural production and increased farmer incomes. These are essential pre-requisites for reducing pressure for agricultural encroachment into forests and strengthening the resilience of cocoa farmers to climate change.

The governments and companies have agreed to accelerate investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in order to grow “more cocoa on less land.” Key actions include: provision of improved planting materials, training in good agricultural practices, soil fertility, land tenure reform, and capacity building of farmers’ organizations. Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers will be accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, and development of mixed agro-forestry systems and shade-grown cocoa.

The final area of focus is strong community engagement and social inclusion, with a particular focus on women and youth. The governments and companies have committed to full and effective consultation and participation of cocoa farmers in the design and implementation of key actions, and promotion of community-based management models for forest protection and restoration. The governments will assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of any proposed land-use changes on affected communities.

The set of public-private actions represent unprecedented commitments on forest protection and restoration, and sustainable cocoa production and farmer livelihoods. These combined actions, which are aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement, will play a crucial role in sequestering carbon stocks and thereby addressing global and local climate change.

III. VALRHONA’S OVERALL VISION FOR THE COCOA & FORESTS INITIATIVE

Through this trailblazing initiative, Valrhona joins forces with companies and the governments of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana to tackle one of the most pressing issues of our time – deforestation – and together create a cocoa sector in which producers and forests flourish. We know we can only create the far-reaching change that is so urgently needed if we all work together. For us at Valrhona, CFI is a groundbreaking opportunity to do just this.

We believe that the existence of healthy forests and thriving biodiversity is a Human Right, as important as proper working conditions for cocoa producers, the absence of child labor, women’s rights and good living and housing conditions. We have a duty to protect the environment in cocoa producing countries and to bring together our cocoa-producing partners to invent a blueprint for responsible agriculture. This belief informs not only our decision to join CFI, but also our choice to make protecting forests and biodiversity key elements of our sustainability program Live Long.



In a world where climate change and inequality threatens the future of cocoa and the livelihoods of all who work with it, we want to put our commitment to producers and forests at the heart of our business, and so invent an ever more responsible gastronomy. CFI and Live Long are the way we will do it.

IV. VALRHONA'S INITIAL ACTION PLAN

This Initial Action Plan presents our principal activities between 2018-2022 to fulfill our CFI commitments to end deforestation and forest degradation in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. We will finalize this plan later this year once the governments provide us with key background information, including boundary maps for protected forests, and updated operational guidance about land-use in degraded forest areas.

Over the next four years, as part of CFI, we will work hand in hand with our Ghanaian and Ivoirian cocoa partners FEDCO and Ecookim & Capedig, as well as the 1650 producers who supply us, to create a sustainable and transparent cocoa supply chain with forests at its heart. We will do so by ensuring traceability right down to the farm, fighting deforestation and supporting the adoption of responsible agricultural practices.

We source all our cocoa beans directly, enabling us to have **100% traceability to the 10,262 cocoa producers who supply us across the world** and in turn to ensure we have positive social and environmental impact on cocoa producing communities. Since joining CFI in 2018, we have worked with our Ghanaian and Ivoirian partners to take this traceability even further. **Today, we have full traceability to the farm in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, including GPS mapping of the boundaries of all the farms we source from.** By 2021, we aim to have traceability to the farm across all 16 of our cocoa origins.

Our involvement in CFI is part of our wider Live Long commitment to preserve forests and support 100% of our producers across the world in adopting agroforestry practices. To find out more, read our [Forests policy](#) here. We actively promote agroforestry as a vital tool to fight climate change, from the multi-stakeholder Cacao Forest initiative we launched in 2015 to our ongoing agroforestry projects in Haiti and Madagascar. By rehabilitating cocoa farms using agroforestry and promoting reforestation and carbon sequestration, we aim to diversify producers' incomes and promote biodiversity while also achieving our **2025 goal of becoming carbon neutral along our entire value chain.**

V. OUR PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

We have chosen to focus our CFI actions around the themes of Forest Protection and Restoration, and Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods. To carry these out, we will work alongside our cocoa supplier partners FEDCO (Ghana) and Ecookim & CAPEDIG (Côte d'Ivoire) and the 1650 producers who supply us.



Our work will focus on:

- **Ghana:** 832 producers in 8 communities situated around Tarkwa, in the Western Region.
- **Côte d’Ivoire:** 818 producers and CAPEDIG, the cooperative to which they belong, situated near Dibobly, in the Guémon region.

By the end of 2019, we will:

- **Make 100% of our cocoa sourcing traceable to the farm** to ensure that our cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests and that no further forest land is converted for cocoa production.
- Conduct **farm mapping** of the 1650 farms we source from to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries.

By the end of 2022 we will:

- Carry out **deforestation risk assessments** in all direct sourcing areas.
- Implement **traceability systems** to the farm level in our direct supply chain.
- Support **cocoa farm rehabilitation**.
- Train 1280 farmers in **Good Agricultural Practices**.

VI. SUMMARY TABLES OF VALRHONA’S INITIAL ACTION PLANS

A. GHANA

COMMITMENTS	ACTIONS	TO BE DELIVERED BY 2022
Forest Protection and Restoration		
1. No further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations, and using HCS and HCV methodologies for cocoa production).	1.1 Conduct farm mapping within supply chain to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest land	<i>818 farms mapped by end of 2019, equaling 100% of the farms we source from.</i>
	1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all sourcing areas.	<i># hectares included in risk assessment to be determined once we have completed polygon mapping of farms</i>
Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods		
11.Promote investment in long-term productivity of high quality cocoa in environmentally sustainable manner and grow “more cocoa on less land.”	11.3 Train farmers and producer organizations in the latest Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	<i># 640 farmers in 8 communities trained in GAPs by 2022</i>
	11.4 Support cocoa farm rehabilitation	<i># of hectares of cocoa rehabilitated: TBD</i>



15. Improve supply chain mapping, with 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. An action plan will be developed that maps out key principles, steps, and milestones to achieve this step, encompassing all national and international traders.	15.1 Conduct mapping to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries polygon data	<i># 818 farms mapped within direct supply chain by end of 2019, equaling 100% of the farms we source from.</i>
	15.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in 100% of supply chain by end-2019	<i>100% cocoa supply traceable from individual farms to first purchase point by end of 2019</i>

B. CÔTE D'IVOIRE

COMMITMENTS	ACTIONS	TO BE DELIVERED BY 2022
Forest Protection and Restoration		
1. No further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations, and using HCS and HCV methodologies) for cocoa production.	1.1 Conduct farm mapping within direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests	<i>832 farms mapped by end of 2019</i>
	1.2 Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all direct sourcing areas	<i># ha included in deforestation risk assessment TBD</i>
Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods		
11. Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow “more cocoa on less land”	11.3 Train farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	<i>640 farmers belonging to 1 organization trained in GAPs by 2022</i>
	11.4 Support cocoa farm rehabilitation	<i># of hectares of cocoa rehabilitated: TBD</i>
14. Improve supply chain mapping, with the goal of 100% of cocoa sourcing traceable from farm to first purchase point. An action plan will be developed for traceability, which will be implemented step-by-step to achieve full traceability and verification, applicable to all by end-2019.	14.1 Conduct farm mapping within direct supply chain to identify and collect cocoa farm boundaries to ensure cocoa is not being sourced from forest lands, National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests	<i># 832 farms = 100% farms mapped within direct supply chain by end of 2019</i>
	14.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in direct supply chain	<i>100% of direct sourced cocoa traceable from individual farms to first purchase point by end of 2021</i>

TBD = To Be Determined, following additional inputs from Government