



## *Annual Progress Report 2020* *- Côte d'Ivoire –*

### **The Cocoa & Forests Initiative:**

#### **Collective Action to End Cocoa-Related Deforestation**

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 35 leading cocoa and chocolate companies, representing 85% of global cocoa usage, have joined together in the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#) to end deforestation and restore forest areas. Their combined actions play a crucial role in sequestering carbon stocks in West African forests and addressing climate change, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative delivers on Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is a public private partnership based on frameworks for action ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) and action plans for the private sector ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) and public sector ([Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#)) that spell out commitments to:

- protect and restore forests,
- promote sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods,
- engage communities and boost social inclusion.

The [World Cocoa Foundation](#) (WCF); [IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative](#); and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana **drive the** Cocoa & Forests Initiative. The Prince of Wales launched the Initiative in March 2017 and reviewed implementation progress in November 2018.

Deforestation of tropical rainforests is a major issue in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which together produce nearly two-thirds of the world's supply of cocoa, the main ingredient in chocolate. [Côte d'Ivoire](#) and [Ghana](#) respectively lost 25% and 8% of their humid primary forest between 2002-2019, with a significant portion of deforestation attributable to cocoa farming expansion.

Cocoa provides crucial employment and income to smallholders in West Africa. An accelerated transition to sustainable livelihoods is essential for ensuring their long-term economic security. Thanks to public and private sector actions, notably through the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, this transition is under way, with recent reports (from [Global Forest Watch](#) and the [United Nations](#)) showing that the rate of primary forest loss was halved in both Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana from 2018 to 2019.

To learn more, follow #cocoaandforests on social media, or visit [cocoaandforests.org](#) and [WorldCocoa.org](#).

**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. In 2019, the government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted and published a new forest code which, among other things, put forth policies for the promotion of cocoa agroforestry to restore degraded land, improve forest cover, and promote sustainable livelihoods and agriculture in the classified forests and rural zones. Both governments have shared maps on forest cover and land-use, and are currently updating the maps, including socio-economic data on cocoa farmers, which will further inform private sector investments.

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 purchases of cocoa, and to work with governments to ensure an effective national framework for traceability encompassing all traders in the supply chain. The companies will similarly share information with the national satellite monitoring platforms (in development) to effectively monitor progress on CFI, as well as proactively address threats of new deforestation.

**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 are accelerating 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 are being accelerated through food crop diversification, agricultural inter-cropping, and development of mixed agroforestry 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 have adopted social and environmental safeguards and are assessing and mitigating the social impacts and risks of any proposed land-use changes on affected communities.

## **Key Highlights in 2020**

### **CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

#### **Forest Protection and Restoration**

3,808 or 95% of **farms mapped** in direct supply chain

94,043 **multi-purpose trees** distributed to farmers for agroforestry

#### **Sustainable Production and Farmer Livelihoods**

3,070 **farmers** trained in **good agriculture practices**

460 **farmers participating** in **18 village savings and loan association**

### ***The Cocoa & Forests Initiative: Collective Action to End Cocoa-Related Deforestation***

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## ***Blommer Cocoa & Forest Initiative Results***

Blommer recognizes that the cultivation of agricultural commodities, including cocoa, has been a driver of accelerated deforestation and forest degradation in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the world's leading producers of cocoa. In response to this challenging problem, Blommer, working with other industry leaders and key development partners, helped to establish the Cocoa and Forests Initiative. Through this effort we have announced our commitment to end deforestation and forest degradation in our direct supply chains in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Given the vital role that smallholder cocoa farming plays in providing for employment and income in local communities, efforts to end deforestation and forest degradation must be done in a socially acceptable manner. In all of our efforts, we understand the critical need for a balanced and comprehensive approach between farmers' livelihoods and the environmental challenges.

Blommer's vision for the end of deforestation and establishing reforestation efforts in our direct supply chains aligns with our broader sustainability goals of farm crop diversification which allows for supplemental household income, and improved nutrition for families. It is through this lens that Blommer's agroforestry and shade tree strategy will be developed to ensure that tree varieties introduced to cocoa farms are native and provide not only canopy development but direct benefit to the farm and/or the farming family. These benefits may include, but will not be limited to, improved soil fertility, medicinal uses and direct food sources. In this way, the farm family can realize some more immediate benefits of tree introduction and the overall strategy can provide solutions that avoid a vicious cycle of trees only planted for later timber harvesting.

With a clear and comprehensive approach which builds upon on long standing agroforestry activity and in alignment with our farmer partners, Blommer believes that success can be achieved where all stakeholders benefit.

Same as in previous years, Blommer focused its attention in 2020 on the distribution of 65,969 fruit and forest trees to farmers to be planted on their existing cocoa farms. We promote the planting of 20 forest and fruit trees/ha so have with the distribution of the trees lead to approx. 3,300 ha of shade grown cocoa or agroforestry.

In terms of farmers' livelihoods, Blommer promoted the planting of 260,598 cocoa seedlings which had been sewn in 13 cocoa nurseries leading to the rehabilitation of 195ha of cocoa farms. During 2020, a total of 3,070 farmers were trained on good agricultural practices as part of group and/or individual training.

Under Community Engagement Blommer is working with 5 communities in 2020 across a variety of community development activities including VSLA. A total of 460 farmers were participating in 18 VSLAs. Since 2018, we have been working with a total of 24 VSLAs and 952 members.

Commitment	Actions	2022 Target	# through direct investment (Oct 2019-Sept 2020)	# Total through direct investment (since 2018)	
<b>Forest Protection and Restoration</b>					
No further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations, and using HCS and HCV methodologies) for cocoa production.	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	3,300 plots to be mapped	3,914	3,914	
		3,000 farms mapped	3,808 or 95% of farms mapped in direct supply chain		
	Conduct deforestation risk assessments in all direct sourcing areas	# ha included in deforestation risk assessment: TBD			
No sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through companies' traceable direct sourcing programs	Implement traceability tools/technology to ensure no cocoa purchases originate from National Parks or Reserves (all forest areas)	100% of direct sourced cocoa is traceable to farm-level	88%		
A differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for classified Forests will be developed and translated into a national forest restoration strategy	Support the restoration of Classified Forests by working with cocoa farmers, the government and the forestry industry to implement contracts for mixed agroforestry as a restoration and livelihoods intervention	# ha restored in Classified Forests: TBD			
Legal protection and management status for the remaining forests of Côte d'Ivoire in the Rural Domain	Support farmers with tree registration	# trees registered: TBD			
	Support cocoa farmers to acquire land (tenure) documentation	# and % of farmers with land tenure agreements/documents etc obtained via company support: TBD	Total	Total	
		M	M	M	
		F	F	F	
Public enforcement of the new Forest Code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened	Promote and participate in awareness-raising campaigns to educate farmers on the new Forest Code	Total: 600	Total: 186		
		M: 582	M: 170		
		F: 18	F: 16		
Public-private collaboration to mobilize resources for forest protection and restoration	Mobilize finance for forest protection and restoration		Total	Total	
			M	M	
			F	F	
		Total: TBD	Total		
	M	M			
	F	F			
Public-private collaboration to identify good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration and agro-forestry	Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	Total: N/A	Total	Total	
		M: N/A	M	M	
		F: N/A	F	F	
		135,000	65,969	94,053	
		6,750	3,298	4,703	
	Support distribution and planting of native trees for off-farm restoration (reforestation)	# native trees distributed for off-farm planting: N/A			
		# ha of fire area restored in rural zone: N/A			
	Train farmers in CSC production including cocoa agroforestry systems	Total: TBD	Total		
M: TBD		M			
F: TBD		F			
Government creation, in collaboration with all stakeholders, of a public-private fund to support financing of protection and restoration of HCV forest areas.	Support the creation of the public-private forest conservation and rehabilitation fund	N/A			

Sustainable Production and Farmers' Livelihoods				
9. Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow "more cocoa on less land"	9.1 Distribute improved cocoa planting material	TBD		260,598
	9.3 Train farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)	Total: 3,000	Total: 3,070	
		M: 2,910	M: 2,850	
		F: 90	F: 220	
10. Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers	10.1 Promote farm-level crop diversification	Total	Total	
		M	M	
		F	F	
	10.2 Support distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry	Already reported 7.1		
11 Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds for production and farm renovation	11.1 Offer financial products to farmers and promote farmer savings	Total: N/A	Total	
		M: N/A	M	
		F: N/A	F	
		Total: 300	Total: 460	
		M: 30	M: 11	
		F: 270	F: 449	
		10	18	
12. 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.	12.1 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	Already reported 1.1		
	12.2 Implement traceability system to farm level in direct supply chain	Already reported 2.1		
Social Inclusion and Community Engagement				
13. Full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities who are affected by proposed land-use changes.	13.1 Organize cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Frameworks for Action	Already reported 5.1		
14. Promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration	14.1 Establish and/or support community-based natural resource management programs for forest restoration/protection	N/A		
		N/A		
15. Development of action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive.	15.1 Develop forest protection & restoration and agriculture intensification action plans that are gender and youth sensitive	Total: N/A	Total	
		M: N/A	M	
		F: N/A	F	
		Total: N/A	Total: 70	
		M: N/A	M: 70	
		F: N/A	F: 0	