

SIAT's CFI Action Plan

I. Introduction to 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' 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 companies ¹, 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 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.

¹ Arysta Callivoire, Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate, Cémoi, Chocolats Halba, Cocoanect, 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, 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" (TBD) in the initial company action plans

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.

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

Next, 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 produce "**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.

Finally, 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. SIAT'S overall vision for the Cocoa-Forests Initiative

Since its creation in 1991, SIAT is globally committed to the sustainable development of its activities. This vision is enshrined in sustainable development policies, amongst which the environmental and social policy applies a zero-deforestation rule, based on HCV and High Carbon Stock assessment results, whereby *“Primary forest, High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) and other natural ecosystems of outstanding conservation value must not be converted to plantation.”*

In 2008, SIAT acquired the “Compagnie Hévécicole de Cavally” (CHC) in the south-western part of Côte d'Ivoire, an agroindustry enterprise that produces about 35,000 tons of rubber annually from its 5,537-ha industrial Cavally estate, and about 12,000 ha of smallholdings (of 58,436 ha planted area) harvested by 3,400 registered farmers (amongst 16,759 smallholders) established in the region and cooperating with the company. The estate is straddling 2 gazetted forests (GF- “forêts classées”) of **Cavally (64,200 ha)** and of **Goin-Débé (133,170 ha)**, and is also located at 40 km north-west from the **Taï National Park (420,000 ha)**, the last relic of primary forests of Côte d'Ivoire.

Since this acquisition, SIAT has been concerned by the alarming rate of forest destruction caused by illegal cocoa farmers who settled inside the gazetted forest of Goin-Débé (GF-GD), and therefore conducted field studies in 2008, 2012, 2015 and 2017, to evaluate the impact of this phenomenon and to elaborate proposals to the Government for reversing this trend. By 2017, the **Cocoa-Forests Initiatives (CFI)** were being launched in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and SIAT was proposing a new **“Goin-Débé (gazetted) Forest Protection/conservation and Integrated Rural Development Program” (GDFPIRDP)**, to be developed with a sustainable landscape approach under a public-private partnership and in compliance with the **new National Forest Preservation, Rehabilitation and Expansion Policy and the CFI**.

This program would provide for (i) the protection and/or replanting of those remnants of the classified forest that could be salvaged, as well as for (ii) the establishment of estate/smallholder plantations of rubber, cocoa, food-crops, hence forming **“shields” of sustainable economic activity** around the few relics of the Gazetted Forest of Goin-Débé (GF-GD) that are not yet degraded. With this approach, additional areas within the GF-GD would be set aside for permanent conservation and reforestation purposes, while others would be dedicated to the cultivation of permanent crops for the local population (cocoa, rubber, food crops and others), as encouraged by the new Forest Policy. Some illegal settlers, if relocated voluntarily, would also benefit from social infrastructures and safeguards, and in addition, the program would provide employment opportunities in the agribusiness concerns and other socioeconomic activities resulting from the coordinated actions programmed with all stakeholders under a PPP structure. **The main components of the proposed GDFPIRDP are:**

- Protecting and Replanting those relics of the GF-GD that can be salvaged;
- Developing agroforestry protective belts, based on rubber and cocoa smallholders/estate plantations around the relics of the GF-GD;
- Creating employment opportunities in the smallholders' support/input supply services, agribusiness concerns and socioeconomic activities resulting from the above;
- Coordinated actions to be programmed with all stakeholders under a PPP structure.

While SIAT does not yet consider itself as an active player in the cocoa value-chain - having no direct commercial interests nor cocoa plantations but only field trials on some estates - it is worth noting that the SIAT Group has been very active since 2013 in biotechnology R&D efforts on cloning of cocoa through tissue-culture, with the purpose of eventually enhancing the productivity of cocoa, as well as its resistance to endemic diseases and resilience to climate change, hence contributing to reduce the pressure for more forest land, by enabling intensification of the crop, hence the production of “more cocoa from less land”.

Also, SIAT's core-business, i.e. field expertise in the management of large-scale operation of tree crop plantations development programs, is based on sustainable good practices in the areas of land-tenure field-studies, mapping, FPIC surveys, land- and infrastructure development; an array of specific skills second to none, which today are missing amongst most major and smaller players in the cocoa value-chain but are much needed for scaling-up the CFI objectives.

By the end of 2017, SIAT realized that there was a unique challenge and opportunity to contribute as a major employer and stakeholder of sustainable development in the Cavally Region and came to the logical conclusion that time had come to: **(i) apply for full-fledged membership of the WCF**, as a future supplier of high-yielding cocoa planting material, specifically positioned upstream of the value-chain, and **(ii) undersign the Cocoa-Forests Initiative**, to play an active and leading role in sustainable development and re-engineering of the cocoa value-chain, by providing its much-needed field-experience as well as the prospect of reliable improved “true-to-type” cocoa planting material.

An MOU was signed on June 29th of 2018, with the Ministry of Forests & Water Resources of Côte d'Ivoire, whereby SIAT received contracting authority to launch the preparation of the proposed **GDFPIRDP**, in collaboration with all public and private stakeholders, and to act as an honest broker.

Under this MOU, SIAT shall enforce its commitment towards zero-deforestation and prevent further degradation of the Classified (*gazetted*) Forest of Goin-Débé (GF-GD). With this explicit mandate from the Ministry of Forests & Water Resources, SIAT shall collaborate with- and promote synergies between stakeholders of the cocoa supply-chain, in order to enhance inclusiveness and sustainable development at farmers' level in the **GDFPIRDP** area.

The **GDFPIRDP** will be **designed to implement the new Forest Policy** and - in full alignment with the national REDD+ strategy and other relevant national strategies and plans - **comply with all actions planned in the CFI-Common Action Plan** as well as other initiatives and programs existing within the area of the GF-GD, under a Landscape approach; it will also promote strong links with similar initiatives in other commodity value-chains. Through its continued engagement in a multi-stakeholder process for dialogue on key issues, development of effective implementation plans, and joint-learning and knowledge-sharing, SIAT intends to embrace shared responsibility to implement the Framework actions and to mobilize financial resources and the required technical expertise in the program area of Goin-Débé.

Under the terms of this agreement, the Ministry for Forests & Water Resources made a firm commitment to SIAT to allocate a concession of not less than 10.000 ha to it, for future rubber estate development within the perimeter of the Gazetted Forest of Goin-Débé, upon completion of a **Master Plan for sustainable development of the area**, in compliance with the new Forestry Code. The detailed specific boundaries of the different activity clusters (future concessions, smallholders, etc.) are yet unknown and will depend upon the results of **mapping, demographic and socio-economic surveys** already started in early 2018³, and to be concluded during 2019 with SIAT support.

The baseline studies are expected to be completed by the end of 2nd Quarter of 2019.

In view of the complexity of intertwined social, demographic, environmental, political, economic and global considerations put forward by the numerous public, private and civil society stakeholders, the current plan of developing a sizeable concession of land for new rubber plantings in (past) forest areas could only be envisaged with a holistic "landscape approach" and within the framework of a Regional Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP), combining integrated forest protection with rural agroforestry-agribusiness development and following the new National Forest Policy, Strategy and Law (Code Forestier due for April 2019).

There is very keen interest from the population, civil society and the political sphere for this inclusive program, as it will secure livelihood of an increasing population, bring social stability and create many permanent jobs in the region, as well as contribute to innovation in sustainable forest protection and reclamation. SIAT realizes that the protection program must be implemented **with the participation of all the indigenous, infiltrated and riparian populations and all other stakeholders** and is committed to design it with the FPIC⁴ approach. Considering social, environmental and economic aspects, support by local economic and political stakeholders is absolutely necessary to achieve sustainable and inclusive solutions for the large-scale restoration of the endangered biosphere.

SIAT is committed to this ambitious program as a testimony of its sustainability policy, and will call upon all stakeholders to support this program with their vast experience and wide range of lessons learned, by acting as an honest broker on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, as part of its corporate social responsibility of a leading economic actor of the region. This unifying multi-stakeholder program will also serve as an **incubator of innovation** for the new forest policy and aims to be transposable and reproducible in other (agro)forestry areas in Côte d'Ivoire.

Hence, SIAT laid the foundations of its multi-stakeholders' partnership by **several initiatives**:

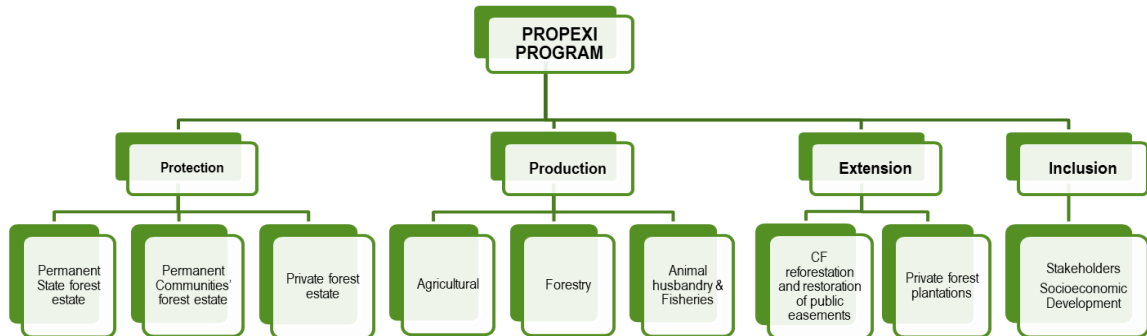
- ✓ Membership of WCF and undersigning of CFI joint framework for action;
- ✓ MOU with the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IdH) for the support to the ISLA program of Cavally;
- ✓ Participation into ISLA governance initiatives;
- ✓ MOU with SODEFOR for the conclusion of the Baseline studies of the Goin-Débé GF;
- ✓ Several meetings with donors and TFPs and national institutions, amongst which the SE-REDD+, DEG (KfW), World Bank, Biocarbon Fund, GEF, ...

³ Today, no official statistics are available for the population of the targeted gazetted forest area; yet in early 2018, estimates varied between 30.000 and 200.000, reason why a detailed census of the populations, established illegally in the forest areas over the past 10 years, was launched in March of 2018.

⁴ **FPIC** : Free Prior and Informed Consent

- ✓ **The Goin-Débé Forest Protection and Integrated Rural Development Program (GDFPIRDP)** is conceived to **integrate 4 main components**, aligned with the new Forestry Policy, Strategy and Laws (Code & Decrees to follow) of Côte d'Ivoire:

Protection, Production, Extension and Inclusion (PROPEXI).



- ✓ **Alignment with the CFI national implementation plan of Côte d'Ivoire.**

Aggregate action plans of CFI were shared with the government for feedback prior to being finalized and published, in order to ensure overall alignment. As a newcomer in the cocoa sector, without the constraints resulting from vested interests in the cocoa supply-chain, SIAT has taken a very straightforward/pragmatic sustainability approach, to propose innovations in sustainable land development of a specific perimeter. Before doing so, SIAT had to: (i) climb a very steep learning curve in the cocoa value-chain – without any commercial vested interests, and (ii) make a critical analysis of the Common Action Framework, before deciding to join the Cocoa-Forests Initiative.

The **focus of SIAT for the 2019 action plan** is therefore a prudent but ambitious one, namely:

- To complete a detailed and comprehensive baseline study of the perimeter of the Classified forest of Goin-Débé (133.000 ha, with a 5km buffer zone around it), after which it would only be possible to launch the program formulation in a participative (FPIC) and inclusive manner, considering all stakeholders, and
- To set up a web-based Geoportal as an inclusive and interactive tool for the development of the Region of Cavally, which will improve and facilitate the much-needed communication/liaison initiatives with numerous parties, with specific objectives and constraints.
- Budgeting of these activities is in progress and depends on the outcome of on-going negotiations with the government regarding the availability of past-survey data. This phase intends also to strengthen the partnership around common and specific visions, interests and concerns with other stakeholders in the region.

- ✓ **SIAT's engagement in the CFI governance.**

Even before joining the WCF formally, SIAT had been engaging with most stakeholders having general interests in forest protection and sustainable agriculture in Côte d'Ivoire, and with those of the Cavally region and the cocoa value-chain in particular. As an observer first, SIAT established common ground and shared-value with public and private players in the cocoa value-chain present in the field. At national level also, SIAT has been participating actively to all events and meetings relating to CFI, while preparing its proposals to Government, which culminated with the signing of an MOU with the Ministry of Water & Forests (MINEF).

The proposed program concept has been validated with MINEF and many stakeholders in the value-chain, even before the field studies could start. This participatory engagement has yielded very much interest among several donors to contribute to the program, as and when due.

SIAT participates very actively to all WCF-CFI workgroups, meetings and steering committees and has focused its contributions to the preparation of the Action Plan on those subjects most relevant with its priorities: mapping, field studies and long-term sustainability of the proposed business-model.

✓ **Initial action plan, to be finalized in 2019**

This is an initial action plan, since the government has not yet provided important background information such as updated boundary maps for protected forests and operational guidance about land-use in degraded forest areas. Therefore, a number of activities in the attached initial action plan are marked "to be determined" (TBD).

Only after completing the baseline studies in 2019, will it be possible to determine the **feasibility of a sustainable and inclusive development program for the entire perimeter** of the gazetted forest, and **attract investment from the state, private sector and international donors**. SIAT is committed to contribute to this effort for innovative development of additional estate/smallholder plantations, as would be agreed upon by all parties, after considering the proposed sustainable development plan and detailed action plans, compliant with the new forest policy, strategy and code. Investment budgets can then be established and negotiated with all parties during the year 2020.

V. Primary activities & investments

Most important measures of SIAT according to the three pillars of CFI

SIAT has already developed a zero-deforestation policy regarding HCV forests in all its plantations and has also completed RSPO certification audits for all its oil palm estates in Ghana and Nigeria. Under its MOU with the Ministry of Water & Forests, SIAT intends to enforce all the CFI commitment towards zero-deforestation and prevention of further degradation of the GD-CF, through numerous activities listed hereafter. Since the program is starting from scratch, SIAT will be able to "stick to the CFI plan" while designing the program, thanks to a rigorous methodology and evidence from the reality in the field.

Pillar 1: Forest Protection and Restoration

➤ **Getting the basics right: conducting a comprehensive Baseline Study in 2019**

- ✓ The baseline studies of Goin-Débé gazetted forest, to be completed by SIAT with SODEFOR in 2019, shall provide detailed Land-use and Socioeconomic maps, with geo-localization of all cocoa farms/plots inside the GF-GD as well as detailed farm registers, based on up-to-date information;
- ✓ SIAT has joined existing national Public-Private Partnership (PPP) platforms and supports landscape mapping from government, which will culminate in the preparation of a specific GIS-platform for the Goin-Débé Gazetted Forest;
- ✓ Upon completion of the Baseline study, all farms in the Goin-Débé gazetted forest will be mapped and reported to MINEF, after which they could be submitted to government institutions for integration in national mapping efforts, based on agreements with MINEF and SODEFOR, to set up a specific pilot GIS-platform for Goin-Débé gazetted forest;
- ✓ SIAT will also conduct High Carbon Stock/High Conservation Value forest studies & mapping upon completion of the Baseline, in order to develop realistic scenarios for development;
- ✓ A differentiated approach based on the level of degradation of forests for the Classified Forests of Goin-Débé will be developed with Government, based on the national forest restoration policy, strategy and law (Code). The characteristics, the number of hectares, timeline, roles and responsibilities will be subsequently specified in the land use plans, to be proposed to stakeholders.
- ✓ Deforestation Risk Assessments ⁶, based on land-use mapping from Baseline & subsequent HCV/HCS studies covering the entire perimeter of the gazetted forest, will also be conducted.

➤ **Designing a sustainable development plan and starting its implementation in 2020-2022**

The most important challenge for SIAT in 2019 will be the design of a comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan, in coordination with all stakeholders. Having done so, throughout the period of 2020-2022, SIAT would then mobilize all necessary efforts and resources to achieve the intended results agreed upon, according to the Common Action Plan of the Cocoa-Forests Initiative, and with particular attention to:

⁶While WCF-CFI are working towards a harmonized approach, SIAT will be piloting different methodologies to test deforestation assessments together with SODEFOR, based on relevant field experiences and those from recognized organizations, as well as lessons learned elsewhere and in other commodity value-chains, to contribute to the methodology of a nation-wide risk assessment system.

➤ **Forest protection**

- ✓ Setting up a forest disturbance monitoring system, based on accurate land-use mapping from the Baseline & subsequent HCV/HCS studies and carrying out regular Deforestation Risk Assessments;
- ✓ Coordinating efforts with REDD+ programs, which have already been approached by SIAT, as well as the FIP World Bank program and other donors, to ensure harmonization of efforts;
- ✓ Joining and initiating the formation of regional/local land-use planning bodies: to that effect, SIAT already joined the IdH-sponsored ISLA program for the Cavally Region in 2018;
- ✓ Participating in Partnerships and/or contributions to programs and organizations that protect remaining forests: SIAT participates and contributes regularly to meetings, workshops organized by various stakeholders and donors;
- ✓ Participating in- and promoting, at regional and national levels, public-private collaboration to mobilize more technical and financial resources for forest protection and restoration, including, inter alia:
 - Supporting the creation of a public-private forest conservation and rehabilitation fund. This action is to be determined until the government establishes the framework for a forest conservation and rehabilitation fund (expected by May 2019).
 - Mustering support for innovative financial mechanisms to assure setting up and/or participating in Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) or carbon finance initiatives, to increase farmer engagement in CSC ⁷ practices;
 - Proposing alternative livelihoods for cocoa farmers affected by land-use changes, implementation of the current government "contractualization" approach and development of mixed agroforestry systems;
 - Setting up community institutions (or use existing ones, e.g. cooperatives) to create programs that provide technology, services, and payments for avoiding/reducing deforestation;
- ✓ While as of today, SIAT is not yet active in the Cocoa supply-chain in any manner, the details provided by the Baseline studies will enable SIAT to contribute in setting-up a national system for comprehensive supply-chain mapping, by securing a database for full traceability of all the cocoa produced in Goin-Débé - which is today entirely illegal - but finds its way into the national cocoa supply-chain as "dirty cocoa".
- ✓ Whenever the government of Côte d'Ivoire will be adopting the appropriate social and environmental safeguards, to ensure that there is minimal impact on the farmers and communities producing cocoa illegally in the protected areas (by Decrees, after promulgating the new Forestry Code), the possibility of voluntary relocation of illegal settlers shall be analyzed. Therefore, this activity is to be determined until then (expected after April 2019).

➤ **Forest Restoration/Reforestation (2020-2022)**

- ✓ SIAT shall support the definition of priority areas for the restoration of Classified Forests, and include those in the planning documents, based on the 2019 baseline study and subsequent HCV/HCS assessments, by working with cocoa farmers and partnering with SODEFOR and the forestry industry, to implement contracts for mixed agroforestry ⁸, as a restoration and livelihoods intervention.
- ✓ These activities are to be determined until updated maps from the Baseline study are approved, and guidelines issued by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, for the differentiated approaches (e.g. cocoa agroforestry) in the Classified (gazetted) Forests.
- ✓ Upon completion of the above, SIAT will define/update the Forest restoration/reforestation component/activities (in 2019), in order to promote the implementation of the following actions:
 - Setting up specialized nurseries for forest & multipurpose trees propagation and distribute native trees for off-farm restoration/reforestation and multipurpose trees for on-farm planting;
 - Increasing cocoa forest landscape and increase shade on cocoa farms;
 - Promoting youth entrepreneurship;
 - Supporting the development of community-forestry via forest-landscape restoration activities

⁷ CSC : Climate Smart Cocoa

⁸ Promoting cocoa agroforestry systems is a key strategy for forest protection and restoration, improving cocoa productivity and farm level diversification and income generation. However, there is no single model for a cocoa agroforestry system and tree selection, farm architecture, etc. The system needs to take into consideration the local agronomic, economic, social and environmental conditions, needs and opportunities. SIAT intends to liaise with all CFI companies that are already piloting different models, in order to capitalize as much as possible available experiences and lessons learned, locally and elsewhere, and to promote harmonization of Cocoa-specific-GAP packages and guidelines amongst all stakeholders, as pre-competitive CFI supporting mechanisms and tools.

Pillar 2: Productivity & Livelihoods

During the design phase of the program and its subsequent implementation, SIAT will collaborate and promote synergies between all stakeholders of the cocoa supply chain, in order to enhance inclusiveness and sustainable development at farmers' level in the GDFPIRDP area, by promoting:

➤ Productivity

SIAT is fully committed to promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas, in order to produce "**more cocoa on less land**", through provision of a mix of: optimal planting materials, training in good agricultural practices, crop nutrition and soil fertility, crop protection, and development and capacity building of farmers' organizations, all critical enabling factors for sustainable agriculture development.

- ✓ Since the Ivorian Conseil du Café-Cacao has put in 2017 a suspension on all cocoa sustainability programs, all efforts to produce and deliver improved planting material in the country are hampered, hence, while SIAT is committed to organize distribution of improved cocoa seedlings/budwood/planting material and to provide tissue-culture-improved "true-to-type" cocoa planting material, that is verified with biotechnological methods and genetic functionality testing (genetic markers, CRISPR ⁹, etc.), these materials being developed by SIAT in its R&D facilities, with clones sourced through internationally recognized networks.
- ✓ The following activities are yet to be determined until the suspension is lifted:
 - Establish nurseries for improved cocoa and alternative crop planting material;
 - Distribute cocoa seedlings and alternative planting material.
- ✓ Setting up Farmer input and service delivery platforms, to facilitate distribution of fertilizer and other agro-inputs to farmers and facilitate their training, are also critical initiatives which planning should coincide with the above;
- ✓ Providing and/or installing barrier crops/trees around farms will also form part of the solutions to be envisaged in due course.

➤ Livelihood

- ✓ Promoting sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers, including through foodcrop diversification, agricultural intercropping, development of mixed agroforestry systems and shade-grown cocoa, and other income-generating activities designed to boost and diversify household income. The **GDFPIRDP** design will encompass the following issues at stake:
 - Supporting cocoa farmland documentation, in conjunction with the "contractualization" efforts;
 - Supporting the creation of new or expand existing farmer organizations inside the perimeter of the GD-GF and/or in its vicinity;
 - Training for farmers and farmer organizations in business management, financial accounting, and farm management planning/implementation;
 - Promoting alternative income-generating activities;
 - Promoting farm-level crop diversification.
- ✓ Promoting financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds required for production and farm renovation, particularly by:
 - Training farmers in financial literacy;
 - Supporting creation of savings groups (VSLA model);
 - Encouraging innovation to offer financial products to farmers and partnering with financial institutions to offer much needed specialized financial products to farmers.
- ✓ Improving supply-chain mapping, with the goal of 100% of cocoa sourcing being traceable from farm to first purchase-point. The private sector, in collaboration with the Government, have announced that they would develop an action plan for traceability with clear timelines, which will be implemented step-by-step to achieve full traceability and verification, applicable to all by end-2019. This objective, however requires clear rulings regarding the status of cocoa and other agricultural products grown inside the classified forests.

⁹ **CRISPR-Cas9** may be combined with other techniques for "genetic steering of cloned material", and/or "as enhancement tool of the propagation to obtain (otherwise) improved planting material. One way to think about **CRISPR-Cas9** is to compare it to the **Find & Replace** function in Word: it finds the genetic data (or "word") you want to correct and replaces it with new material. Or, as CRISPR pioneer Jennifer Doudna puts it in her book *A Crack in Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution*, "**CRISPR is like a Swiss army knife, with different functions depending on how we want to use it**".

To that effect:

- SIAT will put in place a (the first?) reliable and comprehensive database of (formerly) illegal cocoa farms established in a classified forest, to serve as a pilot model for developing a verifiable monitoring system for traceability from farm to the first purchase-point in a specific perimeter, and operational policies and control systems that effectively monitor the associated risks, including high-quality verification.
- Implementing this new traceability system to farm-level in direct supply-chains would only be possible with the participation of major cocoa buyers of the value-chain.

Pillar 3: Social Inclusion

- ✓ SIAT is committed to ensure full and effective information sharing, consultation, and informed participation of cocoa farmers and their communities, who would be affected by proposed land-use changes under the CFI-Framework. This will be achieved by organizing (i) cocoa community consultations on the implementation of the Frameworks for Action and (ii) awareness-raising events for forest protection/restoration.
- ✓ SIAT shall promote community-based management models for forest protection and restoration, including engagement of local communities and farmers in awareness-raising campaigns on the status of National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests, and the critical role that forest plays in climate regulation, soil fertility and water circulation. To achieve that objective, SIAT will aim for:
 - Establishing and/or supporting community-based natural resource management programs (CBNRM ¹⁰) and mechanisms with cocoa-growing communities, for forest restoration and/or protection;
 - Supporting government landscape governance partnerships.
- ✓ Priority attention will go to the development of action plans for forest protection and/or restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification, that are gender- and youth-sensitive, including:
 - Women empowerment in community decision making bodies;
 - Training for women on alternative livelihoods in cocoa farming households;
 - Supporting inheritance planning within cocoa growing communities;
 - Promoting youth participation in farmer CSC/GAPs training.
- ✓ Until social safeguard guidelines are put in place, like all signatories of CFI, SIAT will put on hold all activities with potential social impacts on settlers, being it understood that, for National Parks and Reserves, and Classified Forests, Government is committed to assess and mitigate the social impacts and risks of proposed land-use changes on affected farmers and their communities, and ensure provision of alternative livelihoods and restoration of standards of living of affected parties, in line with reasonable standards to be agreed upon, with input as relevant from private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.

¹⁰ **Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM)** aims to create the right incentives and conditions for an identified group of resource users within defined areas to use natural resources sustainably. This means enabling the resource users to benefit (economically) from resource management and providing strong rights and tenure over land and the resources. CBNRM also supports the development of accountable decision-making bodies that can represent community members and act in their interests. CBNRM promotes conservation through the sustainable use of natural resources, enables communities to generate income that can be used for rural development, and promotes democracy and good governance in local institutions