

# Cocoa & Forests Initiative

## Progress Report



Driven by the shared mission to enhance sustainable cocoa production, protect and restore forests, and support local communities, Starbucks joined [CFI 2.0](#) alongside other 35 companies and cocoa producing countries governments in their commitment towards eliminating cocoa related deforestation.

Building on the CFI framework, Starbucks committed to multi-year CFI targets and report on the progress. Starbucks [CFI action plan](#) was made in consultation with the World Cocoa Foundation's (WCF) Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) team. This report outlines the actions that have been taken to address some of the root causes of deforestation and provides an update on the latest progress to achieve the overall CFI goals.

Starbucks plans to accomplish the 2025 objectives and the progress toward:



1

### Forest Protection & Restoration

- One of the key goals for CFI 2.0 is to strengthen supply chain mapping and enhance traceability at the farm level. This is a critical tool for creating deforestation-free cocoa supply chains. We've now achieved 83.5% digital first-mile traceability in our direct cocoa supply chain.
- Together with our suppliers, Starbucks maps cocoa farms using GPS and polygon systems (digital outlines of farm boundaries) to verify that cocoa is not sourced from protected areas and to monitor and prevent farmers from expanding their cocoa farms into valuable forests to protect biodiversity and carbon stocks biodiversity or carbon stocks.
- Public enforcement of the new forest code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened. To achieve success in agroforestry a combination of training, distribution of trees and access to finance is needed. In 2022-23 over 11,000 farmers were trained in Climate Smart Cocoa practices and almost 4,000 farmers were trained on the new forest code.

2

### Sustainable Production & Farmer Livelihoods

- We distributed 144,192 trees to farmers that they use to create agroforestry systems that restore land and increase tree stock by planting fruit and shade trees alongside cocoa crops. As a central focus of CFI is to replace monoculture cocoa farming with an agroforestry model that intercrops cocoa with a mix of shade crops, hardwood trees and other cash crops. This can help provide smallholder farmers with an additional source of income, boost food security and improves the health of the soil so that it sequesters carbon and is more resilient. We continue to encourage the planting of shade trees for their carbon capture, economic and cocoa growing benefits.
- Additionally, cocoa agroforestry planting is in line with the requirement of the African Regional Standard for Sustainable Cocoa (ARS 1000), contributing to Côte d'Ivoire's country objective of 20% of forest coverage by 2030.

3

### Social Inclusion & Community Engagement

- The VSLAs work by pooling the savings of the community so members can take out loans to cover vital expenses like medical costs and school fees. Over 1,500 women are members of the VSLAs and can now access support to expand their farms, invest in new business ventures and cover additional expenses and support their families in times of difficulty.
- Tree planting also brings benefits to other members of the cocoa communities, such as women and youth. Often women are responsible for running seedling nurseries, while community youth groups assist with tree planting and pruning. We had nearly 2,000 individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities and over 600 in youth focused projects and activities.

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## CFI Success Story: Adou Kouao

In 2022 Starbucks joined the Cocoa Forest Initiative (CFI) and along as part of [CFI 2.0](#) published its 2025 [action plan](#) to collectively contribute to end cocoa related deforestation in Ivory Coast. Within the action plan, Starbucks committed to supporting distribution and planting of multi-purpose trees for on-farm restoration via agroforestry and promote investment in long term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas to grow “more cocoa on less land.”

Adou has been a member of Coopalba cooperative since 2008 and joined the Starbucks program in 2018.

As part of the Starbucks program, he participated in several trainings on good agricultural and farming practices (pest control, soil fertilization, pruning, agroforestry, waste management) to enhance the productivity of its 8ha plantation. Now Adou does regular sanitary harvesting and applies the fertilizer following the instructions of the trainings. The Community Service Group (CSG) helps him with the pruning and the weeding of his plantation.

Thanks to these practices his average yields went up from 371.5kg/ha to 530kg/ha.

Additionally, he received 120 tree seedlings in total and with the support of the CSG these were planted on his plantation for on-farm restoration and income diversification. 6ha of his plantation are now under agroforestry.



## The Cocoa & Forests Initiative

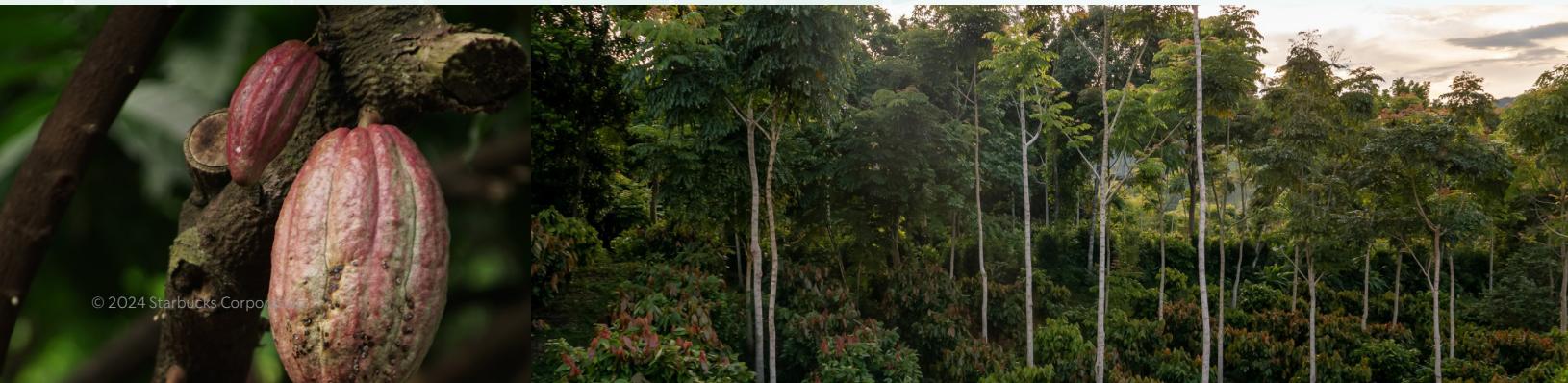
### Collective Action to End Cocoa-Related Deforestation

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 36 leading cocoa and chocolate companies, representing 85% of global cocoa usage, joined together in the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#) to end deforestation and restore forest areas. Their combined actions play a crucial role in protecting and restoring biodiversity, 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 improve farmers' livelihoods**
- **Engage communities and boost social inclusion**

To learn more information, follow [#CocoaAndForests](#) on social, or visit [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#).



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### CFI Company Action Plan Ivory Coast

COMMITMENT	INDICATOR	TARGET 2025	UNIT	PLANNED THROUGH DIRECT INVESTMENT (OCT. 2022-SEPT. 2023)	ACHIEVED
<strong>FOREST PROTECTION &amp; RESTORATION</strong>					
<strong>No Sourcing of cocoa from National Parks and Reserves through companies traceable direct sourcing programs</strong>	Directly sourced cocoa traceable from farm to first point of purchase	100%	Percent	85%	83.5%
<strong>No further conversion of any forest land (as defined under national regulations, and using HCS and HCV methodologies) for cocoa production</strong>	Hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed	56,319	Hectares	19,200	53,188
	% and # Farms mapped in direct supply chain	100% / 17,759	Percent; number	85% / 8,507	89% / 9,439
<strong>Public enforcement of the new forest code and its subsequent guidelines, and public sector governance will be strengthened</strong>	Farmers informed, trained and/or consulted on the new forest code, law enforcement, forest protection and restoration	9,500	Number	3,028	3,899
<strong>Public-private collaboration to identify good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for forest restoration and agroforestry</strong>	Farmers applying agroforestry in development	5,000	Number	1,592	3,042
<strong>SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION &amp; FARMERS' LIVELIHOODS</strong>					
<strong>Promote investment in long-term productivity of cocoa in environmentally suitable areas in order to grow "more cocoa on less land"</strong>	Farmers reached by GAP training programs	20,000	Number	4,182	4,639
<strong>Promote sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for cocoa farmers</strong>	Multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	350,000	Number	142,231	144,192
	Hectares cocoa agroforestry in development	17,000	Hectares	5,060	5,289
<strong>Promote financial inclusion and innovation to deepen farmers' access to working capital and investment funds for production and farm renovation</strong>	Members of VSLA groups in the current year	2,000	Number	1,500	1,668
	VSLA groups in the current year	100	Number	66	61
<strong>SOCIAL INCLUSION &amp; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</strong>					
<strong>Development for action plans for forest protection and restoration, and sustainable agricultural intensification that are gender and youth sensitive</strong>	Individuals participating in womens empowerment projects and activities	1,500	Number	720	2,227
	Individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (age 15-35)	1,000	Number	398	618