

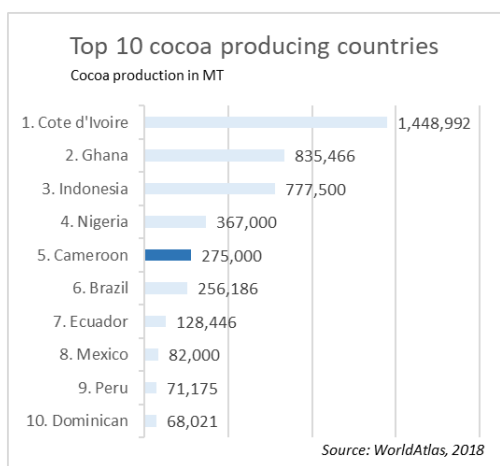


A roadmap to deforestation-free cocoa (DFC) in Cameroon

Concept Note, April 2019

Context

Cameroon is the 5th largest cocoa producing country in the world with 275,000 MT per year.¹ Cocoa plays an important role in the country's economy as it is the third largest export, contributing to about US\$ 426 million to national income annually.² The nation's ambition is to lift this to 600,000 MT per year by 2020.³



The rainforests in Cameroon cover approximately 46.3% of the national territory and account for 11% of the Congo Basin forests. Therefore, Cameroon has the 3rd largest forest range in the Congo Basin, after the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon.⁴

The country is grappling with the adverse effects of climate change and with increasing pressure on forests with an estimate annual deforestation rate range of 0.06% to 0.2%. This places Cameroon amongst the highest among the Congo Basin countries.⁵ Since the late 1990s, cocoa has been identified as a main driver of deforestation in the Congo Basin. If not well planned, the nation's ambition to lift the cocoa production and increase the promotion of cocoa may create unsustainable pressure on Cameroon's forests.

Proposed approach: a public-private-civil society partnership

IDH aims to address this challenge, by forging a public-private-civil society partnership that will agree on a common vision and joint framework for action to tackle cocoa-related deforestation. Through this partnership, government, private sector, civil society organizations, and other important stakeholders can jointly work towards the following objectives:

(1) The **conservation** of National Parks and forested land, as well as **restoration** of forests that have been degraded by human activities, in particular encroachment by cocoa farms among other factors.

(2) **Sustainable intensification** and **diversification of income** in order to increase farmers' yields and livelihood, to grow "more cocoa on less land" and thereby reduce pressure on forests.

(3) **Engagement** and **empowerment** of cocoa-growing communities.

The recommendation is that an approach similar to the one coordinated by IDH and the World Cocoa Foundation in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Colombia through the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#) (CFI) is adopted. This consists in the development through a participatory and inclusive approach of a Framework for Action and National Implementation Plan that aim to end cocoa-related deforestation, support sustainable cocoa production while enhancing community livelihoods. The strength of the approach is linked to its multi-stakeholder nature, as the complex issue of cocoa-related deforestation can only be solved through an alliance between public, private and civil society stakeholders.

Links to the Green Cocoa Landscape Program

In parallel, IDH and WWF are setting up a Green Cocoa Landscape Program, which aims to pilot, at a landscape level, the innovative solutions designed at a national level through the Roadmap to DFC. The two processes will run in parallel:

- **Green Cocoa Landscape Program:** In the half of 2019, a scoping study will help identify priority landscapes. A concept note with detailed action plan will be developed for each selected landscape.
- **Roadmap to DFC:** In January-June, consultation meetings will be organized to develop a joint framework for action, that will define pathways towards deforestation-free cocoa in Cameroon.

Proposed roadmap

The proposed roadmap includes the following steps:

1. **Engage with key stakeholders and design a consultation process for the inception phase (Jan-March 2019)**



The Roadmap was launched on 31 January at an event in Yaoundé, which helped collect initial input from stakeholders on process and content of the Roadmap. Based on feedback collected, a governance structure was created and includes:

- **Advisory Groups** comprised of experts that provide technical recommendations on each thematic area of the Framework for Action
- a **Technical Task Force** comprising chairs of the Advisory Groups and representatives from public, private and civil society organizations.
- a **Steering Committee** comprising high-level representatives from public, private and civil society stakeholders.

2. Organize consultation meetings (February – June 2019)

Several meetings of the Advisory Groups and Technical Task Force are now being organized, to help define and align on content of the Framework for Action, before it can be presented to the Steering Committee for final approval.

3. Signature of the Joint Framework for Action (June 2019)

The Joint Framework for Action will be finalized and signed by government and private sector. Signature will however be open to any organization (e.g. CSOs or farmer organizations) that wants to commit to designing and implementing an action plan aligned with the objectives of the initiative.

4. Institutionalizing the governance structure (June – September 2019)

It is suggested that the governance structure formed during the Framework design phase is temporary and that a permanent governance structure is established based on priority actions identified by the Framework for Action.

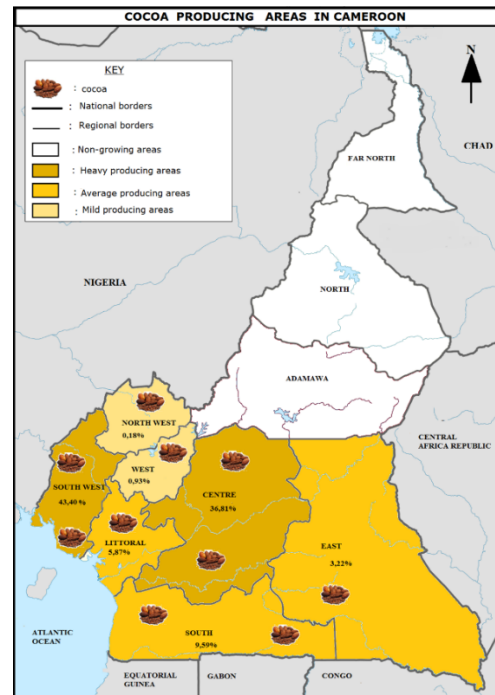
5. Creating steps for implementation (September 2019 – January 2020)

The objectives identified in the Joint Framework for Action will have to be operationalized. Therefore, steps

for taking the objectives into actions will be designed and agreed upon in an implementation plan.

Geographical focus

While aiming to nationwide deforestation free cocoa goals, it is expected that implementation will focus on cocoa-growing regions of Cameroon, namely West and South of the Adamawa region.



About IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative

IDH convenes companies, CSOs, governments and others in public-private partnerships. Together IDH drive the joint design, co-funding and prototyping of new economically viable approaches to realize green & inclusive growth at scale in commodity sectors and sourcing areas. IDH's mission is built upon three core values: convening, co-financing and learning & innovating. We convene public-private partnerships to jointly set ambitious targets and formulate co-investment plans that unlock scaling of sustainable production & trade to deliver large scale impact on the Sustainable Development Goals.

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¹ World Atlas. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/top-10-cocoa-producing-countries.html>

² Carodenuto, S., Gromko, D., Chia, E.L., Hubert, D. (2017). Zero Deforestation Cocoa in Cameroon: Private sector engagement to support Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). GIZ-ProPFE.

³ Oredein, O. (2017). Analysis: Cameroon's 600,000-tonne cocoa target by 2020 unattainable.

<https://iegvu.agribusinessintelligence.informa.com/CO181827/Analysis-Camerouns-600000tonne-cocoa-target-by-2020-unattainable>

⁴ Cameroon REDD+ Desk. <https://theredddesk.org/countries/cameroon>

⁵ Megevand, Carole. *Deforestation Trends in the Congo Basin: Reconciling Economic Growth and Forest Protection*. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi: 10.1596/978-0-8213-9742-8. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0