



**Liberia National
Cocoa Public-Private
Partnership Platform**

ROADMAP TO A SUSTAINABLE COCOA SECTOR IN LIBERIA

Towards a sustainable and economically viable cocoa sector, that brands Liberia as a source of high quality, environmentally friendly and ethically introduced cocoa beans & cocoa related products

JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFR 100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
HCS	High Carbon Stock
HCV	High Conservation Value
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NIC	National Investment Commission
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
TFA	Tropical Forest Alliance
TVET	Technical, Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations



DEFINITIONS

AGROFORESTRY:

- The interaction of agriculture and trees, including the agricultural use of trees. This includes trees on farms in agricultural landscapes, agriculture in forests and along forest edges and tree crops, including cocoa, coffee, rubber and oil palm. Interactions between trees and other components of agriculture can be important at different scales: in fields (where trees and crops are grown together), on farms (where trees can provide fodder for livestock, fuel, food, shelter or income from products such as wood) and in landscapes (where agricultural and forestry uses combine to determine the provision of ecosystem services).
- Agroforestry System: The traditional definition of the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) is the following: “a collective name for land use systems and practices in which woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit”. Agroforestry is generally practiced with the intention of developing a more sustainable form of land use that can improve farm productivity and the welfare of the rural community (leakey, 1996).

Source: ICRAF

DEFORESTATION:

- Natural forest loss resulting from: i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land uses; ii) conversion to a forest planting; or iii) a serious and sustained damage.
- *This definition pertains to no-deforestation supply chain commitments, which generally focus on preventing the conversion of natural forests.*
 - *Severe degradation (scenario iii in the definition) constitutes deforestation even if the land is not subsequently used for a non-forest land use.*
 - *Loss of natural forest that meets this definition is considered to be deforestation regardless of whether or not it is legal.*
 - *The Accountability Framework’s definition of deforestation signifies “gross deforestation” of natural forest where “gross” is used in the sense of “total; aggregate; without deduction for reforestation or other offset.”*

Source: [Accountability Framework Initiative](#)

DEFORESTATION FREE:

Production of commodities, supply or financial investments that do not cause or contribute to deforestation of natural forests. The term “deforestation-free” is used in favour of “zero deforestation” because “zero” can imply an absolutist approach that may be at odds with the need sometimes to accommodate minimal levels of conversion at the site level in the interest of facilitating optimal conservation and production outcomes.

Source: [Accountability Framework Initiative](#)

FINE OR FLAVOR COCOA:

Fine cocoa is defined as cocoa that is free of defects in flavor while providing a complex flavor profile that reflects the expertise of the producer and the “terroir”, or sense of the particular environment where the cacao is grown, fermented and dried. Fine cocoa meeting these basic criteria may also offer important genetic diversity, as well as historical and cultural heritage.

Flavor cocoa is defined as cocoa that has little to no defects in flavor and provides valuable aromatic or flavor characteristics that have been traditionally important in blends.

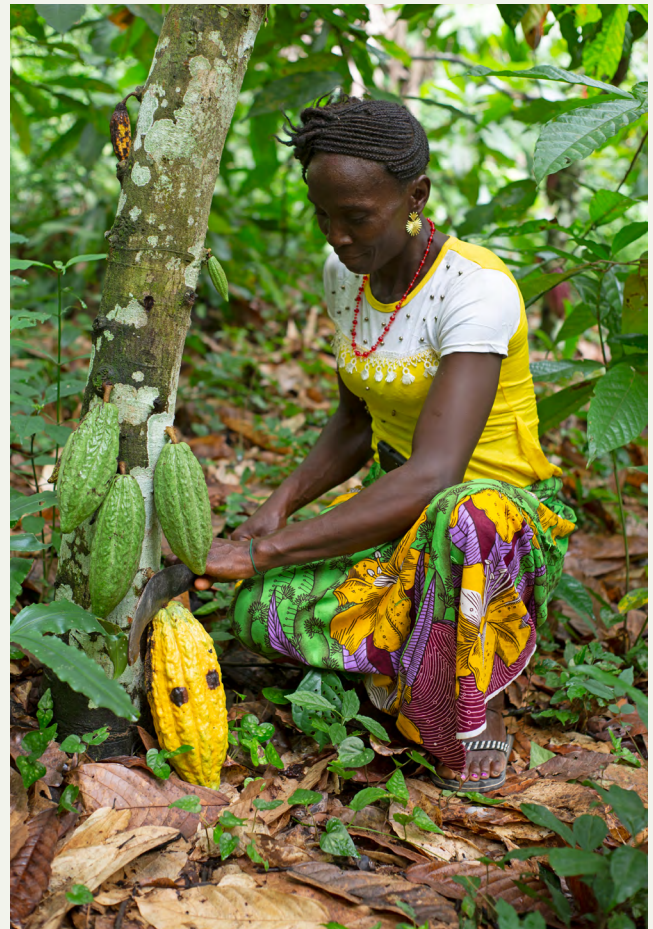
Fine or flavor cocoa that meets these basic quality criteria may also offer important genetic diversity, as well as historical and cultural heritage.

Source: *ICCO (2018). Working definition*

FOREST:

A forest is an area of land that has a canopy of 30 percent, contains trees that are a minimum 5 meters high; and covers a minimum of 1 hectare of land.

Source: *FDA-Liberia National Forest Inventory Report-2018/2019*



HIGH CARBON STOCK (HCS):

The approach on HCS is a methodology that distinguishes forest areas for protection from degraded lands with low carbon and biodiversity values that may be developed. The methodology is being developed since 2015 with the aim to ensure a practical, transparent, robust, and scientifically credible approach that is widely accepted to implement commitment to halt deforestation in the tropics, while ensuring the rights and livelihoods of local peoples are respected. Guidelines for the application of the HCS approach in countries with high forest cover are being developed for the agricultural sector.

Source: <http://highcarbonstock.org/the-high-carbon-stock-approach/>

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS:

High Conservation Value (HCV) areas are defined as natural habitats where these values are considered to be of outstanding significance or critical importance. The HCV concept was originally developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to help define forest areas of outstanding and critical importance - High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) - for use in forest management certification.

This approach is now widely used (since 2007) in the standards and norms applicable to the agricultural sector. Guidelines for the application of the HCV approach have been developed for the forest sector in Liberia.

Source: <https://hcvnetwork.org/>

LIVING INCOME:

The net income a household would need to earn to enable all members of the household to afford a decent standard of living. Elements of a decent standard of living include: food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events.

Source: [*The Living Income Community of Practice*](#)

SPECIALTY COCOA:

Speciality cocoa refers to cocoa with different characteristics. In general, speciality cocoa is recognised as such if it includes aspects of good traceability, good genetics, unique origins (terroir), good harvest and post-harvest techniques, higher quality and certification. Within speciality cocoa, there is a special category for cocoa beans with particular flavour attributes: fine flavour cocoa.

Source: [*Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries \(CBI\)*](#)

SUSTAINABLE COCOA:

Cocoa that is produced in accordance with economic, ecological and social requirements, which means that its production is economical, environmentally friendly and socially responsible, without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs.

Source: [*the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa \(2019\)*](#)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMPTION:

Encouraged to use resources and energy efficiently, to develop sustainable infrastructure and ensuring universal access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life. They contribute to the implementation of general development plans, to reduce the economic, environmental and future social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty.

Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/sustainable-consumption-production/>

TRACEABILITY:

The ability to identify and track the history, distribution, location and application of products, parts and materials to ensure the reliability of sustainability claims in the areas of human rights, labour (including health and safety), the environment and anti-corruption.

Source: [*UN Global Compact*](#)



1. PREAMBLE

Recognizing the vital potential of the cocoa sector in bringing jobs and wealth to the Liberian economy, while at the same time seeking to be economically viable, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and in particular contributing to the growth of the Liberian economy, while protecting Liberia's tropical forests;

Noting the importance of the cocoa sector in Liberia's national economic development, the reduction of rural poverty, and accelerating the transition to sustainable livelihoods for the thousands of Liberian smallholder farmers who grow cocoa;

Emphasizing the critical role of forests, biodiversity and conservation in addressing global climate change, regulating the local and regional climate, and providing other critical ecosystem services that underpin the resilience of the cocoa sector and local livelihoods;

Acknowledging the development of the cocoa sector, as a potential driver of deforestation, and recognizing the potential contributions that the cocoa sector can make in the restoration of forest landscapes;

Understanding the importance of public-private partnerships in sustainable and inclusive economic development and our commitment to supporting the targets of the Government of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

We, the undersigned government entities, companies, farmer groups, financial institutions' multilateral institutions, NGOs, and Civil societies organizations (CSOs) commit to working together, pre-competitively, both technically and financially to develop an economically viable, inclusive, deforestation-free and sustainable cocoa sector.



2. GENERAL

This Roadmap builds on the Collective Statement of Intent signed in September 2019 by representatives of the stakeholders active in the cocoa sector in Liberia. It defines core commitments, verifiable actions, time bound targets and other prerequisites required for a sustainable cocoa sector in Liberia.

The Roadmap was developed through the National Cocoa Public-Private Partnership Platform (NC3P) in Liberia in a multi-stakeholder process that brought together representatives from the Government of Liberia, private sector, farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, research institutions, development partners and other stakeholders in Liberia.

The development of the Statement of Intent, National Cocoa Public-Private Partnership Platform and the development of the Roadmap are activities under the Liberia Cocoa Sector Improvement Programme (LICSIP), implemented by Solidaridad West Africa, with funding provided by the European union (EU). LICSIP has the objective to create a vibrant, competitive and profitable cocoa economy driven primarily by farmer groups/associations and private cocoa supply chain companies, within a robust national regulatory and institutional framework.

The Roadmap is structured around three pillars:



INVESTMENT & COCOA MARKETING

This covers the promotion and marketing of Liberian cocoa, and the positioning and commercialisation of Liberian origin cocoa on the international market;



SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION & QUALITY CONTROL

This covers the development and implementation of guidelines for cocoa farming households that support sustainable production and enable them to earn a living income by improved quality, sustainable intensification and diversification of production while having a positive social, environmental and economic impact in Liberia;



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

This covers the conservation of natural ecosystems that are at risk by the revitalization of the cocoa sector and the expansion of cocoa farming among other factors.



3. CORE COMMITMENTS

By signing this Roadmap, the Government of Liberia, companies, farmers' organisations, civil society, research institutes, international development agencies, and NGOs involved in the sector commit to:

3.1 Promote and market Liberian cocoa locally, regionally and internationally as high quality, environmentally and ethically friendly to attract increased off-take and new sources of investment;

3.2 Secure a living income to cocoa farmers by strengthening producers' capacity, entrepreneurship, increasing and stabilizing incomes, increase efficiency of production, and enhancing cocoa productivity over time to produce "more cocoa on less land";

3.3 Promote value addition by moving smallholders from the sale of the raw cocoa beans to transformed products such as differentiated cocoa products with recognized certification marks or chocolate.

3.4 Ensure Liberian cocoa remains 'forest friendly' cocoa, by prohibiting and preventing activities by the cocoa sector that lead to deforestation or forest degradation in national parks, forest reserves, community forests, and conserved forests in the rural domain, such as sacred forests, while promoting long-term conservation and sustainable management of these areas.

3.5 Promote the sustainable production of cocoa in non-forest areas (degraded forest and anthropogenic savannah) with the establishment of agroforestry systems;

3.6 Implement full traceability from farm gate - warehouse - port of export by implementing a cost-effective traceability system to link sustainability and quality characteristics with the produced cocoa;

3.7 Respect the rights of cocoa farmers and communities in production areas, in particular through application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), compliance with Liberia's Land Rights Act of 2018 and identification and mitigation or possible social risks to minimize potential adverse social and economic impacts;

3.8 Protect the rights of women and youth within communities in production areas, ensuring that cocoa production takes into account the working conditions of all farmers (women and men), with particular emphasis on gender issues. At the same time, making sure that child labour in cocoa producing communities is prevented;

3.9 Implement agreed verifiable actions and timebound targets in the context of a broader landscape-level approach, on the basis of sound data, robust and credible methodologies, stakeholder consultation, and realistic timeframes with strong links with similar initiatives in other commodities, and full alignment with the Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PADP), Liberia's national REDD+ strategy, and the Liberia Tree Crop Master Plan, and other relevant national strategies and plans;

3.10 Embrace shared responsibility to implement actions defined in the Roadmap, as well as mobilize the necessary financing resources and technical support required for implementation, including continued engagement in a multi-stakeholder process for dialogue on key issues, development of effective implementation plans, joint learning and knowledge sharing to enable institutional capacity;

3.11 Provide effective monitoring and reporting on progress on commitments and actions to ensure transparency and accountability.





4. KEY ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

The actions to be taken are built around three pillars, which are: Investment & Cocoa Marketing, Sustainable Production & Quality Control, and Environment & Climate Change.

4.1 ACTIONS FOR INVESTMENT & COCOA MARKETING

The signatories recognise that to improve the Liberian cocoa sector it needs to be made more attractive for off-takers of Liberian cocoa and investors into the sector.

The signatories will work together, under the supervision of the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA) and the National Investment Commission (NIC) to:

BRANDING

- A.** Promote the Liberian cocoa brand at the international cocoa market as a high-quality product which is ethically and environmentally friendly.

This action will be supported by the following activities:

- Build a brand for Liberian cocoa- that considers Liberia’s comparative and competitive advantages and views options such as certification, geographical, varietal and producer brands.
- Establish traceability systems to strengthen the brand by guaranteeing transparency, accountability, and sustainability along the value chain.
- Organize annual awards and other recognition events to encourage stakeholders who are most aligned to the branding strategy.

- Promote Liberia’s cocoa brand through participation at national, regional and international trade fairs and various networking events.
- Promote and share the NC3P’s “Roadmap to a sustainable Cocoa Sector in Liberia” with investors, both domestically and abroad.

- B.** Engage stakeholders to adopt the vision of the Liberian cocoa brand that is a high-quality product, which is ethically produced and environmentally friendly.

This action will be supported by the following activities:

- Conduct awareness among local stakeholders (farmers, cooperatives, licenced buying companies, exporters, etc.) to provide knowledge and buy-in of the brand.
- Align extension manuals and training curricula with the national cocoa branding strategy.



PARTNERSHIPS

- C. Establish direct and long-term partnerships with international cocoa buying companies and meet the supply with the market demand.

This action will be supported by the following activities:

- Identify potential off-takers and niche markets, considering increase in demand of certified (Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or Organic) and premium quality cocoa.
- Work with inputs supply companies and service providers and build their capacity to further strengthen the cocoa value chain.
- Promote establishment of joint ventures between local producers and producer organization, and buying companies (national & international) for the development of large-scale farms, with the target of increasing the volume of high quality, sustainably produced cocoa in Liberia.
- Promote, secure and sustain agreements between buying companies, producers and producer organization for long-term guaranteed offtake (e.g. contract farming).

REGULATIONS

- D. Support LACRA in the implementation of cocoa sector in a manner that is attractive for (international) cocoa sourcing companies and investors, while contributing to the growth of the Liberian cocoa sector and the economy as a whole.

This action will be supported by the following activities:

- Align branding strategy with existing LACRA regulations and strengthen enforcement capacity of LACRA and other regulatory entities.
- Support LACRA in the formation of the pricing committee and in undertaking regular dissemination of seasonal reference price of cocoa.
- Support LACRA and CDA in the design, financing and establishment of mechanisms that would prevent side-selling, and improve overall sector monitoring.

- Support the establishment of regulations for seed gardens and seed breeding by CARI and private sector in compliance with Liberia Seed Development and Certification Agency Act.

INVESTMENTS

- E. Seek new forms of external investment that can contribute to actions defined in this Roadmap to revitalize the Liberian cocoa sector.

This action will be supported by the following activities:

- Build investment readiness of local SMEs, by initiating capacity building programs and match-making events to link local SMEs (local exporters and licenced buyers) to international investors, donor partners and platforms, create portfolio programs involving the private sector (input suppliers, licenced buying companies and exporters).
- Provide the NIC with adequate sector related information that will enable the design of investment promotion packages to attract large investments into the cocoa sector. The NIC will establish investment programs that will mark a paradigm shift from merely agricultural concession development to agricultural SME and smallholder focused investment schemes.
- Strengthen non-financial actors that are financing the cocoa sector.
- Strengthen financial institutions that are funding the sector. Facilitate access to loans for producers, buying agents and exporters. Facilitate de-risking of agricultural/commercial loans from the banking sector for actors of the sector.
- Ensure the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of all major farm to market roads to enable the aggregation, sale and export of cocoa beans;
- Establish an internal registry of recipients of agricultural loans and grants to track performance of investments made and promote transparency and accountability in the sector.



4.2 ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION & QUALITY CONTROL

The signatories recognize that sustainable agricultural production by making cocoa farming an attractive business in the long-term is essential for improving the Liberian cocoa sector.

The signatories will work together, [under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture], to:

LIVING INCOME

- A. Jointly work toward securing a living income for cocoa farmers and increasing their net income by comprehensively improving skills and adoption of best practices by farmers to enable increased production per farmer, as well as product diversification, value addition in the sector and lower the cost of production.

This action will be supported by the following activities:

To increase the farm gate price from cocoa:

- Contribute to the ability of farmers in the production of premium quality cocoa by training them on all necessary practices to produce premium quality cocoa, and develop, harmonize and update training manuals accordingly;
- Establish favorable pricing systems that would incentivize farmers and farmer-based organisations to initiate and sustain the production and processing of premium quality cocoa and cocoa related products.
- Enable producer organizations to take the necessary steps to become certified (Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or Organic) to be able to receive a guaranteed minimum price for their cocoa and receive a premium;
- Increase organisational capacity of cooperatives and other producer organisations in the sector and strengthen their entrepreneurial and managerial skills to increase bargaining power and improve trading practices.

To increase the cocoa productivity and lower the cost of production:

- Enhance long-term productivity of cocoa in order to produce “more cocoa on less land” through the development and intensification of good agricultural practices, the rehabilitation of ageing cocoa farms, the provision of improved seeds and plants, soil fertility and crop protection.
- Support and strengthen producer organisations, licenced buying agents, public agencies (Ministry of Agriculture, LACRA, CDA and CARI) and other service providers in the cocoa sector to impart relevant training and intensify provision of extension services to cocoa farmers.
- Use a variety of media to disseminate and promote adoption of best management practices.
- Strengthen regional TVET institutions to serve as hubs for technical capacity development in the sector.
- Develop seed distribution supply chain originating from CARI (and private institutions developing seed gardens) to cocoa farmers and enhance the development of cocoa seed gardens in each of the five agricultural regions, as a means of developing improved planting materials to enhance national productivity.
- Strengthen the business and technical skills of agro-dealers to better serve the needs of smallholder cocoa farmers for increased access to quality inputs for cocoa farmers.

To enhance complementary incomes:

- Support capacity building of farmers and producer organizations in making choices based on farmers interest and agronomic compatibility to enable product diversification (both cash crops and subsistence crops) in the cocoa sector by developing and promoting a diversified manual offering a multitude of crop associations with cocoa, which reflects the habits and needs of local populations.
- Improve the access to markets by establishing linkages with off-takers and markets to ensure generation of additional income through the complementary crops.
- Support and strengthen producer organisations, licenced buying agents, public agencies and other service providers in the cocoa sector in general business development to increase both on-farm and off-farm income for cocoa farmers.
- Promote alternative and sustainable sources of income for farmers among others, through the promotion of agroforestry programs, PES schemes, community forest management, etc.
- To strengthen farmers' entrepreneurship ability to access and use finance for investments in both farm and non-farm activities.
- Promote financial inclusion and innovation in order to improve producers' access to investment facilities and technologies necessary for the production and innovation of cocoa farms.
- Support farmer organisations (cooperatives, farmer field schools and other forms of farmers' association) and strengthen their entrepreneurial and managerial skills. In particular, support the development of women's and youths' activities and income through technical capacity building, organisational, managerial, financial skills and facilitating their access to the market;
- Promote producers' access to innovative and suitable financial services by enabling access to banking services, micro-finance and mobile payment services.



To enhance the research knowledge for more effective and efficient agricultural interventions for cocoa farmers

- Strengthen the research base of the sector and improve input supply chain for quality inputs for farmers by conducting research on improved cocoa varieties adapted to the local context and resilient to climate change and other environmental constraints, including the development of a program to network CARI with regional and international experts and research institutions.
- Strengthen actions of research institutions aimed at developing and disseminating techniques for enhancing productivity, in particular agroecological techniques, in existing farms as well as the production and dissemination of improved varieties of cocoa and shade trees with multiple economic, cultural and social benefits;

TRACEABILITY

- B.** Ensure the traceability of 100% of the cocoa supply from farm gate - warehouse - port of exit by 2026, with gradual implementation from the date of signature of this Roadmap. The [Ministry of Agriculture] will work in close collaboration with the private sector and producer organizations to develop a traceability action plan, with clear deadlines, to be implemented step by step to ensure full traceability and verification.

This action will be supported by the following activities:

- The signatories will work together in close collaboration with producers and their communities to put in place a rigorous traceability system throughout the cocoa supply chain. This will include:
 - Mapping, identification of cocoa producers and geo-referencing of all cocoa farms in the various regional production clusters;
 - the development and implementation of a rigorous certification, quality control and monitoring system to ensure compliance with the classification of cocoa by grade and origin.

GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY COCOA

- C.** Develop, promote and implement guidelines for a deforestation-free and sustainable cocoa sector in Liberia, whose objective is to increase the quality and sustainability of cocoa in Liberia, while providing the market with the guarantee of cocoa that is free from unwanted social and environmental characteristics (e.g. deforestation, child labour, etc.).

This action will be supported by the following activities:

- The development of Guidelines for a deforestation-free and sustainable cocoa will be conducted through a multi-stakeholder process led by the [Ministry of Agriculture] that will bring together the public sector, private sector, research institutions, farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, amongst others. It will build on similar initiatives developed at international level (such as ISO 34101 on sustainable and traceable cocoa, African Norm-ARS 1000).

These Guidelines will include:

- Identification of criteria for defining conventional cocoa;
- Creation of a deforestation-free and sustainable cocoa sector with a positive social and environmental impact;

GENDER AND YOUTH

- D.** Ensure that cocoa production considers the working conditions for farmers (women and men), with particular emphasis on gender issues. At the same time, that child labour in cocoa producing communities is prevented.

This action will be supported by the following activities:

- Implement gender intentional and gender transformative approaches by assessing upfront the different needs and constraints of women and work to ensure that women farmers have access to resources.
- Empower local communities, as well as other public and private actors, to create strong community structures, raise awareness and address the root causes of child labour (such as education, child protection, income enhancement, and other health and social services) to facilitate lasting solutions.
- Work together to support farmers and their communities, in particular women, through information, sensitisation, capacity building and advisory support tailored to their needs.
- Support the development of women's and youths' activities and income through technical capacity building, organisational, managerial, financial skills and facilitating their access to the market.
- Systematically take into account gender and youth in all the Roadmap implementation plans and ensure the participation of women and youth in the activities and awareness campaigns that are developed through this Roadmap.



4.3 ACTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

The signatories recognise the critical importance of protecting Liberian forests when revitalizing the Liberian cocoa sector which can lead to the expansion of cocoa farming. Signatories also recognise the importance of protecting community rights with a focus on community tenure and the promotion of land and forest governance.

The signatories will collaborate with the Environmental Protection Agency, private sector, civil society and farmers' organisation to strengthen their collaboration with other sectors (such as the timber, rubber or palm oil sectors).

This will be done by working on the mobilization of more financial and technical resources for forest protection and restoration and for forest governance, as well as by enforcement of the related regulations, in particular through the REDD+ mechanism. The signatories will collaborate to identify good practices, technical guidance and incentive mechanisms for conservation of forests in cocoa producing activities and agroforestry programs in the context of a multi-stakeholder landscape approach.

The signatories will work together, under the supervision of the Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia Land Authority and the Forestry Development Authority, to:

LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

- A.** Large scale investments in the cocoa sector involving acquisitions of vast lands for production are undertaken in compliance with the Liberia Land Right Act.
- B.** Large scale investments in the cocoa sector are aligned with existing district-level land use plans.
- C.** Farming communities, policy makers and investors are aware of existing land use plans.
- D.** Plans for large scale investments are linked with current initiatives targeting the empowerment of local communities through customary land formalization.

These actions will be supported by the following activities implemented in the field:

- Conduct an inventory of existing land use plans and land areas that have come under customary formalisation.
- Conduct awareness, targeting farming communities, investors, and other stakeholders, on the Land Rights Act and the customary land formalization process.
- Make land use plans and information on formalized customary lands more accessible to policy makers, investors, and other potential users.
- Build capacity of local governance structures to facilitate the follow up and an implementation of land use plans and linkage of investors to formalized customary lands.

- Elevate land use planning efforts from district to regional and national level and enable its use as a foundational tool for government's decision making and baseline setting.
- Promote information sharing and linkages between relevant agencies of government (MoA, LACRA, EPA, FDA, MOCI, MoFDP, etc) on issues specific to land and natural resource management.
- Enable a formal handover/ sharing of existing land use plans from the LLA to the MoA and LACRA.
- Make available existing land use plans on the “Environmental Knowledge Management System” currently managed by the EPA.
- Develop by the end of 2022, a manual or technical guideline different from the approach related to the Free Prior and Informed Consent approach, which are inclusive and adapted to the local context;

FOREST PROTECTION

- A.** Obtain a commitment on zero deforestation from the private sector.
- B.** Prohibit and prevent the conversion of national parks, forest reserves and community forests, as well as High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests for cocoa production.
- C.** Contribute to conservation, restoration, and connectivity of forest patches in cocoa farms, landscapes, and wildlife corridors, to protect water resources, biodiversity, and the soil.
- D.** Increase public- private collaboration to mobilize new sources of funding for forest protection and restoration, and to encourage the adoption of environmentally sustainable cocoa production practices. Key opportunities include, inter alia, support for innovative financial mechanisms (such as payment for ecosystem services, carbon finance, and public-private trust funds) to fund greater implementation of climate smart cocoa production.
- E.** Improve public-private collaboration, working together with local and global experts in agroforestry, to identify good practices and technical capacity-building to support forest conservation and restoration in the cocoa supply chain.



- F.** Link forest protection efforts under the roadmap to existing programs and initiatives (REDD/ LFSP, GEF-IUCN-MRU, FLEGT/ VPA, etc), as well as existing conventions and protocols signed by the Government of Liberia.

These actions will be supported by the following activities implemented in the field:

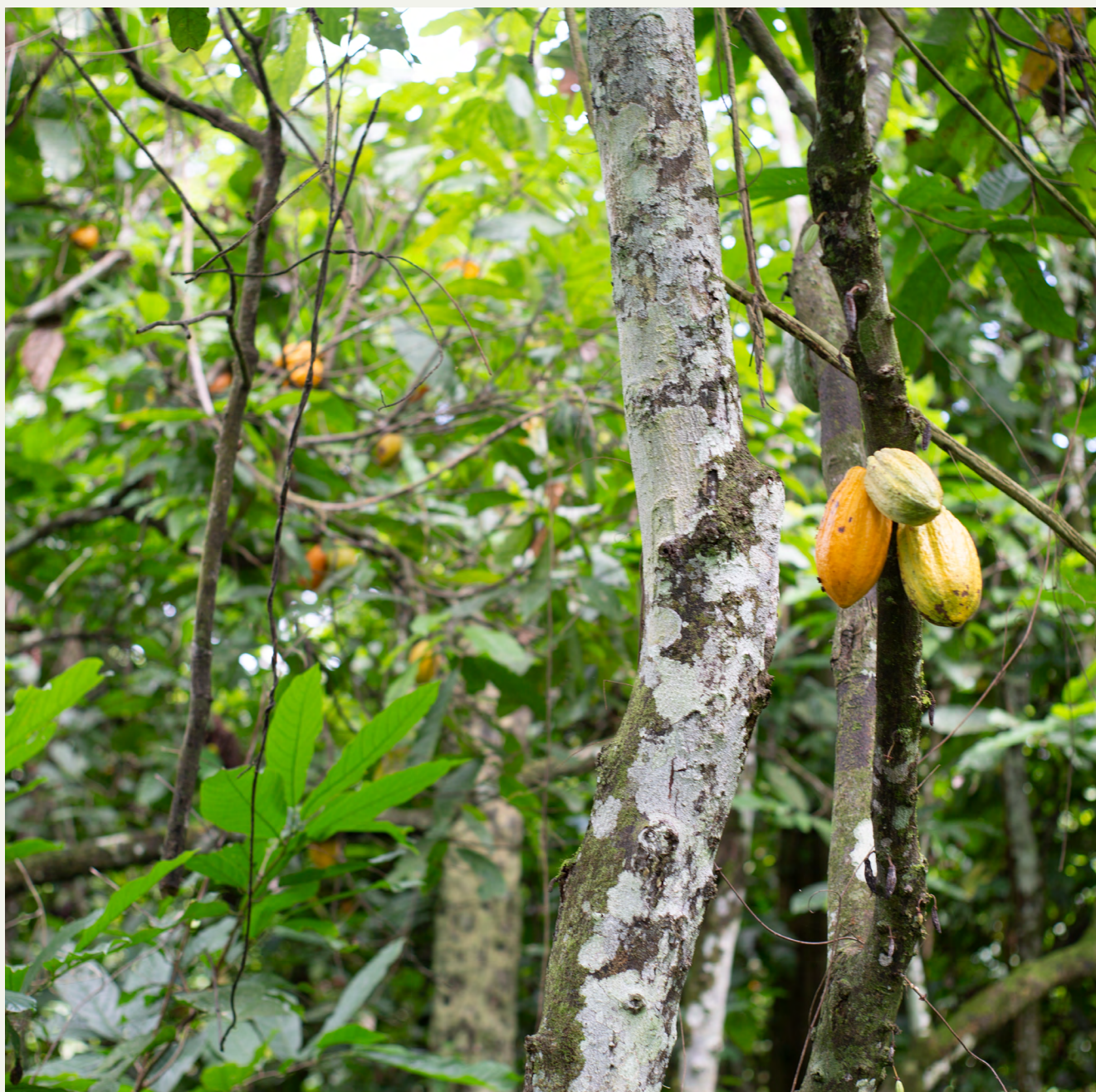
- Explore the “National Forest Inventory Report”, which specifies Liberia’s own definition of forests and specifications of forest areas, to enable baseline setting and thematic guidance.
- Promote coordination among various government agencies (FDA, EPA, LLA, etc.) on matters relating to forest and environmental protection within the cocoa sector.
- Raise awareness among producers and local communities about forest conservation, restoration and the benefits of agroforestry.
- Organize investment promotion and donor fund raising events to source funding for forest protection and restoration, and to encourage the adoption of environmentally sustainable cocoa production practices.
- Develop Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) programs linked to host communities of areas with forest under protection and/ or restoration;
- Develop a guideline or Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for agroforestry and sustainable cocoa production for existing and new cocoa producers to be used nationally, as a benchmark for cocoa production.
- Host regular technical coordination meetings between sector stakeholders and technical leads of current conservation/ forest protection programs (REDD/ LFSP, GEF-IUCN-MRU, FLEGT/ VPA, etc).

CLIMATE CHANGE

- A. Promote increase knowledge of climate change and other relevant threats and their impact on the sector.
- B. Promote climate smart agriculture by tackling environmental unfriendly farming practices, engage with experts to promote agricultural methods that are adapted to changing weather conditions, system approaches, and create an enabling environment for climate-smart cocoa.

These actions will be supported by the following activities implemented in the field:

- Raise awareness among producers and local communities about the effects of climate change.
- Develop and implement a climate smart agriculture technical guide and management plan.
- Promote coordination among stakeholders from the government (EPA, FDA, MoA etc), private sector and producer organizations on climate change.





5. MONITORING AND MEASURING PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP

Monitoring and evaluation of progress on the above activities at the national and landscape levels is paramount to ensure accountability and transparency, promote learning and identify mid-term corrective measures

A transparent and credible multi-stakeholder process will be developed jointly to measure and monitor progress made through the actions of this Roadmap, as soon as it is signed.



This will include:

- A baseline survey, mid-term and end-line survey
- The adoption of a series of generic and verifiable monitoring indicators on the contribution of the cocoa sector to the government's objectives of mitigating deforestation in Liberia especially on land use, the environment and the socio- economic situation.
- An annual report on the progress and results relating to the implementation of their specific Roadmap actions will be made publicly available by the signatory companies and the Government.
- Civil Society Organisations put in place a monitoring, evaluation and multi-stakeholder consultation framework at local level with the objective to:
 - Ensure the implementation of the various commitment made;
 - Facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of activities being implemented.

6. IMPLEMENTATION AND GOVERNANCE

6.1 IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this Roadmap will be undertaken by all signatories and coordinated by the secretariat of the National Cocoa Sector Public-Private Platform (NC3P).

The secretariat will also coordinate the affairs of various technical committees, who will provide quarterly reports on the implementation of the Roadmap. These reports from the technical committees will be forwarded to the Steering Committee for quarterly review and feedback.

Knowledge sharing will be promoted throughout the implementation of the Roadmap.

Comprehensive and effective information sharing, consultation and informed participation of farmers, farmer organizations and their communities will be ensured in programs developed to implement the commitments identified in this Roadmap.



6.2 GOVERNANCE

As soon as the Roadmap is signed, the governance framework, comprising of the NC3P's general assembly, steering committee, secretariat and technical working groups, will be continued for the implementation of the Roadmap. It will be responsible for accompanying the signatories in the implementation of the commitments and activities within the deadlines defined in this Roadmap.

Civil society organisations and organisations representing farmers and communities will fully and effectively participate in the governance defined to implement this Roadmap, with an emphasis on promoting women and youth participation and representation.

7. FINANCING OF ACTIONS

It is understood that:

- Signatories will collaborate to mobilize the necessary financing resources and technical support required for the financing of the platform's secretariat and the Roadmap's implementation through, amongst others, fundraising activities and streamlining of actions into existing projects and investments;
- The financing of the accompanying measures and activities to be implemented under this Roadmap must not be detrimental to the income of cocoa farmers, who must be the primary beneficiaries of programmes.



