

2018-2022 REPORT
**COCOA, FORESTS
& PEACE
INITIATIVE**



Iniciativa Cacao,
Bosques & Paz
Colombia



alisos
alianzas para la
sostenibilidad



Signatories



Allies





**Iniciativa Cacao,
Bosques & Paz
Colombia**

Prepared by:

Alisos

**Cocoa, Forests & Peace Technical
Secretariat**

Wendy Arenas

Executive Director

Joaquín Salgado

Leader in Public Policy Advocacy

Paula Ponce de León

**Project Coordinator in Public Policy
Advocacy**

Graphic Design:

Sofía González

Translation:

Pilar Gamboa

Style review and editing:

Frank Merry



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FOREWORD



Since its launch in 2018, the Cocoa Forests and Peace Initiative has contributed to significant advances in cocoa sustainability at regional and national levels within Colombia. It is making strides towards establishing zero-deforestation sourcing landscapes, piloting Colombia's first Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification system and working towards establishing deforestation-free business models and markets, while also promoting cocoa as an agent of land rehabilitation and alternative livelihoods.

As WCF President, I would like to thank all the stakeholders who have contributed to CF&P over the past five years. Collective action is at the heart of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative and the more we are able to collaborate as a sector and exchange lessons from cocoa-producing countries across the world, the more transformative impact we are able to have together.

We look forward to the continued growth of CF&P throughout Colombia and even greater progress across the cocoa supply chain towards zero deforestation, sustainable cocoa production, and the improved well-being of cocoa producers and their communities.

Chris Vincent
President
World Cocoa Foundation

Executive Summary

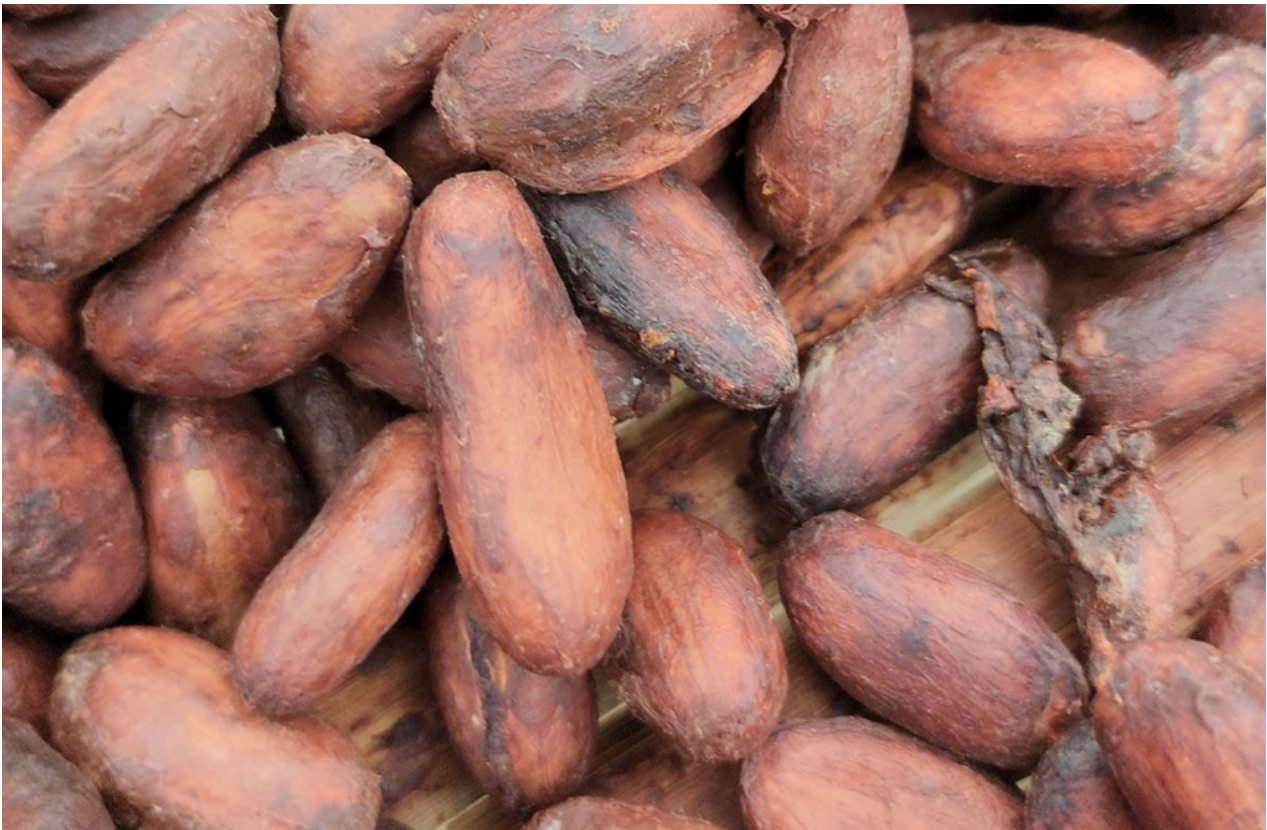
In the Peace Agreement, signed in 2016, cocoa became a key alternative in support of zero-deforestation agriculture, helping to catalyze sustainable rural development and peacebuilding. The CF&P Initiative emerged as a process to disseminate this opportunity as widely as possible. CF&P is a public-private initiative that promotes deforestation-free cocoa production, helping to protect and restore forests in the cocoa value chain, to improve livelihoods for producers, and to consolidate the peace process¹ in Colombia. Cocoa is not one of the main drivers of deforestation in Colombia, but instead it has the potential to become the prime restoration commodity.

In 2017, the World Cocoa Foundation, the Netherlands' Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), and His Royal Highness's (HRH) International Sustainability Unit launched the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) with the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 35 cocoa and chocolate manufacturing companies. In 2018, the Government of Colombia, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), together with the National Federation of Cocoa Producers (Fedecacao), Casa Luker, IDH and WRI (World Resources Institute), with the support of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), signed on to the CFI as the first country in Latin American. In Colombia, action in support of the CFI is housed under the Cocoa, Forest and Peace (CF&P) initiative.

The CF&P has three implementation periods: 2018-2022 (short-term); 2023-2025 (medium-term); and 2026-2030 (long-term). Governing bodies of the Initiative consist of one Steering Committee represented by five organizations; one Technical Committee (TC) comprising 24 organizations; and the Technical Secretariat run by Alisos. As of 2022, the number of CF&P signatories has increased four-fold from the start of the project and now stands at 24. The signatories comprise three public sector institutions, five private sector organizations, two cocoa producer organizations, eight international non-profits, three Colombian non-profits, and three additional cocoa-related organizations.



Protect and restore forests in the cocoa value chain, to improve livelihoods for producers, and to consolidate the peace process in Colombia.



The Cacao, Forests & Peace geographical scope of influence is the 170 municipalities that the National Government has identified as the most affected by the armed conflict, poverty, institutional weakness, and the presence of illicit crops. These municipalities are designated as Programas de Desarrollo con Enfoque Territorial (Development Programs with a Territorial Approach (PDET)). As a first step, the CF&P's Technical Committee identified 5 sub-regions where there is high forest coverage and cocoa production. These are: Sur de Bolívar, Alto Córdoba, Bajo Cauca Antioqueño, Nariño and Piedemonte Amazónico.

The first short term product for the CF&P was a 2030 Action Plan, adopted by stakeholders in 2019 and targeted five additional outcomes, as well as 27 short-term deliverables. To create the action plan, the Technical Secretariat (TS) collected input from six regions, including more than 17 Municipalities. During this process, more than 250 people engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogues, including the participation of more than 85 farmers and 20 organizations. The Action Plan 2030 is built around five proposed strategic outcomes:

- 01 Zero-deforestation cocoa production models.
- 02 Financial instruments that consolidate zero deforestation cocoa models.
- 03 A monitoring, verification and traceability system.
- 04 Strengthening cocoa institutions to face the challenges of forests and peace.
- 05 A communications and transparency strategy.

Cocoa for Life is the program designed to implement CB&P's action plan. During 2021 and 2022 Cocoa for Life worked in the Colombian Amazon Piedmont to promote cocoa agroforestry models that close the agricultural frontier, protect strategic systems, adequate land use, and help implement the peace agreement.

In addition to developing the long-term Action Plan, during the period 2018-2022 the CF&P initiative made significant short-term progress the outcomes identified in the Action Plan. These are summarized as:



Research needs and stakeholders expected to conduct them identified.



Cultivation guidelines for zero-deforestation agroforestry systems and others applicable to the purchase of sustainable cocoa have been designed.



Directives for ecological and productive landscape restoration with cocoa agroforestry systems developed for one of the prioritized regions.



A pilot for technical support to public-private partnerships for restoration and development of cocoa agroforestry systems developed in Algeciras, Huila.



Description and prioritization of financial instruments available through the Cocoa for Life Program.



Analysis available regarding barriers to prioritized instruments to access financial instruments under Cocoa for Life program.



Training plans for access to credit and other financing mechanisms for producers/farms have been built.



During technical meetings held in the context of the Initiative, outcomes from the MRV system pilot designed and implemented and the nationwide expansion plan to be pursued in the framework of the Cocoa for Life Program.



The environmental, social, and economic verification of the cocoa chain well advanced in 3 Departments.



Local and regional institutions from prioritized subregions and areas are already designated trained. Strengthening opportunities identified in prioritized subregions.



Strengthening strategy for institutions and local and regional associations in the territory implemented in the Amazon region under the Cocoa for Life Program.



The Initiative's communications and transparency strategy built.

The first years of implementation have been focused on the consolidation of the CF&P Initiative as a platform for the interaction and creation of partnerships among strategic stakeholders in the Colombian cocoa sector. In some measure, the holistic strengthening of the sector to cover various stages across the cocoa value chain in the country has been achieved. As a result, significant progress has been made in the short-term deliverables under the Action Plan, working together with partners and other specific actors engaged in programs under the Initiative.

The short-term implementation of the CF&P has led to a number of lessons, summarized as:

- 01 Partnerships among adherents are essential to design programs for implementing the Action Plan in priority regions for the Initiative.
- 02 Excellent communication between adherents and the Technical Secretariat to identify actions helpful in the Agreement implementation in the context of ongoing cocoa-related programs and projects cannot be underestimated.
- 03 Promoting continual communication beyond the Technical Committee, so that knowledge is generated and shared as widely as possible.

The implementation of the first stage (the short-term) is considered a significant success and we look forward to continuing this work into the next stages.

