



Swiss Platform for
Sustainable Cocoa

ANNEX

Project Reports

2020



1 Projects overview

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Project «Akuafuo Nkoosoo»

Country/region

Ghana

Project Partners

Barry Callebaut,
World Vegetable Centre,
Envirofit,
Wageningen University
Ghana Cocobod,
Advans Ghana

Duration

2019 - 2021

Budget

CHF 3'330'000

SECO contribution

CHF 1'000'000

Scope



Objectives: This innovative project supports the livelihoods and financial inclusion of +5'000 Ghanaian cocoa farming households via Farm Business Plans by combining rejuvenation of their cocoa farms with small-scale vegetable production to diversify incomes and increase resilience. Income from vegetable farming and access to improved cook stoves benefit especially women in the family. Shade trees are integrated systematically in the rejuvenation planting, and the resulting agroforestry system further increases climate change resilience of households.

Project status: Targets for all three interventions (cocoa underplanting, cookstove distribution and vegetable income diversification) were overachieved:

- ✧ Cocoa underplanting plots set up in the first year of the project delivered sustained cocoa yields from old cocoa trees. While the yield dropped by 15%, this was mostly driven by further tree pruning and cutting. The fact that yields can be sustained was a key motivation to persuade new farmers to rejuvenate their farms.
- ✧ Vegetable packages were distributed through VSLAs and had a new community garden planting design. That led to both increased interest of farmers as well as good performance of the season. Additionally, series of market linkages meetings were organized to facilitate farmers' access to the market makers. Farmers received sustained prices on the local markets.
- ✧ Similarly to the first project year, distribution of efficient cookstoves was overachieved. This is a confirmation that well priced efficient cookstove with a maintenance service model can attract farmers and change their cooking habits. Year 2 assessment was delayed due to Covid-19 and will be conducted in late Spring 2021.

Implications of Covid-19: Covid-19 had a significant impact on the way the project team engaged with farmers. Due to the pandemic, farmers were not able to attend group meetings for training or sensitization. Therefore a one-on-one engagement strategy was deployed. Implementation of activities was slower but the project managed to reach its targets. Additionally, activity impact assessment planned with Wageningen University was postponed due to pandemic and will be closed only in early Summer 2021.

Outlook: In the final project year, we will concentrate on residual implementation and project evaluation. The community driven vegetable growing model will be solidified and market linkages methodology improved. Cocoa underplanting will be completed on residual new plots, shade trees planted on all cocoa plots and yield from the three cohorts monitored. We will conduct the final evaluation of efficient cookstove distribution. This will include measurement of usage rates, time and fuel savings.



Village Cocoa Competence Centres

Objectives: The project, situated in one of the most dynamic cocoa growing regions of Ivory Coast, aims at introducing village-based centers offering holistic services to farmers. The approach is product based and aims to create additional value for farmers and chocolate manufacturers.

At the heart of each center are installations for the centralized fermentation and drying of the cocoa beans. By moving this process away from the farmer, he can invest his time into other activities to diversify the family income. The center gains control over the fermentation and drying process and is able to offer customers a high and stable quality. Higher revenues are shared with farmers to increase their income. The current capacity produces 700 tons of central fermented high quality cocoa.

The centers offer a wider range of services to the rural communities: with the support of the customers, they can help farmers to renew their overaged plantations with cocoa seedlings grown in the large nursery site together with shade trees to improve biodiversity. In the last two years the centers distributed 222'410 cocoa seedlings together with 62'687 shade trees to renew and diversify 150 ha. In the next months, a further distribution of seedlings for another 150 ha is well under way.

Project status: At the centers, 1098 farmers benefit from a more general training in Good Agricultural Practices and in-come diversification. 387 extra motivated farmers receive a more intense training combined with the distribution of seedlings. Specifically, young farmers are trained in financial literacy and, instead of setting up a mobile payment system as planned, 15 Village Loan and Saving Groups are being run with 490 participants. These groups have succeeded in saving 28'024 EUR. 9'093 EUR were granted as loans to 98 income generating projects developed and run by young farmers. Repayment rate was 100%.

Farmers will soon be able to purchase agricultural tools such boots and machetes but also fertilizer and plant protection products in rural shops attached to the centers. This enables the centers to have a better control on the products used by the farmers, whereas the farmers benefit from competitive prices and local availability. The main challenges were to convince the farmers to deliver their cocoa to the centers. Because this purchasing system is new in the region, time is needed to win over their trust, especially into the weight relation of fresh cocoa or the whole cocoa fruit as compared to dried cocoa. Offering farmers a higher price based on added value will certainly help attract more farmers to the centers.

Implications of Covid-19: The project was not much influenced by the Covid crisis, as cases remained (until today) low in the rural areas of Ivory Coast.

Country/region

Ivory Coast

Project Partners

CABOZ AG,
ETH Zürich,
Hanns R. Neumann
Stiftung,
CABOZ Action

Duration

2019 - 2023

Budget

CHF 1'127'000

SECO contribution

CHF 500'000

Scope



Outlook: Since the centers now have access to large quantities of fresh cocoa, they will soon start to use more of the valuable cocoa fruit than just the beans. They will extract fresh and sweet cocoa juice immediately after opening the pods and gently preserve it for transport. To further reduce waste, the shells of the cocoa fruits will be transformed into compost and/or charcoal. This will also help to reduce diseases such as black pod in the plantations. The compost together with the charcoal can then be used in the cocoa plantations as fertilizer. This will close the circle of the cocoa fruit, creating additional value for farmers and offering new tastes to consumers.



Women with their children preparing about 200'000 seeding bags at the nursery site for the rejuvenation of 150 ha of overaged cocoa plantations in September 2020. Only this part of the project has created part- and full-time jobs for 280 people, mostly women.

Sankofa:

Empowered by Alliances for Action

Country/region

Ghana

Project Partners

Coop/ Chocolats Halba,
International Trade Centre (ITC),
Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union (KKFU),
Max Havelaar-Foundation (Switzerland),
Fairtrade Africa,
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF),
South Pole,
Yam Development Council (YDC)

Duration

2019-2023

Budget

CHF 3'500'000

SECO contribution

CHF 1'000'000

Scope



Objectives: The Project aims to contribute to 3-pillars of sustainable livelihoods (social, economic and environmental) of stakeholders in the cocoa and associated crops value chains (VCs) through a multi-stakeholder approach on income diversification, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. The key objectives are:

- ✧ 400 farmers from Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union (KKFU) directly benefiting from Dynamic Agroforestry (DAF) and income diversification activities;
- ✧ 2'500 farmers from KKFU directly benefitting from Climate Smart Cropping Systems (CSCS) and income diversification activities;
- ✧ 17'400 community members indirectly benefitting from DAF, CSCS improved nutrition and income diversification;
- ✧ Capacities of staff and agricultural extension officers of Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union (KKFU) strengthened (KKFU associates over 86'000 members);
- ✧ 8 support institutions strengthened;
- ✧ In-setting of 75'000 tons CO₂ within the value chain of Coop;
- ✧ Combination of CO₂ - Insetting with dynamic agroforestry and diversification.

Project Status: Despite the global challenges of 2020, the project continues to post significant results towards achieving its objectives demonstrating the impact and scalability of the alliances partnership and climate smart model. The project continues to strengthen the productive capacities of KKFU farmers and link them commercially to important markets for cocoa and associated crops.

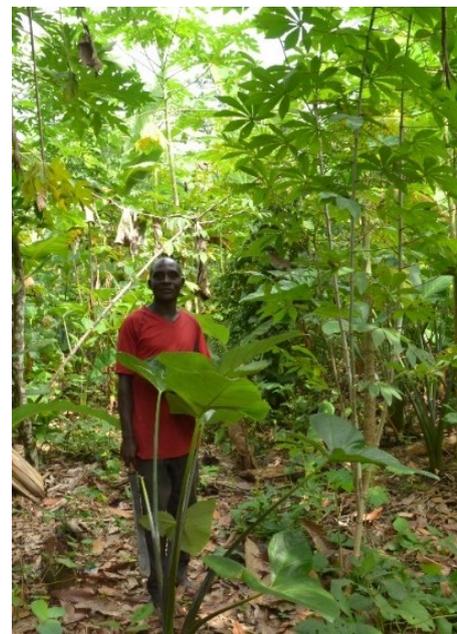
In 2020, a total of 622 *new* smallholder farmers have been directly reached through the project with capacity building and market linkages support, alongside farmers who participated in the project in 2019. This brings the total farmers benefiting from the Project so far to 1'147 and 6'882 household members. In 2020, a total of 131 smallholder farmers established 44.25 hectares of DAF, integrating the production of cocoa, timber, biomass and fruit trees, yam and other associated crops for income, food security and nutrition. A further 1'016 farmers, mostly women, established 113 acres (45 hectares) of yam and associated crops in CSCS without burning the organic matter or using inorganic chemicals such as weedicides and fertilisers. To date, farmers produced approximately CHF 150'882 (or USD 168'318) worth of diversified crops including yam, maize, mucuna, canavalia, and pigeon pea for sale, contributing towards living incomes and food security. Chocolats Halba continues to sustainably source cocoa beans from key project partner KKFU. In 2020, they purchased 1'393 MT of cocoa beans, to the value of around CHF



4.5 Million, paying approximately CHF 372'000 of Fairtrade Premium in the process for KKFU farmers to reinvest in livelihood improvement projects, demonstrating the critical nature of commercial and productive alliances to the development of the sector. In keeping with its objective of local capacity building for project sustainability, scalability and local ownership, the project supported KKFU to recruit 15 full time, project community-resident officers to support implementation, alongside 5 full time officers already recruited by FTA. These Officers have been trained intensively by technical experts on the principles and practices of DAF and CSCS to ensure that they can replicate project best practices across other communities and farmers. Additionally, 19 extension officers have been assigned by KKFU to CSCS on a part time basis. The Project continues to reinforce farmer resilience through the mitigation of climate impacts by promoting biodiversity and carbon-capture whilst ensuring that no farmer involved in the Project burnt organic matter or used inorganic fertilisers and chemicals in their plots. As a result, the plots in the Project continued to compare more favourably to other plots that used traditional cocoa mono-cropping farming approaches of slashing and burning.

Implications of Covid-19: The Covid-19 outbreak had a significant impact on the implementation modalities of the project in 2020. Plot selection, mapping and preparation was delayed in order to comply with the Government measures to contain the pandemic, which included lockdown of parts of the country and restrictions on movement and gatherings. These measures affected the ability of the field teams to mobilize for implementation actions. The Government eventually exempted the cocoa sector from the lockdowns enabling work to commence in April. Plot establishment itself could only begin in May with small, localized teams, made up of Lead farmers and Field officers of KKFU and FTA, without direct in-field support of DAF and CSCS experts. Then, improvements in Ghana's Covid-19 case count enabled lifting of the travel restrictions and travel to project areas. Plot monitoring and management was prioritized from July until December, alongside preparations for the 2021 planting season. Experts were able to visit the plots to work with the Lead farmers and Field officers to monitor the plots and manage progress of the crops and conduct training on a myriad of topics including harvesting and marketing of the diversified crops.

Outlook: In 2021, the Sankofa project will up-scale implementation with a planned target of 480 plots delivering 120 hectares of DAF with at least 300 farmers and 1'650 additional farmers establishing diversified plots under the CSCS component. Market linkages and product development will continue with commercial alliances constantly established with buyers and lead farmers for cocoa, yam and associated crops to contribute to improved farmer livelihoods and better trade. Efforts to enhance the capacity of KKFU to take full ownership and control of the Project will continue in earnest, building on the capacities and skills of the project community-based Field Officers and Lead farmers. This will also ensure the integration of local knowledge systems and replicability in the project continuously.



Cocoa Tech Bridge

Objectives: This project integrates a cloud-based trace-and-transact mobile application within the Läderach (Schweiz) AG supply chain to help manage and trace sourcing and sustainability activities of the Läderach “Family Life” sustainability program, and to assist with the flow of financial premiums to small-scale farmers. All sustainability activities are managed and monitored through the Information Management System (IMS).

Project Status: A Sustainable Livelihood baseline assessment has been carried out in the sourcing regions of Nahua. Improvements and progress are seen when compared to the baseline. The application has been designed and deployed. The first buying route has been mapped and data collection has started. The farmer ID cards have been issued and the supply chain is fully digitalized. Farmer data of 291 farmers were gathered, 121 farmers have their farm mapped, and Läderach has received the first container from Nahua that is accompanied by all traceability information through the Cocoa Tech Bridge. Traceability at buying batch level is ensuring traceability to the individual farmer. Important questions have to be asked concerning the suitability of bank accounts for smallholder farmers. Regardless of the ease of opening a bank account the majority still show hesitance due to the small volumes sold. Since 2015 45% of all Nahua purchases were below USD 50 and 25% below USD 30.

An added complexity to the landscape is the 2017 announcement of a Government implemented Unified System of Public Purchases that is expected to be adopted for all sales within the country however the adoption is poor.

Implications of Covid-19: The main consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic was a slow down of the project roll out due to the lockdown and the curfew restrictions in Costa Rica and a reduced leadership availability due to furloughed project leaders and an increased workload to cushion covid shocks on the daily business of each participating partner. Furthermore, data collection was subject to the health and safety measures imposed on the staff as we apply a zero-risk policy.

Outlook: The next reporting period aims at making use of the Cocoa Tech Bridge as a “Business as Usual” workflow integration. All farmers of the scope of this project are mapped and procurement and interactions go solemnly via the Cocoa Tech Bridge app. The cocoa bean flow will be traced electronically, allowing to have full transparency over production, procurement, handling and shipping. In the focus is the analysis of the baseline survey. A review and assessment process will identify positive (or potential negative) impacts of the farmer interaction and their livelihood improvements. This will lead to a smart design of community/farmer intervention, eventually, that show the highest impact whilst addressing the most pressing needs.

Country/region

Costa Rica

Project Partners

Läderach,
Farmstrong Foundation,
Nahua Cacao &
Chocolate

Duration

2019 - 2021

Budget

CHF 190'000

SECO contribution

CHF 95'000

Scope



A new approach to improve cocoa farmer livelihoods in Ghana

Country/region

Ghana

Project Partners

Lindt & Sprüngli,
Sustainable Management
Service Ghana

Duration

2018 - 2022

Budget

CHF 9'300'000

SECO contribution

CHF 1'000'000

Scope



Objectives: The project will target 70'000 farmers (minimum 30% female farmers) over a four-year period (40 farmers per community in 30 communities per district, in a total of 56 districts). The objective is a data-driven and farmer-tailored approach (segmentation), to provide information, services and products based on farmer needs and investments. The main outputs and activities include:

- ✧ Sustainable intensification of cocoa farms: To achieve this outcome, there are three outputs and sets of activities that will be delivered within the project. First is farmer segmentation, second is the delivery of bundled products and services for farmers and third, the delivery of intensive and tailored coaching sessions. Using existing farmer data, the project will develop a segmentation framework to group farmers based on their productivity levels, capability and needs. The different farmer segments will determine the appropriate bundle of products and services that will be delivered.
- ✧ Additional income sources: To diversify and increase household income, farmers are given access to additional livelihoods training on various enterprises. These include farm and non-farm business opportunities that were studied based on profitability, return on investment rate and required technical assistance. To complement the technical training, business and financial management concepts are also discussed and a business plan will be developed to apply the concepts learned, and to ensure the network of micro-entrepreneurs is economically self-sustaining.
- ✧ Secured incomes and asset building: The project encourages farmer savings by strengthening Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) where they exist and promoting them where they do not exist. VSLAs have been effective in graduating the poorest households out of extreme poverty and dependence, by developing productive and resilient livelihoods, enabling them to feed, care for and educate their children, save for the future, and invest in income generating activities (e.g. in the form of micro/small businesses, animal husbandry and crops).
- ✧ Commercialization of service delivery model: Business case development of the service model is critical to ensure consistent, efficient and effective delivery of products and services for farmers. The project will build on results and demand generation activities from pilots and will refine the inputs needed on the revenue projections and cost structure to develop a business case for the bundled products and services that are offered to farmers.



Project Status:

- ✧ Farmer segmentation: Through the program, a farmer segmentation tool was created to target products and services. This resulted to 6 distinct segments which included (1) stuck farmers, (2) subsistence farmers, (3) Laissez-faire farmers, (4) high potential farmers, (5) resourceful farmers and (6) professional farmers. The tool is based on internal monitoring data that the program collected in the past years. The full roll-out of the tool is expected in 2021.
- ✧ Improved adoption of good agricultural practices: We were able to compare 2 years worth of data related to adoption of practices using farm observations and the program's internal monitoring tool. We observed six practices which included pruning, weeding, integrated pest management, shade tree, cocoa harvest and soil health management. Five out of six practices showed positive changes with percent changes ranging from 2% to 90%. The biggest adoption is related to shade tree management (90%) which can be attributed to the intensified training on climate smart agricultural practices this year. The only negative change is related to cocoa harvest management which had a -2% change.
- ✧ Increased farmer savings through VSLAs: The average savings per farmer increased to CHF 19 from CHF 0.3. This is attributed to streamlined processes of VSLA organization and monitoring plus the increased cash flow from the cocoa season towards the end of the year.

Implications of Covid-19: Due to the pandemic, most group training activities and group meetings were stopped to adhere to safety protocols. The project's focus then shifted to coaching activities, which included individual visits, farm diagnosis and tailored extension.



Risk based CLMRS and targeted income support

Reducing the prevalence of child labour by strengthening the income of vulnerable cocoa growing households using a cost-efficient, risk-based targeting and monitoring mechanism

Objectives: This project tests two innovative approaches to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS). The first was to create a child labor risk prediction model, to make it quicker and easier to identify households at higher risk of using child labor. The second was to test whether cash transfers – direct payments to farming households – could be an effective type of support to remediate and prevent child labor. The project is being implemented by ICI, Nestlé and ECOM in two cooperatives in Ghana.

Project Status: In the first phase of the project, a child labor risk prediction model was successfully developed, using national prevalence data on child labor from Tulane University.¹ The first iteration of the model could correctly predict child labor in 65% of cases, when we compared the predicted results with actual child labor cases identified by a survey. The use of such a model could lead to potential cost savings of up to 20% on monitoring visits to identify child laborers. A later version of the model, using a different methodology, was able to correctly predict child labor 85% of cases, further increasing the potential for cost savings.

Key predictors of child labor risk include the sex and age of children. An important learning from the project is that to use child labor risk prediction models, it is essential that cooperatives hold accurate, up-to-date information on farming households, including on any children present. If information is missing or outdated, we must assume that there *is* child labor in a household, limiting potential cost savings.

In the second phase of the project, a literature review was conducted on the impact of cash transfers on child labor.² The review shows that cash transfers are generally effective in reducing child labor, but in some cases, can also cause child labor to rise, especially when households use cash to invest in family farms and businesses, increasing the need for labor. These findings underline the importance of careful design of cash transfer programs to avoid unintended consequences.

The team then designed and delivered a cash transfer program for a first group of 302 farming households, who received six monthly payments, via mobile money, between September and February 2021.

¹ ICI (2020) [Predicting child labour risk at household level A risk model for cocoa farming households in Ghana](#)

² ICI (2020) [The effect of cash transfers on child labour: evidence from rural contexts](#)

Country/region

Ghana

Project Partners

Nestlé,
ICI,
Ecom

Duration

2019 - 2020

Budget

CHF 870'000

SECO contribution

CHF 435'000

Scope



Each payment was worth between 18 and 36 CHF, adjusted depending on the number of children in the household and their age. Key learnings to date include that farmers see cash transfers as an incentive to sell to the participating cooperatives; and that cooperatives identified a need to improve farmer registration procedures to ensure that all necessary information was available to make payments.

Implications of Covid-19: The Covid-19 pandemic and related limitations on all travel have caused some delays, notably to the implementation of the cash transfer payments and the second survey to assess the impact of the cash transfers on child labor.

Outlook: A second survey of child labor prevalence is being conducted in March-April 2021 to evaluate the impact of the cash transfer program on household's child labor use and to better understand how households used the money received. The survey will compare 302 households who received the monthly payments to a randomly selected control group. Once the survey has been complete, the control group will also receive six monthly payments.



Improve livelihoods of indigenous organic and Fairtrade cocoa farmers

Country/region

Costa Rica

Project Partners

Stella Bernrain,
APPTA

Duration

2018 - 2022

Budget

CHF 180'000

SECO contribution

CHF 90'000

Scope



Objectives: Increasing productivity and long-term viability via introduction and use of fermented bio-fertilizers and in-field grafting of productive, disease-tolerant flavor cocoa varieties. In this small project, we hope to show how a farmer-to-farmer training effort can provide a base at the village level for common improvement and welfare. Farmers and families are trained to vegetatively propagate disease-resistant and productive cocoa varieties, and also prune & manage them correctly, combed with training in the production of liquid bio fertilizers. By combining these practices the families should be able to raise productivity significantly, even with the continued high disease pressure of Monilia and Phytophthora fungal diseases. This work is being carried out in poor villages with low-input, low-maintenance, organic, bio-diverse agroforestry systems without the use of chemical pest control, fungicides or chemical fertilizers.

Project Status: Training of the field coordinator and the extensionists in the production of the liquid bio-fertilizers has been ongoing, with the idea that they would continue the training at the community level. The training will be more decentralized than we had planned initially, but this strategy may be more effective in the end. Six groups have started to build production units for the bio-fertilizer and established their own rules for the use of the motorized backpack sprayers.

Small nurseries were established on all member farms. The grafting and budding of disease-tolerant, productive and high quality cacao varieties onto seedling rootstock in these small, farm-level nurseries, as well as grafting onto chupons (suckers at base of older trees) or onto seedlings in existing cacao parcels, has been the main activity during 2020.

During the periods of lockdown, curfews and limits to movement in 2020, the project field coordinator distributed seed of annual crops and vegetables.

Rather than working in groups, the project strategy has evolved into working one-to-one, which has resulted being more appropriate for this emergency period, though inadequate for the need. During 2020 the more delicate and careful work was done individually, between extensionist and farmers. There seems to have been more effective learning and more success with the grafting and budding efforts. This may have turned out much better than working in large groups.

Implications of Covid-19: Covid-19 pandemic greatly affected the project. Working in groups was no longer possible during 2020. The activities in the field were carried out one to one, or in isolation, without contact to the farmer. Three of the five extensionists were infected by the Covid-19 virus at different times and were affected in their ability to work effectively. As overall

project activities and interventions were limited and slowed down in 2020, the project will be extended by one year.

Outlook: The actual production of Biofertilizers will transfer down to the community level. The project field team will be training the community groups in the production, maintenance and application of the biofertilizers. Grafting and budding cacao with all participants will continue, also including grafting and budding of citrus and other perennial fruit trees.



Climate resilient cocoa landscapes in Madagascar

Country/region

Madagascar

Project Partners

Helvetas,
Lindt & Sprüngli,
Valrhona,
Millot,
CDE University of Bern,
Earthworm Foundation

Duration

2020-2022

Budget

CHF 582'000

SECO contribution

CHF 300'000

Scope



Objectives: Cross-sectoral and multi stakeholder processes will facilitate stakeholders from public, private and community entities to sustainably manage the cocoa landscapes of the Sambirano valley in North-Western Madagascar, contributing to securing environmental services, to resilient livelihoods of the local population and to sustainable production and cocoa sourcing systems.

Project Status: Cette première année de mise en œuvre de ce projet pilote a permis de mobiliser l'ensemble des acteurs intervenants (secteur publique, secteur privé, les producteurs, les ONG, les projets, les gestionnaires d'AP, les COBA, la société civile) dans le bassin versant du Sambirano. Un processus participatif et «bottom-up» incluant une cascade d'ateliers du niveau communale jusqu'au niveau du paysage a permis d'identifier les groupes d'intérêts et de prioriser les thèmes préoccupants comme p.ex. la destruction des forêts et le changement climatique. Un comité Ad Hoc représentant les différents types d'acteurs et groupes d'intérêts à été crée au niveau paysage pour élaborer les termes de référence pour l'institution de gouvernance du paysage, le Comité de Gestion du Bassin Versant, qui sera opérationnel en 2021.

Pour rendre le processus de mobilisation des acteurs inclusive et effective, le projet se sert d'une approche innovatrice, appelé l'apprentissage social. L'approche implique d'apprendre les uns des autres dans un cadre participatif pour permettre de combiner différents types de savoir de différents types de parties prenantes (Folke et al. 2005). Les objectifs du suivi de l'apprentissage social sont donc de comprendre le processus de ces ateliers, faire des recommandations pour encourager l'apprentissage durant ces ateliers et de comprendre leurs aboutissements. Cet axe d'intervention est guidé par le Centre de Développement et d'Environnement (CDE) et consiste à former et accompagner les facilitateurs locaux de Helvetas qui appliquent la méthode durant les ateliers avec les acteurs.

Des études d'analyse du paysage et du contexte ont été menés avec le but de créer une base scientifique pour ensuite planifier les interventions de façon adaptée et ciblée. L'analyse paysage, mené par Earthworm Foundation, s'est passée à travers l'interprétation d'images satellitaires couvrant le bassin de Sambirano et des sorties terrain de validation qui mettront ainsi un accent sur les dynamiques socio-économiques. Un des résultats attendus de l'analyse paysage est de connaître les zones prioritaires dont les High Conservation Value/High Carbon Stock qui seront au centre des futurs interventions. L'analyse montrent un paysage relativement dégradé avec une couverture forestière de 55.67% qui se trouve majoritairement situées dans les aires protégées, notamment le parc national de Tsaratanana, la réserve forestière de Manogarivo et la forêt communautaire de Galoko. Ces résultats



préliminaires placent le bassin de Sambirano dans la catégorie de Zone de couverture forestière moyenne.

Une collaboration a pu être établie avec Tetrattech qui mène des études sur la tenure foncière dans la vallée du Sambirano dans le cadre du programme dénommé « Integrated Land Resource Gouvernance », financé par USAID. Cela s'est concrétisé par une analyse des problèmes fonciers et de migration dans la zone du Sambirano en général et dans deux communes en particulier. L'étude montrent une grande complexité dans les statuts des terrains et l'existence de conflits autour du régime foncier et elle révèle ainsi que la capacité des institutions responsables est limitée pour répondre à cette situation. Cet axe de travail du foncier va non seulement aider la prise de décision sur les zones d'interventions prioritaires mais également engendrer des débats au sein de la structure de concertation du bassin versant sur l'influence de la situation foncière sur la gestion durable des ressources naturelles et plus particulièrement des zones HCS/HCV.

Implications of Covid-19: Le début du projet (mars 2020) coïncide presque avec le début de la pandémie du Covid-19 à Madagascar. Une gamme de mesures ont ensuite été pris par le gouvernement y inclus la fermeture des frontières aériennes, des limitations de circulations interne ou encore la limitation des réunions.

Ces mesures ont beaucoup affecté la réalisation des activités planifiées. En effet, l'essence du projet repose sur des réunions d'acteurs, des déplacements pour l'organisation des consultations et l'analyse du paysage. Tandis que les réunions au niveau locales ont pu avoir lieu, seul 1 atelier multi acteur a pu être tenue ce qui a engendré un retard dans la mise en place du comité de bassin versant. Les sorties terrains pour l'analyse du paysage ainsi que les missions de backstopping des experts basés en Suisse n'ont pas pu avoir lieu. Ces échanges ont été remplacés par des réunions virtuelles. Aussi le marché du cacao (et des autres produits agricoles) a été affecté par la crise Covid avec des conséquences négatives sur les conditions de vie de la population.

Outlook: L'année 2021 serait celle de la mise en place effective du comité de gestion du bassin versant du Sambirano, structure qui va rendre opérationnel un mécanisme de gouvernance du bassin versant. L'analyse du paysage se poursuivra et permettra d'initier un processus d'élaboration d'un plan occupation du sol qui définira les zones HCS et HCV ainsi que les zones à risque. Ce plan sera présenté au comité de gestion du bassin versant afin d'être validé. Sur cette base, des projets prioritaires porteront sur des actions à mener urgemment dans les zones à risques.

La recherche de nouveaux partenaires du secteur privé et des bailleurs de fonds intéressés de s'engager pour une gestion durable du paysage du Sambirano et de ces « hot spots » environnementaux sera intensifiée.



Landscape approach to reduce deforestation and increase farmer income in the cocoa supply chain

Objectives: The project combines innovations to test interventions which can contribute to achieving corporate zero-deforestation commitments and improving incomes of farmers. The main interventions combine agroforestry, reforestation and forest conservation with payment for environmental services (PES) and the carbon insetting activities.

Project Status: Community penetration and engagement proved to be a key to successful onboarding of project participants. Community sensitisation activities and farmer sign up rate were high. We explain this by the introduction of PES scheme which attracted more farmers and made agroforestry popular. The main challenge was supplying quality planting material. It was mostly the lack of experience of the nursery management teams that explains the objective reached at 85%. More precisely the poor appreciation of the quality of the seeds and the poor control of the pregermination of the seeds. Poor quality seed material and/or a lack of adequate water supply resulted in losses of seedlings in the nursery. Therefore the project will again concentrate on improving technical capacity and infrastructure to deliver improved planting material.

Implications of Covid-19: Covid restrictions had a considerable impact on the project execution. Number of employees working in nurseries was limited and a shift system was adopted. Project participants were provided with protective material, group meetings were limited to ten individuals. While the measures slowed down operations, they did not negatively impact the project objectives and overall achievement.

Outlook: All three modalities are scheduled for implementation in the second year of project implementation (agroforestry, reforestation and forest conservation). It is planned to introduce a specific tree registration program for trees planted in the project cocoa farms. For the specific case of forests conserved in rural areas, it is planned to prepare rural forest management plans for the approximately 30ha of forests identified within the project to ensure their long term management and protection. Specific focus will be on effective monitoring, verification and reporting of the project results (survival rate, PES adoption and perception etc. Regarding the involvement of the administrative authorities, the activities will continue with the Ministry of Forestry and Water (MINEF) in raising awareness on the new forest code and its decrees enforcing the new rules around rural forest management plan and tree ownership questions.

Country/region

Cote d'Ivoire

Project Partners

Barry Callebaut,
Mondelez,
Impactum,
Earthworm

Duration

2019 - 2022

Budget

CHF 781'000

Seco contribution

CHF 300'000

Scope



The green Nawa initiative – an integrated landscape approach

Country/region

Cote d'Ivoire

Project Partners

Agroforce Commodities,
FarmStrong Foundation

Duration

2020-2022

Budget

CHF 764'000

SECO contribution

CHF 300'000

Scope



Objective: Introduction of an integrated profitable farming system in a regional landscape model in the Nawa region. The multifaceted program, built upon a traceable and mapped sourcing system, uses numerous innovations and considerable synergies to enhance the positive impact on cocoa farming families and their eco-system. The expected result of the landscape approach will be a systemic change towards a sustainable diversified mixture of conservation forest, production forest, a profitable, integrated agriculture production systems, including cocoa, food crops (for food security & sovereignty) and horticulture (nutritional security), consumer market development, but also space for recreation, housing, and infrastructure.

Project status: The project is moving forward at a steady pace despite a delayed start and lower momentum than initially anticipated. However, despite the slower rate, the traction and results obtained are significantly above expectations. Especially the personal engagement we have enjoyed from the local and regional authorities is way above expectation. The cooperation and participation of the traditional leaders and the people of the communities are extremely positive. We should have started this project 5 years ago to set a solid example of how things can be pulled into the right direction if everybody understands where we are heading for, with full focus on the target group.

Implications of Covid-19: Covid had a big impact about mid-way 2020 when a confinement was imposed, and all movements and activities were literally ground to a standstill. Once the confinement was ended, it took a long time before some of the momentum was regained. Despite the lower visible impact of the pandemic in the area of operation, we are still not back on the desired cruising speed.

Outlook: The outlook is very positive regarding participation of people in the communities, the local authorities, and organisations but even more so regarding the positive impact for our target group. The thematic approach and aiming for net revenue improvements with diversification whilst protecting and restoring the damage done to the environment is proving to be a good concept with a high acceptance and adoption rates.



Sustainable cocoa sourcing landscapes in Peru

Objectives: Sustainably managed landscapes contribute to improved competitiveness, climate-resilient cocoa production systems and livelihoods of the local population.

Project Status: The main results are listed below, followed by the learnings.

- ✧ **Landscapes rapid assessment:** Technical documents were generated to define the intervention area of the project, obtaining the selection of the jurisdictional landscapes of the provinces of Mariscal Cáceres and Tocache. The Study *Selection of the two landscapes for implementation of the project "Sustainable Landscapes Cacao Peru"* consists of an "Evaluation of Natural Resources" by Earthworm Foundation, "Preparation of the Potential Report and viability for ecosystem services", by South Pole, and a "Rapid Evaluation of Needs and Opportunities of Protected Areas", by the technical team of the project (Helvetas).
- ✧ **Stakeholder identification:** Stakeholder analysis (documentary study and bilateral meetings with the regional government of San Martín, local governments, and stakeholders), mapping and management by selected landscape was carried out. Stakeholder maps are available for the Mariscal Cáceres and Tocache landscapes (project milestone).
- ✧ Review of existing data for the landscape area and interviews with key stakeholders: Information is available on regional policies and studies related to land planning, land use systems, interrelationships between different types of land use and land use changes.
- ✧ **Rural dynamics diagnosis:** This study provides relevant information about agricultural and socio-economic practices (in cacao), the value of environmental, forests, and ecosystem services on the farm, the presence of local flora and fauna, the state of the soil, and important information for future decisions on sustainability based on the participation of 41 cocoa farmers linked to the ECOM and Choba Choba value chains, located in Tocache and Huayabamba.
- ✧ **Assessment of social aspects in the landscapes:** The results show socio-economic aspects such as the origin and age of the cocoa farmers, the level of education in the families, their perceptions of agriculture, the participation of women and children, access to basic services and health centers, housing characteristics, access and available transportation. For its implementation, 41 cocoa farmers linked to the ECOM and Choba Choba chain, located in Tocache and Huayabamba, participated in the application of survey forms and the development of Focus Groups and secondary sources were consulted.

Country/region

Peru (San Martin)

Project Partners

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation,
Choba Choba,
ECOM,
Earthworm Foundation,
FiBL,
Max Havelaar,
South Pole,
Rabobank Foundation,
Regional Government of San Martin

Duration

2020 - 2022

Budget

CHF 2'621'000

SECO contribution

CHF 1'200'000

Scope



Learnings:

- ✧ Flexibility to adapt to changes, to resize activities, and to seek new courses of action.
- ✧ Manage the complexity, technical and financial, alignment between the different components of the project, and of the 7 partners in charge of the components, using technology (virtual meetings, information repositories - SharePoint, defined communication channels).
- ✧ This project with 8 partners requires a very high level of communication and planning with clear rules, in this sense we prepared the Operational Manual.
- ✧ From the beginning it would be necessary to know precisely what the commitments are agreed with each one regarding their participation and financing to organize the execution of the activities, for this purpose Action Plans have been developed for each activity.
- ✧ This innovative project requires a high component of capacity building of authorities and public officials, for the necessary involvement of local governments. To this end, the regional sustainable landscapes roundtable has been established and local coordination spaces are in the process of being implemented.

Implications of Covid-19: Important aspects for the development of activities considering the risk of Covid-19 infection in the development of project activities:

- ✧ Preparation and implementation of the Plan for surveillance, prevention, and control of Covid-19 before starting activities at the project office in Tarapoto.
- ✧ Development of field work following the Covid-19 plan. All measures, including negative serological tests taken prior to the field trips.
- ✧ Distribution of masks and hand disinfection to participants during the field work with farmers.
- ✧ Face-to-face meetings with a minimum number of participants (approx. 08 people per working group), maintaining social distancing, in open places and of limited duration.
- ✧ Implementation of the home office
- ✧ Virtual meetings only with project partners.
- ✧ Suspension of field work when the risk of contagion increases.

Outlook: The assessment phase will be concluded in the first semester of 2021, having finished the scoping phase and part of the second component "Landscape assessment". These inputs are of great importance for both levels of the intervention. On the landscape level the governance mechanism will be organized for planning and later also monitoring of the landscape. At the same time financing options and ecosystem/climate finance options will be explored and prepared for implementation. At the farm level, technological packages for climate smart agriculture, market access and certification will be elaborated. Those are the third and fourth components of the project for which we perceive a good climate in the landscapes, despite the unfortunate limitations due to the pandemic.



Columbian Specialty cocoa for the Swiss sustainable market

Country/region

Colombia

Project Partners

Swisscontact,
Colcocoa,
Pakka,
Solidaridad,
EOS,
Felchlin

Duration

2020-2022

Budget

CHF 1'479'000

SECO contribution

CHF 800'000

Scope



Objectives: Consolidate and leverage viable and innovative business models for the supply of Colombian specialty cocoa to the Swiss market, fulfilling required sustainability and quality requirements within a framework of better conditions for small producers and their families, by guaranteeing transparency along the value chain and by avoiding deforestation.

Project Status: The project has started with:

- ✧ Activities to support smallholders in complying with requirements of the sustainable cocoa market to develop more beneficial supply chains:

Colcocoa has identified 192 new producers in Antioquia and started to integrate them into their supply chain by familiarizing them with sustainable production practices and their Echar Pa'lante certification. The producers were sensitized on safe handling of pesticides, good farm management and productivity. With the support from the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa, Pakka optimized cocoa harvesting and quality control processes with two producer's organization in Huila and Tolima. 92 producers have received organic certifications (BioSuisse, EU, NOP), of which 30 are new producers. Swisscontact has started supporting 150 producers in Tumaco to improve productivity and quality to increase the supply of specialty cocoa to Felchlin. We also identified producer organizations in different regions with great potential to consolidate the supply of sustainable Colombian cocoa to Switzerland.

- ✧ Development of costs-effective extension service models and technical assistance programs to support producers in applying good agricultural practices for sustainable cocoa production:

Cocoa producers in Antioquia received technical assistance and training in nutritional needs and quality assurance in farms. Educational contents have been developed by Solidaridad for Agro learning modules in pruning and quality assessment. In Huila and Tolima, Pakka has evaluated and priced local organic fertilizers and is analyzing existing agroforestry systems to identify improvement opportunities. EOS Entrepreneurs Foundation started strengthening women in the cocoa value chain. They initiated training of women's groups on social and technical issues and identified collection center leaders/managers.

- ✧ Development of financial products and solutions for credit management, based on farm diagnostics, and required levels of investments for upgrading and certification:

A survey with 180 producers was conducted to establish their credit profile and identifying financial needs.

✧ The creation of a robust knowledge management system for sustainable Cocoa in Colombia:

Swisscontact has developed tools and initiatives to share information about the Colombian cocoa sector and its producer organization. They started the Sustainable and Inclusive Cocoa Initiative to exchange experience, knowledge, and technical expertise among partners.

Implications of Covid-19: Covid-19 has delayed the start of the project in some intervention areas, as it was difficult to visit producers' organizations. At the beginning there were also some security concerns due to the resurgence of armed groups in remote areas. Luckily, both Colcocoa and Pakka already had established relations with producer organizations to start initial activities, while adapting to the new biosecurity protocols.

Outlook: Colcocoa and Solidaridad are looking to expand to other municipalities to complete the group of 250 producers and to expand their supply chain by integrating other producers in their activities. In Huila and Tolima, Pakka is extending the activities within the association and to new associations in 2021. The high cadmium content in some farms remains a major obstacle for Swiss and European markets. We are carrying out detailed cadmium analyses on farms and help to formulate market strategies with producer organizations.



Fair and sustainable chocolate through complete transparency

Objectives: The main purpose of this project is the development and implementation of an open-source software solution to collect, process and transparently visualize immutable data along supply chains. The software will enable businesses and other stakeholders within the chocolate industry and beyond to assume responsibility for the sustainability of their value chain. Through easily adaptable modules it has the potential to counteract poverty and deforestation in the cocoa sector. At the end of this first, co-financed phase, the software will have been implemented and evaluated in various settings and will be made available for free download and usage on a source code management.

Project Status: As the main objective of this project is the development of a software, the most important step was to find and engage a team of experts with a profound understanding of software, hardware and data science in order to lay the foundation for a software solution which is sustainable in a technical sense. Furthermore, the project leaders aimed to find a partner that does not only work as a service contractor but understands the project's vision and is open for a long-term partnership for the sake of a common goal. The Institute for Applied Informatics (InfAI) at the University of Leipzig turned out to be a perfect fit to partner with.

Together, the team worked out a technical concept which is the solid base of an efficient software solution and already includes more features and capabilities than originally planned for this phase. The new partnership with InfAI enabled solid research ahead of programming, and an additional testing of blockchain technology. This led to the implementation of one core aspect of blockchains – cryptographically signed data blocks – and the omission of others which would have resulted in unnecessary overhead, energy consumption and higher running costs. The foundation has been laid for applying the software to any raw material, highly diverse supply chains, as well as connecting supply chains from different software users (cross connecting separate instances and supply chains). And lastly, for the sustainability of this project and to ensure the further development beyond the current funding phase the SusChain initiative was founded.

Country/region

Ghana, Peru, Uganda

Project Partners

SCHÖKI AG,
Max Felchlin AG,
Chocolate Bernrain AG,
Gourmet Gardens,
FiBL,
Friedel Hütz-Adams from
Südwind Institut

Duration

2020 - 2024

Budget

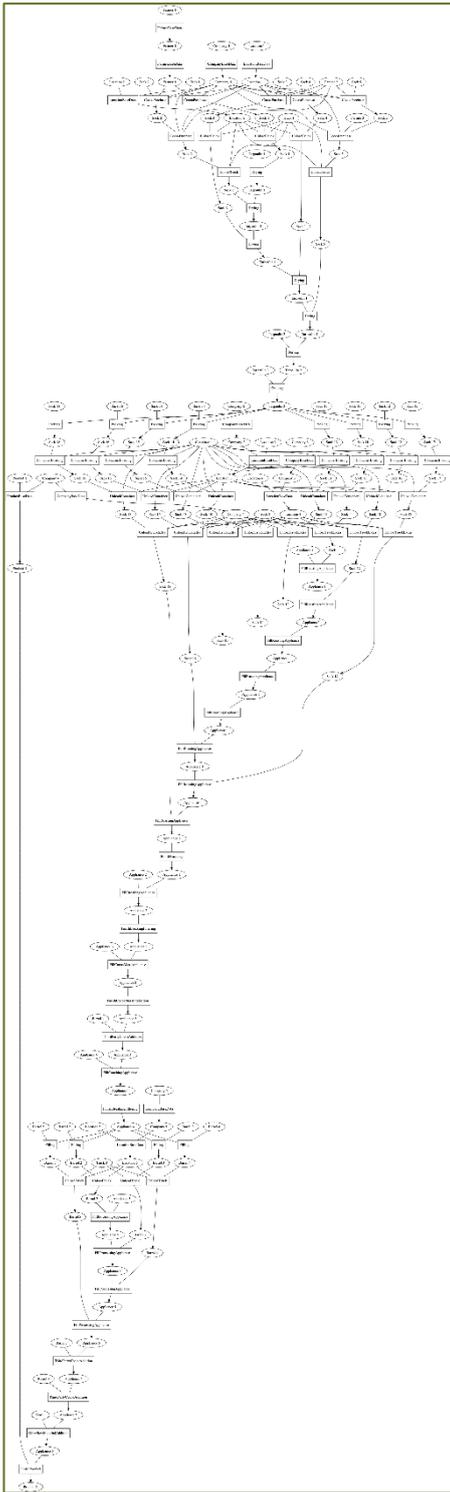
CHF 516'000

SECO contribution

CHF 250'000

Scope





Implications of Covid-19: The start of the project coincided with the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in a substantial delay of project activities in 2020. National and international lock-down measures forced an adjustment of the initial working plan. For example, the planned kick-off meeting in Uganda was called off. Meetings were held online only, which was particularly challenging in the context of finding and securing the final team of programming experts. Putting together a highly competent team in this field via virtual meetings only was challenging, but finally turned out well. Through regular meetings which allow close collaboration among the various contributors, the project team has implemented a very productive working atmosphere so that the initial project delay was halted.

For now, it is unforeseeable how the ongoing pandemic will continue to affect the working plan, as many aspects depend on the situation in the partner countries. Uganda was able to curb the first wave of infections in 2020; however, currently the country seems to be experiencing a second “wave”, which could have direct implications on the planned testing activities. The leaders of this project have started working on possible fallback strategies should they be needed, so that the overall outcome of this project is so far unthreatened by the further course of the pandemic.

Outlook: The coming months will be used mainly for software development. Furthermore, there will be an additional focus on the creation of a comprehensive on-site testing strategy as well as off-site, should travel restrictions continue. The engagement of local partners at this stage will be needed to create a schema on their part of the supply chain and to integrate them into the software and testing scenario. On-site workshops and a strategy for on-site implementation will be prepared.

In order to secure further funding and partnerships, activities around the newly founded SusChain Initiative will be expanded, thereby making this project sustainable.

Innovative approach to organic cocoa farming in Togo

Country/region

Togo

Project Partners

Gebana

Duration

2020-2022

Budget

CHF 590'000

SECO contribution

CHF 330'000

Scope



Objectives: This project is aiming at bringing innovative approaches on three levels into small holder organic cocoa farming in Togo:

- ✧ Digitalization of farmer data and payments will reduce risks and farmers can benefit from better customized trainings as well as transparent price mechanisms.
- ✧ Innovative agriculture: the focus on agroforestry and climate smart agriculture leads to more resilience and diversified income opportunities.
- ✧ Financial models: all farmers will receive a 10% share of the turnover from their processed product sold online by gebana. A harvest fund financed through crowdfunding will also be piloted in this project.

Project status:

Digitalization: A smartphone application has successfully been adapted and introduced. It is used as a daily working tool by the field agents and increases the quality of service to the farmer. Purchases can be registered directly and the link to mobile payment service providers is currently being developed.

Agroforestry and climate smart agriculture: An agroforestry specialist has introduced the approach to gebana and the farmers through practical work in the field as well as theoretical background. Big interest has been generated which lays the ground stone for the next steps.

10% of turnover on Togo chocolate in the gebana web shop has been shared with the farmers. 499 farmers have directly received 21'627 CHF in cash or through mobile payment (23%) from gebana.

Implications of Covid-19: Covid-19 has restricted mobility in Togo which made it challenging for the field staff to move between the villages for advisory service, certification related activities and purchase. The visit of the external agroforestry specialist has therefore only happened recently instead of at the beginning of the project.

Outlook:

Digitalization: The link to mobile payment service providers will be finalized and purchases will be paid directly through the app via mobile payment. This will give full and instant traceability and transparency.

Agroforestry and climate smart agriculture: The next practical steps in the fields including the set up of demonstration plots will be defined together with the specialist. An exchange visit to another project is planned to encourage the farmers to adhere to the new techniques.

Harvest Fund: Ideas on the harvest fund including the crowdfunding will be developed and tested.

