

BEHIND THE WRAPPER:

Greenwashing in the Chocolate Industry

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MIGHTY EARTH





Discovery of an illegal cocoa crop in the Cavally classified Forest, with park ranger

CHOCOLATE GREENWASHING *(continued)*

and that big companies as well as the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana hold responsibility for this continued – but avoidable – destruction. We discovered many new deforestation 'hotspots'. Indeed, in Côte d'Ivoire's Southwest cocoa heartland alone, deforestation in 2018 so far is 13,748 ha, equivalent to 15,000 football fields, not much less than the 21,000 football fields recorded in 2017, or the 13,000 football fields of forest lost in 2016.

While some companies and local authorities have taken actions to limit deforestation, and some areas saw improvements, we nonetheless documented that farmers who engaged in deforestation for cocoa were still able to openly sell their cocoa without repercussions. Farmers we caught openly clearing forest for cocoa told us that they did not face sanctions, discontinued supply chains, or even warnings from the buyers in Cargill's and other companies' supply chains.



The Ivorian and Ghanaian governments have clearly failed to clamp down on this ongoing deforestation, and the industry, despite public commitments, continued to buy cocoa from suppliers connected to deforestation.

The cocoa industry and the governments must immediately address the unacceptable discrepancy between their commitments and their implementation. Industry and governments should expedite serious joint monitoring alongside civil society efforts, and they must do so before the next deforestation "danger season." That danger season is when deforestation peaks every year, and it runs from January to April. It is right around the corner. We need action now.

CHOCOLATE GREENWASHING

Will the cocoa industry and producer countries live up to their promises to save forests?

One year ago, the world's largest chocolate and cocoa companies stood beside representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the two largest cocoa-producing countries, and committed to transform their industry by ending deforestation linked to the production of cocoa, and to protect human rights.

The commitment was urgently needed. As Mighty Earth first chronicled in our exposé *Chocolate's Dark Secret*, (<http://www.mightyearth.org/chocolatesdarksecret/>), Côte d'Ivoire has lost approximately 90 percent of its forests since independence, driving species like forest elephants and chimpanzees to the brink of extinction; deforestation for cocoa in Ghana has been so extensive that the country could lose all of its forests outside of protected areas. In Côte d'Ivoire, big chocolate brands like Ferrero Rocher, Mars, and Cadbury were buying from irresponsible traders like Cargill that sourced up to 40 percent of the nation's cocoa

from inside national parks and protected areas. Cocoa workers averaged incomes of less than one dollar per day. And much of the cocoa was grown in monocultures without shade and with lots of pesticides, aggravating already severe environmental problems.

The chocolate industry's November 2017 declaration promised a more sustainable future, so that chocolate lovers could finally enjoy their guilty pleasure without a guilty conscience. At the time, Mighty Earth praised the companies and country commitments as among the best of any private sector initiative aimed at protecting the environment. In the lead-up to the one year anniversary, we've deployed a combination of satellites, drones, and on-the-ground field teams to check up on how (and whether) these commitments are being implemented.

Unfortunately, we found that despite the promises made by industry and government, forest destruction in West Africa for cocoa has continued,

GOOD NEWS: COCOA PRODUCTION IS SHIFTING TOWARDS DEFORESTATION-FREE MODELS

Since November 2017, most major chocolate manufacturers and cocoa traders committed to zero deforestation in West Africa in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI) "Frameworks". Throughout 2018, over thirty CFI corporate signatories have been developing their individual CFI action plans laying out their company's actions and investments, to fulfill their Framework Commitments. They will publish their action plans by February 2019.

Courageous companies have even extended their commitments worldwide. Today more than half of the cocoa traded and the chocolate manufactured in the world is covered by global deforestation-free commitments. Despite the foot-dragging of laggards like Cadbury, SucDen, and Touton, progressive

companies like Lindt, Hershey's, Nestle, and Barry Callebaut have global deforestation-free policies for all their cocoa. At the time of writing, some of the world's largest chocolate companies like Mars and Ferrero Rocher say they are in the midst of drafting global deforestation-free policies for all their cocoa – though they have not yet done so.

Numerous companies including Hershey's and Ecom are piloting tree tenure projects to incentivize farmers to plant trees in Ghana. Even more encouragingly, a steady stream of companies such as Lindt, Cemoi, Godiva, and Hershey's have committed to joining the ranks of best-in-class companies like Halba by switching all of their cocoa supply from

(continued on next page)



GOOD NEWS: COCOA PRODUCTION IS SHIFTING TOWARDS DEFORESTATION-FREE MODELS *(continued)*

destructive full-sun monoculture plantations to eco-friendly shade-grown cocoa, though Cadbury and a few others still refuse to change. Full-sun cocoa prevents the growth of other species, and creates a biodiversity wasteland – a food desert for birds, bats, bees, and other living things. In contrast, densely shaded agroforestry retains important benefits of a natural forest.

For the first time, supermarket chains like Tesco, Marks & Spencer, and Sainsbury have started forming an industry-wide supermarket initiative committed to do their part to end deforestation in the chocolate supply chain, as well as tackle broader sustainability and human rights issues. Since retailers benefit from a large share of the profits in the cocoa supply chain, it is encouraging to see them finally engage and take responsibility in addressing major problems bedeviling the industry.

Industry reforms were met by governmental improvements too: in one year, the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana have made major strides. Through the multi-stakeholder governance structures led by the Minister Land and Natural Resources (MLNR Ghana) and MINEF (Côte d'Ivoire), both governments developed and

approved their CFI National Implementation Plans in June/July 2018, which spell out the key actions to tackle deforestation. The Ivorian MINEF is in the process of finalizing a new Forest Code and guidelines which will promote cocoa agroforestry for environmental and farmer benefits. The government of Ghana is also developing technical recommendations to promote cocoa agroforestry.

Cocoa producing countries outside of West Africa have also reacted positively to reforms in the industry. This summer, Colombia became the first Latin American nation to embrace a national deforestation-free cocoa plan in its own Framework for Action. Governments, civil society, and businesses in Brazil, Belize, Bolivia, Cameroon, and Liberia have begun discussions about creating similar systems for their nations as well. This lays the foundations for more robust protection of the global frontier.

Chocolate consumers are stepping up too. In the European Union, parliamentarians and civil society have begun pressing for a mandatory due diligence EU law on cocoa. US Congressman Elliot Engel, a longtime champion of sustainable chocolate, has taken steps to deal with cocoa's environmental and labor challenges.



Fresh cocoa beans harvested by illegal farmers in side Cavally protected area



Men loading beans into bags in a cooperative in Guiglo

GHANA PROGRESS REPORT

To assess the impact of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative, we conducted analysis of remote sensing data across national parks and other protected areas in the cocoa-growing region in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Although our field investigation covered only Côte d'Ivoire, we undertook meetings and some satellite mapping for both countries.

What is striking about our interviews in Ghana is that the whole country, from cocoa farmers to traditional kings to high-level national government officials to civil society, seem united behind the goal of ending deforestation for cocoa and restoring the country's natural resources. The Cocoa and Forests Initiative is a real point of pride.

Ghana has undertaken a number of positive steps like beginning to overhaul its tree tenure law, and committing funds to monitor deforestation for cocoa. In addition, the government-controlled Ghana Cocoa Board (Cocobod) is shifting away from recommending environmentally destructive full-sun monocultures towards more sustainable shade-grown, agroforestry cocoa.

Despite these steps, and the strong national support for conservation and restoration, we found through satellite mapping that deforestation is still continuing in Ghana, seemingly for cocoa. Inside the Tinte Bepo¹, Tonton, and Tano Ofin Forest Reserves, for example, we found new deforestation, which appears to be mostly for cocoa, though not all the recently deforested land has yet been planted. Tano Ofin Extension lost 124 ha of forest, Tinte Bepo lost 23 ha, and Tonton Reserve lost 18 ha.

Because Ghana's cocoa goes through its national Cocobod, cocoa grown on these deforested areas is likely to make its way to major cocoa companies like Produce Buying Company (PBC) and Olam, unless it is immediately restored.

It is clear that despite important progress, and its relatively strong improvements in governance, Ghana must redouble efforts to ensure its protected areas remain protected, stop deforestation outside PAs, and restore large parts of its landscape to forests.

Ghana Forest Reserves Example 1



Tano Ofin Extension



Tano Ofin Extension
November 2017



Tano Ofin Extension
November 2018 = 124 hectares

Deforestation Alerts (in red) in Tano Ofin in Ghana since the chocolate industry said it would immediately end this kind of deforestation.

1. Lists of fauna in this reserve here:

[https://www.fcghana.org/userfiles/files/FSD%20MAN%20PLANS/TINTE%20BEPO%20Forest%20Reserve%20Management%20Plan%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.fcghana.org/userfiles/files/FSD%20MAN%20PLANS/TINTE%20BEPO%20Forest%20Reserve%20Management%20Plan%20(2).pdf)

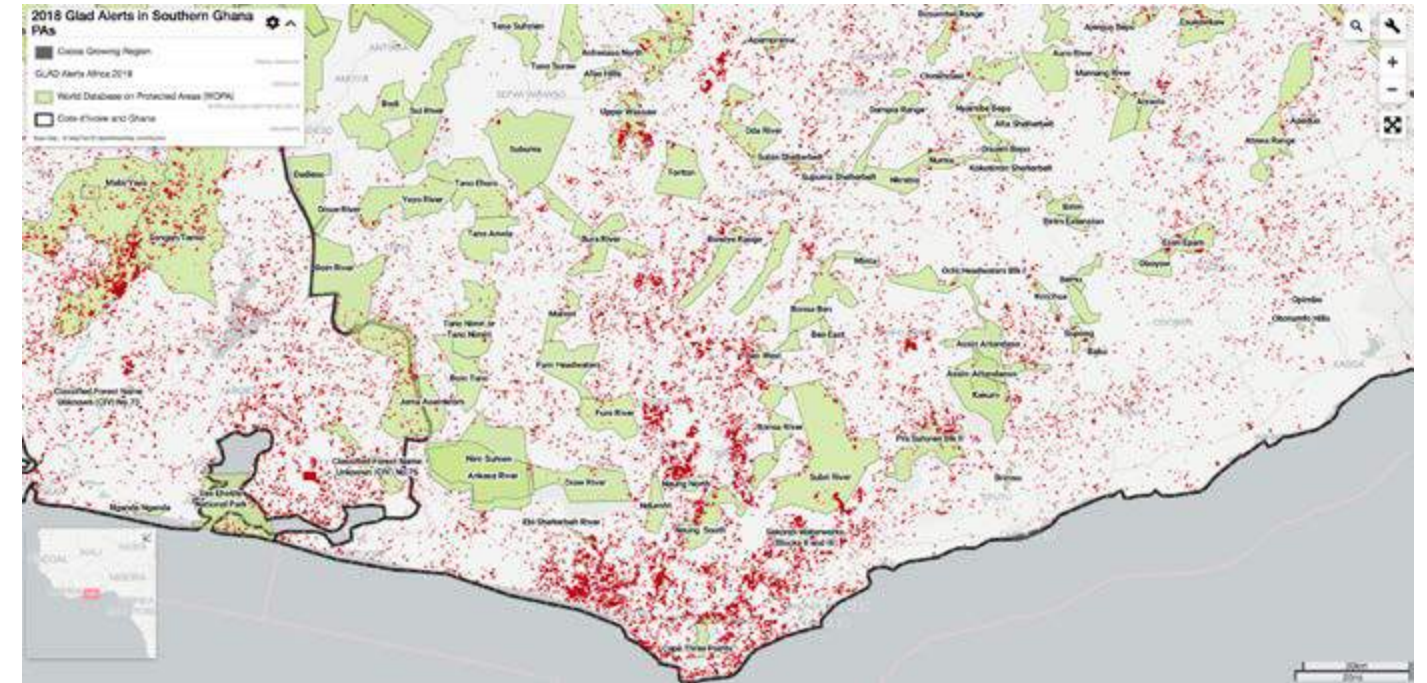


Ghana Forest Reserves Example 2

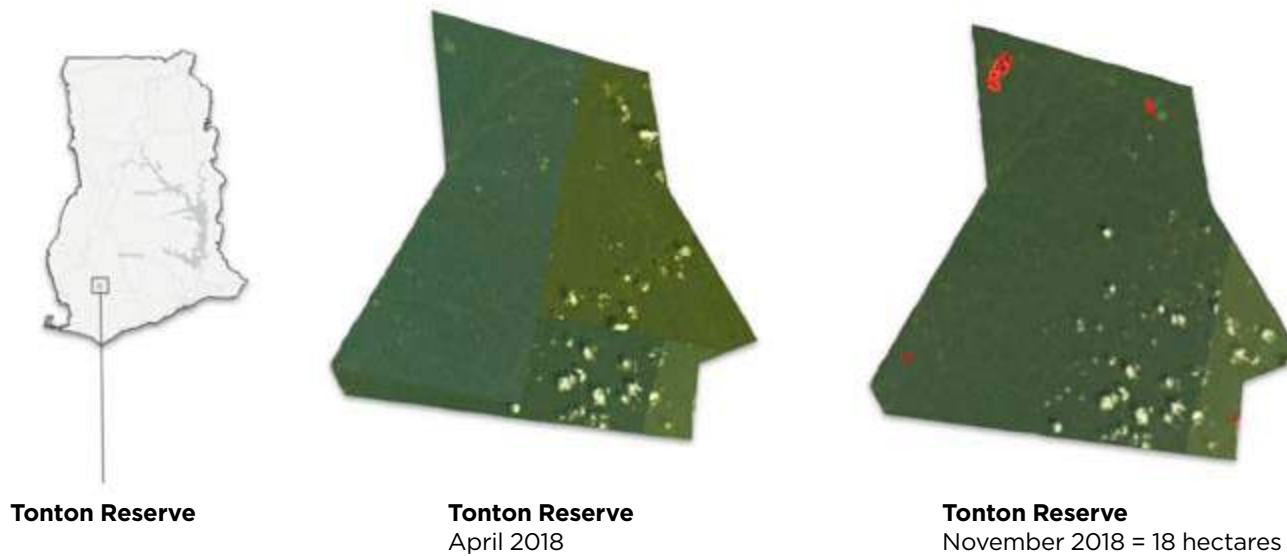


Deforestation alerts (in red) in Tinte Bepo Forest Reserve between February and November, 2018. (cloud cover prevented our satellites from comparing the area all the way back to November 2017)

NEW TREE COVER LOSS IN GHANA'S COCOA REGION IN 2018



Ghana Forest Reserves Example 3



In the Ghanaian Tonton Reserve protected area - November 2017 and November 2018 showing deforestation that appears to be for cocoa.



An ancient tree, felled in a forest facing cocoa encroachment near Akyem Juaso



Another forest giant killed, photographed in the same field visit

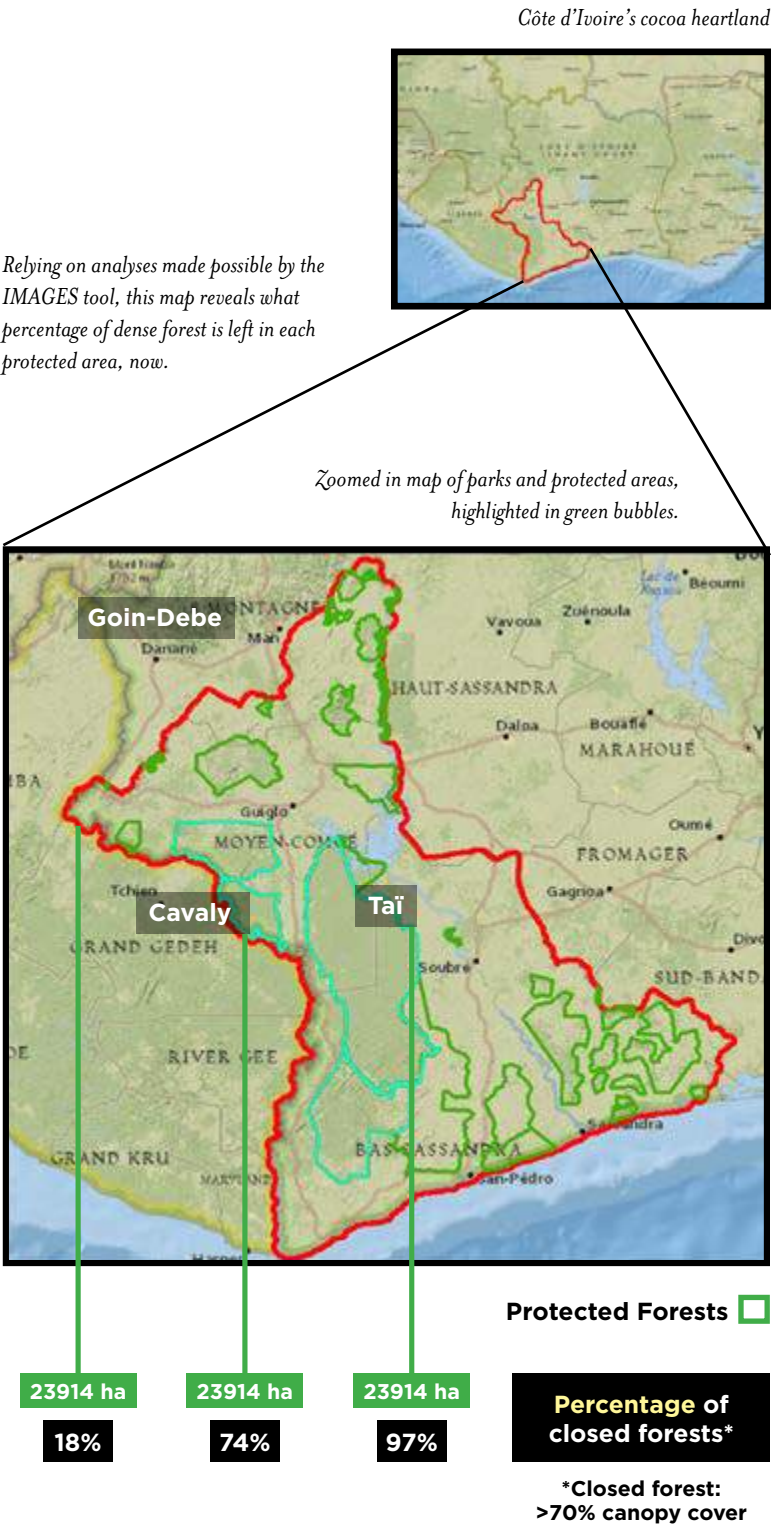


CÔTE D'IVOIRE: MAJOR STEPS, BUT PROMISES NOT KEPT

In Côte d'Ivoire, deforestation for cocoa in national parks, protected areas, and other forests is still at a crisis level – putting the country's last refuges for forest elephants and chimpanzees at risk. The country's natural heritage has been largely destroyed. But the threat to the human population from this deforestation is at least as great. After decades of deforestation, Côte d'Ivoire has so little native forest left that it is at serious risk of a dramatic and rapid reduction in rainfall required to support agriculture and local communities.

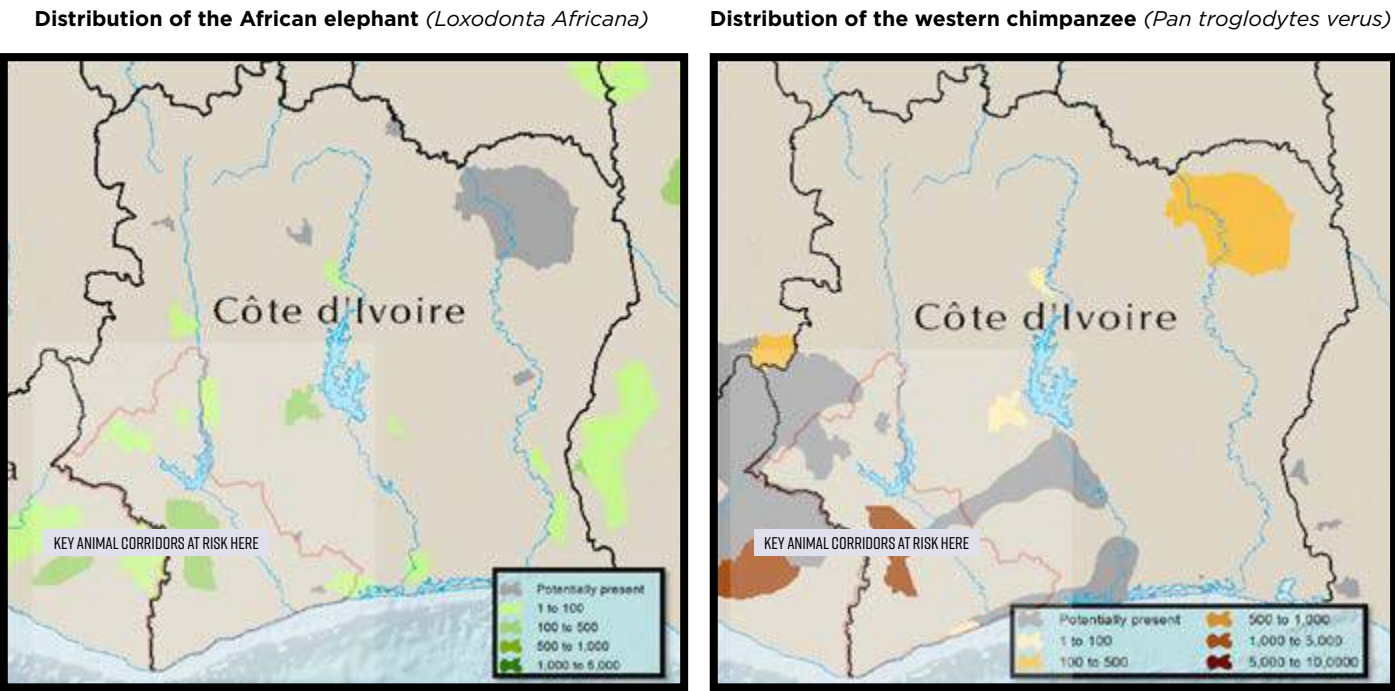
Our satellite analysis of the cocoa-growing Southwest region found serious deforestation ongoing. Between the launch of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative in November 2017 and September 2018, we recorded a total of approximately 13,748 ha hectares of deforestation – just in the Southwest cocoa region alone – including some inside national parks and protected areas. Deforestation in the same region from November 2016 to November 2017 was at 14,827 ha, which means there was almost no tapering off of forest destruction after the Cocoa and Forests Initiative.

Mighty Earth's field team went on the ground to some of the same protected forests we visited for our initial investigation.

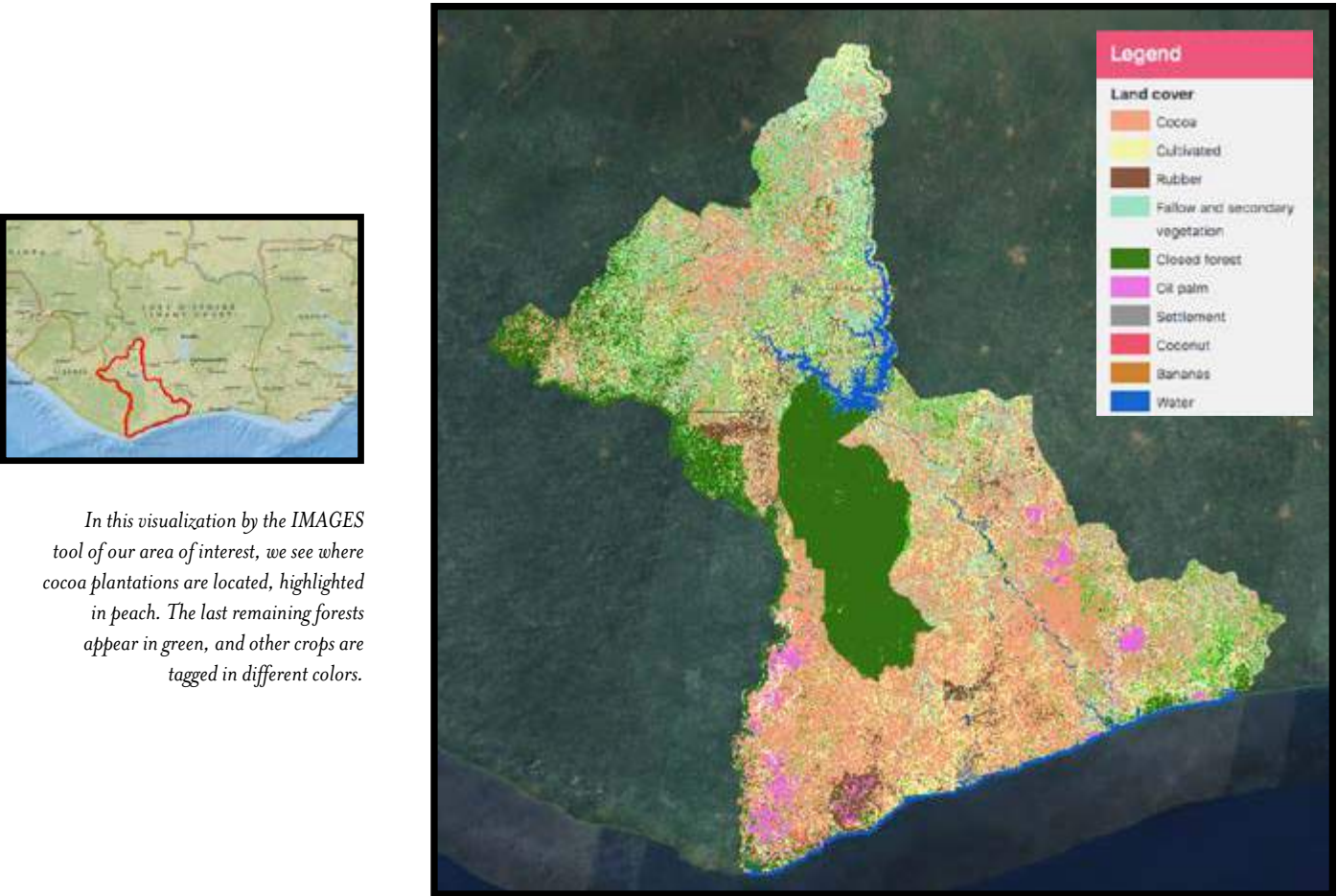


We highlighted in turquoise the specific parks and protected areas where we decided to send our field investigation. These places are crucial for biodiversity, carbon capture/sequestration (which is key to climate change mitigation), and soil erosion prevention. We also visited them in our previous investigation. This is where we really drilled down into what happened since our last report, and all the industry and government promises made at the November 2017 COP in Bonn.

These maps show patches where biodiversity remains – the last precious places we most need to protect. Patches on the left represent elephant habitat, and on the right, chimpanzee habitat.



Source: <https://eros.usgs.gov/westafrika/biodiversity-protected-areas>, World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) (IUCN and UNEP-WCMC, 2016)

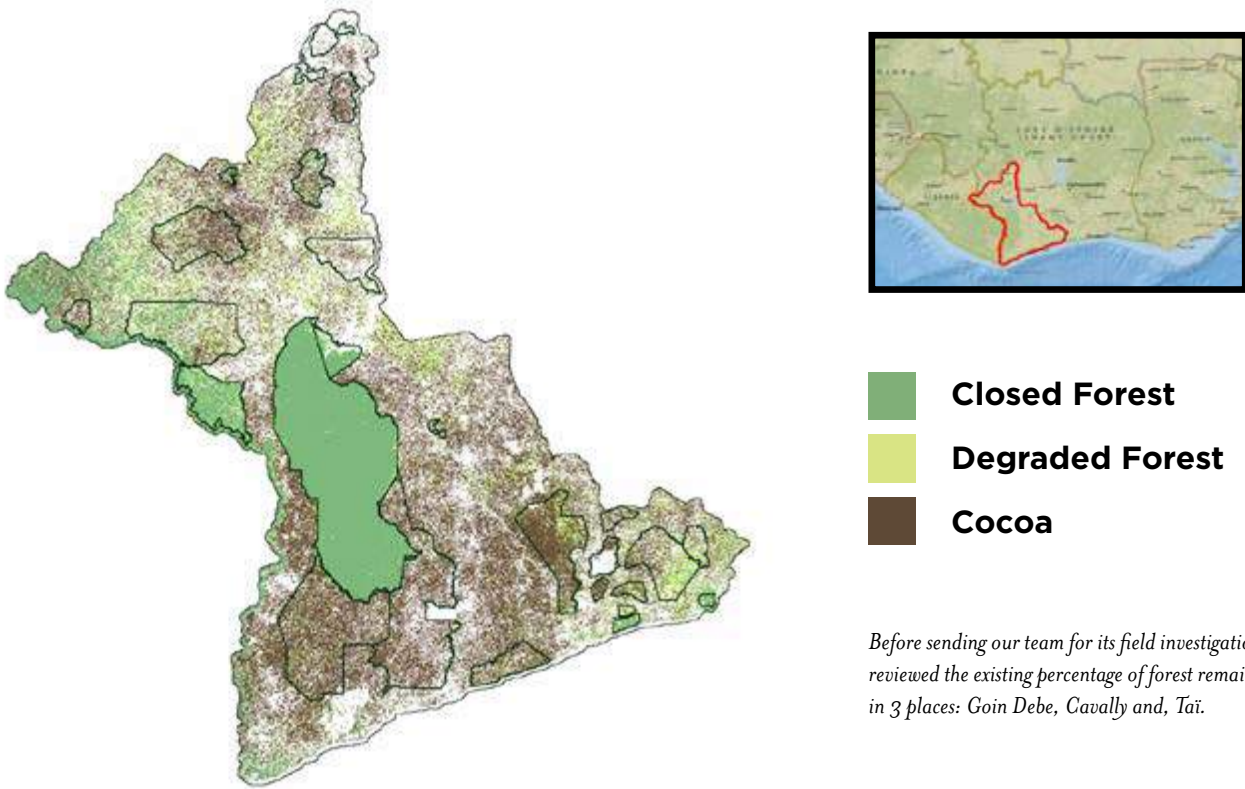


In this visualization by the IMAGES tool of our area of interest, we see where cocoa plantations are located, highlighted in peach. The last remaining forests appear in green, and other crops are tagged in different colors.



COCOA’S PRESSURE ON FORESTS

Here the IMAGES tool shows where cocoa is growing, in 2018, highlighted in brown. The last remaining forests appear in green.



- Closed Forest
- Degraded Forest
- Cocoa

Before sending our team for its field investigation, we reviewed the existing percentage of forest remaining in 3 places: Goin Debe, Cavally and, Taï.

LULC/Forest	GOIN-DEBE		CAVALY		TAI
Cocoa		26.60		3.65	0.87
Forest Closed		18.47		73.52	97.47
Forest Open		20.33		14.90	1.34
Others		34.60		7.93	0.32



Park ranger standing over illegal cocoa found during the field investigation in a protected area

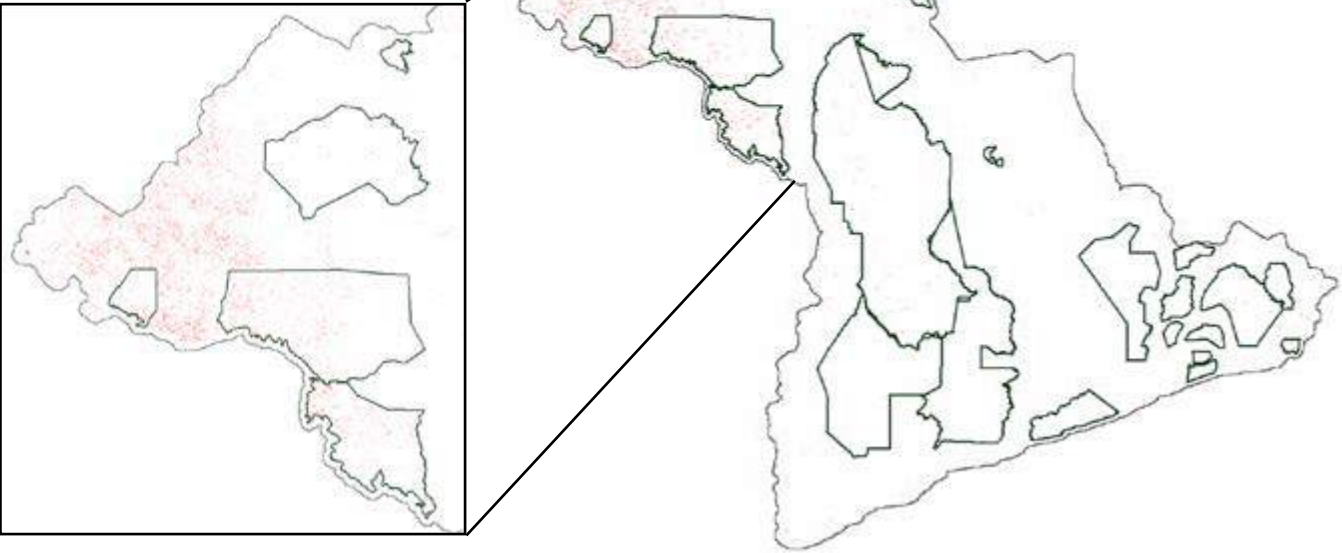


Looking for illegal cocoa with a park ranger

Satellite maps of deforestation from November 2017 (when the industry and government promised to clean up their act) to September 2018 revealed that the worst ongoing deforestation was happening in the far West.

Every red spot on this map signals recent deforestation, 2017-2018.

Early warning system disturbances from Nov 2017 - Sept 2018



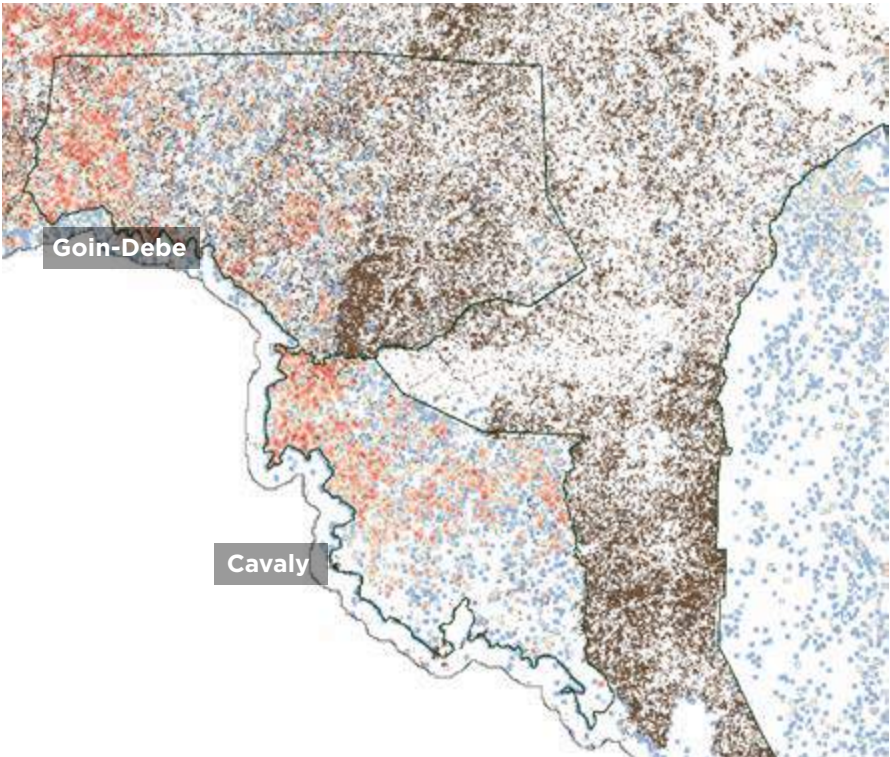
Through this map, we can infer that some positive measures may have been taken by industry and government further East, but it also signals lack of commitment to upholding promises in the West. Another factor explaining why the West is red, is that there are hardly any forests left in the East. Almost all trees there have already been chopped down.

Cocoa (in brown)
Near Deforestation (red)

Zooming even closer in to the satellite maps of deforestation from November 2017 to September 2018, we can layer where the new forest destruction is taking place (red to blue), and where existing cocoa farms are thriving (brown).

We suspected that if new deforestation was taking place right next to – and surrounded by – a sea of cocoa, it was likely going to be for cocoa too.

In October 2018, we sent our team to investigate on the ground.





FIELD INVESTIGATION 1: GOIN DEBÉ ‘CLASSIFIED FOREST’ AND ‘RURAL FORESTS’

In the Goin Debé classified forest, which we visited in our 2017 investigation, not much had changed.

Deforestation for cocoa was continuing, and the local cocoa farmers reported efforts to cut forests, in essence evading the requirements of the Cocoa and Forest Initiative. They reported that families were exchanging land to make room for more cocoa. One forest had been cleared and planted with cocoa just two days before our team arrived – in the same area we had investigated less than a year prior.

South of Bloléquin, we documented about four hectares of recently cleared forest, and cocoa trees likely younger than one year old – in other words, planted since the Cocoa and Forest Initiative was launched. Inside the plantation, in the midst of dense forest, we found even younger cocoa trees planted just in the past several months. Another deforestation

site had cocoa seedlings strewn about the refuse of deforestation: burned and felled tree trunks.

Farther in, our team found a man in the act of clearing the forest with a machete. This farmworker, who worked for a Guéré landowner, explained that he would plant cocoa the next day, and talked about plans to expand even further into the forest. Like so many others interviewed, he had not heard of any new restrictions on deforestation for cocoa.

Deforestation in Goin Debé’s rural forests, overseen by the Ivorian Ministry of Environment, Water Resources & Forests (MINEF) outstripped even the forest destruction in Goin Debé’s Forêt Classée, administered by the Forest Development Corporation (SODEFOR). All farmers interviewed intended to extend their farms further into forests in the next year or so.



An older, illegal cocoa farm in a protected area, still thriving despite industry promises, with cocoa right next to a felled giant ancient tree

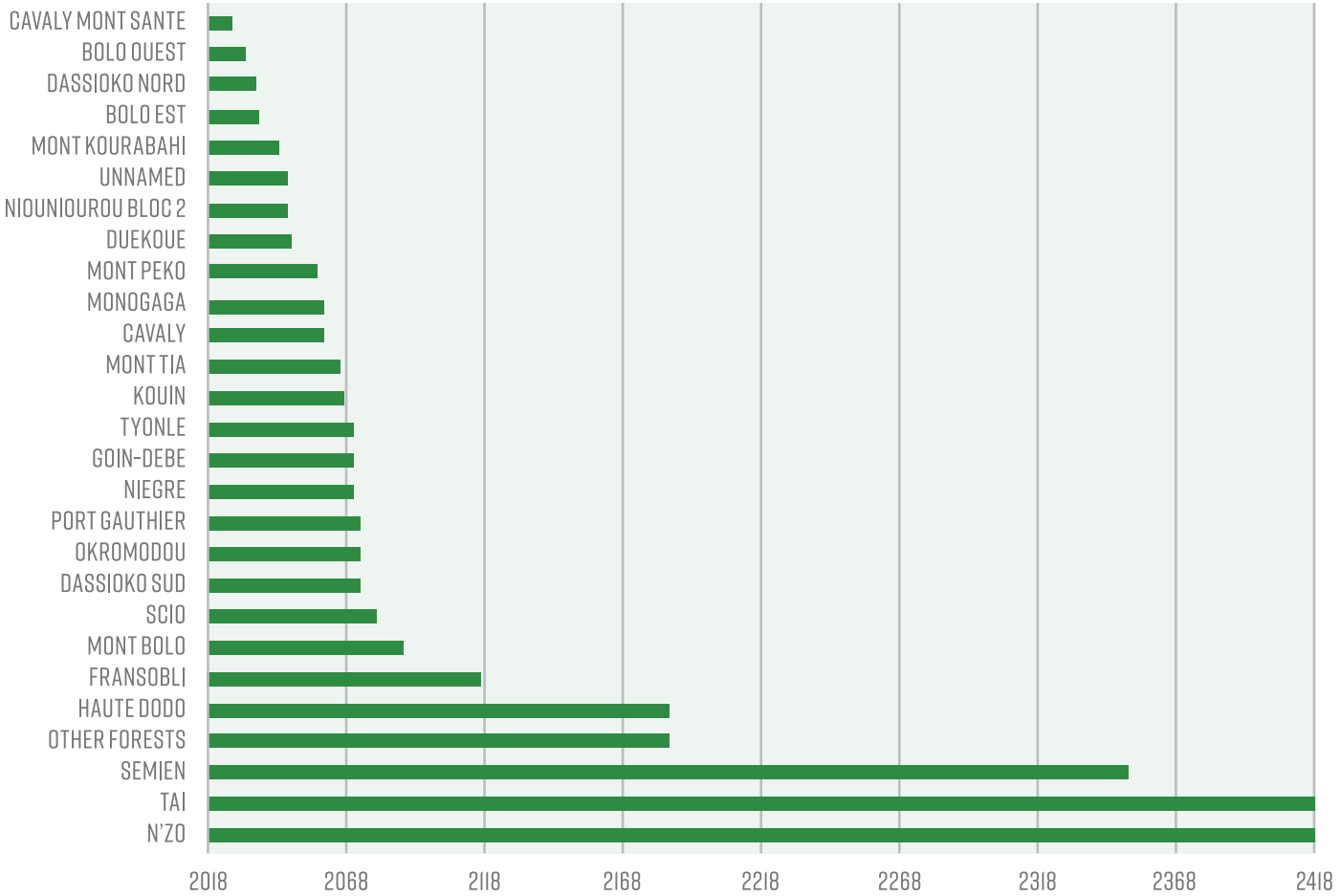


Very young cocoa shoots on newly deforested land, despite industry and government promises



Getting bags of cocoa ready to ship out of a cooperative

FORESTS’ LIFE EXPECTANCY



“Death dates” for Ivorian forests. Some protected areas are on the verge of extinction in the next 10 years. These forests are mostly in the Southeast of the Côte d’Ivoire, in the cocoa producing region. This graph shows when each forest will vanish by, if things continue as they have from November 2017 to September 2018. Goin Debé and Moyen Cavally are projected to vanish in around fifty years, if we continue with business as usual.



FIELD INVESTIGATION 2 : CAVALLY FOREST RESERVE (ACCOMPANIED BY FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SODEFOR RANGERS)

In the Cavally Forest Reserve, the team headed into a dense intact forest, their path cleared by the machete swings of SODEFOR rangers. After 30 minutes, the forest cover began to thin and cocoa trees appeared. Some were one year old or less, indicating that they had likely been planted after the Frameworks of the Cocoa and Forest Initiative were announced in November 2017 at the Bonn COP.

Scattered amongst a collection of illegal huts in the forest were piles of cocoa pods and bags to pack them in. As the group approached, the farmers fled. No one from SODEFOR appeared surprised by the illegal camp inside the forest of Cavally, despite their previous assurances that there were no longer camps in the protected area.

As the team continued to inspect more hotspots identified in our satellite maps, they found axe-thinned forests, and scorch marks from fires set to kill older, larger trees, where farmers were continuing to expand the scope of their cocoa plantations.

Rangers accompanying the team stated that when SODEFOR finds illegal forest destruction like this prohibited cocoa cultivation, they record GPS points, take photos and write a report to SODEFOR headquarters in Abidjan, but action is only taken only if Abidjan gives orders and provides resources to its underpaid staff. In order to raise revenues for these activities, SODEFOR will often open parts of the forest for logging.

The local SODEFOR office had only one GPS, provided to them by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation. Local staff told Mighty Earth that SODEFOR headquarters in Abidjan had never

shared – or trained them to use – the new satellite monitoring system that the government purchased. SODEFOR staff have told Mighty Earth that they were not interested in satellite maps of deforestation.

All of this deforestation is producing little benefit for local communities. One family told us that their children worked with the parents and had never been to school. Only 6.6 percent of the value of a chocolate bar sold in Europe or the United States typically ends up in the hands of the farmer who grew the cocoa: almost all the rest goes to the big cocoa traders, chocolate companies, and retail stores.

After initial field findings were reported to the authorities, and before publication of this report, a follow up investigation on the ground revealed that SODEFOR agents had acted on the evidence gathered with the Mighty Earth field team, and had destroyed around 15 ha of illegal plantations – which led to a separate illegal cocoa farming settlement being abandoned. This showed some action by SODEFOR. Unfortunately, the follow-up visit also discovered further cocoa plantations ranging from <1 year to 3-4 years, less than 1.5km from the recently destroyed cocoa – these were untouched, and left to thrive by SODEFOR.

Bottom line: The clearing of the Cavally Forest Reserve for cocoa continues, without enough action by SODEFOR or industry.



Illegal cocoa found inside a protected area



A young family in their new, freshly deforested cocoa plantation near Bolequin. The children work on the cocoa fields and have never been to school



Park ranger standing over illegal cocoa found during the field investigation in a protected area



FIELD INVESTIGATION 3: TAÏ NATIONAL PARK (ACCOMPANIED BY THE OFFICE OF PARKS AND RESERVES (OIPR) AND THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING)

Mighty Earth's field investigation in the Taï National Park shows that there are places in Côte d'Ivoire where forests are being successfully protected.

Despite the presence of villages with cocoa and rubber farms around the Park, which can create strong pressure for expansion into protected areas, the team saw no evidence of human presence or deforestation within the park interior. Taï National Park is a model for how forests can be protected within a cocoa-growing landscape. Both Ivorian authorities and the cocoa industry need to deploy the resources and people to replicate this model before the next likely cocoa deforestation peak season in January.

While both OIPR and SODEFOR staff receive the same training, OIPR staff appear to be more

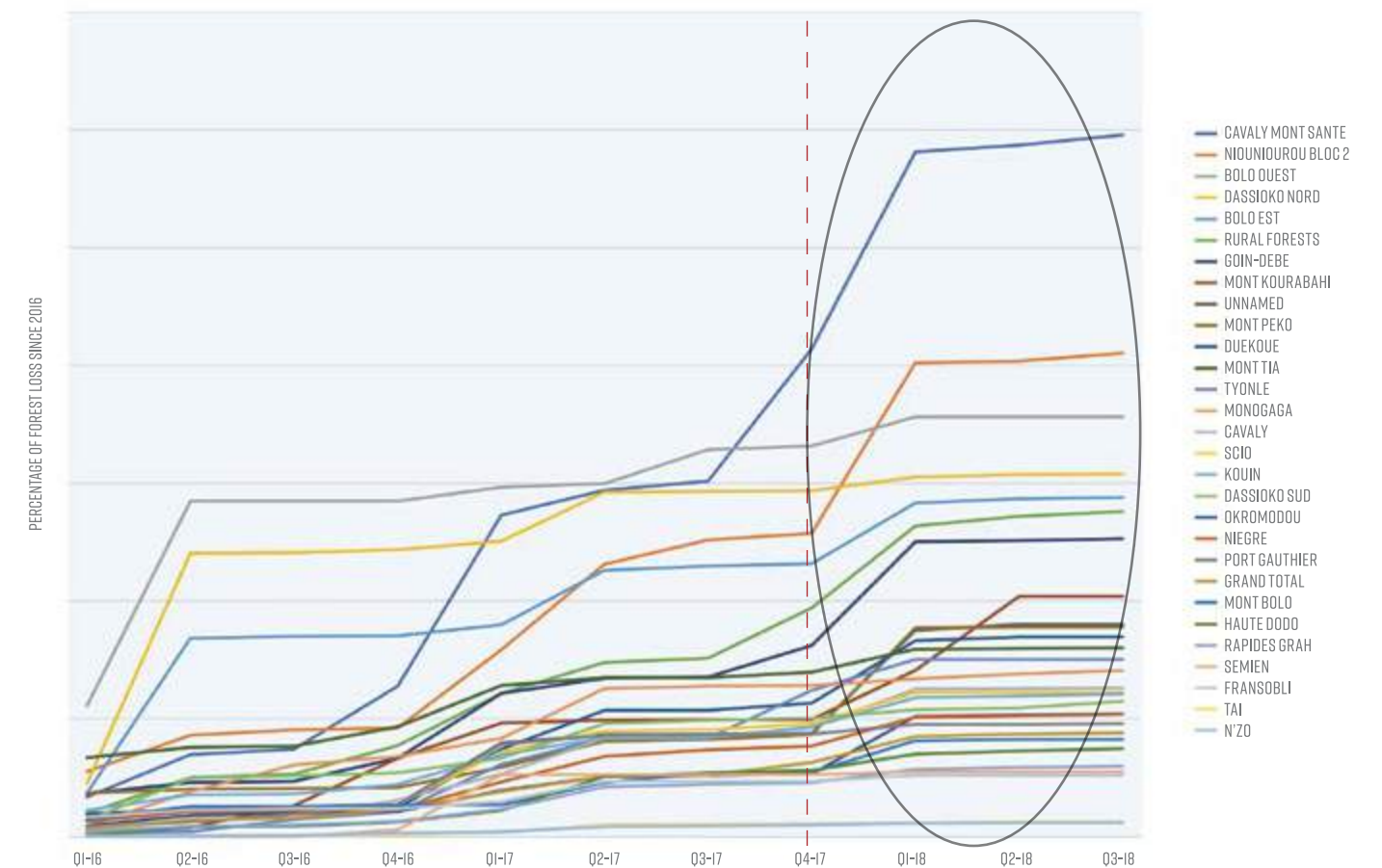
technically competent in terms of cartography than SODEFOR, and unlike SODEFOR headquarters, OIPR headquarters were keen to deploy more satellite monitoring. In addition, OIPR agents, armed with standard issue hand guns, were perceived as less militaristic than their submachine-bearing SODEFOR counterparts. Local OIPR staff explained that they have undertaken extensive law enforcement operations and raised awareness through workshops with nearby villages.

Despite a lack of resources at their disposal, the OIPR management of the Taï National park stands as a model that should be replicated across fragile national parks such as Mount Péko and Marahoué, which have been largely cleared for cocoa.



Olive colobus near the western border of Taï National Park in Cote d'Ivoire; photo credit: Scott McGraw

FOREST LOSS SINCE 2016, WITH LOSS AFTER NOVEMBER 2017 CIRCLED



This image shows in graph form, park by park, how forest loss went up after November 2017, especially in 10 particularly poorly managed areas.

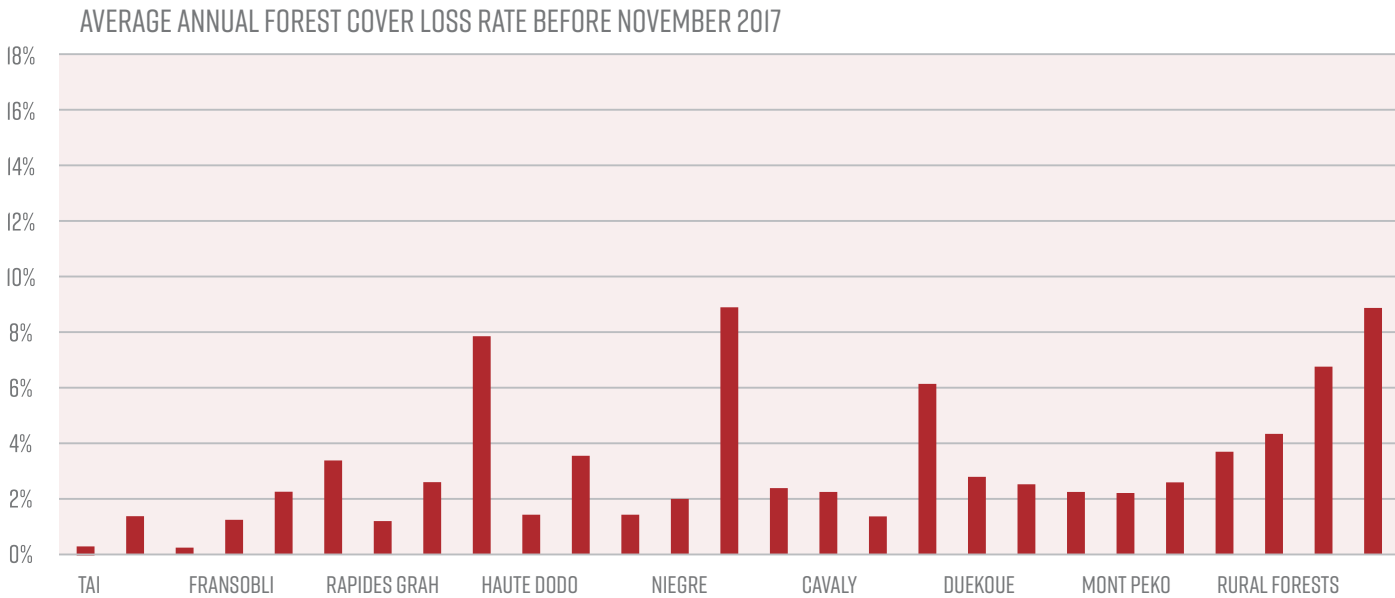
The worst of all was Cavalry Mont Sante. (different from Cavalry)

Côte d'Ivoire's biodiversity gem, the national park of Taï, is still home to many chimpanzees as well as numerous other animals – even some of the country's last forest elephants. As one of the only places left with potentially viable chimpanzee and elephant populations, it is crucial to deploy rapid reforestation between Taï and nearby Liberian forests, creating a corridor for animals – and to urgently stop all deforestation between Taï and Liberia.

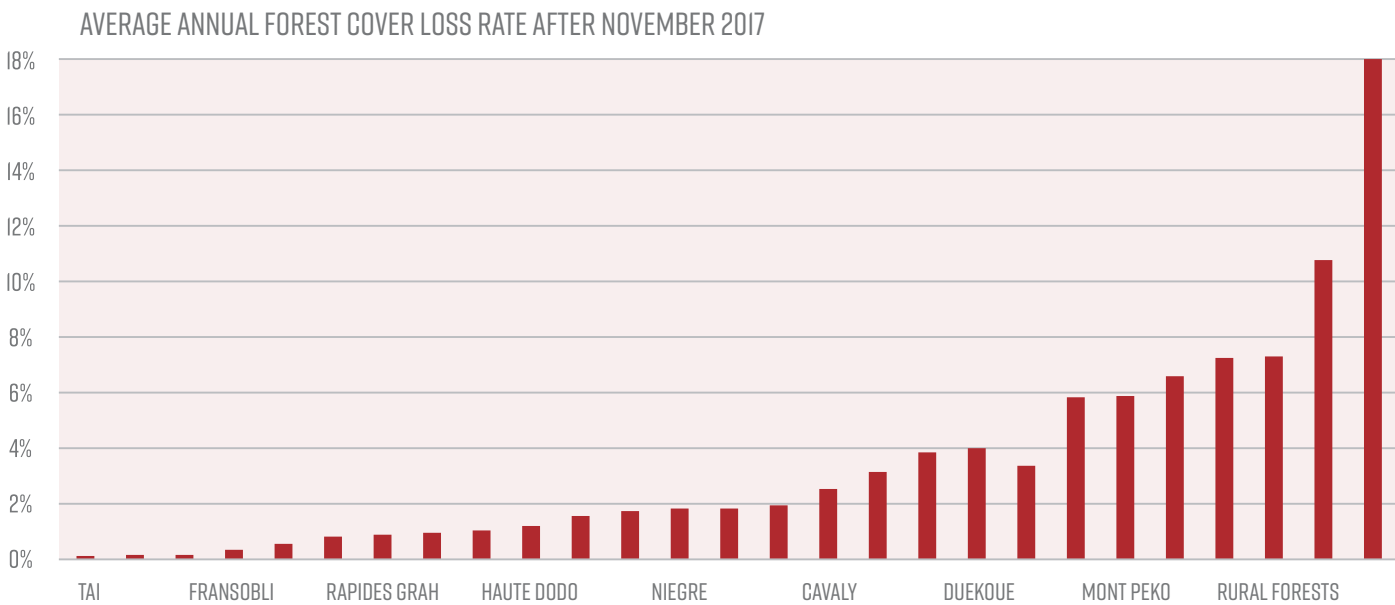




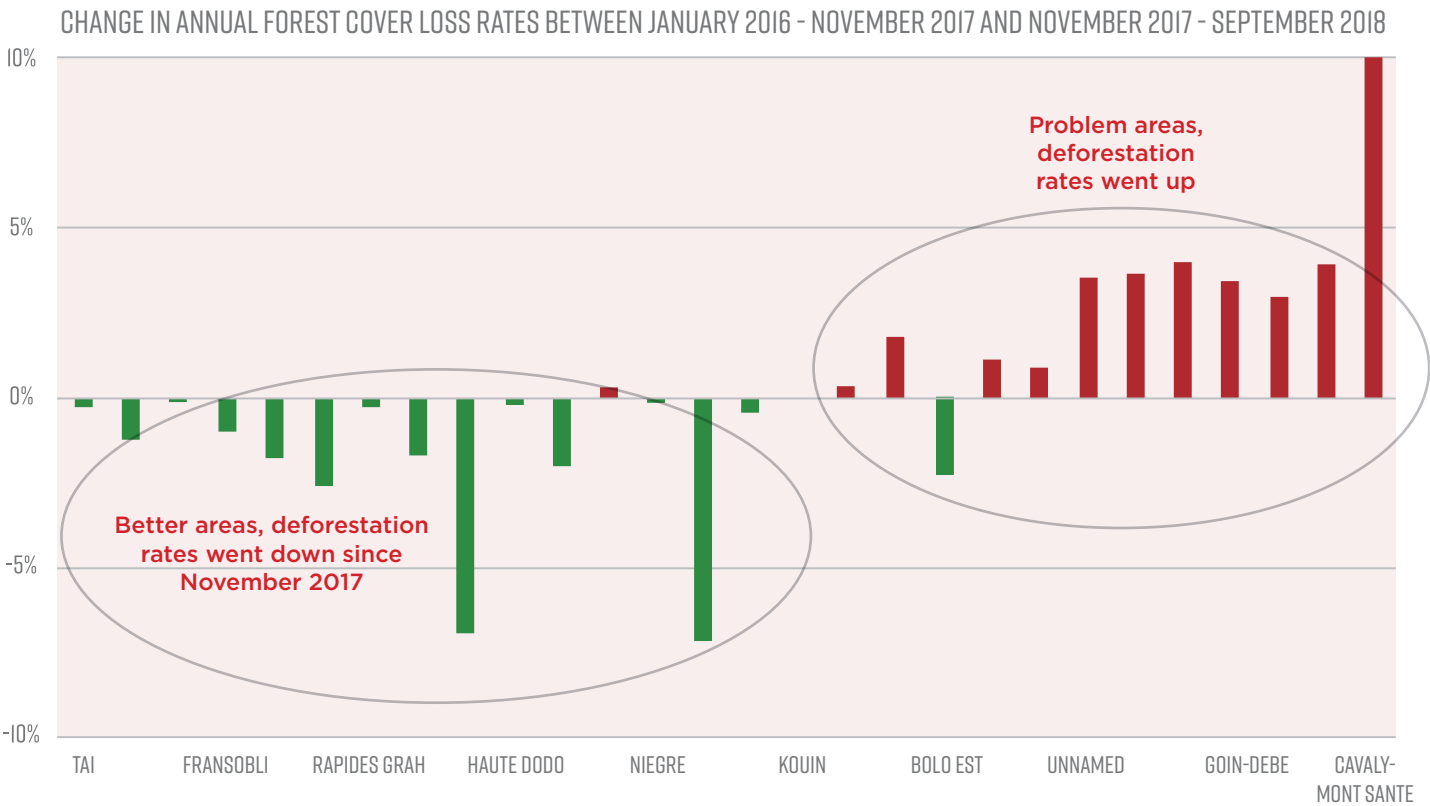
COMPARISON OF ANNUAL DEFORESTATION RATES: HAS ANYTHING CHANGED? BEFORE



COMPARISON OF ANNUAL DEFORESTATION RATES: HAS ANYTHING CHANGED? AFTER



SEE THE DIFFERENCE



SEE THE DIFFERENCE IN NUMBER FORM

	Average deforestation rate Nov 2016 - Nov 2017	Average deforestation rate Nov 2017 - Sep 2018	Difference
TAI	0.27%	0.12%	0.15%
SEMIEN	1.38%	0.16%	1.23%
N'ZO	0.24%	0.15%	0.09%
FRANSOBLI	1.23%	0.32%	0.92%
PORT GAUTHIER	2.29%	0.56%	1.73%
MONOGAGA	3.39%	0.82%	2.57%
RAPIDES GRAH	1.18%	0.90%	0.28%
DASSIOKO SUD	2.63%	0.94%	1.69%
DASSIOKO NORD	7.93%	1.02%	6.91%
HAUTE DODO	1.44%	1.23%	0.21%
MONT TIA	3.59%	1.57%	2.03%
MONT BOLO	1.43%	1.75%	-0.32%
NIEGRE	1.97%	1.81%	0.15%
BOLO OUEST	8.99%	1.85%	7.14%
SCIO	2.41%	1.96%	0.46%
KOUIN	2.24%	2.24%	0.00%
CAVALY	2.25%	2.55%	-0.29%
OKROMODOU	1.38%	3.17%	-1.79%
BOLO EST	6.19%	3.87%	2.32%
DUEKOUÉ	2.82%	3.97%	-1.15%
TYONLE	2.56%	3.37%	-0.80%
UNNAMED	2.30%	5.84%	-3.55%
MONT PEKO	2.21%	5.86%	-3.65%
MONT KOURABAH	2.62%	6.60%	-3.98%
GOIN-DEBE	3.74%	7.22%	-3.48%
RURAL FORESTS	4.36%	7.30%	-2.94%
NIOUNIYOUROU BLOC 2	6.80%	10.75%	-3.94%
CAVALY MONT SENTE	8.93%	18.91%	-9.98%

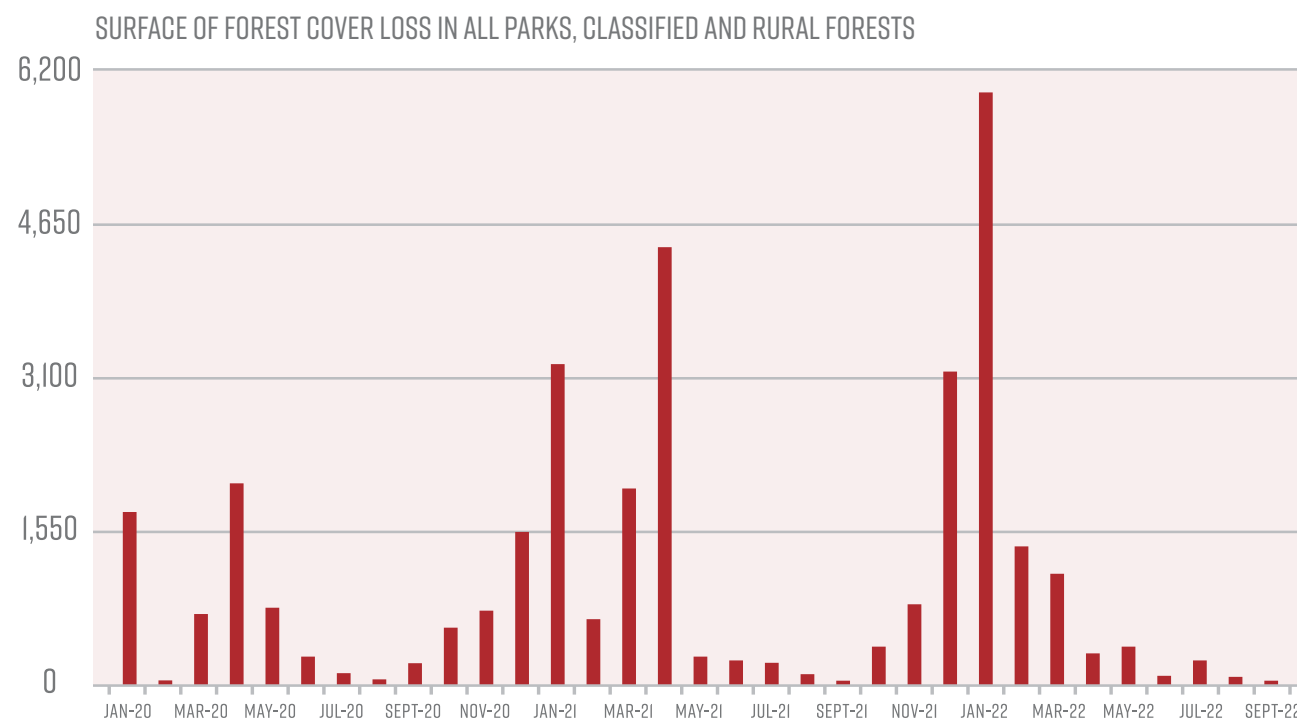


PEAK DANGER SEASON

This chart of deforestation throughout Southwest Côte d'Ivoire shows a pattern in time: deforestation happens most intensely between January and April, every year. This illuminates how forestry services should better target their resources to combat forest destruction. There is little need to deploy large teams during the rainy season, as not much clearance happens then. Rather, the authorities should invest more

resources in the high-risk times of year, as confirmed by the IMAGES tool on an ongoing basis.

This chart also sends us an urgent warning – Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana's joint monitoring mechanisms for cocoa-driven deforestation must be up and running before the next "danger season" hits in January. There is no time to waste.



Forest recently destroyed by a cocoa farmer to grow cocoa near Blolequin

CONCLUSION

Overall, of the Ivorian protected areas we reviewed, more than half showed an increase in their rates of deforestation since the announcement of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative. The deforestation we found also violates the most fundamental tenet of the chocolate industry's and governments' commitment: to end the cultivation of cocoa in national parks like Mount Péko.

Clearly, last year's commitments from the Bonn COP are not being kept. If nothing is done to reverse this process, it will continue until there is no forest, and no animals left. When every last elephant is gone, only the name of the country, "Côte d'Ivoire", will remain to remind us that these majestic kings of the jungle once roamed the land.

Governments and industry must urgently work together to finance the development of nationwide deforestation mapping, so that this analysis can be undertaken at scale. The government of Ghana should work with the industry to generate and make publicly available detailed maps to track which agricultural commodities are linked to forest destruction. Comprehensive satellite monitoring must be undertaken jointly in order to share costs, increase quality, and ensure that no regions at risk fall through the cracks.

The same is true for field monitoring. Côte d'Ivoire and other cocoa producing countries like Ghana and Colombia must ground-truth deforestation alerts in the field, especially with the peak deforestation danger season starting in January. Industry has a clear responsibility to support and participate in such monitoring. Ghanaian and Ivorian governments and industry

could have accessed the same satellite maps as Mighty Earth, yet to our knowledge, such maps were not used to mobilize large-scale enforcement.

Some places are much worse than others. Local authorities performing poorly must be sanctioned, and those doing well should be rewarded.

The recent clearing of forests and planting of new cocoa is financed by the sale of fruit from older trees. The people our team found cutting forests and planting new cocoa seedlings were already selling cocoa from mature trees elsewhere. Obviously, cocoa seedlings planted after November 2017 are too young to be yielding pods yet. However, it is not enough to refuse to buy cocoa that grew on newly deforested land. Companies must refuse to buy any cocoa from any farmers engaged in ongoing deforestation. Every company buying such cocoa is responsible for driving and financing this recent deforestation. They must take urgent action to clean up their supply chain.

With illegal operators understandably unwilling to divulge who buys their cocoa, it is incumbent on the industry to create and provide transparency. Every supermarket and manufacturer should publish which cocoa traders they buy from. In order to prevent further destruction, all traders must publish which middlemen and cooperatives they buy from and publish their locations – as has successfully become common practice in the palm oil industry, where mills are published.

By disclosing sources and rolling out other transparency or traceability programs such as paying farmers with mobile money on their cell phones, the industry can shed the bright light of day on this opaque supply chain, enabling all of us to work together to end cocoa-driven deforestation once and for all.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Mapping:** Joint satellite monitoring of deforestation NOW, with the Ivorian/Ghanaian governments & private sector working together to improve quality and cut costs; civil society needs a vote and seat at the table. One mechanism to fund this could be a cocoa export levy of less than 5 percent (ad valorem, but set as fixed \$/tonne) to fund the monitoring and enforcement agencies and to set up supply chain licensing arrangements.
- **Field investigations:** Regular, robust field monitoring in hotspots, financed by government and private sector, to identify who is buying and selling dirty deforestation cocoa and suspend them from supply chains. To address current inadequate governance, monitoring, and enforcement, authorities must publish agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and report against them.
- **Clean supply chains:** All companies which made deforestation-free promises should keep them, and suspend or cut suppliers engaging in new deforestation for cocoa since November 2017, in Côte d'Ivoire and beyond, around the world.
- **Corporate traceability and transparency:** All supermarkets and chocolate companies should publish which cocoa traders they buy from worldwide; all traders should immediately publish which middlemen and cooperatives they buy from and as soon as is feasible establish 100 percent traceability right down to level of the farmer; the industry should roll out mobile money payments for farmers where possible and where beneficial to farmers, to enhance traceability of the cocoa supply chain, so that we can see a cascade of traceability and transparency down to farm-gate level.
- **Accountability for government actors:** Awards should be given to high performing local forest agents in places like Taï, or Dassioko Nord and Bolo West where the tide is turning against deforestation, while the worst performing agents in places like Mt Péko, Cavally, and Goin Débé should face consequences for their actions. Salaries and conditions for SODEFOR and OIPR field agents could be improved – side by side with more monitoring of said SODEFOR and OIPR field agents, and with independent NGOs associated with field investigations where possible. More field investigations are needed. SODEFOR and OIPR field agents must engage with and educate communities to protect forests. To address supply chain lack of traceability, fraud, and sources from illegal production, the authorities could introduce licensing for growers and registration of buyers.
- **Farmer education:** Producer governments and private sector should combine forces for large-scale awareness-raising around the need to end deforestation for cocoa, through public radio, television, in-person outreach in communities, and other means.
- **Deforestation-free should be global:** All companies including the last laggards like Mondelez and SucDen must commit to global deforestation-free cocoa now, and not merely agree to ending deforestation in West African – since Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire have already lost almost all their forests whereas frontier states like Cameroon, Brazil, or other Amazonian countries still have large forests at risk.
- **Switch to agroforestry:** Each and every company including the agroforestry laggards like Nestle and Unilever must commit to switching over all their cocoa from destructive full-sun monoculture to forest-friendly shade-grown agroforestry cocoa, worldwide, in order to re-green the sector and undo some past harms. We need clear, national long-term objectives for sustainable wildlife populations which would set the limits for forest loss and make clearer the role of agroforestry.
- **Restore forests:** Separately from the actions above, cocoa and chocolate companies should pool resources with donors to help producer governments restore forests damaged for cocoa worldwide. In Côte d'Ivoire, the 15 best “forêts classées” (protected areas) should be turned into national parks for better protection, with a special plan established to salvage each one.



FOOTNOTES AND SOURCES

Source for map on slide 10 (aka the biodiversity maps): “World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) (IUCN and UNEP-WCMC, 2016), Link: <https://eros.usgs.gov/westafrica/biodiversity-protected-areas>”

Source for maps on slides 1, 2, 3 (aka the Ghana maps): “MapHubs for Mighty Earth, Côte d’Ivoire, 2018”

Source for maps on slides 9 / 11 / 12 / 13 / 14 (aka all other maps): “IMAGES, the forest early warning and spatial data platform of the Ministry of Planning and Development, Cote d’Ivoire. IMAGES was supplied by Vivid Economics Ltd with RSAC Ltd and funded by the UK Space Agency’s International Partnerships Programme. Link: <https://images-beta.vivid-earth.com>”

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[our photographer wishes to remain anonymous for security reasons]

IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN...



