

**Environmental Impact Assessment
and
Environmental Management Plan**

May 28, 2018

CEPF Grant LOI CEPF A00814

CEFCA

*Project Title: Strengthen Ivorian Cocoa Stakeholders Landscape Management
Capacity to Foster Conservation*

Taï Cavally

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization.	CEFCA (Centre d'Etudes, Formations, Conseils et Audits)
2. Grant title.	Support to farmers and rural communities for sustainable practices adoption
3. Grant number.	GFWA-2016-LG-01
4. Grant amount (US dollars).	153,220
5. Proposed dates of grant.	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken	Cote d'Ivoire
7. Summary of the project.	The project aims to support mainstreaming biodiversity conservation through fostering collaboration through Public Private Partnership in the cocoa sector in Cote d' Ivoire. The project will support the cocoa industry and the Ivorian government towards achieving a deforestation-free agricultural economy, by training cocoa farmers in biodiversity conservation friendly practices, as well as empowering the community to adopt best practices toward conservation.
8. Date of preparation of the environmental plan.	March 16 th , 2017 finalized on 28th of May 2018

9. **Status of area to be impacted:** This section should describe the applicant's understanding of the site.
The project will be implemented in the Cavally-Taï area of Cote d'Ivoire. CEFCA proposes to operate in the landscape of Taï -Cavally. This area, between the globally important Taï NP and the Cavally classified Forest in Côte d'Ivoire, is a highly relevant biological ecosystem.
10. **Approach:** This section will describe proposed actions during the project. Specifically, what do you intend to do and how will you do it?

Drawing on its experience of working on farming community's capacity building projects in Côte d'Ivoire since 2006, CEFCA will, with support from the Rainforest Alliance (project CEPF-104314) and in conjunction with other stakeholders, deliver four main components.

Objective 1: By 2018, Facilitate the creation of a community-led landscape management structure in the Taï-Cavally area that includes economic and social interest groups, as well as local government.

The first objective will be focused on establishing and empowering a community Landscape Management Board. This community-led organization will serve as an effective platform for all stakeholders to participate in sustainable land-use planning and other landscape scale initiatives to protect the Taï forest. These will enable communities to adopt, sustain, lead and expand good practices into a comprehensive sustainable development plan. Through this component, the project will be strengthening local governance structures among 1,250 community members. The LMB will manage the interest of 502 producers of Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Taï and their communities by giving them responsibility about their landscape. The technical knowledge and experience of RA will be tapped into through project CEPF-104314 to support CEFCA technicians in the creation of the LMB. Replicating this structure will create an effective mechanism for stakeholders to plan and manage sustainable land use, protect the Taï forest, restore degraded forest and promote wildlife corridors linking Taï National Park and fragments of remaining Cavally classified forest. CEFCA will, in coordination with the LMB, identify and support marginalized and vulnerable rural populations (particularly women and youth groups).

Key activities under this objective include:

1.1 Creation of one representative LMB, recognized by the prefecture of Taï NP.

1.2 Development of participatory land-use plans at the village level and integrated into a wider Landscape Management Plan that includes a commitment to eliminate deforestation and to take responsibility for monitoring progress on this topic.

1.3 Facilitation of the engagement of the LMB with key national agencies for cocoa production and for forest management (OIPR) to secure their collaboration.

1.4 Organization of regular steering committee meetings to monitor challenges and discuss corresponding solutions with the stakeholders.

As a result of the workshop and trainings, a LMB will be created in the Taï-Cavally corridor. This governing structure will be empowered to make decisions regarding local land use, and represents the interests of the region to the central government. As a result of training and recurrent consultation, key stakeholders (including national agencies, members of the community and the C.A.F de Taï farmers group) will be fully engaged in the LMB. These activities will deliver a consensual Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) as the tool that will allow farmers, communities and other stakeholders to adhere to and follow procedures to achieve the conservation strategy.

Objective 2: By 2019, the project will seek to alleviate poverty by providing farmers the knowledge to increase the productivity and resilience of their cocoa farms, as well as diversify their income sources to improve their livelihoods through tailor-made solutions.

This objective will be about the training of cocoa farmers in applying best practices as well as promoting revenue diversification schemes. These solutions will enable underperforming producers, such as women and young farmers, to improve the productivity of their agricultural enterprises (notably cocoa) and be involved in forest-friendly and economically viable diversification enterprises that provide them with sufficient incentives to stop further encroachment and poaching. These diversification schemes, directed specifically at women who are most likely to reinvest profits into their household, will help to prevent

poaching and associated bushfires, and foster better food security. CEFCA will apply biodiversity friendly practices and encourage the planting of native fast-growing shade trees from SODEFOR to stabilize soils, reduce temperature fluctuations and store carbon on farms. Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Taï will assist by providing technical assistance to farmers. Training will also be provided on income diversification activities, such as bee-keeping and chicken-rearing, replicating successful experiences in Ghana.

Key activities under this objective include:

2.1. Organization of training to participating producers on biodiversity conservation friendly practices, based on the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture standard.

2.2. Liaise with SODEFOR on obtaining shade tree seeds and the establishment of nurseries, assessing the needs per results of the baseline data collection.

2.3. Establishment of three pilot plots, nurseries and implementation of restoration actions with the Landscape management board, and the public private stakeholders.

2.4. Establishment of approximately 25 chicken and 30 bee-keeping hives rearing projects led by women with the technical assistance of Rainforest Alliance.

2.5. Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor according to plans and needs based on the assessment. Output: Biological corridor delineated.

Together, these activities will deliver at least 30% of the farmers having adopted biodiversity conservation friendly practices. The development and implementation of income diversification schemes will deliver 25 chicken-rearing projects and 30 beehives led by women with the technical assistance of Rainforest Alliance.

Objective 3: By 2019, strengthen the partnership between local communities, the government, and the private sector in support of the adoption of sustainable management practices aimed at increasing productivity, increasing resilience to climate change, leading to a decreased deforestation of the protected areas.

The third objective of the project centers around strengthening the national government's commitment to halt encroachment in national parks and deforestation through advocating for innovative measures, such as tax relief and incentive payments for conservation actions. The project will also encourage stakeholder's collaboration by organizing joint workshops and radio programs aiming at communicating on current action plans, challenges, and lessons learnt that will be essential in the improvement of public and private sectors practices toward conservation in Cote d'Ivoire.

Key activities under this objective include:

3.1. Promotion of Government advocacy by convening meeting with SODEFOR and OIPR to discuss innovative ways to foster government commitments on deforestation.

3.2. Engagement of SODEFOR and the REDD+ Côte d'Ivoire to discuss the possibility to provide cocoa farmers and their communities with tax relief and payment compensation for conservation actions.

- 3.3. Promotion of Public Private stakeholder outreach to increase support to public and private conservation efforts, with the local communities and C.A.F.
- 3.4. Design and deliver environmental awareness-raising posters and radio programs involving OIPR, CEFCA, and LMB representatives discussing the common action plan to stop deforestation.
- 3.5. Hold 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, C.A.F de Taï and OIPR to socialize a common action plan to promote conservation.

These activities will stimulate conversations at the national level for the implementation of innovative measures in support of government commitments to halt deforestation, and will result in greater awareness throughout the landscape on the importance of supporting government and private sector conservation efforts.

Objective 4: By 2019, improve farmer's income and reduce income variability by facilitating access to new markets whilst securing existing market agreements through strong data recording and traceability of CNB but also by monitoring and building the capacity of the implementer CEFCA.

This objective will focus on reducing income variability for producers and facilitating access to market by keeping records at the farm level through strong internal management systems (IMS). This will allow them to set up a robust management plan of their resources at the cooperative level, including the protected areas, improve their book keeping skills, and establish a strong traceability data record keeping. Very often farmer's groups cannot honor their market commitments and loose market access because of poor IMS and traceability. Implementing this objective will support the groups to avoid market loss and make them more competitive. Additionally, robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will be designed and its implementation coordinated under the leadership of a RA specialist under project CEPF-104314. User-friendly M&E tools and processes to support reliable, precise, relevant and timely data collection will be defined by CEFCA staff. CEFCA's performance monitoring by CEPF will also garanty impact.

Key activities under this objective include:

- 4.1. Facilitation of the elaboration of group action plans and the completion of their IMS.
- 4.2. Establishment of IMS team learning structures in which lead farms repeat best practices learning in neighboring farms.
- 4.3. Organization of field diagnoses and implementation of GAP analysis by the IMS on lead farms.
- 4.4. Elaboration of group action plans with the IMS based on the gap analysis.
- 4.5. Train farmers in bookkeeping and data recording plans.
- 4.6 Design and Implement the project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce correctives action plan and impact reports.
- 4.7 Facilitation of CEFCA's project management and monitoring for compliance led by CEPF.

Through these activities, farmers and cooperatives will have tools in place (group action plans and the completion of their IMS) to be organized, keep good records, and secure market commitments. These activities will deliver field diagnoses and GAP analysis on a sample of farms, which will allow to identify gaps in implementation of best practices and propose corrective actions and shared lessons. CEPF's request for project management and monitoring for compliance of CEFCFA will participate into making sure that the project performance is achieved to the highest level.

11. **Anticipated impact:** this section will describe the impact and how this impact has been determined.

1. As part of this project, target farms are mainly producing cocoa near the classified forests of Cavally, their daily activities are related to possible soil health degradation, risk of erosion and disturbance of forested eco-systems posing a serious threat to local biodiversity, if best practices are not applied in cocoa farming, due to unsustainable land management practices and resource use. The use of slash and burn techniques reducing soil fertility through elevated nutrient release, loss of soil structure and stability, and lack of natural forest mulching that reduces soil and water loss from erosion and from poor water infiltration and retention in the soil. Risk of expansion of farming lands by farmers and practice of low-shade or no-shade cocoa farming, leaving a highly unsustainable production system, with yields decline as forest soils were depleted of major nutrients.
2. Cocoa is sensitive to water stress especially due to climate change, particularly at establishment when root systems are poorly developed and there is little self-shading in the canopy. Water stress reduces photosynthetic assimilation; in mature plants, prolonged water stress can lower yields and bean size. In many cocoa-growing regions of West Africa there is a distinct dry season, lasting two to three months.
3. Risk of hunting and stress of wildlife habitat is a risk that is common in this region due to cultural practices. Bush meat consumption being very integrated in the habits of the population
4. Although, native species for shade trees nurseries will be prioritized, some non native tree species could be used for nurseries. But the impact of the establishment and distribution to farmers of those species will not impact the environment as they are recommended by SODEFOR and will be selected on the list of suitable shade trees compatible to the environment.

12. **Mitigation measures:** Describe measures that will be taken to mitigate negative impacts.

Overcoming these threats will require:

1. At the heart of this project, farmers will receive training on biodiversity friendly practices, focusing on establishing and maintaining forest tree species to favor species richness, alter-native income options, habitat creation. This will be accompanied by other environmentally sound production practices that assist in the rejuvenation of ecosystem goods and services. Many of

them are not fully understood by the farmers and will be strengthened from stop expanding and encroaching into protected areas.

2. Farmers and communities will receive sensitization awareness programs to protect animals and restore their habitat, especially endangered and threatened species together with the OIPR. No hunting, capturing, extracting or trafficking wild animals will be allowed in protected forests and farms. Long-term viability of species populations will not be affected.
3. About bees keeping, farmers and communities will receive sensitization awareness on the most hazards related to:
 - Poor beekeeping practices (capacity of control and colony management).
 - Inappropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment
4. To reduce or avoid the impact of the establishment and distribution to farmers of non-native shade trees species, only suitable species recommended by SODEFOR will be selected.

13. **Actions to ensure health and safety:** Describe actions that will be taken to ensure the health and safety of workers as well as the site. Include a description of waste management and/or disposal.

Farms will have an occupational health and safety program to reduce or prevent any risk of accidents in their workplace. Potential emergencies and adequate equipment will be set up to respond any event or incident to minimize the impact on health.

Farm workers and residents will receive training to correctly manage and dispose of waste, according to its type and quantity, as well as methods for waste reduction and reuse, in order to reduce the impact on health and environment.

14. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** This section aims to outline what steps the proponent will take to monitor and evaluate the impact of the proposed intervention.

Baseline data will be collected on current farms practices and the environmental system in place at the start of the project, which will be used to establish a relevant PLMP, integrating corrective actions to mitigate the challenges to achieve conservation in the region until the end of project. An impact assessment will be conducted at the end of the project to measure and evaluate positive changes in practices.

Surveys will be conducted in a sample of farms to collect data on:

- , Inventory of wildlife found on the farm and wildlife held in captivity
 - Shade tree planting and inventory
 - Measures to prevent hunting and deforestation
 - Water management

Permission of the landowner: Please verify permission of the landowner to undertake actions on the site, and verify that you have the required permits to undertake this work.

N/A

Consultation: This section aims to outline the range of informed consultations that the grantee has had both with experts to optimize the potential for success, and with stakeholders, particularly local communities, who are potentially affected by the proposed actions. Include dates of consultations.

CEFCA has been working with the community around Tai National park since 2012. Many projects on ecosystem conservation and productivity have been led by CEFCA, working in close collaboration with national environmental agencies such as Société de Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR), Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR),

In January 2017, CEFCA, the President of the Rainforest Alliance Nigel Sizer, and Rainforest Alliance Director for Africa met the OIPR, SODEFOR and the CCC, to discuss potential Public Private Partnership collaboration to foster conservation, needs and challenges in the Tai region. The important role of governmental agencies was emphasized as key to the success and expansion in country programs, Cote d'Ivoire being a strategic country for our cocoa program. The potential CEPF collaboration was also discussed.

On an institutional level, this project will engage with key technical stakeholders such as government extension agents of OIPR and SODEFOR, who will share knowledge during workshops and trainings, and in turn improve their capacity to engage with farmers. They will participate in the LMB, bringing a new level of interaction with the community, to share and discuss conservation plans and consult with farmers and community leaders.

CEFCA is currently working with three other Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Taï farmer's groups on a sustainable finance project, aiming to build up farmers' responsibility towards getting loans for agricultural inputs. CEFCA has already consulted Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Taï, and the SODEFOR about this project.

A field visit to Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Taï was organised in May 2018, it was an occasion for CEFCA to discuss with Cooperative Agricole Fraternité de Taï about a potential increase in our collaboration with potential funds of the CEPF especially in terms of CSA. Women farmers were also consulted in terms of their interest in revenue diversification opportunities to mitigate encroachment in protected areas to expand farms.

15. **Disclosure:** CEPF requires that safeguard documents are disclosed to affected local communities and stakeholders prior to project implementation. Please describe efforts to disclose this impact assessment and environmental management plan and provide dates.

The environmental management plan will be shared with cooperatives and a copy kept by them at the beginning of the project (July 2018). Any update of the management plan will be communicated and shared with the group.

18. **Grievance mechanism:** All projects that trigger a safeguard are required to provide local communities and other interested stakeholders with means by which they may raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank. Affected local communities should be informed of the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. Contact information of the grantee, the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director should be made publicly available, through posters, signboards, public notices

or other appropriate means in local language(s). Grievances raised with the grantee should be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response. If the claimant is still not satisfied following the response, the grievance may be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account (cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Secretariat, the grievance may be submitted to the World Bank at the local World Bank office. Please describe the grievance mechanism that you will use for your project, and how you will ensure that stakeholders are aware of it.

In the project intervention area, beneficiaries and other stakeholders concerns related to environmental risks will be collected, analyzed and addressed by CEFCA which contact information and implementation team contact will be available through signboards in French. Other issues related to the project's implementation strategies, including any unintended negative effects, in order to prevent or reduce such risks and issues and ensure beneficiaries' and stakeholders' satisfaction.

The Grievance Mechanism Coordinator (CEFCA's project supervisor) will deliver the Grievance reporting templates to the project's M&E consultant, who will analyze them and produce indicator values. Grievances will be communicated to the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response.

The signboard will also provide the contact details of the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director.” and “Should a claimant still be unsatisfied following the response, the claimant will be informed that the grievance may be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account (cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by mail