

## Responsible Land Policy in the Ivory Coast



### Context

The Ivory Coast is the largest cocoa producer in the world, and about 10% of GDP and 15% of government revenues are generated in this sector. However, as of July 2017, only 0.5% of the total agricultural land had a land certificate. At the same time, due to population growth the pressure on land increases.

With a change of the forest law in 2015, the owners of land are also the owners of the trees planted on it. However, current land use contracts often remain informal and unclear. If land users for instance grow cocoa trees on the land they cultivate, this often leads to conflicts with landowners, as it is not clear, who is

entitled to which form of land use or ownership rights. Landowners often see the cultivation of cocoa trees as an attempt to illegally appropriate land.

Such conflicts also become a problem for companies active in the cocoa industry, as they hamper responsible investments.

In order to ensure ecologically and socially just cocoa cultivation and thus economic stability, the Global Project Responsible Land Policy has aimed to document land rights and thus contribute to the resolution and prevention of land conflicts.

### Activities in the Ivory Coast

- Improvement of the institutional framework to guarantee rural land tenure and use rights in eight selected communities in San Pedro and Nawa.
- Support of civil society to participate in the formulation and implementation of a responsible land policy.
- Sensitisation of private agricultural investors to the implementation of responsible land investments.

Within the framework of an integrated development partnership with cocoa companies, procedures are implemented to secure land tenure and land use rights that are based on international guidelines.

### Our objective

Secure access to land, a prerequisite for sustainable rural development, has been improved in the target communities in southwestern Ivory Coast, especially for women, marginalised groups and youth.



## Region

San Pedro and Nawa, in the Southwest of the Ivory Coast

## Term

July 2020 to October 2022

## Budget

EUR 1 Million

## Implementing partners

Collaboration of Global Project Green Innovation Centres in the agriculture and food sector (GIAE) and Global Project Responsible Land Policy (ProPFR)

## On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

## Lead executing agency

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)

## Target group

1.200 households, 30% of household heads are women or part of marginalised groups



## A project based on the national approach

The project follows the national approach developed by the Agency for Rural Areas (Agence Foncière Rurale, AFOR) and complements it with the steps of awareness raising and conflict resolution:

**Action 1:** Educate target groups on ways to secure their land rights to create a sense of security for all stakeholders

**Action 2:** Application of mechanisms for the mediation of land use and ownership conflicts

**Action 3:** Support the registration of documented land tenure or land use rights recognised by the state and traditional authorities in local registers for 1200 households.

**Action 4:** The financing mechanism via the PPP model "Integrated Development Partnership" includes co-financing for the registration of land use contracts and land certificates

This approach offers the population a wide range of options to secure their land rights. It is implemented as an extension module of the global project "Green Innovation Centres for the Agricultural and Food Sector" in cooperation with the private sector.

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GIZ is responsible for the content  
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