

Responsible Land Policy in Côte d'Ivoire



Starting point

Côte d'Ivoire 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 and competition for land and tropical forests increases.

Due to the new forestry code of 2019, landowners have also become 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.

Project

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 Programme Responsible Land Policy has aimed to document land rights and thus contribute to the resolution and prevention of land conflicts. The programme also supports the National Land Tenure Security Programme (*Programme National de Sécurisation Foncière*) through innovations on improved conflict resolution mechanisms and contract models adapted to agroforestry and grazing. Finally, an approach to financing land tenure security operations is being developed, involving the participation of the private cocoa sector in a multi-actor partnership with the Côte d'Ivoire Land Partnership (CLAP).

Our objective:

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

Fields of action in Côte d'Ivoire

- **Improvement of local land governance:** Support to the recomposition and strengthening of capacities of local rural land management bodies. Clarification of land rights through mapping. Information and awareness-raising on land legislation and various procedures for securing land rights. Support to the digitisation of land certification and contractualisation processes.
- **Improved mechanisms for resolving land conflicts:** Proposal of mechanisms involving media-

tion by local actors and systematic reporting of agreements.

- **Mobilisation of private sector actors:** Involvement in the Côte d'Ivoire Land Partnership (CLAP), which mobilises the cocoa industry to invest in affordable land documentation for the benefit of cocoa farmers.

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Budget and duration

EUR 2.9 million / July 2020 – December 2024

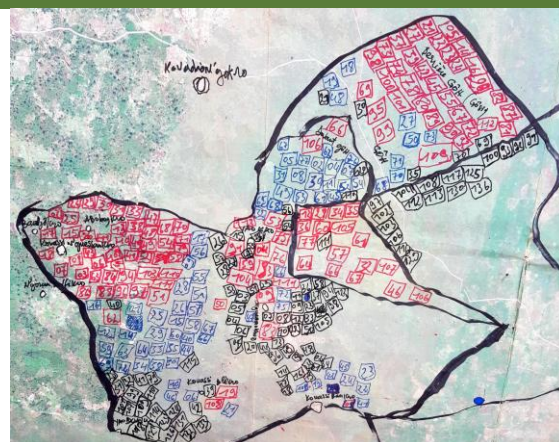
Lead executing agency and implementing partners

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) /
The Global Programmes Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector (GIC) and Responsible Land Policy

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Sustainable development



Community map with property rights (black and red) and use rights (blue)

The CLAP partnership

The Côte d'Ivoire Land Partnership (CLAP) is composed of private companies from the cocoa industry (The Hershey Company, Unilever and Barry Callebaut-Cocoa Horizons, ETG/Beyond Beans, Cargill, the German Cocoa and Chocolate Foundation), the *Agence Foncière Rurale* (AFOR) - the national agency in charge of land rights in Côte d'Ivoire - and international development partners such as *the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*. Coordinated by Meridia, CLAP focuses on issues related to land tenure insecurity faced by Ivorian cocoa farmers.

The CLAP approach

- A systematic mapping of all agricultural holdings in a village
- Application of the 'Four Pillars' of AFOR: village demarcation, clarification of rights, land certificates, land use contracts.
- Cocoa growing areas only
- Subsidising of tailor-made land documents and bundling with other services
- Cross-cutting implementation and gender sensitivity
- Hybrid financing model: private sector, donors and farmers.

More information on <https://www.giz.de/responsiblelandpolicy> and [Land Portal](#)

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