

Ghana: Emission Reductions Program

OVERVIEW

Ghana's cocoa forests and landscapes have some of the highest deforestation rates across the African continent. Each year, nearly 3.2% of the forest is lost or degraded due to cocoa farm expansion, agriculture, and, more recently, illegal mining and logging, in part to increase cocoa yields.

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program is the first of its kind in the cocoa sector, supporting the production of sustainable, climate-smart cocoa beans while reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and boosting livelihoods of local communities.

Outcomes of the Program:

- Institutional coordination and Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV)
- Landscape planning within Hotspot Intervention Area (HIA)
- Increasing yields through climate-smart cocoa farming
- Risk management and finance
- Legislative and policy reforms

REDD+ activities (forest protection and enhancement):

- Sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming that increases yield
- Forest protection
- Community-based landscape governance
- Multi stakeholder collaboration

AT A GLANCE

-  **Crediting period:** June 2019 – December 2024
-  **Annual Forest Emissions Baseline (Reference Level):** 27.7 million tCO₂e
-  **Total estimated reductions under ER Program:** 13.5 million tCO₂e gross
-  **Scope of FCPF ER Payment Agreement:** 10 million tCO₂e
-  **Key impacts:** Improved sustainable cocoa farming; reducing forest degradation and deforestation; increased production
-  **CORSIA Eligible:** Yes

PROGRAM LOCATION



PROGRAM GOALS



Lower rates of deforestation and forest degradation



Sustainable cocoa farming



Boosting climate-smart agriculture



Promoting nature-based livelihoods



Improving community-based landscape management

COUNTRY PROFILE

27.4

POPULATION
millions

288

LAND AREA
1,000 square
kilometers

37.5

GDP
\$ billions

41

FOREST AREA
% land area

-0.3

DEFORESTATION
avg. annual %

15.1

TERRESTRIAL
PROTECTED
AREAS
% of total land area

WORK TO DATE

- **ERs generated to date:** 4.4 million tCO₂e net
- **Estimated emission avoidance:** 85%
- **Estimated emission removals:** 15%
- **Vintage:** 11 June 2019 - 31 December 2021

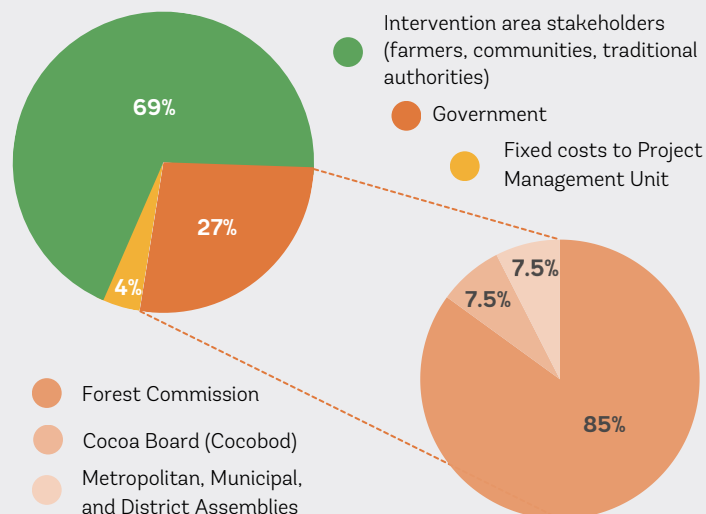
Safeguards system:

- Strengthen capacity of the mediation group at commune and village levels
- Enhance the operation of legal and administrative support systems for effective implementation of grievance mechanisms
- Enhance the monitoring and recording system of grievance and make it available for use by the public

Non-carbon benefits:

- Increased yields
- Tree tenure reform and improved resource use rights
- Improved law enforcement
- Improved landscape management
- Improved capacity in on-farm tree management and climate-smart cocoa practices
- Mandatory inclusion of women and marginalized groups in decision-making bodies
- Improved watershed management

BENEFITS SHARING AGREEMENT



Main reversal risks identified and mitigated (additionally, a discount to reported emissions is applied to compensate)

- Lack of broad and sustained stakeholder support
- Lack of institutional capacities and/or ineffective vertical/cross sectoral coordination
- Exposure and vulnerability to natural disturbances such as forest fires
- Lack of long term effectiveness in addressing underlying drivers of deforestation, including cocoa/subsistence farming and unsustainable logging

CASE STUDY: SUSTAINABLE COCOA-FOREST PRACTICES

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program is helping cocoa farmers improve yields and mitigate climate change by helping them to adopt **climate-smart cocoa practices**.

Adwoa Akyaa, who has a farm in the southern Ashanti region, is among 140,000 farmers adopting **innovative practices**:

"We were taught how to grow shade trees on our cocoa farms. And due to this, my cocoa trees are very healthy and strong. If you are a farmer, you need to grow shade trees because they nourish the soil, and in turn, you will get a lot of yield."



ABOUT THE FCPF

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and Indigenous People's organizations focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, activities commonly referred to as REDD+.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Ghana Country Profile](#)
[Emission Reductions Program Document](#)
[1st ER Monitoring Report \(ER-MR\)](#)
[Country Partnership Framework](#)

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COUNTRY CONTACTS

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Learn more about the FCPF Standard:

