

Puratos Cocoa & Forest initiative

Progress Report 2024

Côte D'ivoire



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About Cocoa & Forest Initiative (CFI)

The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and 35 leading cocoa and chocolate companies, representing 85% of global cocoa usage, joined together in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative to help end deforestation and restore forest areas. Their combined actions play a crucial role in protecting and restoring biodiversity, sequestering carbon stocks in West African forests, and addressing climate change in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

The Cocoa & Forests Initiative is a public-private partnership based on frameworks for action (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) and action plans for the private sector (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) and public sector (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) that spell out commitments to:

- protect and restore forests,
- promote sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods,
- engage communities and boost social inclusion.

Puratos CFI Results 2024

At Puratos, our **Cacao-Trace** program is built on a simple yet powerful promise: **Great Taste, Doing Good**. We believe that exceptional chocolate starts with exceptional practices—ones that benefit both people and the planet.

Cacao-Trace delivers superior-tasting chocolate and cocoa-based products through a unique focus on fermentation excellence. This process, refined through years of research and expertise, is at the heart of our approach and the key to unlocking outstanding taste, creating additional value we can share with the communities at the heart of our cocoa chain.

In every **Cacao-Trace** growing region, we share our fermentation know-how with local communities, empowering them to produce cocoa of the highest quality. This commitment to taste goes hand-in-hand with our dedication to transparent sourcing and sustainable farming practices.

By embracing a continuous improvement model, **Cacao-Trace** helps cocoa farming communities improve their income and living conditions and gain greater autonomy in managing their plantations. Our program also adheres to strict environmental standards, including forest protection and good agricultural practices.

In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, we actively promote agroforestry by incentivizing farmers to plant shade trees. This not only enhances biodiversity and soil health but also contributes to carbon sequestration—a vital step in building climate resilience for cocoa-growing communities.

In 2023, we planted 123,370 trees across 5 cooperatives. In 2024, that number grew to 181,104 trees across 8 cooperatives—demonstrating our ongoing commitment to a more sustainable future.

2024 Key Results

8,340 farmers incentivized to protect and restore forest

201 women

participating in women's empowerment projects and activities

11,801 farmers provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to professionalize & optimize cocoa farming practices



181,104 Trees planted in 2024

Our partners and local team carefully monitor seedling survival rates and provide technical assistance during planting.

The 2023 planting has been successful, with an average survival rate above 83% across the country. Farmers receive financial incentives for keeping trees alive. The **2024** planting will be evaluated 12-15 months after planting.

SCOPE 3 Agroforestry Pilot Project

The cultivation of cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire is threatened by the harmful effects of climate change. Due to agriculture, the area of Ivorian forest has decreased from 16 million hectares at the time of independence to only 2.9 million hectares today. This significant loss of the main carbon sink leads to high carbon emissions, which negatively impact the climate.

In response to the degradation of the forest cover, the Ivorian government has decided to pay particular attention to the issue of deforestation. It has set a goal to restore 20% of the forest cover by 2030 to address the impacts of climate change, which threaten the livelihoods of millions of farmers.

Puratos, a global, family-owned company specializing in innovative ingredients and solutions for bakery, patisserie, and chocolate committed to sustainability and innovation, has aligned with the Ivorian government's vision by initiating a pilot project called "SCOPE 3 project" to reduce SCOPE 3 carbon emissions. Initiated in 2024, this project aims to quantify the carbon stored and emitted in cocoa farming systems and to adopt agroecological practices to reduce carbon emissions in Divo and Abengourou by 2030.

The activities carried out over the past year, related to this project, will be highlighted in this report according to the following plan:

- Presentation of the study areas
- Forest protection and restoration;
- Sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods; and
- Community engagement and social inclusion.

a. Presentation of the study areas

This study is being carried out in two cocoa sourcing areas for Puratos: Divo and Abengourou. The cities of Abengourou and Divo, located in the southeast and

southwest of Côte d'Ivoire respectively, have geographical, soil and climate, and socio-economic characteristics that make them key areas for the country's agricultural economy.



Map showing the study area: Divo and Abengourou

The information about the selected plots in these areas is presented in the table below :

General Information				
City	Cooperative	Section	Farmer name	Area (ha)
Abengourou	Scanfi	Tigorikro	Kouman A.	2,02
			Tambiga A.	4.46

Table I : Table Related to the Plots in the Abengourou Area

General Information				
City	Cooperative	Section	Farmer name	Area (ha)
Divo	SCOPAGED	Landounou (N'zi n'drikro)	Kouassi K.	4,6
			Kouadio N'.	2,1

Table II : Table Related to the Plots in the Divo Area

b. Forest protection and restoration

Actions :

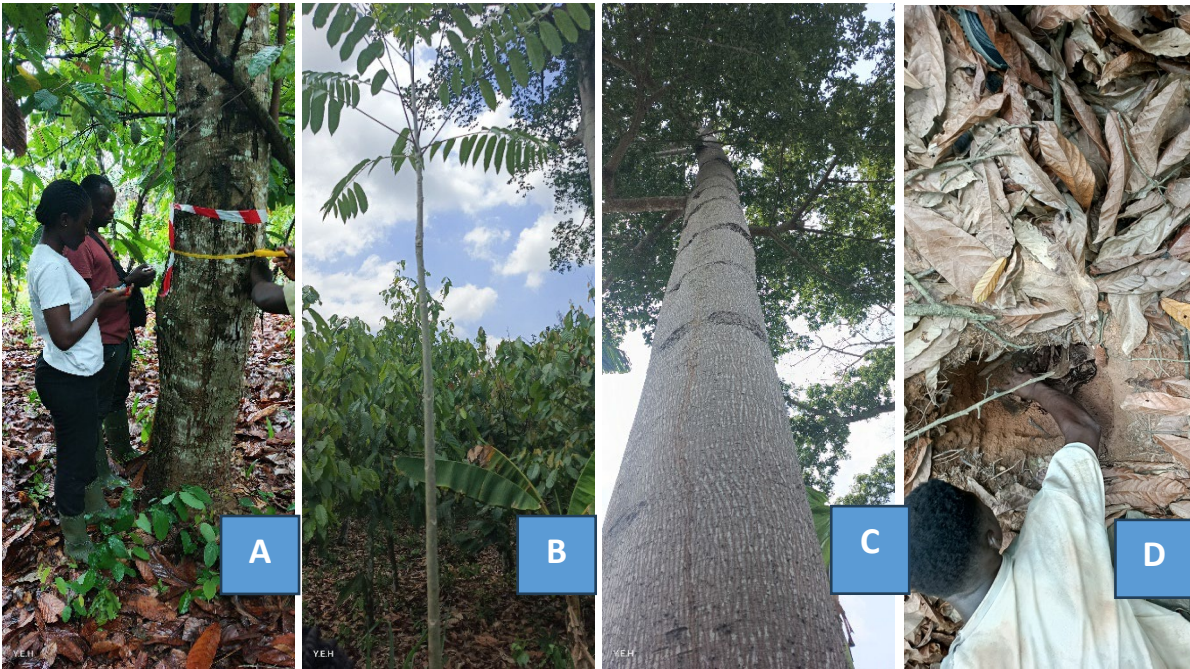
- Inventory of pre-existing trees in the pilot plots.
- Quantification of carbon stock in the farming systems.
- Implementation of agroforestry in the farming systems.

Activities carried out and preliminary results:

- Selection, delimitation, and mapping: A total of four plots were selected—two in Divo and two in Abengourou. The plots were delimited and mapped, resulting in a total area of **13,18 hectares**.
- Inventory of pre-existing trees: Across the **13,18 hectares, 353 trees were recorded**.
- Carbon stock quantification: Dendrometric measurements were taken to quantify carbon stock in the biomass, and soil samples were collected to assess carbon stock in the soil. However, the results are not yet available.
- Agroforestry implementation: Already initiated in the demonstration plots in Divo, **221 shade trees were planted** by the PUR project over **6.7 hectares of cocoa plantations**. As for the Abengourou zone, the demonstration plots have not yet received any tree seedlings.

Targeted impacts :

- Significant reduction in CO₂ emissions
- Improvement of biodiversity and soil stability
- Restoration of vegetation cover



A – Measurement of dendrometric parameters;

B – Tree planted as part of the agroforestry system;

C – Pre-existing tree;

D – Soil pit

c. Sustainable cocoa production and farmers' livelihoods

Actions:

- Training in sustainable agriculture
- Optimization of fertilization practices

Activities carried out and preliminary results:

- Soil management and organic fertilization: Application of **one ton of organic fertilizer per hectare** to improve productivity while reducing the carbon footprint.
- Cocoa farm maintenance activities: Pruning carried out on **4 hectares out of the total 13,18 hectares**.
- Technical support for farmers: A pruning team called "**Puraforce**", funded by Puratos, has been made available to farmers to handle the maintenance of the plots.

Targeted impacts:

- Significant increase in the average yield of cocoa plantations
- Improvement of farmers' incomes



Visual of the Pruning Team: PURAFORCE

d. Community engagement and social inclusion

Actions:

- Raising environmental awareness

Activities carried out and preliminary results:

- Raising farmers' awareness about the importance of trees in cocoa farming
- Training farmers on tree planting techniques

Targeted impacts:

- Involvement of farmers in addressing environmental issues



Images showing the farmer training phase on tree planting

CONCLUSION

The initiatives implemented by Puratos to reduce the carbon footprint of its cocoa sourcing operations and contribute to the restoration of Côte d'Ivoire's forest cover include key actions such as raising awareness and training farmers on agroforestry, introducing shade trees, promoting sustainable soil management, and optimizing agricultural practices. The active involvement of farmers in environmental protection and the strengthening of their technical capacities reflect meaningful progress toward more resilient and climate-friendly agroforestry systems. Looking ahead, it would be advisable to expand the study area, involve more farmers, and intensify reforestation efforts to significantly contribute to the restoration of Côte d'Ivoire's tree cover and reduce Puratos cacao sourcing carbon footprint by 2030.

ANNEX

Description	Target (Current reporting year)	# Through direct investment (Current reporting year)	# On behalf of clients (Current reporting year)	# Through direct investment (Since 2023)	# Through direct investment (Since 2018)
FOREST PROTECTION AND RESTORATION					
# of farms mapped in direct supply chain: Total Active	9 000	12 653			
# of hectares in the direct supply chain with deforestation risk assessments completed	35 000	12 653			
# metric tons of directly sourced cocoa traceable from the farm to the first purchase point (target is 100%)		18 574			
# hectares restored in Forest Reserve / Forêts Classée					
# trees registered					
# of farmers with land tenure agreements/documentation obtained via company support					
# farmers informed, trained, and / or consulted on the new Forest Code, forest policy, law enforcement, forest protection, and restoration	0	2 721			
# Individuals receiving incentives to protect and restore forests and / or adopt agroforestry (e.g., PES): New	0	1 377		1 377	1 377
# Individuals receiving incentives to protect and restore forests and / or adopt agroforestry (e.g., PES): Total Active	0	8 340			
# farmers applying agroforestry: New		1 377			

# farmers applying agroforestry: Total Active		8 340			
# farmers provided with technical assistance to adopt and expand agroforestry	0	1 377			
# multi-purpose trees distributed for on-farm planting	100 000	181 104		181 104	324 104
# hectares cocoa agroforestry: New	500	3 442		3 442	3 882
# hectares cocoa agroforestry: Total Active		27 188			
# of trees distributed for off-farm planting					
# hectares of forest area restored off-reserve / in rural zone					
# farmers provided with technical assistance to be more resilient to climate change and reduce and remove carbon emissions on farm (e.g., CSC)	0	1 377			
# of farmers trained in Modified Taungya System (MTS)					
\$ contributed to fund					
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND FARMERS' LIVELIHOOD					
# improved cocoa seedlings distributed to farmers					
# farmers provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to professionalize & optimize cocoa farming practices	9 000	11 801			
# individuals participating in additional Income Generating Activities (IGA's)		201			
# individuals provided with technical assistance (based on plans) to increase income from non-cocoa sources / IGA's	0	201			
# Individuals provided with technical assistance to save money and access finance	0	201			
# of members of VSLA groups in the current year	0	201			
# of VSLA groups in the current year	0	7			

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY					
# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program (CBNRM): New					
# of cocoa communities with active forest restoration and protection program (CBNRM): Total Active					
# hectares under CBNRM					
# of individuals participating in women's empowerment projects and activities	0	201			
# of individuals participating in youth focused projects and activities (15-35 years old)	0	73			