

# Mondelez International cocoa MoU to help protect Ghana's forests

Reinforcing its commitment to reduce emissions in its cocoa supply chain across Ghana, Mondelez International signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Forestry Commission of Ghana, Ghana Cocoa Board and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Through its sustainable cocoa sourcing programme, Cocoa Life, the company will lead the implementation of projects to deliver the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) which aims to tackle deforestation and forest degradation.



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“Deforestation makes up the largest part of our carbon footprint, which is why it’s so important for us to address this issue head-on. Through this collaboration, we can be even more efficient in safeguarding the environment and helping cocoa farmers become resilient against climate change,” said Hubert Weber, executive vice president and president Europe at Mondelēz International.

“This partnership builds on Cocoa Life’s ongoing forest protection efforts. It’s an exciting new chapter in our work in Ghana and fits with the commitment we made by signing the Cocoa & Forests Initiative Framework for Action at COP23.”

## Reducing rate of deforestation, forest degradation from cocoa farming

As one of the largest cocoa-producing countries, Ghana supplies about 20% of the world’s cocoa. According to the GCFRP, Ghana also has one of the highest deforestation rates in Africa at 3.2% per annum. This is primarily due to the unsustainable expansion of cocoa and other agricultural crops.

Mondelēz International is contributing \$5m over five years to the GCFRP, which aims to significantly reduce the high rate of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as their associated greenhouse carbon emissions, from cocoa farming within Ghana's High Forest Zone.

Together with these partners, Mondelēz International will execute an action plan in key Hotspot Intervention Areas, focusing on:

- Mapping all land uses, including cocoa farms
- Implementing climate-smart cocoa practices to increase yields and sustainability
- Improving access to finance to foster good practices by farmers and communities
- Legislative and policy reform to support programme execution
- Coordination and measurement, reporting and verification

## **Realising sustainable cocoa production and forest management**

"The Ghana government is promoting public-private partnerships, which are very critical for sustainable economic growth in all sectors, including the forestry sector. It is, therefore, encouraging that Mondelēz International's Cocoa Life programme is partnering with government to implement an integrated landscape approach to sustainable cocoa production and forest management," said John Peter Amewu, Minister for Lands and Natural Resources in Ghana and signatory of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

"Cocoa Life is a valuable asset to the realisation of the Joint Framework for Action under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, as it brings on board advanced environmental protection strategies at the farmer, community and national levels."

Since 2013, Cocoa Life has worked with the Ghana Cocoa Board and UNDP to promote environmentally sustainable production practices while conserving ecosystems and natural resources in cocoa landscapes across Ghana. Mondelēz International is also a founding member of the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#), in which 12 leading cocoa and chocolate companies are partnering to reduce deforestation in the cocoa supply chain.

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