

# Côte d'Ivoire

## Reclaiming a Forest Legacy, Powering a Sustainable Future

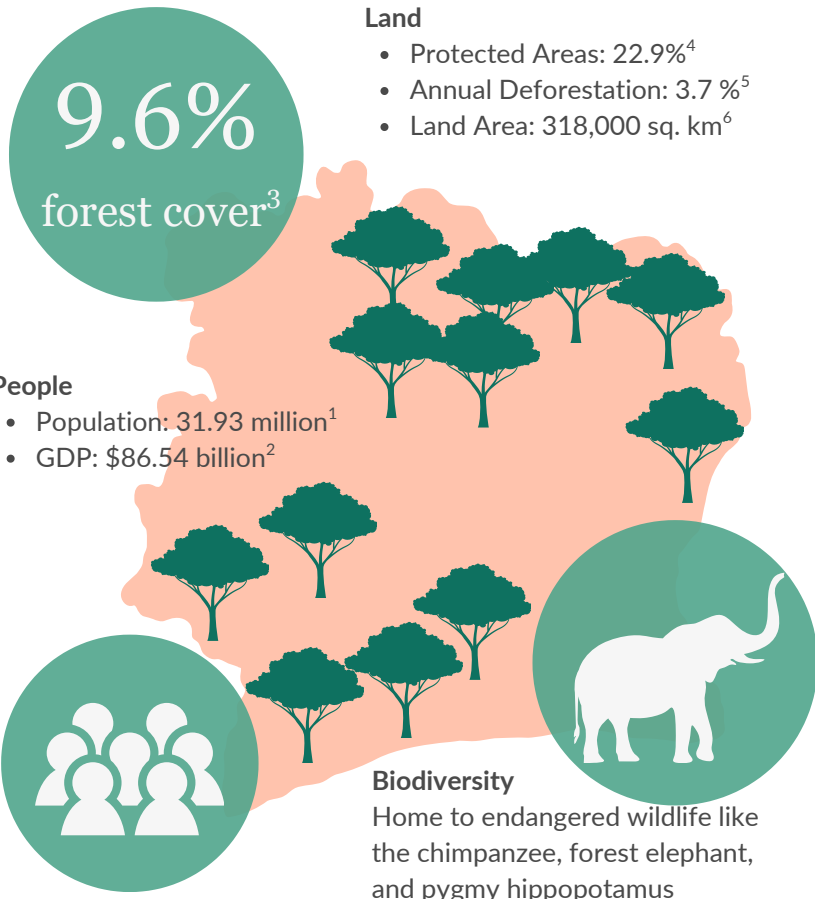
Once known as the "Emerald of West Africa" for its vast forest cover, Côte d'Ivoire forms part of the Upper Guinean Forest – a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot. The country's three World Heritage sites Taï and Comoé National Parks and the Mount Simba Strict Nature Reserve (shared with Guinea) are home to some of the last remaining primary forest areas in West Africa, providing a habitat for endangered species such as the Pygmy Hippopotamus and Jentink's Duiker.

Côte d'Ivoire is home to over sixty ethnic groups, many of which have unique cultural practices and traditional relationships with the forest environment.

Decades of agricultural expansion have reduced forest cover by 80% over the past 50 years, and forest now cover just 9% of Côte d'Ivoire land area. Drivers of forest loss include slash-and-burn agriculture, unsustainable logging, artisanal gold mining, and poor forest management, undermining livelihoods, and threatening climate resilience, which is already impacting the agricultural sector.

Today, over five million smallholder cocoa and rubber farmers depend directly on forest landscapes for their livelihoods. This makes forest preservation a key priority for Côte d'Ivoire and the country is now turning the tide through bold national action programs to protect and restore its forests.

These programs support the advance of zero-deforestation agriculture, sustainable forest management, and conservation in the country's key forest areas. As well as reducing deforestation and related carbon emissions, the programs improves livelihoods and support sustainable development. Early investments have been funded in part by major cocoa companies, including World Cocoa Foundation members.



### FCPF IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

- Crediting Period: October 2020-December 2024
- Annual Forest Carbon Emissions (Baseline): 8.4 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- ERRs generated to date: 7 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Total FCPF payments made to date \$35 million
- Estimated excess credits available: 8.5 million
- Key Impacts: 80% reduction in deforestation from agriculture, sustainable agroforestry, restoration of degraded lands and forests
- Credits available are FCPF excess emissions reductions and removals (ERRs) from vintages 2022 and 2023
- Credits issued in June 2025
- Cote d'Ivoire has already issued credits for crediting years 2020 and 2021 from the program
- CORSIA Eligibility: FCPF Standard – Approved for Pilot Phase (2021–2023); Under Consideration for Phase 1.



FCPF PROGRAM GOALS

 <b>80% reduction in deforestation from agriculture</b>	 <b>Improve and formalize land tenure security</b>	 <b>Improved management of classified forests</b>	 <b>Restoration of five million hectares of degraded forest</b>	 <b>Promote participative forest management</b>
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SUPPORTING CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S FOREST PROTECTION EFFORTS

Corporate Climate leaders have the opportunity to support Côte d'Ivoire's forest protection program via the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The FCPF has already provided funding of \$35 million to protect forests, enhance community livelihoods and drive sustainable development, while supporting the country's vision to restore 20% forest cover by 2030.



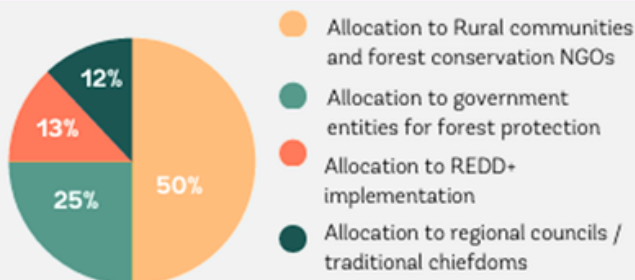
Due to the overachievement of Côte d'Ivoire's efforts to tackle deforestation, additional high-integrity forest carbon credits are available for corporate buyers. For companies sourcing cocoa, coffee, natural rubber and other commodities from Côte d'Ivoire, this offers a chance to align climate ambition with long-term supply chain resilience in West Africa's agricultural heartlands.



BENEFIT SHARING AGREEMENT

The program's inclusive [benefit sharing plan](#), developed through extensive stakeholder consultations at national and local levels supports stakeholders, particular ethnic groups and rural communities, in receiving an equitable share of the proceeds to reward them for their role in reducing emissions from deforestation. The diagram below shows how proceeds are shared.

BENEFITS SHARING AGREEMENT



SAFEGUARDS

- Safeguards system developed in parallel with the national REDD+ strategy, aiming for consistency and coherence
- Safeguards Information System (SIS) established in line with UNFCCC requirements
- Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism implemented, with an initial focus on engagement through traditional and customary authorities
- Programme aligned with Côte d'Ivoire's land tenure reform strategy, promoting equitable access—particularly for women and vulnerable groups
- FPRCI (Permanent Executive Secretariat for the REDD+ Process) oversees the transparent distribution of benefits to programme beneficiaries.

## NON-CARBON BENEFITS<sup>7</sup>

In addition to reducing emissions from deforestation the program has a range of non-carbon benefits.

Benefit Area	Description	Example/Impact
<b>1. Biodiversity Conservation</b>	Protects habitats and endemic species in biodiversity hotspots.	Conservation in Taï and Comoé National Parks supports endangered flora and fauna.
<b>2. Water Management</b>	Improved farm water storage, irrigation, and efficiency. Construction of multipurpose reservoirs and dams for agriculture.	Increased drainage capacity of land to reduce flooding risk and riverbank erosion control.
<b>3. Soil Health &amp; Agriculture</b>	Reduces erosion, restores soil fertility, and boosts productivity through agroforestry.	Shade-grown cocoa systems increase yields and reduce fertiliser dependence.
<b>4. Livelihoods &amp; Diversification</b>	Expands income sources and green jobs through sustainable forest use.	Smallholders gain from NTFPs, eco-tourism, and diversified farming models.
<b>5. Climate Adaptation</b>	Increases resilience to climate extremes and secures farming systems.	Agroforestry provides shade, improves soil moisture retention, and stabilises yields, helping cocoa and rubber farmers adapt to droughts and erratic rainfall.
<b>6. Land Tenure Security</b>	Strengthens smallholder rights to land and trees, encouraging long-term stewardship.	Community-managed reforestation areas see improved compliance and reduced conflict.

## OVERPERFORMANCE AND ADDITIONAL CREDITS

With Côte d'Ivoire's strong performance in tackling deforestation, it has an estimated 8.5 million additional high-integrity carbon credits from 2022-2023, including both emissions reductions and removals available, issued in June 2025.

All FCPF credits are verified and validated against its own high integrity standard<sup>8</sup>. The FCPF Standard is consistent with UNFCCC decisions including the Paris Agreement, the Warsaw Framework, and the Cancun Safeguards and was an important reference point for the development of the ART TREES Standard used by the LEAF Coalition.

The FCPF Standard has been built with strong participation from Indigenous Peoples and local communities at both the country level and in the FCPF's global governance, supported by partner initiatives such as EnABLE, a global program enhancing the inclusion of marginalized communities and disadvantaged groups in Emission Reductions Programs.



### ABOUT EMERGENT

Emergent is a U.S. non-profit that serves as a transactions platform engaging between tropical forest countries and the private sector to mobilize finance to support emissions reductions and removals in deforestation. It does this by developing and bringing practical, credible and large-scale forest protection solutions to market. Emergent acts as the coordinator of the LEAF Coalition.



### THE FOREST AND CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

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+.



### LEARN MORE

Scan the following QR codes to find out more about FCPF' in Côte d'Ivoire, Emergent and the LEAF Coalition:



### NEXT STEPS

To find out how your company can purchase high integrity carbon credits from Côte d'Ivoire via Emergent and support its ongoing fight against deforestation:



**Edwina McKechnie,**  
Executive Vice President,  
Corporate Engagement  
Emergent  
[edwina@emergentclimate.com](mailto:edwina@emergentclimate.com)



**Kelsey Close,**  
Analyst,  
Corporate Engagement  
Emergent  
[bhairav@emergentclimate.com](mailto:bhairav@emergentclimate.com)

#### References

- [1] [World Bank Data](#)
- [2] [World Bank Data](#)
- [3] [FCPF](#)
- [4] [FCPF](#)
- [5] [FCPF](#)
- [6] [FCPF](#)
- [7] [UN REDD, FCPF](#)
- [8] FCPF Standard <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcpf-standard>