

Cocoa: The vast majority of our cocoa supply comes from West Africa, mostly through our key suppliers Barry Callebaut and Cargill. We work closely with NGO and supplier partners on the ground in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and invest in sustainable sourcing programs with a focus on protecting and restoring natural resources, strengthening smallholder farmer livelihoods, empowering women, preventing and remediating child labor, and advancing sustainable practices.

In addition to supplier programs, General Mills and CARE International launched the Cocoa Sustainability Initiative

(CSI) in 2014 to improve smallholder cocoa farmers' livelihoods and well-being in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The program holistically supports smallholder farmer communities, including through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training, improved access to inputs and strengthening of agricultural cooperatives. General Mills also partners with PUR to support smallholder cocoa farmers with clean cookstoves for improved health, income diversification and stronger livelihoods, and ecological resilience through agroforestry programs in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (see box below).

In March 2017, we signed on to the World Cocoa Foundation's **Cocoa and Forests Initiative** (CFI) to combat deforestation in key cocoa growing regions. Through this initiative we have worked closely with suppliers, stakeholders and Proforest to identify strategic actions to protect and restore forests, increase sustainable production, and promote social and community engagement. Our CFI action plans and progress to date for Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire can be viewed [here](#). As we continue our work with CFI in our key cocoa sourcing regions in West Africa, we will leverage the knowledge we gain

to inform our approach and strategy to achieve deforestation-free cocoa for the rest of our sourcing regions.



Holistic approach to regenerating forest ecosystems

Since 2019, General Mills has provided philanthropic support to PUR to drive long-term forest protection and restoration and improve and diversify cocoa farmer livelihoods in key General Mills cocoa sourcing regions in West Africa. With a goal of addressing deforestation in these regions, our PUR partnership supports

ecosystem restoration by engaging local communities through the introduction of diversified agroforestry and tree nurseries, while simultaneously launching complementary community-based activities that support the long-term success of tree planting initiatives, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem service-oriented activities






through community empowerment and income diversification and generation.

Our PUR partnership aims to drive progress in the areas listed below and has led to positive impacts for ecosystems, biodiversity and smallholder farmers.



"I needed trees to plant in my cocoa because I have realized portions of my cocoa farms have no trees remaining and have started wilting and dying, especially during the dry season. The PUR trees will provide shade for my cocoa farm, will also get timber, firewood, charcoal, and PUR will give me incentive."

— Grace Akyirem

FOCUS AREAS				
 Community-run agroforestry	 Income diversification through beekeeping and fish breeding	 Improved cooking stoves	 Environmental awareness raising	 Research projects
PROGRESS TO DATE IN GHANA AND COTE D'IVOIRE				
67,647 trees planted	300 beehives distributed Renovated 1 fish breeding structure with 7 ponds	1,000 cooking stoves built	3,000 participants	6 research studies completed to date; additional study to be completed by September 2023

For more details on PUR initiatives in cocoa, please find more information [here](#).

