



Touton and 11 other major cocoa & chocolate companies launch sector-wide initiative to end deforestation

On 16 March 2017 Twelve of the world's leading cocoa and chocolate companies agreed to a statement of collective intent committing them to work together, in partnership with others, to end deforestation and forest degradation in the global cocoa supply chain, with an initial focus on Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The agreement commits the participating companies to develop and present a joint public-private framework of action to address deforestation at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP 23) meeting in Bonn in November of this year. The framework will build on existing company initiatives and include an actionable suite of measures including greater investments in more sustainable forms of landscape management; more active efforts in partnership with others to protect and restore forests in the cocoa landscape; and significant investments in programs to improve cocoa productivity for smallholder farmers

Fit with Touton landscape governance approach



Touton's Climate Smart Cocoa programme was initiated in 2014 in Ghana and builds on the group's farmer professionalisation approach. Using its Rural Service Centres, Touton works on 3 levels:

- **farm/plot level** to train and coach farmers on diversified crops, good agroforestry practices and the use of shade trees.
- **community/district level:** bringing together the different 'landscape' actors to agree on landscape use priorities
- **national level:** working with partners to develop a landscape standard that includes criterion for assessing and nurturing a market for 'Climate Smart Cocoa'.

Touton has signed MoU's with the Ghana Cocobod and Forestry Commission and is working with the Nature Conservation Research Centre and a host of technical partners (incl. VCS, AgroEco, SWA).

This initiative is coordinated by WCF, IDH and The Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit (ISU).

The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) is an international membership organisation that promotes sustainability in the cocoa sector. Touton is a member of WCF and sits on the organisation's Board of Directors.

The Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) convenes PPPs to reinforce supply chains in a sustainable manner. IDH is a major actor in the cocoa sector in West Africa.

HRH Prince of Wales International Sustainability Unit (ISU)
HRH's ISU was formed in 2010 to address critical challenges to development and the environment.

Next steps:

The 12 companies will now engage in a planning and consultation process with governments, farmer organizations, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders to build the joint framework to be unveiled at COP 23.

Touton is also aiming to secure financial support from donors to progress its climate-smart programme, notably from IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture),

Quick Links

- 16 March Joint Press Release ([ENG](#)/ [FRE](#))
- [HuffingtonPost article on initiative](#)
- [Touton Climate Smart Cocoa Video](#)