Project title : TRACAO - Evaluate the feasibility of a traceability and transparency system in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

Project place	Project cost	Role in the project	Technical and financial sponsors	Dates
Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana	50 000 €	Cocoa, forest, market, certification expertises	EFI - European Forest Institute, Advocates for Biodiveristy Conservation Ghana	September 2020 - February 2021

Project's goals and results

Main goals
In the context of growing demand from consumer countries to ensure that **the cocoa they import does not come from deforested areas and respect minimum sustainability standards**, the REDD + unit of the European Forest Insistute (EFI) entrusted Nitidæ with this study to assess the feasibility of a traceability and transparency system to reduce the risks of deforestation, child labor and guarantee a **decent income** for cocoa producers.

Specific objectives
SO1. Evaluate existing public and private traceability systems and standards, labels and sustainability programs in the cocoa sector
SO2. Suggest avenues for improvement and investment for a system of traceability and transparency in the sector at the scale of pilot territories

Beneficiaries

Results
Define proposals for sustainable jurisdictional approaches for cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire in order to build a multi-stakeholder and multi-scale strategy to invest in the issue of sustainability beyond the cocoa value-chain and thus tackle the root of the problems.
The strategy (REDD+ in the few remaining forests, territorial certification at regional level, targeted investments to facilitate ongoing reforms...) is detailed by prioritizing actions and by articulating the international, national, jurisdictional and local scales for the areas at high risk of deforestation. Pilot regions in which this approach could be tested are identified on the basis of their forest cover, the previous involvement of regional authorities in planning processes or sustainable management of natural resources, regional cocoa production... To support the establishment of territorial certifications, the useful indicators are detailed as well as the many existing sources.
*Bagging of cocoa beans for delivery to the port at the start of the cooperative (Divo, 2017)*Carry out the analysis and benchmark of sustainable development initiatives in the Ivorian and Ghanaian cocoa supply chains.
Flow diagram and traceability control points

Activities
Produce a study on the current state of private and public traceability and transparency systems in cocoa supply chains in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.
It highlights the challenges of reliable traceability at the first mile level (from producer to first buyer) and concludes that only approaches of traceability based on a minimum of transparency have a chance of being reliable.
From the early stages, batch separation is not always applied
This report analyzes the evolutions and criteria of sustainability approaches (independent label, company program, international standards, national policies...) existing in the cocoa sector.
First translated into an approach based on independent labels, sustainability was then integrated into internal company programs and then into international standards or public policies. These changes in form do not make possible to remove the technical obstacles limiting good monitoring of sustainability (measurement and monitoring of deforestation, estimation of forest cover, governance between cooperatives and buyers) and ultimately have little impact on the content of the sustainability definition. The approaches remain focused on reforming the sector while most sustainability issues (child labor, deforestation, producer income) take root elsewhere. This report thus concludes that the main issues linked to deforestation (but also to child labor, often present in the same territories) are played out at the level of public policies and the regulatory capacities of communities. In this sense, it recommends working on models of territorial and/or jurisdictional certification by identifying a series of relevant sustainability indicators (according to the Landscale approach) and the corresponding databases, which could be monitored at the scale of the territories.