**Cote d’Ivoire’s forest plan endorsed by Climate Investment Funds**

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Cote d’Ivoire and the Climate Investments Funds are today celebrating the endorsement of the country’s investment plan under the CIF’s dedicated fund for forests, the Forest Investment Program (FIP).

Cote d’Ivoire’s forests offer huge potential and rich biodiversity but the country has one of the highest rates of deforestation in Sub-Saharan Africa. FIP funding of $24 million (USD) will focus on restoring the country’s forest cover by working with small-scale farmers to introduce agroforestry techniques and improve agricultural productivity. It will also contribute to the protection of the vast forest area of Tai National Park - a world heritage site and one of the last major remnants of pristine forest in West Africa - conserving its biodiversity and carbon stocks.

Mamadou Sangare, Director General of the Agency for Forest Development said: “The local community will benefit from the forest restoration as it increases productivity and generates revenues.”

Senior FIP Coordinator Ian Gray says: “Agriculture is at the core of Cote d’Ivoire’s economy and this funding will increase yields, relieve pressure on remaining forests and restore forest cover, a win-win for famers and the environment.

“Supporting the protection of Tai National Park will benefit both biodiversity and the climate, helping ensure this world heritage site can be enjoyed for years to come.”

**About the Climate Investment Funds and the Forest Investment Program**

The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) is providing 72 developing and middle income countries with urgently needed resources to mitigate and manage the challenges of climate change and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The CIF allocates financing through four funding windows.

The $771 million [Forest Investment Program (FIP)](https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/Forest_Investment_Program) supports efforts of developing countries to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management that leads to emissions’ reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+).

About Ian Gray

Ian is the Senior Program Coordinator of the Forest Investment Program.