

GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities
Intervention on

SAP061: Mitigation and adaptation to climate change under agroforestry systems in cocoa production in the Amazon and Atlantic Forest biomes

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b43-02-add08>

We welcome this proposal exemplifying a well-conceived project that effectively combines adaptation and mitigation objectives that directly respond to the needs of smallholder farmers in the context of the climate crisis.

First of all, the project is well aligned with national priorities and responds to the high vulnerability of smallholder cocoa producers in Pará and Bahia, who face growing climate risks and lack the technical and financial means to transition to resilient agroforestry systems. By restoring degraded areas and supporting the shift from monoculture to diversified agroforestry, the project contributes to both climate resilience and sustainable rural development.

Additionally, the proposal also demonstrates sound design choices, including its strategic geographic focus on areas of high poverty, deforestation pressure, and climate vulnerability, its articulation with Brazil's national institution for the strengthening of family agriculture PRONAF in providing support to cacao smallholder farmer, and its linkages with the private sector to promote long-term economic sustainability. We also note positively the ITAP's assessment that the project presents a good cost-benefit ratio and a strong alignment with the GCF mandate by addressing real climate and development needs through proven approaches.

The proposal could, however, be further strengthened by addressing two elements as noted by the ITAP. First, while the project limits its interventions to degraded lands, its economic success could raise land values and indirectly incentivize new cocoa expansion into forest areas. For this reason, monitoring should extend beyond project boundaries to include surrounding areas in order to detect potential indirect land-use change. Second, the project's MRV system currently operates independently from Brazil's national framework, which may affect consistency and credibility. We therefore echo the recommendation that emission reductions and removals be reported in alignment with national MRV systems to ensure transparency and methodological coherence. We trust this project will incorporate these recommendations, and we support its consideration by the Board.