



THE ROLE OF TIMBER TREES







THE TROPICAL WOOD INDUSTRY OPERATES IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS:

CENTRAL AFRICA

Commitment to sustainable forest management Livelihoods projects for communities

WESTERN AFRICA

Foreseeable shortage of wood
Companies and small farmers are
experimenting with the
cacao-timber tree association

THE COCOA INDUSTRY IS FACING MANY CHALLENGES IN AFRICA:

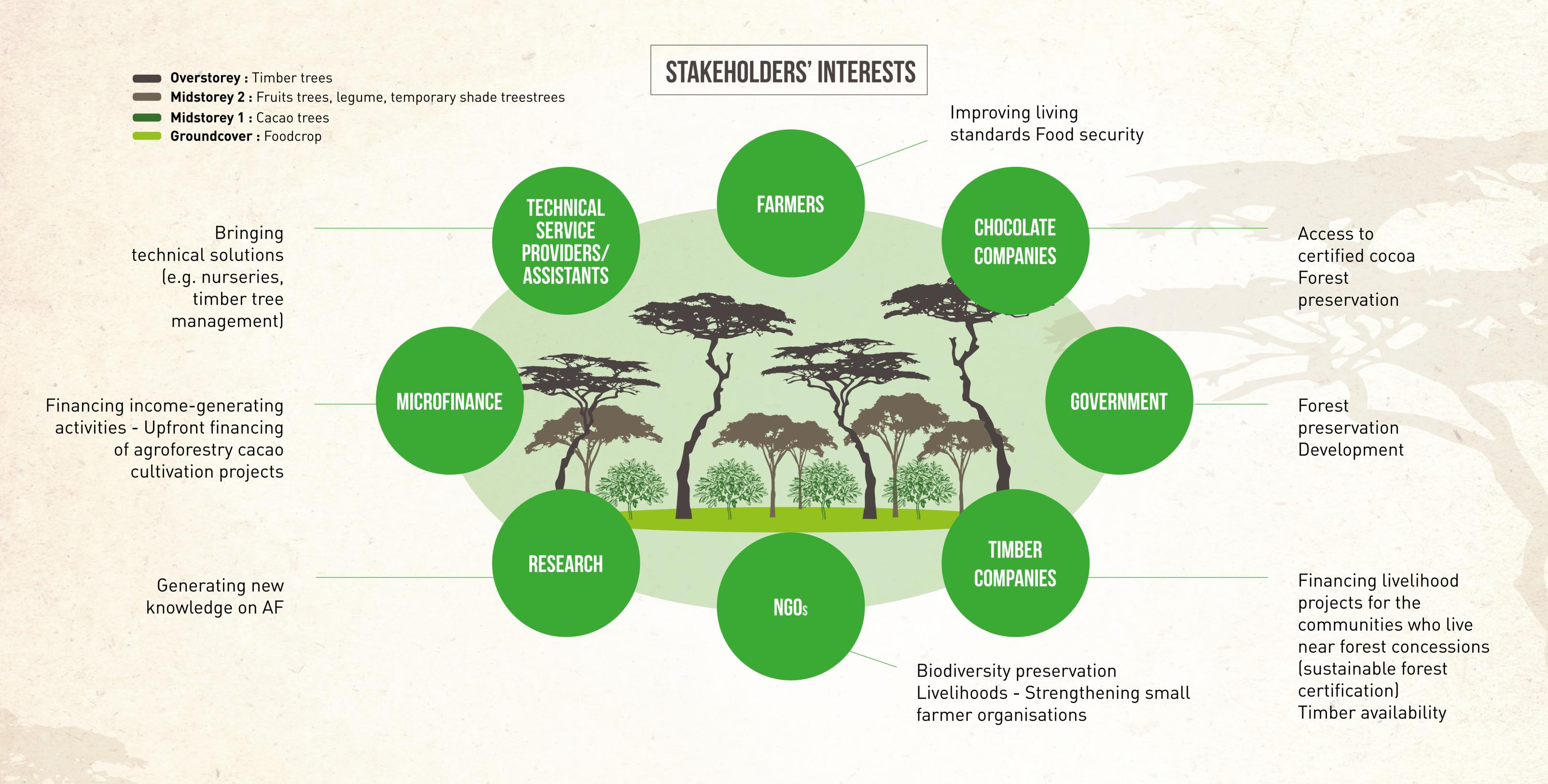
Low level of income diversification
Cocoa (and farming) is a driver
of deforestation
Ageing cacao trees, diseases,
climate change

THE ASSOCIATION OF CACAO AND TIMBER TREE SPECIES WITHIN AGROFORESTRY PROJECTS:

AN ASSET FOR MANY STAKEHOLDERS

FROM A DIVERSITY OF INITIAL LANDSCAPES:

ONE GLOBAL APPROACH TO ACHIEVE A CACAO-TIMBER TREE ASSOCIATION MODEL



KEY LEARNINGS

- The agroforestry model depends on production goals
- A strong synergy between farmers, NGOs and donors is essential to successful initiatives
- Funding is key to start off the initial stages of a project as the inability
 to pay for initial costs may prevent excellent investments from being made
 A virtuous cycle is then triggered: aid > certification > livelihood
 improvement > savings > reinvestment > scaling up

PROSPECTS

- Large-scale dissemination of knowledge of agroforestry systems to other Fair Trade certified cooperatives
- Enhancing the value of timber trees grown in agroforestry systems with the new 'Trees outside forest' PEFC standard
- Development of financial mechanisms
- The legal framework needs to be adapted





The article is based on the following projects: