Côte d’Ivoire’s forests have come under huge pressure in recent decades. At current rates of deforestation, Côte d’Ivoire could lose its entire forest cover by 2023 (FCFP, ONU-REDD, 2014). Agricultural expansion for food and cash crops—in particular cocoa, oil palm and rubber—logging, mining and heavy reliance on wood fuel for cooking mean that few areas remain untouched (ETC Terra, 2016). Many of these activities also increase vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, threatening the productivity of the land on which Côte d’Ivoire’s economy depends.

There is an alternative. Greening the hundreds of billions of West African CFA francs (FCFA) spent annually on business-as-usual agriculture in the country could increase productivity without sacrificing the country’s forests. The Government of Côte d’Ivoire has recognized this opportunity and set to work developing a National REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan to implement zero-deforestation agriculture and forest cover goals.

The Landscape of REDD+ Aligned Finance in Côte d’Ivoire shows public finance that went to activities that impact on land use in 2015, and that are therefore considered “relevant” in the context of Côte d’Ivoire’s National REDD+ Strategy. These sectors include agriculture, forestry, domestic energy, environment, mining, and planning policy. The analysis further divides finance for these “REDD+ relevant” activities into:

- REDD+ aligned finance for activities that directly contribute to reducing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and to enhancing and protecting forest cover, as per the objectives of the National REDD+ Strategy.
- Grey finance for activities that could contribute to maintaining and enhancing Côte d’Ivoire’s forests if other enabling conditions were in place. These are agricultural intensification activities that may be driving deforestation and require additional safeguards to ensure that forests are not converted.

This analysis is based on 2015 Ministry of Budget disbursed investment data for 12 relevant ministries. International public finance was already contributing to limiting deforestation and encouraging sustainable land use in the country in 2015, it provides a baseline against which to measure progress towards the levels of investment required to drive sustainable agriculture and reforestation. It also identifies opportunities to increase finance available for implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy.

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was spent in 2015 on REDD+ enabling environment measures such as land management, land tenure, green economy planning, monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, tracing commodity supply chains, research and development, and capacity building. However, much more is needed to leverage significantly larger investments in more productive and resilient land uses.

In particular, sustainable land use planning in Côte d’Ivoire is severely underfunded. Only FCFA 447 million (USD 0.7 million) was spent by the Treasury in 2015 and there was no international support. Further support is also needed to put in place commodity traceability and MRV systems, as well as funding for research and development for sustainable land-use practices.

In addition, just FCFA 3.3 billion (USD 5.5 million) was spent on securing land tenure in 2015, with most support coming from international partners. Securing land ownership across a larger portion of Côte d’Ivoire’s rural areas is necessary to attract investment in sustainable land use and will require a significant increase in funding to accelerate beyond current efforts.

Opportunities exist to raise finance from new sources and improve the effectiveness of existing spending

Additional domestic sources of finance for REDD+ could be generated by taxing activities that drive deforestation, in particular in the agricultural sector, or earmarking existing tax revenues. No information is available on the impact of existing reforestation taxes incumbent on timber producers and mining and no specific incentives are in place to encourage the private sector and smallholders to support forest restoration.

The creation of a dedicated National REDD+ Fund for Côte d’Ivoire is foreseen in order to coordinate future resources aimed at implementing the REDD+ strategy. Specific funding windows could help address investment gaps and imbalances in spending across REDD+ priority activities. Lessons should be learned from the performance of existing funding instruments and institutions in Côte d’Ivoire, to create a strong institutional setup capable of attracting resources from multiple sources and deploying those resources effectively.

At present, local governments play a minor role in the REDD+ financial landscape. There are opportunities to incentivize local governments to conserve natural resources whilst increasing the resources available to them to do so.

Improved REDD+ finance tracking can help Côte d’Ivoire and partners better plan and coordinate spending

By tracking land use finance over time, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire could monitor the extent to which REDD+ investment needs are being met. Efforts should be made to better understand how different actors influence patterns of land use, particularly in relation to finance flowing from public agencies, state-owned enterprises, international partners (off budget flows), the private sector, and NGOs. Improved coordination between the Ministry of Budget, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Planning and Development and development partners is required to adapt existing accounting systems to allow easier tracking of existing public investments and investment needs in sustainable land use.

**THE LANDSCAPE OF REDD+ ALIGNED FINANCE IN CÔTE D’IVOIRE IN 2015**

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**Figure 3: Spending in 2015 on REDD+ strategic priority areas**

**Table 1: Spending in 2015 on REDD+ strategic priority areas**

- **Sustainable forest management:** FCFA 16.8 bn
- **Reforestation/Revegetation:** FCFA 8.4 bn
- **Sustainable mining:** FCFA 0.9 bn
- **Other:** FCFA 4.5 bn

**Memo:** National REDD+ Fund for Côte d’Ivoire is foreseen in order to coordinate future REDD+ priority activities.