



# Collection guide for cocoa



**IMPORTANT:** Sample data may be used as evidence in investigations and enforcement. Please adhere to all guidelines and specifications in this document.

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# Basic collection protocols for cocoa

1. Do not sample without written permission.
2. Each sampling location has 5 sampling points in a dice-like pattern.
3. The outer points are approximately 5 km from the center, with 3 km radius of flexibility.
4. Install & register the World Forest ID App before departure.
5. Ensure there is more than one phone with a registered App.
6. Keep GPS on and have backup power.
7. Sample ripe, mature cocoa pods.
8. Collect 4 cocoa pods and 2 leaves from one tree at each sampling point.
9. Choose high yielding trees that are free from disease.
10. Sample the largest and heaviest pods on the tree.
11. Follow all safety procedures.



# Potential hazards and safety procedures



**FALLING PODS:** Be aware of falling cocoa pods, wear head protection when working near trees.

**HEAT EXHAUSTION:** Stay hydrated and avoid working during the hottest hours of the day.

**FARM MACHINERY:** Be aware of hazardous machinery and ensure you are visible.

**PESTICIDES:** Avoid recently sprayed trees and wear protective clothing/gloves.

**ALLERGIES:** Be cautious of potential sensitivity to cocoa tree sap, cocoa seeds or mold & fungi. Wear protective clothing and gloves while sampling, avoid touching your face or sensitive areas, and wash your hands thoroughly after contact.

**THEFT OR VIOLENCE:** Avoid working alone and stay informed about civil unrest to avoid high-risk areas.

**SNAKES & SPIDERS:** Wear appropriate footwear and take necessary precautions.

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# Preparation and equipment

*Before departing on an expedition:*

1. Confirmed in which locations you're sampling
2. Been briefed on potential dangers and have appropriate PPE
3. Completed a kit check with your expedition leader
4. Pre-labeled all sample bags & applied barcodes
5. Disclosed any relevant health conditions you have.
6. Contact details for the nearest medical facility.



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# Kit checklist

*Print this page to help with your kit check*

## **PAPERWORK / LABELING / CONTAINMENT**

- ☐ Printed/signed collection approval form
- ☐ Barcode sheets
- ☐ Proforma labels
- ☐ large plastic bag
- ☐ Clipboard
- ☐ Pens and permanent or paint markers
- ☐ Backpack for sample storage
- ☐ Paper Bags

## **HEALTH & SAFETY/PPE/CLOTHING**

- ☐ First Aid kit/Snake Bite Kit
- ☐ Hi-Viz vest
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Insect-protective clothing/repellent
- ☐ Snakegators

## **NAVIGATION**

- ☐ Smartphones with World Forest ID App
- ☐ Powerbank for smartphones
- ☐ GPS App or device with backup power
- ☐ Printed map & compass

## **TOOLS FOR COCOA SAMPLING**

- ☐ Pruning shears/Secateurs

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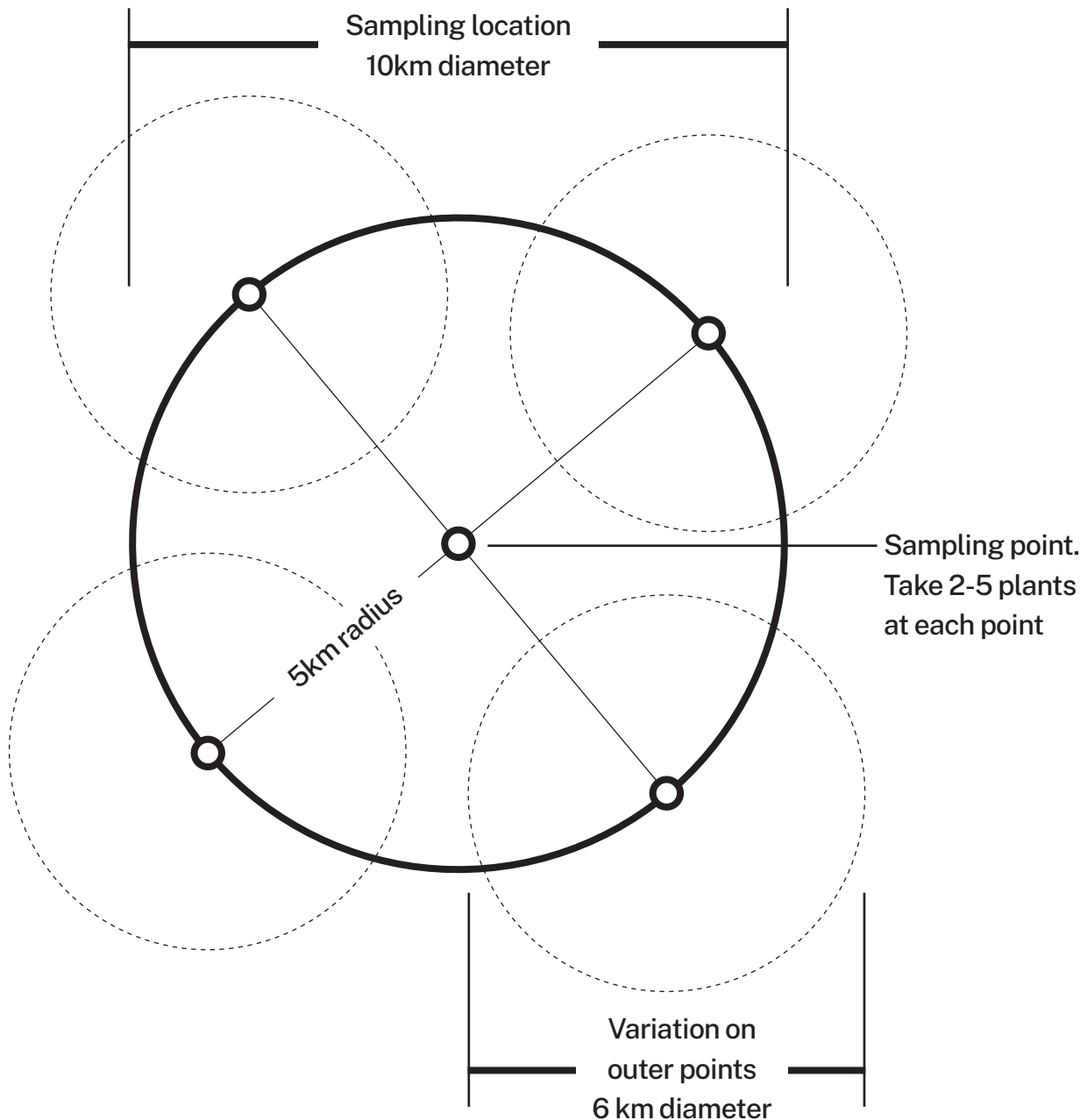
# Navigation

1. Use a standalone GPS device or smartphone app with offline maps for accurate navigation. Recommended apps:
  - *AllTrails*
  - *Gaia GPS*
  - *Locus Map*
  - *ViewRanger*
2. Keep the device powered on throughout the day to increase accuracy and have a power bank or extra batteries on hand.
3. Bring a compass and map as backup.



# Sample Mapping

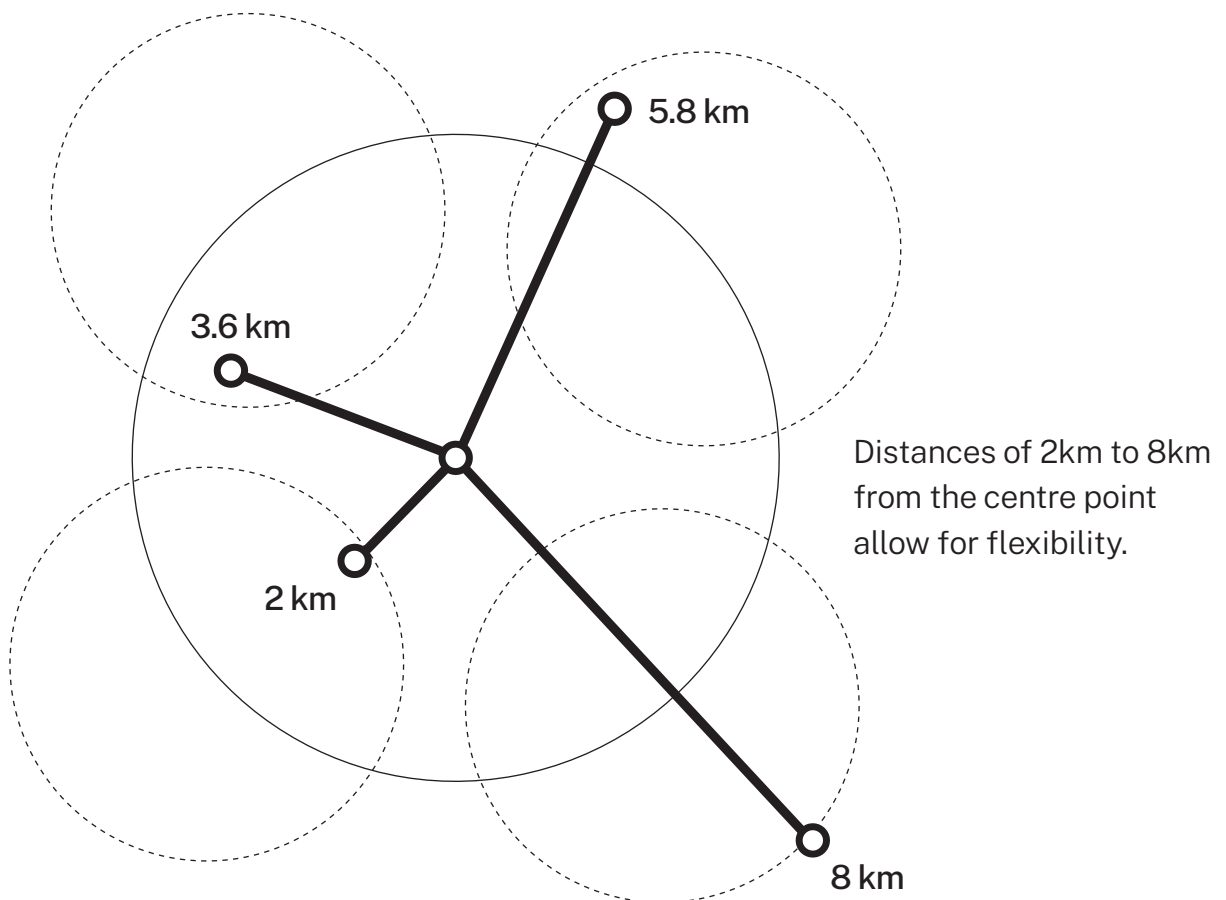
1. Each sampling location is composed of 5 sampling points.
2. The outer points should be approximately 5 km from the center point, resembling the 5 dots you see on a dice.
3. The position of the outer points can vary within a 3 km radius to allow for any problems with access.
4. At each sampling point, collect 4 pods from one tree.







A real world example of a planned sampling location.



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# Cocoa pod selection

**SEED QUANTITY:** Sample the largest and heaviest pods as these are likely to have more seeds. Ripe pods should have a very slight rattle but feel firm and full.



**RIPENESS:** Even within the same species, local factors like climate and soil can cause variations in the appearance of ripe cocoa pods. Farmers or workers in the plantation are often best able to identify ripe pods based on color and experience.



**SOUND/FIRMNESS:** Avoid pods that ‘rattle’ significantly when shaken, as they are likely contain fewer seeds. Also, avoid overly soft or mushy pods.



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# Which cocoa pods to avoid

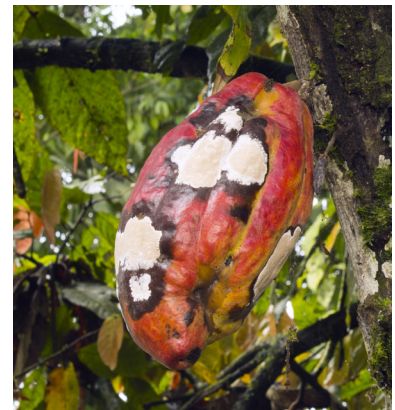
*Avoid sampling from pods that show signs of:*



Black Pod Disease



Witches' Broom Disease



Frosty Pod Rot



Vascular-streak Dieback



Cacao Swollen Shoot  
Virus (CSSV)



Physical damage or  
abnormal development



Cocoa pod borer



Helopeltis/mirids



# Cocoa Sampling process



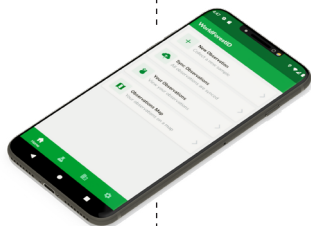
Ensure you know the correct Latin/scientific species name.

e.g. **FORASTERO**



Collect 4 healthy pods from a single tree, mark each pod with a matching barcode using a permanent marker pen.

Collect two leaves from the same tree, place in an envelope marked with a matching barcode to that on the pods.



Log the collection on the world forest ID app. This will include scanning the barcode and taking pictures of the samples.

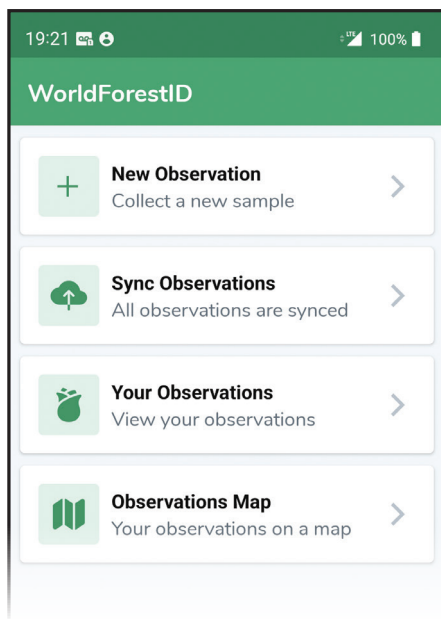


Place all of the samples in a bag, label this with the proforma and fill in all of the required fields.

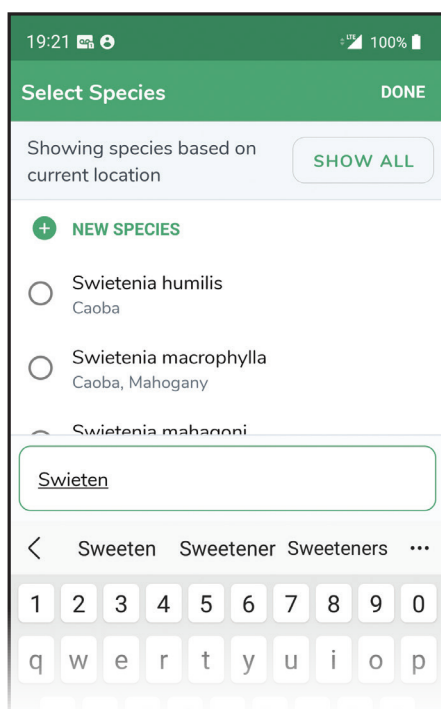
# World Forest ID App usage



**IMPORTANT:** Ensure you register for, update, and open the World Forest ID App prior to the expedition. Have the App installed on at least two smartphones.



Tap “New Observation”.



Search for the species name you are collecting, select it, then tap ‘DONE’.

19:21 100%


← Observation Form SAVE

**Species\***

Glycine max >


Select the tree species

**Identifier\*** BARCODE SCANNER

Identifier 

Click the camera icon to open the code scanner

**Photos** EXAMPLES

 **Tap to Add Photos** >

0 photos collected

Tap to add or remove photos

**Types of Collected Samples\*** EXAMPLES

Tap to add samples ▾

**Location Description**

Tap for options ▾

Select one or more options

**Location Name or Concession \***

Enter name of forest or forest certification code >

Name of location or concession

**Tree Diameter**

Tree Diameter CM


Approximate diameter of tree

**Comments**

Tap to add comments >

Any additional information

**GPS Location** OPTIONS

Error 

Location is automatically collected

**SAVE OBSERVATION**

Scan the barcode on the Proforma and verify that the number on the Proforma and App match.

Take photographs of: Tree / Pod / Surroundings / Leaf / barcode



Check 'Agricultural'.

Check 'Plantation'.

Check 'New forest', then enter name of the farm.

Enter plant variety (e.g. forastero, criollo, trinitario, nacional), soil type, climate, irrigation (yes/no), pesticide, herbicide, fertilizer treatments, including brand names if known.

If location is not automatically shown enter coordinates from GPS device.

When complete 'SAVE OBSERVATION'.

# Completing the Proforma



**ALL SAMPLES IN THIS BAG MUST  
COME FROM THE SAME TREE**



Label with correct  
Latin/scientific name.

Use App or GPS device  
for accurate location.

Barcode number on the proforma  
and all samples inside the bag  
must be identical.

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# Our PDF guides

## **WOOD**

Collection guide for wood

Drying guide for wood

Dispatch guide for wood

## **SOY**

Collection guide for soy

Drying guide for soy

Dispatch guide for soy

## **COCOA**

Collection guide for cocoa

Drying guide for cocoa

Dispatch guide for cocoa

## **OIL PALM**

Collection guide for oil palm

Drying guide for oil palm

Dispatch guide for oil palm

## **COFFEE**

Collection guide for coffee

Drying guide for coffee

Dispatch guide for coffee

## **GENERAL**

World Forest ID overview

Tool maintenance

Expedition planning



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