



Rural Development

Biodiversity

The challenge

Since the Rio Earth Summit of 1992 it has been widely accepted that biological diversity is a vital factor for human survival, particularly in the partner countries of German development cooperation. At present this diversity is disappearing faster than ever before worldwide, threatening not only the conditions for life of the world's population but also economic and cultural development opportunities for current and future generations. Agrobiodiversity conservation is an extremely important factor in efforts to ensure food security and fight poverty and a key prerequisite for productive and sustainable rural communities. The German Government is therefore making a clear statement of intent in this respect and since 2013 has been setting aside EUR 500 million each year to protect biodiversity, forests, coasts and other ecosystems worldwide.

Our approach

We support our partner countries as they implement the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the areas of policy, planning and practice. In this way we work with our partners to develop and implement sustainable strategies for conservation and use that contribute to economic development and poverty eradication, without jeopardising biodiversity and ecosystems.

Our services

The CBD sets out the internationally binding legal framework for national regulations and biodiversity strategies. At the 10th Conference of the Parties in 2010, the member states agreed on a new Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports its partners in all five areas of the Strategic Plan:

- **Strategic goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.** Successful biodiversity management calls for changes in various policy fields and in society. Biodiversity must be seen as a key factor of production and sustainability. We support awareness-raising measures and advise on policy reforms to ensure biodiversity is mainstreamed in political and economic decision-making processes.
- **Strategic goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.** The focus is on working with sectors of the economy that are largely responsible for the loss of (agro-) biodiversity. The aim is to reduce the overuse of natural resources, avoid environmental pollution and promote sustainable utilisation practices, particularly in agriculture, fisheries and forest management. The conservation of agrobiodiversity has an important role to play here; it is essential that there are sufficient genetic reserves to provide protection against future risks and to ensure that agricultural practices can be adapted to climate change. Our advisory services include raising awareness of the ways in which biodiversity, food security and poverty reduction are interlinked and ensuring they are prioritised in politics and society.
- **Strategic goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.** The term 'protected area' encompasses many concepts and categories that put emphasis on different conservation and sustainable use objectives. Our advisory services place a particular focus on the management and governance of protected areas and their buffer zones. Other key topics include anti-poaching and the illegal trade of wildlife products, and the interaction between biodiversity and climate change.



- **Strategic goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services .** The success of measures also depends on people getting a fair share of the many services and benefits generated by ecosystems and the use of their services. GIZ advises governments in partner countries, for example on legal framework conditions for Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), and facilitates the development of ABS agreements between interest groups representing the government, the private sector and indigenous and local communities.
- **Strategic goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.** The implementation of the convention is to be improved at all levels. Key elements of this include the further development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the integration of traditional knowledge, the exchange of information and the mobilisation of adequate resources for implementing the strategic plan. For example, we support the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and financial plans, as well as dialogue formats, learning networks and South-South cooperation projects.

The benefits

GIZ has over 30 years of experience in the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, and we are currently implementing over 140 projects worldwide on behalf of the German Government. We are putting this extensive and wide-ranging experience at your disposal. We work closely with other actors and use our longstanding contacts and experience in cooperating with state agencies and institutions, international organisations, specialist and research organisations and private companies in Germany and abroad. We have evaluated numerous project experiences with implementing integrative and participatory approaches – including with regard to politically sensitive

issues such as ABS and seed – and have drawn lessons from our experiences. Our core competence lies in strengthening the capacity of people, organisations and networks in our partner countries to act and take initiative.

An example from the field

On behalf of the German Government, GIZ has been supporting its Brazilian partners in the area of tropical forest conservation since the early 1990s. We are currently implementing projects in the biomes of Amazonia, Mata Atlântica and Cerrado on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). These are in line with existing Brazilian policy, including the National Plan on Climate Change, the National Biodiversity Policy and Brazil's Forest Code. The projects address various topics, including management of protected areas, climate and biodiversity monitoring, fire management, questions of environmental finance and local and regional development. This long-term cooperation in Brazil is bearing fruit. In the coastal forests of Mata Atlântica, for example, new conservation areas have been created covering an area of around 500,000 hectares, and the preparation and designation of another 1 million hectares of conservation areas has been supported. In Amazonia 115 indigenous territories covering around 440,000 square kilometres have been newly designated. Programmes geared to the payment of ecosystem services in Mata Atlântica are now benefiting over 1,700 families across an area of 900,000 hectares.

Contact

Wibke Thies
E wibke.thies@giz.de
T +49 6196 79-1248
I www.giz.de/biodiv

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Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de