

Forests4Future

Giving Forests a Future

Project Description

Global project on forest landscape restoration and good governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future)

Commissioned by

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)

Countries

Germany, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Laos, Vietnam, Benin, Cameroon

Duration: 2020 - 2027

More than 7.6 million hectares of forest are lost every year – mostly in the tropics and subtropics. Deforestation is mainly caused by illegal and unsustainable timber trade, uncontrolled and often unauthorized agricultural expansion, and mining operations. Poor forest governance, referred to vague and inadequate legal frameworks, lack of enforcement, limited transparency, and non-participatory decision making in the forest sector, hinders action to conserve, to sustainably use and to restore forests and landscapes. Furthermore, the omission to strengthen forest governance leads to other negative environmental impacts such as biodiversity loss, water scarcity and soil erosion, and climate change. From a socio-economic perspective, it also increases rural poverty and food insecurity while limiting economic growth.

Countries need strong political will, resources, and expertise to improve towards effective, transparent, accountable, and participatory forest governance. The lack of coordination of individual measures is also slowing down efforts to strengthen forest governance. The necessary resources and expertise to transform forest governance practices are often available but lack

of international coordination will frustrate reform efforts.

F4F Approach

F4F aims to strengthen forest governance by building on partner countries national strategies and programs, namely the AFR100 initiative and the EU forest law enforcement, governance, and trade/voluntary partnership agreement (FLEGT/VPA) process. The project combines landscape and forest sector approaches to assist in protection and restoration of forests, poverty reduction, and development of forest-based value chains while strengthening the governance foundations for these processes. The work centers on:

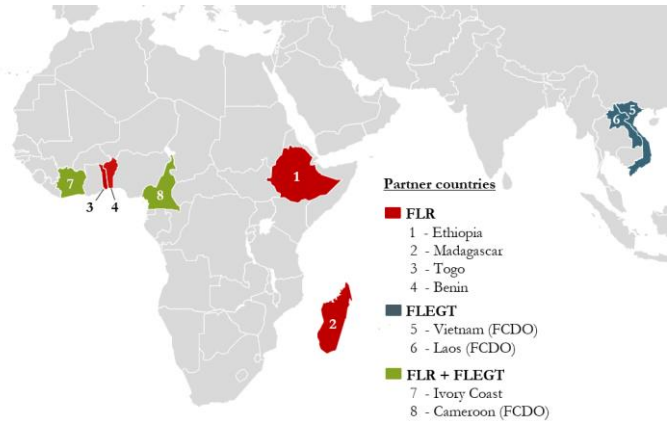
- Forest landscape restoration (FLR) in the framework of the AFR 100 Initiative in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Togo, Benin, Cameroon, and Côte d'Ivoire
- Improving forest governance with a focus of land-use planning, participatory decision making and strengthening rights of IPLCs
- Supporting legal timber trade and the EU's FLEGT/VPA process in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Laos and Vietnam.

The target groups include forestry and environmental policy makers in international initiatives and poor, rural communities in the partner countries. Women and young people will receive special support.

Forest Governance Support

As essential part for forest restoration, sustainable use, and conservation, F4F assists partner countries in establishing good forest governance frameworks that enable the realization of forest-related policy objectives especially under the AFR 100 Initiative and the FLEGT/VPA process. **Legal and institutional frameworks** are analyzed and strengthened to work on:

- **Tenure rights:** Ownership is often contested between and within local communities, hindering the efficient use of land and long-term investments in forest resources. F4F assists local communities with the process of attaining tenure rights in restoration areas in Madagascar. In Benin, F4F supports the process of transferring tenure rights between community and private land. Private ownership of land is also supported in Côte d'Ivoire to encourage forest landscape restoration.
- **Land-use planning:** Through land-use planning, land is allocated to different uses thus creating positive economic, social, and environmental impacts. F4F assists in finding a functional balance between forest protection, forest restoration, use of natural resources, and agricultural production in forested landscapes. F4F cooperates with the European Forest Institute to determine the land-use in Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroun.
- **Participatory Decision Making:** For projects to be sustainable, it is important to include all actors from communities and civil society to market actors, to government institutions. Not only do they legitimize the process, but they also bring specific knowledge. In all partner countries, multi-stakeholder and sector dialogues are supported to establish regional committees to facilitate forest restoration and land-use planning. Governments are encouraged to institutionalize consultation and decision-making processes.
- **Sustainable forest management/use:** Deforestation is a major risk associated with the use of forest resources. To mitigate risks, F4F supports institutional and organizational reforms that promote sustainable use. In Madagascar, F4F supports the government in setting-up regulatory frameworks for timber and non-timber forest products.



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In addition, F4F strengthens, under the FLEGT/VPA processes, the:

- **Supply chain control, transparency, and traceability:** To avoid illegality in timber supply chains, F4F promotes transparency in forest management, traceability of timber products and control of supply chains. In Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroun, Laos, and Vietnam this is supported through a timber legality assurance system (TLAS) and provides an opportunity for economic development through access to the European market for timber products as well as tax revenues.
- **Law enforcement:** Legal frameworks need to be enforced to guarantee compliance and trust in legal systems. F4F strengthens knowledge of legislation and enforcement methods through workshops, training, and experience exchanges with enforcement authorities from EU member states.
- **Integration of smallholders:** Creating complex legal frameworks for timber production can exclude smallholders from value chains. F4F works with smallholders and the government to create incentives for compliance and opportunities for market participation through consultation processes and reforms, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, where the development of private timber plantations is supported.

Further Information: <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/85060.html>

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