

Forests4Future Togo

Project name	Global project on Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Luxembourg bilateral development cooperation agency (LuxDev)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Tchamba Prefecture, Centrale Region, Togo
Project duration Togo	01.2020 – 03.2027

The Challenge

Forests are crucial for Togo's rural population (57% of total population in 2020) but severe degradation has reduced forest cover to currently around 20%. Key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation include agricultural land conversion, illegal logging for firewood and charcoal, unsustainable timber logging, and pressures from population growth and urbanization. Rising energy demands, largely met by firewood and charcoal (over 80%), exacerbate the problem. Over half of the population lives in extreme poverty, particularly in the northern parts and rural areas like Tchamba prefecture. Key actors in Tchamba include regional environmental authorities, municipal councils, village management committees, local and migrant producers, and pastoralists with their cattle. Conflicts over land access are

increasing due to urban migrants establishing large agribusinesses.

Objectives and Approach

The global project "Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the Forest Sector" (Forests4Future), implemented by GIZ since 2020 on behalf of BMZ and co-financed by LuxDev since 2025, supports Togo's commitment of 1.4 million hectares to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and the Bonn Challenge. This commitment combines forest and landscape restoration approaches, highlighting the crucial role of forests in rural development and food security. By restoring degraded forest landscapes, Togo aims to enhance biodiversity, combat land degradation, and improve livelihoods through sustainable land use and forestry practices. The project supports the Togolese government by strengthening institutional capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) implementation and promotes tree-based value chains as a sustainable source of income for rural households. The target groups include young people and women in the Centrale region, as well as those involved in managing Tchamba's community forests (Alibi, Goubi, Bago, Koussountou). With LuxDev's support, proven agroforestry restoration measures are being scaled up, and plans are



Left picture: Restoration of degraded land with agroforestry approaches

Right picture: Training on sustainable timber harvesting in community forests

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Left Picture: Support for the establishment of the municipal commissions for sustainable development in the central region

Right picture: Extraction of honey, Tchamba Prefecture, Togo

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underway to develop and implement concepts for restoring ecologically valuable gallery forests in the Centrale region in collaboration with partners and target groups.

Premilary results

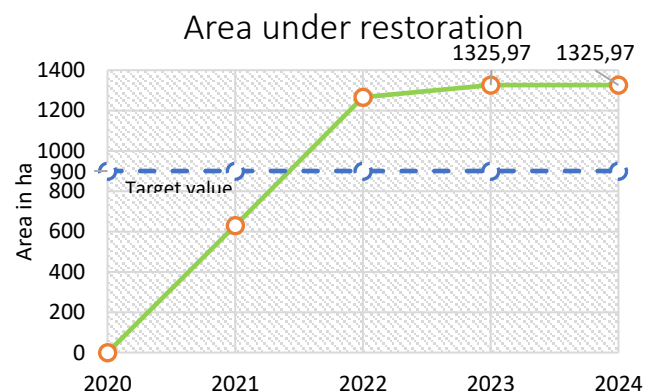
Between 2020 and 2024, Togo has made advancements in integrating FLR into local development strategies. With F4F support, three municipal development plans have been developed in Tchamba, including proposals for sustainable management and restoration of degraded forest areas. Additionally, a regional action plan, developed in collaboration with the University of Lomé, identifies measures to enhance biodiversity and restore forest landscapes across the region. This plan, approved after a participatory process involving community feedback, covers 553,000 ha (41% of the total area), of which F4F contributed 1,428 hectares under restoration. This includes 1,211 hectares of agroforestry initiatives and 217 hectares for enrichment planting and community forest management, improving ecological stability and fostering biodiversity.

The project has also strengthened the local economy by establishing 30 registered micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) or interest groups using sustainable methods for honey, shea butter, seedling production, and sustainable timber and charcoal production. These businesses provide

stable income sources and enhance economic resilience in local communities.

Capacity development programs have reached 1,346 individuals, improving local FLR-related skills and sustainable agricultural practices, with special emphasis on including women and young people. 884 men, 372 women, and 128 young people have developed valuable skills and knowledge to actively participate in and benefit from FLR measures and tree-based value chains.

F4F Togo also collaborates with the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). While FFF supports the professionalization of forest and farm producer organisations, F4F Togo focuses on MSMEs and individual capacity development. The new AFR100-Financing Mechanism Project of FAO provides another opportunity for collaboration and strengthening tree-based value chains in Togo.



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