

# Forests4Future

Giving Forests a Future

## Project Description

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

## Commissioned by

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)

## Countries

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

**Duration:** 2020 - 2027

## Background

Around one third of the earth's surface is covered by forests. Their value is immeasurable: they are home to around 80 percent of known animal and plant species outside the oceans. At the same time, forests are the basis of life for one fifth of the world's population and enhance resilience to climate change.

However, more than 7.6 million hectares of forest are lost every year – mostly in the tropics and subtropics for the expansion of agricultural land. With the loss of forest areas, an important carbon store is lost, and their destruction additionally releases climate-damaging greenhouse gases.

Natural regeneration, afforestation and agroforestry measures thus make an important contribution to:

- Climate change adaptation,
- Biodiversity conservation,
- Erosion control and improved water availability,
- Combating desertification,
- Strengthening sustainable development, and
- Improving living conditions for the population.

At international level, there exists a large number of agreements on the protection, sustainable use and restoration of forests. These include the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDC), adopted in 2014, which aims to completely halt deforestation. Additionally, it intends for forests and tree-rich landscapes to be restored to 350 million hectares by 2030. This ties in with the goals of the Bonn Challenge - another global target for restoring forested landscapes.



The ambitious goals for forest protection have yet to be adequately implemented. Partner countries have the political will, but weak governance in the forestry sector and a lack of coordination of individual measures are slowing down progress towards achieving the goals.

## Objectives

The project "Forests4Future" is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project combines landscape and forest approaches, thus highlighting the special role of forests in rural development in the context of food security. The objectives include the following thematic areas:

- Forest landscape restoration (FLR) in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Togo, Benin, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire

- Improving forest governance and
- Supporting legal timber trade and the EU's forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) process in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Laos and Vietnam.

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

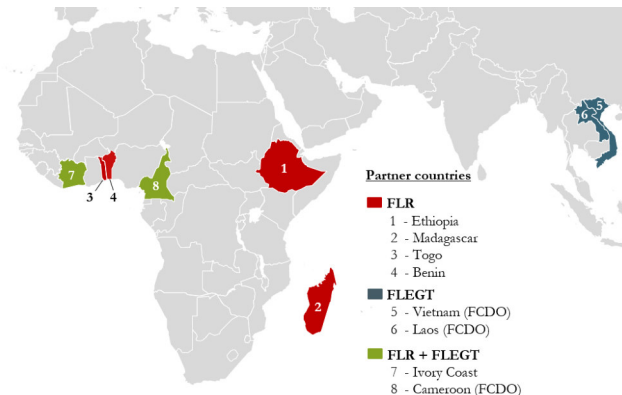


Tree Nursery © GIZ

## Approach

On behalf of and in close coordination with the BMZ, the "Forests4Future" project pursues various fields of action. It advises the Federal Ministry on FLR and on FLEGT processes.

Furthermore, the project works closely with the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) during its second phase and participates in the steering of the initiative.



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Processes to improve governance in the forest sector are accompanied, especially FLEGT. Important contributions to achieve the national FLR goals in selected partner countries are implemented. This takes the form of mosaic landscapes in which various utility and conservation functions are coordinated and the proportion of forest and trees is increased. The goal is a sustainably managed landscape that is defined by the interaction of the actors involved.

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

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