

Forests4Future global project: Côte d'Ivoire country module



Giving forests a future

The challenge

Intensive agriculture, growing demand for timber and agricultural land as well as illegal logging are putting considerable pressure on the remaining forests in Côte d'Ivoire. This has serious implications for the livelihoods of the rural population and local biodiversity. Major causes of the increasing loss of forests and trees are Côte d'Ivoire's cocoa sector, which is highly monocultural, and land rights reforms, which are often slow to take effect.

The 2014 reform of the national forestry legislation aimed to create incentives for private reforestation and restoration of forests and to empower landowners and users to make economic use of their tree stocks. However, the new regulations are only slowly being understood and, despite reforms, options for drawing economic benefit from private timber plantations are not clearly regulated. The timber industry therefore primarily undertakes compensatory afforestation on state land rather than private land. As a result, it is difficult for Côte d'Ivoire to achieve its commitment to restore 5 million hectares of forest in the country under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

The process towards the Ivorian Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) being negotiated with the EU under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Actions Plan (FLEGT AP) has already had a positive impact on good governance in the forestry sector, but is progressing slowly. As result, important prerequisites for effectively addressing illegal deforestation are not in place. In addition to institutional weaknesses and capacity constraints, the country also lacks financial resources to

Project title	Forest landscape restoration and good governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future) in Côte d'Ivoire
Commissioning party	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Côte d'Ivoire, nationwide and in the regions of Agnéby-Tiassa, Moronou and Indénié-Djuablin
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Political partner	Ministère des Eaux et Forêts (MINEF)
Term	January 2021 to December 2025

complete the FLEGT process, the national forest sector good governance programme, and the ambitious targets for restoration and afforestation of forest landscapes.

Project approach



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Left: Tree nursery in Côte d'Ivoire

Right: Farmers inspect a niangon tree protected by banana trees

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The measures in Côte d'Ivoire are part of the global project on forest landscape restoration and good governance in the forest sector Forests4Future (F4F) funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The country package is implemented in cooperation with the political partner Ministère des Eaux et Forêts (MINEF). Project activities are aimed at promoting good governance in the forestry sector, implementing the national objectives formulated by Côte d'Ivoire under AFR100 (African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) and developing viable strategies for sustainable cooperation with the timber industry. This links the FLEGT process to forest landscape restoration (FLR) activities to maximise benefits for rural communities and to dovetail principles of good forest governance with sustainable timber production practices.

The project activities are being implemented in seven villages in the eastern central region of the country. Private sector actors are also involved in the implementation of measures to restore forest landscapes, both through the adoption of sustainable practices and directly through reforestation activities. One of the project's priorities is to support land use planning that takes into account land rights, in particular strengthening the involvement of multiple actors in decision-making and implementation of the various activities.



Project objectives

The project activities contribute to implementation of the Côte d'Ivoire National Action Plan (Plan National de Développement 2021-2025) regarding good governance

in the forest sector, forest landscape restoration at national and local level, the achievement of improved biodiversity on cocoa plantations and the achievement of improved income potential from the management of cocoa and timber plantations. In this way, the country package also directly contributes to the fulfilment of Côte d'Ivoire's commitment under the AFR100 initiative.



Niangon tree in an agroforestry cocoa plantation planted by a farmer in Côte d'Ivoire

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The project objectives cover the following fields of action:

- Advisory activities concerning the adaptation and communication of forest legislation and technical and financial support for FLR measures that sustainably increase the natural resource base and its economic valorisation in cocoa growing areas.
- Improving governance in the forestry sector through technical and financial support for the training of government representatives and awareness-raising measures at the level of the local population.
- Continuing FLEGT processes for the legalisation of private timber use by villages and the issuance of FLEGT export certificates.

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