Forests4Future Madagascar: Giving Forests a future

In DIANA and BOENY regions the project aims to use a participatory and integrated approach to restore the ecological and productive functional capacities of degraded forest landscapes and improve the income of the local population through FLR measures and professionalization of value chains.

The Challenge

As a "biodiversity hotspot", Madagascar is home to numerous endemic species that are only existing on the Malagasy island. However, due to population growth, the extraction of tropical timber and the expansion of agricultural land, the pursuit of decent income by the rural population, who are increasingly suffering from the effects of climate change, Madagascar is one of the countries with the highest rates of deforestation. Reasons for this are:

- Increasing demand for food and energy wood,
- Stagnating agricultural and pasture productivity,
- Unsustainable charcoal production,
- Increased bush fires and
- Mining of mineral resources.

The interaction of these factors leads to extreme degradation of the forest landscape and loss of income for the rural population. The DIANA and BOENY regions in the northern part of the island are particularly affected by this. As a migration area for the population and supplier of ecosystem services for international value chains, the forests there are under particular pressure. In response to this alarming situation, Madagascar has made a commitment at the international level under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100 Initiative) to restore 4 million ha of forest landscapes by 2030.

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Objectives and Approach

The institutional framework for implementing Madagascar’s Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategy is largely in place in the environmental sector. However, there is a lack of concrete actions to implement and coordinate the numerous contributions of different actors at the landscape level. The country package contributes directly to the fulfillment of Madagascar’s self-commitment under AFR100. The Madagascar Country Package is part of the GIZ Global Project “Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the Forest Sector” (Forests4Future) funded by the BMZ.

The project combines landscape and forest approaches, thus highlighting the special role of forests in rural development in the context of food security. Therefore, the objective of the country package is: “International, national and local actors contribute to FLR in Madagascar, DIANA and BOENY regions”.

The F4F country package aims to strengthen the institutional capacities of governmental and non-governmental for the implementation of the national FLR strategy, as well as to promote the potentials of rural households and nurseries for increased value addition of agroforestry products. The landscape in DIANA selected for the FLR measures as an intervention area in the watershed of the Irodo River, with an area of about 137,000 ha, is distributed over six municipalities (Sadjoavato, Ankarongana, Anivorano, Antsalaka, Antsoa, Antsakoabe) with a total of 59,000 inhabitants.

The specific objectives of the project in Madagascar include the following topics:

- Improve governance in forestry and sustainable forest use.
- Implementing scalable FLR measures.
- Increasing the income of the local population from the use of forests.

Expected results

To improve the framework for implementing the FLR strategy, the project implements approaches such as:

- Strengthening the planning and coordination capacity of partners and stakeholders,
- Developing partnerships and approaches with multiple actors and sectors, including the private sector,
- Promote cross-sectoral FLR exchange and its implementation,
- Supporting partners and stakeholders in the participatory development of landscape and forest management plans,
- Development and professionalization of value chains,
- Improvement of household income and nurseries in rural areas (focus on women and youth),
- Development and implementation of integrated FLR approaches and support for sustainable management of productive landscapes and forests.