

Forests4Future Madagascar: *Giving Forests a future*

Restoring the ecological and productive functions of degraded forest landscapes, promoting governance and sustainable forest management, and improving the income of the local population through measures to restore forest landscapes and professionalize value chains.

The Challenge

As a "biodiversity hotspot", Madagascar is home to numerous endemic species that are only existing on the Madagascar 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.

Objectives and Approach

The institutional framework for the implementation of the



Project description	Forest landscape restoration and good governance in the forest sector in Madagascar (Forests4Future)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Region	Region DIANA and Region Boeny
Political Partner	Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)
Duration	2020 – 2026
Budget	8.000.000 EUR

The project is part of the BMZ's special initiative SEWOH "ONE WORLD without hunger". With the projects of this special initiative, BMZ is helping to reduce extreme poverty and hunger by implementing several projects in various sectors around the world. The focus is on the following topics: food security, resilience and food security in crises and conflicts, innovations in the agri-food sector, ecological and social structural change in rural areas, sustainable use of natural resources in rural areas, securing land rights. This includes forest landscape restoration and good governance in the forestry sector.



Left picture: Forests Landscape, Watershed Irodo, Region DIANA, © F4F GIZ

Right Picture: Forests Landscape affected by erosion, Watershed Irodo, Region DIANA, © F4F GIZ

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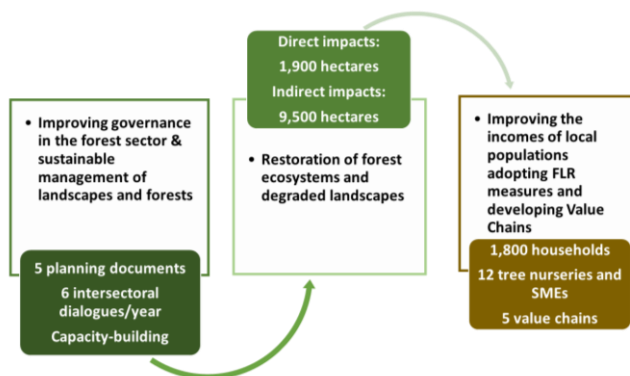
Left Picture: Canal excavation for passive mangrove restoration, Community Irodo, Region DIANA, © F4F GIZ

Right Picture: Consultation of local people in Anivorano North about illegal logging in line with the implementation of the baseline study, © F4F GIZ

Malagasy Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategy are largely present 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 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 landscapes selected as project intervention areas for the FLR measures include: the Irodo Watershed (DIANA) and the Ankarafantsika Watershed (Boeny).

**Results in numbers ...**

Between 2020-2023, almost 301 ha of Forest Landscape Restoration measures were carried out in the regions of DIANA and Boeny with different species:

- 101 ha FLR restoration in DIANA by direct tree seeding;
- 73 ha of regional and municipal reforestation in Sadjoavato, Andrafiabe and Antananitara (DIANA);
- 75.5 ha of mangrove restoration (DIANA and Boeny);
- 50 ha of bamboo restoration (DIANA and Boeny);
- 1.5 ha restoration of a standpipe with *Raphia* (DIANA);
- Almost 960 trained local volunteers, including 460 women and more than a two-thirds young people (on topics as FLR, bamboo, land use rights and security);
- Various events at regional level: awareness-raising workshops, exhibitions and small events, a talk show, sports activities and a conference debate. Almost 200 people were sensitized on International Women's Day, almost 90 people on World Environment Day, almost 550 people on World Mangrove Day and 860 people on World Mangrove Day. With other international days, nearly 2,470 women were sensitized;
- Participation in the RSE and IDD Fair: nearly 100 were people reached by the virtual stand of the F4F project.

... and in facts

In order to further support the Malagasy government in achieving the objectives of the AFR100 initiative and the implementation of the national FLR strategy, the following results are expected from the F4F project:

- Strengthening the planning and coordination capacities of partners and actors;
- Develop partnerships and approaches with multiple actors and sectors, including the private sector;
- Promote cross-sectoral exchange on FLR and its implementation;
- Supporting partners and stakeholders in the participatory development of landscape and forest management plans;
- Development and professionalization of value chains (focus on women and young people); Improvement of household income and tree nurseries in rural areas.

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