

# Forests4Future Togo

<b>Project name</b>	Global project on Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Implemented by</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
<b>Project region</b>	Tchamba Prefecture, Centrale Region, Togo
<b>Project duration Togo</b>	01.2020 – 12.2025

## 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 and funded by BMZ, supports Togo's 1.4 million hectares commitment 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 canton of Affem-Bousou, as well as those involved in managing Tchamba's community forests (Alibi, Goubi, Bago, Koussountou).



*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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## Preliminary Results

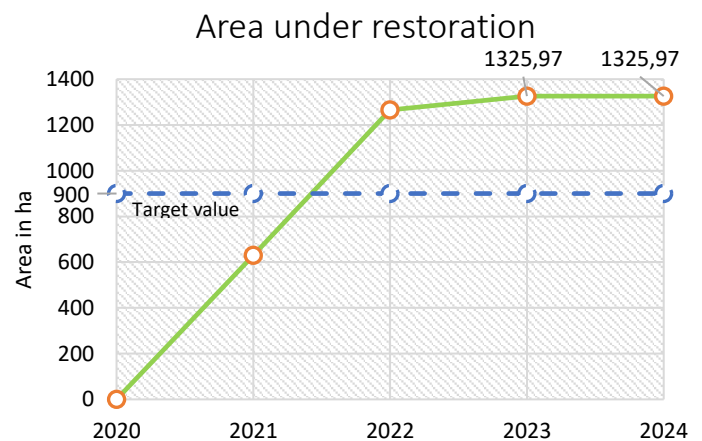
Between 2020 and 2024, Togo has made notable advancements in integrating FLR into local development strategies. In the context of F4F, three municipal development plans have been developed in Tchamba, emphasizing sustainable management and restoration of degraded areas. Additionally, a regional action plan, developed with the University of Lomé's support, identifies measures to enhance biodiversity and restore forest landscapes across the region. This plan, to be approved in 2024 after a participatory process involving community feedback, indicates an area of 553,000 ha (41% of the total area) of which F4F contributed 1,325 hectares under restoration. This includes 1,108 hectares of agroforestry initiatives and 214 hectares for enrichment planting and community forest management, improving ecological stability and fostering biodiversity.

The project has also strengthened the local economy by establishing 38 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) using sustainable production 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 1,256 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 cooperates 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 organizations, 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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