

Forests4Future country package Cameroon

Project name	Global project on Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Centre Region, Yoko and Nanga-Eboko municipalities, Cameroon
Duration	01.2020 – 12.2026

The Challenge

Forestry significantly contributes to Cameroon's economy, representing about 6% of its GDP and ranking as the third largest economic sector. The country has experienced notable deforestation, losing 2% of its rainforest between 2001 and 2015, which translates to approximately 440,000 hectares. The primary drivers of this deforestation include smallholder agricultural expansion and the development of agro-industries, notably cocoa and palm oil cultivation. Additional factors contributing to the degradation of forest landscapes include illegal logging and frequent forest fires, often utilized by nomadic livestock herders to renew pastures. Other systemic issues such as weak governance, lack of sustainable land use concepts, inadequate enforcement of laws, and insufficient monitoring of timber exploitation exacerbate the degradation of forest and landscapes.

Project Objectives and Approach

In response to these challenges, the GIZ's Forests4Future project aims to implement comprehensive Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategies according to Cameroon's environmental framework, which is already conducive to FLR but lacks sufficient resources at community and private levels. The project integrates landscape and forest restoration approaches to underscore the importance of forests in rural development and food security. This not only aligns with Cameroon's AFR100 commitments but also supports the National Development Strategy (SND 30) and the FLR Strategic Framework. By pledging to restore more than 12 million hectares by 2030 under the Bonn Challenge and AFR100, Cameroon underscores its commitment to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development. The project's activities include participatory land use planning to select the most suitable sites and FLR measures. This planning process ensures that restoration activities in the buffer zones of Yoko and Nanga-Eboko council forests reduce effectively pressure on natural resources inside these areas. Proposed interventions range from establishing wood energy plantations, promoting agroforestry systems, developing tree-based value chains, to creating grazing areas equipped with firebreaks, and enhancing tree-based fodder production. The expectation is that these measures create indirect positive scale effects on approximately 40,000



Left picture: Women harvesting for community plantation in the village of Mbembing ©GIZ Gideon NEBA

Middle picture: Installation of a beehive in the village of Emtsé ©GIZ Charlie MBOSSO

Right picture: Women supplying water to the community nursery in the village of Mbatoua ©GIZ Gideon NEBA

hectares, including the council forest of Yoko and two community forests.

The country package Cameroon aims to achieve the following impacts:

- Enhance planning and coordination capacities on local level.
- Conserve biodiversity by reducing pressure on forest ecosystems in the Yoko council forest.
- Empower women and marginalized groups through fostering income opportunities from trees.
- Develop land use plans to promote integrated and sustainable land uses and reduce conflicts.

Preliminary Results

The project assessed the current land-use practices around the Yoko and Nanga Eboko council forests, which allowed to evaluate the potential for restoring forest landscapes in the project intervention area. The land-use and FLR maps, which were presented and validated during a session of the established intermunicipal platform, create acceptance, community involvement and leverage for the implementation of FLR.

From 2022 to 2023, the F4F was able to support partners in the villages Yoko to put the first areas under restoration. Currently the project assists with the production of seedlings through village-based tree nurseries and a result-based payment system to step up FLR implementation. These activities are complemented by improvement of management plans for transhumance corridors and community training on sustainable agriculture practices. Additionally, training on holistic grazing management

was organized for key local stakeholders, underpinning the project's objective of sustainable forest and landscape management.

Furthermore, the project provided training on agricultural and agroforestry practices with a focus on tree-based value chains and ecological restoration with the aim to increase household income. Over 590 farmers, including 249 women and 259 youths, have been trained in entrepreneurship for farmers of cocoa, honey and non-timber forest products. A train-the-trainer program has equipped 14 participants to extend these educational programs to other project villages. To initiate activities around the honey value chain groups in seven villages have learned to construct beehives, to populate them and to capture wild bee colonies, further training and support for commercialization is planned.

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