

Forests4Future Côte d'Ivoire

Project title	Global project on Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Côte d'Ivoire, nationwide and in the regions of Agnéby-Tiassa, Moronou and Indénié-Djuablin
Duration	01.2022 – 12.2026

The Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU was signed in February 2024 and fosters good forest governance to address illegality in the forest sector. It also provides the opportunity to address governance challenges for the implementation of forest landscape restoration (FLR). The implementation of the timber legality control system and the achievement of the ambitious national reforestation and restoration goals requires, however, further technical and financial support.

The Challenge

Intensive agriculture, the demand for timber, and illegal logging result in significant pressure on Côte d'Ivoire's remaining forests, impacting rural livelihoods and biodiversity. Deforestation drivers include the monocultural cocoa sector and slow land rights reforms. The 2014 national forestry legislation reform aimed to encourage private reforestation and forest restoration, yet understanding and implementation of these regulations are lagging, making it difficult to derive economic benefits from privately planted trees or forests. A high potential for forest restoration exists on private land. However, with the current restoration practices alone, notably reforestation in state forests, it will not be possible to achieve the ambitious national goal to restore 5 million hectares under the AFR100 initiative.

Project Objectives and Approach

The measures in Côte d'Ivoire are part of the global Forests4Future project, funded by Germany's BMZ, and implemented by GIZ in collaboration with the Ministère des Eaux et Forêts. It works on the restoration of forest landscapes, strengthens good forest governance, and supports the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process. The rural population is the key beneficiary and is expected to obtain economic benefits by diversifying income possibilities, notably through access to tree based value chains. Project activities related to FLR are carried out in seven villages in the eastern central region, with a focus on land use planning, land rights, value chains and agroforestry. Multi-stakeholder consultation and decision making is not only important for FLR but also for FLEGT at national level.



Left: Tree nursery in Côte d'Ivoire

Right: Analysis of restored forest areas by drones

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This contributes to the implementation of the Côte d'Ivoire National Action Plan (Plan National de Développement 2021-2025) by creating the following impact.

- **Enhanced Forest Legislation and Governance:** Through advisory activities, the project aims to refine and effectively communicate forest legislation, leading to improved legal frameworks and enforcement to promote legal timber trade (FLEGT export licenses), sustainability in the forest sector and private forest ownership.
- **Forest Landscape Restoration:** The provision of technical and financial support for FLR measures is expected to sustainably increase the natural resource base and enhance its economic value.
- **Strengthened forest-based value chains:** Focusing on supporting improved value chains of timber and NTFPs, the project aims at increasing the income of the local population, particularly of women and youth.

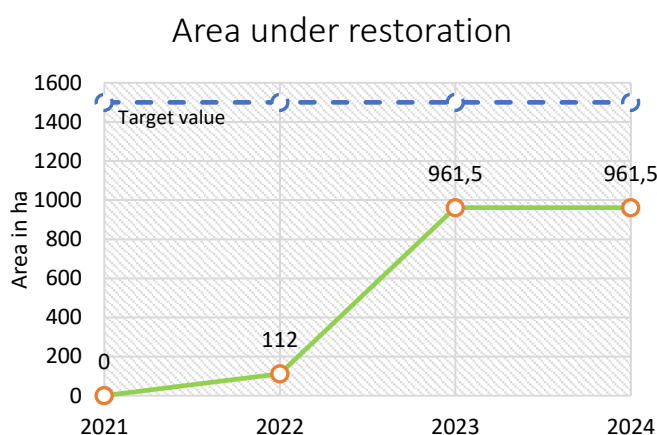
Preliminary Results

Since 2022 in Côte d'Ivoire the project has achieved significant preliminary results. It provided technical support for a legal and regulatory framework to support the economic viability of private reforestation, crucial for sustainable forest management and as incentive for forest restoration. This framework promotes environmental stewardship and economic benefits for local communities. Furthermore, F4F supported MINEF with capacity building and awareness-raising activities that improved stakeholders' understanding of and implementation of the revised forestry laws. An important milestone was the signing of the VPA agreement between the EU and Côte d'Ivoire, as negotiations have been substantially supported by BMZ. The support to the implementation of the Agreement will foster transparency, independent forest monitoring,

multi-stakeholder participation and contributes to improved legality standards in the forest sector. Capacity-building and sensibilization campaigns on gender and forest governance were realized, essential for equitable and inclusive environmental governance.

Between 2022 and 2023, FLR measures were implemented on 750 hectares of a 1,500-hectare target. Efforts included enhancing cocoa plantation sustainability by integrating diverse tree species to boost biodiversity and soil health. Planting campaigns have been realized on degraded agricultural areas/fallow lands, reintroducing native species and improving forest conditions, which are expected to enhance carbon sequestration, habitat restoration, and biodiversity.

Regarding the promotion of forest-based value chains a 2023 study on selected wood species and NTFPs has been elaborated, with implementation of the action plans starting in 2024. The project also aims to enhance producers' long-term sales opportunities, expected to positively impact future income.



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