

Forests4Future Madagascar

Project name	Global project on Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Region DIANA (Irodo Watershed), Region Boeny, Madagascar
Duration	01.2020 – 06.2026

The Challenge

Madagascar, globally recognized as a biodiversity hotspot, faces an intense struggle against deforestation, endangering its myriad endemic species. This environmental crisis is propelled by several factors: the island's burgeoning population demands more land for agriculture and living spaces, pushing them towards unsustainable practices such as charcoal production leading to extensive forest clearance and an increased frequency of bush fires. Additionally, the pursuit of economic gains through tropical timber extraction and agricultural expansion further strains the ecological balance. Compounding these issues are the impacts of climate change, which exacerbates the vulnerability of rural communities. These activities not only threaten the unique biodiversity but also undermine the long-term sustainability of resources critical to the local population's livelihood.

Project Objectives and Approach

In response to these pressing challenges, the global project "Forest Landscape Restoration and Good Governance in the forest sector (Forests4Future)", spearheaded by GIZ and funded by the BMZ, aims to support Madagascar in the implementation of a comprehensive Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategy. The objective is clear: to restore forest landscapes within the DIANA and Boeny regions, which are acutely degraded. This endeavor is part of Madagascar's 4-million-hectare commitment under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

The approach to achieving these objectives is multi-faceted. It involves strengthening the institutional framework necessary for executing Madagascar's FLR strategy, which, while robust in design, currently lacks the coordinated action needed at the landscape level. The project focuses on building the capacity of both governmental and non-governmental entities to better plan, implement, and manage restoration activities. This includes fostering partnerships across various sectors, developing effective management plans, and promoting sustainable land use practices. Additionally, the project aims to enhance local economic opportunities through the development of agroforestry and tree-based value chains, particularly targeting improvements in income for rural households, women, and youth.



Left picture: Forest Landscape, Watershed Irodo, Region DIANA

Right picture: Training for the production of organic fertilizer

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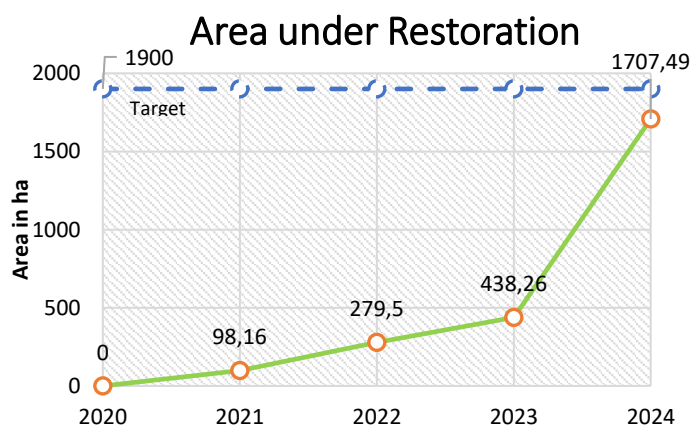
Preliminary Results

In the DIANA and Boeny regions, within the period from 2020 to 2024, the focus of the project has been:

- Developing decentralized FLR planning documents that include integrated approaches for landscape restoration and sustainable land use. These documents feature a ROAM study for identifying and prioritizing potential restoration sites, alongside an FLR Manual that provides implementation guidance, methodologies, best practices, and case studies.
- Developing FLR work plans at regional and local levels focusing on restoring forest landscapes and watersheds, enhancing biodiversity, and stabilizing soil to prevent erosion. These plans adopt a participatory approach that involves local communities and integrates ecological, agricultural, and socio-economic objectives.
- Ensuring effective intersectoral cooperation through organizing cross-sectoral coordination meetings with stakeholders (FLR national committee and regional working groups). These meetings facilitate collaboration to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of restoration efforts and ensure robust stakeholder engagement.
- As part of a community-focused approach, 2,644 individuals have participated in awareness-raising workshops and various FLR-related trainings such as participatory land use planning, management of tree nurseries, etc. with significant representation of 1,263 women and 1,817 young people. Moreover, 142 nursery growers were trained in the professional production of seedlings and management of nurseries.
- In the DIANA region, 103 vanilla-producing households, supported by F4F, have sold around 1,900 kg of vanilla in the production season 2023-2024. Through comprehensive training in vanilla cultivation techniques, processing, and marketing,

alongside investments in equipment and conservation technology, these households generated a total income of about 5,000 euros. Additionally, F4F facilitated the organization of these producers into associations and cooperatives, enhancing their market presence through participation in fairs and exhibitions.

F4F Madagascar is implementing FLR measures on 1,900 hectares, with 1,707 hectares already under restoration. The project enhances biomass, soil structure, and water retention through reforestation, mangrove restoration, and agroforestry. It also boosts local incomes by training beneficiaries in the value chain processes for products like vanilla and mango, identifying national partners, and supporting private sector partnership agreements.



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