

How France's development partnerships are meeting the challenge of climate change?



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Conservation and sustainable management of forests

Climate, biodiversity, energy, water, health, sustainable production and consumption, forests are at the core of the priorities defended by France, at national, as well as at international level. With its significant forest cover in temperate and tropical regions and, its centuries old forestry tradition, France is renowned for its expertise on sustainable forest management.

It is one of the only Annex I countries to have major tropical forest cover with 8 million hectares in French Guiana.

The numerous and diverse actions of the French cooperation to support the conservation and the sustainable management of forests show the commitment and the quality of the French expertise on the matter: financing, REDD+ project setting up, technology transfer, fight against illegal logging, thoughts on tropical forests related issues...



M. Hurlébourg / ministère des Affaires étrangères

French forest financing

France has been playing a major role in the forests and agriculture components of climate negotiations, and also in actions with developing countries.

During the Copenhagen Conference, in December 2009, France committed itself to spending approximately €250 million over 3 years on forests, i.e. 20% of its total fast start commitment.

Since 2010, fast-start REDD+ financing was distributed via several multilateral – the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) – and bilateral –

the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) – channels. On a multilateral level, France worked to create a new programme to fight against deforestation and promote sustainable forest management during the last reconstitution of the GEF: €75 million of its contribution to GEF5 of €215 million (a 40% increase) finance forest projects.

Finally, in 2010, France initiated with Norway the creation of the Interim REDD+ Partnership, which it co-chaired with Brazil during the first semester of 2011.

General overview of some on-going projects supported by bilateral France's fast start financing

Optimise the goods and services provided by mediterranean forests (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey)



Initiated in late 2011, this project financed by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) comes within the scope of the work done by the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions (Silva Med) and the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests. Implemented by FAO and Plan bleu, it aims at contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of Mediterranean forests by highlighting the services they provide in the context of climate change and increasing anthropic pressure. Five countries are targeted: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey.

Besides a vulnerability analysis of these ecosystems to climate change, an assessment of the ecosystem services provided and a work on local governance, the project will endeavour to study the carbon storage and removal potential of the Mediterranean forests, with a view to a possible valuation in a REDD+ framework.

The project will start with a work on several complementary pilot sites, in each of the five targeted countries, which will then be used for a regional capitalization to benefit to all the Mediterranean countries. It should end in 2015. The results obtained will be valued in the different Mediterranean and international fora, in particular the Third Mediterranean Forest Week, which will take place in Tlemcen (Algeria) in March 2013 and the Tenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, which will take place in Istanbul (Turkey) in April 2013.

Integrated REDD+ programme in the forest region of South-West of Central African Republic

The CAR is among the well-advanced countries in REDD+ readiness, as its preparation document, stemming from a large process of public consultation, was approved by the Participant Committee of the FCPF in October 2011. The forest cover of CAR represents 28 million hectares, among which 20% are rainforests located in the South-West and South-East regions. In the South-West region, where formal logging has developed, delimitation of protected areas, management of production forests and certification of sustainable management have been improving greatly the last few years.

The REDD+ integrated programme, supported by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), aims at building on these gains and at testing in the South-West region, under the control of the national REDD+ coordination, the guidelines defined in the draft national REDD+ strategy. These guidelines are the following:

- finalize the zoning process: countrywide zoning, updated maps and reinforcement of protected areas;
- improve agricultural, sylvicultural, and livestock technologies and productivity: reinforcement of the sustainability of livestock and agricultural ranges and promotion of efficient logging and wood transformation techniques;
- promote sustainable management of forests: promotion of legal and sustainable forest management, promotion of reforestation, operationalization of the community forestry concept, stronger involvement of local populations in sustainable forest management and development of a Domestic Energy Strategy (DES);
- strengthen institutions and governance: public information, communication and education on REDD+; financial, material, and technological support to the government; capacity-building of the civil society on sustainable management of forest resources, advocacy, and control.

Moreover, this project has synergies with another project, supported by the French Development Agency (AFD) and by the European Union. This other project aims at promoting the fallouts of export forest activities for the local economy, in particular through the collection and redeployment of forest taxes for the communities concerned.

Technology transfer of high resolution satellite imagery for forest monitoring

The high-resolution satellite imagery (10 m or less) is of great interest for the analysis and monitoring of the dynamics of deforestation, particularly when the individual acts of clearing are small-scale (of the order of a hectare). French cooperation has recently initiated a series of projects designed to promote access to and use of SPOT satellite imagery for the purposes of REDD+ in Central Africa:

- ▀ provision of satellite imagery for national authorities and stakeholders in REDD+ projects in the countries of the subregion (funding through the AFD, managing by the National Geographic Institute (IGN) in partnership with Astrium, CNES, IRD and the ONF).
See <http://bassinducongo.reddspot.org>;
- ▀ equipment and capacity-building of national public actors for the exploitation of satellite data for forest monitoring (funding through the FFEM, steering by the Institute of Research for Development – IRD);
- ▀ installation of a reception antenna for satellite images at Libreville (financing through the debt conversion agreement between France and Gabon [not a part of fast-start financing], steering by the Gabonese Agency for Spatial Study and Observation – AGEOS).



Conservation and sustainable management of Gran Chaco (Argentina, Bolivie, Paraguay)

Approved in July 2012, the project aims at contributing to the sustainable management of Gran Chaco region, by developing an innovative/alternative approach combining the conservation of natural resources and a dynamic of local and participative local development.

The following results are in particular expected:

- ▀ promotion of the creation of a regional sustainable development and conservation area around the Pilcomayo catchment basin, located between Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay;
- ▀ contribution to the reduction of forest and land degradation by pilot operations for local economic development through calls for projects (food security improvement, valuation of bovine meat from routes, sustainable forest management, etc.).

The project is steered by the tri-national initiative for the conservation of the Pilcomayo (ITP), which gathers together three foundations of the countries concerned. The project will be implemented in a complementary and coherent manner with the project from the Global Environment facility (GEF), entitled "Sustainable forest management in the transboundary Gran Chaco American ecosystem". The project will last until 2016. Its results will be valued and spread throughout the whole Gran Chaco Scale.

France supports the creation of REDD+ expertise abroad

France supports the creation and development of REDD+ expertise in countries by pooling, in the context of several projects, the skills of different actors: French public institutions, private companies and NGOs. For example:

- the National Forestry Department (ONF) and its international branch (ONFI) design reforestation projects, projects to avoid deforestation, and manage woodland and bio energy, and organise seminars to provide support for forest/climate negotiators (Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia);
- CIRAD, the French centre for research into international issues in agriculture and development in the southern hemisphere, has been a pioneer in sustainable management of logged forests in Africa and works on forests with its partners. CIRAD contributes to global research networks and implements a number of forestry projects throughout the world;
- the IRD (Institute for Development Research) is particularly active in the use of satellite data for monitoring forest cover, botany and sequestration on agricultural and forest land;
- the association Cofor International promotes the transfer of forest land titles from the national domain to municipalities, in particular in Cameroon, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, and decentralized cooperation between European and African forest municipalities for a sustainable and coordinated forest management;
- several private forestry companies have made a commitment to a long-term partnership to implement large-scale sustainable management of logged forests. In the Congo Basin, they have formed teams of national experts who are world leaders in this field: Rougier and Pallisco groups, Precious Wood and DLH, who work with the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) label.
- private consultancies such as FRM (Forest Resources Management) or TEREa have developed unique expertise in forestry development with national teams;
- the Astrium geo-information services group has created a satellite data and information analysis product which is particularly appropriate for tracking the evolution of forest cover to monitor REDD+ commitments. The Spot images are in the most technologically advanced state in the world;
- French and international NGOs, supported by France in developing local expertise in REDD+: WWF, CI, WCS and TNC are implementing pilot projects. ActionCarbone-Goodplanet and GERES are developing the use of highly innovative financing mechanisms for REDD+ projects, biogas, and improved stoves which have an important local impacts in rural and urban populations.



France and the fight against illegal logging

France is involved in implementing the EU FLEGT Action Plan (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade), by facilitating the negotiation and implementation of voluntary partnership agreements (VPA) between the EU and third party timber producers).

By promoting a better governance and by fighting against overexploitation, which is an important cause of tropical forest degradation, these agreements are an integral part of effective participation in the REDD+ mechanism for developing countries.

Thoughts of the French actors on tropical forests

During the first semester of 2012, with a view to the Rio+20 Conference, the National Group on Tropical Forests, which gathers the different French actors on this issue – Ministries and government agencies, the private sector, the scientific community and non-governmental organizations – produced a third report entitled: "Tropical forests: taking stock and new challenges". This report aims at defining new orientations in the face of the current challenges, in the France overseas as well as with partner countries.

Full reports in French and in English and report summaries in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese:

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Rapport-GNFT-annee-2012.html

For more information

• AFD: www.afd.fr
• Astrium geo-information services: www.spotimage.com
• ATIBT: www.atibt.org
• CIRAD: www.ur-bsef.cirad.fr
• Facilités FLEGT et REDD de l'UE: www.euflegt.efi.int
• FFEM: www.ffem.fr
• FRM: www.frm-france.com
• INRA: www.inra.fr/presse/foret_et_changement_climatique
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• TEREa: www.terea.net

