



Fonds Français
pour l'
Environnement Mondial

**The FGEF, your partner in the
conservation and sustainable
management of forest ecosystems**

The FGEF and **French commitments to REDD+**



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Collection
Leveraging Experience



ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE
DES FORÊTS - 2011

↘ The FGEF in a few words

Created in 1994 by the French government following the Rio Earth Summit, the French Global Environment Facility encourages developing countries to implement strategies, programmes and projects for sustainable development in areas relevant to global environmental protection:

- biodiversity
- climate change
- international waters
- desertification
- deforestation
- persistent organic pollutants
- the stratospheric ozone layer

The FGEF contributes, in the form of grants, to financing innovative projects aimed at economic and social development and at a significant and lasting impact on the global environment.

As an instrument of synergy between French bilateral and multilateral aid, the FGEF contributes to meeting France's international commitments, and to meeting the guidelines of the international environmental conventions signed by France.

At the end of 2010, 221 projects had been identified or implemented by the FGEF in over 80 countries, representing a cumulative

commitment of €254m since 1994.

The FGEF is:

- a **laboratory for innovation**, which finances innovative projects concerned with the protection of the global environment and sustainable development
- a **forum for capitalising**, which supports innovating concepts and methods and pilot activities that are replicated on a larger scale by other actors in different geographical zones
- a **promoter of North-South partnerships** and technology transfers based on coopera-

tion with French key-players

- a **key-player in development**, going beyond the mere protection of the environment to focus its activities on a strategy of economic and social development in beneficiary countries
- a **partner** for international institutions, public bodies, the private sector, NGOs, foundations and local authorities. Its objectives are consistent with those of the Global Environment Facility, which it complements

↘ The REDD+ Mechanism

After several years of negotiation and technical discussions, the mechanism called Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries (REDD+) was entered into the Cancun Agreement, validated by the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2010. In so doing, the Parties recognised the REDD+ as a

major focus in mitigating climate change and expressed their collective will «to slow, halt and reverse the decline of forest cover and carbon loss».

This political decision relies on the scientific observation of the dominating role that both the forestry sector and changes in land use play in global emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs).

The Cancun Agreement encourages all Parties to the UNFCCC to undertake efforts in reducing deforestation and degradation and increasing forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

These efforts include the following activities:

- reducing emissions from deforestation
- reducing emissions from forest degradation
- conserving forest carbon stocks
- sustainable forest management
- increasing forest carbon stocks

18 guidelines and safeguards

The Cancun Agreement also states that REDD+ activities carried out by the Parties must be in accordance and in compliance with 18 guidelines and safeguards, including strengthening forest governance, respect for the rights of indigenous populations and local communities, not converting natural forests, protecting biodiversity, participation by all key players, etc.



REDD+ is a national mechanism which progresses through three phases, from preparation to performance-related payments. Preparing for the mechanism is essential, particularly as it gives countries the technical capacity and the tools that are essential for planning, implementing and evaluating REDD+.

➤ Essential tools for planning



- **a strategy or a national action plan** for analysing the context and dynamics of deforestation in the country concerned, planning strategic action points and defining the institutional and legal framework for their deployment
- **a reference level** of emissions or changes in the forest canopy for quantifying the appropriate level of incentives
- **a system for monitoring** forests to evaluate the effects of the strategy and its performance



These tools must be developed at a national level and ensure the effectiveness of the mechanism by avoiding, inter alia, that a shift in pressures on forests causes a shift in GHG emissions.

Project development becomes a tool which is available to other countries to complement and provide food for thought on a national scale, to test alternatives and methods of implementation of REDD+ and to test benefits sharing mechanisms.

↳ The French REDD+ strategy

In the wake of the 15th Conference of the Parties held in Copenhagen in 2010, France launched the REDD+ Partnership with Norway.

This initiative aims to respond to the urgency of deforestation by facilitating and coordinating the raising of Fast Start Finance intended to promote the development of REDD+ activities without having to wait for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) decisions on a post-Kyoto system. Today, the REDD+ partnership brings together more than 70 forest countries and donors and has raised more than \$4billion in Fast Start Finance.



France has pledged
€250 million for
forests over 3 years
(2010- 2013)

Among these donors, France has pledged EUR250 million for forests over 3 years (2010-2013). In order to capitalise on existing expertise and to ensure activities are quickly launched, these funds are raised through existing channels such as the Forest Programme within the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

Through these many commitments, aimed at various actors and targeting projects at every level (proposal, national, regional), France wishes to promote the development of a REDD+ mechanism which brings together all actors in the forestry sector - from forest populations to governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) via the private sector - around the subject of sustainable forest management.



Fuel wood transportation in Cameroon - Fouban

Under fast start from Copenhagen agreement, France is committed to a contribution of 1.2 billion Euros on the period 2010-2012, with 20% for the forest.



The REDD+
partnership brings
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↘ FGEF's commitments to REDD+

The FGEF contributes to improving knowledge and accumulating experience on the REDD+. The French government's Fast Start Finance reinforces the role of the FGEF as regards REDD+. Its experience and its network of actors enable it to intervene as much in assisting in the preparation as in setting up pilot REDD+ activities.

Identify and understand the processes of deforestation and forest degradation

Deforestation and forest degradation are the result of complex territorial dynamics involving numerous factors of a social, economic, political and cultural nature which evolve over time and space.

For countries and actors in the field participating in the REDD+ mechanism, identifying and understanding these processes is crucial in order to specify suitable REDD+ strategies. Reliably and accurately quantifying their impact on GHG emissions is essential in defining

reference levels and establishing systems of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of GHGs.

FGEF funded projects contribute to the issues of production, accumulation and dissemination of data and knowledge by involving the scientific community, workers in the field and policy makers. Through its actions, the FGEF produces data and improves knowledge available to the international community, countries concerned and workers in the field participating in REDD+.

Capacity building and access to satellite data for monitoring forests in Central Africa and West Africa - 2010/2011

Countries: Central Africa and West Africa

Dates: 2011 - 2014

FGEF funding: €3.34m

(in 2 phases / total project amount: €14.55m)

The project's objective is to promote the adoption and methodological and technical control of data from Earth observation satellites to enable countries to monitor the forest canopy in accordance with international requirements in order to benefit from the REDD+ funding mechanism. The project will provide satellite data and tools for data processing; will build capacity for public and private institutions and non-trading companies; will help produce forest maps in several countries; will support the definition of applied research programmes and the structuring of networks of research institutions by promoting North-South and South-South partnerships; and will contribute to the coordination of initiatives and to the countries' participation in major international programmes regarding the use of satellite data from a REDD+ perspective.

DynAffFor Project - Structure and dynamics of forests in Central Africa: Towards logging rules which incorporate the ecological function of tree populations and the variability of environmental conditions

Countries: Congo Basin

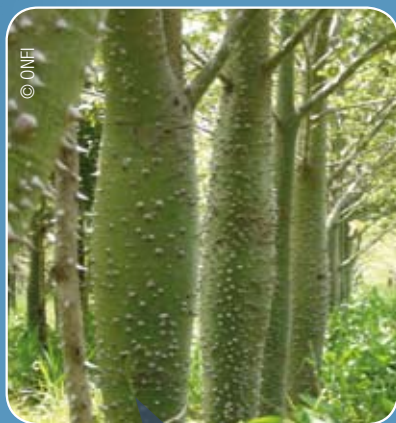
Dates: 2010 - 2015

FGEF funding: €2.54m

(in 2 phases / total project amount: €6.79m)

The DynAffFor project aims to improve knowledge of forest dynamics of Central African forests, to assess the impact of logging on forest dynamics and to better understand the influence of forest dynamics on carbon fixing in tropical forests. The project includes a scientific research focus, an operational focus which will enable the conversion of scientific findings into improved forest management practices, and a focus on mobilising key-players (Ministries of Forests, private operators, national research services, NGOs and international institutions) with the aim of ensuring the continuity of research systems into forest dynamics in the Congo Basin.

Innovation in sustainable management of forest ecosystems



Ceiba speciosa -
Fazenda San Nicolau

Reducing deforestation and forest degradation assumes action both within and outside the forestry sector. On the one hand, it is advisable to make better use of standing forest, its timber and non-timber products, through the development and dissemination of environmentally sustainable and socially equitable best practice.

On the other hand, it is important to develop and disseminate alternatives to activities which are the cause of deforestation (agriculture, livestock, town planning, infrastructure, etc) by improving common technologies and practices in these areas.

To be effective, these activities can only be designed as the interface between the forest and its environment and should contribute to improving the living conditions of affected populations and the economic development of countries participating in the REDD+ mechanism.

Contributing to the protection and sustainable management of forests while improving the living conditions of populations who depend on them is at the heart of FGEF's mission and the projects it funds. FGEF's projects focus on the design and implementation of practical innovations, implemented by workers in the field, and targeting the needs of local populations, whilst seeking to capitalise on and replicate the results. The lessons learned from these projects are crucial in defining effective REDD+ policies.

Co-management Project of the Gilé National Reserve and its periphery

Country: Mozambique

Dates: 2009 - 2013

FGEF funding: €1m
(total project amount: €3.7m)

Located in northern Mozambique, the National Reserve of Gilé (210,000 ha) is subject to increasing anthropic pressures. Poor management within the reserve and the lack of any strategy for its periphery have led to significant degradation of the biodiversity and the gradual disappearance of the natural resources peripheral to the reserve. In this context, the project's objective is to successfully maintain the ecological services provided by this reserve and to encourage the sustainable use of its natural resources.

The FGEF and its project manager decided that the protection of the reserve had to undergo better management of its peripheral area. The project therefore provides for the creation of a buffer zone to control the process of socio-economic development on the periphery of the reserve, but also the development of a hunting area for villagers to relieve pressures on biodiversity and curb poaching. In this way and through the development of various alternative activities (livestock, agriculture, deriving value from carbon), the village communities are involved in managing the resources of the reserve and its periphery. Thanks to the creation of an appropriate governance structure, they participate in decision making processes.

Improving governance of territories

Developing REDD+ strategies which are effective in the long term means improving how the territories are governed. In countries where governance still remains weak, the REDD+ strategies must themselves become tools of governance to allow forest managers:

- to identify and plan activities according to factors of deforestation and degradation but also to the needs and priorities for action
- from the early stages of strategy development, to involve all stakeholders in the sector, including local communities and indigenous populations who depend on forest resources and are particularly vulnerable
- to control and monitor the implementation and impact of the activities and strategy in the long run

Before governance can be improved vulnerable stakeholders and/or those who lack capacity or resources such as decentralised authorities or local communities must be strengthened and exchanges and participative decision-making must be encouraged.

Since its creation, the FGEF funds projects which aim to strengthen and improve governance of territories for the sake of project efficiency and sustainability. In so doing, the projects funded

by the FGEF have allowed mechanisms of participative governance of territories, underpinning REDD+ strategies, to be identified and tested.

Optimise the production of goods and services from Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a changing global context

Countries: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

Dates: 2012 - 2015

FGEF funding: €2.65m
(in 2 phases of which €1.3m from the French Fast Start Finance / total project amount: €8m)

Subject to strong anthropic pressures, Mediterranean forests are highly vulnerable to climate change and their basic ability to provide goods and services to the population is at risk. In this context, the purpose of the project is to encourage actors to manage and/or restore the Mediterranean woodlands, with a view to the sustainable provision of environmental goods and services, in particular by anticipating and integrating limiting and adapting to climate change in forest management policies.

As local populations are both forces and victims of change, the project's success lies on its ability, at a local level, to promote strategies for reducing anthropic pressure on Mediterranean woodland ecosystems while assuring users that the goods and services on which they depend can be maintained over the long term. Based on existing experience and approaches, the project aims to develop a tool for participative governance adapted to the context of Mediterranean forests. This tool will be developed along the lines of the Imagine tool developed by Plan Bleu for the management of Mediterranean marine ecosystems. Once adapted it will be deployed across several pilot territories across the countries concerned, and to support them in achieving sustainable management of their forest ecosystems.



Implementation of pilot REDD+ activities

Since its creation and as a Fast Start Finance fund manager, the FGEF is the driving force behind the development of pilot REDD+ activities. Beyond the efforts committed to their preparation, the FGEF projects test out methods of implementing the mechanism. Whether technical, methodological, strategic or financial, these methods must demonstrate their effectiveness faced with the reality of the contexts of tropical forests and developing countries.

Through the development of pilot REDD+ activities, the FGEF meets a need for in-the-field experiments which can fuel discussions and provide some answers on many topics, including:

- methodologies for assessing and monitoring reductions in emissions and increased absorptions through REDD+ activities;
- linking up local actions with national, regional and international measures;
- payment based on the amount of reduction in emissions and increase in carbon absorption and the methods used to measure such performance;
- mechanisms for profit redistribution related to REDD+ and for payments for environmental services.

Through its involvement in REDD+ projects in the field, the FGEF reiterates that the REDD+ mechanism only exists through the ability of key-players to find economic alternatives and methods of governance in order to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, to sustainably manage, conserve and increase forest carbon stocks.

> Reduce deforestation and degradation

Developing REDD+ and CDM potential for sustainable development of the Rio Grande de la Magdalena

Country: Colombia
Dates: 2012 - 2016
FGEF funding: €1.46m
 (total project amount: €10m)

The project will support the development of REDD+ projects in two strategic ecosystems in the catchment area of the Magdalena River, while contributing to strengthening regional and national capacity on REDD+. These projects will contribute to town and country planning, to updating and revising the land registry, to developing innovative solutions for the sustainable management of ecosystems and to strengthening governance. They will provide pilot experiments at country and sub-region level, focused on the restoration and sustainable management of a cross-section of sensitive ecosystems (middle and high mountain areas and wetland plains) and which fall within the REDD+ mechanism.

> Increase carbon sequestration by forests

CASCADE - Carbon credits for Agriculture, Sylviculture, Conservation and Action against Deforestation

Countries: Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal.
Dates: 2006 - 2011
FGEF funding: €2.3m
 (total project amount: €7.615m)

The CASCADE project has allowed African expertise to be developed by carrying out practical CDM projects in the sectors of agriculture, sylviculture and bioenergy. In each of the seven

> Sustainable management and conservation of forest carbon stocks

Support the sustainable management of forests in the Congo Basin and the Amazon Basin in Brazil

Countries: Central Africa, Brazil
Dates: 2009 - 2013
FGEF funding: €1.2m
 (total project amount: €3.271m)

Sustainable forest management is a major issue both for economic development and REDD+ strategies in the main tropical forest basins. The project aims to contribute to the integration of sustainable forest management within REDD+ strategies in countries in the Congo Basin and in the Amazon basin in Brazil. At the interface between research and development of pilot activities, it is implemented by the CIFOR and numerous scientific and technical partners. This way the project supports the development of demonstration projects based on sustainable forest management, reduced impacts logging and forest certification. These projects aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with logging, while slowing down the process of conversion to non-forest land use.

target countries, the programme has implemented activities of institutional support, capacity building, and support for the development of pilot projects in various appropriate sectors, including commercial plantations, community reforestation, and biofuels, to create new opportunities for the African Continent to participate in the CDM and voluntary carbon markets.

Reduce
deforestation
and degradation





FGEF Governance

Steering Committee

The steering committee is the FGEF's decision-making body. It is chaired by the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Employment and has five member institutions:

- The Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Employment
- The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs
- The Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing
- The Ministry for Higher Education and Research
- The French Development Agency (AFD), which is also in charge of FGEF management

The Scientific and Technical Committee (CST)

The CST is an advisory body whose members are ten key French scientists. Their role is to analyse project applications, carry out specific studies and contribute scientific input to the FGEF's discussions on strategy.

FGEF Secretariat

The Secretariat is the FGEF's administrative arm, with a staff of ten people. It is attached to the Strategy Directorate of the French Development Agency

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