EUREDD Facility

Making FLEGT and REDD+ work together

EU REDD Facility: Insights and activities 2013 - 2017

An overview of the Facility's work and achievements

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Foreword

As the EU REDD Facility reaches the end of its 2013-2017 strategy and embarks on a new strategy for 2018-2022, it is time to reflect on our achievements, challenges and lessons learnt.

At its start, the Facility was given the mandate to explore synergies between two initiatives that aim to ensure forests meet their potential to limit climate change and provide sustainable livelihoods: REDD+ and FLEGT.

Many people felt the two approaches could and should strengthen each other, but nobody really knew how to go about making this happen. The work of the Facility proved critical in clarifying the relationship between REDD+ and FLEGT, and increased understanding of the central role of forest and land-use governance in REDD+. And we showed that, by being strategic in our choices, the Facility can indeed influence national and international discussions with relatively small amounts of money.

We found that combining climate, aid and trade-related interventions has great potential to address the drivers of deforestation, and that working alongside governments to facilitate difficult changes is key.

Our engagement in partner countries and the results of our actions are the engines of our added value. The Facility channels the results of its work into national, European Union (EU) and international policy processes, capturing and managing knowledge to support strategic communication and building capacity for decision making and action.

Looking ahead, we see great opportunities for the Facility's work, developed from 2013-2017, to make a useful contribution to progress in climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management. Countries are starting to act on their commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change. Companies are increasingly committed to eliminating deforestation from supply chains. The EU is exploring options to strengthen implementation of its action plan on illegal logging and is considering ways to step up efforts to address deforestation.

Over the next five years, we will support these positive trends by focusing on improved legality in land allocation, improved sustainability of land use and increased transparency in forest-risk commodity supply chains. Through work in these areas – the three pillars of our new 2018-2022 strategy – the Facility will further its contribution to improving land-use governance as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation.

Jussi Viitanen – Head of the European Forest Institute's EU FLEGT and REDD facilities

March 2018

Introduction

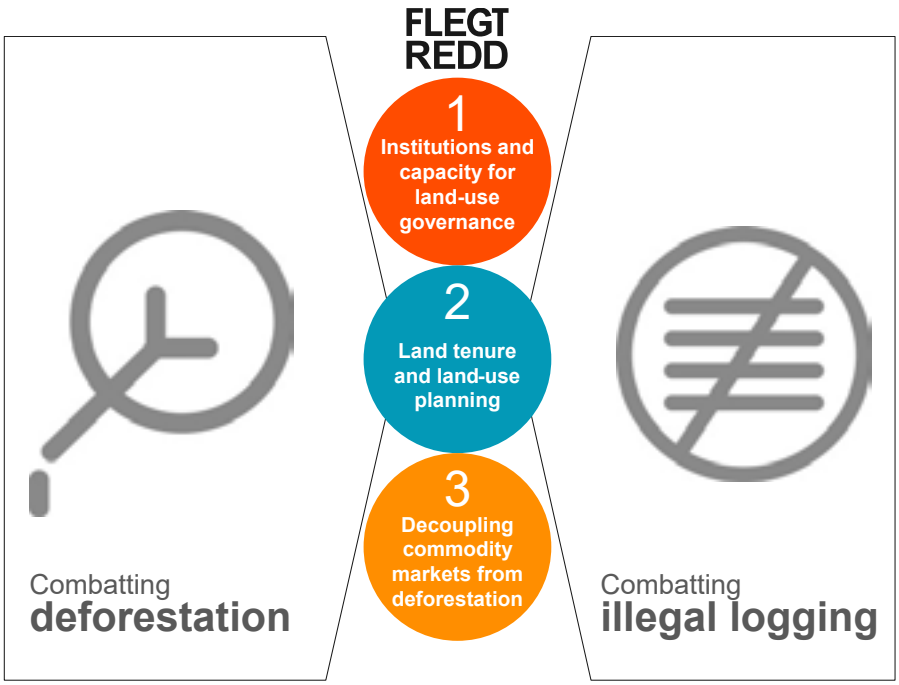
The EU REDD Facility supports partner countries in improving land-use governance as part of their efforts to slow, halt and reverse deforestation. It also supports the overall EU effort to reduce its contribution to deforestation in developing countries.

Addressing land-use governance challenges is key to successful implementation of both REDD+[1] and Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) under the EU FLEGT Action Plan[2] — and, ultimately, to reducing deforestation and tackling climate change. Increased transparency and accountability, stakeholder participation and capacity, and cross-sectoral coordination are required to address the root causes of deforestation. Clarification of legal frameworks and better law enforcement contribute to eradicating illegal and unsustainable forest loss, along with more responsible commodity sourcing.

The focus of the Facility's work is, therefore, on countries engaged in both VPA and REDD+ processes. Acting on its strategy for 2013–2017, the Facility worked in three areas where these processes intersect. The Facility provided support:

- To build institutions, decision-making processes and incentive structures to foster good land-use governance, based on lessons learnt from FLEGT experiences
- To clarify land-use rights and strengthen land-use planning at the interface of REDD+ and FLEGT processes in order to reduce forest conversion and degradation
- To link trends in demand for timber and agricultural commodities with jurisdiction-wide approaches to foster 'deforestation-free' production in producing countries

This paper provides an overview of the Facility's activities and achievements under its 2013-2017 strategy. It summarises key insights that have emerged from the Facility's work and gives examples of projects the Facility has implemented. Looking forward, it introduces the Facility's strategy and goals for the period 2018-2022.



[1] REDD+ stands for 'reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries'

[2] FLEGT stands for forest law enforcement, governance and trade. The EU FLEGT Action Plan on illegal logging and related activities includes VPAs, which are bilateral trade deals between the EU and timber-exporting countries.

Key insights

1. Improved forest governance is key to addressing deforestation and forest degradation. It reinforces inclusive decision making and transparency in the forest sector and promotes the rule of law. Bottom-up approaches that have focused on solving specific issues on land-use governance, land-use planning or deforestation-free commodity production and trade, benefit from different initiatives that bring visibility, support and competence to forest and land-use governance, such as FLEGT and REDD+ processes. They strengthened and built national ownership of FLEGT and REDD+ processes and helped catalyse synergies between the two to materialise.

2. FLEGT and REDD+ processes show that addressing land-use governance challenges requires consensus building, political support, multifaceted coordination and strong institutional capacities. In fact, it often requires governments to change the way they do business and to address land-use challenges at the level of economic and development planning. The Facility's work over the past five years has confirmed that the above fundamentals are critical.

3. Addressing drivers of illegal logging and deforestation requires a broad range of approaches and incentives, including development assistance, REDD+ result-based payments, climate-resilient investments and greening of existing agricultural finance from domestic and international sources. Trade and market access provide a powerful lever for governance reform. Linking supply-chain approaches with jurisdictional approaches to achieving legal, zero-deforestation production and trade of timber and agro-commodities is promising to engage the private sector, achieve scale and hence be transformative.

4. Increased transparency and accountability in global forest-risk commodity supply chains, such as timber, soy, palm oil, rubber and cocoa is essential. It enables companies, financial institutions and governments to understand and address social and environmental impacts associated with their supply chains, and live up to their commitments. Increased transparency also enables the development of a level playing field, supports cooperation and dialogue among actors of a supply chain, and helps raise standards for entire sectors.

5. Funding for 'REDD+ readiness' has built capacity and institutions to address deforestation and forest degradation, but challenges remain in moving from readiness to implementation. In many countries, most land-use investments, including by the public sector, are not yet aligned with REDD+ objectives. While some REDD+ programmes are catching up with 'readiness for deforestation-free value chains', and making an effort to align with the goals of other sectors such as agriculture, they cannot succeed without stronger integration to the country's mainstream economic development planning. In many cases, the potential for REDD+ processes to engage the private sector remains largely untapped and opportunities to redirect existing investments to more sustainable uses still need to be identified and pursued.

6. REDD+ processes benefit from integrating FLEGT approaches. For instance, VPAs provide particularly valuable lessons on approaches for inclusive multistakeholder decision-making and comprehensive supply chain monitoring systems. Applying such approaches to REDD+ and broadening them to other relevant sectors has helped stakeholders work together to seek concrete solutions to difficult issues, not only on matters related to legal compliance and enforcement but also on inclusive land-use planning, climate change mitigation and private sector involvement in zero-deforestation initiatives.

7. In turn, the focus on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation that REDD+ has fostered momentum to implement the EU FLEGT Action Plan. It broadens the range of options available to address illegal logging and related conversion of forests. It also broadens efforts to sectors and actors beyond the forest sector, and provides additional levers and incentives to action. Aligning forest governance efforts with the operationalisation of Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement on climate change will be key to achieving climate mitigation objectives in the land-use sector.

8. In implementing its 2013-2017 strategy, the Facility has shown that its results and lessons learnt can inform and influence national and international discussions. They have clarified understanding of REDD-FLEGT links and of the key role forest and land-use governance plays in REDD+. Small but strategic pilot actions can drive change and progress, even on sensitive issues related to land allocation, planning and investment. They are also key to building partnerships and local 'intelligence networks' to achieve impact and develop robust understanding of the realities on the ground. Early investment is key as it takes time for credible partnerships and results to emerge.

Overview of EU REDD Facility achievements

The EU REDD Facility supported developing countries in testing strategic and innovative solutions to inform the design, implementation and monitoring of policies on land-use governance and REDD+. The Facility's work at the interface of the REDD+ and FLEGT processes addressed a wide range of topics related to land-use governance, tenure and agricultural drivers of deforestation.

The following are examples of projects the Facility implemented under each of the three pillars of its 2013-2017 strategy. Some of these are presented in more detail later on in this publication. More details on all projects implemented by the Facility can be found on the EU REDD Facility website.

Improving land-use governance

Addressing direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation requires dealing effectively with weak land-use governance.

- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Facility helped integrate legal compliance of forest operators, in particular logging companies, as criteria to access result-based support in the context of REDD+ investment programmes.
- In the Republic of the Congo, the Facility has contributed to the development of an inclusive and effective model for sharing benefits from REDD+, drawing on experiences from the country's existing local development funds and other benefit-sharing mechanisms.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in the Republic of the Congo, the Facility supported development of a framework that integrates independent monitoring of forest governance with independent monitoring of REDD+, in order to increase efficiency, improve transparency and reduce costs.
- Other projects explored synergies between the FLEGT VPA legality definition and REDD+ safeguards in Vietnam, enhanced transparency by linking data on land-use licences and revenue in Indonesia, and fostered South-South cooperation between Brazil and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Tenure and land-use planning

Clarity of tenure provides communities that depend on forests with an incentive to manage forests sustainably. Absent or inconsistent land-use planning and illegal land allocation exposes natural forests, and the people dependent on them, to the risk of conversion to other, more lucrative land uses. Supporting national and subnational stakeholders to improve land-use planning is key to promoting sustainable use of natural resources, and ensuring the legality and sustainability of commodity supply chains.

- In Cameroon, the Facility worked with a multistakeholder coalition to make land-use planning and land-allocation processes more transparent and participatory. The Facility and its partners developed interactive land-use planning tools (with relevance beyond Cameroon): stakeholders can use the Common Mapping Platform to access social, environmental and geographical data for making informed land-use planning decisions; and use the Land-use Planner to compare the costs and benefits of alternative scenarios looking forward. The first municipal-level formal land-use planning process is being conducted with the support of these tools under the oversight of the Ministry in charge of planning and economic development.
- In West Papua, Indonesia, the Facility worked with local authorities to clarify tenure and land-use rights in order to improve land-use governance. This involved a province-wide analysis of the timber industry, identification of way to include indigenous communities in forest management and land-use planning, and development of a system for monitoring sustainability at the jurisdictional level.
- Other projects focused on empowering upland communities to manage forests in Vietnam, and on supporting a local cooperative to secure long-term REDD+ investment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Decoupling deforestation from commodity production

Agricultural commodities sold on international markets – such as beef, palm oil, soy, cocoa and rice – are leading causes of deforestation worldwide.

- In Côte d'Ivoire, the Facility engaged with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the private sector and smallholders to support development of deforestation-free production in the cocoa, rubber and palm oil sectors. This involved undertaking a participatory cost-benefit analysis, which supported the start of dialogue between the Government and private sector, and fed into the design of the national strategy for deforestation-free production. The Facility partnered with the National REDD+ Commission, a major chocolate manufacturer and its suppliers to demonstrate how deforestation-free supply chains could work in practice.
- Also in Côte d'Ivoire, the Facility, together with the Government and the UN-REDD Programme, mapped public land-use finance investments to identify opportunities to increase funding towards the implementation of REDD+ and to redirect investments potentially fuelling deforestation. The study supports Côte d'Ivoire's development of a National REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan to implement zero-deforestation agriculture and forest cover goals.
- The Facility is a partner in the Transparency for Sustainable Economies (Trase) initiative, an online platform to improve the transparency, clarity and accessibility of information on the commodity supply chains that drive tropical deforestation. The Facility is helping to develop monitoring applications suited to the needs of governments and jurisdictions, trade and customs authorities for monitoring risks and opportunities in commodity production and trade.

A snapshot of EU REDD Facility projects

Creating incentives for logging companies to comply with forestry regulations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Weak law enforcement and forest governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo present significant risks to the country's commitments to reduce deforestation. Innovative incentives are needed to encourage logging companies and other forest operators to comply with forestry laws and to address illegal logging. The REDD+ process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provides opportunities for improved law enforcement, but logging companies' engagement in the process has been negligible.

To address this, the EU REDD Facility has helped design a compliance standard for monitoring how well logging companies comply with the laws and regulations most relevant to REDD+, and designed tailored REDD+ support for companies willing to engage. The initiative utilises REDD+ funding to incentivise improved law enforcement and incorporates the legality approach as a safeguard for REDD+ implementation.

"This approach is an opportunity for us to value progress made towards legality and improve the image of the sector"

– Gabriel Mola, President of Fédération des Industriels du Bois

There is multistakeholder agreement on the compliance standard, which has been integrated in the Maï-Ndombe Emission Reductions Program. The standard has the potential to foster cooperation between the private sector and the Government, support governance improvements on both sides and be implemented at national scale through funding from the Central Africa Forest Initiative.

Read more on the EU REDD Facility's project page: http://www.euredd.efi.int/publications/creating-incentives-for-logging-companies-to-engage-in-redd

Combining independent monitoring of forest governance and REDD+ in the Congo Basin

While drivers of deforestation are often located outside the forest sector, civil society groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo have been mainly performing independent monitoring of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG). The EU REDD Facility supported the development of a framework that combines existing experiences of monitoring of FLEG with independent monitoring of REDD+ and land-use governance, in order to increase efficiency, reduce costs and bring greater transparency.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the project team worked with stakeholders to develop a joint FLEG-REDD+ monitoring methodology, which will be implemented throughout the country. In the Republic of the Congo, civil society groups assessed strategic options to develop independent monitoring of broader land-use governance, while building on the experience of monitoring of FLEG and with the aim of informing REDD+ and other governance processes. In both countries, the EU-funded Citizens' Voices for Change initiative will ensure continuity and implementation of the innovative approaches.

"The project has shown that it is possible to collect independent monitoring data encompassing both law enforcement and REDD+ standards and safeguards to increase transparency and accountability in the land-use sector."

– Jean-Cyril Owada, Forest Legality Advisory Group

Key REDD+ and forestry stakeholders have developed a better understanding of the role and importance of combining independent monitoring of REDD+ and forest law enforcement and governance to address land-use governance challenges.

Read more on the EU REDD Facility's project page: http://www.euredd.efi.int/publications/combining-independent-monitoring-of-forest-governance-and-redd

Building a mapping alliance for inclusive and transparent land-use planning in Cameroon

In Cameroon, the allocation of large areas of forest for agricultural use has created tension among stakeholders. The perception that the process of land-use planning lacks consultation and the involvement of local communities threatens to create conflict.

In 2011, Cameroon developed a land-use planning law to manage land use more sustainably. But there is limited experience in drafting land-use plans that reconcile stakeholder interests in a balanced, informed and participatory way. Reliable and accessible data to inform land-use management is also often lacking.

To bring more transparency to land-use planning and land-allocation processes, the EU REDD Facility and a multistakeholder coalition of partners have developed a Common Mapping Platform[3]. This tool enables stakeholders to access social, environmental and geographical data for making informed land-use planning decisions. The project is operating at the micro level in the municipality of Nguti with the aim of scaling up implementation in other municipalities and at the regional level.

"The project has brought stakeholder groups together in constructive, non-adversarial discussions on land-use planning at the municipal level and gained strong interest from the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development."

– James Acworth, Project Coordinator

Read more on the EU REDD Facility's project page: http://www.euredd.efi.int/publications/building-a-mapping-alliance-for-inclusive-and-transparent-land-use-planningcreating-incentives-for-logging-companies-to-engage-in-redd

3 http://my.gfw-mapbuilder.org/v1.latest/?appid=96d68291863e4766a16ac66fa931a5f2

Opportunities for improving land tenure and land-use rights in Indonesia

In Indonesia's West Papua province, responsibilities for regulating forestry and natural resources overlap at the local, provincial and national administrative levels. This has created institutional tensions and led to disputes over land and natural resource rights.

"Without significant improvements in land and resource governance, the historical trends of exclusion of indigenous Papuans and environmental degradation will be exacerbated."

– INOBU and EU REDD Facility briefing[4]

Since 2013, the EU REDD Facility and Yayasan Penelitian Inovasi Bumi (INOBU) have been exploring opportunities to clarify tenure and land-use rights in West Papua in order to improve land-use governance.

The project is generating a better understanding of local livelihoods, the timber industry and associated supply chains. It is identifying pathways to resolve disparities between customary land rights and statutory tenure laws. And it is ensuring that there are policy instruments, regulations and monitoring systems in place at the jurisdictional level to promote good land-use governance. This work has strengthened ties between the provincial government, several district governments, indigenous representatives and civil society.

Read more on the EU REDD Facility's project page: http://www.euredd.efi.int/low-emissions-development-indonesia

4 http://newsite.inobu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/West-Papua-Improving-land-and-resource-governance-for-sustainable-rural-development.pdf

Unlocking supply chain data to reduce deforestation

Agricultural expansion has driven over 80% of tropical deforestation in the past decade. The challenge for responsible companies and institutions is to identify and reduce the deforestation risks and impacts associated with their procurement policies and supply chains. But reliable information on complex global supply chains is limited.

The EU REDD Facility is therefore working with partners developing Trase, an online platform aimed at improving the transparency, clarity and accessibility of information on the commodity supply chains that drive tropical deforestation.

"Drawing on vast untapped sets of production, trade and customs data, Trase lays bare at scale the flows of globally-traded commodities, such as palm oil, soy, beef and timber, which are mainly responsible for tropical deforestation."

– Toby Gardner, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute[5]

Trase aims to provide supply-chain operators and producing jurisdictions with a strong incentive to improve business practices and reduce the risks of deforestation. It can help governments and private sector at both ends of supply chains to turn policy aspirations into the concrete measures necessary to decouple deforestation from trade in major agricultural commodities. Within five years, Trase will cover at least 70% of the global trade in forest-risk commodities.

Read more on the EU REDD Facility's project page: http://www.euredd.efi.int/publications/unlocking-supply-chain-data-to-reduce-deforestation

5 http://www.euredd.efi.int/publications/global-supply-chain-transparency

Public-private partnerships to develop deforestation-free cocoa supply chains in Côte d'Ivoire

Cocoa production has decimated forests in Côte d'Ivoire. In September 2014, the Ivorian President announced that the country would shift to zero-deforestation cocoa production from 2017 onwards. Some stakeholders in the agricultural sector have since began testing and implementing zero-deforestation commodity production.

The EU REDD Facility partnered with the National REDD+ Executive Secretariat, two private sector chocolate manufacturers and their suppliers, in particular smallholder cocoa producers, to show how deforestation-free supply chains could work. This involved facilitating negotiations among stakeholders on a voluntary agreement specifying the scope of the companies' involvement, and methods for monitoring and verification.

The pilot project shows that a zero-deforestation approach to agricultural supply chains is not exclusive to international large-scale forest-risk commodity producers. The approach can be adapted to smallholder supply chains in Africa.

"This approach creates optimism among national forest actors. In the past, they did not know how to communicate with the agricultural sector, especially the private sector. Now there is hope, because a dialogue has been opened."

– Jean-Paul Aka, National Expert in REDD+ and Agricultural Commodities, Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development

Read more on the EU REDD Facility's project page: http://www.euredd.efi.int/publications/engaging-with-smallholder-cocoa-farmers

Mapping financial flows to support REDD+ efforts in Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire's forests have come under significant pressure in recent decades. At current rates of deforestation, Côte d'Ivoire could lose its entire forest cover by 2034. Yet forest cover objectives have not yet been mainstreamed into Côte d'Ivoire's national and sectoral development strategies. As a result, they are not reflected in domestic and development partners' spending priorities.

The EU REDD Facility, together with the Climate Policy Initiative, the UN-REDD Programme and IMPACTUM, measured progress and identified opportunities to increase funding towards the implementation of REDD+ objectives in Côte d'Ivoire.

The work showed that the current level of investment in land use makes up only a small fraction of the expected needs for implementing Côte d'Ivoire's REDD+ strategy. By greening existing agricultural finance from domestic, and especially international sources, Côte d'Ivoire and its partners could deliver over five times more REDD+-aligned finance. Opportunities exist to raise finance from new sources and improve the effectiveness of existing spending, including through fiscal measures and incentives for local governments.

The work highlights the need for forests to become a priority for the Ivorian Government and its partners. It demonstrates that current means do not yet match ambition when it comes to zero deforestation and forest restoration objectives, and provides REDD+ stakeholders with a solid basis for conducting advocacy work with the Government and external partners. Côte d'Ivoire is preparing its REDD+ Investment Plan based on the findings of this work.

"Greening the hundreds of billions of West African CFA francs spent annually on business-as-usual agriculture in the country could increase productivity without sacrificing the country's forests."

– Climate Policy Initiative, IMPACTUM, UN-REDD and EU REDD Facility report[6]

Read more on the EU REDD Facility's project page: http://www.euredd.efi.int/publications/mapping-financial-flows-to-support-redd-efforts

6 http://www.euredd.efi.int/documents/15552/393169/170209_en.pdf/32efaf43-37d0-985c-8520-b0731b96db20

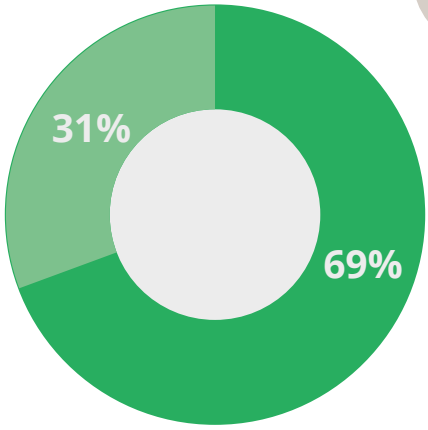
Donors and partners

To implement the 2013-2017 EU REDD Facility strategy, the Facility spent EUR 9.4 million.

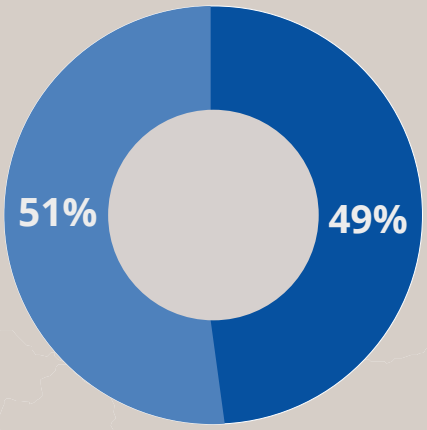
Funding came from various EU donors, including the European Commission, the United Kingdom, Ireland, France and Germany. The Facility also received limited co-funding from other sources.

Donors	%
European Commission	71
United Kingdom (DFID)	22
Ireland	2
France	2
Germany	2
Other funding sources	1

During the implementation of the 2013-2017 strategy, 69% was spent on country work, while 31% was spent on advancing thematic work with various partners.



Out of the total 2013-2017 budget, 49% was spent in the form on direct technical assistance by Facility staff. 51% was spent through contracting external technical assistance and with local technical partners.



The EU REDD Facility developed in-country projects in six of its partner countries: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia and Vietnam.

It also followed and supported work on FLEGT and REDD+ interactions in Guyana, Honduras, Laos and Liberia.

Partner countries	Total spending 2013-2017 (in million EUR)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1
Republic of the Congo	1
Côte d'Ivoire	0.9
Indonesia	0.8
Vietnam	0.7
Cameroon	0.4
Other countries[7]	0.1

7 Includes Guyana, Honduras, Laos and Liberia. The Facility did not engage through in-country projects in these partner countries.

The Facility's work evaluated

Mid-way through the strategy period, the Steering Committee of the Facility commissioned an evaluation of the Facility's work.

The evaluation concluded that the Facility's objective and geographical coverage were relevant, and that the Facility added value to other bilateral and multilateral actions, thanks in particular to its flexible and adaptive implementing modalities. The evaluation highlighted that in spite of limitations linked to the small scale of its country actions, the Facility had been able to influence national processes and to raise awareness, strengthen institutions, build capacity and improve knowledge on better land-use governance.

The Facility proved able to work and create dialogue on sensitive issues like land governance and legality, and developed innovative tools and pilots in support of these dialogues. The Facility has also effectively influenced EU and international processes on REDD+ and deforestation, as well major multilateral programmes on REDD+.

The evaluation recommended that the Facility focus on fewer and more clearly-defined thematic issues, capitalising on what has been learned with respect to the work on the REDD-FLEGT interface. It also recommended that the Facility reinforce its communication efforts, at all levels, in particular as an integral part of the projects it is implementing.

The Facility's 2018-2022 strategy takes these recommendations on board through further focusing on addressing illegal forest conversion, the challenges of operationalising land-related Nationally Determined Contribution commitments on climate change, as well as the transparency of deforestation-free production and trade.

The 2018-2022 strategy also integrates communication as a strategic tool, and has a strong focus on capturing and sharing lessons learnt, and developing strategic analysis to inform EU and international policy debates on deforestation issues.

Looking forward, seizing opportunities, adding value

Much has changed since the Facility began implementing its 2013-2017 strategy. A convergence of positive trends has the potential to improve the prospects for long-lasting solutions to tropical deforestation.

Most tropical countries included forests in their Nationally Determined Contributions, the plans they committed to under the Paris Agreement. These countries are now starting to put these plans into operation.

At the same time, rising consumer and corporate concerns have raised ambition to address the impacts of commodity production on tropical forests. Private companies are increasingly committed to zero-deforestation sourcing, and governments in consumer and producer countries have signed up to declarations that state their intentions to stop deforestation in major commodity supply chains.

Meanwhile, efforts to address illegal logging under the EU FLEGT Action Plan are taking effect. EU Member States are now implementing and enforcing the EU Timber Regulation, which entered into force in 2013. Among VPA countries, in 2016, Indonesia became the first to issue FLEGT licences to verified legal timber products. Other countries are progressing towards this goal or making good advances in their VPA negotiations with the EU.

An independent evaluation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan found that it had improved governance in all target countries. The EU is now addressing the evaluation's recommendations for improving the Action Plan's implementation. The EU is also exploring ways to step up efforts against deforestation, in part in recognition that conversion of forests for agriculture is now the main driver of tropical deforestation.

These trends are creating new opportunities for the Facility to advance its work. Yet challenges remain. Demand for forest-risk commodities is set to soar, forest governance remains weak in many tropical countries, and a lack of actionable information about supply chains hinders ambitious efforts to reduce deforestation.

The Facility's 2018-2022 strategy therefore focuses on supporting REDD+ countries as they implement their Nationally Determined Contributions and decouple commodity production from deforestation. This new strategy has three objectives:

1. Supporting the clarification and implementation of legal frameworks to address illegal land allocation and forest conversion and improve monitoring of compliance and enforcement
2. Enabling sustainable land-use management and investments in order facilitate the design of national policies and put Nationally Determined Contributions into operation
3. Informing deforestation-free production and trade by improving the accessibility and transparency of information along complex commodity supply chains

By applying lessons from FLEGT, promoting synergies between VPAs and REDD+, developing solutions to governance challenges and sharing strategic analysis, the Facility will inform and support subnational, national and international efforts to address deforestation, promote sustainable forest management and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the land-use sector.

About the EU REDD Facility

The EU REDD Facility supports partner countries in improving land-use governance as part of their effort to slow, halt and reverse deforestation. The Facility also supports the overall EU effort to reduce its impact on deforestation in developing countries. The Facility is hosted by the European Forest Institute (EFI), and was established in 2010.

Disclaimer

This briefing has been produced with the assistance of the European Union and the Governments of France, Germany, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom. The contents of this briefing are the sole responsibility of the EU REDD Facility and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of funding organisations.

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