



FOREST PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION Uganda

#GlobalGateway #ForOurPlanet

A comprehensive approach to sustain Uganda's forests



As part of Global Gateway, the European Union's (EU) strategy to boost sustainable links for the people and the planet, Uganda and the European Union aim at enhancing the role of Ugandan forests in sustainable and inclusive national development, and addressing the challenges related to deforestation, climate change and loss of biodiversity.



Area
24.1 million ha

Population
42.7 million

Density
177 persons / km²

Growth
3.2% (urban 6.6%)

Key work streams of the Forest Partnership

- Improved governance and sustainable use and, management of forests
- Forest-based value chains, covering wood and non-wood forest products
- Address deforestation and forest degradation
- Conservation and restoration of natural forest and ecosystem corridors

Forests in a nutshell

- 11%** Forest cover of total land (2.3 million ha)
- 1.2%** Protected areas with forests of total land (0.24 million ha)
- 50%** Forest loss since 1990
- 3%** Forest contribution to GDP
- 100,000** Forest related jobs

SOURCES: FAO FRA 2020, FAOSTAT 2020, Ministry of Water and Environment - State of Uganda's Forestry 2016

Commitments by the Government of Uganda

- Reducing its CO₂ emissions by 22%
- Increasing forest cover up to 21%
- Enhancing biodiversity conservation
- Promoting sustainable agricultural and forest production
- Scaling up forest restoration
- Enhancing value addition in key growth opportunities



The Forest Partnership investments

- Lifting barriers to investments
- Enable smallholders' access to finance
- Support in land tenure, land use planning and deforestation free agriculture



People and forests

Uganda is endowed with unique forests hosting an **impressive biodiversity and helping meet various socio-economic needs** that in turn sustain human development and significant national earnings. However, the management and use of Uganda's forests has been largely unsustainable and **forest cover has plummeted from 24% (1990) to the current 10.9 %**. Conversion to agriculture and grazing land, infrastructure expansion and overharvesting for timber and fuelwood, weak forest governance, poor cross-sectoral coordination, poverty and, insecure land tenure are responsible for the depletion of Uganda's forests. Forestry is crucial to the lives of millions of Ugandans, **especially the poorest sections of society**. The main direct benefits of forests and trees to Ugandans include provision of food, energy, employment, income, an improved quality of life and increased resilience to shocks and stress.

Forest-based value chains in Uganda

Uganda is largely a net-importer of wood products and the wood product sector's trade deficit has tripled, over the past decade.

Wood-based value chains in Uganda should be scaled up considering the available raw materials and market opportunities. Ugandan forest industries can create a well-established position in Eastern Africa, using several comparative advantages such as strategic location, expanding forest plantations and emerging infrastructure as well as competitive costs. Non-wood forest products include honey, pine bark, mushrooms, resin, oils, medicines, and extracts from shea nut. Uganda has developed into the largest producer of pine resin in East and Southern Africa.

Plantations are critical for production

The plantation base is critical for local value chains. The share of forest plantations in the total forest cover amounts to 5-7% while producing more than 80% of the legal industrial roundwood. Private forests cover one third of the total forests, about 0.7 million ha. An expanding part of private forests are plantations which cover about 100,000 ha of mainly pine and eucalyptus trees. Half of the plantations have been established by individual farmers with the assistance of the EU-funded Sawlog Production Grant Scheme over the past two decades.

Our future is in our hands and in our trees

