



FOREST PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION Zambia

#GlobalGateway #ForOurPlanet

A comprehensive approach to sustain Zambia's forests



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



Area
75.3 million ha

Population
17.1 million

Density
23 persons / km²

Growth
25 million by 2030

Key work streams of the Forest Partnership

- Good governance environment: Forest policy, governance and management systems
- Economic transformation and job creation: Improved value chains for forest products and services
- Environmental sustainability: A value to protect
- Human and social development: Skills training, research and outreach

Forests in a nutshell

- 60%** Forest cover of total land (44.8 million ha)
- Protected forests areas (10.7 million ha)
- Forest loss between 1990 to 2010
- 6.3%**
- 0.8%** Forest contribution to GDP
- Forest based industries contribution to GDP
- 3.7%**

SOURCES: FAOSTAT 2020; EU country assessment 2019; Global Forest Resources Assessment FAO 2015; Global Forest Watch website; Zambia REDD+ Strategy (2015); PROFOR website

Commitments by the Government of Zambia

Reducing CO₂ emissions by 47% (38 million tonnes) from 2010

Reducing the rate of deforestation to 120,000 ha/year by 2026

Increasing forest plantations from 65,000 to 500,000 ha

Promoting sustainable forest management

Banning unsustainable production and consumption of charcoal by 2025



The Forest Partnership investments

- Stimulate private sector initiatives
- Carbon markets and result based payments
- Support bankable forest-related projects
- Access to finance for micro, small and medium enterprises



People and forests

Zambia still has an extensive **forest cover**, **60% of the country's land** surface (44.8 million hectares) is covered by forests. But the pace of deforestation high, about **276,000 hectares per year**.

Human activities such as the expansion of settlements and agriculture reduced forest cover. **Forest loss combined with forest degradation** creates serious environmental and socio-economic concerns as regards water scarcity; **loss of soil; carbon storage; loss of biodiversity** and ecosystems (both as an asset for tourism and for diversification of the economy).

Zambia's forests contribute to 0.8% of GDP considering just wood production; including industries it goes up to 4.5%.

There is also a trend for a **growing wood deficit**.

Forest-based value chains in Zambia

Specific areas of employment may include sustainable forestry management, wildfire management, establishment and development of commercial plantations, forest certification, wood and non-wood forest product processing industries, and tourism circuits.

Measures should include support to small and medium-sized enterprises' by facilitating linkages with larger local and regional value chains. This should help create jobs and alternative income opportunities, while safeguarding the environmental values of production forests, such as biodiversity and water and carbon storage. Economic transformation and job creation can also come through community game management.

Turning forests into a natural capital asset

The Partnership should explore opportunities to support bankable forest-related projects, especially with the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+), providing access to finance for micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives (i.e. for forest-based products and services, sustainable agricultural practices and food systems in buffer zones around forest areas).

**Our future is in our hands
and in our trees**

