



Forest Partnership

between European Union and Zambia

Conclusions of the first Political Working Group

I. Introduction

The European Union (EU) and the Republic of Zambia (Zambia), hereinafter ‘the Partners’ concluded in November 2022 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a **Forest Partnership**. The Forest Partnership reflects their **shared vision** for a holistic and integrated approach to forests implemented on the basis of **formal strategic dialogue and policy cooperation bilaterally and in the international arena**. The overall **aim** is to enhance the role of Zambian forests in sustainable and inclusive national development, and address challenges related to deforestation, climate change and biodiversity loss.

In order to operationalise the MoU, the Partners undertook to jointly agreed on quantified **targets**, develop a **Roadmap**, and institute the **Working Groups**.

II. Targets

The special role of **investments** in rolling out the workstreams towards achieving the objectives is highlighted as is the pertinence of international **finance** motivated by climate and biodiversity actions.

The Partners agreed to lay out a set of **targets** to be reached **by 2030** to help sustain momentum and steer action towards the achievement of the objectives set in the MoU, as well as facilitate the mobilization of appropriate resources and attract the necessary investments:

- (1) Increase the area of protected, restored or sustainably managed forests to an area of:
 - Sustainably managed forests: 21,336,000 ha
 - Planted forests: 336,000 ha
 - Restored forests: 6,000,000 ha
- (2) Increase the number of forest-related decent jobs, up to 1,050,000
- (3) Reduce the annual rate of deforestation of natural forests to 86,000 ha/year¹.

The implementation (e.g., baselines, risks/challenges, specific timeframes, associated actors and financing means) will be detailed in a **Work plan**. This will serve as the **tactical** tool to help ladder up to the attainment of the objectives and targets.

III. The Roadmap

With the quantified targets in mind, the Partners agreed to develop a Roadmap, structured around the four key workstreams of the Partnership with concrete **actions**, **milestones** and **associated responsibilities** being identified at this stage to allow a full exploration of investment opportunities in the course of Implementation. The special role of **Investments** in rolling out the workstreams towards achieving the objectives is highlighted as is the pertinence of international climate and biodiversity finance. The Roadmap is set out in [Annex I](#).

The Roadmap was developed **jointly** by the Partners (*and in consultation with relevant stakeholders*) in the course of eight (8) months from the conclusion of the Forest Partnership. It was **endorsed** by the Technical Working Group during its meeting of 25th July 2023.

¹ The MoU sets a deforestation rate of 120,000 ha/year as target for the year 2026. The Roadmap aims at halving deforestation rate by 2030 from a baseline rate of 172,000 ha/year in 2022 which amounts to 86,000 ha/year.

This Roadmap represents the **operational arm** of the Forest Partnership with the purpose of advancing its vision and deliver development impact for Zambia, in line with the 8th National Development Plan. The Roadmap is firmly anchored in the Team Europe approach and further underpinned by strategic EU initiatives including the European Green Deal and the Global Gateway.

The Roadmap is a **living document** with regular reviews to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, feasibility and implementability. The Political Working Group will guide and steer its implementation and address proposals by the Technical Working Group towards the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Forest Partnership. The Technical Working Group will on the basis of the Work plan monitor and evaluate progress, identify opportunities for additional actions and investments as well as options to tackle challenges and mitigate unintended consequences.

IV. Working Groups

In the context of the development of the Roadmap, the **composition of the Political Working Group** (PWG) was agreed between the Partners to include: the Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Representatives of the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, the Minister of Tourism, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Water Development and Sanitation, Minister of Technology and Science, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Finance and National Planning, the Head of the EU Delegation to Zambia, the Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Zambia, Representatives from the EU Delegation to Zambia, and Representatives from EU Member States.

The composition of the **Technical Working Group** (TWG) was agreed to include: Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Representatives from the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Tourism, and relevant Ministries, Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority, the Water Resources Management Authority, Zambia Environment Management Agency, the Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Zambia, Representatives from the EU Delegation to Zambia, and Representatives from the EU Member States.

The Partners also agreed on the Working modalities of the Working groups ([Annex II](#)).

Done in Lusaka on 8th November 2023

On behalf of the Republic of Zambia

Collins NZOVU

Minister of Green Economy and Environment

On behalf of the European Union

Wopke HOEKSTRA

Commissioner for Climate Action

Signature:



Signature:



Annex I

EU-Zambia Forest Partnership Roadmap			
THEMATIC AREAS	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
Policy Strategy, Dialogue and General Support Measures			
Roadmap operationalised	Validate the Roadmap at stakeholder level	Focal Points	July 2023
	Validate the Roadmap at technical level	Focal Points	July 2023
	Validate the Roadmap at political level	Focal Points	August 2023
	Agree on priorities for each semester	Focal Points	November 2023
Implementation entities established and operational	Appoint Focal Points	MGEE and EU	June 2023
	Establish Technical Working Group (TWG)	MGEE and EU	July 2023
	Establish Political Working Group (PWG)	MGEE and EU	August 2023
Monitoring systems agreed and operational	Develop information system for data management: baseline, sources for verifying performance	MGEE	December 2023
	Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination mechanism	MGEE/relevant GRZ, MS, EU	December 2023
National Dialogue	Political Dialogue	GRZ and EU	Once a year
Cooperation at international fora	Identify and support relevant international/global events and fora	MGEE and EU	Every 6 months
Forest Partnership Communication	Organise signature/launch event of the Roadmap	MGEE, EU, MS	2 nd Semester 2023 (high-level signature by EVP or Cssr. prior to COP28)
	Develop and implement the communication strategy for the Forest Partnership	MGEE	1st Semester 2024
Forest sector finance	Assess financing and investment opportunities for the forest sector (international biodiversity and climate finance and domestic financing)	MGEE, Min. Finance, NDA, EU, FI, FR	
	Conduct scoping study into the potential of carbon finance for Zambia, and alignment with the NDCs and the Article 6 rules of the Paris Agreement.		

WORKSTREAM 1: Good governance environment: forest policy, governance and management systems		
Improved policy, legislation, and regulations	Develop, review and update legislation, policies, regulations and guidelines to support sustainable forest management and forest ecosystems, benefit-sharing and improvement of forest tenure system	MGEE, MoWDS, WARMA, MoT, MoLNR, CZ, EU, FR
	Develop a Forest National Master Plan in line with the National Forest Policy	FD, CZ
	Develop integrated plans based on a landscape approach that integrate land use and climate change, forest management plans, General management plans for game management areas, District Integrated Development Plans, and other relevant plans.	MLGRD, FD, DNPW, CZ
	Improve digital and physical boundary demarcation of state, community, and private forests.	FD, DNPW, CZ, FR
Enhanced planning, inspection and law enforcement	Improve forest data (i.e. statistics of forest inventory) to enhance decision-making	FD, CZ, FR, DE, EU
	Improve enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to forests	FD, Law enforcement agencies
	Improve and complete tracing and verification systems for forest products	FD, DE, EU
	Strengthen national and sub-national capacity to comply with the Paris Agreement, REDD+ and ETF requirements	MGEE, ZEMA, EU
Strengthened Forest monitoring for sustainable forest management and compliant with NDC implementation and Paris Agreement	Operationalise the integrated MRV (data, inter-agency coordination, capacity building, reporting systems)	MGEE, ZEMA, EU
	Update the GHG Inventory, the Forest Reference Emission Level, and the Technical Annex on REDD+	MGEE, ZEMA, EU
	Support the further development and application of Zambia's Guidelines on Carbon markets and conduct feasibility studies aligned to IPCC guidance)	MGEE, ZEMA, EU
WORKSTREAM 2: Economic transformation and job creation: improved value chains for forest products and services		
Key forest value chains mapped, developed and promoted	Map and analyse value chains for forest products and services and potential for value chains development	FD, FI

	Identify and address gaps in human resources, skills and technology, with a particular focus on promoting youth and women employment	FD, MoCTI, MoSME, MoTS, EU
	Promote sustainable forest-based value chains, support product development and sustainability, promote value addition and circularity	MGEE, MoA, MoCTI, MoSME, ZAFFICO, EU, FR, CZ, DE, SE
	Improve regulation, processes, and standardizations of selected value chains, promote certification schemes	MoCTI, MoSME
	Provide skills training to enhance sustainable forest production potential and improved incomes in CFMGs, CRBs.	MGEE, MoA, MoCTI EU, FI, FR
Participatory forest management models for sustainable livelihood generation from forests and conservation areas supported	Strengthen capacity of CSOs to qualify for CMPs and support communities for negotiate, implement and monitor CFMPs	MGEE, Communities
	Support conservation groups, CRBs and CFMG in the planning, implementation and improvement of sustainable livelihood models and community forest management	MGEE, DNPW, EU, SE, FI, FR
	Develop and promote smallholder tree and agroforestry out-grower models through inclusive, sustainable, and green business partnership	MGEE, MoA, MoTS, Communities, EU, SE, FR
	Facilitate legal and sustainable production, promote sustainable certification and incentives, and develop green procurement policies.	MGEE, MoCT, MoFNDP, MoSME, EU,
Improved business environment and access to finance	Facilitate access to finance for sustainable livelihood generation from forests and conservation areas	MoFNP, MoSME, MGEE, MoCTI
	Create a low risk legal and business environment that facilitates investment in commercial forestry plantations	FD, ZDA, MLNR, FI, EU
WORKSTREAM 3: Environmental Sustainability – A value to protect		
Reduced Forest loss or degradation	Develop deforestation free integrated land use plans with traditional leaders and district councils	MLNR, MLFRD
	Develop sustainable charcoal production systems and promote renewable energy	FD, MoCTI, EU, CZ, SE
	Integrate climate adaptation plans to counter climate change effects on forest ecosystems	MGEE, DMMU, MoLGRD

	Improve climate resilient farming systems and promote agroforestry and farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR)	MoA, MGEE, EU, SE, CZ	
	Develop measures to support deforestation free supply chains and promote the EU Regulation on Deforestation	MGEE, MoA, EU, DE	
	Develop sustainable fire management and monitoring system	MGEE, MLGRD, CZ	
	Upscale integrated management plans for the protection of forest ecosystems and water catchments	FD, MLNR, DNPW, WARMA	
Improved and restored Eco-system services	Support the implementation of the Water Natural Resource Strategy, develop the Water Harvesting Strategy and support the sustainable management of catchments, wetlands and water resources	MoWDS, MLNR, WARMA, MoA, MGEE, EU, DE	
	Strengthen the management of forest reserves, national parks and protected areas, their buffer zones and ecologically relevant and biodiverse corridors	MGEE, DNPW, MLNR	
	Support to the development of provincial or district-level biodiversity frameworks, and plans	MLNR, MLFRD	
	Identification of degraded sites, including water catchment areas	FD, MLNR, WARMA, DE, CZ	
Degraded forest lands restored	Reforest and restore degraded sites, including the use of farmer-managed natural regeneration and enrichment planting to conserve biodiversity as well as commercial forestry plantations	FD, MLNR, MLGRD, WARMA, FI	
	Establishment of woodlots for energy and agro-processing	FD, MoE, MLNR, MoA	
Promote urban forestry	Increase awareness of the benefits of urban forestry and the need for protecting trees in urban environments	FD, MLGRD	
WORKSTREAM 4: Human and social development: skills, research and outreach			
Enhanced Training and capacity building	Increase access to improved vocational training and skills development for job creation and economic transformation in the forest, biodiversity and conservation sectors	MGEE, MoCTI, MoED, MIM, CZ	
	Develop and update curricula for vocational training and universities, develop internship and traineeship schemes for young people	MGEE, MoED, MoTS, CZ	
	Strengthen capacity and competitiveness of producer groups, their umbrella organisations and special interest groups	FD, DNPW, MoCTI	
Applied research and research collaborations are strengthened	Promote EU and Zambia research collaboration	MGEE, MoTS, MoED, EU, MS	

	Promote research collaboration between private sector and academia (R&D)	MGEE, MoCTI, MoTS, MoED	
	Assess climate change vulnerability of forest value chains, communities and eco-systems to inform climate adaptation, environmental sustainability	MGEE, MoED, MoTS EU , CZ, MS	
	Assess production efficiency along forest-based value chains	MoTS, MoCTI, MoED, ZAFFICO	
Public awareness raised	Conduct awareness raising, communication, and engagement activities targeting general public and targeted constituencies (e.g. traditional leaders, industry, and other institutions including buyers) or forest conservation	MGEE, DNPW, MLGRD	
	General awareness campaigns about the need for forest conservation (raise awareness on ecological, economic value of forests that leads people, planet, prosperity)	MGEE	

ACRONYMS USED

Acronym	Full name
CFMG	Community Forest Management Group
CRB	Community Resource Board
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife
EU	European Union
FD	Forest Department
FI	Firland
FR	France
GRZ	Gcvernment of the Republic of Zambia
MGEE	Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
MIM	Ministry of Information and Media
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MLNR	Ministry of Land and Natural Resources
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture



MoCTI	Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry
MoED	Ministry of Education
MoSM	Ministry of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
MoTS	Ministry of Technology and Science
MS	Member States
NDA	National Designated Authority
SE	Sweden
WARMA	Water Resources Management Authority
ZAFFICO	Zambia Forest and Forest Industries Cooperation
ZDA	Zambia Development Agency
ZEMA	Zambia Environmental Management Agency

Annex II

WORKING MODALITIES of the Working Groups established under the Forest Partnership between the European Union and the Republic of Zambia

Role and responsibilities

1. The Political Working Group hereinafter “PWG”, established pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding on a Forest Partnership between the European Union and the Republic of Zambia hereinafter “Forest Partnership” will oversee the management and implementation of the Forest Partnership and ensure the effective dialogue and cooperation between the Partners in this context.
2. The PWG will guide and steer the implementation of the Roadmap, address proposals by the Technical Working Group towards the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Forest Partnership.
3. The PWG will address any issues that may arise in relation to the interpretation and implementation of the Forest Partnership and facilitate their resolution in good faith and in accordance with the context, purpose and objectives of the Forest Partnership.

Chairmanship

4. The PWG will meet at least twice a year.
5. The PWG will be jointly chaired by the Minister of Green Economy and Environment of the Government of Zambia and the Head of the EU Delegation to Zambia. The Chairpersons may arrange to be represented by designees who will exercise all their rights.

Technical Working Group

6. The PWG will be assisted by a Technical Working Group, hereinafter “TWG”.
7. The TWG will be chaired jointly by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment and the Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Zambia.
8. The TWG shall prepare the meetings and the deliberations of the PWG, supervise and coordinate the implementation of the actions agreed by the PWG, consider any matter referred to it by the PWG as well as any other matter which may arise in the course of the day-to-day implementation of the Forest Partnership.
9. The TWG will be reviewing progress with the implementation of the Roadmap and identify options and opportunities for additional actions or change of action or, ways to mitigate challenges that it will put forward to the PWG.
10. The TWG will meet on a quarterly basis and at minimum prior to the PWG meetings.

Transparency

11. The PWG and the TWG will ensure that their work is transparent and that all relevant information about its work is made available to the public.

Representation

12. The Parties will notify each other in writing the list of its representatives to the PWG and TWG.

Official communications

13. The representatives of the Partners responsible for official communications concerning the implementation of the Forest Partnership and all dialogue and cooperation in this context, including in relation to the PWG and the TWG will be:
 - For Zambia: the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
 - For the EU: the Head of the Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Zambia.

Meetings

14. The meetings of the PWG or TWG may be held physically or by videoconference.
15. A provisional agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up jointly by the Partners and agreed by the Chairpersons no later than 10 working days before the beginning of the meeting unless otherwise agreed.
16. The agenda will be adopted by the PWG or TWG at the beginning of each meeting. Items other than those appearing on the provisional agenda may be included if the Partners agree.
17. Draft minutes of each meeting shall be drawn up jointly by the Partners or bas designated by them. The minutes shall be approved by the Partners at the end of the meeting under the title "Aide-Memoire".
18. Unless otherwise decided, the meetings of the PWG or TWG will not be public.
19. Information or documents considered as confidential under national laws and regulations of a Partner will be treated as confidential.

Participation

20. The Chairpersons of the PWG or the TWG may agree to invite to their respective meetings where appropriate, private sector actors, social/non-state partners, local communities, indigenous peoples, youth, women, international public organisations, interested financial institutions, academia, research institutions and/or donors.
21. The invited stakeholders will notify their representatives as requested in the invitation.

Observers and Experts

22. The Chairpersons of the PWG or the TWG may agree to invite observers and experts to their respective meetings on an *ad hoc* basis and in relation to specific subjects.

Facilitation

23. The Partners will agree on the need, role and responsibilities of two Focal Points – one at the EU Delegation and one at the Forest Department to accompany the implementation of the Forest Partnership and the functioning of the PWG and TWG.

Expenses

24. Each Partner will meet any expenses it incurs as a result of participating in the meetings of the PWG or TWG.
25. Expenses in connection with the organisation of meetings and reproduction of documents shall be borne jointly by the Partners.

