



# FOREST PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION Honduras

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## A comprehensive approach to sustain Honduras' forests



Honduras and the European Union aim at enhancing the role of Honduran forests in sustainable and inclusive national development, while addressing challenges related to deforestation, and forest degradation, climate change, threats to conservation and biodiversity loss.



<b>Area</b>	11,2 million ha	<b>Density</b>	88 persons / km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Population</b>	9.9 million	<b>Growth</b>	1.7 %

## Key work streams of the Forest Partnership

- Law enforcement and governance
- Deforestation reduction
- Sustainable forest-based value chains
- Conservation, restoration, mitigation and adaptation

## Forests in a nutshell

- 56%** Forest cover of total land (6.5 million ha)
- 1.5 million ha** Protected forest areas
- 9%** Forest loss since 1990
- 0.8%** Forest contribution to GDP
- 30,000** Forest related jobs

SOURCES: ICF: Anuario de Estadístico Forestal de Honduras 2016, FAO/STAT 2020, Global Forest Resources Assessment, FAO 2020

TARGETS

### Commitments by the Government of Honduras

- Reduce its CO2 emissions by 16% (2030)
- Scale up 1.3 million ha of forests (2030)
- Guarantee timber production legality as per EU-Honduras FLEGT VPA
- Strengthen the control of illegal harvesting and transport of forest
- Enhance key growth opportunities, including the forest sector



### The Forest Partnership investments

- Leverage investments in the forest sector
- Identify climate finance inclusion strategies
- Enable access to markets for goods and services
- Identify potential investment packages



## People and forests

The forests of Honduras are **biologically very diverse** and the country is home to unique biodiversity hotspots, representing 7.5% of the planet's biodiversity. Honduras, together with Nicaragua, host the **second largest forest in Mesoamerica** which is home and is managed by 5 million inhabitants, including **indigenous peoples and afro-descendants**. Honduras is also one of the few tropical countries with **large areas of conifer forests** with important genetic reserves of tropical pine trees.

About **60% of the national forest area is publicly owned**, including national forests and protected areas. Despite strong efforts, deforestation and forest **degradation threaten the forests** of Honduras. This is mainly due to the expansion of agriculture and cattle ranching, pest infestations, illegal logging, and infrastructure development. Honduras is also highly exposed to climate-related hazard.

## Forest-based value chains in Honduras

The Forest Partnership offers a unique opportunity to improve the sustainable use of Honduran forests. Presently, these forests are underutilized, and their productivity has declined due to environmental factors. To enhance sustainability, a strategic approach shall involve the development of forest management plans that harmonize production and biodiversity conservation, strengthening the forests' economic resilience. Achieving this involves optimizing forest value chains (like wood, charcoal, non-timber items) and services (such as biodiversity preservation, ecotourism, carbon storage, and water provision).

## Complementing the VPA FLEGT

The Forest Partnership complements the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Legality Enforcement, Governance and Trade (VPA FLEGT). It has a broader scope, including non-timber products like honey, pine bark, mushrooms, resin, oils, and medicines, that all matter for local communities. Drawing on the VPA FLEGT, it may also support ecotourism, community-based forest management models and ecosystem service payments. The Forest Partnership aims to embrace forests' multiple functions without favoring one over others.

# Our future is in our hands and in our trees

