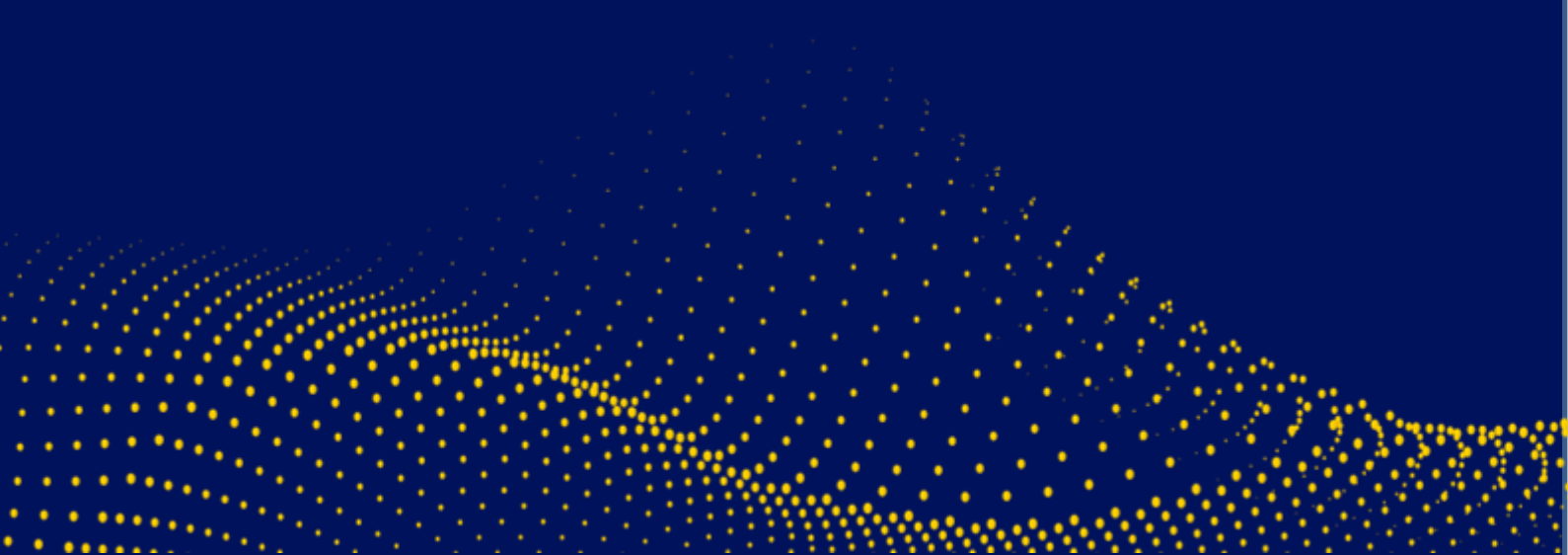




Forest Partnership

Between the European Union and Zambia

Conclusions of the second Technical Working Group
June 4, 2024



1. 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 (FP)**. The Forest Partnership reflects their **shared vision** for a holistic and integrated approach to forest protection, conservation and sustainable use.

In the first year following the signature of the MoU, the Partners developed quantified targets and a [Roadmap](#) for implementation, as well as formalised FP coordination in the form of a Technical Working Group (TWG) and a Political Working Groups (PWG).

The Roadmap constitutes the operational framework for implementing the Forest Partnership and achieving the targets laid out in the Agreement. A related Workplan is yet to be developed and adopted by the TWG, however, there are several projects that are being implemented by the EU and Member States that are contributing to achieving targets set in the Roadmap.

2. Progress towards the targets

The **targets** agreed by the Partners to help sustain momentum and steer action towards the achievement of the objectives set in the MoU, to be reached **by 2030**, are:

(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/year.

Progress towards the Forest Partnership targets will be reported annually. At the moment, no monitoring plan has been developed specifically to track progress towards the targets.

3. TWG minutes of meeting

The agenda of the 2nd TWG meeting is in Annex 1.

The participants in 2nd TWG meeting is in Annex 2.

Opening Remarks by the EU Head of Cooperation, Mr. Claudio Bacigalupi, Co-Chair of the TWG

Mr Bacigalupi recalled the process leading up to the development of the Roadmap in alignment to the 8th National Development Plan and the NDC Framework in Zambia. He further stressed that this Partnership is strategic to support Zambia's climate adaptation and mitigation and promotes Zambia's low-carbon, climate-resilient development path and to counter the current drought emergency in Zambia. Finally, he announced that in the second half of the implementation of the Multi-Annual Indicative Plan (MIP) 2025-2027, the EU will consider planning for additional funding in support of the Partnership.

Opening Remarks by the Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MoGEE), Dr. Douty Chibamba

Dr. Douty Chibamba welcomed the meeting and is looking forward to further engagement under the Partnership. He emphasised the need to develop a Work Plan for the Roadmap, in alignment with key national policy and strategic documents, among them the National Adaptation Plan, the National Determined Contribution and the Green Growth Strategy.

Presentation on the overview of the Forest Partnership Roadmap and targets

See enclosed the joint presentation made by the EU and Zambian Focal Points on the main components of the Roadmap and the governance structure.

Presentations by EU and Member States on the forestry related activities and contribution to FP

See enclosed the presentations made by the EU, Czech Republic, France, Germany and Finland, which highlight progress made since the signature of the Roadmap.

Presentation by the Forestry Department on current forestry activities, coordination and status on FP targets

See enclosed presentation made by the Forest Department (FD) highlighting current priorities.

Presentation on selected key areas of interest: Forest inventories by French Development Agency (AFD), jointly with the French National Forest Office (ONFI).

The importance to carry out a third National Forest Inventory (NFI) was recognized as a key tool to manage forests and collect the data necessary for the compilation of the GHG emissions inventory in the Forestry sector. It was acknowledged that national forest inventories are extensive and costly exercises. Financial resources are limited for a country level exercise from both cooperating partners and the FD. The current drought has put resource constraints on the national treasury and MoGEE need to currently prioritize addressing of the drought, including food security.

Currently, AFD/ONFI is in the process of developing a district level pilot study for the inventory of forest resources and forest ecosystem services for which the methodology used can be replicated for use in a third NFI. AFD/ONFI requested the MoGEE/FD to appoint a steering committee for this study. The EU-Germany funded project SAFE implemented by GIZ aims to collaborate with AFD to carry out forest inventories in two districts in the Kafue region based on the AFD/ONFI methodology. It was mentioned that FAO with FCDO funding is also planning to carry out a district-level forest inventory.

There is a need to collect data sets at the local/district level through the elaboration of a coherent NFI methodology that fully responds to FD's needs and allows for autonomous use by the latter and all cooperating partners intending to support the forest inventory. Therefore, under the FD coordination, the NFI methodology shall be defined and aligned to the previous inventories, taking into account the needs of monitoring reporting and verification (MRV) and nationally determined contribution (NDC).

With regard to the substantial EU funding earmarked to support the NSDI in close collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, it was reported that there are important limitations in data availability, operability and sharing. Communication across the ministries especially with Ministry of Lands and Natural resources in terms of methodology for Land maps is crucial.

The revision of the National Forest Policy is an urgent exercise and an important step for Forest Act revision as well as other statutory instruments revision/development (e.g. private forest at utmost urgency). The EU is able to provide some support to the process in coordination with the FD, in particular under the SLIM project funded by the EU and Czech Republic and implemented by the Czech Development Agency.

Presentation on selected key areas of interest: Livelihoods and Forest Based Value Chains by GIZ

Following to the MoGEE's ban on the production of charcoal in 3 districts in the Kafue area, a well-structured approach is required to further develop alternative livelihood options to connect local communities to markets and create jobs and additional income opportunities. This shall be supported by an extensive assessment of Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) in last 10 years (policy, effect, economic benefits). It was highlighted that this assessment should look beyond the governance of the CFMGs but also highlight practical opportunities for upscaling income generation, best practices, collaboration with private sector especially on key value chains etc.

The recently adopted by Government the National Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) policy and its implementation plan (2023-2027) under the Ministry of Tourism includes reference to forests and the CFMGs.

Under the SAFE Project, funded by EU-Germany, a study is going to be launched, implemented by CIFOR-ICRAF to support the afore-mentioned CFMGs assessment. The PS of the MoGEE asked whether it was possible to include a comparative assessment of the CFMGs and the Community Resource Boards in the study to be implemented by CIFOR-ICRAF.

The Government of Zambia (GRZ) plans enhancing of security features of Forest Cord Wood Permit forms across the country to improve on accountability. The GRZ is also in the process of piloting electronic timber traceability system to enhance traceability of timber and compliance of timber concession license holders. Further, MoGEE's Legal Office is going to be handling all illegal cases to improve on transparency.

4. Timeline

Technical Working Groups

Since the signature of the MoU, two (2) TWG meetings were convened:

- 1st TWG, 25 July, 2023
- 2nd TWG, 4 June, 2024

The second TWG was co-chaired in Lusaka on 4th June, 2024 by Dr. Douty Chibamba – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment for Zambia, and by Mr. Claudio Bacigalupi, Head of Cooperation EUD for the EU.

Next steps

The next TWG is planned to be held in Lusaka on a date to be confirmed but before the end of the year.

International and national events

Partners mentioned the upcoming COP 29 in Baku (Azerbaijan) in November 2024.

5. Conclusions

The Partners have agreed to the following:

1. Develop a tool to track progress on the targets of Roadmap of the EU-Zambia Forest Partnership.
2. Develop Work Plan and present it at the 3rd TWG meeting.
3. The MoGEE/FD to appoint a steering committee for AFD/ONFI study on Forest Inventory.
4. The PS is to call a meeting with MLNR/NSDI in relation to forest inventory methodology and data sharing. Since a country-wise National Forest Inventory may not be possible due to financial constraints, a selection of districts could serve as case study. FD shall organize a coordination meeting to agree on the methodology to use (possibly combining the methodologies as seen fit) for the national inventory, which should lead to support individual district inventories.
5. The FD will call for a coordination meeting with partners to support National Forest Policy revision process and subsequent Forest Act revision plan.
6. The GIZ and FD will organize a meeting with the EU and interested member states to present and discuss the scope of the study and methodology on community forestry management groups and their

effectiveness and economic viability.

7. FD to meet with GIZ on the support to the timber traceability pilot
8. The FD need to ensure that suitable representation from other ministries is taking place on next TWGs.
9. The Partners agreed to hold the 2nd Political Working Group meeting before the end of 2024, preferably before COP 29.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Agenda

AGENDA – ZAMBIA -EU FOREST PARTNERSHIP,

Second Technical Working Group Meeting

4th June 2024

Venue: Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Lusaka

TIME	ITEM	Speaker/Facilitator
09:00 - 09:10	Introductions	Co-Chairs of TWG
09:10 - 09:25	Opening Remarks - European Union Opening Remarks - Zambian Government	Head of Cooperation EU
		Permanent Secretary MoGEE
09:25 - 09:35	Presentation on the overview of the Forest Partnership Roadmap and targets	Focal points – EU/FD
09:35- 10:15	Presentations by EU and Member States on the forestry related activities and contribution to FP Q&A	EU (France, Germany, Finland, Czech)
10:15 - 10:40	Presentation by the Forestry Department on current forestry activities, coordination and status on FP targets Q&A	FD
10:40 - 11:10	Presentation on selected key areas of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest inventories • Livelihoods and Forest Based Value Chains Q&A	France and Germany
11:10 - 11:20	AOB, date for the next meeting.	Co-Chairs of TWG
11:20 - 11:30	Closing remarks	Co-Chairs of TWG

Annex 2

List of participants

Zambian representatives

1. Dr. Doubt Chibamba – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MoGEE)
2. Victor Chiiba – Focal point EU Zambia Forest Partnership
3. Dorcas Phiri – Senior Budget Analyst, Ministry of finance and National Planning
4. Namuchindo C. Mwape – Curriculum development Specialist, TAVETA
5. Herrick Mwewa – Principal Mitigation Officer, MoGEE
6. Gambwe Sikantongwe – Senior Green Economy Officer, MoGEE
7. Mbindo Keddy Principal Herbarium Curator, Forestry Research

European Union and member states representatives

8. Claudio Bacigalupi – Head of Cooperation, EUD
9. Cristina Soriani – Focal point EU Zambia Forest Partnership
10. Elizabeth Ndhlovu- Advisor, Embassy of Finland
11. Gerrit Qualitz – Program Manager, GIZ
12. Marketa Smrckova – Program Manager, CZDA - Czech Republic
13. Elisa Brandi- Deputy Head of Mission, Italian Embassy
14. Patrice Moussy, DG International Partnership (INTPA F2), European Commission
15. Eleonora Paci, INTPA F2

Support staff and implementing partner agencies

16. Felix Kalaba, Facilitator EU Zambia Forest Partnership
17. Champo Lasford – Acting Senior Forest Officer, Forest Department
18. Grace Chibesakunda – District Forest Officer, Forestry Department
19. Mutumwa Kunda – Conservator of Forests, Forestry Department
20. Wim Ellenbroek, Forest for Future Expert Facility (F4F) at INTPA F2
21. Cedric Lardeux, French National Forest Office (ONFI)
22. Mahaut Stefani, French Development Agency AFD
23. Naig Cozannet, AFD
24. Nathan De Baets, NDC Expert Facility, at INTPA F1
25. Steven Speed, ONFI