

Forest Partnership with the EU

Uganda

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ABSTRACT



The political power of the Forest Partnership

Under the EU Global Gateway, the EU-Uganda **Forest Partnership** aims to **enhance trade and investment**, with social and environmental safeguards such as creating more **decent forest jobs**, conserving biodiversity and maintaining forests as **carbon sinks** to mitigate climate change.

Forest Partnership players

National Government (Ministries and Agencies)

Prime Minister, Water and Environment, Justice, Finance, Lands, Trade & Industry, Investment, Planning, Tourism & Wildlife, Agriculture, Animal Industry, Energy

Private actors

Private sector, Civil society, Local communities, NGOs

International actors

European Union
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Food and Agriculture Organization
Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation

Enhanced coordination and multi-sectoral approach

An open-ended, non-binding cooperation agreement towards the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of Uganda's forests

A policy and political instrument for the EU and Uganda to advance on the forest agenda at international level

A platform for the forest sector to increasingly become an integral part of transformative economic growth and climate action

"The Forest Partnership five-year Roadmap is a commitment to the government's objective to stop and reverse forest loss and degradation".

Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, Uganda's Prime Minister



"The Forest Partnership broadened discussions in a wider and strategic approach beyond just forestry and clearly draws linkages to other sectors including energy, agriculture, and trade."

Jan Sadek, EU Ambassador to Uganda



High-level and broad engagement

Before the Forest Partnership, forest management was often viewed in isolation, with limited connection to broader ecosystem services. After the Partnership, high-level engagement at government level, stakeholder engagement, including local populations, businesses, and civil society are becoming a central feature of forest management strategies and interventions.

Implementing the Global Gateway

In a relatively short time the **Forest Partnership** has stimulated collaboration with the **private sector** and opened new avenues for potential **investment in sustainable forestry**.

TARGETS 2030

- + 2.6 million hectares sustainably managed, protected, restored forests
- + 0.4 million hectares planted forests
- 20,000 hectares per year deforestation
- + 150,000 decent forest jobs



Achievements

- ✓ New financial commitments (i.e. EUR 7.8M funding from Denmark)
- ✓ The EU-Uganda's Forest Partnership is supported by the [EU Forestry Programme](#)
- ✓ Mapping of financial instruments for intervention on 'financing for forests in Uganda'
- ✓ Further collaboration with the private sector
- ✓ Political engagement with the Office of the Prime Minister
- ✓ Addressing illegal land titling against forest encroachment and degradation
- ✓ Improved the detection of contraband forest products
- ✓ Involve local communities (PF4 project).
- ✓ Carbon sinks guarantee in smallholder agroforestry
- ✓ Forest conservation in Karamoja, and in the Kidepo National Park ([NaturAfrica](#))

REPORT

Assessment for forest finance in Uganda

The top priority needs for forest financing in Uganda include: restoration of degraded forests, forest products processing and value addition, and tree growing on farms/agroforestry.



Promoting forest-based value chains

Forest-based value chains are key to the EU approach to forests, reflected by the **Forest Partnership**.

They serve EU **Global Gateway** ambitions attracting green investments, and mitigating climate change.

Forest-based value chains

- More formal forest jobs
- More value and revenues
- New sustainable wood and non-wood sectors
- Legal deforestation-free production and trade



The **wood** value chain in Uganda

- ✓ Large (350,000 ha) expanding plantation base and several EU and non-EU ongoing projects
- ▶ Limited processing capacity and value chain mostly unstructured



The **bamboo** value chain in Uganda

- ✓ Growing domestic and regional demand as a substitute for wood and fossil-based fibres
- ▶ Young industry markets not developed

Achievements

- ✓ Feasibility study for the wood value chain
- ✓ Feasibility study for the bamboo value chain
- ✓ Progress in compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
- ✓ Analysis of traceability needs for wood and non-wood products
- ✓ Development of a new Wood Information Management System (WIMS)
- ✓ Water and Environment Information System (WEIS) on deforestation-free status of plantation timber
- ✓ Improved forest sector monitoring and data availability
- ✓ Geo-spatial Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System and Farmer Registration application

Wood production

40 000 to 60 000 m³ per year



From natural forests to plantations >80% of the legal industrial roundwood today comes from plantations



Forests value

3% to 3.5% GDP in formal trade (high social impact for the informal sector)



Energy requirement

90% of Uganda's energy requirements for households comes from fuelwood (highly unsustainable)



Contributing to the environment agenda

The **Forest Partnership** supports Uganda in addressing **deforestation** and aligning national efforts with international frameworks like the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is strongly aligned to Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Key workstreams of the Forest Partnership

Forest governance

■ Improved regulatory framework

Sustainable use of forests

■ Sustainable forest management and forest value chains

Tackling climate change

■ Prevention of deforestation and forest degradation

■ Reforestation and restoration of natural forests

Achievements

- ✓ Forest Partnership key activities linked to NDCs and climate action
- ✓ Forest Partnership workstream linked to National Biodiversity Strategy
- ✓ Increasingly recognizing the importance of forests for biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and community livelihoods
- ✓ Commitments to protect and restore forests in Uganda's national communications
- ✓ Training programs on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- ✓ Combating Deforestation and Forest Degradation through the Criminal Justice Programme
- ✓ Collaborative projects involving EU member states to effectively tackle forest degradation



Climate change impact

More extreme weather events, rising temperatures and reduced agricultural productivity

Deforestation impact

Forest cover declined significantly, from 24% in 1990 to 13.3% in 2022 (mostly natural forests); forest loss drivers: agricultural expansion, urbanization, industrialization, and unsustainable harvesting of timber and fuelwood; deforestation occurred mainly on private lands



*A Global Gateway
flagship initiative*



For more info: [EU Delegation to Uganda](#)
[Sustainable Forests for the Future Group](#)

This publication has been prepared by the [Forests for the Future Facility \(F4F\)](#). It does not represent the official view of the European Union.