



Partnerships for Forests supports an investment model in which the private sector, public sector and communities can achieve better returns from forests and sustainable land use than from deforestation and land degradation.

About the Programme

Currently, markets fail to attach a value to the social and environmental benefits that forests provide. As a result, sustainable investments that do factor in these benefits can be harder to realise.

To address this challenge, Partnerships for Forests aims to facilitate the development of partnerships between the private sector, public sector and communities that generate the same, or better, returns from forests and sustainable land use as from unsustainable practices.

By creating market-ready 'Forest Partnerships' that offer an attractive balance of risks and returns for all partners, the programme aims to mobilise significant investment, principally from the private sector.

Partnerships for Forests also supports activities that strengthen demand for sustainable commodities, and activities to create an enabling environment for sustainable investments.

The five-year programme is funded by the UK Department for International Development and currently operates in Central, East and West Africa and South East Asia.

How it Works

Innovative ideas for sustainable investments exist, but they often face challenges to commercial scale-up. Using a blend of technical assistance and grants, the programme will help selected Forest Partnerships move through the stages required to get to market, including idea development, business planning and deal negotiation.

East Africa

Agriculture is the biggest contributor to East African economies and livelihoods, but it is also a key driver of deforestation and land degradation.

Governments and private companies operating in East Africa are increasingly looking for ways to produce key agricultural commodities in a sustainable way. But there are few examples, or robust models, of sustainable investments that generate sufficient returns for the private sector, public sector and communities while also protecting forests.

Partnerships for Forests is therefore looking to identify and support partnerships that have the potential to drive change.

Examples of potential partnerships include:

- Helping a community agroforestry organisation generate a higher income by expanding sustainable operations, securing legal frameworks with government and attracting buyers;
- Supporting a large-scale deal between government, smallholders and private sector companies that reforests degraded land to mixed forest and generates revenue from this new forest;
- Supporting initiatives that aim to transform whole commodity sectors through widespread implementation of commercially viable but sustainable practices.

The focus countries are Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mozambique and the priority commodities include coffee, tea, cashews, cotton, beef, timber and pulp.