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IWP staff are actively participating in a large number of international and regional alliances, networks and steering committees, shaping important forest policy processes. More than 20 years of hands-on experience in all relevant forest policy areas and partnerships in over 30 countries make IWP a competent partner in forest-related international cooperation.

### ■ For further reference please see also the publication:

“Forest Governance in a Rapidly Changing World”. 50 pages. GTZ, Eschborn 2008. Also available in French and Spanish. For download: <http://www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/gtz-en-forest-governance-2008.pdf>

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Division 47 – Environment and Climate Change  
Sector Project International Forest Policy



## IWP: Shaping and Implementing International Forest Policy

Forests for Climate, Biological Diversity and Development

**gtz** | IWP  
International Forest Policy

commissioned by  
**Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development**



## Loss of forests = Loss of livelihoods



### Forests

ensure income, essential environmental services and future potentials for development. About 1.6 billion people rely on forests for their livelihoods. For them, forests provide a necessary survival and safety net. Furthermore, forests are of global importance for the climate and accommodate more than two thirds of terrestrial biological diversity.

In spite of this, some 13 million hectares of forests are destroyed each year. Forests must give way to competing land uses yielding higher short-term profits, and armed conflicts leave behind plundered and devastated forests. Globally rising demands for raw materials, biofuels, wood and other forest products aggravate the risks of overexploitation and forest destruction.

## Policy as part of the solution

To reconcile this antagonism and curb global forest destruction policy solutions are required that foster sustainable forest management and promote just decisions on the equitable development and use of forests.



## The sector programme “International Forest Policy (IWP)”



aims at placing the importance of forests for sustainable development on the agendas of international policy dialogues and their implementation. To achieve this IWP is focussing its work in two directions:

- 1) Feeding back experiences from development cooperation with partner countries into international forest policy
- 2) Mainstreaming international forest policy in development cooperation with regional and national partners

### Shaping International Forest Policy:

- Advisory services to the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on international forest policy issues, including forest biodiversity, climate change and trade
- Contribution to German positions in negotiations regarding environmental agreements and international forest bodies (UN Forum on Forests, FAO Committee on Forestry), as well as giving support to German delegations
- Participation in forest-related committees of German Federal Ministries, as well as in the EU Council working group on forests
- Contribution to several ad hoc working groups, e.g. on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) or financing mechanisms
- Participation in steering groups of multi-donor trust funds of FAO, The World Bank, EU

### Advisory services to Partner Countries and Regions:

- Support to regional forest initiatives, e.g. the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, “Puembo-Initiative” Latin America
- Assisting the implementation of national forest programmes in over 15 countries
- Supporting reforms to combat illegal logging and related trade (FLEGT)
- Coordination of pilot projects to ensure greater transparency in the timber trade, e.g. via proof of origin
- Accompanying pilot projects aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation of forests (REDD)
- Assisting the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument (NLBI)
- Assisting regional partners in formulating their forest policies and in preparing for international negotiations
- Promoting the exchange of information and experience among partners (South-South Dialogue)

### Additional Services:



- Cooperation with European and international donors and organisations in implementing co-financed projects
- Cooperation with research and promotion of science-policy dialogue on forest issues
- Promotion of policy dialogue with civil society and the economic sector
- Concept and strategy development e.g. on the importance of forests in adaptation to climate change and on

interrelations between climate – biological diversity – poverty alleviation

- Compilation of position papers, brochures and policy briefs
- Development of instruments to monitor the outputs and impacts of forest policy-related projects and programmes
- Development and implementation of customized training programs on current international forest policy themes
- Preparation and implementation of international conferences and workshops
- International networking, capacity development and knowledge management on forest policy issues