



PROTECTING FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

The world's forests are a key factor in sustainable development. They provide food, water, and medicines. They help stabilize the climate and support much of the world's biodiversity. Human survival is tied to forest ecosystems, which cover about one-third of global land area. Yet, just 15 percent of global forests remain intact, according to the World Resources Institute.

Proactive, intentional forest management is critical to preserving the world's natural resources. By partnering with governments and communities, ACDI/VOCA is helping create policies and institutions for managing community forests and preserving biodiversity transparently and equitably, while also strengthening local economies. Among smallholder farmers, ACDI/VOCA is promoting the adoption of agricultural practices that build livelihood resilience and mitigate forest impacts.

Strengthening Markets for Forest-Based Institutions

In Liberia, we implement the USAID-funded Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability (FIFES) Activity, which helps communities secure the rights, governance structures, viable businesses, and partnerships needed to sustainably manage and benefit from forest resources. This includes conserving the biodiversity of 11 community forests in Grand Bassa and Nimba counties.

As a thought leader in market systems development, ACDI/VOCA led Leveraging Economic Opportunities (LEO), which guided USAID programming for inclusive market growth.

The FIFES Activity is also increasing the productivity of forest-product value chains, such as cocoa, and developing enterprises that provide income for farmers while also reducing forest impacts. Since 2015, the FIFES Activity has mobilized 132 enterprise groups and formally linked them to Community Forest Management Bodies, which have provided them with technical assistance and better access to microloans and markets.

To sustain their stewardship of Liberia's forests, these institutions must engage in revenue-generating activities that depend on both forest- and non-forest-related products. ACDI/VOCA is helping facilitate the development and sustainability of these efforts through our work on the FIFES Activity.

Since 2008, ACDI/VOCA has helped prevent deforestation and biodiversity loss through climate-smart agriculture, governance, and systemic market changes that also benefit the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

LIBERIA has been home to **7 USAID and USDA forestry programs** supported by ACDI/VOCA.

ACDI/VOCA is an economic development organization that fosters broad-based economic growth, raises living standards, and creates vibrant communities. Learn more about ACDI/VOCA at www.acdivoca.org.

Balancing Tensions Between Forest Conservation and Growing Sectors — Like Cocoa

ACDI/VOCA has a long history of supporting cocoa producers — including becoming a founding member of the Sustainable Cocoa Enterprise Solutions for Smallholders (SUCCESS) Alliance in 2000, along with the World Cocoa Foundation, USAID, USDA, and Mars, Inc. As global demand for cocoa grows, expanding cultivation can threaten forests. Finding a balance between production and forest preservation is a challenge that ACDI/VOCA addresses by training cocoa producers in sustainable climate-smart agriculture practices. This has increased economic and climate resilience among cocoa producers involved with our programs in Southeast Asia, West Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Supporting Forest Management and Forest-Based Enterprises in West and Central Africa

USAID-funded Feed the Future Partnership for Climate

Smart Cocoa in Liberia, Ghana, and Cote d'Ivoire

- Provided solutions to mitigate cocoa's environmental impact on forests
- Conducted value chain analyses for forest products (timber, plantain, oil palm)
- Trained cooperative groups on climate change adaptation, marketing, and productivity

USAID-funded Productive Landscapes (ProLand) Project

- Contributed to assessments in the Democratic Republic of Congo on private-sector approaches to forest conservation and ways to promote agriculture while reducing deforestation and biodiversity loss
- Provided technical oversight on studies for USAID on community forestry, sustainable agricultural intensification, payments for ecological services, agroforestry systems, forest landscape restoration, commodity certification, sustainable wood fuel production, and employing markets to achieve conservation objectives

USAID-funded People, Rules and Organizations

Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources

(PROSPER) Project in Liberia

- Established 30 crop diversification groups and developed an Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual
- Improved human, legal, regulatory, and institutional capacities to better manage natural resources
- Increased 329 household incomes through sustainable activities

USDA's U.S. Forest Service-funded Liberia Forestry Support Program in Liberia

- Improved community land rights and forest management skills with Liberia's Forestry Development Authority
- Co-signed Community Forestry Management Agreements with the Liberian government for five counties

USAID-funded Land Rights and Community Forestry Program in Liberia

- Launched community forestry in Liberia, turning several community projects into a nationwide initiative
- Aided Liberian institutions to create policies equitably managing 35,000 hectares of land and forest
- Trained farmers through Farmer Field Schools and Community Forestry as a Business curriculum

USAID-funded Promoting Agriculture, Governance and the Environment (PAGE) Program in Sierra Leone

- Partnered with the government of Sierra Leone to formalize new policies, which resulted in the landmark signing of forest co-management agreements for the Kambui North and Wara Wara Forest Preserves

USDA-funded Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprises (LIFE) Project I, II, and III in Liberia

- Provided local organizations with grants to lead 186 Farmer Field Schools for 10,000 cocoa producers
- Supported 6,000 cocoa producers in becoming UTZ certified and improved access to high-quality cocoa seedlings

TIMELINE OF ACDI/VOCA FORESTRY PROJECTS

2008-2010 LIFE I LIBERIA	2008-2013 PAGE Program SIERRA LEONE	2008 -2011 Land Rights and Community Forestry Project LIBERIA	2010-2013 LIFE II LIBERIA	2011-2012 Liberia Forestry Support Program LIBERIA	2012- 2017 PROSPER Project LIBERIA	2013-2016 LIFE III LIBERIA	2014-2020 ProLand Project GLOBAL	2015-2020 FIFES Activity LIBERIA	2016-2019 Feed the Future Partnership for Climate Smart Cocoa LIBERIA, GHANA, AND COTE D'IVOIRE
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