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Agricultural Situation

European Commission Grants Euro 38 Million for Central Africa's Forests

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Report Highlights:

The European Commission is stepping up its funding for the conservation of Central Africa's tropical forest. A further Euro 38 million is granted for a program in the area which has the planet's second largest tropical forest system after Amazonia.

The program Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale/Forest Ecosystem in Central Africa (ECOFAC) has a regional approach and links conservation efforts to development and poverty reduction. The program also includes a contribution to the EU's action plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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[E3]

The European Commission has granted €38 million for the fourth “Ecosystem Forestier d’Afrique Centrale (ECOFAC IV) program for the conservation and sustainable management of Central Africa’s Forests. The program covers the region of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe. This area has the planet’s second largest tropical forest system after the Amazonia. The stepping up of funding for the conservation of Central Africa’s tropical forests aims to guarantee the long-term conservation and sustainable management of natural sources in the area.

The ECOFAC program was launched in 1992, in the wake of the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro to contribute to the conservation and rational use of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in Central Africa. The first three stages saw the commitment of more than €70 million from the 6th, 7th and 8th European Development funds.

This new stage of the ECOFAC program, called ECOFAC IV, is expected to link conservation efforts to development and poverty reduction. The conservation of these forests is considered crucial to the development of 65 million people. These local people are heavily dependent on the forest’s resources, and a major consideration in the program.

ECOFAC IV is the EU’s biggest contribution to the implementation of the convergence plan drawn up by the member countries of the “ Commission des Ministres des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale/Central African Forests Commission” (COMIFAC). It is expected to be a major boost for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

ECOFAC IV also includes a contribution to the EU’s action plan on Forest Law, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), which is an EU commitment to work with timber producing countries to tackle deforestation and curb illegal timber. Initial discussions about the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) have taken place with Ghana, Gabon, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo-Brazzaville, Malaysia and Indonesia. Substantial dialogue and consultation are now underway in Ghana, Cameroon, Malaysia and Indonesia.

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