



New Initiative Aims to Move DRC from Preparation to Large-Scale Action on Forest Protection Goals

21 April 2016 | WASHINGTON, D.C. | Forest Trends, a non-profit organization that tracks global forest developments, has released the most comprehensive analysis to date of forest conservation finance flowing to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The report shows finance for forest conservation under the UN's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative has grown steadily since 2009, reaching more than a quarter-billion dollars in commitments by the end of 2014. The Congo Basin forests of Central Africa are the world's second-largest tropical rainforests, after the Amazon, and the DRC contains more than half (60%) of the total area of these forests.

The research by Forest Trends' REDDX (REDD eXpenditures) initiative in partnership with the DRC-based Regional Post-graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forest and Lands (ERAIFT) tracked the flow of REDD+ finance to DRC for the years 2009 to 2014, identifying \$264.3 million in total finance that had been committed to support REDD+ programs in the country.

The report tracks the evolution of REDD+ finance over the six-year period, revealing a trajectory that began with basic preparatory and capacity-building activities in the early years, and recently moved to support more advanced implementation activities, culminating in the announcement of the landmark Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) late last year.

"The recently launched Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) provides the crucial funding needed for DRC to move ahead with REDD+ implementation. Building on six years of experience and \$150 million in funding used by DRC to build a foundation of REDD-readiness, CAFI is exactly the sort of innovative, collaborative, and results-based funding partnership needed to drive the REDD+ agenda forward in the country," said Brian Schaap, REDDX Senior Program Associate.

Key findings of the new report show:

- Payments of promised funds have grown steadily, reaching \$151.3 million by the end of 2014, or 57% of total committed funding.
- Of the \$264.3 million committed, \$162 million (61%) is being channeled through multilateral programs and institutions. This includes \$64 million in grants from the World Bank targeting government reforms, greater community participation in forest management, and better management of protected forest areas. Also included is \$60 million through the Forest Investment Program (FIP), with funds flowing through the World Bank and African Development Bank to support emissions reductions and sustainable management of DRC's forests.
- Nearly \$36 million was committed to NGOs and private sector companies through the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) to support localized projects to reduce deforestation and promote economic development for forest-dependent communities.
- Other large REDD+ funding commitments to DRC have come from the United States Agency for International Development (\$18.9 million), the European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance (\$16.3 million), the governments of Germany (\$15.6 million) and Japan (\$11 million), the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) managed by the World Bank (\$8.8 million), the UN-REDD Programme (\$7.4 million), and the Global Environment Facility (US\$6 million).
- The DRC government will receive 57 percent of the total funding, represented primarily by the

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD).

- DRC is transitioning from REDD-readiness to implementation, supported by \$240 million in pledged finance from Norway for 2016 to 2020 under the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI). The DRC government estimates that it will need \$1 billion from 2016 to 2020 in order to fully implement its national Forest Investment Plan.¹
- DRC is in the process of finalizing its eligibility for up to \$50 million dollars in additional performance-based payments for successful reductions in deforestation from 2017 to 2021 under the Carbon Fund, managed by the World Bank FCPF program.

The research conducted by Forest Trends and ERAIFT is unique in that it is based on annual surveys and in-person interviews on financial flows, and also validated by in-country stakeholders.

For more information, read the [full report](#) and visit our [website](#).

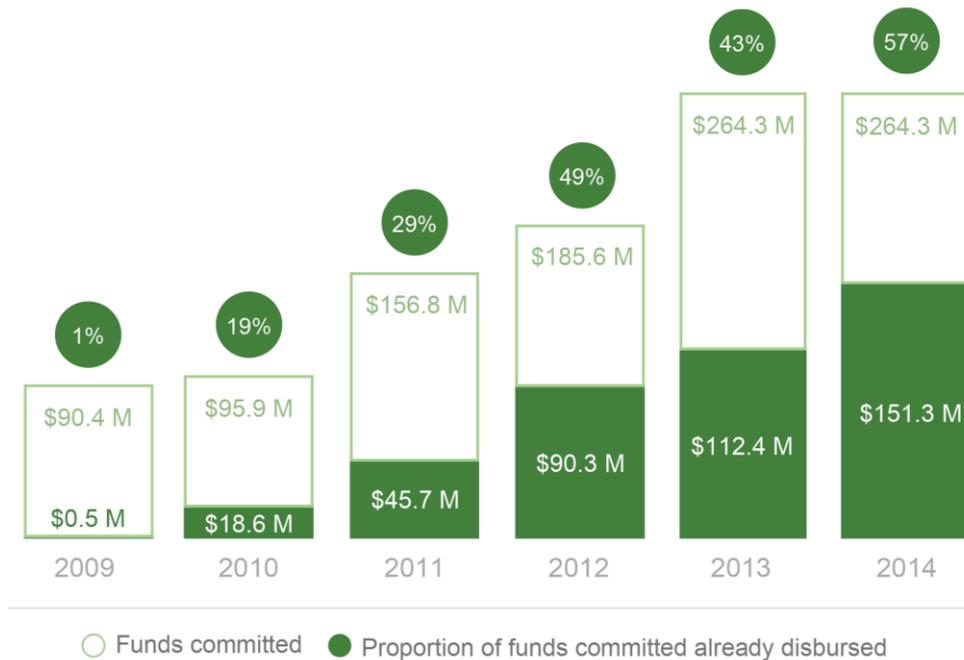
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REDD+ Finance to DRC, 2009-2014



Source: Forest Trends' REDDX Initiative. *Democratic Republic of Congo: Mapping: REDD+ Finance Flows 2009-2014*.

¹ This funding, while discussed in the report, is not included in the report's graphics or summary financial numbers, since it was pledged in 2015, while the scope of the report is primarily 2009-2014.



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