



AFD AND INDIA

Focus on Biodiversity



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EUR 80.2 million
of funding
committed over 10 years

33,500 hectares
of land in Assam
reforested by 2024

10,000+ people
trained in different
trades by 2024

A partner of India since 2008, AFD works in agreement with Indian authorities to promote green and inclusive growth. It operates through soft loans to the State and public enterprises, as well as technical assistance programs.

Since 2012, AFD has been working with the State of Assam on biodiversity conservation, sustainable and participatory management of forests, creation of alternate livelihoods for forest-dependent communities and strengthening Assam's Forest Department.

OUR ACTION IN India

1 Restoring Forest Ecosystems

Owing to demographic pressure, development projects and overexploitation, India's vast forestry resources are now endangered and along with them, the rich biodiversity they shelter. AFD is supporting the proactive policies of India and the state of Assam, which promote sustainable and participatory management of its forests.

In Assam, we bring financial and technical support for the reforestation of damaged forest areas, the preparation of forest management plans involving Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC), wildlife conservation through the construction of highlands (elevated refuge areas for wildlife during floods) as well as capacity building for the Forest Department and skill development programs for forest-dependent communities.

2 Alternate livelihoods for forest-dependent communities

Forests are a source of livelihood for the communities living on their fringes, serving as a source of food, medicine and contributing to the local economy. Creating alternative livelihoods for these communities helps reduce dependence on the forest's natural resources, while encouraging forest-conservation and promoting a sense of ownership. In Assam, AFD is working with these forest-dependent communities to build their capacities and develop skills in local trades. Till date, over 6000 members of these communities, of which 73% are women, have been trained in different trades, enabling them to revive the local economy while protecting forest resources. 1302 people have participated in 24 entrepreneurship development programs, leading to the creation of an umbrella brand, Banashrishti (product of the forest), to provide market linkages to trainees under the project.

RESULTS

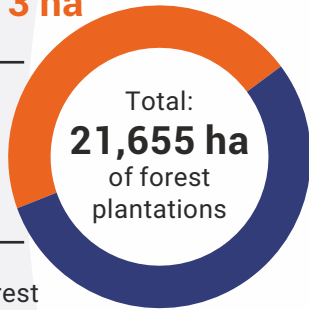
FOREST PLANTATION

By local communities

8,473 ha

By Forest Department

13,182 ha



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



33

flood refuge sites built

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING



475kms

of road laid down



TRAININGS

of forest department officials undertaken

COMMUNITIES AND LIVELIHOOD



216

communities reached



6000+

trainings conducted



73%

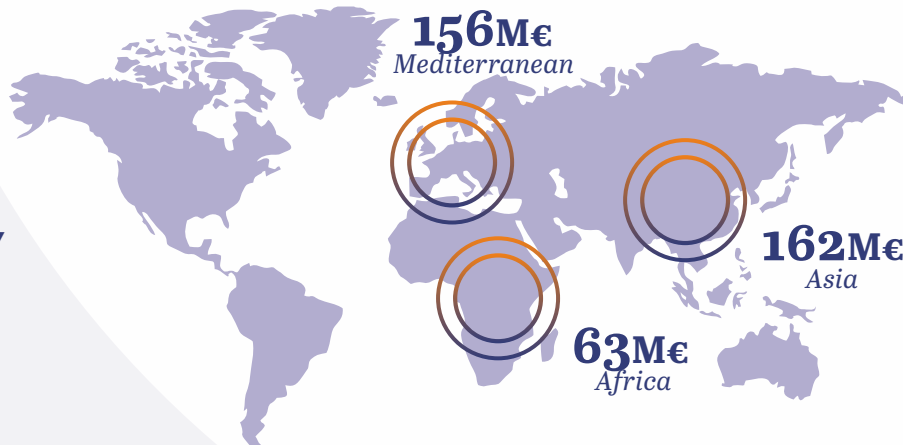
of community members trained are women



CREATION OF BANASHRISHTI

an umbrella brand to create market linkages

OUR COMMITMENTS TO BIODIVERSITY IN 2018



INDIA

Restoring forest ecosystems with the state of Assam



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AFD supports sustainable and participatory management of forest ecosystems in Assam, while developing the capacity of the forest department as well as forest-dependent communities.

BACKGROUND

With 35 per cent of its landmass covered with forests, five national parks and 18 wildlife sanctuaries, Assam, in North East India, is a haven for a unique variety of flora and fauna. Over the years, however, forest lands began to shrink under demographic pressure, development projects, and overexploitation. Gradually, this started to affect the region's overall ecology.

As a mitigation measure, the Assam government, with the support of AFD, launched the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) in 2012, to restore forest ecosystems, protect wildlife and enhance the livelihood of the forest-dependent communities.

Following the successful completion of the first phase of this project, the government of Assam and AFD renewed their partnership for 5 more years in order to increase the project's coverage and further build upon its success.

DESCRIPTION

The project aims to:

- Build the capacity of the forest administration through an overhaul of the existing infrastructure, procurement of new equipment and vehicles, training and introduction of new work methods.
- Draw up and execute concerted plans for forest management and protected areas with the local village committees.
- Provide alternate livelihoods, including training, as well as market linkages to beneficiaries from the first phase of the project and develop additional alternative livelihood opportunities for forest development communities through skill-development programs.

IMPACTS

- ➔ Massive reforestation efforts have been undertaken: more than 21,000 hectares of land have been reforested. Of this, 40% has been with the help of local committees. An additional 12,500 hectares are expected to be reforested under Phase II.
- ➔ The efforts in capacity building of forest guards have contributed towards increasing the park's one-horned rhinoceros population to an impressive 2,400.
- ➔ 6,000 people have been trained in 24 different trades, helping to revive the local economy while protecting forest resources.

Country

India



Location

Assam



Sectors

Forests and biodiversity, Climate



Financing tool

Sovereign loan



Amount financing

Phase I: 30.2M€

Phase II: 50M€

Funding duration

Phase I: 7 years

Phase II: 5 years

Beneficiaries

State of Assam



Project start date

Phase 1: February 2012

Phase 2: August 2019

Agence Française de Développement Group (AFD Group) implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. It finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a more coherent and resilient world. Comprised of AFD, which finances the public sector and NGOs; Proparco, which finances the private sector; and soon, Expertise France for technical cooperation, the Group finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a more resilient and sustainable world.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people of the Global South. Our teams are active in more than 4,000 projects in the field – in overseas France, in some 115 countries and in crisis areas, working to promote the “common goods” that are climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality, education and health. It's our way of contributing to the commitment France and the French people have made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Towards a world in common.

**AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE
DÉVELOPPEMENT (AFD) - INDIA**
112 Malcha Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi 110021, INDIA
Tel: + 91 11 4279 3700
afdnewdelhi@afd.fr

 www.afd.fr
india.afd.fr
 Facebook: @AFDOfficiel
 Twitter: @AFD_en
#WorldInCommon