

Evaluation Summary

Ex-post evaluation of the Budget Support Program for Sustainable Forest Management in Türkiye

Country: Türkiye

Sector: Forestry

Evaluator: ADE s.a.

Date of the evaluation: February 2024

Key data on AFD's support

Projet numbers: CTR 1069, 1074

Amount: 1 loan of 150 M EUR and 1 grant of 800k EUR for technical cooperation (TC)

Disbursement rate: 100%

Signature of financing agreement: April 2019

Completion date: loan: December 2020 – TC: March 2022

Total duration: 3 years



Context

This Programme is a follow-up to the previous AFD loans and associated technical cooperation programmes to the forestry sector in Türkiye, and builds on the lessons learned from those programmes. The key role OGM played to mitigate the effects of climate change brought the AFD to design this new budget support programme to the forest sector and associated technical cooperation which contributed to the overall budget of OGM and financing of the key activities at time of budget cuts in 2018.

Actors and operating method

The contracting authority is the Turkish Ministry of Treasury and Finance.

The technical cooperation is a partnership between the French National Forest Office International (ONFI) and the General Directorate of Forestry (OGM)

Objectives

To reinforce the strategic integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation in relation to Greenhouse gas (GHG) in the General Directorate of Forestry (OGM)'s activities.

To support the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into OGM's activities.

To contribute to a renewal of the bilateral relationship between France and Türkiye on forestry.

Expected outputs

- Additional resources made available and executed in specific OGM budget lines with strong climate co-benefits and in the overall OGM budget
- Enhanced strategic integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation in relation to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) in OGM's activities
- Increased integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into OGM's activities
- Increased technical exchanges and dialogue involving Government of Türkiye, AFD and French organisations

Performance assessment

Cohérence/Relevance

The coherence of the programme was high. Especially, the link between the loan and the technical cooperation was strong. Technical cooperation activities focused on the same areas as the triggers and were formulated with change processes and a planned progression consistent with the triggers. The programme was also broadly in line with government strategies, including OGM's strategic plan, and with AFD strategy in Türkiye.

Effectiveness

The contribution of the programme to strengthening OGM's capacity in mainstreaming of climate change and biodiversity in its practices and policies has been satisfactory. For example, The programme contributed to the preparation and adoption of the Strategic Plan for Climate Change Adaptation of Forestry (2021-30), which constitutes a pivotal institutional strategy guiding national climate actions in forestry.

Efficiency

The management of the programme was efficient, benefiting from strong programme design, strong project management and organisational capacity from all actors, and from the strong planning culture within OGM. The personnel resources dedicated by AFD to the programme also contributed positively to the efficiency of the intervention. The quality of the expertise provided was high, which smoothen implementation as well

Sustainability

The sustainability of the interventions was good. Actions initiated as part of the AFD programme, especially those that align directly with the strategic objectives of OGM, are highly likely to continue in the future. The execution of strategies and roadmaps developed in the programme are expected to be followed up and monitored across OGM's jurisdiction zones of forestry management. The technical cooperation and ongoing bilateral communication and exchanges between Turkish and French forestry experts are highly likely to continue after the programme.

Added value of AFD's contribution

The AFD intervention as a development action has generated some added value, in particular in terms of improving the quality and timeliness of the interventions compared to a scenario in which they would have been locally funded. Meanwhile, the quality of the programme and of AFD's involvement has generated some added value for France/AFD, including in terms of positioning AFD better in the sector for the future, and generating long-term relationships/collaborations between the stakeholders involved. Lastly, the programme benefited from high visibility.

Conclusions and lessons learnt

In comparison with the previous Budget Support programmes of AFD in the forest sector, this programme has been a clear improvement, including in terms of overall programme design and articulation, and with regards to the quality and contribution of technical cooperation.

The level of coherence between the different components of the programme has been high, and the programme was well aligned with government strategies.

The AFD budget support programme helped to secure budget allocations for critical OGM activities with a strong climate co-benefit, at the time when the country was facing severe budget cuts.

Looking ahead, further reflections on how the OGM interventions should be readjusted to reduce carbon footprint and on how scientific collaboration opportunities continue to be fostered between French institutions and OGM's relevant departments could be helpful.