



Agriculture, Rural Development & biodiversity

ACTIVITY REPORT

2024



AFD Group financing promotes an integrated approach to environmental, economic, social and governance issues in rural, coastal and marine areas. As part of a territorial approach, the Group's actions in agriculture, rural development and biodiversity contribute to reducing major inequalities: food and nutritional insecurity, rural poverty and disparities between territories.

Agriculture (including livestock farming, fishing, aquaculture and forestry), which is essential to rural prosperity and food security, can also contribute to the degradation of biodiversity. Biodiversity preservation therefore requires a combination of conservation and restoration measures as well as the reduction of the negative externalities caused by productive industries. These measures may include effective, nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation.

AFD Group supports public policies, institutions and investments that promote the preservation of land, oceans, water resources and forests, and the transformation of farming systems to be both productive and environmentally sustainable. Mobilizing the relevant financial and technical partners increases the impact of the projects funded by AFD.

In 2024, AFD Group made significant commitments to agriculture, rural development and biodiversity, amounting to €1.7 billion. AFD's investments focused in particular on agricultural sectors, climate change resilience and the management of water resources and forest/marine ecosystems.

AFD Group's strategy for agriculture, rural development and biodiversity

AFD Group has adopted an integrated, sector-specific operations framework for agriculture, rural development and biodiversity, covering three main areas of activity:

● **Contributing**
to productive
and ecological
transitions

● **Supporting**
cohesive, inclusive,
and resilient rural
areas

● **Promoting institutions**
and policies that support
ecological, productive,
and territorial transitions



<https://www.afd.fr/fr/ressources/focus-agriculture-developpement-rural-et-biodiversite>

The sectoral roadmap 2025-2027, drawn up in 2024, reaffirms the principles of this operational framework and specifies the agriculture, rural development and biodiversity sector's contribution to the Group's new strategy, via:



Contributions
to the **key nature-**
related issues
(climate and biodiversity)



Efforts to reduce
major inequalities:
food insecurity
and rural poverty



Local governance
and **institutions**
in rural areas

Farmers' organizations (FOs)

Partners and contributors to the just and sustainable transition of agricultural and food systems

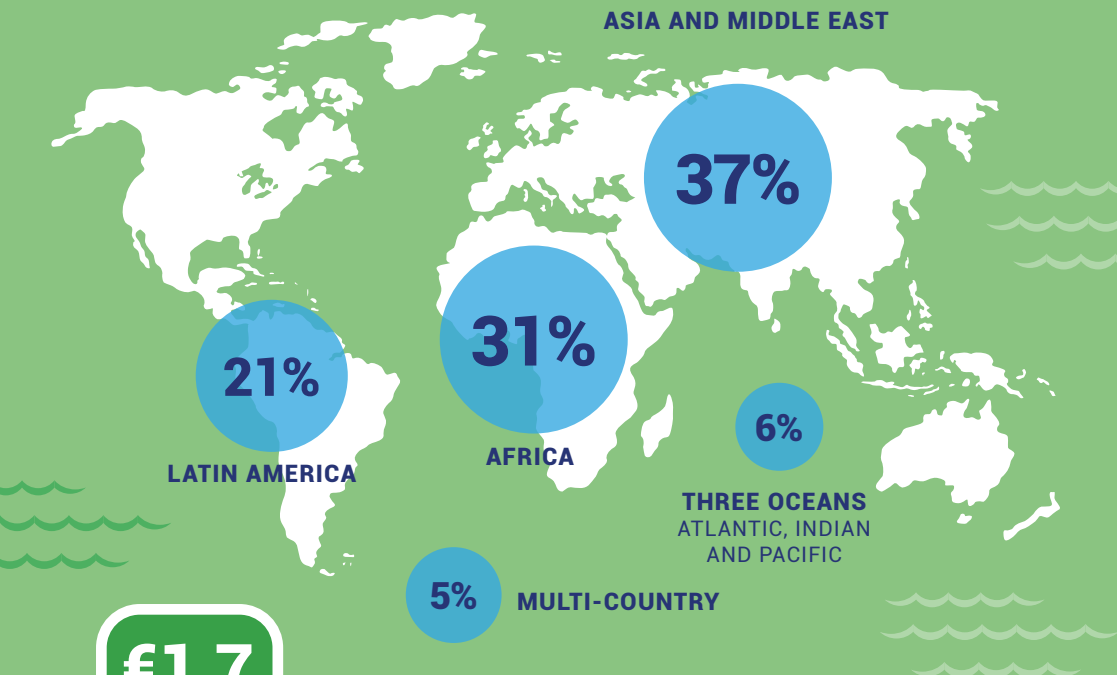
In its report* published in December 2024, AFD reiterated the importance of FOs in defining and implementing sustainable agricultural policies and investments. These institutions, deeply rooted in rural areas, provide essential services to their members and support the agroecological transition, the sustainable management of natural resources and the resilience of agricultural sectors.



*<https://www.afd.fr/en/ressources/farmers-organizations>

Our commitments to agriculture, rural development and biodiversity in 2024

Breakdown by region



€1.7
B

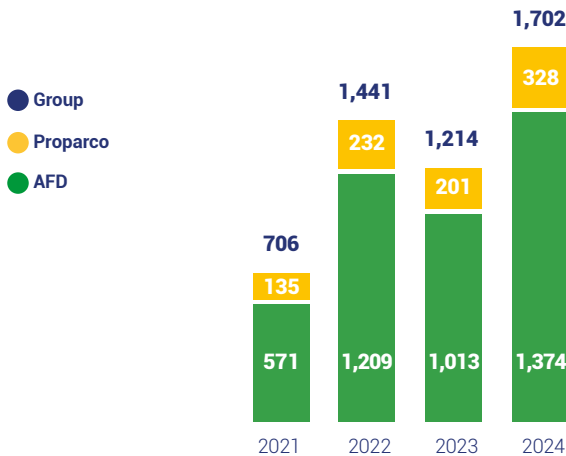
committed by AFD Group to agriculture, rural
development and biodiversity in 2024.

Africa accounted for almost a third of AFD Group investments in the sector (€526 M, of which a quarter in the private sector) and around 50% of projects.

In Asia, financing remained at a high level (€629 M), notably with budgetary funding in the Philippines (€251 M) and a sustainable water management project in Cambodia (€91 M).

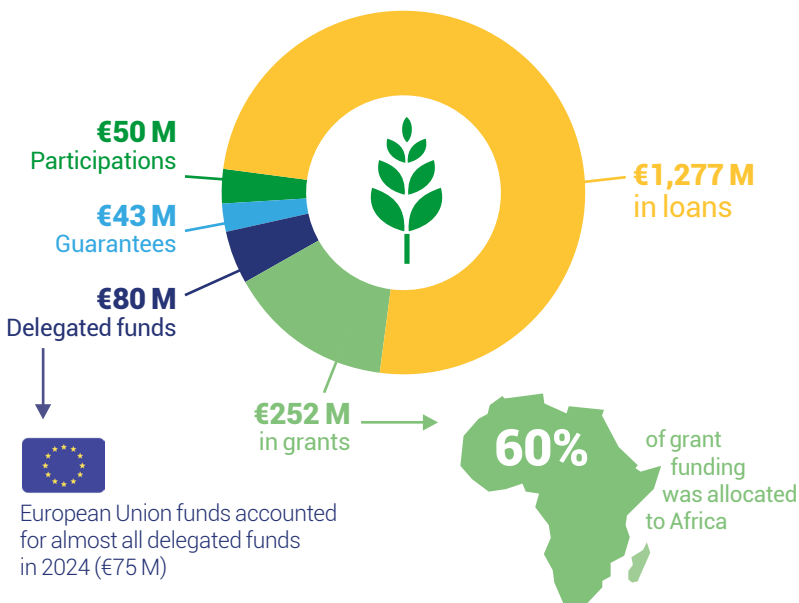
Financing increased in **Latin America** (€363 M), more than doubling the €166 million authorized in 2023, and remained stable in the **Three Oceans** region (€94 M).

Evolution of AFD Group commitments (in €M)



NGO Initiative financing is included in AFD's financial commitments

Breakdown by financial tool in 2024 (in €M)



Outcomes targeted (excluding Proparco)

The approved financing in the “agriculture, rural development and biodiversity” sector in foreign countries in 2024 will help achieve the following targets in particular over the next few years:



1.8 million people

in vulnerable situations to benefit from support



2.3 million beneficiaries

of a nutrition-focused activity

976,000 family farms

with improved economic performance

Nearly 1 million people

benefiting from capacity building through improved access to agricultural services



278,000 women

in vulnerable situations to benefit from support

92,000 women

benefiting from capacity building through improved access to agricultural services

353,000 women

benefiting from a biodiversity conservation or restoration measure

311,000 women

with improved conditions of access to basic equipment, infrastructure and services on a long-term basis





776,500 people

with improved conditions of access to basic equipment, infrastructure and services on a long-term basis



Nearly 505,000 family farms

undergoing conversion to agroecological systems

67,000 hectares

undergoing conversion towards agroecological systems



More than 1 million beneficiaries

of a biodiversity conservation or restoration measure

12.7 million hectares

of biodiversity conservation or restoration programs

12.6 million hectares

of sustainable resource and/or land management programs



318 local institutions managing rural territories

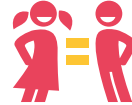
to benefit from support

Contribution to the Group's cross-cutting strategic priorities in 2024



65% of projects

will have a **climate** co-benefit, corresponding to a contribution of **€1 B** for financing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures



61 projects

will contribute to reducing **gender** inequality, corresponding to 62% of the total authorized funding in this sector (**€1.1 B**)



77 projects

will contribute to the preservation, conservation or restoration of marine or terrestrial **biodiversity** for a total of **€494 M** (29% of authorized funding)



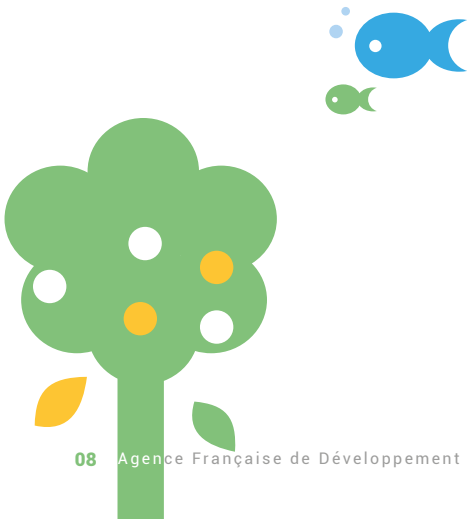
34 projects

will contribute to **reducing inequalities**, corresponding to 51% of total funding in this sector (**€876 M**)



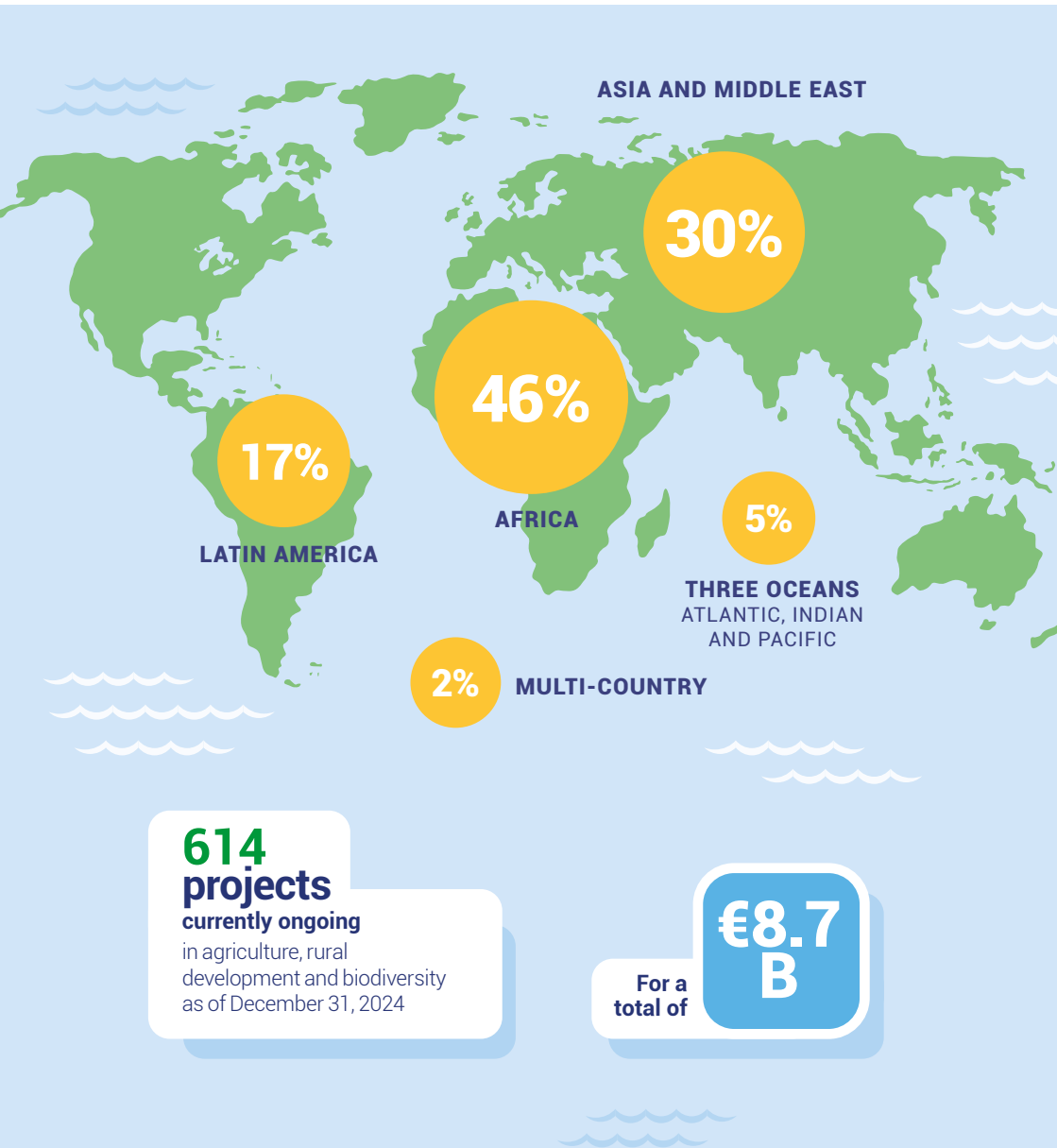
42 projects

will contribute to **inclusive governance**, corresponding to 58% of total funding in this sector (**€990 M**)



Projects ongoing

Breakdown of AFD portfolio (in % of amount)



Effective outcomes (excluding Proparco)

Projects underway or completed during 2024 enabled:



6.9 million beneficiaries

in vulnerable situations to benefit from support



438,000 people

to benefit from a nutrition-focused activity

More than 1.3 million family farms

to improve their economic performance

1.8 million people

to benefit from capacity building through improved access to agricultural services



1.4 million women

in vulnerable situations to benefit from support

320,000 women

to benefit from capacity building through improved access to agricultural services

143,000 women

to benefit from a biodiversity conservation or restoration initiative

488,000 women

to benefit from improved conditions of access to basic equipment, infrastructure and services on a long-term basis





3.2 million people

to sustainably improve their access to basic equipment, infrastructure and services on a long-term basis



Nearly 1.2 million family farms

to benefit from support in their conversion to agroecological systems

97,000 hectares

to have undergone conversion to agroecological systems



743,000 people

to benefit from a biodiversity conservation or restoration measure

42 million hectares

to benefit from biodiversity conservation or restoration programs

2.6 million hectares

to benefit from programs covering sustainable resources and/or land management



2,150 local institutions managing rural territories

to benefit from support

Expertise France, a major player in the sector

As an AFD Group subsidiary, Expertise France supports its partner countries in the design and operational implementation of public policies promoting the development of sustainable agricultural and food systems that meet climate-, biodiversity- and food-related challenges. Expertise France promotes food and nutritional security by contributing to the food sovereignty of partner countries and to poverty reduction.

In line with AFD Group's sectoral intervention framework, Expertise France has developed a range of services organized around **5 areas of activity**:

- Assisting institutions in the **development and implementation of public agricultural, fishery and rural policies**, and supporting international diplomacy.
- Assisting famers' organizations, family farms, micro-businesses and SMEs in their **transition to agricultural practices that ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability**.
- Increasing competitiveness, value creation and job creation in the agricultural and fishery sectors.
- Strengthening the role of local and national institutions in the **governance of the agricultural and fishery sectors and the sustainable management of natural resources**.
- Promoting the **sustainable development** and **governance of rural territories** as well as marine and coastal areas.

In 2024, Expertise France confirmed its commitment to biodiversity, agriculture and rural development by signing 11 new projects accounting for a total of **€58 M**.

Expertise France portfolio



- **9 ongoing projects** for **€119 million** in commitments
- **21 countries of operation**:
 - Africa, €84 M
 - Latin America, €6.8 M
 - Caribbean (Haiti), €27.8 M
- **71% European Union financing / 29% AFD financing**

Partnership-based mobilization for greater impact in the field

In terms of **financial mobilization**, the Group continues to coordinate with its key partners in the sector: the **European Union**, through a strong sectoral dialog and 25 projects benefiting from EU delegated funds accounting for around €119 M; the other public development banks (notably the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, with whom the framework agreement was renewed at the end of 2024, the **World Bank**, and the **Asian Development Bank**); and Proparco's key partners (IFC, EBRD, EDFI network*).

In terms of **mobilizing expertise and knowledge**, financing the CTTR** project will enable the continuous support of expertise and influence platforms in land tenure, agricultural water and forestry topics.



In 2024, the **CTFD** (Land Tenure and Development Technical Committee) focused mainly on the nexus between land tenure, a violent conflict and pastoralism, with support to the preparations of the Nouakchott+10 Forum. Analyses of legal and institutional frameworks for land and natural resources were also produced for 23 countries.



The publications by **COSTEA** (Scientific and Technical Committee for Agricultural Water) focused on the following subjects, among others: agroecological transition; support services to water users; the safeguarding of land rights and establishment of balanced contractual relations for peaceful, sustainable hydroagricultural development; and the reinforcement of irrigation development and management entities.



The **CST-Forêt** (Scientific and Technical Committee for Forestry) prioritized three main topics: forest carbon; the new classification of tropical forests; and the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples in the sustainable management and preservation of tropical forests. A paper was published on the involvement of local populations in forest restoration in Central Africa.

*IFC (International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group), EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), EDFI (European Development Finance Institutions).

** CTTR_ "Comités techniques territoires ruraux" or "Technical Committees for Rural Areas"

Focus on a selection of projects

Ecuador

Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans

Ecuador's biodiversity is exceptional, especially its marine biodiversity, which underpins a significant part of the country's economy (including nature-based tourism, fishing, and aquaculture). The country has recently made strong commitments to ocean preservation, with initiatives such as the extension of the Hermandad Marine Reserve (Galapagos) to over six million hectares. In this favorable context, the loan supports the definition and implementation of Ecuador's public policy for the conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems.



€100 M | AFD sovereign loan

Nigeria



Support to agricultural value chains

The Value Chain Program in Northern Nigeria (VCN) project aims to combat poverty and food insecurity in nine northern Nigerian states by providing support for food value chains (cereals, pulses, etc.). This eight-year program focuses on climate-resilient production, the inclusion of vulnerable groups (family farmers, displaced persons), the reinforcement of value chains and the financing of rural activities to achieve both climate and economic objectives. Co-financed by AFD and IFAD, it will be implemented from 2025.

€75 M | AFD sovereign loan

Co-financed by IFAD (USD87 M)

Papua New Guinea

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forest and marine ecosystems

As part of the country package for Papua New Guinea, the SoNG project, implemented by Expertise France and the NGO Wildlife Conservation Society, is helping to strengthen and extend the network of protected areas, as well as other conservation measures, by supporting community initiatives and developing sustainable agricultural and fishing industries. It will also support the implementation of public natural resource management policies, as well as training and research for the promotion of traditional knowledge associated with the conservation and management of biodiversity.



€8 M | Grant

Mobilizing Expertise France

Brazil

Supporting organic and fair-trade acai production

In the context of massive deforestation in Brazil, Proparco is supporting sustainable agriculture that respects the Amazon rainforest by granting a loan to Frooty, a producer of acai sorbet sourced from disadvantaged rural communities. This procurement model avoids the use of chemical inputs and irrigation, and is an important source of income for these families. Frooty also helps them obtain organic and For Life certification (80% of producers are certified), sets up school support programs and provides expertise in the organization of cooperatives.



USD 10 M | Proparco non-sovereign loan

Haiti

PMSAN II Multi-sectoral food security and nutrition program

In Haiti, over 40% of the population is highly food insecure and needs support to bridge consumption gaps while protecting their livelihoods. The PMSAN program aims to strengthen the role of central government and its decentralized bodies in the governance and coordination of sector-specific strategies – food security, social protection and nutrition – to enable vulnerable populations to stabilize their food and nutritional security situation on a lasting basis.



€28 M | European Union grant

Implemented by Expertise France

Laos

Mekong Tea Project Strengthening the tea value chain in Northern Laos (2019-2024)

This project has contributed to the social inclusion and development of a cooperative of tea producers in the mountain forests of Northern Laos. At the institutional level, the creation of a tea stakeholders alliance has supported the strategic and sustainable organization of the sector. In addition to technical capacity building for small-scale producers, organic farming certification and fair trade activities have also been developed. In addition, partnerships with buyers (including three French companies) will ensure long-term access to the market. On the basis of these initial results, the European Union has provided additional funding.



Project
completed
in 2024

*Trade Capacity Building Program

€1.5 M | TCBP*

Towards a world in common

AFD Group finances and drives the transition to a fairer, safer and more resilient world, working with its partners to support communities all over the world. Drawing on the complementary strengths of its entities – Agence Française de Développement for public financing, Proparco for responsible private investment, and Expertise France for technical expertise – the Group is ideally positioned to meet all sustainable development challenges.

Working in over 160 countries, including France's Overseas Territories and Departments, the Group adapts its operations to the realities on the ground, actively supporting local initiatives. With over 4,000 projects, whose objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AFD Group works on behalf of the French people, together with all stakeholders committed to economic development and the preservation of common goods: climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality and global health. Working by your side, toward a world in common.



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