



AFD AND Agriculture, Rural Development and Biodiversity



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80%

of people
under the poverty line
live in rural areas

2/3

of the world's
ecosystems suffer
from degradation

1 billion

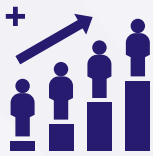
euros/year on average
committed by AFD
for agriculture, rural development
and biodiversity since 2017

Improving agricultural production and preserving ecosystems are two major challenges for sustainable development of rural areas. AFD finances development programs and projects and supports its partner countries in forging and implementing their public policies. To promote sustainable agriculture and the preservation of land and marine biodiversity, we have adopted an integrated territorial approach that takes into account the impacts of climate change.

#WorldInCommon

AFD tackles the core issues and global challenges of rural areas

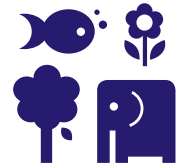
Population growth, climate change, and production and consumption patterns are putting unprecedented pressure on ecosystems. As a result, rural areas in developing countries must deal with several challenges simultaneously: food security, household poverty, employment, and preservation of biodiversity.



By 2050, up to
183 million
more people risk suffering
from hunger due to
climate-change impact.



23%
of global greenhouse gas
emissions are linked
to agriculture, forestry,
and land-use change



1 million
animal and plant
species are threatened
with extinction



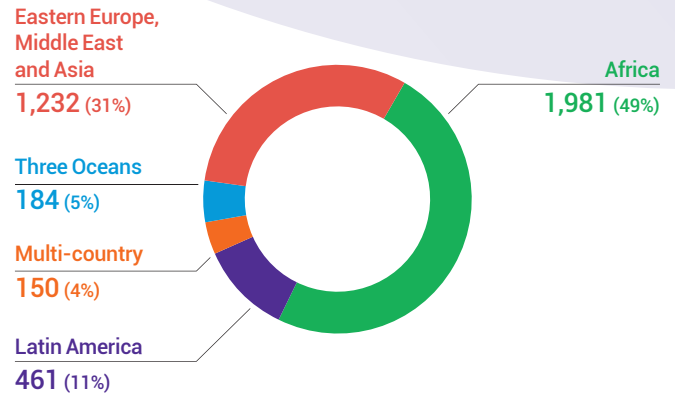
To meet these serious challenges, **AFD dedicates part of France's development assistance** in response to financing requests from its public and private partners. **Our actions are fully aligned with France's international strategies and commitments.**

Agriculture, rural development and biodiversity: key AFD figures (2015-2019)

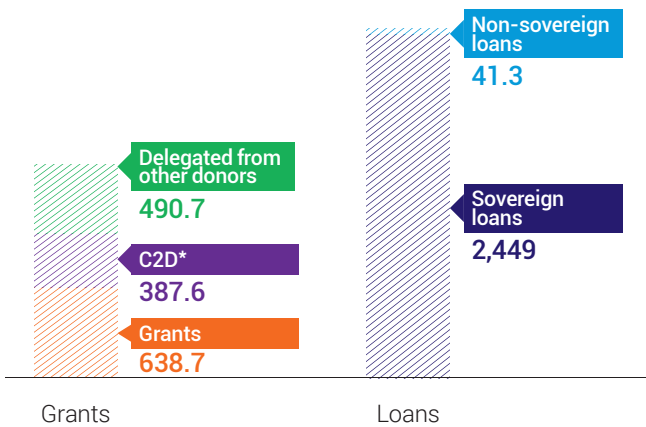


More than **4 billion** euros committed to the sector between 2015 and 2019

Breakdown by region
Commitments in €M

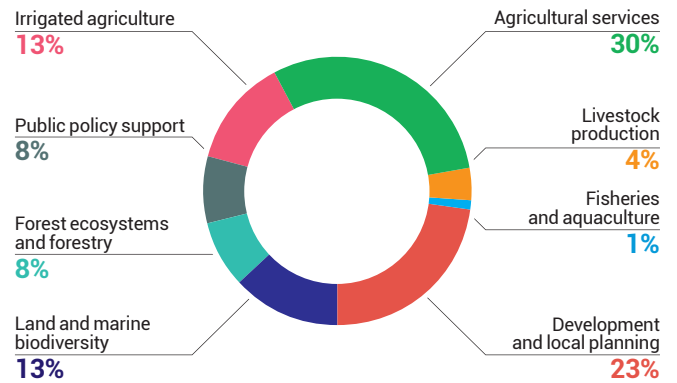


Breakdown by financial tool
Commitments in €M



*Debt Reduction-Development Contract

Breakdown by sector
in % of financing



2019 commitments



16% of projects have reduction of gender inequality as their main objective

52% of projects help reduce gender inequality



€457M AFD's biodiversity financing in 2019

32% of financing has biodiversity preservation as its main goal

68% of financing helps preserve biodiversity

For productive, resilient and sustainable rural areas

AFD adopts differentiated approaches adapted to each situation. Our actions, which give priority to the most vulnerable people, systematically include gender, climate, and biodiversity issues.

#1

Contributing to productive and ecological transitions

Agriculture must meet the growing demand of the world's population and at the same time preserve the environment and fight climate change. To achieve this goal, a shift in agricultural production practices is necessary, with its intensification carried out through agroecology and the preservation of soil and water resources. We must encourage the creation of local added value, to be redistributed locally (in particular through efficient and inclusive agricultural, fishery, and aquaculture value chains). Agricultural productivity and positive externalities for the environment and health are likewise important. In this approach, sustainable management of forest and fisheries resources is also taken into account.

NIGER

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF PASTORAL LIVESTOCK RAISING IN ZINDER AND DIFFA

2019-2025 | €50 M

(sovereign loan and grant)

This project contributes to the sustainable development of pastoral livestock raising and to improvement in land tenure policy. It is based on dialogue among local stakeholders, to aid in setting up better governance of pastoral resources.

BENIN

AGRO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN COTTON AREAS

2020-2025 | €10 M

(grant)

AFD is committed to conversion to agro-ecological systems through financing the restoration and improvement of soil fertility.

CAMEROON

A NATIONWIDE FARM ADVISORY SYSTEM

2008-2022 | €106 M

(sovereign loan and grant)

The aim of this program is to improve the productivity and income of 350,000 family farms by 2022 with the aim of helping 1 million family farms by 2035.

PACIFIC

PRESERVING COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

2020-2025 | €35 M

(grant)

AFD launched the Kiwa Initiative in 2020. Its objectives are adaptation to climate change and preservation of biodiversity via mangrove plantations, coral reef regeneration, and the fight against invasive species.

#2

Supporting inclusive and resilient rural territories

Investing in the development of rural areas helps reduce inequality, while preserving ecosystems and fighting climate change. For equitable and peaceful access to resources (land, water, grazing land, forests, oceans, etc.) and the guarantee that they are replenished, it is crucial to provide local consultation mechanisms, rules on how those resources are to be used and preserved, and dispute management mechanisms. This is why a major line of AFD action is capacity building targeting local authorities, for their needs in planning, financing, management, project contracting, and bottom-up participatory approaches.

We promote improvement of local governance, sustainable development of rural areas, and the preservation, restoration, and promotion of natural environments and protected areas.

Rural areas: deeply affected by climate change, but ripe for adaptation

Climate change is weakening natural ecosystems. This poses a threat both to areas settled by humankind, where productive activities are developed, and to the life cycles of fauna and flora.

This dual dimension makes rural areas particularly vulnerable to climate change. The upside is that these areas have the potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Changes in agricultural practices, for example, can foster photosynthesis and carbon storage in the soil, thereby helping to reduce CO₂ emissions.

MOROCCO

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC POLICIES PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

2011-2017 | €28 M

(sovereign loan and grant)

AFD supported the National Fisheries Office, to promote sustainable exploitation of fishery resources and improve value chain stakeholders' performance.

CHINA

MANAGING AND PROMOTING NATURAL HERITAGE

2017-2023 | €75 M

(sovereign loan)

In China, AFD supports Xianju National Park in its efforts to preserve natural environments and to promote ecotourism and environmental education.

NORTHERN CONGO

PRESERVING FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

2018-2023 | €6 M

(grant)

AFD provides support for local communities, indigenous populations, and local authorities and businesses in territorial management and the development of economic alternatives. Its funding thus helps maintain the ecological continuum and preserve biodiversity.

CAMBODIA

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN IRRIGATED AREAS

2018-2025 | €66.5 M

(sovereign loan and grant)

AFD is financing rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation infrastructure and its management in irrigated zones. This helps support the agro-ecological transition and farmers' resilience to climate events.

Protecting biodiversity and making agriculture more sustainable

Agriculture is both a threat and a source of opportunities for the preservation of biodiversity. Some agricultural practices (mechanization, genetic improvement, chemical inputs) may degrade biodiversity. The resulting loss of ecosystem services is a risk for farms. In contrast, agro-ecology provides a set of practices that promote crop diversification and the preservation of natural habitats.

For productive, resilient and sustainable rural areas

#3

Promoting institutions and policies that are conducive to ecological, productive, and territorial transitions

The immediate concerns of the people living in our partner countries are decent living conditions, access to jobs and basic services, and less inequality (including gender inequality). That is why AFD helps in the development and strengthening of public and private institutions capable of forging and implementing policies and regulations. To do so, we promote frameworks for consultation among the various stakeholders, including authorities, professional and inter-professional organizations in various sectors, trade unions, and the private sector.

AFD's commitment to building synergies between climate and biodiversity

Ecosystems, climate regulation, and the great balances in natural cycles are all linked. Their impact and their interrelation affect the living conditions of people living in rural areas. By 2025, 30% of AFD's climate finance will have benefits for biodiversity. AFD promotes nature-based solutions (NBS) in particular. This development approach using nature makes it possible to incorporate climate and biodiversity issues in our response to the needs of societies and ecosystems. For NBS, a better understanding of the interrelations among biological diversity, climate, and development is necessary. For this to happen, a transparent consultation process must be provided for local stakeholders involved in the management of their territory

MEXICO

SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY POLICIES

2013-2020 | €240 M
(sovereign loan)

AFD provides guidance for public policies to consolidate regulatory frameworks on the preservation and promotion of natural land and marine areas.

Our gender commitments

AFD's goal is for 50% of its financing to have a positive impact on reducing gender inequality. In the agricultural sector, access to productive resources is particularly unequal between men and women. In defining our projects, we consider the distribution of agricultural labor, to facilitate the improvement of women's status in the sector, and to reduce inequality.

MULTI-COUNTRY

MANAGING AGRICULTURAL RISKS VIA APPROPRIATE PUBLIC POLICIES

Since 2013 | €7.6 M
(grant)

AFD works toward reducing vulnerability in the agricultural sector in the most risk-exposed countries by financing risk mapping and identifying tools to address those risks.

TUNISIA

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS

2016-2022 | €51.5 M
(sovereign loan)

AFD provides support for rural areas marked by poverty and rural exodus by contributing to economic development and land-use planning. To do so, it takes a concerted approach that brings together representatives of the local population and authorities.

SAHEL

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL STABILIZATION

2019-2024 | €55 M
(grant)

The Three Borders project uses an approach based on the security/governance/development continuum, aligned with the national strategies of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. Its goal is to support socio-economic development and strengthen social cohesion in cross-border regions.

Mobilizing interdisciplinary approaches to food systems

AFD's work in the agriculture, rural development, and biodiversity sector boosts the transition to food systems that will improve food security for all people. Those food systems should be resilient, low-emitting, and socially and economically equitable. To support this transition, we are using interdisciplinary approaches, especially in projects aimed at improving food security in urban areas. These projects integrate market infrastructure and upstream support for value chains. We carry out cross-cutting action to promote nutrition. Greater impact on nutrition is sought for in agricultural and rural development projects (e.g. via analyses of the nutritional situation of beneficiaries or the diversification of production systems), as well as in the health, drinking water, and sanitation sectors.

Our partnership approach

To ensure effectiveness, AFD gives priority to a partnership approach among development stakeholders. Our actions are thus coordinated with those of the EU and of bilateral and multi-lateral donors. The Green Climate Fund is a key partner in putting into action the Group's goals that focus on climate issues. AFD is developing its partnerships with international and French NGOs, as well as with civil society organizations in the countries where it operates. Higher education and research institutes are also solicited for reflection on AFD positioning in this sector. Finally, we finance and participate in the coordination of several platforms that allow for stakeholder exchanges on the themes of land, water for agriculture, and forests.

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group implements France's policy on development and international solidarity. 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.

We are building – with our partners – 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 the French overseas departments and some 115 countries, including areas in crisis. We strive to protect the common good – promoting peace, biodiversity and a stable climate, as well as gender equality, health and education. It's our way of contributing to the commitment that France and the French people have made to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals.

Towards a world in common.



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