

#ForestPartnerships #EUGreenDeal #TeamEurope

FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE

Our future is in our hands and in our trees

Forest People Portraits no. 4/2022

Interview with **Alfred Nkodia**
FLEGT VPA, Republic of the Congo

Why do forests matter to you?

Forests are a priceless resource. Thousands of people, national economies and the global environment depend on them. Congo-Brazzaville, in which 69% of the land is covered by forests, recognises the enormous strategic importance of this renewable resource.

What are the main challenges to forests in your area today?

The main challenge to forests is their conservation at all levels. The Congolese forest suffers from continuous degradation, illegal management of its resources as well as poor use of those same resources.

What do you understand sustainable forest development to mean?

The sustainable development of forests means taking a long-term approach to their exploitation, involving the communities that directly depend on them while guaranteeing low environmental imbalances. Sustainable development means diversifying the exploitation of forest resources, not just focusing on logging. Additionally, these resources should be processed extensively at local level, to create more jobs and income locally.

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Capacity4dev



The Proust Questionnaire

Freely inspired by a parlour game popularised by the French novelist Marcel Proust

Your chief characteristic?

Flexible and tolerant.

What do you appreciate most in people?

Loyalty.

Your idea of happiness?

Not causing harm to others.

Your greatest fear?

Failure.

If not yourself, who would you like to be?

A bird.

Your favourite tree?

African star apple tree.



How can the European Union better support the forestry sector in your country?

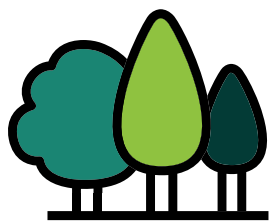
Our country has a [Voluntary Partnership Agreement \(VPA\)](#). However, more than 10 years after signing this agreement, the expected Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) authorisations have still not been issued because the national system is struggling it not fully operational. More political will and funding are needed for the effective implementation of the required reforms. It is important that the EU provides significant support to the Republic of the Congo, to ensure the success of this process, while recognising the progress made.

Which forest-related achievement do you admire most?

The high level of involvement by civil society in the VPA process.

Independent monitoring and forest governance in the Congo

The Independent Monitoring of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade under the VPA (IO FLEGT VPA) in the Republic of the Congo project contributes towards the improvement of forest governance by monitoring compliance by the government and forestry companies. It is implemented by the non-profit organisation Cercle d'Appui à la Gestion Durable des Forêts (CAGDF) with a mandate from the country's Forestry Service and with funding from the European Union and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).



Alfred Nkodia is Coordinator of the Independent Monitoring of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade under the [VPA \(IO FLEGT VPA\)](#) in the Republic of the Congo.



FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE FACILITY

The EU-funded [Forests for the Future Facility \(F4\)](#) provides technical support to contribute to healthy forest ecosystems and forest-related value chains in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. The Facility is managed by [DG International Partnerships Unit F2 – Environment, Natural Resources, Water](#).