

Response to the DEval report: Synthesis study on Germany's contribution to the forest and climate protection programme REDD+

The Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) welcome the report „Synthesis study on Germany's contribution to the forest and climate protection programme REDD+“ submitted by the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval).

The study provides a comprehensive overview of the German government's activities with regard to REDD+ and discusses various thematic fields in a manner that is easy to follow. We are pleased that the study reaches a positive overall conclusion and sees the activities of the German government, despite all the difficulties, as steps in the right direction.

The methodology of the study is portrayed in a transparent manner and also reveals the limitations of the chosen approach. It is a sober, honest analysis which is based on the material available and statements from expert interviews. BMEL, BMU and BMZ welcome the fact that the study covers diverse opinions, thus doing justice to the complexity of REDD+ and the stakeholders involved. At the same time, the authors also take time to reflect on the limited scope of the study, e.g. the fact that validation of the results together with partners on the ground was not part of the study.

The study was accompanied jointly by BMZ, BMU and BMEL; the implementing organisations KfW and GIZ were also closely involved.

The authors find that the activities under German development cooperation target the right thematic

fields and they provide food for thought on ways to improve these activities in the future. They emphasise that donors can only exert influence on REDD+ to a limited extent, and that achievements made through REDD+ depend very much on the political and strategic decisions made by partner countries.

In the view of BMEL, BMU and BMZ, the German contribution in the thematic areas of participation, implementation of social and ecological standards and human rights should have been recognised more in the summary of the study, as the German government's activities have had a major impact here.

The study expressly makes no final assessment of Germany's activities; it is a synthesis study and not a comprehensive evaluation. It is understandable, therefore, that it does not contain any specific recommendations for action but merely suggestions – some of which are already being put into practice. One example is the partial re-focusing of thematic and regional priorities of the support for REDD+ and of the respective portfolio.

BMZ, BMU and BMEL regard the study as confirmation that REDD+ is an instrument that should continue to be used for the forest, biodiversity and climate agendas. Alongside Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and the promotion of supply chains, REDD+ is a central element of both bilateral and multilateral cooperation in achieving the overarching goals of the Federal government with regard to forest, climate and biodiversity policy, as laid out in the German government's forest report, and in the BMZ's forest action plan and the national biodiversity strategy.