



# FGI History

The European Forest Institute (EFI)'s Forest Governance Index (FGI) is the result of a collaborative approach between the International Partnership Facility and the Governance Programme, respectively coordinated by EFI Barcelona and EFI Bonn.

In 2018, to assess the potential of global indices for understanding the governance situation in the forest sector, EFI looked at how they capture and measure dimensions of governance. The main finding was that these indices cannot be used to assess the situation in the forest sector because they are not specific to that sector and therefore don't provide proxies for describing the state of and changes in forest governance.

In the absence of an operational forest sector governance index, in 2019, practitioners and researchers in the EFI policy arena started to develop a set of indicators and an approach for capturing forest governance evidence at the national level. These indicators aimed to assess the situation and changes in four areas of governance: participation, legislative clarity, accountability and transparency. EFI's experts used these indicators to gather data on the governance situation in relation to Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) processes in five African countries and two Latin American countries. Work on this FGI index continued in 2021 with the creation of a validation methodology that was subsequently applied among key stakeholders in these countries. In 2022, EFI adjusted the four areas covered by the indicators to apply to the forest sector more broadly and developed a fifth area on compliance promotion and enforcement.

The index currently addresses five areas of governance, two of the areas – (a) stakeholder participation and (b) legislative and institutional clarity – provide for assessments with respect to a particular policy process; and three of the areas – (c) accountability and oversight, (d) transparency and (e) compliance promotion and enforcement – provide for assessments of the forest sector in general.

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