



Republic of Congo - Cost-free extension of the 'Operationalization of the National MNV System of the Republic of Congo' Program
Adopted by e-mail on 24 of August 2023

EB.2023.20

Considering :

- a) Decision [EB.2019.11](#) on the approval of the program 'Operationalization of the National MNV System of the Republic of Congo' for an amount of 2,000,000 USD in two instalments over two years;
- b) The [end date of the current program](#) is September 30, 2023;
- c) FAO letter dated July 20, 2023 requesting a cost-free extension of the project until December 31, 2024.

The CAFI Executive Board:

- 1. Thanks, the FAO for its letter and for the annexed note justifying the delays encountered and the results achieved, as well as the next steps, in particular to have the data-sharing agreement before the end of 2023, a condition for the disbursement of the second tranche, and, at the beginning of 2024, the Reference Forest Emission Level (FREL);
- 2. Notes that the difficulties encountered have prevented the organization of the first Steering Committee meeting since the project was launched;
- 3. Recalls, however, the obligation to hold an annual meeting of the Project Steering Committee of which CAFI is a member, and to have a budgeted Annual Work Plan (AWP) reviewed and approved by the Project Steering Committee within the first few months of project implementation, in accordance with the Trust Fund Operations Manual;

4. Agrees to the extension of the project until December 31, 2024, on condition that the PTBA, approved by the project COPIL, is officially submitted to CAFI before September 30, 2023. The extension will only be effective once the approved PTBA has been submitted;
5. Recalls that in accordance with decision EB.2021.11, the second tranche is conditional and will be transferred upon signature of the data sharing agreement (mentioned in activity 1.5.1) by all parties concerned, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Ensure that up-to-date, transparent data is available and accessible to the public, in particular to enable stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the objectives and impacts of the Letter of Intent once a year;
 - b. To grant full access to the databases for the duration of the program to experts recruited by CAFI and/or by the support program for the coordination of the CAFI partnership with the Republic of Congo in order to carry out the analyses deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the Letter of Intent;
6. Also requests FAO to ensure coherence and national ownership with the results of the regional project 'Assessment of deforestation and forest degradation and related direct drivers' funded by CAFI and executed by FAO. To this end, FAO is requested to provide as an annex to its future request for transfer of the second tranche a detailed note of the activities undertaken in each of the projects in support of the Republic of Congo, highlighting operational synergies with a view to ensuring coherence and complementarity in terms of support and outcomes, while avoiding duplication.
7. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the executing agency is committed to zero tolerance of fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse, whistleblower protection, public information, gender equality and social inclusion, and the use of appropriate complaint mechanisms. In addition, FAO commits to carefully manage all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Executive Board, and to act proactively in reporting such risks to the CAFI Multi-Stakeholder Trust Fund Office, in accordance with the CAFI Trust Fund Terms of Reference.
8. Reminds FAO of its reporting obligations under the current CAFI Operations Manual, in terms of both narrative and financial reports.