



CAFI Executive Board Decision

Regional Private Sector Facility: Selection of Expression(s) of interest(s) from Ngassam Farm for a feasibility study

EB.2025.37

Approved by email on 21.08.2025

Considering:

- Decision [EB.2023.12](#) approving the launch of the Regional Private Sector Facility;
- Decision [EB.2023.24](#) approving the Call for Expressions of Interest for the Private Sector Facility (2023/09);
- The Call for expression of interest (2023//03/PRIVATE SECTOR) which was launched on 19/09/2023, which was widely advertised;
- The complete expression(s) of interest(s) received from the private company Ngassam Farm;
- That for-profit organisations do not have direct access to CAFI funds but have nonetheless been invited to submit expressions of interest to accelerate the development of a project pipeline.
- Decision [EB.2024.01](#) clarifying investment criteria for private sector full project proposals;
- Decision [EB.2024.42](#) adopting the Private Sector Project Document Assessment Criteria and Performance-based funding allocation process;
- The technical analysis report prepared by the Secretariat and its recommendations shared with the Executive Board on June 30th, 2024.

The Executive Board:

1. Invites Ngassam Farm, to conduct a feasibility study for an amount of up to USD 110,000 to support the development of a project to create a deforestation-free cocoa value chain by :
 - a) Creating a deforestation-free value chain with smallholders suppliers by strengthening territorial organization through the establishment of two Centers of Excellence (Sanki and Ayos) and the creation of 20 new agricultural cooperatives to achieve (1) cocoa value addition through improved post-harvest processing of beans, (2) full European Union

Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) compliance of smallholder suppliers, (3) organic certification, and (4) farmer training.

- b) Improving management of 100 ha and planting 200 new hectares of deforestation-free cocoa in line with CAFI requirements for deforestation-free agriculture and reforestation of degraded lands.
 - c) Enhance community well-being by installing solar-powered boreholes for clean water, supporting education through teacher funding and school materials, and fostering community engagement with local reporting and innovative communication tools like podcasts and rural radio.
2. The above mentioned feasibility study should produce all the information referred to in paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of the present decision.
3. Requests that UNOPS provide financial support to Ngassam Farm in carrying out these feasibility studies in line with the requirements and procedures of the UNOPS regional technical assistance facility project approved by CAFI.
4. Requests that the Secretariat work together with Ngassam Farm and UNOPS to prepare terms of references for the above-mentioned feasibility studies. The terms of reference of these feasibility study should contain sufficient detail to provide assurance that full project proposal provide all of the elements required for the CAFI Executive Board to make an informed investment decision in a format that can be compared across projects. This includes at a minimum:
- a) Emission reduction potential estimated using CAFI Guidelines for ex-ante estimation of emission reduction potential including minimum eligibility requirements;
 - b) Job creation potential and the quality of these ex-ante estimates;
 - c) A theory of change that aligns with CAFI objectives;
 - d) Compliance with the minimum eligibility requirements that aim to guarantee that appropriate prerequisites, covenants and safeguards are met by investees prior to maximize the probability that these investments indeed have a positive impact on emissions and to ensure that they do not have unintended impacts on GHG emissions in the long-term;
 - e) Compliance with the PES programme and the toolbox developed by CAFI;
 - f) Application of best practices and lessons learned;
 - g) Financial analysis demonstrating the additionality of the use of grants and long-term viability;
 - h) Readiness to engage in a performance-based approach demonstrated by:
 - I. Compliance with the monitoring and evaluation requirements of CAFI, namely the standardised indicators for results frameworks, and
 - II. The demonstrated capability to comply with the spatial reporting guidelines, and particularly those for payment for environmental services;
 - i) Level of co-financing;

5. Requests that the following specific considerations be taken into account in the preparation of the feasibility study:
- a) Provide a detailed assessment of the proposed innovative agroforestry model for improving management of 100 ha and planting 200 new hectares of deforestation-free cocoa taking into account CAFE's payment for environmental services requirements for deforestation-free agriculture and reforestation of degraded lands,
 - b) Make a full viability assessment of the expansion of cocoa bean processing in Cameroon to clearly outlining impact on the economic viability of the deforestation-free cocoa value chain,
 - c) Strengthen the MRV component by
 - i. Finalizing the full mapping of Ngassam's own plantations and 550 ha of plantations of smallholder suppliers;
 - ii. Specifying traceability systems and environmental monitoring mechanisms taking into account CAFE's PES information management systems and EUDR requirements.
 - d) Identify cooperation potentials and explicit cooperation models (if applicable) with relevant financing organisations or mechanisms.
6. Recalls that feasibility studies and the design of projects and programmes should place strong emphasis on (i) gender equality and social inclusion, including in terms of sex-disaggregated data, impact and how the project will support development objectives (ii) human rights and non discrimination, (iii) conflict prevention and resolution, in particular with regards to land tenure, (iv) monitoring and learning, while ensuring strong alignment with the CAFE results framework and the CAFE Letters of Intent, (v) analysis of the link with forest conservation, (vi) analysis of opportunities for scale-up and means to achieve them, (vii) analysis of risks, including risks of corruption and conflicts of interest, as well as the stakeholders likely to gain or lose as a result of the initiative.
7. Reiterates that the present decision does not represent a funding allocation decision for the full projects and programmes, but only to assess their feasibility.