



25th CAFI Executive Board Meeting
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Final Report

3 – 4 December 2024

INTRODUCTION

The 25th meeting of the CAFI Executive Board meeting (EB 25) was held at the Hilton Hotel in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This edition was moderated by the United Kingdom, which currently holds the CAFI EB presidency.



In his opening remarks, the Deputy High Commissioner to Cameroon, Mr. Robert Fitzpatrick discussed the importance of striking a balance between economic prosperity and sustainable management of natural resources. He highlighted the fruitful dialogue between the Government of Cameroon and the Central African Forest Initiative for a sustainable partnership. His address focused on the need for a joint resource mobilization strategy and the importance of international cooperation to address the global challenges of climate change and

deforestation. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed gratitude to the board members and partners for their support and commitment to preserving the Central African Forests.

Address by Minister SEM Alamine Ousmane Mey

HEM Alamine Ousmane Mey, Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (*MINEPAT in French*) welcomed participants to Yaoundé. He noted the significant progress made in the partnership between CAFI and Cameroon, marked by the [signing of the Letter of intent](#) on the 8 October 2024, and highlighted the Government's commitment to promote green growth, achieve deforestation-free agriculture by 2035, and preserve a permanent forest estate covering 18 million hectares. Minister Mey also acknowledged the innovative models implemented by the government, such as the [National Fund for the Sustainable Development of the Cocoa and Coffee Sectors](#) (*FODECC in French*), and expressed hope for scaling up this model to support all Cameroonian households whose income depends on agriculture. He finally reiterated his government commitment to work with CAFI to develop a resource mobilization strategy and acknowledged the close collaboration between the CAFI and government technical teams.



Agenda, quorum and conflict of interest

The [agenda](#) was adopted and quorum confirmed. A review of the conflicts of interest previously declared and identified was presented, and taken into account for the meeting proceedings.

A [video presenting CAFI's approaches and main results](#) to date was launched.

INTERNAL SESSIONS

Payment for Environmental Services

This information session provided updates on the deployment of payments for environmental services and the proposals to improve the performance of projects.

Private Sector

Overview of the Private sector portfolio, pipeline and performance-based funding allocation process

In a presentation, the CAFI Secretariat outlined the current composition of the Private Sector Portfolio. In order to manage overprogramming of this portfolio, and in accordance with previous EB decisions and guidelines, the Board discussed project document assessment criteria and performance-based funding allocation process. Decision [EB.2024.42 - Approval of CAFI Private sector Assessment Criteria funding process](#) was adopted.

“Pro Congo” Project Document with UNCDF & UNEP

UNCDF and UNEP presented the overall project scope (forestry, agriculture, energy, ecotourism) and intervention areas (first phase: Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Congo). They detailed the 4 Pro Congo components of (i) Enabling environment, (ii) Business development for early-and-growth-stage business support, (iii) Payment for environmental services and (iv) Catalysing private investment to mature businesses. Decision was postponed.

“CAFI Invest” Project Document with Catalytic

Catalytic presented the rationale of “CAFI Invest” project was presented, together with its three windows namely i.e. (i) incentivizing PES, (ii) technical assistance and capital acceleration facility and (iii) investment fund. Following discussions, [EB Decision 2024.43 - CAFI INVEST Project with Catalytic Finance Foundation](#) was adopted.

National Access

The CAFI Secretariat presented to the updated proposed National Access Framework. It was agreed that the framework requires further discussions in the EB.

COUNTRY SESSIONS

Cameroon

Progress towards the achievements of the milestones of the Letter of Intent



MINEPAT representatives presentation focused on the progress on the implementation of the milestones of the Letter of intent signed between the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and CAFI. These notably include:

- Progress in the appraisal of the four projects of the start-up phase for the 2024-2027 period, valued at US\$61 million
- The launch of the process for developing the National Climate Plan and revising the Nationally Determined Contribution
- The provision of FAO data, in the framework of the CAFI Regional Project on trends and Drivers of deforestation, contributing to the submission of the emission reference level to the UNFCCC
- The completion of the institutional review and audit of the FODECC and the process of implementing the Producer Window (“Guichet Producteurs”)
- The registration of 300,000 producers on the FODECC digital platform for the management of the windows.

“Intersectoral and multi-level coordination” project document with GIZ

After a period of appraisal of the project in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, GIZ developed a draft project document, which was approved by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development. Discussions focused on the recommendations of the independent evaluations of the project. The Project document was approved through [EB.2024.44 – Cameroon – Project Approval GIZ Coordination](#), subject to consideration of these recommendations.

Central African Republic

Progress with the implementation of the Preparatory Grant



The representative of the Central African Republic Government presented the various support granted to CAR by CAFI since the signing of the Joint Declaration in 2015, and focused on the preparatory grant provided to UNDP in 2024 to support the political dialogue between CAR and CAFI. Main results include:

- Integration of the 27 measures of the REDD+ National Investment Framework (NIF) in the National Development Plan (NDP);
- Identification and validation of the Government's priorities for the Partnership with CAFI, aligned with the

NIF and NDP

- Finalization of a decree, issued by H.E.M. the Prime Minister to set up an Interministerial Committee
- Production with CAFI Secretariat of a joint version of the terms of reference for a [Call for Expressions of Interest \(Eoi\)](#), launched on 29 October

Review of the submissions to the Call for Expressions of Interest

The CAFI Secretariat presented the assessment process which, in accordance with rules and procedures, was divided in two steps, i.e conformity revue followed by technical evaluation. The submissions and the scoring were presented. Decision-making was postponed to a later stage as the EOI's closing date (26 November) was too close to the EB meeting.

Gabon

Gabon portfolio and pipeline

Gabon representatives presented an update on the portfolio of projects funded by CAFI, that includes 9 projects, 4 accredited implementing organizations, 11 national implementing agencies, and a total budget of \$48 million. They presented the key objectives of a new project, under development, to attenuate human elephant conflict include integrating local communities in nature conservation, promoting human-elephant coexistence, and advancing sustainable agricultural practices.

Gabon representatives also presented developing a new project on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), in line with a prior [EB decision on direct payments to communities for conservation of priority habitats](#), with a roadmap for UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, aiming to demonstrate a full PES project.



SUMMARY OF ADOPTED DECISIONS

[EB.2024.42 - Approval of CAFI Private sector Assessment Criteria funding process](#)

[EB.2024.43 - CAFI INVEST Project with Catalytic Finance Foundation](#)

[EB.2024.44 – Cameroon – Project Approval GIZ Coordination](#)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation	Participation
Simon Hopkins	FCDO/UK	In person
Alice priestland	FCDO /UK	In person
Simon Hopkins	FCDO/UK	In person
Sarah Pattem	FCDO /UK	In person
Tony Baumann	BMZ/Germany	In person
Corinna Schuller	BMZ/Germany	In person
Jostein Lindland	NIFCI/Norway	In person
Aina Ostreng	NORAD/Norway	In person
Monica Camacho	NORAD/Norway	In person
Romain Domsps	MEAE/France	In person
Anaelle Roucou	MFA/ France	In person
Ahmed Boudouda Amel	MFA/France	In person
Soohwan KIM	KFS/Korea	Online
Mehdi Karimi	FPS Foreign Affairs/Belgium	Online
Albert SCHENK	MinBuZa/The Netherlands	In person
Anders Alm	Rg Dev Coop/Sweden	Online
Maja Elisabeth Svankjær Thagaard	MOFA/Danmark	Online
Mino Randrianarison	FAO	Online
Samira Elkhamlichi	World Bank	In person
Peedel Stephen	European Union	In person
Cartier Adeleine	GIZ	In person
Mbenda Rosette	GIZ	In person
Hebermehl Velten	GIZ	In person
Kroschk André	GIZ	In person
Caspary Hans-Ulrich	GIZ	In person
Langeheine Rico	GIZ	In person
David Maleki	World Bank	Online
Davy Onomori	Gabon/PS National Climate Council	In person
Stanislas Stephen Mouba	Gabon/Ministry of Environment	In person
Gildas Igor Tola Kogadou	CAR/Ministry of Environment	In person
Firmin Pakouzou	CAR/Ministry of Finance	In person

Dieudonné Bruno Waneyombo-Brachka	CAR/Forest water Ministry	In person
Joseph Ilanga	DRC/Ministry of Agriculture & Food security	In person
Joseph Longunza Malassi	DRC/Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development	In person
Danely Mitonga Kasulu	DRC/Sustainable Development Dept.	In person
Alain Malata Kafunda	DRC/Ministry of Finance	In person
Ernest Nnanga	Cameroon/MINEPAT	In person
SAÏDOU Hamadou	Cameroon/MINEPAT	In person
Étienne Siam	Cameroon/MINEPAT	In person
Martin Zeh-Nlo	UNDP Cameroon	Online
Assia Sidibe	MPTF-O	Online
Njoya TIKUM	UNDP	Online
Berta Pesti	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Leslie Ouarzazi	CAFI Secretariat	In person
Bruno Hugel	CAFI Secretariat	In person
Bruno Guay	CAFI Secretariat	In person
Flora Hauser	CAFI Secretariat	In person
Christian Mbaya	CAFI Secretariat	In person
Chadrack Kafuti	CAFI Secretariat	In person
Judicaelle Babika	CAFI Secretariat	In person
Diego Alves	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Estelle Fach	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Mathieu Auger Schwartzberg	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Clément Hamon	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Camille Pubill	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Quentin Renard	CAFI Secretariat	Online
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Fiona Desert	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Connie Clark	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Martin Dechaux	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Nadia Dagestad	CAFI Secretariat	Online
Jules Katabadi	CAFI Secretariat	Online