



CAFI Executive Board Decision

Democratic Republic of Congo - Selection of WWF to implement PES demonstration activities

EB.2025.12

Adopted by email on 03.04.2025

Considering:

- The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) National REDD+ Framework Strategy and the [DRC-CAFI 2021-2031 Letter of Intent](#), which both state that payment for environmental services (PES) are “the heart of the incentive system for REDD+ in the DRC”;
- The National roadmap for political and financial mobilization and the deployment of Payments for Environmental Services in the DRC developed during the International interministerial conference on the deployment of PES in Central Africa which was held in Kinshasa on 27-29 January 2025;
- The need for DRC to demonstrate at COP30 in Belém that CAFI’s standardized PES mechanism is already operational and ready to be deployed on a larger scale;
- The ongoing development of PES management tools that build on lessons learned from past and ongoing projects implemented by WWF in DRC (with FONAREDD/CAFI and World Bank funding);
- The requests for technical assistance submitted by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the DRC to the UNOPS technical assistance facility.

The Executive Board,

1. Invites the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to implement PES demonstration activities in the territories of Mushie, Bolobo, Kwamouth and Yumbi in the Mai Ndombe Province, as well as the territories of Lukolela, Bikoro, Ingende in the Equateur Province for an amount of up to USD 505,768.
2. Requests that these demonstration activities use the PES management tool, deploy the various PES

activities, ensure the proper integration of farmers and communities into the centralized PES database, test mobile payments with selected beneficiaries, and communicate internationally alongside the DRC government on this mechanism, for the mobilization of financing with the aim of scaling up.

3. Requests that UNOPS provides financial support to WWF in line with the requirements and procedures of the UNOPS regional technical assistance facility project approved by CAFI.
4. Requests that the Secretariat works together with UNOPS to prepare the grant agreements for these demonstration activities.
5. Requests that the Secretariat works together with the DRC government and WWF to accompany the demonstration activities, analyze the experiences, develop lessons learnt and use these to inform the finalization of the CAFI PES mechanism and the PES operations manual.
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 CAFI results framework and the CAFI Letters of Intent), (v) analysis of the link with forest conservation, (vi) analysis of opportunities for scale-up and means to achieve them and (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).