

CAFI Executive Board Decision

Cameroon: Approval of the "Grand Mbam Integrated Landscape Project" implemented by Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)

EB.2025.24

Adopted by email on 25.06.2025

Considering:

- Decision <u>EB.2023.08</u> approving the Call for Expressions of Interest 2023/02/CMR;
- The Call for expression of interest (2023/02/CMR), which took place from 26 May to 23 June 2023, which was which was widely advertised and for which an information session was held online on June 8 2023;
- Decision <u>EB.2023.18</u> requesting KfW to develop a project document for the "Grand Mbam Integrated Landscape Project." for a duration of 3 to 5 years and for a budget of up to 20 million USD;
- Decision <u>EB.2024.33</u> on the independent verification of projects;
- CAFI's Monitoring and Evaluation and Guidelines which include standard indicators for AFOLU projects and their Spatial Reporting Guidelines.
- CAFI's performance-based programming policy in AFOLU projects.

The Executive Board:

- 1. Thanks KfW (referred here as "implementing organization") for submitting the project proposal.
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the project document for an amount of 20 000 000USD, to be used over a period of 48 months, starting from the date of first transfer to the implementing organization.
- 3. <u>Requests</u> that the total amount will be disbursed in tranches as follows; The disbursements are conditional and subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Tranche 1 of USD 15.477.585 equivalent to the first 3 years of operations required to deliver the results which will be subject to independent verification;

- b) Tranche 2 of 4,522,415 USD, with the following conditions:
 - I. The conclusions of the independent verification which will impact disbursement in accordance with the provisions presented in Annex 1 of the present decision.
 - I. Cumulative expenditure reaches 70% of the disbursed CAFI funds
 - II. Submission of provisional narrative and financial reports as well as annual (or for the period for which the next disbursement is requested) work plans to the CAFI Secretariat and MPTFO
 - III. Respect of reporting obligations in a form and substance acceptable to CAFI
- 4. Requests the implementing organization to assess the potential for
 - a) Reducing the M&E budget internalizing the cost saving offered by the use of the CAFI centralized PES information management system
 - b) Using CAFI direct payment modalities to support farmers and communities.
- 5. <u>Asks</u> Secretariat to work with the implementing organization to analyse the outcome of the assessments mentioned in paragraph 4 to report to the EB with a view to amend the project document accordingly to fully comply with the CAFI performance-based programming policy.
- 6. <u>Asks</u> the implementing organization to notify the CAFI Secretariat at 1 year in advance before the date of disbursement of the requested tranche in order to carry out the independent verification of project results in a timely manner thus ensuring continued operations of the project while at the same time implementing a performance-based approach to disbursement.
- 7. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the implementing organization commits to apply zero tolerance towards fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse; to protect whistleblowers; to inform the public; to promote gender equality and social inclusion; and to use appropriate complaint mechanisms. In addition, the implementing organization commits to carefully managing all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Board and should act proactively in reporting these risks to CAFI's Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of CAFI's Trust Fund.
- 8. Recalls that the implementing organization will have to report on progress toward the indicators of CAFI's results framework in accordance with CAFI guidelines and templates. In addition, the implementing organization will have to provide CAFI with all reports and data (raw and analysed) from household's surveys and other field studies including spatial information (i.e. GPS coordinates), as well as information on how its activities address and respect CAFI social and environmental safeguards requirements.
- 9. <u>Recalls</u> that the implementing organization will have to report on progress toward the targets related to payment for environmental services (PES) activities through the CAFI PES information management tool.
- 10. <u>Reminds</u> the implementing organization of its reporting obligations under the current CAFI Operations Manual, in terms of both narrative and financial reports.

Annex 1. Impact of the independent verification on the "Grand Mbam Integrated Landscape Project" implemented by Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)

The independent verification will lead to one of the four possible conclusions below. These conclusions influence the decision regarding the next tranche of the project as follows:

- **1.** Low Performance: Less than 30% of results verified In the case of low performance, the project will be terminated.
- 2. of Performance: 30-50% results verified Average In the case of average performance, the project continues, but its targets are revised downward overall proportion of verified to the For example, if the project's cumulative targets over the verification period (3 years) were to establish 2000 hectares of agroforestry plantations and 500 hectares of natural regeneration, and the verification results show that only 50% of the targets were achieved, the revised targets for the second tranche would be 1000 hectares of agroforestry plantations and 250 hectares of natural regeneration. This allows the project to be rescaled according to the implementing organization's capacity. In this case, the amount of the second tranche will equal the amount needed to continue the payments for contracts representing the 50% of verified results, plus the funds needed to implement the new revised targets.
- 3. Strong Performance: 50–90% of results verified In the case of strong performance, the project continues with the targets as originally defined or as revised by the project team. However, a remediation procedure must be put in place to address the causes of underperformance. The agency must commit to implementing the necessary corrective actions.

For instance, if one of the causes of underperformance is a fire that destroyed part of the agroforestry plantation due to inadequately sized firebreaks, the agency must commit to increasing the size of firebreaks in all areas where they are below the required minimum. The list of remediation measures, based on the independent verification report, will be provided by CAFI implementing agency and must be included in the project addendum. In this case, the amount of the second tranche will be the amount requested by the agency, calculated based on the defined or revised targets. However, the project will have one year to report on the implementation of the remediation measures. If it fails to do so, the project is at risk of being terminated.

4. Excellent Performance: More than 90% of results verified In the case of excellent performance, the project continues, and the second tranche requested by the agency is approved according to the CAFI-approved procedure for second tranche disbursement (SOP for second tranche?).