



CAFI Executive Board Decision

Republic of Congo - Disbursement of the balance of the 2nd tranche to the “Sustainable Wood Energy Potential Enhancement Project in the Republic of Congo” (PROREP) implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

[Project ID: [00130492](#)]

Adopted by email on 21.01.2026
EB.2026.03

Considering:

- The [CAFI Declaration](#) and the persisting challenge of forest loss and food security in the Republic of Congo ;
- The [Letter of Intent](#) signed between CAFI and the Republic of Congo in 2019 ;
- Decision [EB.2021.20](#) adopted on November 16, 2021, on the approval of the “Sustainable Wood Energy Potential Enhancement Project in the Republic of Congo” (PROREP) for a total amount of 7,000,000 USD and on conditions for the disbursement of the second tranche ;
- Provisions on CAFI’s Manual of Operations (Chapter 5.1) on the conditional requirements to allow payment of tranches ;
- Decision [EB.2023.33](#) adopted on December 5, 2023, on the approval of the request for an exceptional advance on tranche 2 of the project of 1,500,000 USD and revised conditions for the disbursement of the balance of the second tranche of 2,490,000 USD ;
- The letter from the FAO dated 3 June 2025 requesting the payment of the balance of the second tranche of 2,490,000 USD ;
- The letter from the CAFI Secretariat dated 20 June 2025 suspending the treatment of the request above mentioned, pending completion of an independent verification as decided by Decisions [EB.2021.20](#) and [EB.2023.33](#) ;
- The final report of the independent verification of the PROREP submitted by SCS Global Services dated 20 October 2025.

The Executive Board:

1. Thanks the FAO (referred here as “implementing organization”) for its progress assessment.
2. Recalls the following conditions to disburse the balance of the second tranche, according to Decision [EB.2023.33](#) adopted on December 5, 2023 :

“a) The effective establishment of 600 ha of agroforestry plantations for energy purposes ; b) The production of the 900,000 plants needed to plant the additional 734 ha in nurseries; c) Operationalisation of the Local Selection Committees, the existence of criteria for allocating lots to approved beneficiaries and the first beneficiaries selected ; d) Submission of a budgeted work plan for the remaining 42 months of the project, adjusted on the basis of feedback and reviewed by the project's COPIL; e) Organisation of the Project Steering Committee and approval of the budgeted work plan in February 2024, taking into account feedback from the CAFI; f) A positive independent evaluation of the programme. Disbursement of the balance of the second tranche will be decided by the CAFI Executive Board following the independent evaluation.”

3. Takes note of the main conclusion of the independent verification of the Project: *“Based on the processes and procedures performed, the assessment team does not affirm, without qualification or limitation, that the responsible party, PROREP, complies with all criteria and requirements pertaining to all indicators and the monitoring and evaluation system and is therefore issuing an adverse verification opinion.”* (cf page 21 of the report).
4. Takes note of the specific conclusion of the independent verification of the Project regarding the effective establishment of agroforestry plantations: *“The verification body has not reached a reasonable level of assurance that the number of hectares of agroforestry plantations reported by the project is accurate and free of material misstatement. Only 147 hectares of the 562 hectares planted during the monitoring period meet the definition of agroforestry per the description of the indicator consisting of both planted trees and agricultural crops with active agroforestry contracts. Of those 147 hectares with active agroforestry contracts and land uses, the assessment team could not reach a reasonable level of assurance that they have been monitored and managed following internal procedures, specifically the established planting, mortality monitoring, maintenance, and gap planting timelines and activities. As a result, the auditors find that 0 hectares are in complete conformance with the requirements. The assessment team found a lack of monitoring evidence across all parcels (i.e., use or required monitoring sheets during the monitoring period) and verifiable raw data to support the claims of tree planting, gap planting, and monitoring in alignment with internal protocols and timelines.”* (cf page 22 of the report).
5. Rejects, in accordance with the above, the transfer of the balance of the 2nd tranche of 2,490,000 USD.
6. Reminds the implementing organization of its reporting obligations under the current CAFI Operations Manual, in terms of both final narrative and financial reports.

Chair, CAFI Executive Board	UN Member, CAFI Executive Board
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date: