



CAFI Executive Board Decision Democratic Republic of Congo

No-cost extension of “Zero-deforestation smallholder agriculture in Kongo Central” (DRC)” implemented by One Acre Fund – ([Project ID: 00140885](#))

Adopted by email on 27.04.2026

EB.2026.11

Considering:

- The [CAFI Declaration](#) and the persisting challenge of forest loss and food security in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC);
- The 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”;
- [Decision EB.2024.29](#) on the approval of the project document for “Zero-deforestation smallholder agriculture in Kongo Central” (DRC), prepared by One Acre Fund, for an amount of 2 000 000 USD;
- The National roadmap for the deployment of PES 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); and the inclusion, in the roadmap, of a PES demonstration project in the savannah area based on the deforestation-free agricultural development project implemented by One Acre Fund (OAF) in the province of Kongo Central.
- [Decision EB.2025.42](#) on the approval of the addendum to the above-mentioned project document for an amount of 2 104 534 USD, to implement PES demonstration activities in the territories of Songololo in the Kongo Central Province for an amount of up to 104 534 USD;
- The originally approved timeline of the project, running from 10 December 2024 to 31 March 2026;
- The achievements of the above-mentioned PES demonstration project, and the opportunity to extend such collaboration to systematically document the use and performance of CAFI-PES management tool (application processing times, ease of use, key functionalities, and managerial oversight) to inform decisions on the continuous improvement and scalability of the PES system;
- The letter from One Acre Fund requesting a no-cost extension of the project of 16 months, until 30 July 2027;
- The project's compliance with reporting requirements.

The Executive Board:

1. Thanks One Acre Fund (referred to here as “implementing organization”) for their progress assessment and justification provided to demand a non-cost extension.
2. Approves the no-cost extension of the project for 16 months, until 30 July 2027.
3. Requests the implementing organization to comply to the project modifications as detailed in the “explanatory note” attached to the request of no cost extension (which represents the technical reference for the project extension).
4. 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.
5. Recalls that feasibility studies and the design of projects and programmes should place strong emphasis on (i) gender inclusion, including in terms of sex-disaggregated data, (ii) human rights and non-discrimination, (iii) conflict prevention and resolution, in particular with regard to land tenure, (iv) monitoring and learning, while ensuring strong alignment with the CAFI results framework, (v) analysis of the link with forest conservation, (vi) analysis of opportunities for scale-up and means to achieve them , (vii) analysis of risks of corruption and conflicts of interest, as well as the stakeholders likely to gain or lose as a result of the initiative, (viii) the use – to the extent possible – of local references and analysis with respect to potential beneficiaries, market opportunities and income opportunities for smallholders and economic viability, limitations and risks; (ix) clear integration and interlinkages between the various interventions proposed; (x) a clear exit/sustainability strategy; (xi) a robust analysis and management of risks (incl. land tenure and fire).
6. Recalls that the implementing organization will have to report on progress toward both the objectives and milestones of (as relevant) the Letter of Intent, as well as on indicators of CAFI’s results framework in accordance with CAFI guidelines and templates. In addition, it will have to provide CAFI with all reports and data (raw and analysed) from household surveys and other field studies, including spatial information (i.e. GPS coordinates) and information on how their activities are addressing and respecting CAFI's social and environmental safeguards.
7. Reminds the implementing organization of its reporting obligations under the current CAFI Operations Manual, in terms of both narrative and financial reports.