# CAFI Executive Board Decision

## Regional

## No-cost extension of "Identification of eligible and priority sites for HIFOR in Central Africa" implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) (Project ID: 00141098)

**Adopted by email on 24.11.2026**
**EB.2026.33**

**Considering:**

- The CAFI Declaration and the persisting challenge of forest loss and food security in the region.
- Decision EB.2022.33 adopted on 23 December 2022 requesting WCS to submit a preparatory grant request to support the mapping of high-value forests in the Central African region, based on national definitions and ownership.
- Decision EB.2023.25 adopted on 9 October 2023 authorizing WCS access to the CAFI Fund.
- Decision EB.2024.05 adopted on 7 March 2024 approving the preparatory grant, implemented by WCS, for an amount of USD 467,836 and a duration of 18 months, on the basis of the project document submitted by WCS on 13 December 2023.
- The start of the project on 28 March 2025, upon the first transfer of funds from the MPTF Office.
- The letter from WCS (referred to here as "implementing organization"), dated 16 July 2026, requesting a no-cost extension of the project of 6 months, until 31 March 2027, in order to allow the completion of the remaining stakeholder consultations, in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the presentation workshops in the three target countries, and the submission of all final deliverables.
- The revised letter from the implementing organization, dated September 14 2026, requesting a shorter no-cost extension of the project of 3 months, until 31 December 2026 to complete the same outstanding activities, including stakeholder consultations, presentation workshops in the three target countries, and submission of all final deliverables.

**Executive Board:**

1. Thanks WCS (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 preparatory grant for a period of 3 months, from 28 September 2026 to 31 December 2026, with no change to the approved budget of USD 467,836, following the UNDG budget distribution approved in the original PRODOC.

3. 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.

4. 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 potential beneficiaries and local communities, 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).

5. Recalls that the implementing organization will have to report on progress toward the objectives and milestones, as relevant, 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 surveys, spatial analyses and other studies, including spatial information (i.e. GIS shapefiles and GPS coordinates) and information on how their activities are addressing and respecting CAFI social and environmental safeguards.

6. Reminds the implementing organization of its reporting obligations under the current CAFI Operations Manual, in terms of both narrative and financial reports.