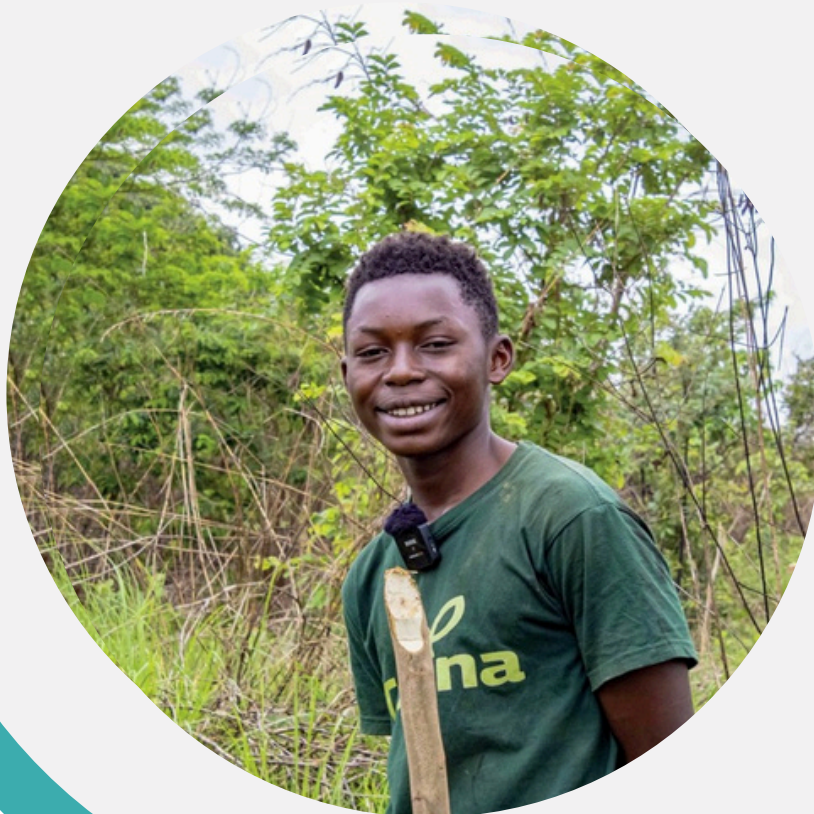




United Nations
MPTF Office



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Contents



CAFI at a glance	<u>03</u>
Financial outlook	<u>08</u>
Results at a glance	<u>17</u>
Strengthening governance for sustainable land use	<u>18</u>
Delivering benefits for people and communities	<u>21</u>
Protecting forests, biodiversity and climate	<u>23</u>
Scaling long-term solutions	<u>24</u>
Enhancing transparency & impact monitoring to drive performance-based management	<u>25</u>
Payments for environmental services: scaling a performance-based model for the Congo Basin	<u>31</u>
Unlocking private investment for forest-positive development	<u>42</u>
Reinforcing political commitment and country ownership	<u>47</u>
Advancing gender equality and inclusive development	<u>54</u>
Climate and development impacts	<u>57</u>
Climate impact	<u>58</u>
Development impact	<u>66</u>
Country and regional overviews	<u>67</u>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<u>68</u>
Republic of Congo	<u>80</u>
Gabon	<u>89</u>
Cameroon	<u>100</u>
Central African Republic	<u>106</u>
Equatorial Guinea	<u>109</u>
Regional	<u>113</u>
Managing risks in complex environments	<u>116</u>
Lessons from a decade of action	<u>120</u>
Conclusion	<u>123</u>
Annexes	<u>125</u>
Projects by country and status	<u>125</u>
List of acronyms	<u>133</u>

Spotlights



Verification piloted to strengthen evidence-based programming	<u>30</u>
From design to delivery:CAFI's first PES payments on the ground	<u>40</u>
Project spotlight: Regional - Building a pipeline of deforestation-free investments	<u>45</u>
Diversifying access to the CAFI Fund and expanding delivery capacity	<u>53</u>
Project spotlight: DRC - Supporting sustainable livelihoods in savannah and forest landscapes	<u>78</u>
Project spotlight: Gabon - Human–wildlife coexistence: protecting communities and elephants	<u>97</u>
Project spotlight: Regional - Flexible support to accelerate country delivery of CAFI commitments	<u>113</u>



CAFI at a glance

Mission and approach

The forests of the Congo Basin comprise the second largest continuous tropical forest in the world after the Amazon, and one of the planet's most important terrestrial carbon sinks. They regulate climate, sustain biodiversity, and shape rainfall patterns across the African continent and beyond. But above all, they are home to people. For over 60 million people living in and around them[1], these forests are a source of food, energy, income, culture and identity.

"Forests, including those of the Congo Basin, are real lungs of the planet".

*Jean-Luc Crucke, Belgium Minister of Climate and Environmental Transition
Belém, 18 November 2025*

This unique ecosystem is under increasing pressure. Between 2016 and 2023, over 9.6 million hectares of forest were lost and a further 6.9 million hectares were degraded[2].

These trends reflect persistent structural drivers of deforestation, including agricultural expansion, unsustainable energy use, and land use practices that do not adequately balance development and conservation.

Addressing deforestation in the Congo Basin therefore requires more than protecting trees. It requires addressing the underlying drivers that shape how land is used, how energy is produced, and how economies develop. It means supporting countries to pursue development pathways that meet people's needs while preserving the forests on which they depend.

[1] Source: OFAC & COMIFAC, State of the Forests in the Congo Basin.

[2]FAO regional forest-cover analysis for the Congo Basin (2016–2023)

Established in 2015, the Central African Forest Initiative was created to support this transition. It brings together partner countries, donors and implementing organisations around a shared objective to reduce deforestation and forest degradation while promoting sustainable and inclusive development. CAFI supports country led strategies that combine policy reforms, investments and coordinated action across sectors, with a clear focus on tackling the structural drivers of forest loss.

Over the past ten years, CAFI has built long term partnerships with six countries of the Congo Basin, mobilising over USD 1 billion in support of these efforts. This experience has shown that lasting change depends on combining political commitment, sustained financing and practical solutions on the ground. It has also highlighted the importance of learning and adapting, refining approaches, strengthening coordination and focusing investments where they can have the greatest impact.

CAFI's successful track record demonstrates that when people's needs are addressed through improved livelihoods, more secure land use, and access to sustainable energy, pressure on forests can be reduced. Protecting forests is not an obstacle to development, but a condition for it. By supporting countries to address the drivers of deforestation while improving living conditions, CAFI contributes to a future where forests and people can thrive together.

"CAFI is a partnership that delivers, thanks to the blend of global commitment, measurable impact, and local empowerment"

*Niels Annen, State Secretary, Germany,
New York, 24 September 2025*

A partnership model for transformational change

6

partner
countries

10

contributors

2

impacts

A dual approach

UN multi-donor Trust Fund combined with a platform for high-level political dialogue

Investments in

Rural development

National
reforms

Governance

Monitoring &
research

Direct drivers

Agriculture, wood energy, forestry,
infrastructure/mining

Indirect drivers

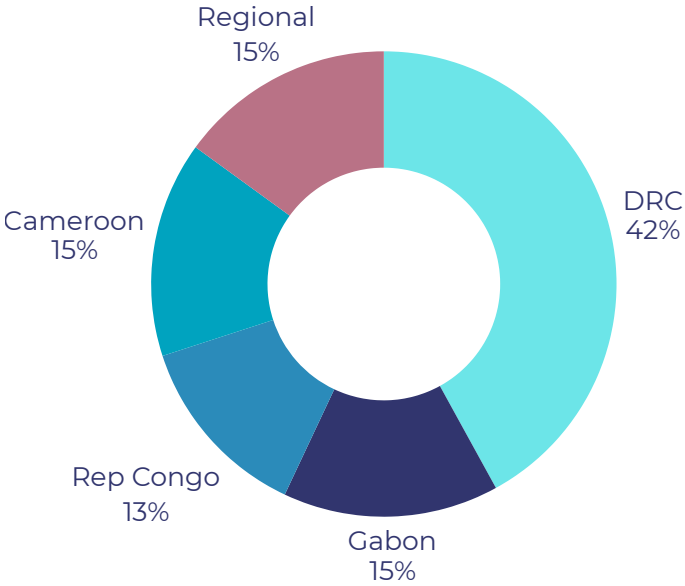
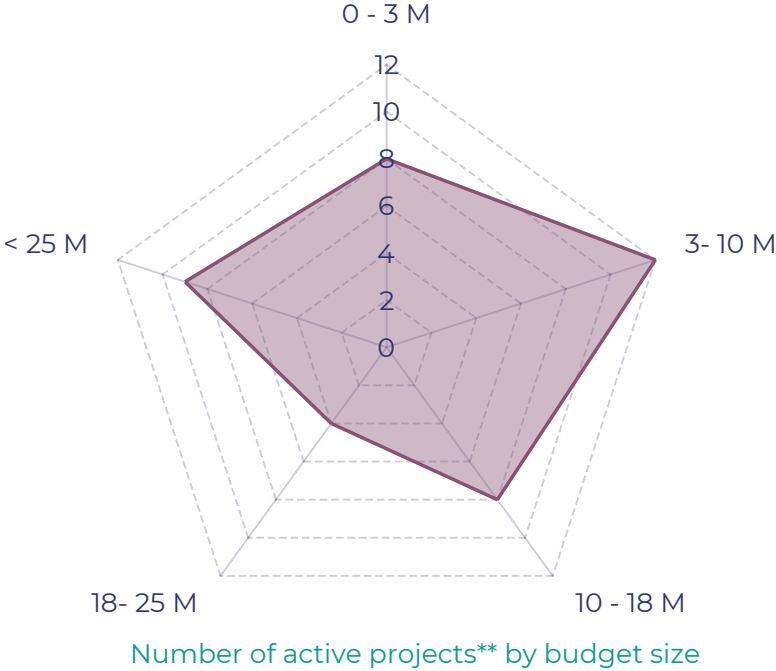
Land-use planning, secure land
tenure, governance, demography

Reducing poverty

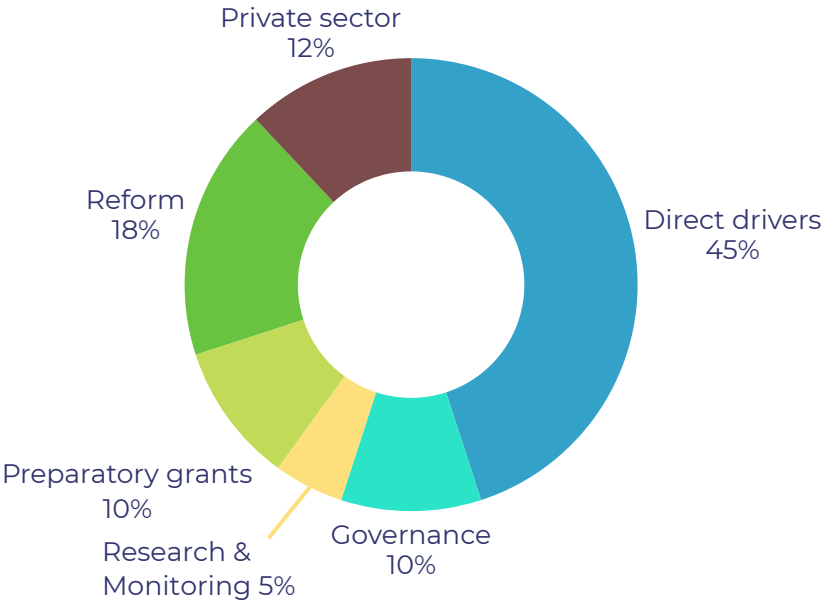
Reducing emissions
from deforestation and
degradation

A growing & diversified portfolio

By end 2025, CAFI has supported 80 projects and preparatory grants since its inception, of which 41 remain under implementation*, reflecting a diversified set of investments across the Congo Basin. The charts below show how this portfolio is structured, by size, by country and by type of intervention. They illustrate both the scale of CAFI's engagement and the breadth of approaches deployed to address the drivers of deforestation, from large integrated programmes to more targeted interventions across governance, research and preparatory activities.



Share of active projects by country**



Share of active projects by intervention type**

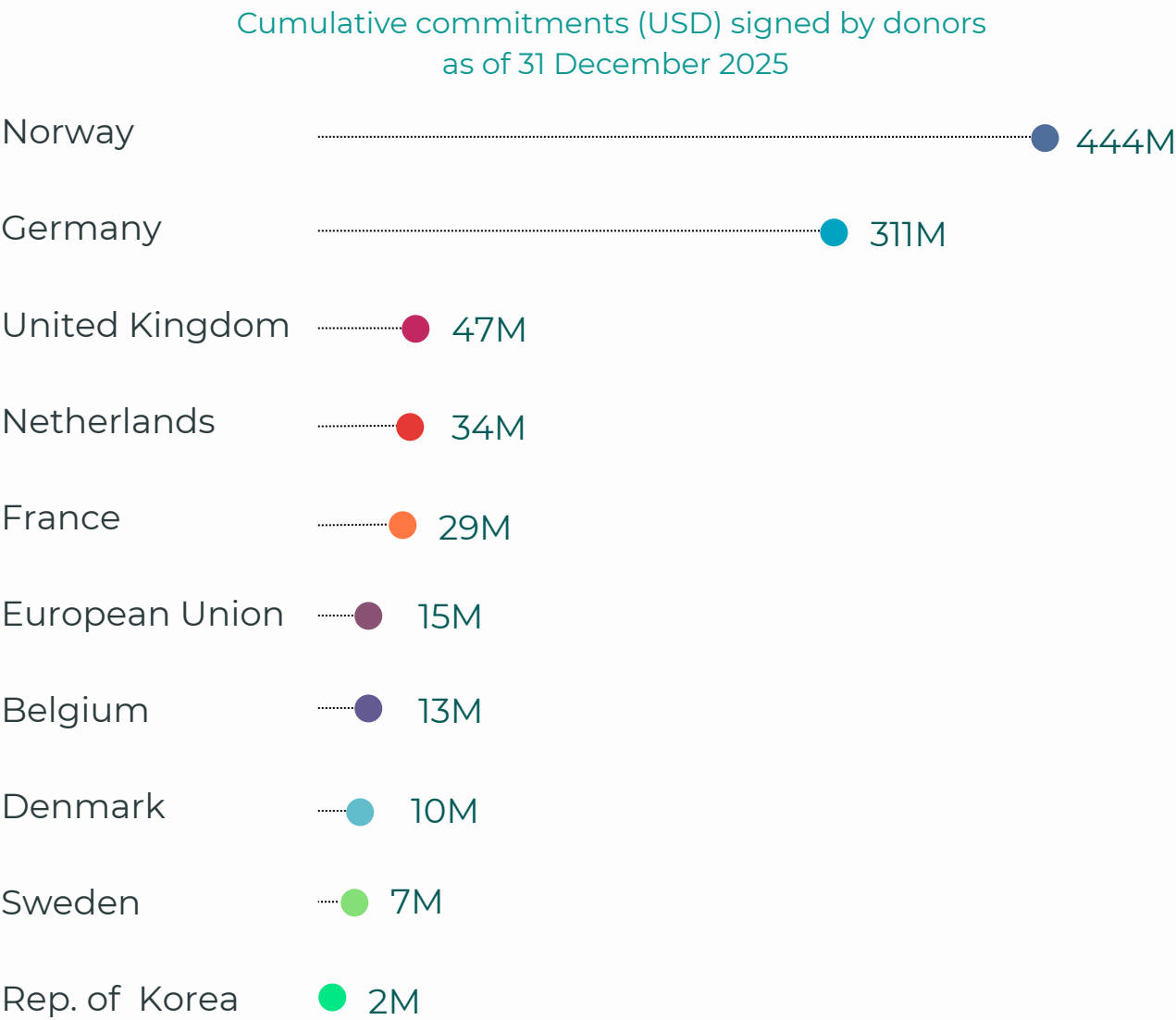
*Excluding the FONAREDD Secretariat project

**Excluding projects closed in 2025



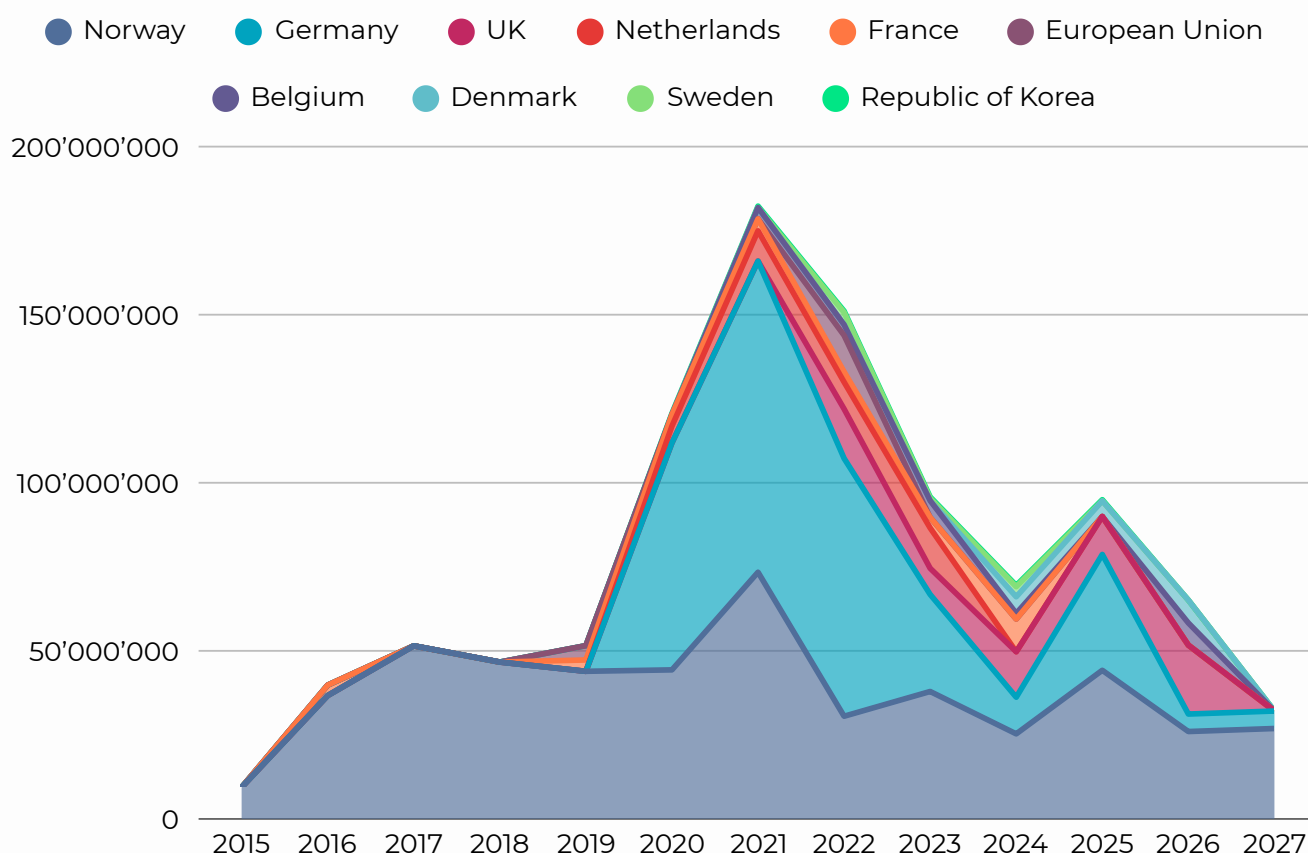
Financial outlook

Donor contributions



By end 2025, CAFI's top two contributors, Norway and Germany, represent 73% of all commitments.

Annual commitments (USD) signed by donors



Donor support to CAFI remained strong, reflecting sustained commitment to the Congo Basin.

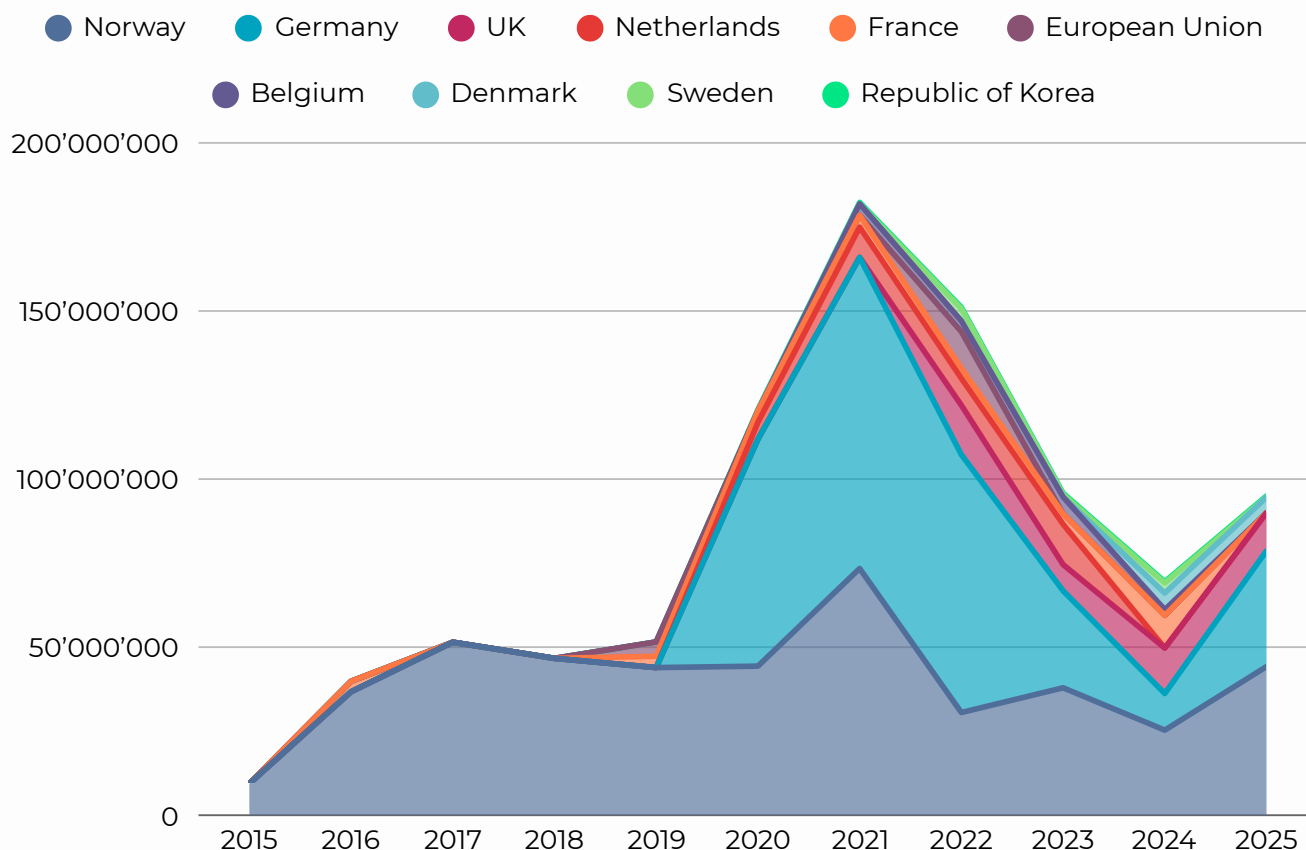
With new contribution agreements signed during the year, total commitments reached USD 1.04 billion.

In 2025

Donor commitments
USD 115,602,817

All financial figures are available in the [Financial Annex](#)

Annual deposits (USD) by donor



Annual contributions show expected variability linked to replenishment cycles. Deposits, totalling 913.3 million USD cumulatively, continue to closely follow commitments.

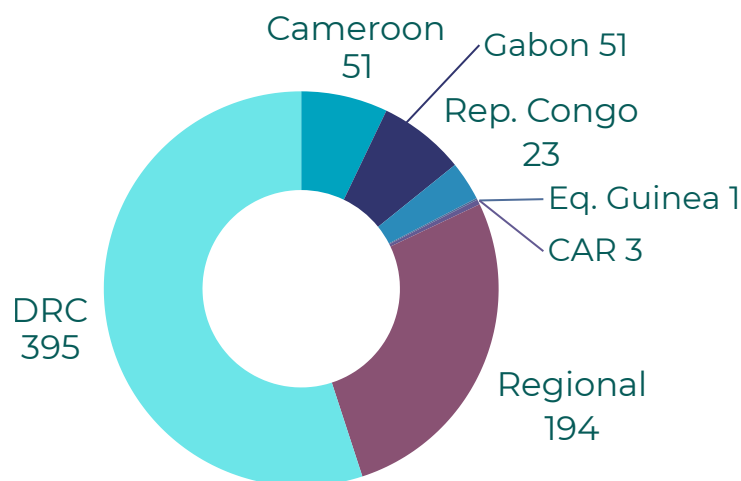
An overall deposit rate of 88% ensures continued availability of funds for implementation, maintaining the Fund's capacity to deliver at scale.

In 2025

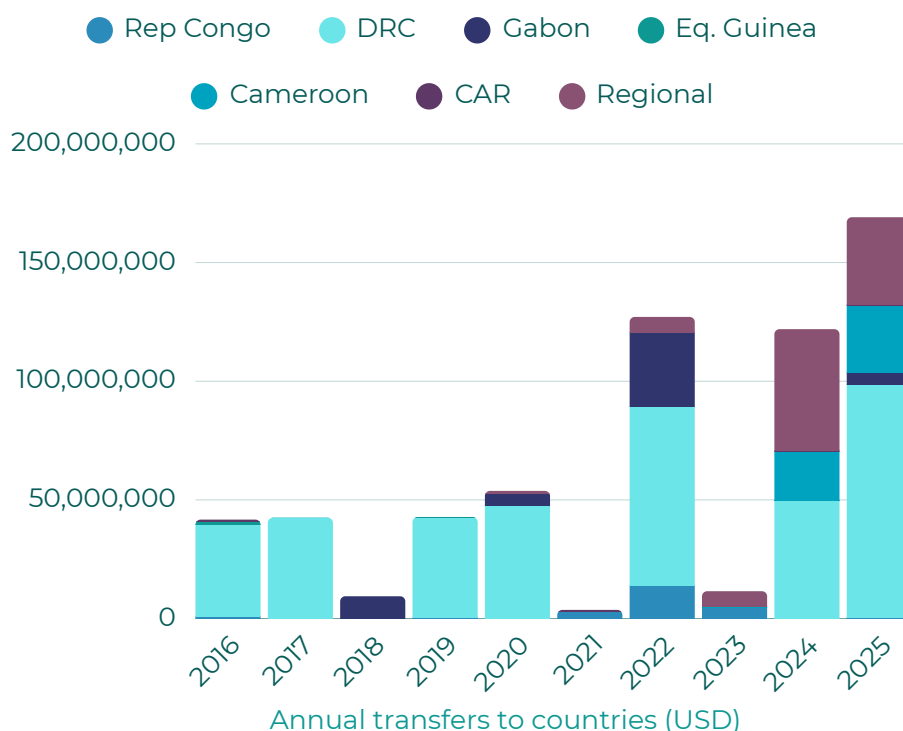
Donor deposits :
USD 95.0 million

All financial figures are available in the [Financial Annex](#)

Financing that reaches countries at scale



Cumulative transfers to countries (M USD) - 2016-2025



Annual transfers to countries (USD)

CAFI financing continues to translate into substantial transfers to partner countries and regional programmes.

In 2025 alone, USD 169.1 million were transferred across the portfolio, reflecting the continued scale-up of implementation and the progressive conversion of commitments into on-the-ground investments.

Annual transfer levels remain influenced by project cycles and approval timelines but overall confirm a sustained trajectory towards delivery at scale.

Transfers to countries and regional portfolio*

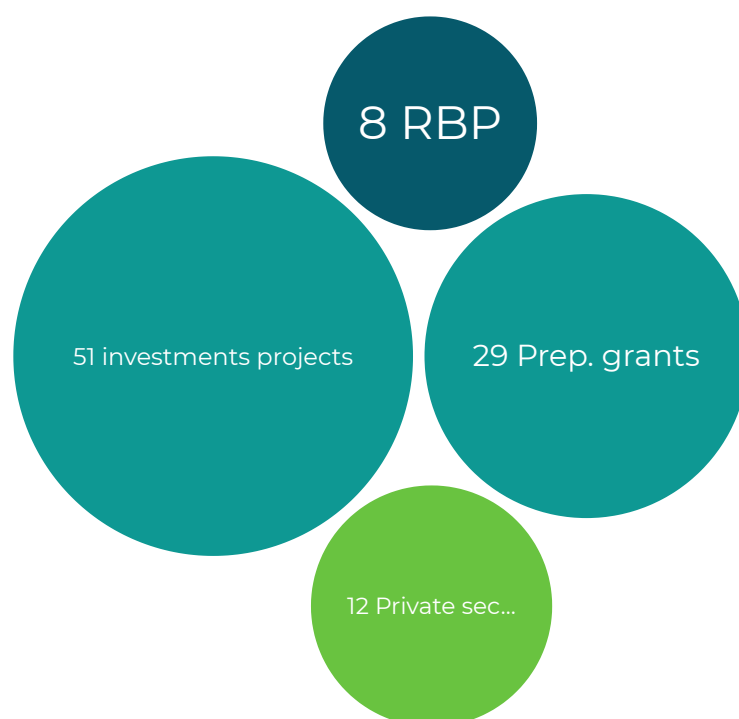
In 2025 : USD 169.1 M

Cumulatively (2015-2025):
USD 716.6 M

*minus refunds

Investments by thematic priorities

Following an [Executive Board decision](#) adopted in September 2025, CAFI's financial framework now allows donors to earmark contributions to specific thematic priorities, including Payment for Environmental Services, Results-based Payments (RBP) and Private Sector engagement.



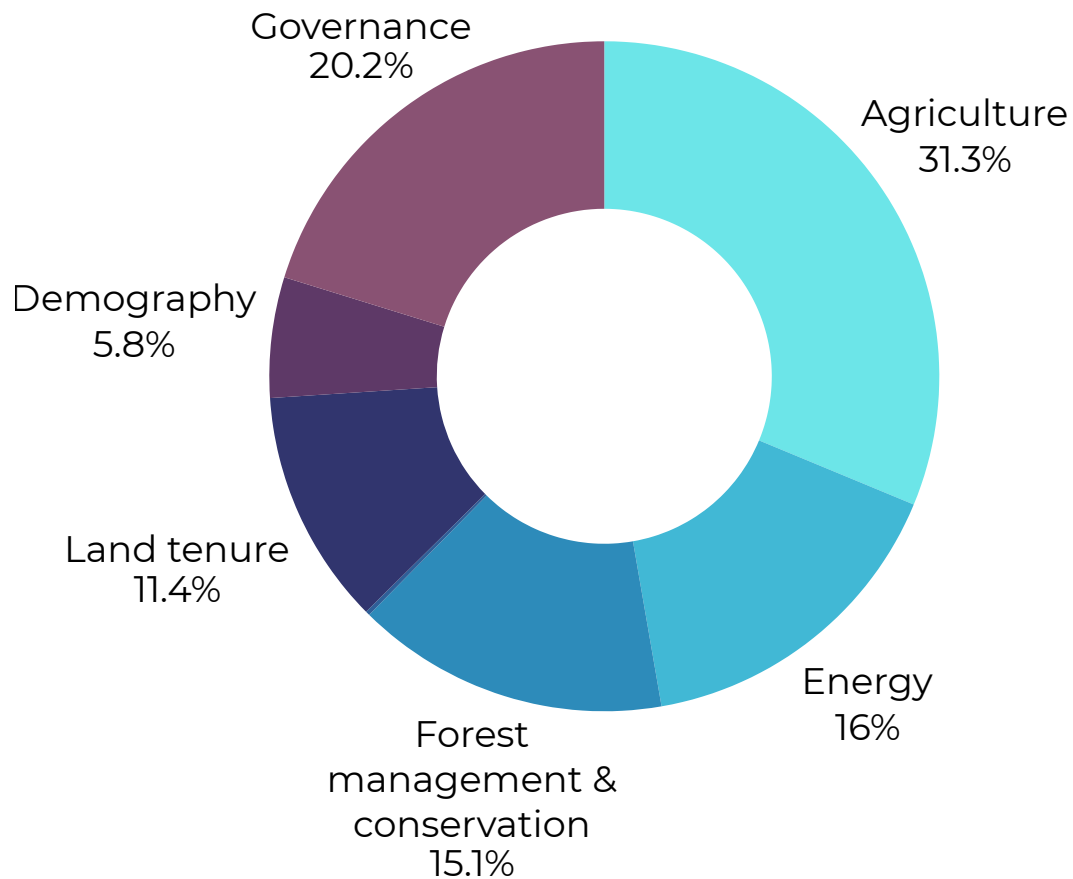
Number of active projects by thematic priorities in 2025

This represents an important evolution in the Fund's governance, enabling more targeted allocation of resources aligned with both donor priorities and country needs.

These thematic allocations can now be tracked and analysed, providing enhanced transparency on how funding is distributed. This information is publicly accessible through the [MPTF Gateway](#) (under "projects").

Tracking expenditure across CAFE outcomes

CAFI tracks how project expenditures are distributed across outcomes, based on data reported by implementing partners. This provides an indicative view of how resources are allocated across sectors such as governance, agriculture, energy and forest management.



Projects reported expenditures per outcome in 2025

While these figures should be interpreted in the context of ongoing implementation and reporting practices, they offer useful insights into how investments are being deployed on the ground and help inform portfolio analysis over time.

Diversifying the pool of implementing partners

CAFI works through a broad and growing network of implementing partners across the Congo Basin, spanning UN agencies, multilateral development banks, bilateral cooperation agencies, non-governmental organisations and investment funds.

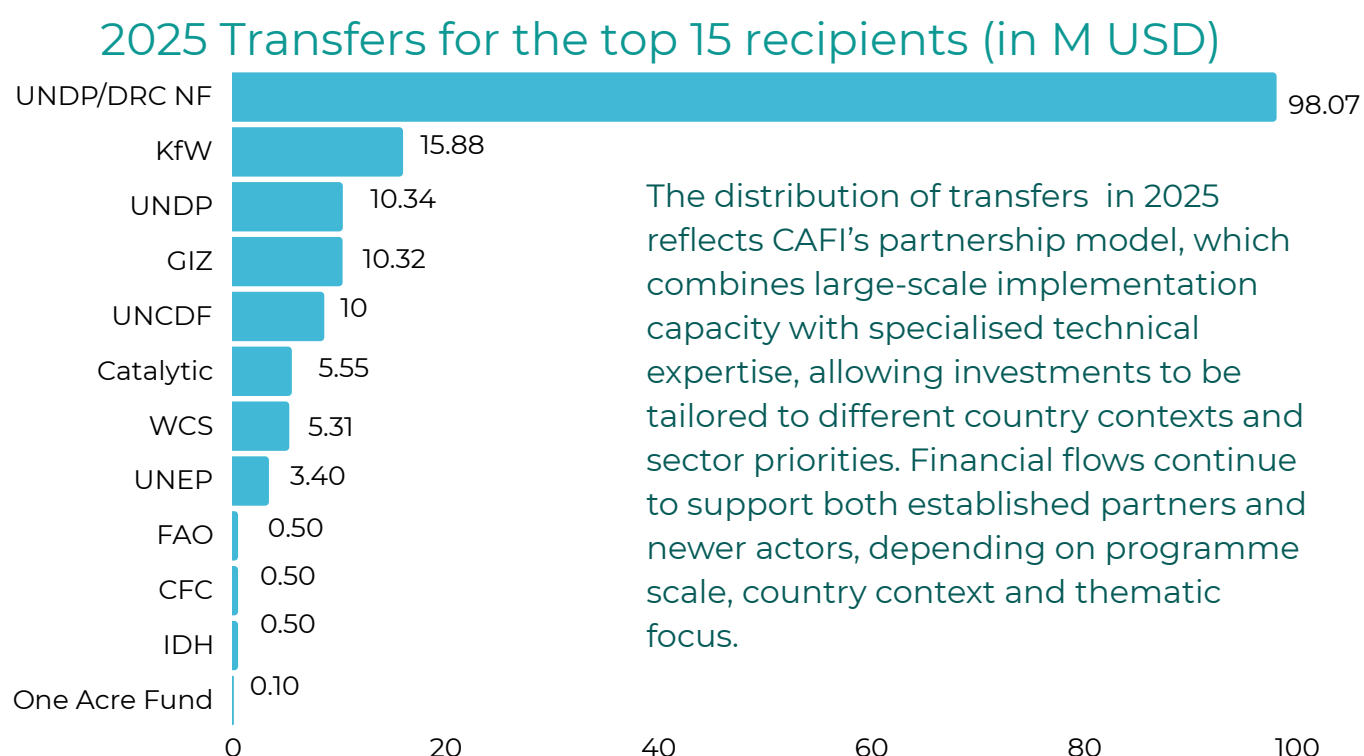
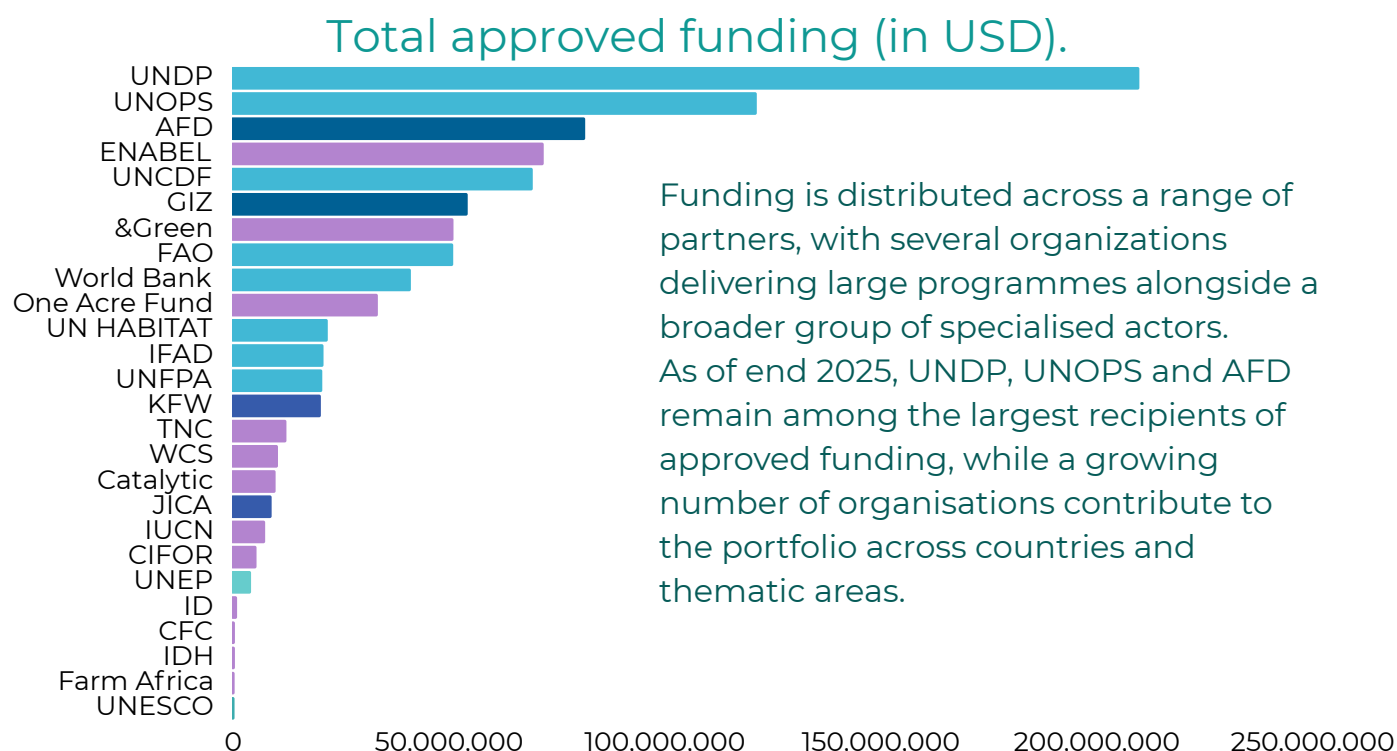


Approval by type of Implementing organization (M USD)

This network continued to expand in 2025, reflecting both the diversification of delivery channels and CAFI's effort to mobilise a wider range of expertise and financing instruments. In 2025, the Catalytic Finance Foundation, strengthening CAFI's engagement with the private sector, and KfW joined CAFI's pool of implementing partners with projects approved in the same year.



2025 approved funding below reflects a mix of implementation channels. While organisations and multilateral partners continue to play an important role in delivering large-scale programmes, the share of bilateral agencies and non-governmental organisations and funds have expanded over time, contributing to a more diversified implementation landscape.



A list of implementing organizations acronyms may be found in this [Annex](#)



Results at a glance

The figures in this section present cumulative portfolio results achieved by the end of 2025, unless otherwise specified.



CAFI RESULTS AT A GLANCE

10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP
Supporting Central African countries
to reduce deforestation, protect
biodiversity and improve livelihoods
while building climate resilience.

— CUMULATIVE PORTFOLIO RESULTS (END 2025) —

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

12.45 million ha
covered by local land-use plans
(8 million ha in DRC,
4.55 million ha in Gabon)

606,576 ha
of community forests
legally secured (DRC)

1,031
local land-use plans
developed (DRC)

~2,000
village territories
mapped (Gabon)

Land-Use Planning Law and Land Tenure Law
promulgated in the Democratic Republic
of the Congo (2025)

DELIVERING BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

902,462
direct beneficiaries reached
across the CAFI portfolio

700,000+
people reached through
family planning services

350,000
producers engaged in
deforestation-free value
chains in Cameroon

First mobile payments delivered
to beneficiaries in DRC and RoC
(late 2025)

PROTECTING FORESTS, BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE

164
million t CO₂
expected emission
reductions over the
lifetime of supported
investments

9.48
million t CO₂
emissions reductions
achieved to date

Including 5 million t CO₂ verified emission
reductions in Gabon which triggered
Africa's first CAFI results-based
payment in 2024.

1,488
native tree species
identified in Gabon

217
surveillance missions conducted across
13 protected areas in Gabon covering
>17,000 km²

200 individuals apprehended | 137 infractions recorded

SCALING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

> \$1 BILLION
IN CAPITALISATION

\$150 million
pipeline dedicated to
Payments for Environmental Services

\$51 million
invested by CAFI in
the &Green Fund

First &Green investment
approved in Gabon
(December 2025)

USD 972 million
in co-financing mobilised
through CAFI-supported investments
in Cameroon

CAFI DELIVERS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5 GENDER EQUALITY

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

CAFI is a partnership of Central African countries – Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Republic of the Congo – together with donors and implementing partners.

www.cafi.org

Strengthening governance for sustainable land use

LAND USE PLANNING AND TENURE

DRC Gabon

12.45M hectares

covered by land use plans, including 8 millions in RDC and 4,55 millions in Gabon

DRC

5

provincial land-use plans completed

DRC

New legal foundation

Land-Use Planning Law promulgated (July 2025)

Land Tenure Law promulgated (December 2025)

DRC

1,031

local land-use plans developed

Gabon

~ 2,000

village territories mapped

Gabon

National Land-Use Plan (PNAT) operationalised, providing a unified national platform to guide land allocations and use decisions

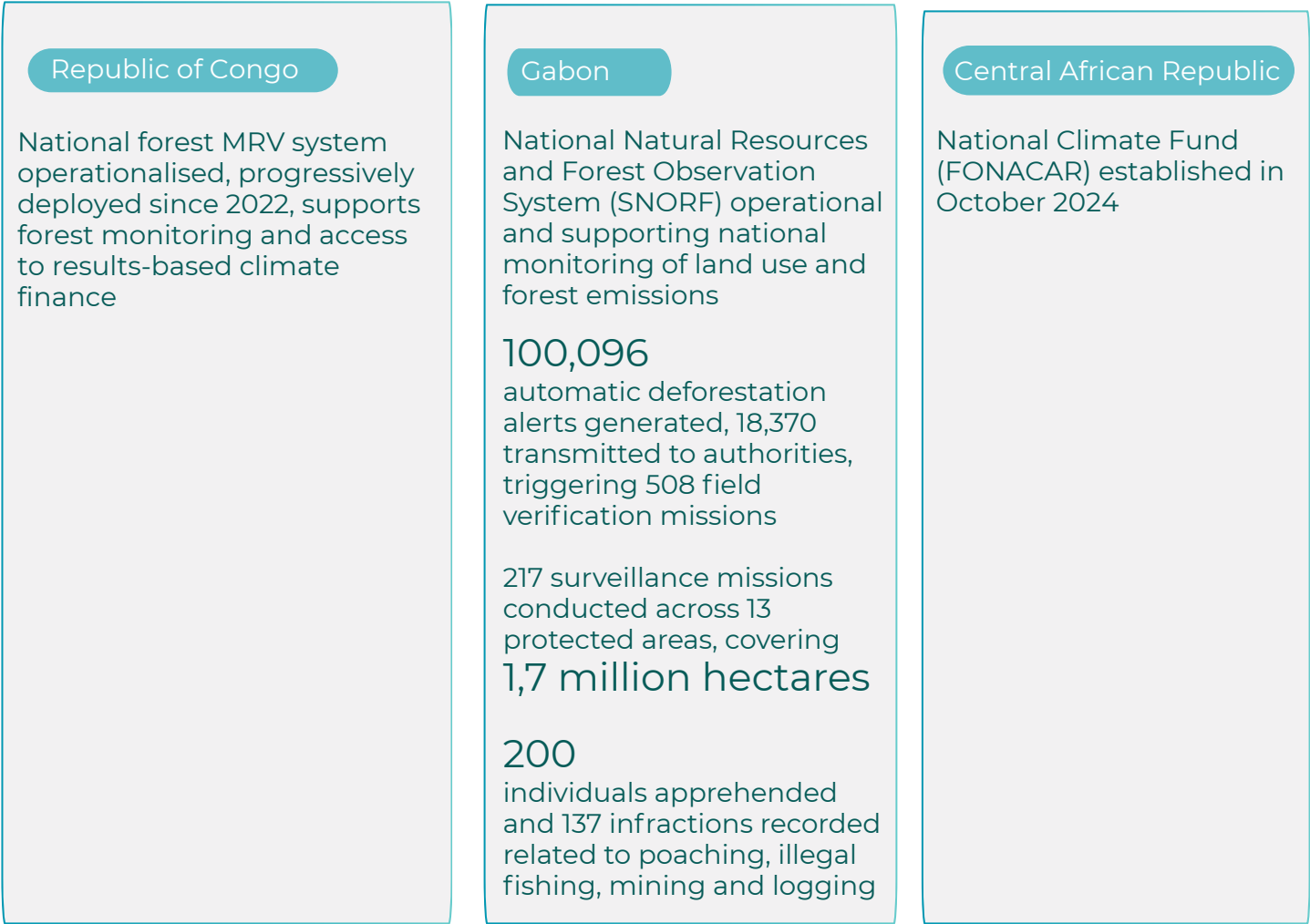
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS

DRC

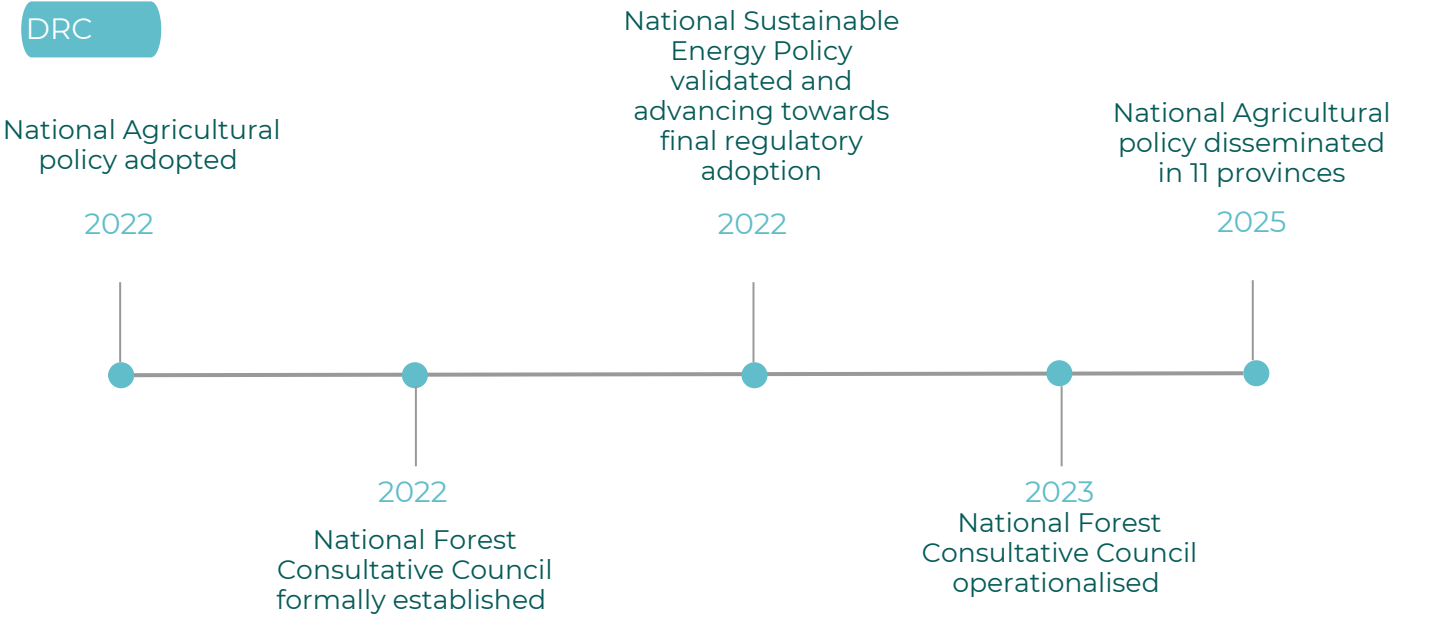
606,576 hectares

of community forests legally secured

FOREST MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE



POLICIES THAT ADDRESS DIRECT DRIVERS



Delivering benefits for people and communities

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

902,462

direct beneficiaries reached across the CAFI portfolio

DRC

700,000+

people reached through rights-based family planning services

Cameroon

350,000

producers registered in the CAFI-supported FODECC Producer Window for support towards deforestation-free value chain

PERFORMANCE-BASED INCENTIVES

DRC

Republic of Congo

First Payments for Environmental Services (PES) contracts signed in 2025

First mobile payments delivered to beneficiaries in 2025 (see [Spotlight](#))

Delivering benefits for people and communities

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



HUMAN- WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE



CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION



Protecting forests, biodiversity and climate

CLIMATE IMPACT

Gabon

Across CAFI's portfolio

5 million tonnes

of verified emission reductions triggering Africa's first results-based payment by CAFI in 2024

164 million tonnes

of CO₂ emission reductions expected over the lifetime of CAFI-supported investments

4.48 million tonnes

of CO₂ emission reductions achieved to date

SCALING UP LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

100 million USD

pledged for Payments for Environmental Services in 2025

First regional PES scale-up programme launched

51 million USD

invested by CAFI in the &Green Fund

First &Green investment approved in Gabon in December 2025

Up to USD 180 million in additional private capital targeted

FOREST PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Gabon

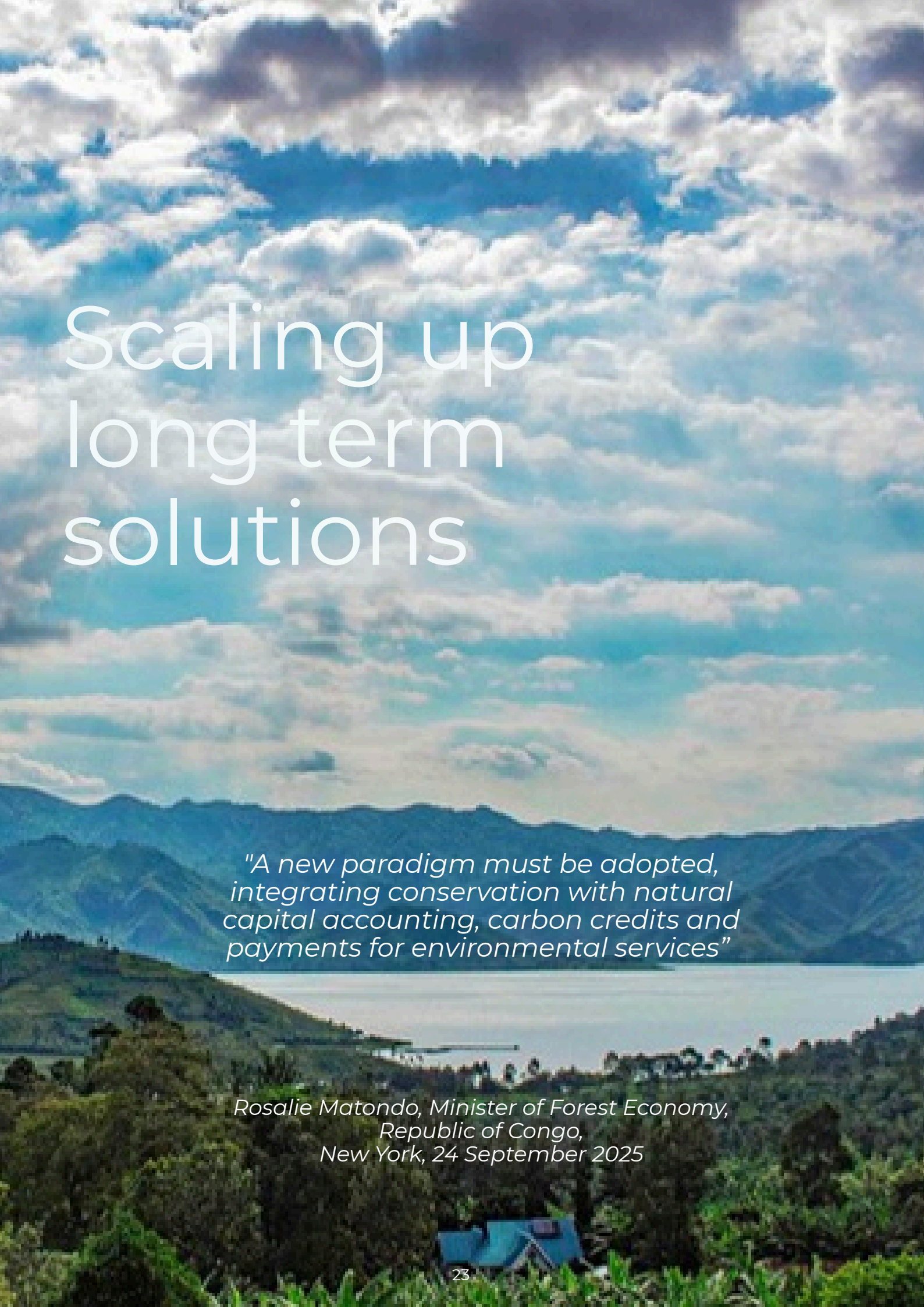
1,488

native tree species identified

DRC

54,963 hectares

of deforestation avoided each year by CAFI investments at maturity



Scaling up long term solutions

*"A new paradigm must be adopted,
integrating conservation with natural
capital accounting, carbon credits and
payments for environmental services"*

*Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy,
Republic of Congo,
New York, 24 September 2025*

1. Enhancing transparency & impact monitoring to drive performance-based management

CAFI is strengthening how performance is monitored and managed across its portfolio, with a particular focus on land-use and private sector investments, moving from primarily reporting-based oversight to a more structured, evidence-driven approach.

This shift is anchored in three key Executive Board decisions adopted in 2025:

- [EB.2024.33 – Independent verification of results](#)
- [EB.2024.42 – Performance-based assessment for private sector projects](#)
- [EB.2025.26 – Performance-based programming policy for AFOLU investments](#)

Together, they establish a clear principle: linking funding more directly to verified delivery.

Strengthening monitoring and data quality

For new Agriculture, Forestry and Land-Use (AFOLU) projects approved by CAFI's Executive Board, performance is now framed upfront in project design, with standardised indicators and clearer evidence requirements and a stronger focus on performance-based delivery.

Operationally :

40%

Initial disbursements are typically capped at around 40%

60%

60% of funding is conditional on verified results

This provides a more consistent basis to track delivery across projects and countries, while improving comparability and data quality.

[Click and watch](#)

Scaling up independent verification

Independent verification is now applied across projects with land-use components under the Executive Board decision EB.2024.33. Conducted by ISO-certified third parties, currently [SCS Global Services](#), it combines field visits, document review and spatial analysis. Verification results directly inform disbursement decisions, corrective actions or project restructuring.

The first full independent verification was carried out in 2025, marking an important step in operationalising this approach across the portfolio. Key findings and lessons are highlighted in [a dedicated Spotlight in this section](#).



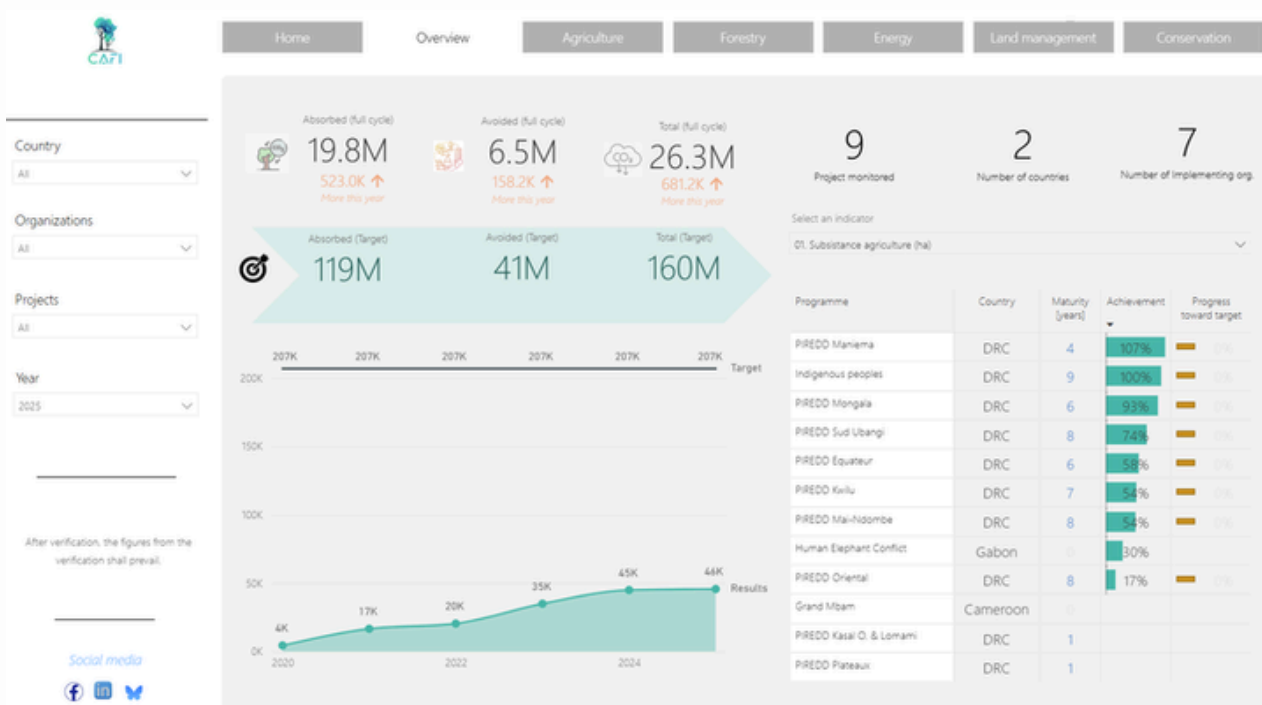
Woman in her manioc field, DRC, Kwango province

Performance tracking and accountability

Performance is tracked through a combination of portfolio tools and governance processes.

CAFI METRICS HUB : CONSOLIDATING PERFORMANCE DATA ACROSS COUNTRIES AND SECTORS

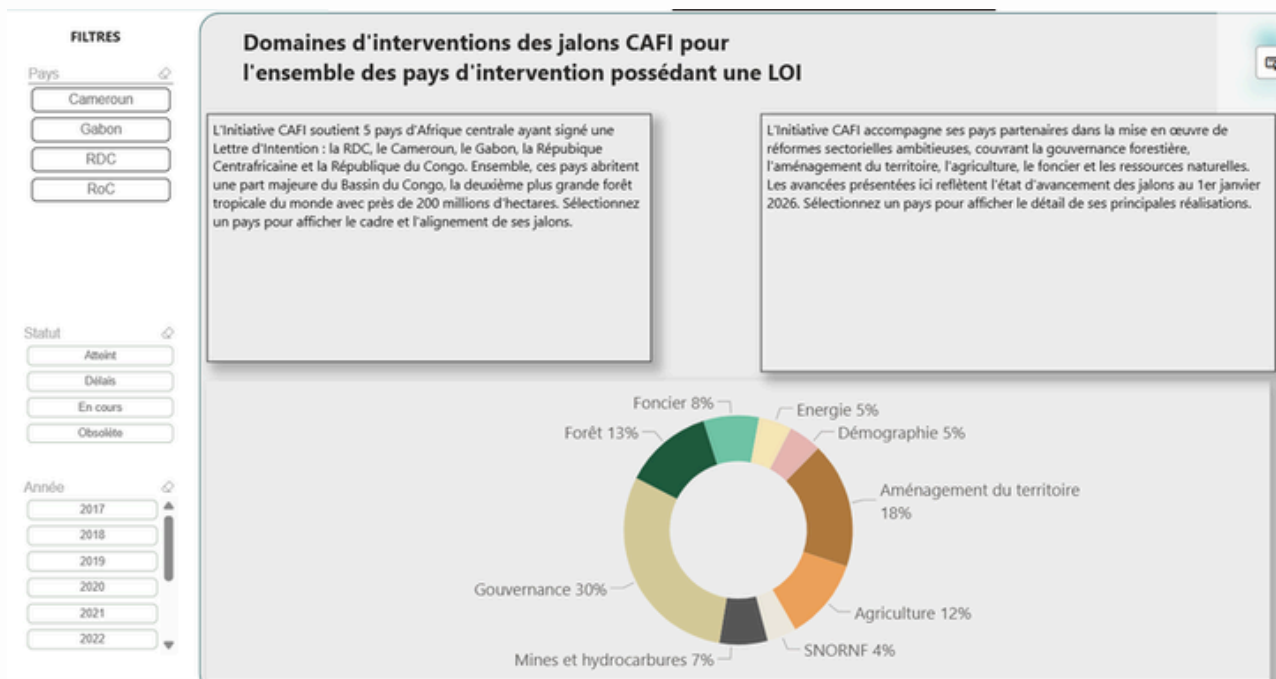
The CAFI Metrics Hub was expanded in 2025 to integrate additional projects, such as the Grand Mbam landscape project in Cameroon and the Human–Elephant Coexistence project in Gabon. As a result, the platform now covers 100% of CAFI's active AFOLU portfolio within a single reporting environment. It provides portfolio-level dashboards, automated aggregation of results, improved data validation and quality controls, and enhanced capacity for trend analysis and early risk identification. Operational and publicly accessible through the CAFI website, it is increasingly used to support portfolio-level reporting and performance analysis.



Screenshot of the CAFI Metrics Hub

MILESTONE TRACKER : A STRUCTURED VIEW OF MILESTONES ACHIEVEMENTS

A milestone tracking framework introduced in 2025 supports monitoring of reform progress under Letters of Intent. It provides a structured view of milestone achievement at country level and feeds directly into annual reviews and Executive Board discussions.



Screenshot of the Milestone Tracker

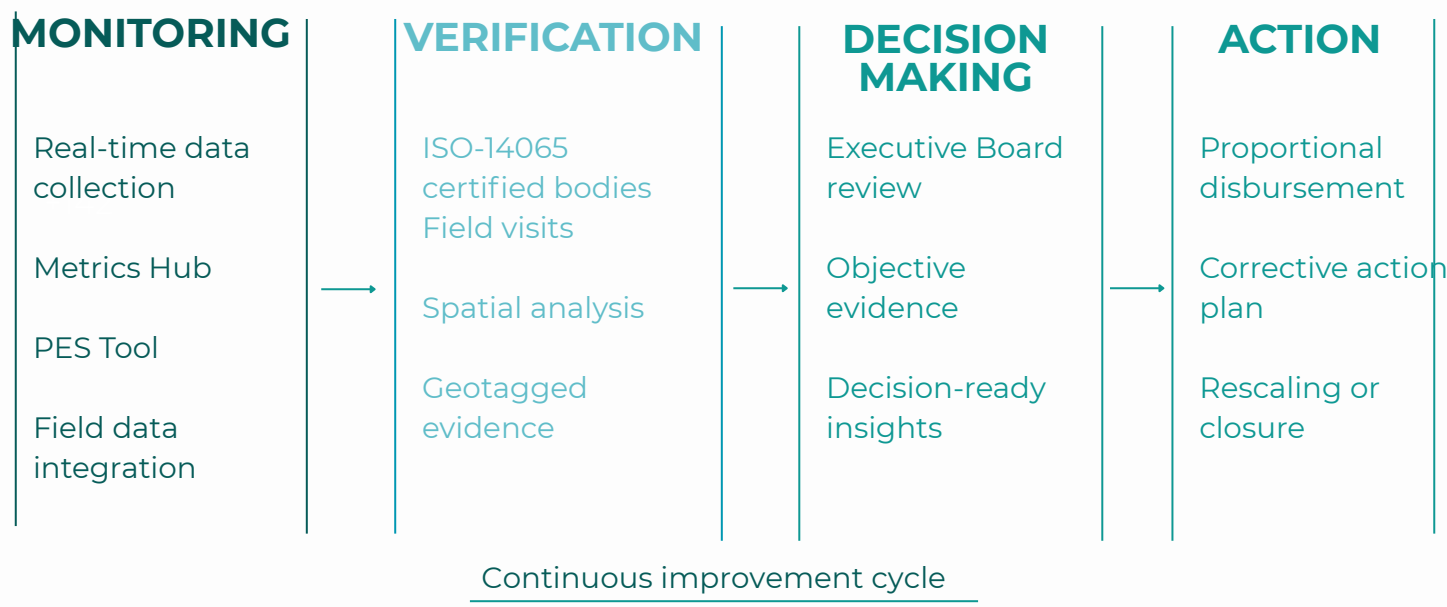
The Metrics Hub and the Milestone tracker complement reporting quality control and accountability processes. They support graduated responses to underperformance, including dialogue and decision-making on proportional disbursement and, where needed, rescaling or closure.

From monitoring to decision- making

CAFI's performance management cycle operates across four linked steps: monitoring, verification, analysis and decision-making.

This ensures that performance information is systematically translated into funding and management decisions.

This system provides the foundation for scaling performance-based programming across the portfolio. Payments for Environmental Services (PES) build directly on these principles, linking verified field-level results to payments through integrated digital systems.



Spotlight: Verification piloted to strengthen evidence-based programming

Strengthening evidence-based decision-making is a key component of CAFI's evolution in 2025. This year marked the transition from methodological development to the first concrete applications of independent verification in the portfolio.

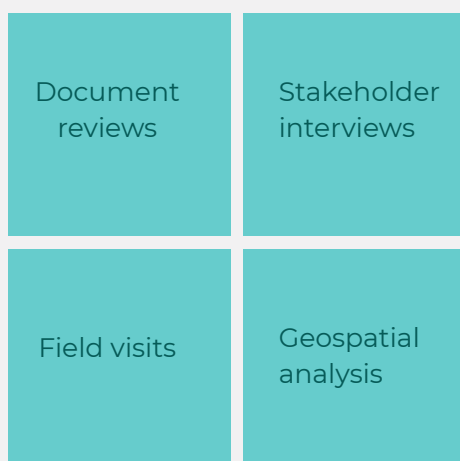
The independent verification methodology was applied to the PROREP Wood Energy plantations project in the Republic of Congo, covering implementation from 2022 to 2024. The verification assessed reported results against agreed indicators and reviewed the underlying monitoring system. It highlighted areas where results could be further substantiated and identified concrete improvements needed in:

- data collection practices
- documentation and traceability
- internal monitoring processes

This exercise provided a first practical test of the methodology and helped clarify how verification can be applied consistently across projects.

A STANDARDISED METHODOLOGY

CAFI, together with independent ISO-accredited verifiers, established a standardised methodology to assess both project results and the robustness of monitoring systems :



This provided a consistent framework and strengthen expectations on data quality, traceability and evidence.

FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

Verification findings were directly used to inform project follow-up, which led to

- ✓ Targeted corrective actions to strengthen monitoring and reporting
- ✓ Clarification of indicators and evidence requirements reinforced
- ✓ Dialogue between implementing partners, national authorities and the Executive Board
- ✓ Adjustments in implementation approaches where relevant
- ✓ Disbursement decisions informed by verified performance

As such, verification is not only a **control mechanism**, but also a **tool to support implementation and improve delivery**.

2. Payments for environmental services: scaling a performance-based model for the Congo Basin

Political mobilisation and positioning

Payments for Environmental Services (PES) are a central pillar of CAFI's performance-based approach. **PES are a financial mechanism that provides direct payments to land users in return for verified implementation of agreed sustainable land-use practices, creating incentives to protect and restore forests while supporting local livelihoods.**

In 2025, CAFI's objective was to standardise, simplify and scale proven PES approaches across the Congo Basin through common methodologies, digital tools and financing mechanisms. This work moved from framework development towards operational deployment and scale-up.

We welcome the leadership role of CAFI in deploying payments for environmental services in Central Africa”

*Andreas Bjelland Eriksen, Minister of Climate and Environment, Norway,
New York, 24 September 2025*

Momentum started with the regional PES conference held in Kinshasa from 27 to 29 January 2025, where CAFI partner countries agreed on a joint position note and a shared roadmap for large-scale deployment. Ministers and technical experts identified priority activities, financing needs and implementation pathways, positioning PES as one of the central instruments for deforestation-free development in the region.

This momentum carried through to COP30 in Belém in November 2025. CAFI convened a dedicated high-level session, complemented by targeted side events structured around the PES cycle. These engagements helped position PES not as a concept, but as an operational model grounded in concrete delivery systems.



Flyer of PES side event by the Republic of Congo & Gabon, at COP30 in Belém

This political mobilisation culminated in a USD 100 million pledge dedicated to CAFI's PES programme. In a context of tightening Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets, this represents a significant signal of confidence in CAFI's approach and reinforces its positioning as a leading actor in performance-based climate finance in the Congo Basin.

"This additional funding is a signal that we believe in the approach, and we hope that it will strengthen the partnership between CAFI and the countries of the sub-region"

*Dyveke Rogan, Director, Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative.
Belém, November 2025*

A key element underpinning this positioning is Ground Impact, CAFI's PES planning tool, which supports countries in identifying where PES investments can deliver the highest impact across all six CAFI countries in the Congo Basin.

CAFI supported countries through targeted technical assistance delivered through the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility (see Spotlight). In 2025, this included support for polity dialogue, stakeholder engagement and preparatory work underpinning the development of the PES workstream.

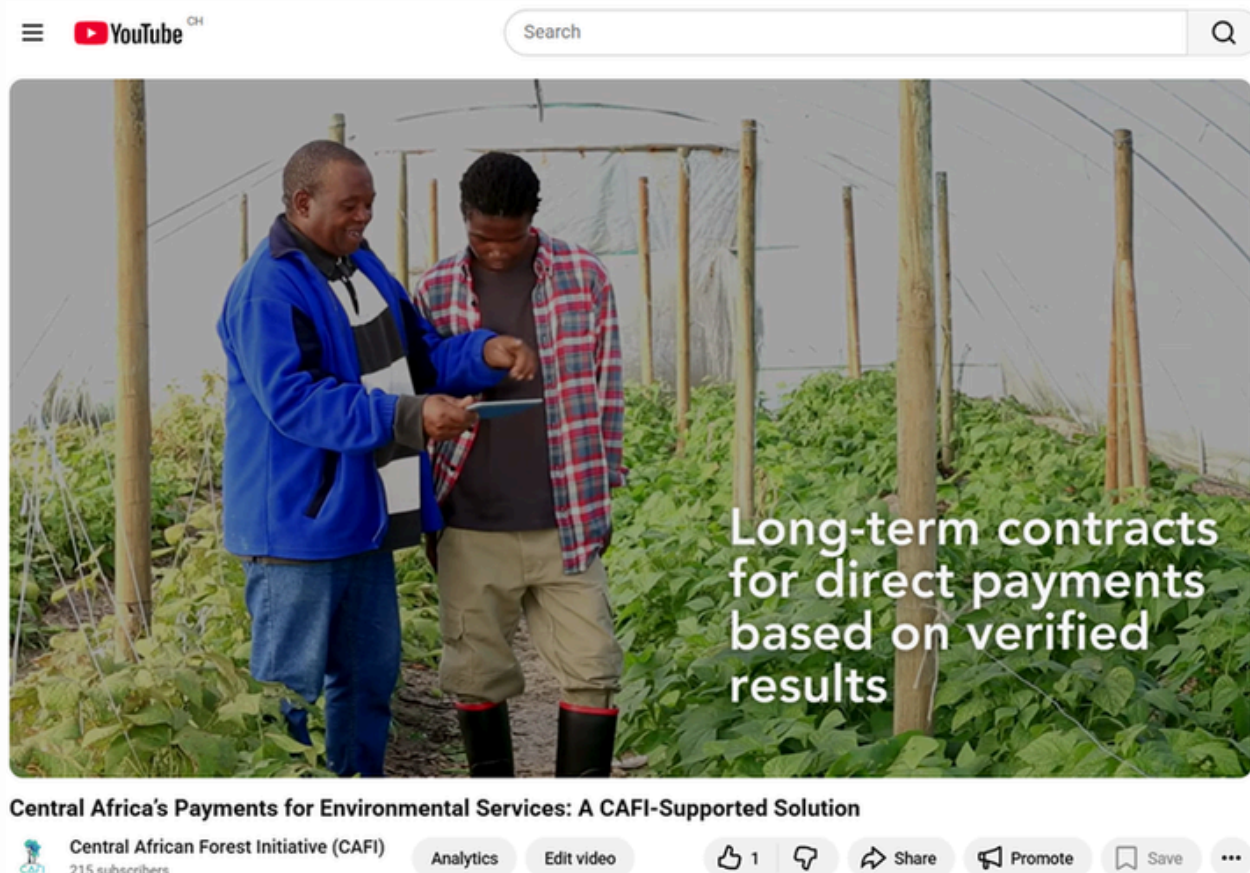
Towards operational programming

2025 was a year of operationalisation and learning. Building on the regional PES framework developed in 2024, CAFI continued to strengthen methodologies, tools and implementation arrangements required for large-scale deployment. Methodologies for agroforestry, reforestation, perennial crops and natural forest regeneration were refined, while common templates for project design, contracting and monitoring were developed and tested.

In parallel, implementation experience began to accumulate. PES activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo tested the full delivery chain and institutional arrangements under real conditions, from enrolment and contracting to monitoring and mobile payments. These experiences provided valuable lessons on data quality, beneficiary engagement and operational requirements for scaling.

CAFI also developed communication and mobilisation materials to make the PES model easier to understand and present to governments, partners, donors and communities. This included a dedicated PES video structured around the full delivery cycle, from

regional and national frameworks to enrolment, contracting, monitoring, payments and scaling.



CAFI Payments for Environmental Services (PES) video.
[Click the image to watch the video on YouTube](#)

At the same time, CAFI advanced its programming pipeline through its Kinshasa Supply Basin PES Programme, or PROBAK. Following the launch of a USD 25 million Call for Expressions of Interest in May 2025, a USD 15 million PES project with the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) was approved in November 2025. A second project developed with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) was finalised shortly thereafter and approved in early 2026. These two projects form the foundation of the PROBAK programme and set the stage for scale-up from 2026.

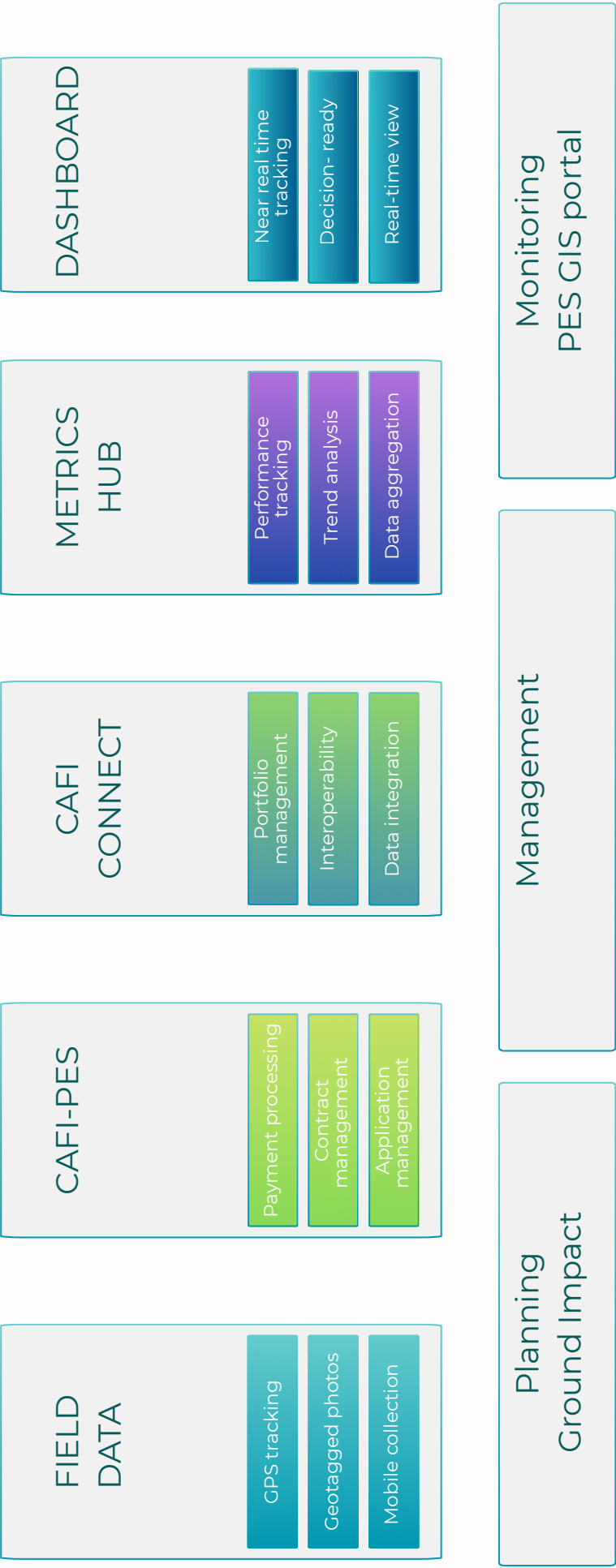
In parallel, CAFI prepared the first regional scale-up call for PES projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, for up to USD 100 million in CAFI financing. These countries were included following the development of national PES roadmaps during the 2025 Interministerial Conference on PES in Central Africa and the **shared commitment of CAFI and these three governments to develop ambitious PES portfolios using the regional PES framework, methodologies and tools**. The scope of the call also reflected the existing distribution of PES programming across the CAFI portfolio, complementing substantial ongoing PES-related programming and financing already underway in other CAFI partner countries.

STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS FOR NEXT STEPS



Building the infrastructure for large-scale PES

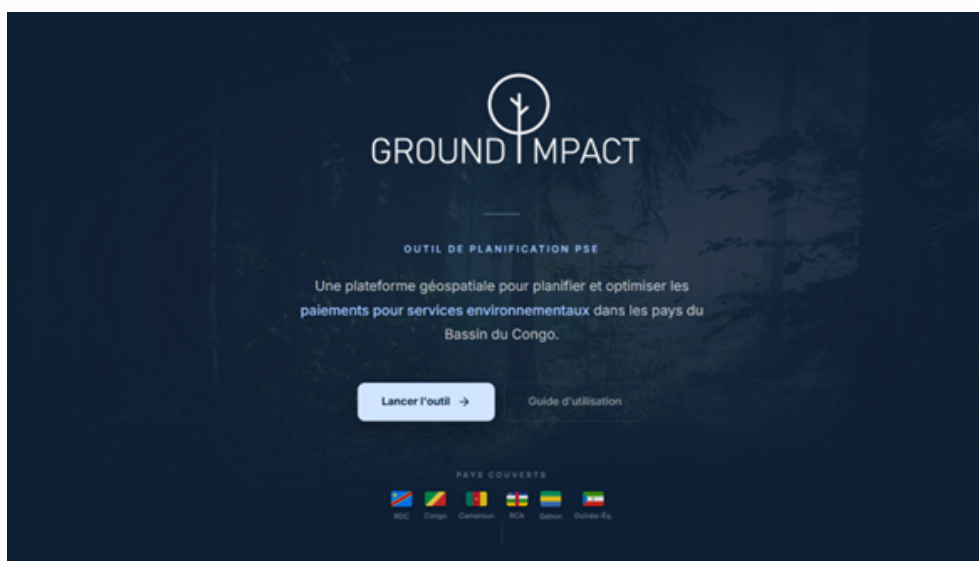
Scaling Payments for Environmental Services across multiple countries requires common systems for planning, implementation and monitoring. CAFI therefore developed an integrated digital ecosystem that supports the full PES cycle, from identifying priority investment areas to processing payments and tracking environmental results.



CAFI PES ecosystem

PLANNING STAGE : GROUND IMPACT

Ground Impact provides a science-based platform combining satellite land cover, forest-loss data, biomass, biodiversity indicators and deforestation risk analysis across all six CAFE countries in the Congo Basin. It allows countries and donors to identify optimal investment strategies based on expected environmental and socio-economic returns.



Screenshot of CAFE's Ground Impact planning tool

The tool supports:

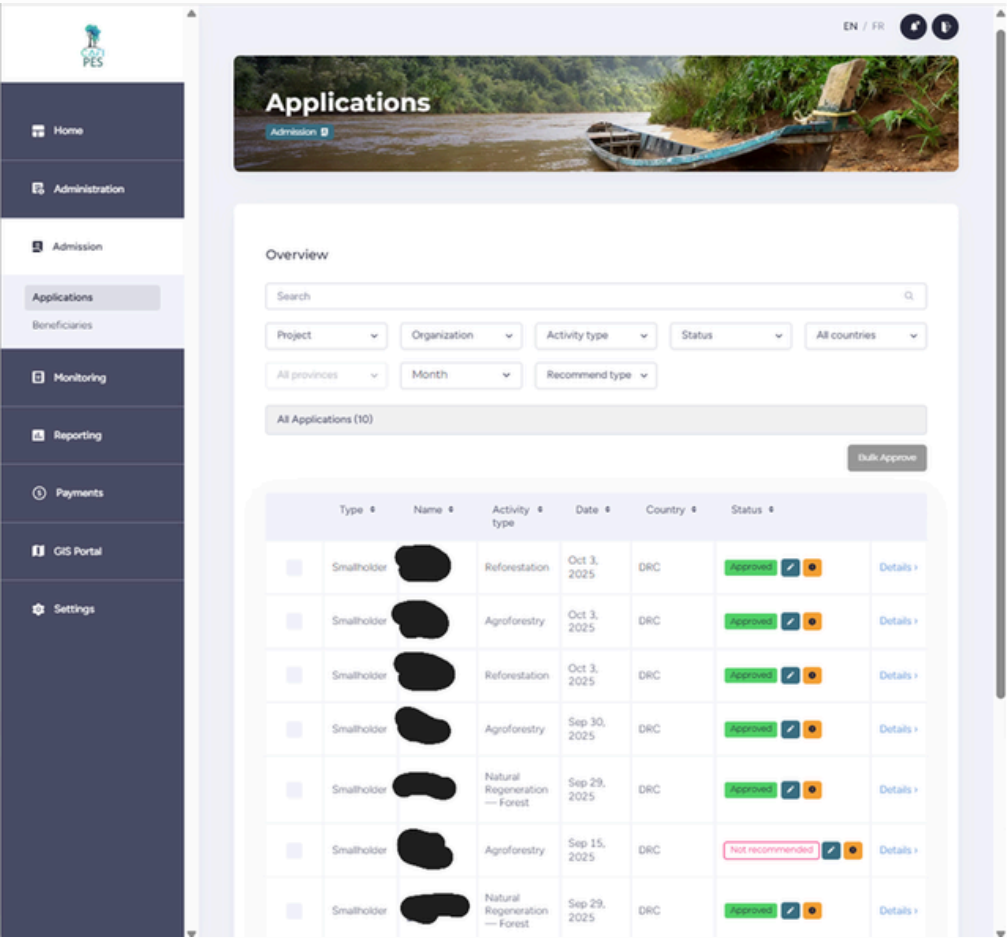
- estimation of eligible areas
- beneficiaries and long-term costs
- comparison of investment scenarios based on impact and cost-efficiency.

Ground Impact has informed the development of national PES roadmaps and helped identify priority investment areas for future scale-up. By combining environmental and socio-economic data, it supports more transparent and evidence-based allocation of resources.

IMPLEMENTATION STAGE : THE PES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The PES Management System enables end-to-end management of PES projects, from enrolment to payments. It integrates mobile data collection, contract management, geotagged evidence and automated processing into a single system, supported by a real-time dashboard tracking applications, contracts and payments.

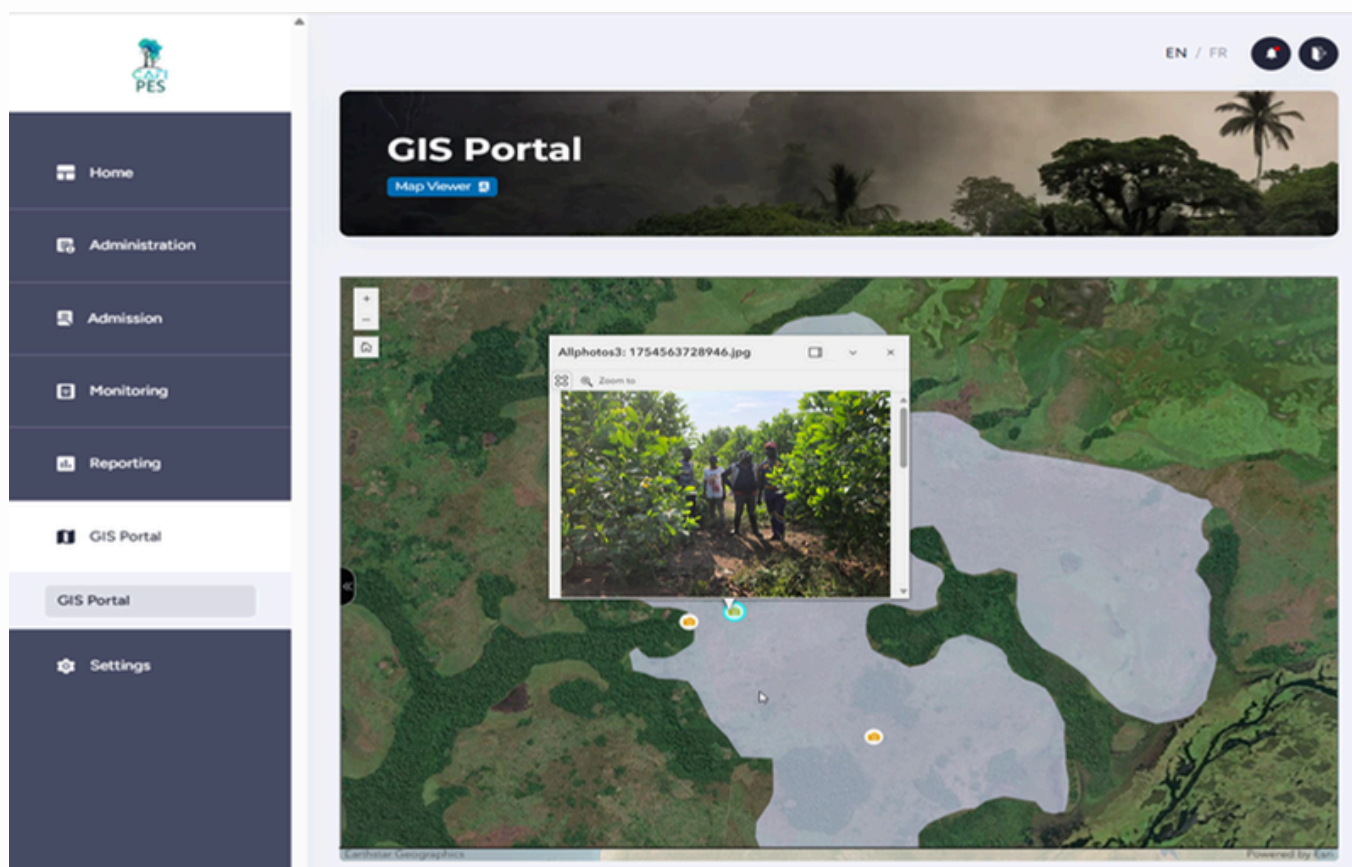
In 2025, the system was tested through pilot implementation in the DRC and Republic of Congo, where it supported the processing of applications, contract management and the first PES payments, detailed in this [Spotlight](#).



PES Management System interface for managing applications

MONITORING LEVEL

At the monitoring level, the PES Geographic Information System (GIS) portal connects each contract to satellite-based observations, enabling continuous tracking of land-use changes and environmental performance. The system combines geospatial analysis with field data, including geotagged photos, to provide a consistent and transparent view of results.



Screenshot of the CAFI PES GIS Portal

Spotlight: From design to delivery: CAFI's first PES payments on the ground

2025 provided the first large-scale test of CAFI's approach to standardising and scaling Payments for Environmental Services (PES) across the Congo Basin. Building on several years of methodological development and field experience, the first payments were delivered through harmonised systems and procedures designed for future expansion.

Pilot implementation in the DRC and the Republic of Congo tested the full PES delivery chain, under real conditions.

Applications screened

Eligibility requirements verified

Land use commitments clarified

Operational procedures tested

60 applications approved, covering 2,631 hectares

Agroforestry

Reforestation

Natural forest regeneration

31 contracts signed

Covering 952 hectares

Payments for verified agroforestry and forest regeneration

Republic of Congo
Payments to 10 beneficiaries
~ USD 2,200

DRC
Payment to the Lewo community in Mai Ndombe for verified forest regeneration
USD 1712.24



From pilot to proof: the PES cycle in action

For participating beneficiaries, these payments represented a tangible recognition of efforts to restore and sustainably manage land. For implementing partners, they demonstrated that environmental performance can be linked to direct, traceable payments through mobile money systems, creating incentives that align local livelihoods with forest conservation objectives.

These first transactions also demonstrated that the full PES cycle - from enrolment and contracting to verification and payment- can operate under real field conditions. They also showed that direct payments can be linked to verified environmental actions through transparent and auditable processes.

Lessons learned for large scaling up

The relatively high proportion of applications requiring revision or rejection provided valuable lessons on beneficiary outreach, documentation requirements and data quality control. These operational lessons are already informing the next phase of scale-up, being integrated into PROBAK and the regional PES scale-up programme. which together aim to expand performance-based incentives to thousands of beneficiaries across the Congo Basin from 2026 onward.



Above : PES contract signing, Bottom :DRC PES beneficiaries

3. Catalysing private investment for forest-positive development

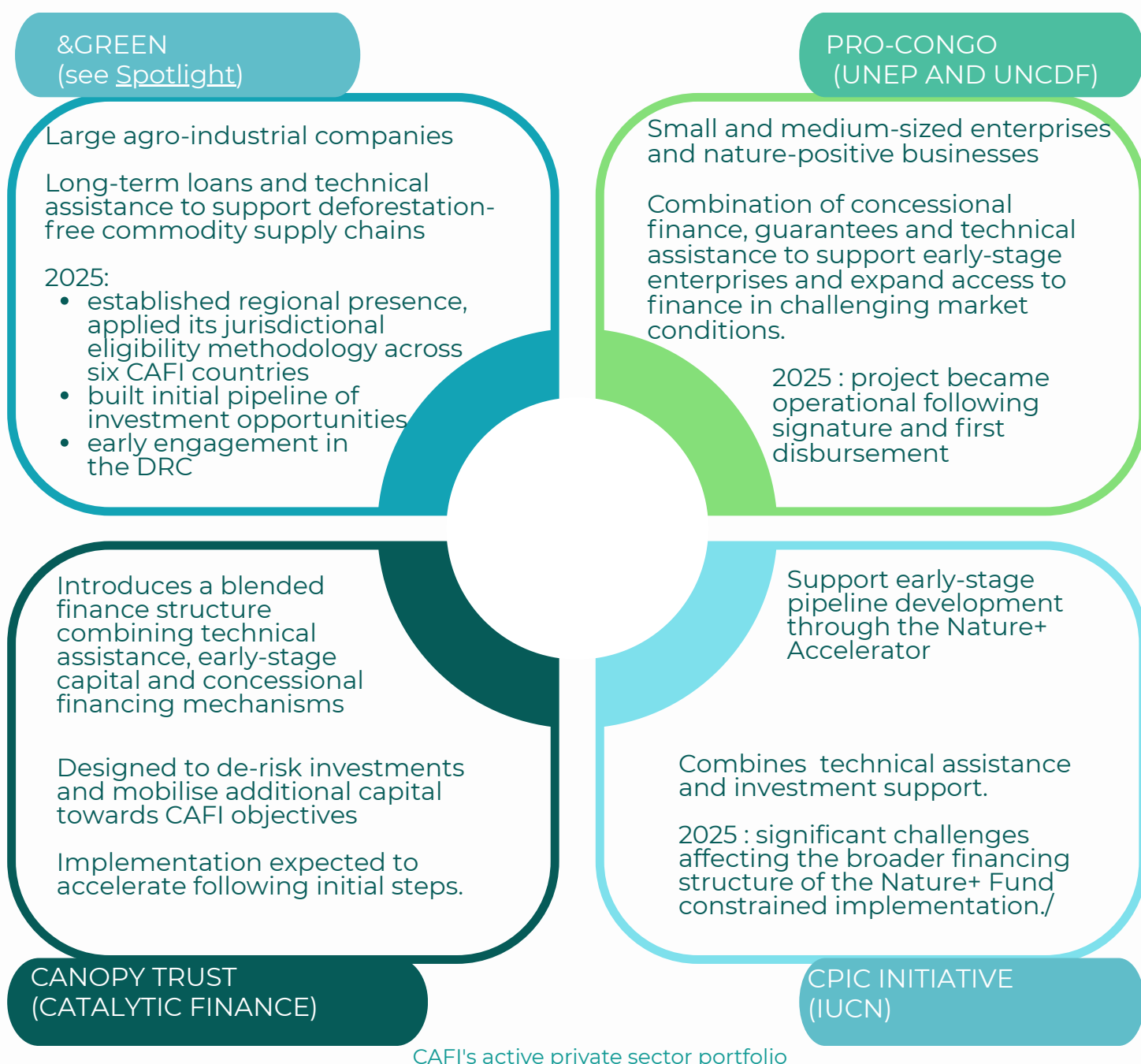
From grants to catalytic capital

In 2025, CAFI consolidated a shift in its approach to private sector engagement, moving from project-based grant financing toward a model designed to mobilise significantly larger volumes of public and private capital. While large-scale private capital mobilisation remained at an early stage, CAFI focused on putting in place the partnerships, financing instruments and investment pipeline needed to unlock future investment. This approach combines performance-based funding, blended finance structures and targeted pipeline development, positioning CAFI as a catalyst for investment in deforestation-free value chains across the Congo Basin.

Progress in 2025 was anchored in the Regional Private Sector Investment Facility, which provided the framework to structure and advance a portfolio of investment projects aligned with CAFI's objectives. Following the closure of the call for expressions of interest on 31 August 2025, CAFI consolidated a portfolio of four active projects representing USD 83.5 million in CAFI funding, alongside a pipeline exceeding USD 110 million under development.

A diversified set of instruments

CAFI's active portfolio reflects a diversified set of instruments targeting different segments of the market.



Structuring the next generation of programmes

CAFI's active portfolio reflects a diversified set of instruments targeting different segments of the market. Beyond the active portfolio, 2025 saw significant progress in structuring the next generation of investment programmes. Key advances included programme preparation with the Common Fund for Commodities, IDH and KfW, focused on sustainable agricultural value chains, blended finance mechanisms and performance-based incentives to reduce deforestation.

Central feature to CAFI's approach is its **potential to leverage additional sources of finance**. Experience from these programmes shows that CAFI funding can unlock domestic public resources, private investment and international climate finance when combined with appropriate instruments and systems. This includes the use of grants to reduce risk, the structuring of concessional financing, and the integration of PES to create revenue streams linked to verified environmental outcomes.

Navigating structural constraints

Efforts conducted in 2025 highlighted structural constraints that continue to limit private investment in the Congo Basin. Through feasibility studies under the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility, CAFI supported seven companies including in the DRC, the Republic of the Congo and Gabon. These studies, undertaken by specialised technical partners and financed by CAFI, **assessed the financial, operational and environmental viability** of investment opportunities in sectors such as sustainable forestry, agroforestry, industrial plantations and ecosystem restoration.

The results point to a number of recurring challenges. Many projects remain highly dependent on carbon revenues, while companies often seek concessional capital rather than commercial financing. **Weak financial track records, high risk and limited availability of long-term financing** further constrain investment. At the same time, concrete opportunities were identified, such as the **potential use of PES as a complementary revenue stream or as collateral** to support financing structures, and growing interest from investors where risks can be appropriately mitigated.

CAFI's work in 2025 reflects this direction of growth. By building a diversified portfolio, advancing a pipeline of investment-ready projects and testing blended finance approaches, the initiative is laying the foundations for scaling up private investment in deforestation-free development across the Congo Basin.

Spotlight: Building a pipeline of deforestation-free investments in Central Africa

The &Green Fund project illustrates how CAFI's approach translates into concrete investment opportunities and measurable progress on the ground.

With USD 51 million in CAFI funding and a target to mobilise up to USD 180 million in additional private capital, the project focuses on financing large-scale agricultural companies that commit to zero-deforestation supply chains, environmental and social standards, and landscape-level protection measures.

MAJOR MILESTONES ACHIEVED IN 2025



The experience highlights the challenges of investing in frontier markets. Indeed, many potential investments were not retained due to

- high credit risk
- lack of reliable financial data
- misalignment with sustainability criteria, or
- overreliance on carbon revenues.

These constraints underline the importance of CAFI's broader approach, **combining investment financing with technical assistance, policy dialogue and performance-based instruments.**

2025 demonstrated both the opportunities and the selectivity required to build a portfolio of deforestation-free investments. Numerous opportunities were screened but only those meeting rigorous commercial, environmental and social standards progressed through the investment pipeline.

While still at an early stage, a credible pipeline of deforestation-free investment opportunities can be developed in the Congo Basin. The approval of a first investment in Gabon and the emergence of a broader pipeline in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provide an important foundation for future private capital mobilisation and sustainable land-use transformation.

4. Reinforcing political commitment and country ownership

Positioning the Congo Basin in global climate diplomacy

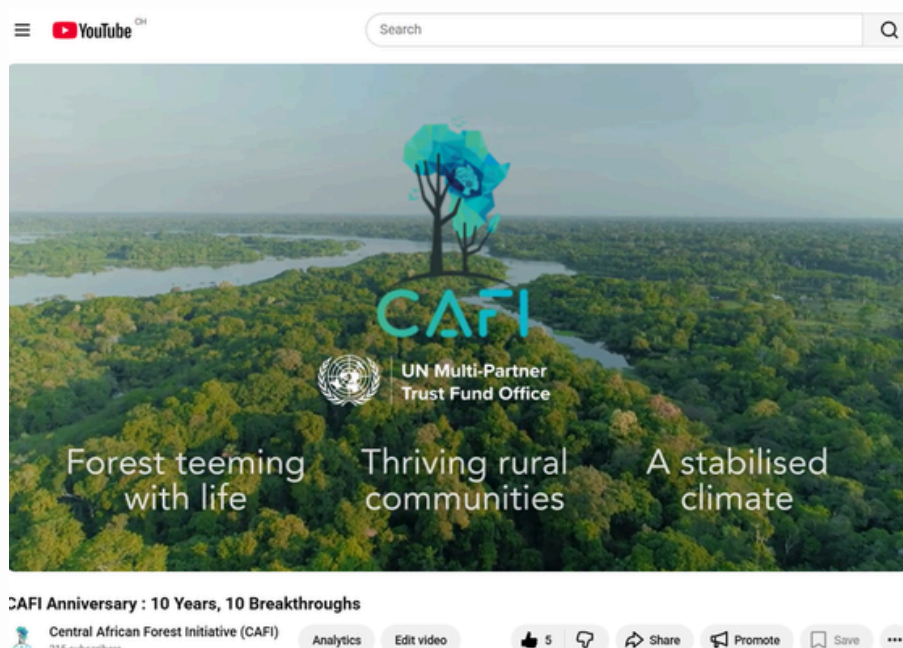
In 2025, CAFI played a central role in sustaining high-level political dialogue and positioning the Congo Basin at the forefront of global climate and forest agendas. The year was marked by a convergence of key moments including the 10-year anniversary at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), mobilisation toward COP30 in Belém, and reinforced country-level engagement. Together, these helped consolidate CAFI's role as a platform aligning political commitments, financing and implementation.

At the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2025, CAFI marked ten years of partnership, bringing together ministers from partner countries, donor governments and multilateral institutions. The event highlighted a decade of joint progress and reaffirmed CAFI's role as a platform aligning political commitments, financing and implementation. The anniversary was also marked by the publication of [CAFI's 10 Years, 10 Breakthroughs report](#), showcasing ten major achievements and lessons from a decade of forest and sustainable development investments in Central Africa.



UNGA 10-year anniversary session featuring Niels Annen (Germany), H.E. Rosalie Matondo (Republic of Congo) and Mary Creagh (United Kingdom)

This milestone also helped frame the transition toward the next phase of CAFI, with discussions focusing on scaling performance-based approaches, strengthening country ownership and adapting governance arrangements to evolving needs.



CAFI 10 years, 10 breakthroughs anniversary video. Click the image to watch the video on YouTube

At COP30 in Belém, CAFI supported partner countries in elevating the Congo Basin within global climate discussions. The Belém Call to Action, building on the Congo Basin Pledge launched at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, mobilised renewed international commitments.

The Call brought together Central African countries, donor governments, multilateral development banks, international climate funds, the European Commission, philanthropic organisations and private partners around a shared political declaration.

“The Belém Call is a fundamental step forward, a historic commitment that demonstrates the joint mobilisation of international partners and Central African countries in favour of forest protection and sustainable management.”

*President Emmanuel Macron, President of France,
Libreville, 23–24 November 2025*

With more than USD 2 billion pledged over five years, the Call to Action reinforced the shared objective of halting and reversing forest loss by 2030.

Payments for Environmental Services were central to this positioning. Building on the Kinshasa conference in January 2025, CAFI supported countries in showcasing PES as a scalable, results-based mechanism capable of channelling finance directly to communities, with strong political backing and increasing international visibility.

Strengthening country ownership through structured policy dialogue

Throughout 2025, CAFI maintained sustained, high-level engagement with partner countries, ensuring continuity of policy dialogue despite evolving political contexts. Across all six countries, CAFI supported the monitoring of commitments under Letters of Intent, strengthened coordination between national authorities and donors, and facilitated alignment with broader reform and climate frameworks.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO : Sustained engagement following the 2025 government reshuffle, continued support to FONAREDD governance bodies, and alignment with broader reform frameworks, including discussions with the International Monetary Fund on forest-related reforms under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility.

CAFI also supported policy dialogue around implementation of the Letter of Intent, including preparation of the FONAREDD Political Steering Committee and a national workshop on PES tools chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), the Ministry of Finance (MINFIN) and the Ministry of Land use Planning (MINAT) in April 2025.

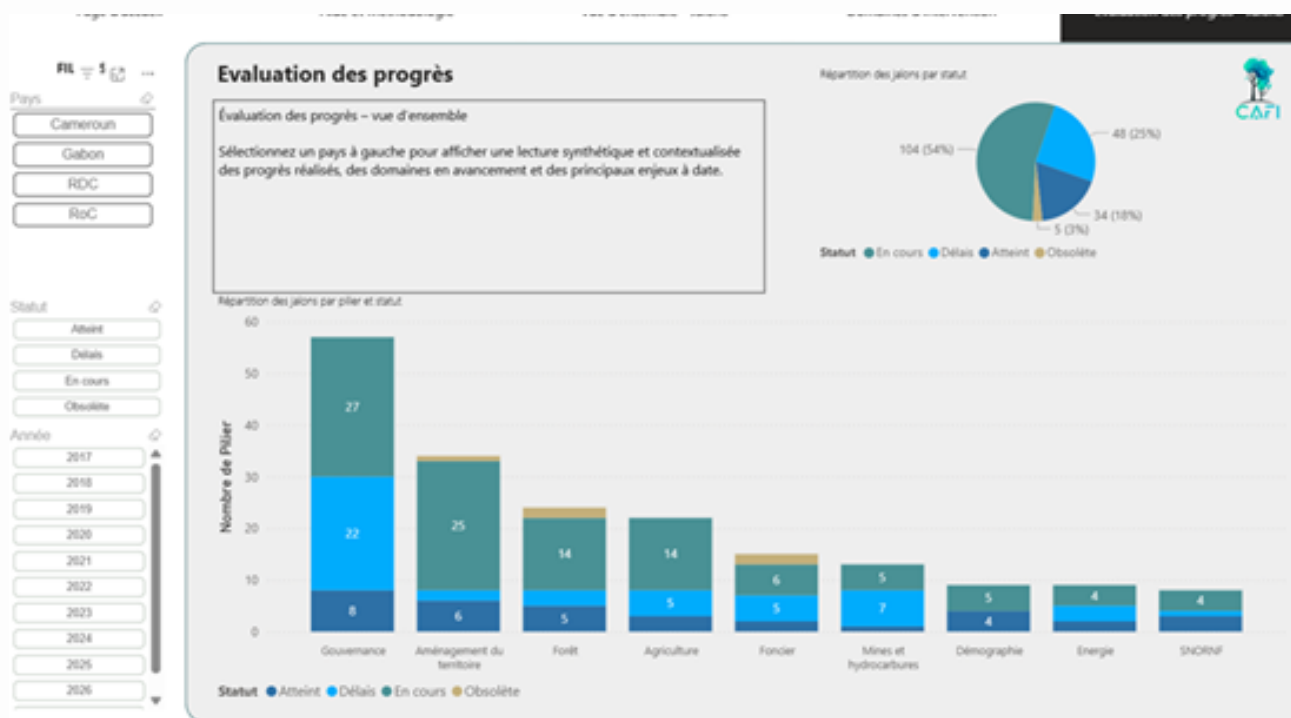
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO : Launch of the independent evaluation of the CAFI partnership and support to climate policy development, including the revision of the country's national climate commitments in the revised Nationally Determine Contribution (NDC).

GABON : Rapid re-engagement with new authorities, structuring of a national PES workgroup, and strengthened positioning in international carbon and climate frameworks.

CAMEROON : Operationalisation of the new Letter of Intent 2025–2035, including support to the National Climate Plan and the revision of the country's national climate commitments, defining updated mitigation and adaptation targets, implementation pathways and monitoring frameworks. Policy dialogue also supported discussions with national authorities and the Green Climate Fund on scaling up investments in deforestation-free agriculture and climate-resilient rural development.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC : continued engagement to strengthen participation in regional processes and prepare the next phase of partnership development.

To support this engagement, CAFI introduced a dedicated **Milestone tracking tool** embedded within the monitoring of Letters of Intent. This tool provides a structured view of progress against agreed reforms, strengthens transparency, and supports more informed policy dialogue between countries and the Executive Board.

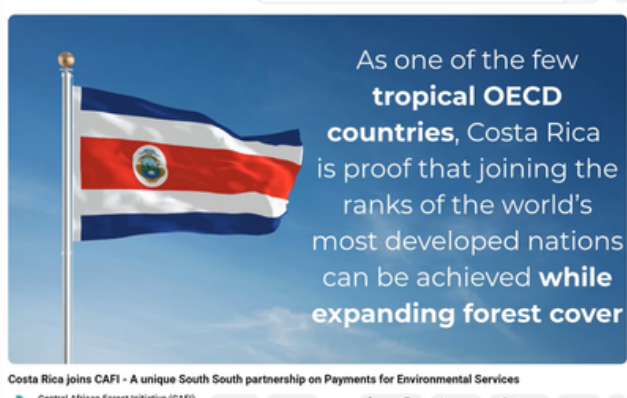


Screenshot of the Milestone Tracker

Broadening partnerships through South-South cooperation and evolving governance dialogue

In parallel, CAFI continued to expand its partnership model and facilitate dialogue on its future evolution.

Costa Rica joined CAFI in 2025 as a South-South partner and signatory to the CAFI Interministerial Declaration, creating a bridge between regions and bringing valuable experience on Payments for Environmental Services, reinforcing South South cooperation



Video : Costa Rica joins CAFI - A unique South South partnership on PES. *Click the image to watch the video on YouTube*



Ministers and Ambassadors at the signature Ceremony in Geneva

“No country can tackle the major challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation alone. This is why we enthusiastically welcome CAFI’s invitation to join the initiative as a South-South partner, a concrete and transformative example of cooperation among countries in tropical forest basins”

*Christian Guillermet Fernández,
Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica to the United Nations
in Geneva, Geneva, 5 June 2025*

At the same time, discussions continued regarding how CAFI’s governance could progressively evolve to reflect the growing role of partner countries, while maintaining the accountability, fiduciary standards and collective decision-making that underpin the Fund. These exchanges reflect a shared recognition that the next phase of CAFI will require balancing inclusiveness, efficiency and performance.

Spotlight: Diversifying access to the CAFI Fund and expanding delivery capacity

In 2025, CAFI took a major step toward strengthening country ownership by opening new access modalities to its Trust Fund. Historically, CAFI funding was channelled through international implementing organisations. In 2025, the Executive Board approved changes allowing direct access for national non-governmental organizations and, in a second phase, for national government entities.

This introduced a **national access window**, enabling countries to engage a broader range of domestic actors in the delivery of CAFI-funded programmes, while maintaining strong fiduciary, safeguards and oversight requirements.

Operationally, this model is being rolled out through **a structured approach**:

- access is phased and piloted, with limits on the number of entities and projects supported in the initial years
- funding is performance-based or needs-based, with disbursements linked to demonstrated progress or verified results
- entities undergo accreditation and due diligence processes covering financial capacity, safeguards and integrity standards
- targeted technical assistance is provided to help national actors meet these requirements and build capacity over time.

This evolution is significant for three reasons:

1. It **strengthens country ownership** by enabling national institutions and organisations to play a more direct role in implementation and resource management.
2. It **expands CAFI's delivery capacity** by mobilising local expertise, operational presence and closer links to communities and national systems.
3. It **supports long-term capacity building** by progressively preparing national actors to meet international standards and manage increasingly complex programmes.

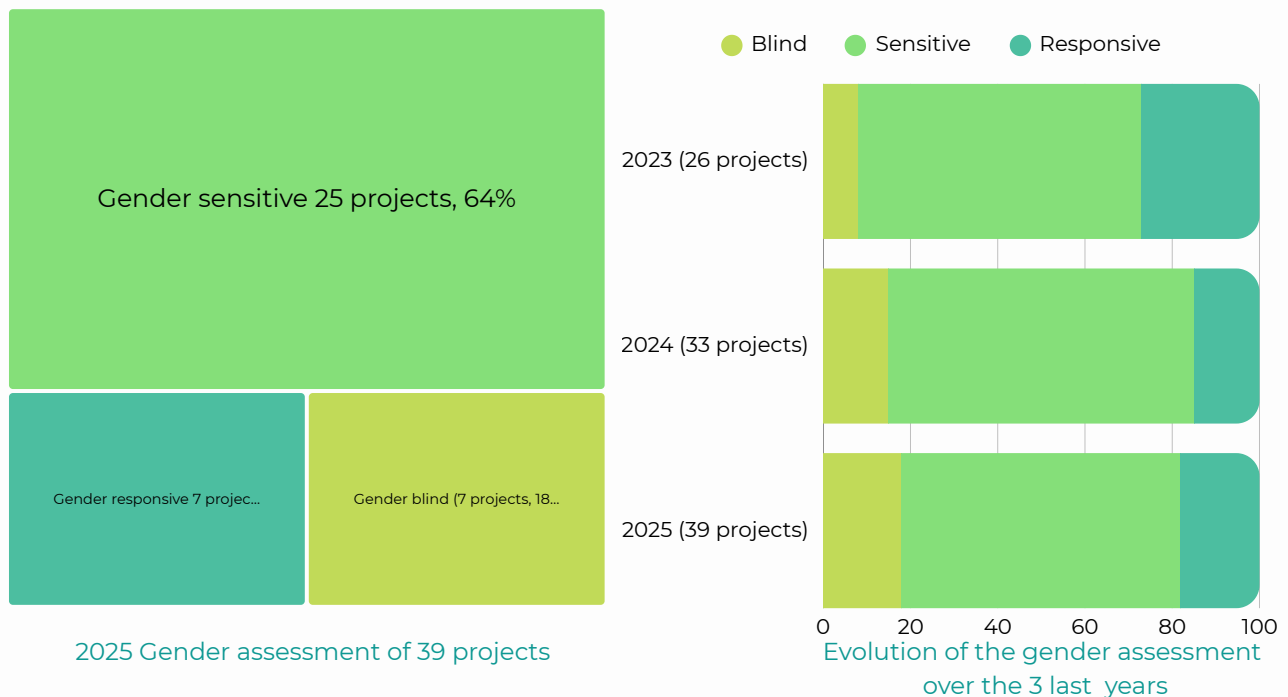
Diversifying access to finance while maintaining strong safeguards, CAFI is laying the foundations for a more inclusive, scalable and country-driven delivery model aligned with the long-term objective of placing partner countries at the centre of both policy design and implementation.

5. Advancing gender equality and inclusive development

Mainstreaming gender equality and inclusion into CAFI programming is part of a human rights-based approach to forest and climate finance. In 2025, CAFI continued to track gender integration across its portfolio using the UN-REDD Gender Marker methodology, assessing whether projects integrate gender in their context analysis, implementation, monitoring and reporting, and budget or expertise.

The 2025 Gender assessment

The 2025 assessment covered 39 projects. Of these, 7 projects were assessed as gender responsive, meaning that gender was mainstreamed across all four criteria. 25 projects were gender sensitive, with gender reflected in at least one criterion, including 12 projects meeting three out of four criteria. However, 7 projects remained gender blind, largely linked to projects in inception phase or with limited implementation data available. The detailed 2025 assessment is available [here](#).



Structured approaches to gender equality

Following the Executive Board's review of the 2024 Gender Assessment, greater attention was given to projects with weaker gender scores. Several projects strengthened their gender integration during 2025. For example, PIREDD Équateur improved from gender sensitive to gender responsive following the implementation of a gender action plan that included support to women's savings groups, literacy activities and income-generating activities, as well as targeted support to Indigenous Peoples. PIREDD Plateau introduced a dedicated gender strategy, including a target of 40% women's participation in local governance structures and measures to improve women's access to economic opportunities and future PES schemes.

The assessment also highlighted encouraging examples of more structured approaches to gender equality. In PIREDD Maniema, women represented 86% of beneficiaries of Village Savings and Loan Associations, while women accounted for 41% of direct beneficiaries in PIREDD Equateur. Across the portfolio, projects increasingly combined women's economic empowerment, participation in local decision-making and targeted support for Indigenous Peoples and other marginalised groups.

At the same time, the assessment confirmed that gender-sensitive budgeting and monitoring remain areas requiring further attention in order to translate stronger gender integration into measurable outcomes.

From tracking to operational tools

CAFI is also moving beyond portfolio-level tracking toward more operational tools for inclusion. Payments for Environmental Services (PES) are expected to become an important lever for gender equality and inclusion, particularly through digital payment systems that make it possible to identify individual beneficiaries, including women and Indigenous Peoples, more clearly. The emerging PES model also provides for targeted premiums for women and Indigenous Peoples, while recognising the need to manage social risks carefully, including risks of household or community-level conflict.

Conflict sensitivity and social inclusion

In 2025, CAFI also strengthened attention to conflict sensitivity and social inclusion in performance-based programming.

Under the Kinshasa Supply Basin PES Programme (PROBAK), a partnership with [Interpeace](#) was developed to support a standardised framework for conflict prevention and management, including conflict-sensitivity tools, provincial conflict analyses, capacity-building and practical guidance for implementing organisations.

This work is intended to help ensure that PES delivery avoids reinforcing local tensions, especially around land, benefit-sharing and access to payments.

“I commend CAFI for this approach, which integrates human rights. This is quite important, especially at a time when the issue of direct access to finance for indigenous peoples is crucial”

*Dr Albert Barume,
United Nations Special
Rapporteur on the Rights
of Indigenous Peoples,
Belém, November 2025*

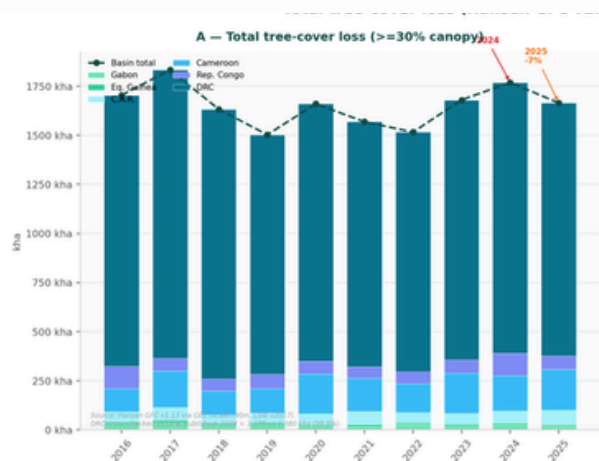


Climate and development impacts

Deforestation trends in the Congo Basin

The CAFI-funded FAO Regional Drivers Study had shown that deforestation across the Basin broadly stabilised during 2016–2023. Following the completion of the study, the CAFI Secretariat updated the analysis using publicly available Global Forest Watch data to track forest-loss trends through 2025, ensuring continuity in regional monitoring across the six CAFI partner countries.

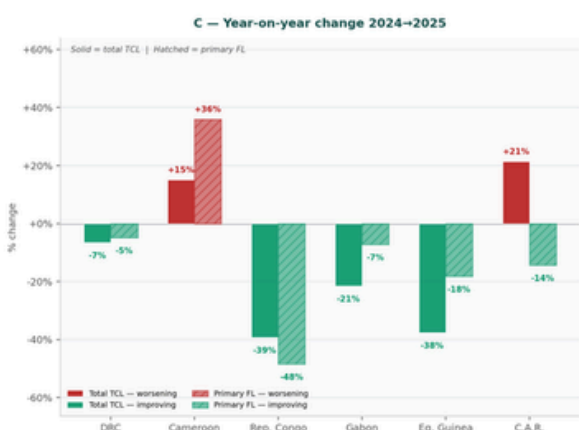
According to Global Forest Watch, deforestation in the six CAFI countries decreased slightly in 2025 compared to last year. Congo Basin countries lost a combined 1.67 million ha of tree cover, of which 0.75 million ha of primary old-growth forest.



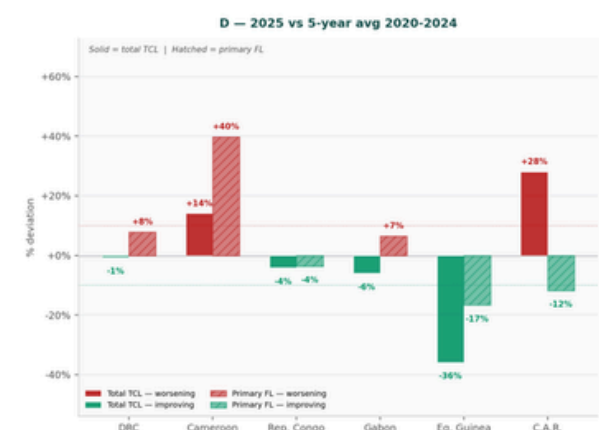
Total tree-cover loss 2016-2025
Hansen GFC v1.13.



Primary forest loss 2016-2025, GFW
published series.



Year on year change per country,
2025 vs 2024



2025 vs 5-year average 2020-2024

Red = worsening; green = improvement

CAFI countries recorded a modest basin-wide improvement in 2025, with total tree-cover loss falling by 6%, from 1.77 million ha in 2024 to 1.66 million ha in 2025. However, this should be interpreted as short-term easing rather than a structural reversal. The **regional aggregate masks divergent country trajectories**: DRC and the Republic of Congo drove most of the decline; Cameroon and the Central African Republic worsened; while Gabon and Equatorial Guinea remained comparatively low-loss countries but continue to be important because of their high-carbon forest stocks. Compared with the 2020-2024 average, the picture is also mixed, indicating that the Congo Basin is stabilising in some places but not yet moving consistently toward sustained, region-wide reductions in forest loss.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1.28 million hectares total loss in 2025, down 7% compared with 2024 and broadly in line with the recent five-year average (-1%). Primary forest loss also declined to 0.56 million ha (-5% vs 2024). Given DRC's dominant share of Congo Basin forest area, even modest percentage changes strongly influence the regional trend. The decline is encouraging, but the absolute level of loss remains very high, and DRC still ranks 3rd globally for primary forest loss.

Cameroon

0.21 million hectares total loss in 2025, up 15% from 2024 and 14% above the five-year average. Primary forest loss reached 125,000 hectares (+36% vs 2024), a new national record and the second highest globally. This is the clearest warning signal in the Basin, pointing to rising pressure on high-carbon and high-biodiversity forests.

Republic of Congo

0.07 million hectares total loss in 2025, a 39% reduction from 2024, with primary forest loss also falling sharply to 0.032 million ha (-48% vs 2024). This likely reflects a recovery from the 2024 fire-related spike rather than a confirmed structural shift. Continued

monitoring is needed to confirm whether the lower 2025 level is sustained.

Central African Republic

The 2025 trend worsened relative to 2024, indicating that pressures are increasing despite the country's smaller contribution to basin-wide totals. The Central African Republic is especially important from a landscape-risk perspective because forest, savanna and fire dynamics interact strongly, making early detection and targeted support essential.

Equatorial Guinea

Total forest loss remains relatively low compared with larger CAFI countries, but the country remains strategically important because of its high forest cover and carbon density. Even small changes in forest loss can be significant in a small, high-carbon forest estate, so continued monitoring is important to avoid delayed detection of emerging pressures.

A fragile and uneven stabilisation

A basin-wide easing of forest loss was observed in 2025, but this cannot be interpreted as a definitive turning point. The evidence instead shows a fragile and uneven stabilisation across the six countries, with improvement in DRC and the Republic of Congo, deterioration in Cameroon and the Central African Republic, and continued low-loss but high-carbon strategic importance in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

This strengthens CAFI's value proposition as a results-oriented partnership that can combine regional monitoring, country-specific programming and early-warning analytics to target support where risks are rising, sustain gains where performance is strong, and convert short-term improvements into durable, spatially verifiable reductions in forest loss.

What is driving forest loss in the Congo Basin?

Understanding why forests are being lost is essential for targeting interventions. This analysis draws on the World Resources Institute (WRI) / Google DeepMind Global Drivers of Forest Loss dataset to identify the main drivers of forest loss across the Congo Basin.

Key Basin-wide findings (2015-2025)

- Shifting cultivation (78%) remains the dominant driver of forest loss across the Basin, followed by permanent agriculture (16%).
- Wildfire and logging each account for around 2% of forest loss basin-wide, with wildfire being particularly significant in the Republic of Congo and logging playing a larger role in Gabon and Cameroon.
- Hard commodities and settlements: 2% basin-wide, though locally significant (artisanal mining in eastern DRC, urban growth in Kinshasa/Douala corridors).

2025 in context : comparison with 2020-2024

Basin-wide tree-cover loss in 2025 was broadly in line with the 2020-2024 annual average, but the **composition of drivers shifted significantly**. Three trends stand out:

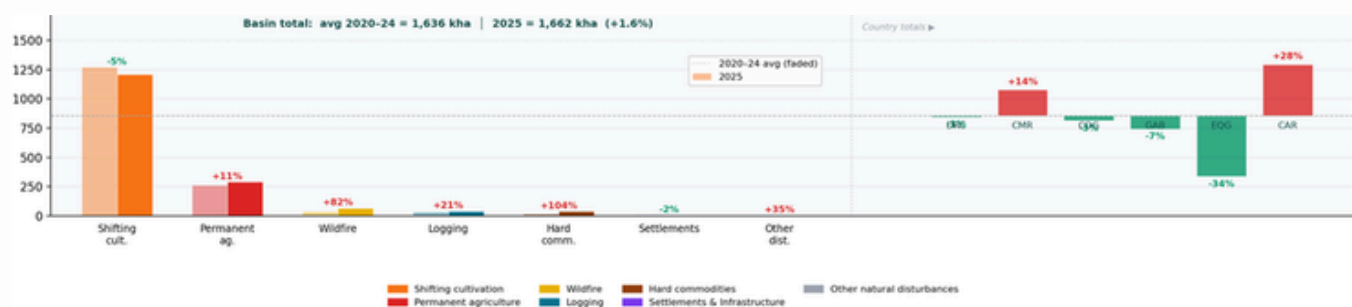
- **Wildfire surged to 67 000 ha (+82% versus 200-2024 average)**, rising from 2% to 4% of basin loss. The increase is concentrated in the Republic of Congo, where savanna-forest edge burning expanded during an unusually dry 2025 dry season. This is the highest single-year wildfire contribution since 2001.
- **Hard commodities doubled (40 000 ha, +104%)**, reaching 2.4% of basin loss, the largest share on record. Artisanal and small-scale mining expansion in eastern DRC and cross-border pressure in the Congo-Cameroon frontier are likely drivers.
- **Shifting cultivation fell to 1.21 million ha (-5%)**, and its share

dropped from 78% to 73% of basin loss. This is the first sustained retreat since 2018, possibly reflecting slower agricultural frontier expansion in DRC (-0.7%), offsetting growth in CAR (+28%) and Cameroon (+14%).

At country level, the Central African Republic recorded the sharpest acceleration (+28%) with nearly equal pressure from permanent agriculture (47%) and shifting cultivation (45%), while Equatorial Guinea fell -34%, continuing a multi-year decline from its 2019 peak. Cameroon (+14%) saw growth in both shifting cultivation and permanent agriculture, consistent with oil-palm and cocoa-driven forest encroachment along its southern and eastern frontiers



Drivers of forest loss in the Congo Basin (WRI/Google DeepMind GDM v1.3). (A) Per-country driver share % of total loss 2016-2025. (B) Basin annual stacked loss by driver 2016-2025. (C) Basin cumulative driver totals 2001-2025. (D) DRC annual loss by driver 2016-2025. (E) Left : Permanent agriculture vs shifting cultivation % scatter by country



2025 vs 2020-2024 average by driver (basin kha) and country total % change; red = increase, green = decrease.

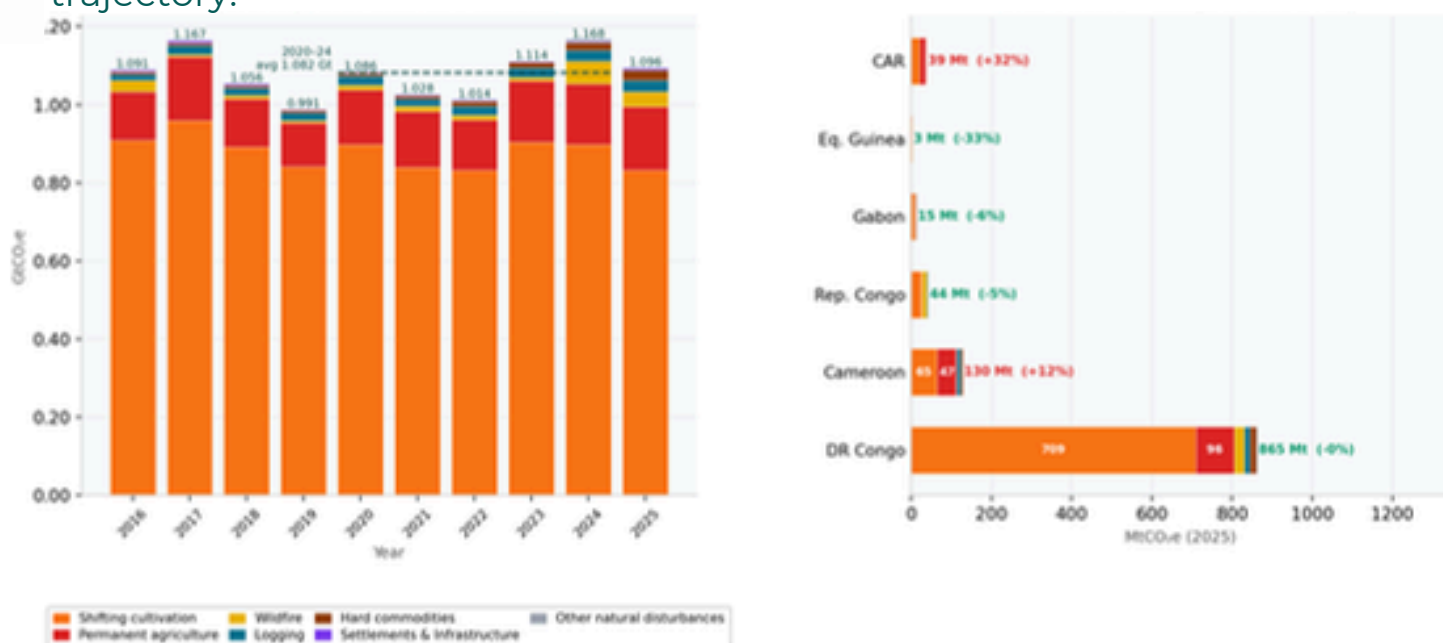
GHG emissions from tree-cover loss

Gross greenhouse gas emissions associated with tree-cover loss remained broadly stable in 2025, reflecting the limited change in basin-wide forest loss.

Country	GFW emis. 2025	vs 2020-24 avg	NDC target
DRC	865 MtCO ₂ e	-0%	≥149 Mt reduction (21%)
Cameroon	130 MtCO ₂ e	+12%	≥32 Mt reduction (32%)
Rep Congo	44 MtCO ₂ e	-5%	≥20 Mt reduction
Gabon	15 MtCO ₂ e	-6%	Net sink target
CAR	39 MtCO ₂ e	+32%	NDC pending

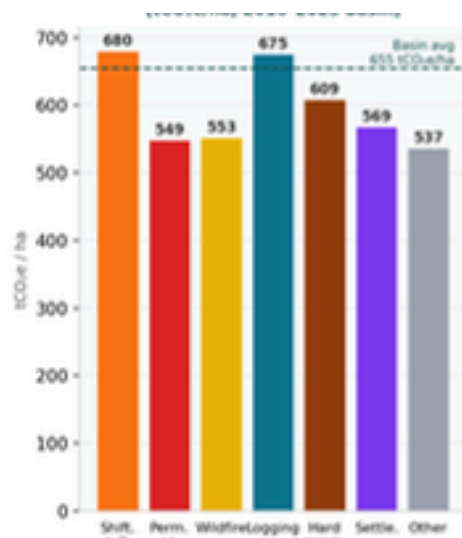
In 2025, basin-wide gross emissions reached 1.096 GtCO₂e, only +1.3% above the 2020-2024 average of 1.082 GtCO₂e. This confirms the message from forest-loss graphs above: the Basin is not experiencing a dramatic regional increase in total loss, but emissions remain structurally high because a large share of loss occurs in carbon-dense forests. Emissions have remained close to the recent baseline rather than declining decisively, suggesting that the current level of mitigation effort is stabilising the problem but not yet bending the emissions curve downward.

Country graphs below show a highly concentrated emissions profile. DRC alone accounts for 79% of basin-wide gross emissions in 2025, with 865 MtCO₂e, broadly unchanged from its 2020-2024 average. This means that even small percentage reductions in DRC would generate larger absolute climate benefits than much larger percentage changes in smaller countries. By contrast, Cameroon and the Central African Republic (CAR) show the main warning signals: Cameroon's emissions rose to 130 MtCO₂e (+12%), while CAR reached 39 MtCO₂e (+32%). These increases are consistent with the driver graphs showing expanding permanent agriculture and shifting cultivation pressures, and they point to emerging hotspots where early intervention could prevent a higher-emissions trajectory.



Congo Basin gross emissions from tree-cover loss (GFW/WRI-GDM v1.3).

Left : Basin annual stacked gross emissions by driver 2016-2025 (GtCO₂e); dashed = 2020-24 average. Right : Per-country gross emissions by driver in 2025 (MtCO₂e) with % change vs avg.



Average emission factor per driver (tCO₂e/ha); dashed = basin avg 655 tCO₂e/ha.

From these results three operational messages may be derived:

First, the Congo Basin emissions challenge remains dominated by DRC, making continued support to large-scale land-use planning, community-based forest management and agricultural transition essential for regional climate impact.

Second, Cameroon and CAR require closer attention because their 2025 increases are above recent baselines and may signal an acceleration of agricultural-frontier emissions.

Third, low-emission countries such as Gabon remain strategically important because maintaining low forest loss in high-carbon, net-sink landscapes is as valuable as reducing loss elsewhere. Overall, the results reinforce the need for CAFE to combine large-volume mitigation in DRC with early-warning action in rising-risk countries and conservation of high-integrity forest sinks.

Development impact

CAFI-supported programmes continued to generate development benefits across the Congo Basin through improved livelihoods, access to services, strengthened local governance and more sustainable management of natural resources.

By the end of 2025, CAFI-supported programmes had reached an **estimated 902,462 direct beneficiaries**, with millions more benefiting indirectly from strengthened governance systems, territorial planning, sustainable agriculture, community forestry, clean cooking solutions and reproductive health services. Investments also contributed to improved local infrastructure and service delivery, including the maintenance of 460 km of rural roads, the construction of 55 bridges and culverts, and the rehabilitation of 816 public buildings in programme areas.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, more than 220,000 improved cookstoves had been distributed by the end of 2025, contributing to reduced household fuel consumption and lower pressure on forest resources. More than 600,000 hectares of community forests had also been formally titled, strengthening community rights and local participation in forest management.

2025 also marked an important step in the operationalisation of Payments for Environmental Services (PES). Following several years of framework development and country-level preparation, the **first PES payments were delivered to beneficiaries** (see this Spotlight) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo, demonstrating the feasibility of linking verified environmental actions with direct, transparent and traceable payments.

Together, these results illustrate how CAFI investments seek to combine climate objectives with tangible development benefits for rural communities across the Congo Basin.



Country and regional overviews

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Forest Capital

126 M

Hectares of natural forests
Covering 56% of national land area

18%

Of the world's tropical forests
Critical global carbon sink asset

National Partners Governance

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance

- Min. of Environment & Sustainable Dev.
- Min. of Land Use Planning
- Min. of Agriculture and food security
- Min. of Water Resources and Electricity
- Min. of National Economy
- Min. of Hydrocarbons
- Min. of Public Health, Hygiene & Prev.
- Min. of Gender, Family & Children
- Min. of Planning and Coordination of Development Aid
- Min. of Budget
- Min. of National Education
- Min. of Land Affairs

Financing Tracker

USD 690 M

Funding Pledged
Under Letters of Intent (LOI)

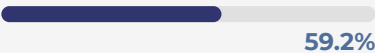
USD 394.7 M

Transferred

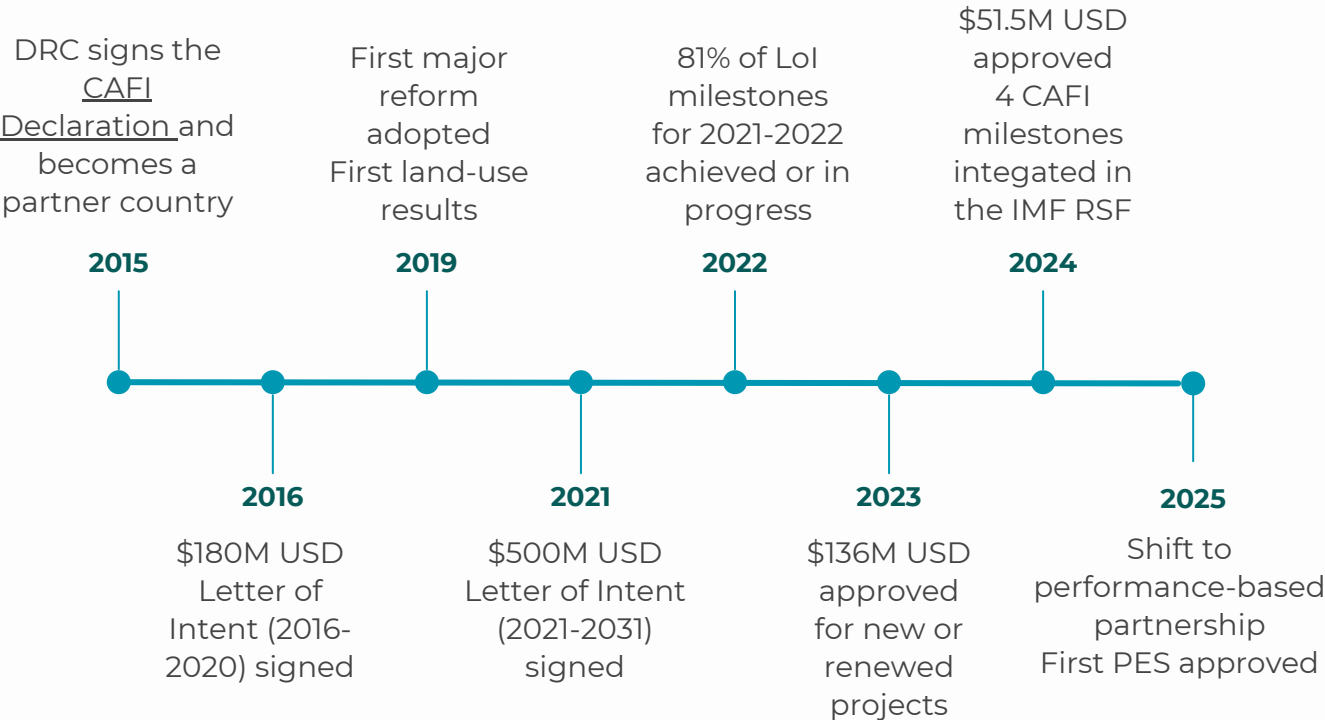
USD 233.7 M

Funding Spent

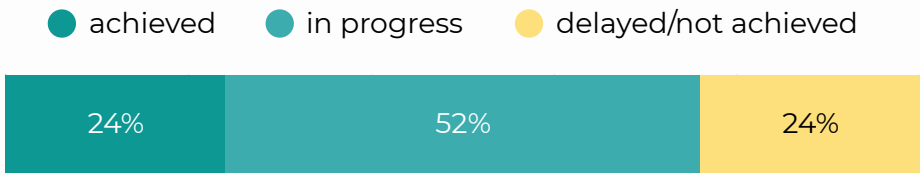
Disbursement Rate (Spent/Transferred)



Partnership Overview



The CAFI–DRC partnership is implemented under the second Letter of Intent (2021–2031), signed in May 2022, which sets out a comprehensive framework to halt and reverse forest loss while supporting sustainable development and inclusive rural transformation. In 2025, the partnership continued to consolidate, with sustained policy dialogue between the Government, CAFI donors and implementing partners, and continued progress in the implementation of reform milestones.



CAFI–DRC Letter of Intent 84 milestone achievement status by end 2025. Details may be found in ["CAFI's Progress Report on Milestones of Letters of Intent"](#)

Assessments covering the 84 milestones over the 2021–2025 period indicate that, by the end of 2025, **76% of milestones had been achieved or were in progress, compared to 55% in 2024**. This reflects accelerated implementation across several sectors, including the adoption of major policy and regulatory reforms such as the revised Land Law, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Liquid Gas petroleum (LPG) regulatory framework and the establishment of the Kivu–Kinshasa Green Corridor.

The partnership remained anchored in structured governance and review processes. Following Annual Reviews held in February 2023 and March 2024, preparations are underway for the next review in 2026, alongside independent evaluations of both the CAFI–DRC partnership and FONAREDD, which will inform the next phase of engagement.

2025 was marked by **continued progress on key structural reforms**, notably the promulgation of the Land Use Planning Law (July 2025), significantly strengthening the legal framework for land governance, spatial planning and community rights. More broadly, progress across sectoral policies reflects increasing alignment between development pathways and forest protection and climate objectives.

The partnership also continued to **align with broader international reform frameworks**, including through engagement with the IMF Resilience and Sustainability Facility (approved in January 2025), supporting reforms related to forest monitoring, forestry governance and environmental standards in extractive sectors.

At the same time, 2025 marked the start of strategic discussions on CAFI's future direction beyond 2025, reflecting a growing emphasis on a model where **"funds follow performance"**. These discussions highlighted the need to combine continued support to policy reforms, the expansion of performance-based financing through Payments for Environmental Services (PES), and the development of catalytic, co-financed investments to mobilise domestic and international resources.

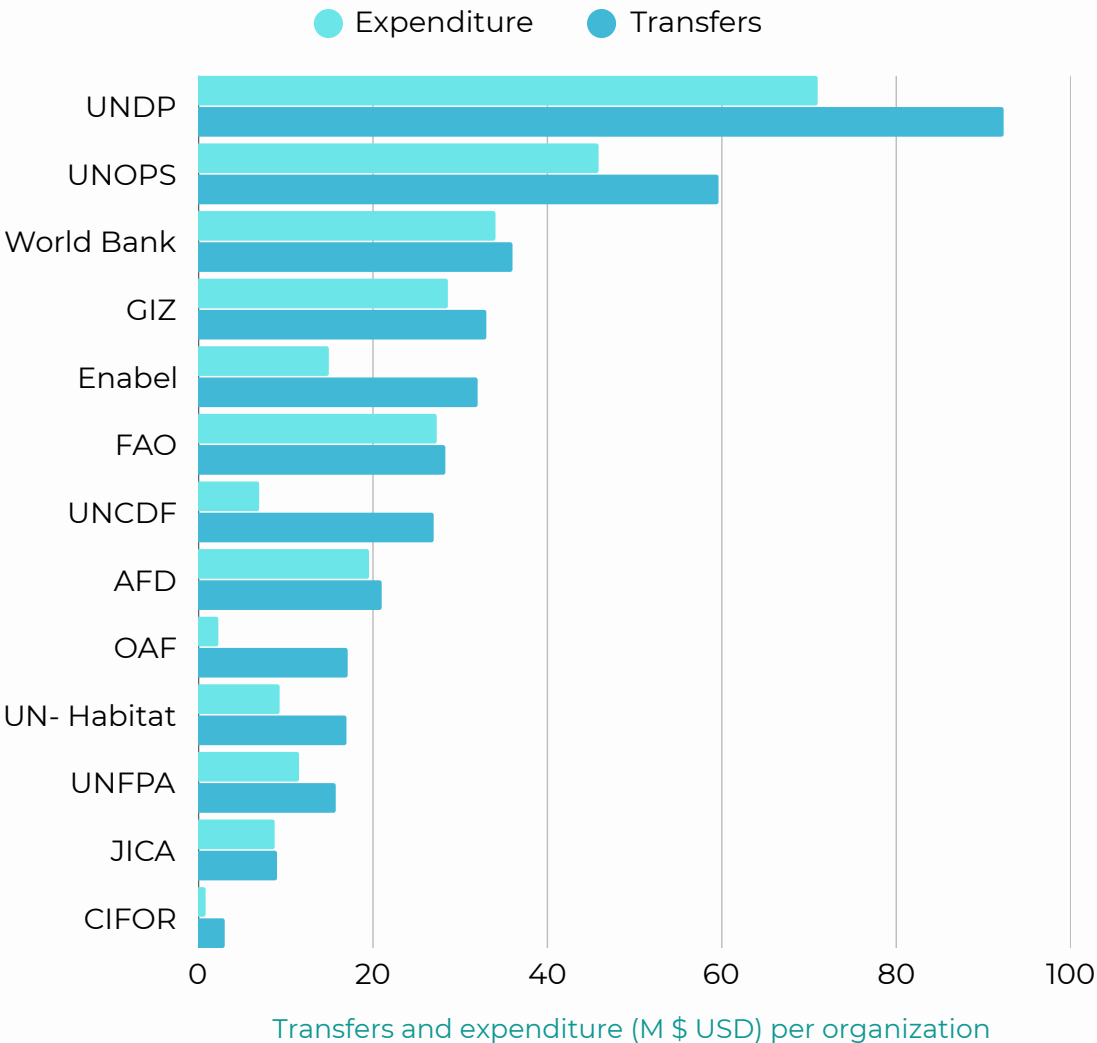
At regional and global levels, the DRC further strengthened its role in climate and forest governance, including participation in regional PES discussions (Kinshasa, January 2025) and engagement at COP30 (Belém, November 2025).

Looking ahead, 2026 represents a pivotal year, marking the end of the first phase (2021–2026) of the Letter of Intent. In a more constrained financing context, the partnership is expected to shift toward blended and co-financed models, with CAFI increasingly acting as a catalyst to mobilise domestic, private and climate finance. Results-based instruments such as PES are expected to play a central role in this transition, supporting a more performance-driven and nationally anchored approach.

Portfolio Overview

The CAFI-funded FONAREDD portfolio in the Democratic Republic of the Congo combines large-scale integrated territorial programmes (PIREDDs) with sectoral interventions in land tenure, agriculture, energy, governance and demography, addressing both direct and underlying drivers of deforestation.

In 2025, implementation continued to scale up across the portfolio, while a new wave of programming was approved. In total, eight new projects were approved during the year, including major investments in sustainable energy, territorial development, community forestry and performance-based approaches under PROBAK. This marked one of the most significant years of portfolio expansion and reinforced the shift towards more results-based programming.



Portfolio Overview

FAO - Integrated REDD+ Programme in Equateur

Budget: USD 25.2 million

Focus: Integrated territorial development (forest, agriculture, land-use planning)

AFD - Sustainable Savannas and Degraded Forests Programme

Budget: USD 15 million

Focus: Agroforestry, restoration and sustainable agriculture

AFD - Sustainable Forest Management Programme

Budget: USD 12.0 million

Focus: Forest governance and sustainable management

UN-Habitat II (Land Reform Support Programme)

Budget: USD 15.0 million

Focus: Land tenure reform and land information systems

UNOPS - Integrated REDD+ Programme in Plateau

Budget: USD 11.0 million

Focus: Integrated territorial development

UNDP - Sustainable Family Agriculture Support Project

Budget: USD 45.0 million

Focus: Climate-smart agriculture

Enabel - Integrated REDD+ Programme in Kasai Oriental-Lomami

Budget: USD 35.0 million

Focus: Territorial development and agriculture

UNDP - Milestone Achievement Support Programme

Budget: USD 8.0 million

Focus: Support to policy reforms & Lol milestones

UNDP - Carbon Market Access Project

Budget: USD 3.0 million

Focus: Carbon finance readiness

UNFPA / UNOPS - PROMIS II

Budget: USD 58.0 million

Focus: Demographic transition and family planning

UNOPS - Health Infrastructure Programme

Budget: USD 3.5 million

Focus: Health infrastructure

GIZ - Standards for Mining and Hydrocarbons

Budget: USD 6.0 million

Focus: Environmental and social safeguards

CIFOR - Civil Society Support Programme II

Budget: USD 5.5 million

Focus: Governance and civil society engagement

One Acre Fund - Sustainable Smallholder Agriculture in Kongo Central

Budget: USD 30.0 million

Focus: Smallholder agriculture and livelihoods

UNCDF - Sustainable Energy Programme II

Budget: USD 50.0 million

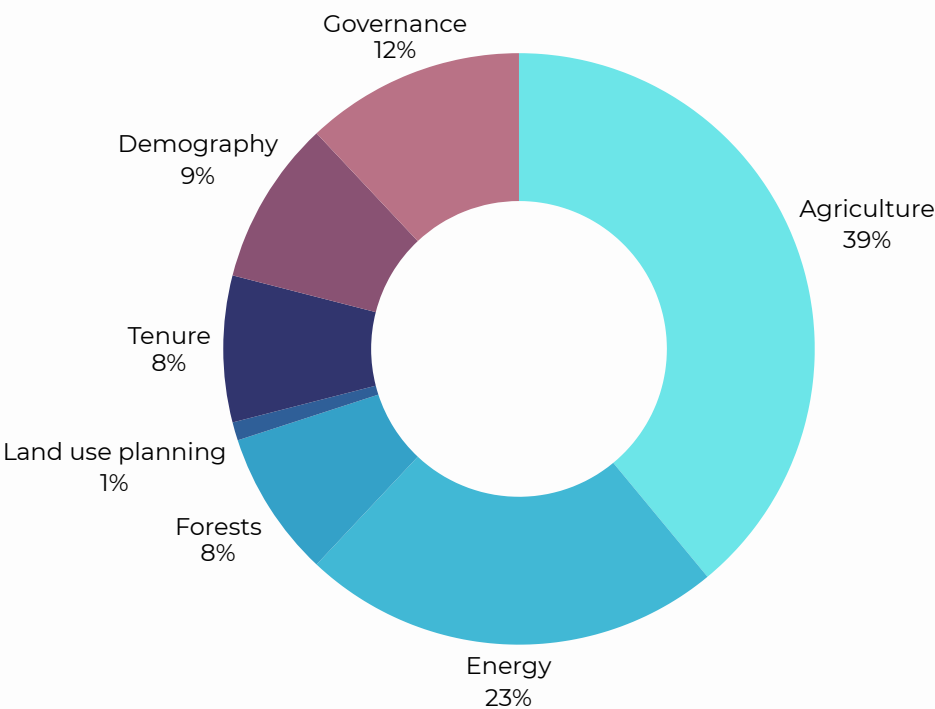
Focus: Clean cooking and energy transition

Enabel - PIREDD Sud-Ubangi

Budget: USD 25.0 million

Focus: Integrated territorial development

DRC Projects active in 2025. A complete list of projects is available in [this Annex](#)



Expenditures in the DRC by outcome in 2025

CAFI support in the DRC combines policy reforms with large-scale investments implemented including through FONAREDD. By end-2025, programmes had supported an estimated 190,189 direct beneficiaries (excluding family planning), while indirectly benefiting over 9.3 million people. Investments are contributing to improved local governance, more sustainable agricultural production, access to cleaner energy, strengthened community forest management and a more enabling policy framework for sustainable land use. Based on FONAREDD's methodology, supported interventions are estimated to generate 53,327 hectares of avoided deforestation per year at maturity, equivalent to around 10% of the national Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL).

Local Governance and Land Use Planning: Strengthening decentralised governance and community planning

2868

local governance
committees
established

+235 in 2025

supporting
community
participation and
natural resource
governance and local
development planning

1,031

local land use
plans successfully
developed

+142

local land use
plans

7.95 M

hectares under
land use plans

+664,254

strengthening the
basis for more
coordinated land use
decisions

5

provincial land
use plans

+1 in 2025

local land use
plans

460

km of rural roads
maintained
55 bridges and culverts
constructed
816 public buildings
rehabilitated, improving
market access, service
delivery and local
economic opportunities
in programme areas

These results are reinforced by the strengthened legal framework for land-use planning, notably following the **promulgation of the Land Use Planning Law in July 2025**. The law establishes a modern framework for integrated spatial planning at national, provincial and local levels, clarifies institutional responsibilities, and strengthens the consideration of environmental sustainability and community rights in land-use decision-making.

Land Tenure : Advancing legal and institutional reform

Milestone achieved

New Land law 25/62
promulgated on 31 December 2025, a major step forward in the land tenure reform process initiated in 2016

Systems in progress

Land reform implementation tools advanced

- national land policy implementation plan
- pilot Land Information System
- improved integration of land tenure with environmental and land-use planning processes

Together these results aim to strengthen land tenure security, improve transparency and traceability of land rights, and provide a more reliable framework for sustainable land management and investment.

Agriculture and rural livelihoods : Supporting sustainable production and food security

29,309

hectares of
perennial crops
planted

+3,959 in 2025

supporting
community
participation and
natural resource
governance and
local development
planning

49,460

hectares of
food crops
cultivated

+4,526 in 2025

exceeding the
annual target

2,108

hectares of seed
production fields
developed

+1,790 in 2025

reaching 29%
of the total
target

Sustainable energy : Reducing pressure on forests from wood-energy demand

220,518

improved cookstoves
distributed
exceeding the
overall target

+6567 units in 2025

25,982

hectares of
agroforestry /
wood-energy
established

+4482 in 2025

55,416

hectares of
savannahs set aside
for natural
regeneration

+17,534 in 2025

Together, these interventions help reduce dependence on unsustainably sourced fuelwood and charcoal while supporting the transition towards cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions.

Forest management and conservation: supporting community-based forest governance

606,576

hectares of
community forest
formally titled

+1,768 ha in 2025

Community forestry strengthens local rights over forest resources and creates incentives for long-term sustainable forest management while supporting local livelihoods.

Demography : supporting reproductive health and demographic transition

1,489, 516

Couple years of
protection
delivered in
2025

Exceeding the
annual target of
1,335,000 CYP

732,685

direct beneficiaries
reached by end-
2025

Of which around 95%
were women, based
on the annualised
client methodology

Family planning remains one of the largest areas of direct beneficiary outreach in the portfolio and contributes to improved health outcomes, women's empowerment and long-term sustainable development

Project Spotlight

Supporting sustainable livelihoods in savannah and forest landscapes



The “Sustainable transformation of savannahs and degraded forests” programme in the DRC supports the development of sustainable agricultural systems in Kwilu and Tshopo provinces. The programme is structured around productive alliances bringing together smallholder farmers, producer organisations, agricultural SMEs and technical service providers. These alliances develop investment projects based on inclusive models combining farmer contributions, grants and access to credit, with the objective of strengthening value chains while promoting sustainable land use.

National partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (DRC), within the FONAREDD portfolio

Implementing

organization: Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Budget: USD 15 million

(with additional top-up approved)

Disbursed (Dec 2025):

USD 11.9 million

Execution rate: 79%

Scaling sustainable production and land restoration

The programme has reached a significant scale in 2025, with more than 6,700 hectares planted and georeferenced, representing close to 90% of the overall target. These plantations include agroforestry systems and perennial crops established in degraded savannah and forest areas.

At the same time, 24 productive alliances are operational across the two provinces, structuring investments and supporting coordinated development of agricultural value chains.

Delivering for farmers and local communities

The programme supports a growing number of producers and rural households:

- 5,900+ direct beneficiaries, exceeding initial targets
- 26% women participation, stable compared to previous years
- 8,500+ indirect beneficiaries

Farmers benefit from integrated support combining:

- access to inputs and technical assistance
- financing through grants and credit mechanisms
- integration into structured value chains
- This approach contributes to improving agricultural productivity while strengthening local economic activity.

Innovative financing and private sector engagement

The productive alliance model mobilises private operators and SMEs as aggregators, helping structure investments and facilitate access to finance. In 2025:

- 29 alliance-based investment projects were financed
- Partnerships were established with financial institutions, including Equity BCDC, paving the way for improved access to credit and financial inclusion for productive alliances.
- 12 innovation projects were supported, exceeding initial targets

This model also supports the progressive structuring of producers into formalised economic networks, strengthening their capacity to engage with markets, financial institutions and long-term investment opportunities.

Overall, the programme demonstrates the operational viability of combining agricultural development, structured partnerships and performance-based approaches in complex landscapes.

Republic of the Congo



Forest Capital

24.37 M

Hectares of forest (2019)

Covering 70.85% of total land area

70.8%

Forest-to-land ratio

One of the highest densities in the region

National Partners Governance

- Prime Minister's Office
- Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin
- Ministry of Forest Economy
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
- Ministry of Land Planning, Infrastructure and Road Maintenance

Financing Tracker

USD 65 M

Funding Pledged
Under Letters of Intent (LOI)

USD 47.5 M

Funding Approved
Allocated to specific programmes

USD 22.8 M

Funding Transferred
Net deposits to RoC portfolio

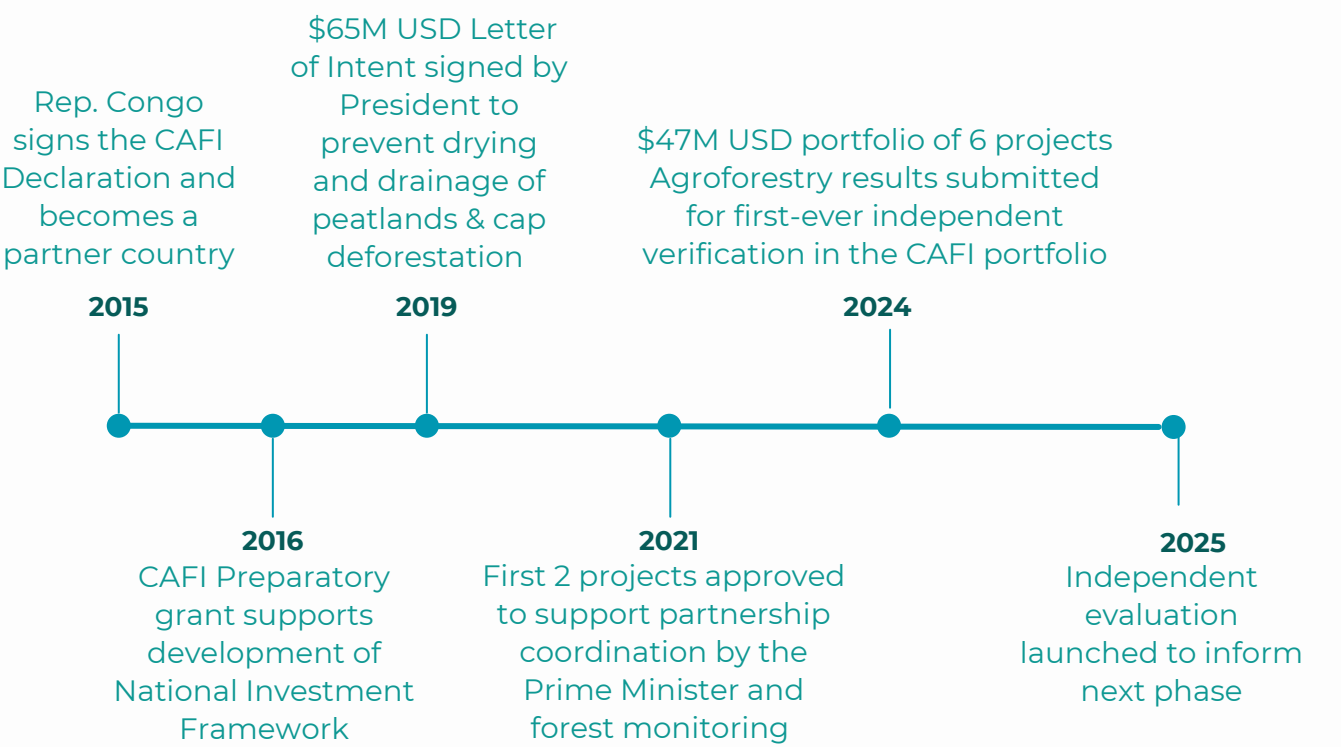
USD 14.5 M

Funding Spent
Disbursed on field operations

Disbursement Rate (Spent/Transferred)



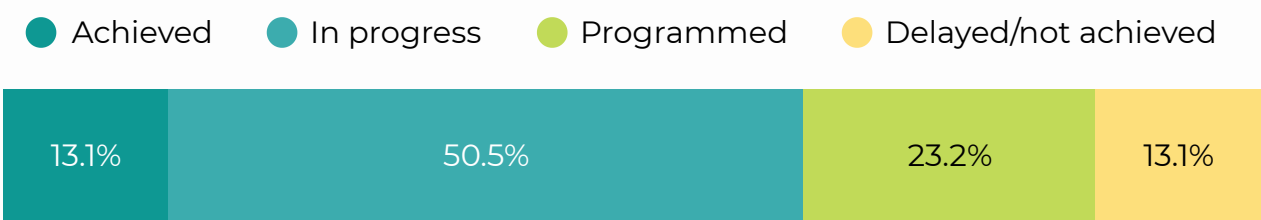
Partnership Overview



In 2025, the CFI–Republic of Congo partnership reached a key transition point. The Letter of Intent signed in 2019 came to the end of its implementation period, while several major programmes were still moving from design and start-up toward implementation.

The year focused on taking stock of progress and preparing the next phase of the partnership. An independent evaluation launched in July 2025 provided initial findings to national counterparts and will inform discussions at the next annual review in 2026.

Milestone achievement



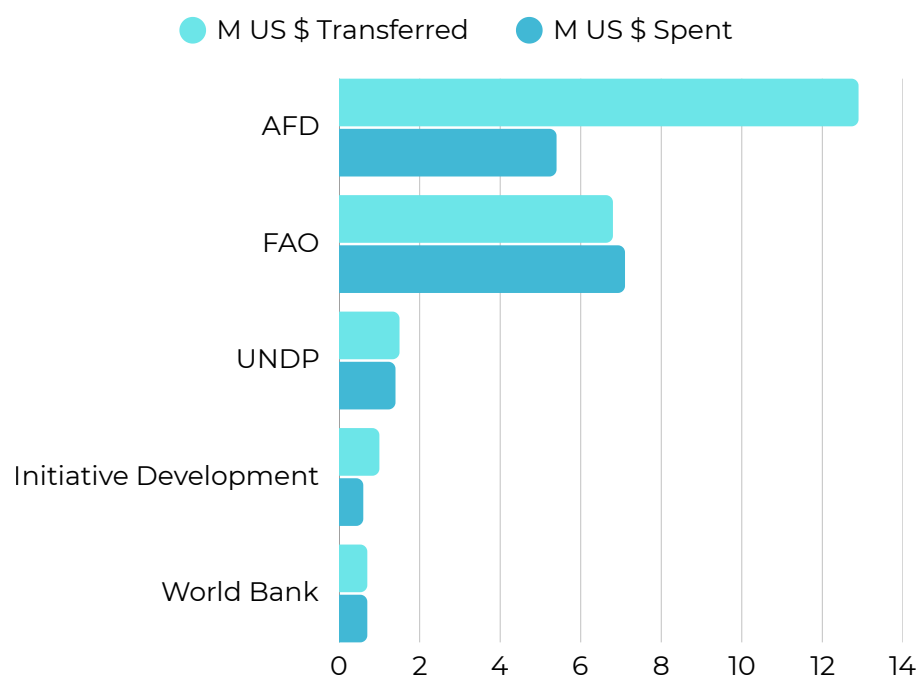
CAFI-RoC LoI milestone achievement status by end 2025
Details may be found in ["CAFI's Progress Report on Milestones of Letters of Intent"](#)

Progress has been most visible where programmes and technical support have been actively deployed, particularly in forest monitoring and climate reporting, environmental governance, and the development of land-use planning tools. At the same time, implementation delays and coordination challenges have limited progress in achieving some of the partnership's broader objectives.

Looking ahead, the partnership is entering a new phase of reflection and repositioning. Discussions with the Government are focusing on future priorities, including the potential deployment of Payments for Environmental Services, the continuation of ongoing programmes, and the need to simplify institutional arrangements and strengthen cross-sector coordination.

Overall, the partnership stands at a strategic inflection point, with solid analytical and institutional foundations in place, but a clear need to accelerate implementation and deliver results at scale.

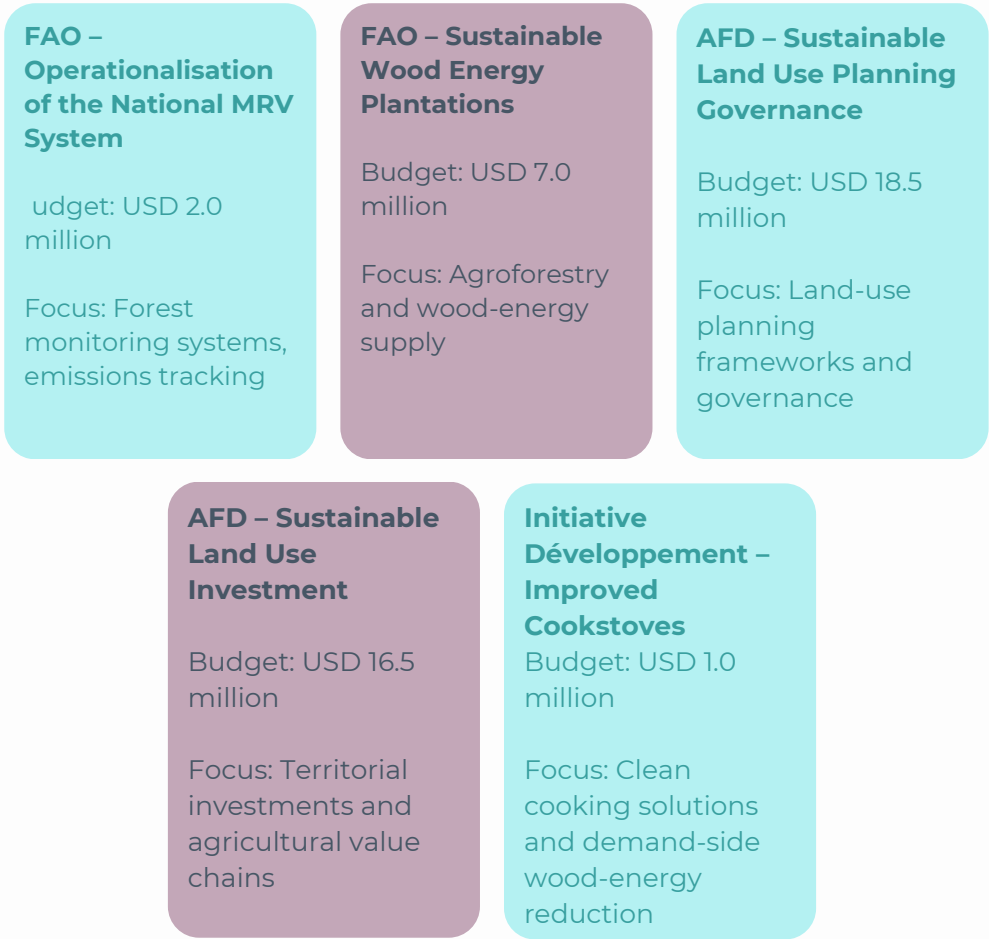
Portfolio achievement



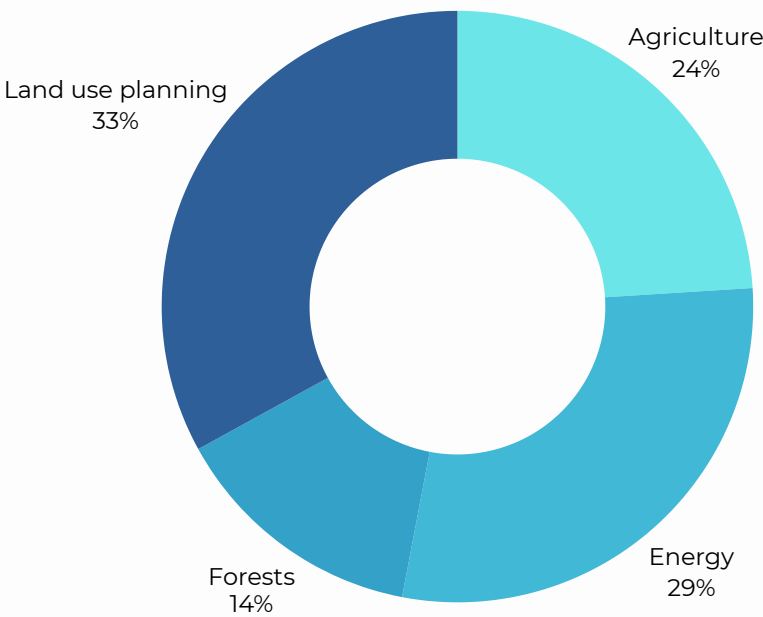
In 2025, the Republic of Congo portfolio focused on building the systems and investments required for sustainable land use, including forest monitoring, land-use planning, climate-smart agriculture and wood-energy transition. While all projects are now active, several large projects remain in early stages of implementation.

The portfolio reflects a coherent transition from system-building toward operational delivery. The main challenge ahead will be to translate planning, diagnostics and early pilots into concrete investments and measurable impacts for communities and ecosystems.

Portfolio Overview



Projects active in 2025



Expenditures by outcome in 2025

Results

Forest monitoring, climate reporting and carbon finance readiness -*Equipping the country with systems and data to monitor forests and report emissions*

Revised Forest Reference Emission Level consolidated	National MRV geoportal operational	ART-TREES readiness advanced
The Republic of Congo finalised exchanges with UNFCCC reviewers in 2025, with the revised FREL and technical assessment report made available through the UNFCCC process	The SYNA-MNV geoportal is online and continues to be updated, improving access to forest monitoring data, with a Congo-specific EarthMap beta platform under development	Technical workshops strengthened national understanding of ART-TREES requirements, safeguards and potential emission reduction pathways



SYNA MNV project, Republic of the Congo.

Land-use planning, governance and territorial diagnostics : Laying the groundwork for coordinated land-use decisions

GACAT established as a consultation platform



The national land-use planning consultation platform was formally established, with its charter adopted and roadmap developed

National FPIC guidelines validated



Guidelines for Free, Prior and Informed Consent validated in 2025, strengthening safeguards for land-use planning

Sustainable agriculture and territorial investment preparation : structuring the transition toward climate-smart and zero-deforestation agriculture

Agricultural potential mapping advanced

- National agro-pedoclimatic atlas, departmental pedoclimatic analyses and 9 thematic pedological maps for priority crops produced and shared with national authorities
- Supports agricultural planning, land-use decision-making and future zero-deforestation investment strategies

60

agronomic trial plots installed

Initial trials were launched in pilot zones to test climate-smart and zero-deforestation agricultural practices

24

potential technical centre sites identified

A preliminary mapping of infrastructure needs was completed to support agricultural extension and innovation systems

145

potential agricultural investment projects identified

Early pipeline development identified investment opportunities among cooperatives, SMEs and larger operators



Cover of the Atlas supported by the AFD project in the Republic of Congo

Wood-energy transition and improved cooking solutions : Reducing pressure on forests from fuelwood demand

60

improved cookstoves sold in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, contributing to reduced wood-energy consumption

10

production workshops

19

sales points operational

A local improved cookstove value chain is emerging, involving trained artisans and structured distribution channels.

~ 1,000

tCO₂-eq avoided through early adoption of improved cookstoves during the first 5 months of implementation

Overall, results in 2025 show strong progress in systems, planning and investment preparation, with initial operational results emerging in targeted sectors such as wood energy. Moving forward, the priority will be to scale implementation and translate these foundations into measurable impacts on deforestation and livelihoods.

Gabon



Forests

88%

Forest coverage

High forest, low deforestation country

National Partners

Led by the National Climate Council

- Ministry of Planning and Foresight
- Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Rural Development
- Ministry of Water and Forests, Environment, Climate, and in charge of Human-Wildlife Conflict
- Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations (AGEOS)
- Gabon Agricultural Development Agency (ADAG)
- Gabon National Parks Agency (ANPN)
- Gabonese Agency for Standardization (AGANOR)

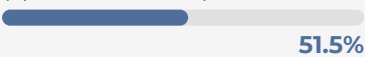
Financing

USD 195 M
Pledged

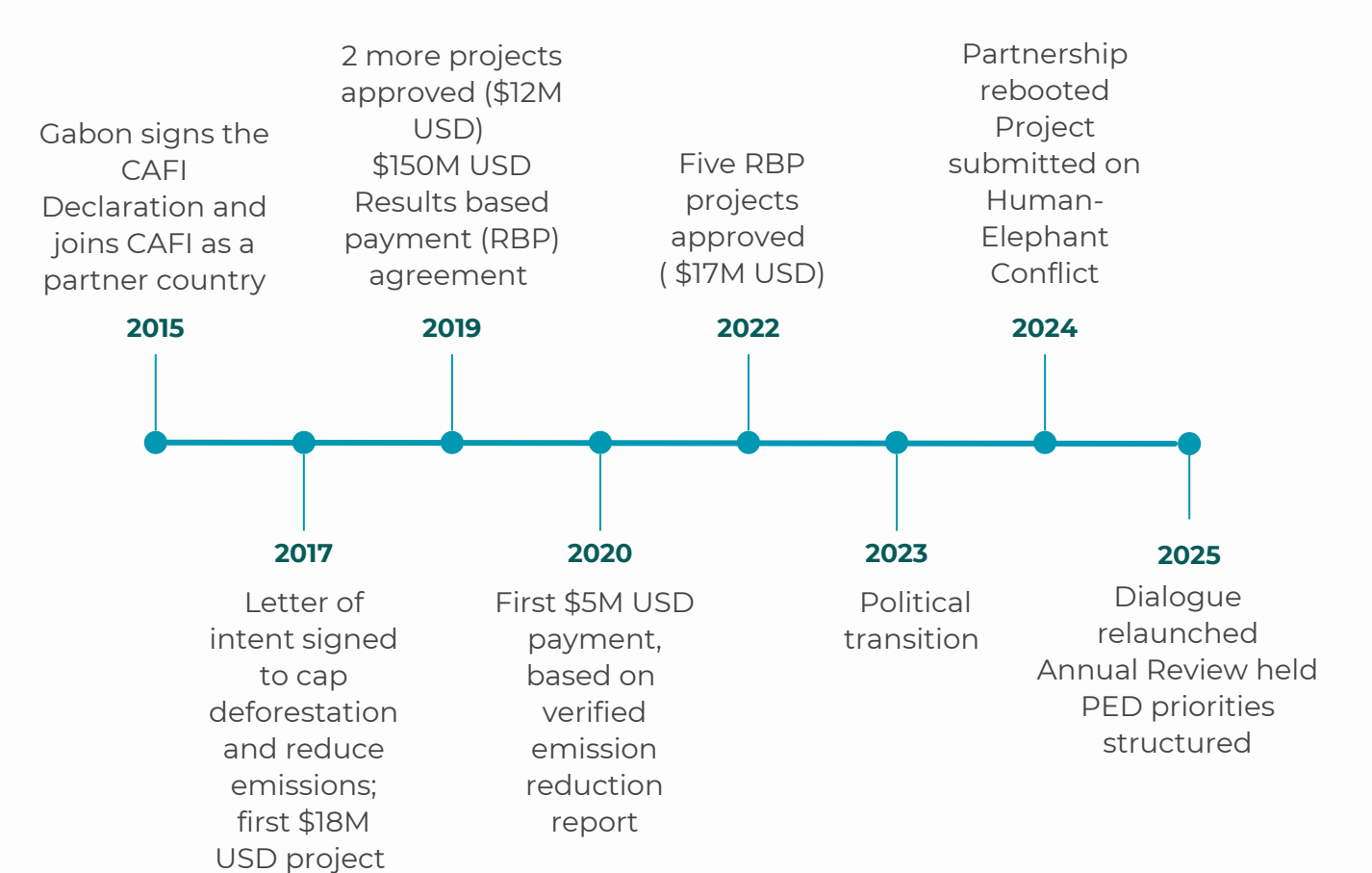
USD 50.7 M
Transferred

USD 26.1 M
Spent

Disbursement Rate
(Spent/Transferred)



Partnership overview



"CAFI has enabled Gabon to pilot and mobilise groundbreaking results-based payments"

*Louise Pierrette Mvono, Minister of Planning, Gabon,
New York, 24 September 2025*

Milestone achievement

● Achieved ● In progress ● Delayed/not achieved



CAFI-Gabon Letter of Intent 16 milestone achievement status, by end 2025 .

In 2025, the CAFI–Gabon partnership focused on **re-establishing structured policy dialogue** following the government reorganisation of January 2025, while repositioning the partnership around a set of clear strategic priorities.

Early in the year, CAFI facilitated rapid engagement with the newly appointed authorities, including targeted briefings to the Ministers in charge of Environment and of Water and Forests. These exchanges helped clarify priorities, notably around Payments for Environmental Services (PES) and human–wildlife conflict and ensured continuity of the partnership in a changing institutional context.

Throughout the year, CAFI played a central role in structuring dialogue and coordination across stakeholders. This included:

- Establishing and facilitating a **national PES workgroup**, bringing together government, research institutions, the private sector and civil society
- Supporting continuous technical exchanges to define priority areas and implementation approaches for PES
- Strengthening **coordination** between ministries and implementing organisations

At the same time, Gabon continued to strengthen its positioning in international climate frameworks. Progress was made on the ART-TREES process, with submission of registration and monitoring reports for the 2018–2022 crediting period and ongoing revisions. The CAFI–Gabon Annual Review (October 2025) also provided an important moment to consolidate dialogue and align stakeholders.

The partnership remained active and structured in 2025, with renewed political engagement, clearer priorities and stronger coordination across stakeholders.

Portfolio Overview

AFD – Land Use Planning and Monitoring (CAFI 1)

Status: Closed (2025)

Budget: USD 18.4 million

Focus: National land-use planning (PNAT), forest monitoring systems, village mapping

UNDP – Expansion of Protected Areas (CAFI 2)

Status: Closed (2025)

Budget: USD 5 million

Focus: Protected area expansion, agricultural land-use optimisation, carbon data systems

UNDP – Protected Areas (CAFI 3)

Status: Closed (2025)

Budget: USD 9 million

Focus: Protection and surveillance of national parks

TNC – Certification and Legality (CAFI 2)

Status: Active

Budget: USD 7.0 million

Focus: Sustainable forest management and emissions reduction through improved forestry practices

UNDP – Coordination

Status: Active

Budget: USD 1.5 million

Focus: Institutional coordination and implementation support across the portfolio

UNDP / UNESCO – Urban Greening

Status: Active

Budget: USD 2.0 million

Focus: Urban forestry, environmental education and community engagement

TNC – Certification and Legality (CAFI 3)

Status: Active

Budget: USD 2.9 million

Focus: Continued support to sustainable forestry and certification systems

TNC – Research and Monitoring (CAFI 3)

Status: Active

Budget: USD 2.5 million

Focus: Forest ecosystem monitoring, biodiversity and carbon tracking

WCS – Peaceful human–elephant co-existence in Gabon (see [Spotlight](#))

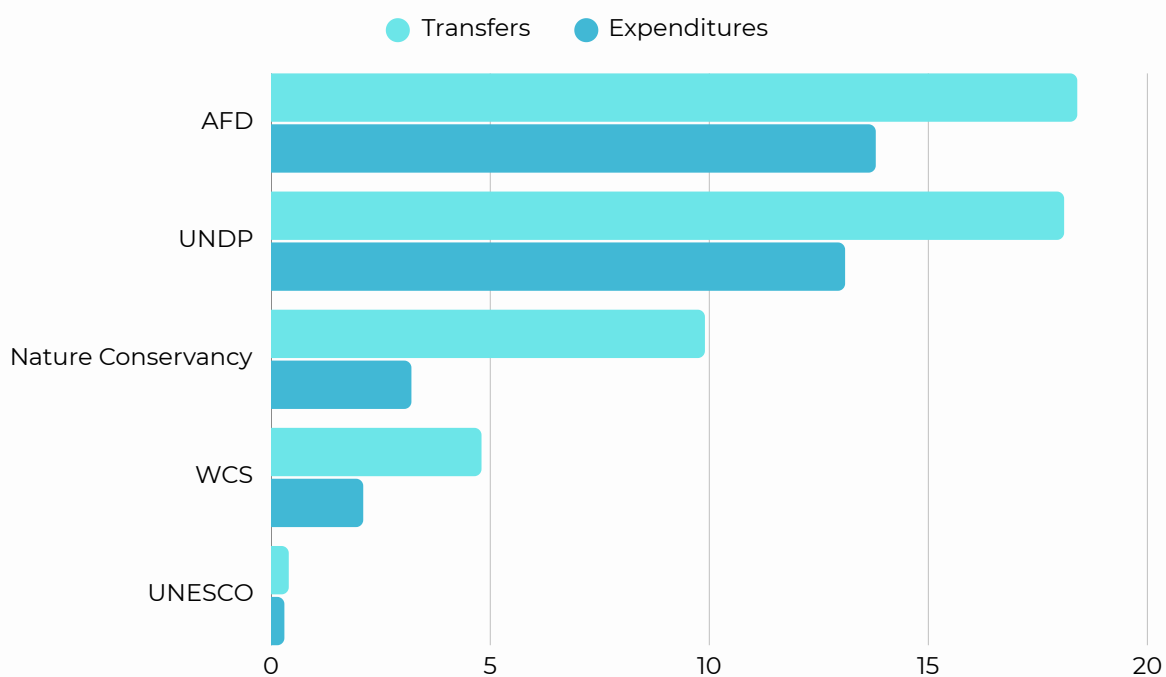
Status: Active (launched 2025)

Budget: USD 10 million

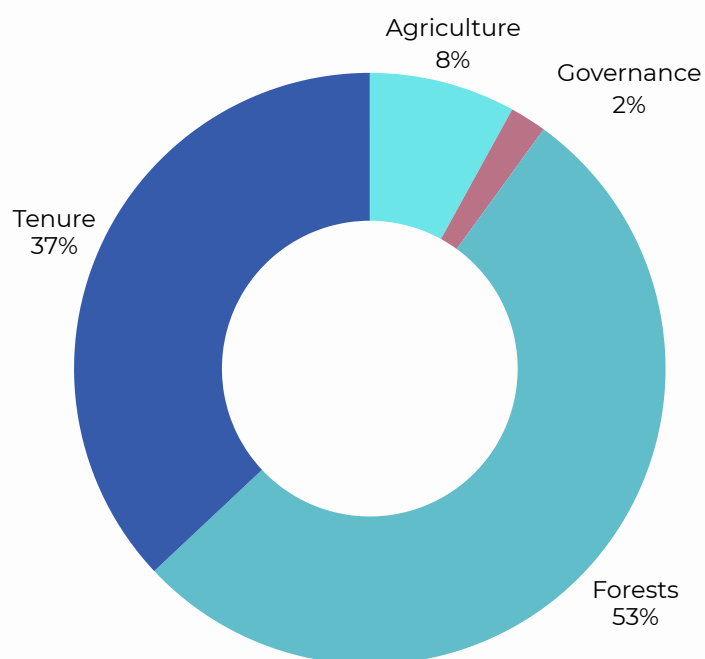
Focus: Reducing human–wildlife conflict and protecting rural livelihoods

Projects active in 2025

The portfolio is transitioning from large system-building programmes toward a more targeted mix of forestry, monitoring and community-focused interventions, with increasing emphasis on results-based approaches and operational delivery.



Transfers and expenditures (M USD)
per implementing organization in Gabon



Expenditures by outcome in 2025

Results

Forest monitoring and land-use planning : Building a national system for land-use and forest monitoring

1548

villages mapped

Participatory mapping reached around 60% of villages nationwide, with 908 maps validated and returned to communities and the remainder integrated into national systems.

1,877

village spatial
footprints mapped

Village boundaries digitised across multiple provinces, supporting land-use allocation and planning processes.

100,096

deforestation
alerts generated

18,370 alerts transmitted to authorities, of which 508 triggered field verification missions, strengthening enforcement and response capacity

365

permanent forest monitoring plots established
Together with 44 biodiversity transects and around 1,500 plant specimens collected, these contribute to the national forest inventory and ecosystem monitoring

1488

native tree species identified
Including endemic and sub-endemic species, strengthening the national biodiversity knowledge base

HCV & HCS

mapping completed at national level

High Conservation Value (HCV 1 and 3) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas were mapped, with three national map layers integrated into the PNAT database.

150

maps produced for CNAT, supporting land-use allocation processes and were complemented by thematic maps and environmental alerts shared with sectoral ministries.

Operational national land-use database established

Multi-sector datasets (forestry, mining, agriculture, infrastructure) are now integrated within a centralised platform supported by formal data-sharing agreements.

Protected areas, agriculture and communities : From systems to field-level impact

1028

mobile electric fences installed

Deployed across 508 villages under the Human–Elephant Conflict programme to reduce crop damage and protect livelihoods.

16,288

beneficiaries reached

Rural communities across all provinces benefited directly from protection measures and associated support.

2,494

hectares of crops protected
Electric fencing systems secured agricultural land from elephant intrusion, with an effectiveness rate of approximately 94%.

See [this Spotlight](#) for detailed information on our Elephant conflict programme

217

surveillance missions conducted across 13 national parks, covering more than 27,600 km and strengthening on-the-ground presence.

200

individuals apprehended and 137 infractions recorded
Including poaching, illegal fishing, mining and logging activities detected through strengthened patrol systems.

Operational capacity of national parks significantly reinforced

18 vehicles and 1 bus deployed, park bases rehabilitated and equipped, and targeted training delivered to park managers and technical staff on planning, monitoring and financial management

Monitoring and reporting systems strengthened

Harmonised tools and improved data collection systems now support more consistent tracking of park-level performance.

Soil analysis and GIS laboratories built and operational

These facilities now provide national capacity to assess agricultural suitability and support land-use planning.

National agricultural land law drafted and submitted (May 2024)

Providing a basis for improved governance and more sustainable management of agricultural land

Results in 2025 show a clear shift toward operational delivery, combining **strengthened national systems with tangible benefits for communities**, particularly in [addressing human–wildlife conflict](#).

Project Spotlight : Human–wildlife coexistence: protecting communities and elephants



The “Human–elephant coexistence” programme in Gabon addresses one of the most pressing challenges facing rural communities: crop destruction and livelihood insecurity caused by human–elephant conflict, while safeguarding one of the country’s most emblematic species. The project operates across all nine provinces of Gabon, combining field deployment, institutional strengthening and community engagement to deliver practical, scalable solutions.

Delivering immediate protection for farmers

In 2025, the project moved rapidly from design to large-scale deployment following its launch in March. A total of 1,028 mobile electric fences were installed across 508 villages, protecting approximately 2,494 hectares of crops and benefiting over 16,000 people.

National partners

Ministry of Water and Forests (Gabon), in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture

Implementing

organization: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Start date : March 2025

Budget: USD 10 million

Disbursed (Dec 2025):
USD 2.1 million

With an effectiveness rate of 94%, these systems have **significantly reduced elephant intrusions** into agricultural areas, allowing farmers to secure harvests and stabilise food production. By reducing crop losses and tensions between communities and wildlife, the project helps build local support for elephant conservation and reduces incentives for retaliatory killings, contributing to the long-term protection of forest ecosystems and biodiversity. Demand remains high, with more than 2,600 requests recorded by the end of 2025, highlighting both the scale of the challenge and the relevance of the solution.

A coordinated national response

The programme is anchored in a strong partnership between WCS, national authorities and specialised technical partners, including Space for Giants. It supports the deployment of inter-ministerial brigades across the country, responsible for conflict mitigation, community outreach and monitoring.

In 2025:

- All provinces were covered by operational brigades
- 400+ villages were reached through awareness and sensitisation campaigns
- 80+ government agents were trained in deployment, monitoring and conflict management

Digital tools and field-based data collection systems were also introduced to improve tracking of incidents, community requests and intervention outcomes.



Above and bottom : project beneficiaries next to their electrified fences

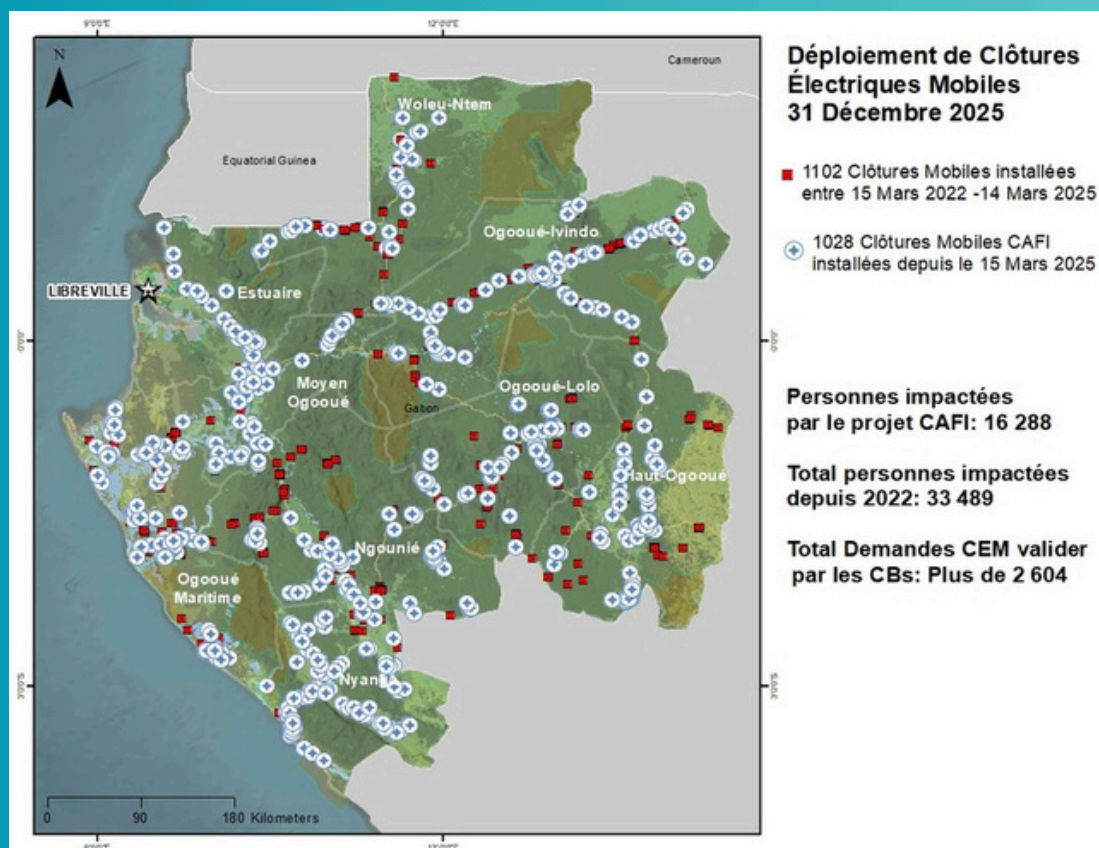
Supporting communities beyond emergency response

Beyond immediate protection, the programme is laying the foundations for longer-term coexistence:

- development of a national communication strategy on human–wildlife coexistence
- preparation of sustainable agriculture interventions in protected areas
- design of an insurance mechanism to compensate farmers for crop losses

These components aim to shift from reactive mitigation toward a more systemic approach, combining prevention, compensation and behavioural change.

By combining rapid deployment of proven solutions with institutional capacity building and community engagement, the programme demonstrates how human–wildlife conflict can be addressed at scale while supporting rural livelihoods and conserving biodiversity.



Map of installed fences (white: installed thanks to CAFI support since March 2025)

Cameroon



Forest Capital

20 M

Hectares of forest

Baseline data integrated from the FRA 2020 assessment

Diverse

Ecosystem Landscape

Spanning from dense tropical rainforests to sudano-sahelian zones

National Partners Governance Strategic Coordination & Rural Development

- Ministry of Economy, Planning and Land Use Planning (MINEPAT)
- Ministry of Decentralisation & Local Development
- Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development
- Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection & Sustainable Dev.
- Ministry of Forests & Wildlife

Sectoral Support & Technical Framework

- Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure
- Ministry of Mines, Industry & Technological Development
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Scientific Research & Innovation
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Development

Financing Tracker

USD 66.8 M

Funding Approved

Allocated to country portfolio axes

USD 50.7 M

Funding Transferred

Net deposits to national operations

USD 25.1 M

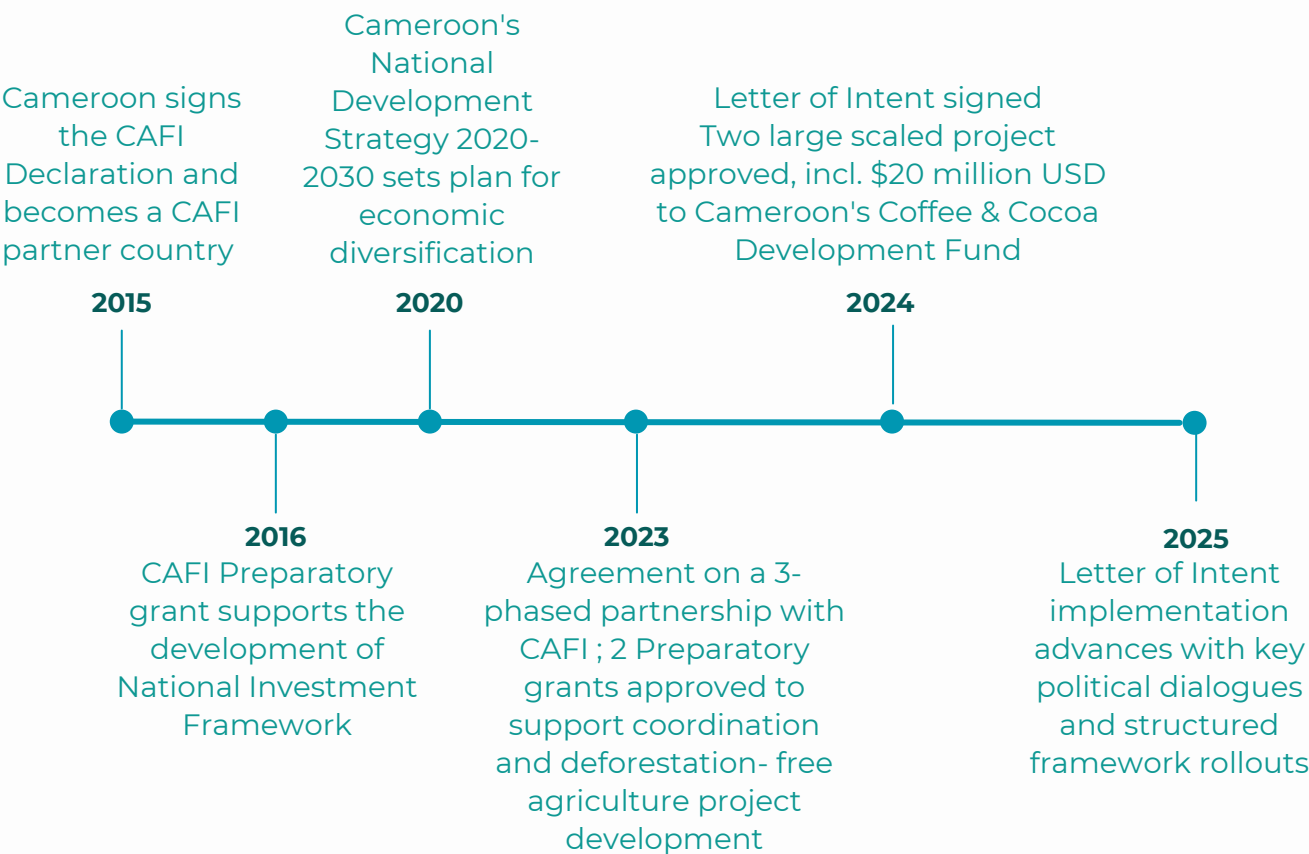
Funding Spent

Disbursed on field interventions

Disbursement Rate (Spent/Transferred)

49.8%

Partnership overview



Milestone achievement



Details may be found in "CAFE's Progress Report on Milestones of Letters of Intent"

In 2025, CAFI and the Government of Cameroon moved into the first year of implementation of the Letter of Intent (2025–2035) signed in October 2024. The focus was on putting the partnership into motion, with an emphasis on coordination, policy work and early structuring.

The partnership is anchored in MINEPAT and organised around 33 milestones spanning governance, sustainable agriculture, land-use planning and forest conservation. Throughout the year, CAFI supported the Government in advancing these priorities and strengthening coordination across institutions.

Work progressed well on climate planning. The National Climate Plan and the revision of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 reached an advanced stage, supported by technical work on mitigation, adaptation, MRV and gender. Two national workshops held in October and November 2025 helped consolidate inputs and produce a draft version, pending final validation.

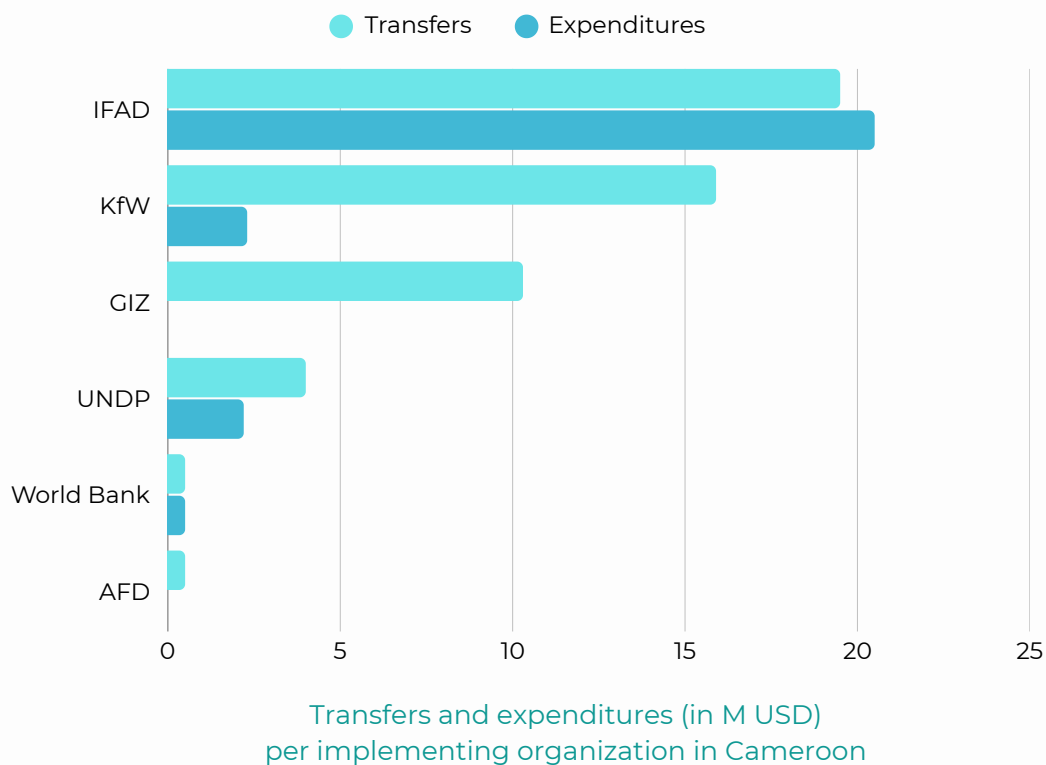
In parallel, key reforms were launched or moved forward, including the National Forest Economy Plan and the National Agro-Industrial Plan.

These processes are closely aligned with Cameroon's broader development strategy and are central to the partnership.

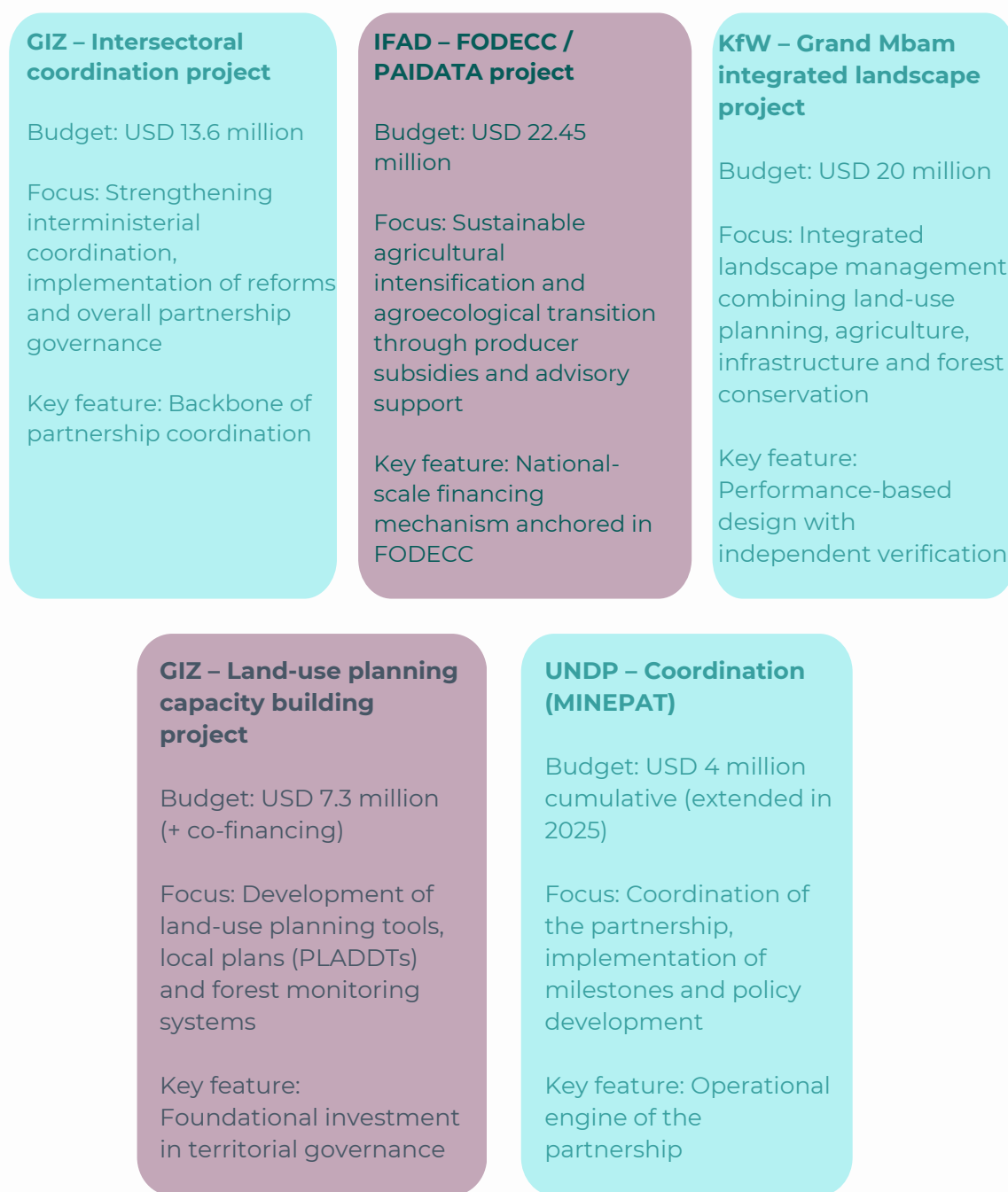
The preparatory grant continued to support coordination and ensure that work across ministries remained aligned and moving forward.

As a result, the partnership is now structurally in place, with governance, planning tools and policy frameworks actively being built.

Portfolio overview



In 2025, the portfolio took shape as a structured package of projects (next page) supporting the start-up phase of the partnership.



Projects active in 2025

In parallel, a pipeline for scale-up is emerging, notably through the RACINE programme (CAFI–GCF), whose concept note was endorsed in November 2025. While not yet part of the active portfolio, it provides context for the next phase.

Overall, the portfolio is now largely in place, with core projects approved and moving into implementation.

Results

As 2025 corresponds to the start-up phase, results are mainly visible in how the partnership has been set up and is beginning to operate.

Coordination is now functioning more effectively, with clearer roles across ministries and more regular policy dialogue supporting implementation of the Letter of Intent. This has helped move forward several key areas in parallel.

On the policy side, climate planning is well advanced, with the National Climate Plan and NDC 3.0 close to finalisation. Work on sectoral reforms, including the forest economy and agro-industrial plans, is also progressing and helping shape the overall direction of the partnership.

On the investment side, the main projects have been approved and are entering implementation. This phase has already helped identify practical challenges and refined how projects are monitored and supported.

At the same time, the groundwork is being laid for larger-scale investments, with growing engagement from partners such as the Green Climate Fund and the development of programmes like RACINE.

2025 was about putting the pieces in place, creating the conditions for implementation and scale in the years ahead.

Central African Republic



Forest

28.3 M ha

Natural forests

47% of the country's land area

National Partners Led by the Minister's Office

- Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development
- Ministry for Finances and Budget

Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing

Financing

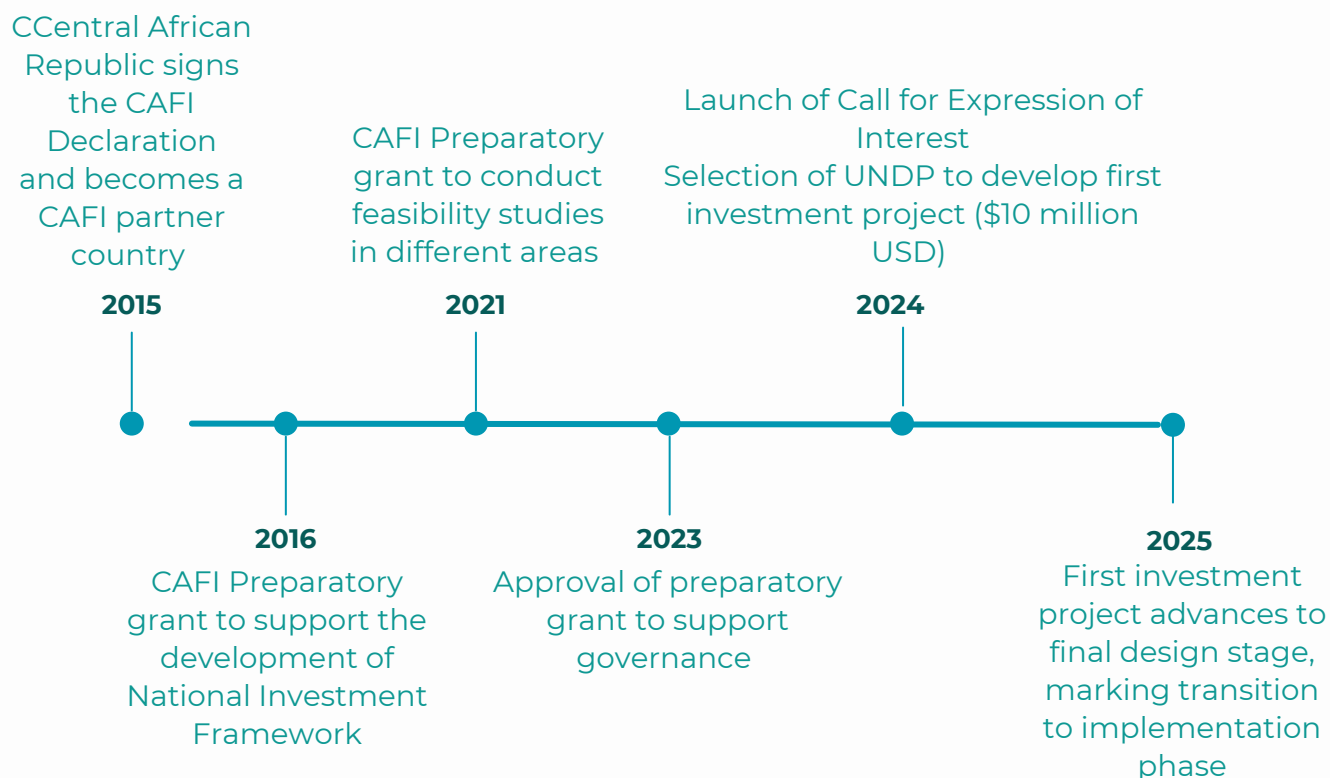
USD 2.6 M
Transferred

USD 2.4 M
Spent

Disbursement Rate
(Spent/Transferred)



Partnership overview

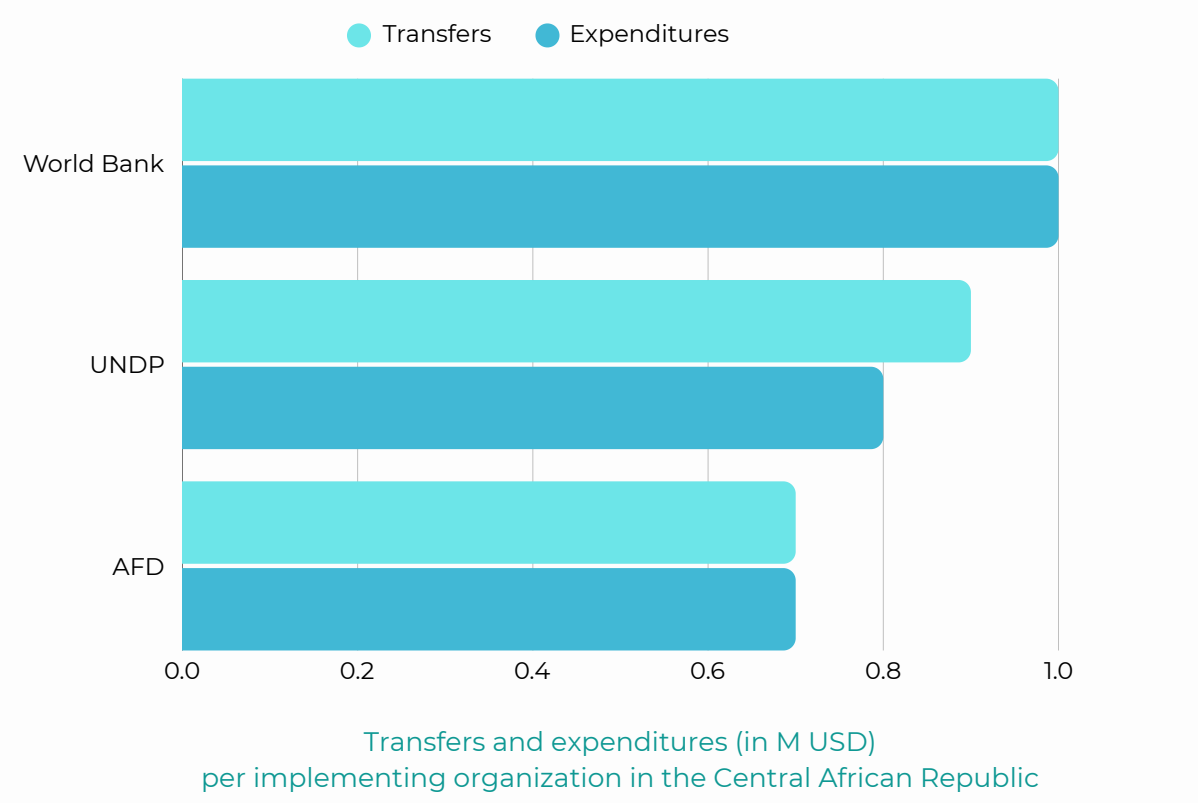


In 2025, the partnership with the Central African Republic (CAR) entered a transition phase toward investment. Policy dialogue remained sustained with the three focal ministries (Finance, Environment and Forestry), following the Government's instruction to deepen the partnership, and continued alignment of CAFI priorities with the National Development Plan and the REDD+ National Investment Framework.

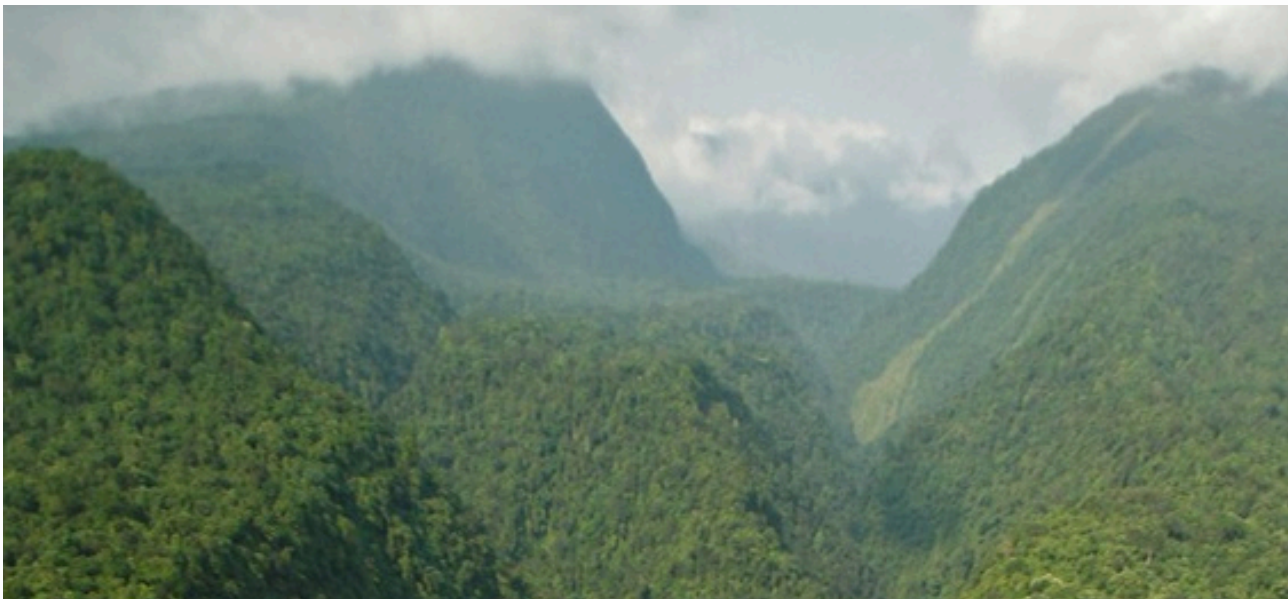
The country also strengthened its integration into the regional Payments for Environmental Services (PES) dynamic. Government representatives contributed to the development of national PES roadmaps at the Kinshasa interministerial conference (January 2025), and the Central African Republic was included in the first regional Call for Expressions of Interest to scale up PES programming, approved by the Executive Board in December 2025.

Portfolio overview

In 2025, the first CAFI investment project advanced significantly from selection to near-finalisation. UNDP was selected as implementing organisation in January 2025, followed by the implementation of a preparatory grant (April–September 2025) to develop a USD 10 million PES pilot project in the Bangui area.



Equatorial Guinea



Forest

2.6 M ha

Natural forests

94% of the country's land area

National Partners

- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
- Ministry of Planning Economic Diversification

Financing

USD 1.1 M
Transferred

USD 1.1 M
Spent

Disbursement Rate
(Spent/Transferred)

100.0%

Partnership overview

In 2025, engagement with Equatorial Guinea focused on preparing the transition toward an investment phase under the partnership.

Government representatives participated in the regional Payments for Environmental Services (PES) conference in Kinshasa in January 2025, endorsing the regional roadmap and positioning the country within CAFE's performance-based approach.

Throughout the year, CAFE maintained dialogue with national counterparts and implementing organisations, focusing on two priority areas: feasibility studies for future investment programmes (led by AFD) and the development of a national land-use planning framework (supported by FAO).

Progress was made in advancing these preparatory processes and addressing outstanding conditions for implementation.

This sustained engagement reflects a preparation phase aimed at structuring priority interventions and enabling future CAFE investments in the country.

Regional projects



USD 221.5 M

Funding Approved

Total budget formally allocated and approved for regional coordination, frameworks and strategic initiatives.



USD 194.0 M

Funding Transferred

Funds successfully disbursed and transferred to active regional implementing partner organisations.



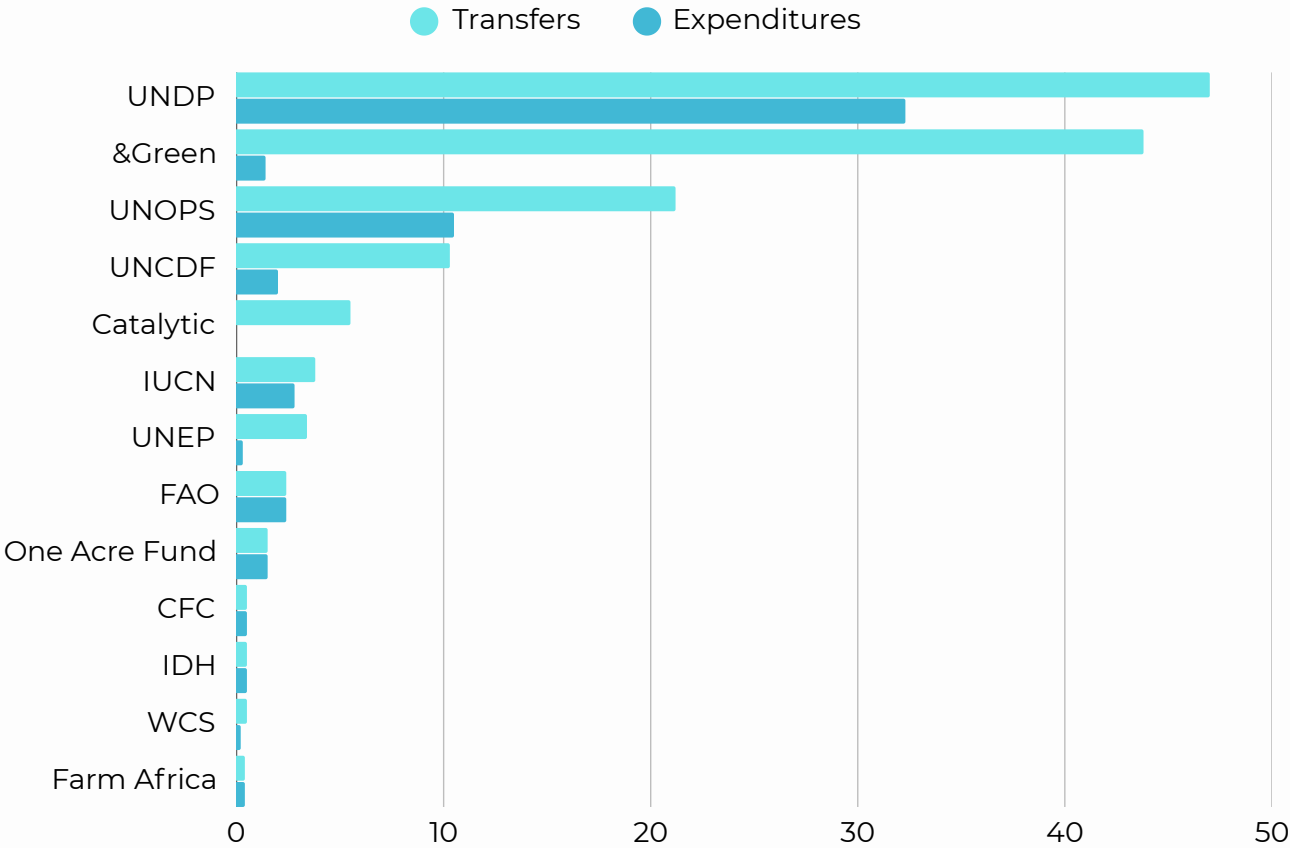
USD 50.6 M

Funding Spent

Cumulative expenditures reported, tracked and fully verified on the ground across active projects.

CAFI's regional projects are developed to efficiently address challenges that are shared by more than one country in the sub-region. These can cover scientific work such as following deforestation trends in the region, private sector investments or the regional [Technical Assistance Facility](#) open to all CAFI countries.

Portfolio overview

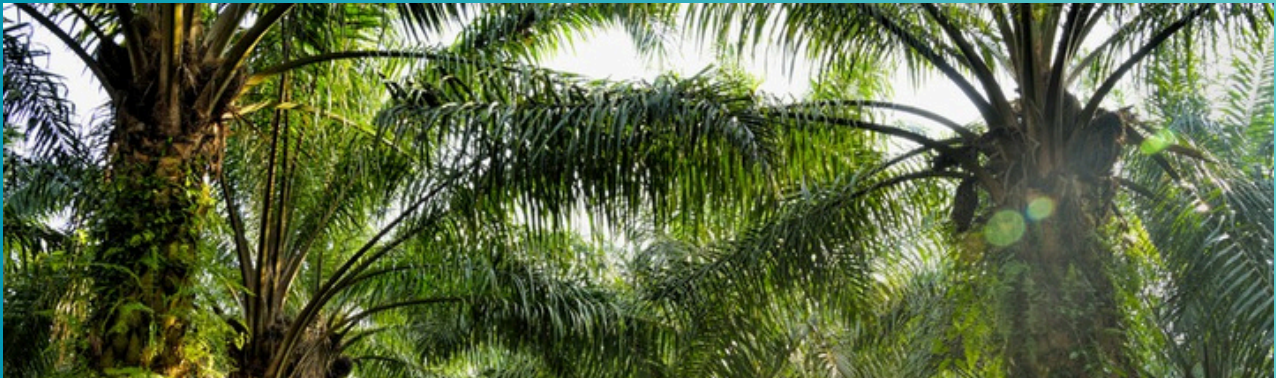


Transfers and expenditures to implementing organization for regional projects (M USD)



Project Spotlight

Flexible support to accelerate country delivery of CAFE commitments



The Regional Technical Assistance Facility, implemented by UNOPS, provides flexible, on-demand support to CAFE partner countries and regional initiatives. It helps mobilise expertise quickly, respond to country priorities and remove technical or operational bottlenecks that can slow down implementation.

A flexible mechanism for country delivery

Since the start of the project, UNOPS has received 32 technical assistance requests. By the end of 2025, 13 had been completed and 19 were under implementation. In 2025 alone, UNOPS worked on 27 requests, including 12 new requests received during the year and 15 continuing from previous workplans.

Implementing organization

UNOPS

Start date : December 2023

Financial outlook

Budget : 26,57 million USD

Disbursed (Dec 2025) : 20 million USD

Geographic scope: all six CAFE partner countries

A flexible mechanism for country delivery

The Facility covers a wide range of technical, operational and strategic priorities, reflecting country demand and CAFI's evolving workstreams, such as :

- support to PES roadmaps and pilots
- partnership coordination and national climate commitments
- strengthening of climate governance and institutions
- development of direct payment systems
- support to independent verification of project results
- private sector feasibility studies
- logistical and communication support for major international events, including COP30



Supporting national institutions directly

A key strength of the Facility is that **it can work directly with national institutions**, helping them implement CAFI-related priorities while strengthening operational capacity.

By the end of 2025, **8 national entities had signed cooperation agreements** under the Facility, including the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in DRC, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development in Cameroon, the Prime Minister's Office in Republic of Congo, the National Climate Council in Gabon, the National Agency for National Parks in Gabon, the National Climate Council and Gabonese Agricultural Development Agency, and the Technical Centre for Communal Forests in Cameroon. This enabled direct support to national PES roadmaps, partnership coordination, Gabon's climate governance agenda, protected area management and Cameroon's producer financing window.

Accelerating CAFI priorities in 2025

In 2025, the Facility played a central role in advancing CAFI's performance-based and PES agenda. It **supported the PES digital and payment ecosystem**, including mobile payment solutions and the hosting, maintenance and technical support of PES tools. This contributed to the first mobile PES payments (see this [Spotlight](#)).

The Facility also supported **independent verification**, including the contracting of SCS Global Services and verification work on PROREP (see this [Spotlight](#)) and One Acre Fund. It also supported country participation and visibility at COP30 in Belém, including logistical and communication support for delegations from DRC, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Cameroon.

Supporting science, learning and investment readiness

The Facility contributed to strengthening CAFI's evidence base and future programming. In 2025, it supported forest plot data collection with the University of Leeds across Cameroon, DRC, Republic of Congo and Gabon, with **83 forest plots inventoried against an initial target of 75**.

It also supported the CAFI Scientific Network. A call for proposals received 13 submissions, of which 3 were selected for approximately USD 2.58 million, with Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie ([AUF](#)), Réseau de solutions pour le développement durable ([SDSN](#)) and UNEP-WCMC. The 2025 assessment report summary was launched at COP30.

On private sector engagement, the Facility supported feasibility studies for seven companies, including CAP, Mushiete & Co, InterHolco, Arise IIP, GoCongo, SOBICO and Ngassam Farm, helping prepare future forest-positive investment opportunities.

Overall, the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility demonstrates the value of a **flexible, demand-driven delivery mechanism**, enabling CAFI to support countries more directly, accelerate implementation and translate political commitments into concrete results on the ground.

7. Managing Risks in Complex Environments

CAFI operates in complex environments where political, institutional and operational challenges can affect the pace and sustainability of reforms. Managing these risks is therefore an integral part of CAFI's approach and is supported through regular portfolio monitoring, performance reviews and dedicated risk assessments.

In 2025, the overall risk profile of the portfolio remained broadly stable. As programmes increasingly moved from planning and policy development into implementation, challenges shifted from design and coordination issues towards delivery, capacity and sustainability considerations.

The operating environment also remained shaped by broader political, institutional and security developments in several partner countries, including government reshuffles, administrative transitions and localised insecurity. These contextual risks have the potential to affect the implementation of reforms and investments. CAFI continued to mitigate them through sustained policy dialogue with partner governments, regular reviews of reform commitments under Letters of Intent, close coordination with implementing partners and adaptive programme management, helping maintain reform momentum despite evolving national contexts.

Land Tenure: A Persistent Structural Challenge

Land tenure insecurity remained one of the most significant structural challenges across the CAFI portfolio. Competing land claims, overlapping customary and statutory rights, unclear boundaries and weak land administration systems continued to create challenges in some programme areas.

These issues can slow investments, complicate community engagement and create uncertainty around long-term land-use planning. At the same time, important progress was achieved during the year. The Democratic Republic of the Congo promulgated new tenure and land-use planning Laws and advanced implementation tools supporting land governance reform. Mapping and land-use planning processes expanded across several landscapes, while community-based approaches helped clarify rights and strengthen local participation in decision-making.

Projects continued to deploy mitigation measures including participatory mapping, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, grievance mechanisms, community mediation approaches and support to national land reform efforts. Land tenure insecurity also represents an important consideration for the successful deployment of Payments for Environmental Services (PES), which rely on clearly identified beneficiaries and well-defined land areas. At the same time, the progressive deployment of PES is helping address some of these risks by linking payments to clearly identified beneficiaries and establishing contractual environmental commitments in pre-defined land areas.

From Reform Design to Implementation

As the portfolio matured, implementation capacity emerged as a recurring challenge across several programmes.

Several projects experienced implementation delays linked to procurement processes, recruitment, institutional transitions and the coordination of complex multi-partner delivery arrangements involving governments, implementing organisations and local actors. Differences in institutional capacity also affected the pace of implementation in some projects. As a result, ambitious reforms occasionally progressed more slowly than anticipated as policy commitments were translated into operational systems and field-level activities.

These challenges contributed to uneven implementation across the portfolio in 2025, with progress varying between countries and sectors depending on institutional capacity and implementation readiness.

To address this, implementing partners strengthened technical assistance, reinforced programme management arrangements and adjusted implementation plans where necessary. CAFI also continued to strengthen performance monitoring and project accountability to identify bottlenecks earlier and support timely corrective action.

Strengthening Data Quality and Accountability

As CAFI scales up performance-based approaches, ensuring the quality and credibility of reported results has become increasingly important.

The first independent verification exercise conducted in 2025 identified areas where monitoring systems, documentation and traceability could be strengthened. While verification confirmed the value of existing monitoring efforts, it also highlighted opportunities to improve evidence management, indicator reporting and internal quality assurance processes.

These findings translated into concrete corrective actions, including clarification of evidence standards, targeted follow-up with implementing partners and, where necessary, decisions to close or discontinue underperforming projects. The experience reinforced CAFI's shift towards performance-based management, where monitoring serves not only to report progress but also to improve delivery. This reflects a broader move towards greater accountability across the portfolio, linking evidence more directly to management decisions and resource allocation.

Sustaining Results Over the Long Term

As CAFI's portfolio matures, ensuring the sustainability of reforms and investments over the long term is becoming an increasingly important area of focus.

Several projects are now focused on embedding reforms, systems and delivery mechanisms within national institutions. This includes strengthening government ownership of monitoring systems, supporting long-term financing mechanisms, and building the institutional capacities required to sustain results beyond the lifespan of individual projects. National ownership remains central to CAFI's approach to ensuring durable outcomes.

This principle has also guided the development of CAFI's Payments for Environmental Services (PES) programme. Particular attention has been given to designing nationally owned systems and sustainable exit strategies capable of maintaining incentives and delivery mechanisms beyond the duration of individual projects.

These experiences continue to inform CAFI's strategic approach, including greater emphasis on targeted technical assistance, stronger performance monitoring, nationally owned delivery systems and adaptive implementation tailored to different country contexts.

At the same time, CAFI continued to invest in systems designed to strengthen risk management across the portfolio. In 2025, the Metrics Hub was expanded to cover the entirety of CAFI's active AFOLU portfolio, while a milestone-tracking framework was introduced to monitor progress on policy and reform commitments. Together, these tools improve the early identification of implementation challenges and support evidence-based decision-making.

Additional information on CAFI's risk management framework is available to Executive Board members through CAFI's Risk Management Dashboard.

8. Lessons from a decade of action

After ten years of implementation across Central Africa, CAFI's experience shows that progress comes from aligning political commitments, financing, and practical delivery. Over time, approaches have been tested and adjusted, highlighting where initial plans could have accelerated implementation and where current practices should be sustained and strengthened.

"I commend CAFI's ability to transform financing into tangible impacts and innovations"

Haoliang Xu, Acting Administrator of UNDP, New York, 24 September 2025

Lesson 1: Anchor political commitments early in delivery mechanisms

Letters of Intent and high-level agreements have been effective in setting direction. Impact is faster when these are matched from the outset with clear implementation arrangements, financing pipelines and institutional responsibilities. Aligning commitments and delivery earlier helps shorten the time between agreement and execution.

Lesson 2: Invest early in coordination across sectors

CAFI's whole-of-government approach has been essential to address deforestation drivers. Experience shows that stronger upfront coordination across ministries, with clear mandates and working structures, helps avoid delays during implementation and supports more coherent land-use decisions.

.

Lesson 3: Keep processes simple and supported in practice

As the portfolio expanded, increasing procedural complexity slowed implementation in some cases. Experience showed that standardised templates and workflows, digital monitoring tools and targeted implementation support through the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility helped reduce bottlenecks and accelerate delivery. Providing practical, on-demand support to partners has helped unblock delivery. Keeping processes simple, while ensuring partners can navigate them effectively, is key to maintaining momentum.

Lesson 4: Build national delivery capacity from the start

Initial reliance on a limited set of international implementing organisations ensured strong fiduciary standards but constrained national ownership. Expanding access to national actors, combined with targeted capacity support, has strengthened delivery. Earlier investment in national systems could have broadened implementation options sooner.

Lesson 5: Link forest objectives to tangible local benefits

Programmes that connect forest protection with livelihoods, land rights, or energy access have shown stronger uptake and durability. This confirms that conservation efforts are most effective when they are directly aligned with economic opportunities and daily realities for communities.

Lesson 6: Use monitoring and verification systems to guide decisions

National monitoring systems, satellite data, milestone tracking and independent verification have strengthened the credibility of CAFE's approach. These systems have informed corrective actions with implementing partners, clarification of evidence requirements, adjustments to implementation approaches and, where necessary, decisions to rescale or discontinue underperforming projects. Monitoring is therefore not only a reporting function but a management tool that supports better delivery, stronger accountability and more effective allocation of resources.

Lesson 7: Design performance-based approaches iteratively

Early experience with results-based payments and Payments for Environmental Services highlighted practical challenges including complex procedures, verification constraints and transaction costs. CAFE's shift toward standardised frameworks, digital tools and clearer contracts reflects this learning. Continued iteration is essential to ensure these mechanisms are efficient and scalable.

Lesson 8: Structure private sector engagement deliberately

Mobilising private investment has required dedicated tools, risk-sharing mechanisms and clear alignment with national priorities. Experience shows that private sector engagement does not happen organically and must be actively structured through pipelines, safeguards and de-risking instruments.

Conclusion

*“The forests of the Congo Basin
are too important to fail”*

*Mary Creagh, Parliamentary Under-
Secretary for Nature, United Kingdom,
New York, 24 September 2025*

As CAFI marks ten years of partnership, 2025 confirmed both the urgency of protecting the Congo Basin forests and the need to evolve how forest and climate finance is delivered. The pressures on forests remain structural and persistent, but so too is the opportunity: to support development pathways where standing forests, sustainable livelihoods and national priorities reinforce one another.

Over the year, CAFI deepened this transition.

The initiative strengthened performance-based management, advanced independent verification, expanded data and monitoring tools, and moved Payments for Environmental Services from design into early delivery.

The first PES payments in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo showed that verified environmental results can be linked to direct incentives for communities and beneficiaries.

2025 also marked a step change in CAFI’s investment model. Private sector engagement, blended finance and emerging PES pipelines are beginning to reshape the way CAFI mobilises capital, moving beyond grant financing toward approaches that can unlock domestic resources, private investment and climate finance. In a more constrained international financing context, this catalytic role will become increasingly important.

At country level, partnerships continued to mature. Structural reforms advanced, portfolios expanded or shifted toward implementation, and regional momentum grew around PES, gender and inclusion, and country ownership. Progress was uneven, and implementation challenges remain, but the direction is clear: stronger systems, clearer accountability, and a growing focus on measurable results.

The next phase will require acceleration. CAFI's task is now to translate the foundations built over the past decade into delivery at scale: more verified results, more predictable finance for countries, more benefits reaching communities, and stronger incentives to keep forests standing.

Annex: project portfolio

DRC - Land use projects active* in 2025

IO	Short name and link	Start date	M USD approved
JICA	<u>PIREDD Kwilu</u>	2018	9
FAO	<u>PIREDD Equateur</u>	2019	25.2
AFD	<u>Agriculture in Savannas and Degraded Forests</u>	2020	22.9
GIZ	<u>PIREDD Maniema</u>	2021	30
UNOPS	<u>PIREDD Plateaux</u>	2024	11
ENABEL	<u>PIREDD Kasai Oriental & Lomami</u>	2024	35
ENABEL	<u>PIREDD Sud Ubangui</u>	2025	25
OAF	<u>Smallholder Agriculture in Kongo Central</u>	2025	30

*Approved and with funds transferred by 31 December 2025

DRC - Enabling projects active in 2025

IO	Short name and link	Start date	M USD approved
UNCDF/UNDP	<u>Sustainable Wood Energy</u>	2018	18
AFD	<u>Sustainable Management of Forests</u>	2020	12
UN Habitat	<u>Land Use Reform 2</u>	2024	15
UNDP	<u>Sustainable Agriculture Support Project</u>	2024	45
UNDP	<u>FONAREDD Secretariat</u>		7.5
CIFOR	<u>Civil society support II</u>	2025	5.5
GIZ	<u>Extractive Sector Standards (DISMII)</u>	2025	6
UNOPS	<u>PRSS Infrastructures</u>	2025	3.5
UNFPA/UNOPS	<u>PROMIS II</u>	2025	58
UNDP	<u>Carbon Market Access</u>	2025	3
UNDP	<u>National NGO Support</u>	2025	2
UNDP	<u>Milestone Support Programme (2025)</u>	2025	8

DRC - projects closed prior to 2025

IO	Short name and link	End date	M USD approved
FAO	<u>National Forest Monitoring System</u>	2021	10
FAO	<u>Sustainable Agriculture Reform</u>	2022	3
World Bank	<u>PIREDD Sud Ubangui</u>	2021	7
UN Habitat	<u>Land Tenure Reform 1</u>	2023	7
World Bank	<u>Support to Indigenous Peoples</u>	2023	2
UNFPA/UNOPS	<u>Scaling Up Family Planning</u>	2023	43
UNDP	<u>Support to Civil Society</u>	2023	3.3
UNDP	<u>NDC support (not via FONAREDD)</u>	2023	0.5
UNDP	<u>Support to Land Use Planning Reform</u>	2024	8
World Bank	<u>PIREDD Mai Ndombe</u>	2024	30
UNDP	<u>PIREDD Orientale</u>	2024	33
ENABEL	<u>PIREDD Mongala</u>	2025	12

Cameroon - projects active in 2025

IO	Short name and link	Start date	M USD approved
UNDP	<u>Coordination</u> (<u>preparatory grant</u>).	2023	0.3
IFAD	<u>Cocoa and Coffee</u> <u>Sectors Development</u> Fund Support	2024	22
KFW	<u>Sustainable PAMOL</u>	2025	0.4
GIZ/UNDP	<u>Coordination &</u> <u>Governance</u>	2025	13.6
KFW	<u>PGIP - Grand Mbam</u>	2025	20
GIZ	<u>Land Use Planning</u> <u>Capacity Building</u>	2025	7.3

Cameroon - closed projects

IO	Short name and link	End date	M USD approved
FAO	<u>Preparatory grant to</u> <u>develop Nat.</u> <u>Inv. Framework</u>	2019	0.5
FAO	<u>Cocoa and Coffee</u> <u>Sectors Development</u> Fund Support	2025	0.5

Gabon - projects active in 2025

IO	Short name and link	Start date	M USD approved
UNDP	<u>Coordination</u>	2022	1.5
TNC	<u>Certification and Legality (CAFI 2)</u>	2022	7
TNC	<u>Community Forest Management</u>	2022	3
TNC	<u>Research & Monitoring</u>	2022	2.5
UNESCO/UNDP	<u>Urban Greening</u>	2022	1.7
WCS	<u>Human-Elephant Coexistence</u>	2025	10

Gabon - closed projects

IO	Short name and link	End date	M USD approved
AFD	<u>Land Use Planning and Monitoring</u>	2025	18.5
UNDP	<u>Expansion of Protected Areas</u>	2025	5
UNDP	<u>Protected Areas</u>	2025	9

Rep. of Congo - projects active in 2025

IO	Short name and link	Start date	M USD approved
AFD	<u>Sustainable Land Use Planning-Governance</u>	2022	18.4
AFD	<u>Sustainable Land Use Investment</u>	2023	16.5
FAO	<u>Operationalization of the National MRV System</u>	2021	2
FAO	<u>Sustainable Wood Energy Plantations</u>	2022	7
Initiative Development	<u>Improved Cookstoves</u>	2023	1

Rep. of Congo - closed projects

IO	Short name and link	End date	M USD approved
UNDP	<u>Coordination</u>	2025	1.4
FAO	<u>Preparatory grant for GCF Proposal</u>	2020	0.3
World Bank	<u>Preparatory grant to Prepare NIF</u>	2019	0.7

Central African Republic (CAR)- project active in 2025

IO	Short name and link	Start date	M USD approved
UNDP	<u>PIREDD Bangui</u>	2025	0.3

CAR - closed projects

IO	Short name and link	End date	M USD approved
UNDP	<u>Feasibility_grant</u>	2025	0.6
AFD	<u>Feasibility Study Grant</u>	2022	0.7
World Bank	<u>WB preparatory funding</u>	2020	1

Equatorial Guinea - closed project

IO	Short name and link	End date	M USD approved
FAO	<u>Development of REDD+ Investment Plan</u>	2020	1

Regional projects active in 2025

IO	Short name and link	Start date	M USD approved
UNOPS	<u>Technical Assistance</u>	2023	10
&Green	<u>Scaling-up Commercial investment in Deforestation-Free Central African Commodity Supply Chains</u>	2024	51
UNCDF	<u>Scaling Up Investments in Deforestation-free Supply Chains</u>	2022	1.9
IDH	<u>Revive Central Africa</u>	2025	0.5
CFC	<u>Deforestation-Free Value Chains</u>	2025	0.5
UNDP	<u>South-South cooperation</u>	2025	0.2
WCS	<u>HIFOR</u>	2025	0.5
UNCDF/UNDP	<u>PRO-CONGO</u>	2025	15
Catalytic	<u>Canopy Trust</u>	2025	10

Closed regional projects

IO	Short name and link	End date	M USD approved
Farm Africa	<u>Innovative Agriculture</u>	2023	0.4
FAO	<u>Regional Study on Deforestation</u>	2025	2.4
IUCN	<u>CPIC Conservation Initiative</u>	2025	7.5
One Acre Fund	<u>Innovative Agriculture</u>	2024	1.5

List of acronyms

AFD : Agence Francaise de Développement
AFOLU: Agriculture, Forest and Other Land Uses
AUF : Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie
CAFI : Central African Forest Initiative
CAR: Central African Republic
CFC : Common Fund for Commodities
CIFOR : Center for International Forestry Research
COP : Conference of the Parties (to the UNFCCC)
DRC : Democratic Republic of the Congo
FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FODECC : (Cameroon)
FONAREDD : National REDD Fund of the DRC
FPIC : Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GCF : Green Climate Fund
GIS : Geographic Information System
GIZ : Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Germany)
ID : Initiative Développement
IO : Implementing organization
IFAD : International Fund for Agricultural Development
INGO : International Non Governmental Organization
ISO : International Organization for Standardization
IUCN : International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JICA : Japan's International Cooperation Agency
KfW : Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Germany)
LOI : Letter of Intent
M : Million
MPTF : Multi Partner Trust Fund
MRV : Monitoring, reporting and verification
NDC : Nationally Determined Contribution
OAF: One Acre Fund
PES : Payments for Environmental Services
PIREDD: Integrated REDD programme (in DRC)
PROBAK : Kinshasa Supply Basin PES programme
RBP : Results based payment
SCS : Scientific Certification Systems
TNC : The Nature Conservancy
UK : United Kingdom
UNCDF : United National Capital Development Fund
UNDP : United Nations Development Programme
UNEP : United Nations Environment
UNGA : United Nations General Assembly
UNOPS : United Nations Office for Project Services
USD : United States dollars
WCS : Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF : World Wildlife Fund

