



CAFI Executive Board Decision

Gabon - Invitation to submit a cost extension to the Project “Peaceful Human-Elephant Co-existence in Gabon” implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society [Project Gateway ID: 00141081](#)

Adopted by email on 17.09.2026

EB.2026.27

Considering:

- The CAFI Declaration; the Letter of Intent signed between CAFI and the Republic of Gabon on 27 June 2017 and its subsequent addenda; and the shared objective of protecting Gabon's forests while strengthening the resilience and livelihoods of rural communities.
- Decision [EB.2024.33](#) which calls for the periodic independent verification of reported results for all land-use, conservation, forestry and agriculture projects and which decides that these independent verifications will inform CAFI's decisions regarding the disbursement of instalment (tranches) of funding and the possible renewal of projects.
- Decision [EB.2025.02](#) concerning the project "Peaceful Human-Elephant Coexistence in Gabon", implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which approved a total project budget of USD 10,000,003, established a target of 1,800 mobile electric fences, and conditioned the release of the second tranche to the results of the independent verification.
- The signed Project Document for "Peaceful Human-Elephant Coexistence in Gabon" (Project ID: 00141081), implemented over 24 months by WCS in partnership with the Government of Gabon, Space for Giants and other national partners.
- The letter No. 0353/MEFECCHF/SG/DGFAP dated 25 February 2026 from the Minister of Water and Forests, Environment and Climate, in charge of Human-Wildlife Conflict, formally submitting the Government's acceleration plan and requesting support for 600 additional mobile electric fences.
- The Government-endorsed acceleration concept note, revised results framework and costed budget, which propose increasing the final target from 1,800 to 2,400 fences, reaching approximately 6,667 additional beneficiaries, protecting an additional 1,500 hectares of agricultural land, and establishing three additional provincial bases in Moyen-Ogooue, Ogooue-Lolo and Woleu-Ntem.

- The independent verification covering 15 March 2025 to 15 March 2026, which confirmed 1,151 mobile electric fences, 2,821.20 hectares protected, 18,327 direct beneficiaries and a 91.75 per cent prevention rate for attempted elephant intrusions; concluded without reservation that the four assessed indicators met the applicable requirements; and found the monitoring and evaluation system capable of producing reliable and verifiable results.
- The subsequent implementation update provided by WCS, reporting 1,608 fences installed as at 30 June 2026, together with the substantial unmet demand recorded in the national request database.
- The proposed additional financing requirement of up to USD 1,737,854, inclusive of indirect support costs, and the need to finalise a fully reconciled line-item budget, updated results framework, implementation schedule and performance-based disbursement arrangements before any additional transfer.
- The applicable provisions of the current CAFI Operations Manual concerning project amendments, budget increases, transfers, reporting, safeguards and oversight.

The Executive Board:

1. Thanks the Government of the Republic of Gabon for its formal request and continued leadership on human-elephant conflict; and commends WCS, Space for Giants, the relevant Government services and participating communities for the excellent results achieved.
2. Invites WCS, in coordination with the Government of Gabon and Space for Giants, to submit for approval by the CAFI Executive Board an amended project document with a cost extension of up to USD 1,737,854, inclusive of indirect support costs, increasing the maximum approved project budget from USD 10,000,003 to USD 11,737,857. This amended project document shall include:
 - a) an updated, results framework and work plan that update the implementation baseline, incorporate the revised final project targets of 2,400 mobile electric fences, 26,667 direct beneficiaries and 6,000 hectares of agricultural land protected. clearly distinguishing the original project obligations from the additional acceleration activities;
 - b) a reconciled detailed budget in USD, by output, activity and UNDG budget category, showing the original approved budget, the second-tranche budget, the proposed additional allocation, indirect support costs, any internal reallocations or savings, and the resulting revised total budget;
 - c) a time-bound implementation and procurement schedule for the additional fences and provincial bases, identifying responsible entities, staffing, vehicles, equipment, deployment, training, maintenance and monitoring milestones;
 - d) a performance-based disbursement schedule linking each release of additional financing to clearly defined, measurable and verifiable milestones, together with proportionate independent verification arrangements; and
 - e) updated risk, safeguards, gender and social inclusion, grievance, maintenance, sustainability and exit arrangements, including measures to protect the delivery of the project's non-fence components.
3. Specifies that the project cost extension must ensure the continued quality, maintenance and durability of fence installations and must not reduce or displace the project's approved commitments on sustainable agriculture, community awareness and safety, impact assessment, monitoring, safeguards, or the design and piloting of the elephant-damage insurance mechanism unless a further modification is approved in accordance with CAFI procedures.

4. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, WCS commits to zero tolerance for fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse; protection of whistleblowers; gender equality and social inclusion; appropriate grievance mechanisms; proactive risk management; and timely narrative and financial reporting in accordance with CAFI requirements.