CAFI Executive Board Decision

Gabon

CAFI 2 Forest Certification Project (132798) – No-cost extension and project closure

Adopted by email on 02.10.2026
EB.2026.31

Considering:

- Decision EB.2026.15 and the concerns identified by the Executive Board regarding the implementation performance of the three TNC-implemented projects in Gabon;
- The acceleration plan submitted by TNC on 28 July 2026 in response to Decision EB.2026.15;
- The technical assessment of the acceleration plan, which concludes that several material requirements of Decision EB.2026.15 have not been adequately addressed, including programme management and financial clarifications, and confirmation of delivery within the existing project timeframe;
- The project end date of 3 August 2026 and the request for a one-year no-cost extension submitted for Executive Board consideration;
- The letter from the Minister of Water and Forests supporting the request for a one-year no-cost extension of the CAFI 2 Forest Certification project;
- The limited level of implementation achieved and the absence of measurable milestones for the project to be achieved by 31 August 2026.
- Clauses 4.8 and 4.9 of the NUNO Framework Agreement concluded between the Administrative Agent and TNC, which require TNC to notify the Administrative Agent upon operational completion of the project, complete financial closure within five months thereafter, and return all unspent funds and income, including interest, within the applicable contractual timeframe.

The Executive Board:

1. Rejects the request for a one-year no-cost extension of the CAFI 2 Forest Certification project (132798);

2. Confirms that no additional project activities or commitments may be undertaken beyond those necessary for the prompt and orderly operational and financial closure of the project;

3. Requests TNC to proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project, in accordance with Clauses 4.8 and 4.9 of the NUNO Framework Agreement and the applicable NUNO Financing Agreement;

4. Requests TNC to provide the Administrative Agent, with a copy to the CAFI Secretariat, with a statement on expenditures incurred, any outstanding legal commitments and the estimated unspent balance, together with the final narrative, certified financial and audited reports required under the applicable agreements;

5. Requests TNC to return to the Administrative Agent all unspent funds and income, including applicable interest, within the period prescribed by Clause 4.9 of the NUNO Framework Agreement;

6. Invites the Government of Gabon, in collaboration with the CAFI Secretariat, to develop a proposal for the strategic reallocation of resources made available through the closure of this project as well as other projects with unspent balances, for consideration by the Executive Board as part of the broader Gabon programming exercise**,** prioritising activities aligned with Government priorities and with specific, measurable (or objectively verifiable), achievable, relevant and time-bound outputs, indicators and targets.