28th EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

8 & 9 September 2026

Public Report

INTRODUCTION

The **28th CAFI Executive Board meeting (EB28)** took place in **Geneva** on **8 and 9 September 2026**. Discussions focused on CAFI's portfolio overview, monitoring and evaluation performance management and engagement with partner countries ahead of the finalization of the 2026-2035 Strategy. (EB28 agenda).

Mr. Adama Bocar Soko, UNDP Regional Coordinator for the West and Central Africa hub, delivered the opening remarks. He commended the strong commitment of CAFI donors and the significant progress achieved by the Fund over the past decade. He emphasized the importance of the ongoing transition toward a more inclusive, transparent, and results-oriented governance model, capable of meeting the challenges of the next phase. He also called for stronger partnership cohesion and greater national ownership among Congo Basin countries, which are essential to ensuring the long-term protection of this critical ecosystem while delivering tangible economic and social benefits for local communities. Finally, he reaffirmed the commitment of UNDP and the United Nations system to supporting this shared ambition and encouraged all partners to translate collective commitments into concrete, measurable, and impactful action.

Discussions

Funding Status and Portfolio Overview

The EB28 aimed to review the CAFI's financial overview and portfolio performance, including progress on ongoing projects and programmes. Discussions highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen data management and improve visibility on both financial implementation and programmatic results through enhanced digital tools.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The EB28 provided an update on the independent Mid-Term Review currently underway, which assesses CAFI's performance, strategic positioning, and contribution to regional priorities. Stakeholder consultations and country-level assessments remain ongoing, with final findings expected later in the year.

A White paper was also presented describing progress in strengthening CAFI's monitoring and performance management, notably through CAFI Connect, the Metrics Hub, CAFI-PES, expanded independent verification, and the CAFI Remote Sensing Platform.

CAFI Strategy 2026-2035

The EB28 discussed progress in the consultation process for the development of the CAFI Strategy 2026-2035. Executive board members and the partner countries welcomed the

constructive engagement and reviewed proposed revisions in order to strengthen the strategic framework for the next decade.

Participants agreed on a revised version of the Strategy to support broader stakeholder consultations and inform discussions during major international events focused on climate and sustainable development in particular the New York Climate week on the margin of the United Nations General Assembly (CAFI Strategy 2026-2035).

Governance

The EB28 provided an ongoing discussion on governance reform, with a focus on promoting an inclusive, balanced, and effective governance structure in the Fund.

Policy Dialogue and Annual Reviews

The EB28 proposed reflections on how policy dialogue and annual review processes could evolve in support of CAFI's strategic priorities and governance reforms. Discussions focused on enhancing efficiency, transparency, and strategic engagement with partner countries.

Engagement During Climate Week and UN General Assembly

Planned activities during **New York Climate Week** and the **United Nations General Assembly** were presented, emphasizing opportunities for stakeholder engagement, knowledge sharing, and the promotion of achievements and lessons generated through CAFI-supported initiatives and partnerships.

Payments for Environmental Services (PES) Management Tool

The EB28 was the opportunity to demonstrate the ongoing advancements in CAFI's management tools supporting Payments for Environmental Services. The platform aims to strengthen transparency, efficiency, quality assurance, and data management throughout the

implementation cycle while supporting coordination among stakeholders. (CAFI PES management tool)

Private Sector Engagement

An update was provided on CAFI's private sector portfolio. Discussions highlighted the importance of demonstrating the performance-based programming of CAFI-supported projects and feasibility studies.

Ways of Working

The meeting allowed the exchanged views on opportunities to enhance efficiency, streamline procedures, and improve coordination across CAFI's workstreams and operational processes. There was broad support for continued efforts to strengthen effectiveness and consistency in working methods.

CONCLUSION

The 28th CAFI Executive Board meeting provided an important opportunity to advance discussions on CAFI's future strategic framework and governance arrangements. Significant progress was achieved on the development of the CAFI Strategy 2026-2035 and on preparations for broader stakeholder consultations. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration in support of sustainable development, climate action, and forest conservation across the Congo Basin.