



# 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CAFI Executive Board

9 – 13 NOVEMBER 2020

PUBLIC REPORT

## DAY 1 – Monday 9 November

---

### Session 1: High level opening by the German presidency

*Opening remarks by Mr. Schattschneider (Assistant Director General for Natural Resources and Commissioner for the Special Initiative One World – No Hunger, BMZ)*

The German Presidency spoke about the importance of the region, commended the results achieved through CAFI such as the emission reductions in Gabon and the improved dialogue with Cameroon, CAR and E. Guinea, mentioned the importance of signing a new green rural development deal with DRC. He also suggested priorities moving forward to increase synergies between CBFP and CAFI to mobilize partners, and improve regional dialogue with civil society and policy dialogue, increase cooperation with AFR-100 on forest restoration, strengthen CAFI's support for sustainable forest governance reforms and green supply chains, strengthen dialogue with China and increase investments in sustainable rural development to strengthen food security towards a green COVID-19 recovery

*Mr. Pharo (Director, NICFI) also gave some opening remarks, emphasizing CAFI's added value in Central Africa, the challenges ahead including the development of the partnership with DRC and concrete results on the ground.*

### Session 2: Quorum, Adoption of Agenda, Conflict of Interest

*CAFI Secretariat*

The Chair (BMZ) confirmed the presence of the quorum and verified, in coordination with the CAFI Secretariat, the status of conflict of interest among the participants for each session of the EB. No conflict of interest led to any exclusion of participants on Day 1.

### Session 3: Funding status & results

*Presentation by the CAFI Secretariat*

The objective of this session was to present an overview of CAFI's performance in terms of resource mobilization and funding, its programming pipeline and main results on the impact and outcome level.

#### **Fund income, deposits and new commitments**

As per the MPTF Gateway on 9 November, donors' commitments for CAFI amount to close to 500 M USD, while the deposits received over 200 M USD. The Netherlands (17 M USD), and Germany (50 M

Euro) and Norway have signed new funding agreements this year, the latter a 150 M USD results-based payments agreement with Gabon.

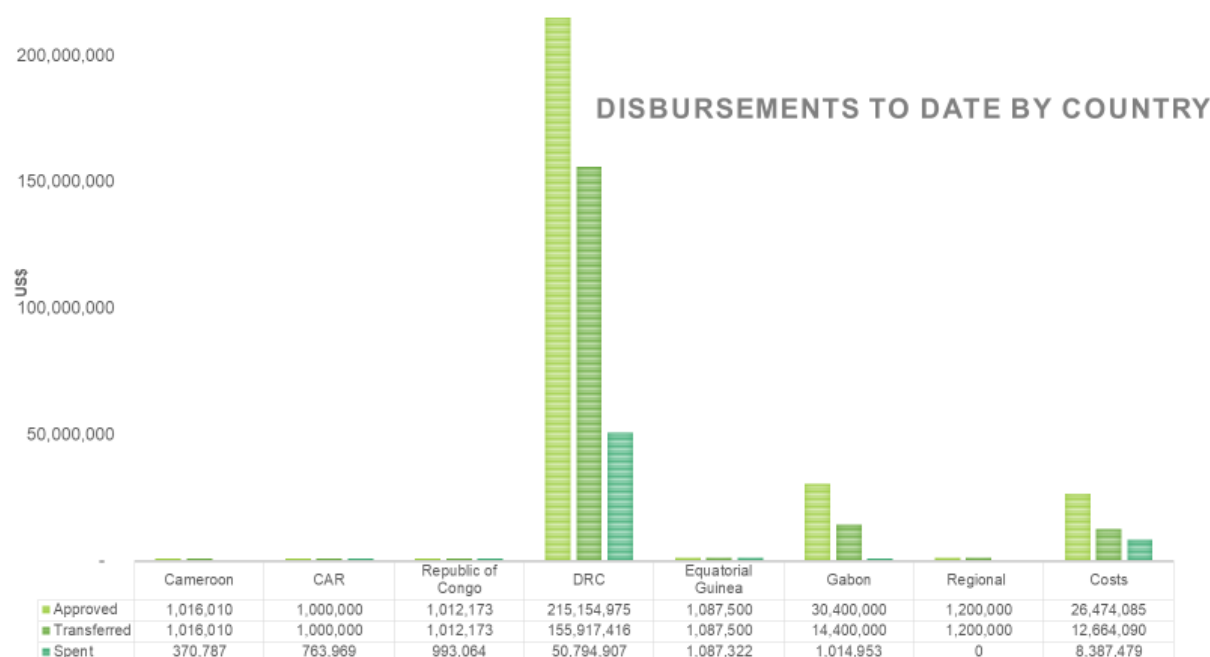


Figure 1: Approvals, transfers and spending by country as of November 2020

### Programming Pipeline

Funding for programs is divided into second tranche funding in DRC and Gabon and for programs currently under development (pipeline) in DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Central African Republic.

### Programmatic results

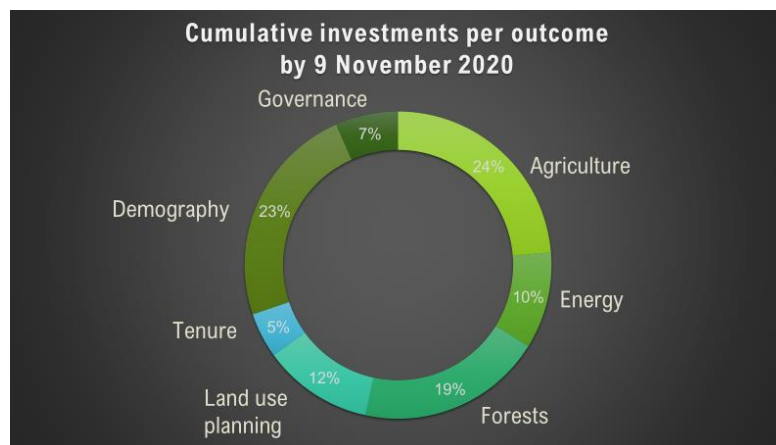


Figure 2: Investments per CAFI outcome

At impact level, anticipated Emission Reductions from CAFI-funded programmes amount to at least 75M tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from programmes funded in DRC and Gabon.<sup>1</sup>

At outcome level, notable results were highlighted in all sectors, except mining and hydrocarbons.

<sup>1</sup> Please note that not all CAFI's programs in these countries provide estimates of emission reductions, for different reasons. Since data on provincial level emissions for DRC is not yet validated, and the DRC's National Forest Monitoring System is estimating emission reductions at set frequencies, it is difficult to assess the progress in terms of emission reductions at this stage. Therefore, implementing agencies will be asked to incorporate more reflections on this issue in their 2020 annual reports.

## Session 4 & 5: Operational Issues Part 2

*Presentation by the CAFI Secretariat*

The CAFI Secretariat presented the status of discussions and outstanding issues regarding the Risk Management Dashboard, the mid-term review as well as the Terms of Reference (ToRs) and Manual of Operations (MOP).

### **Risk Management Dashboard**

A proposal to align the timeline of risk reporting with the timeline of annual reports was discussed, as well as a modification of project templates (submission and reporting) in order to ensure that implementing agencies include the dashboard categories in their reporting. More emphasis will be added on political risks, including reputational risks, and COVID-related risks.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Secretariat presented for discussion key outstanding issues remaining on the revised Terms of reference of the CAFI Fund.

Key issues included:

- 🌳 EB membership, observer status and conflict of interest
- 🌳 The format for representation of international cooperating agencies
- 🌳 EB meeting frequency
- 🌳 Country and/or thematic working groups
- 🌳 Role of presidency and country leads,
- 🌳 Role of the NIFs and programme approval in RBP modality
- 🌳 Safeguards
- 🌳 Accreditation process of new organizations

### **Manual of Operations**

Time constraints impeded a discussion of the Manual of Operations, which will be carried out with EB members bilaterally and consolidated by the Secretariat.

## Session 6: African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR-100)

*Presentation by Mamadou Diakhite, AFR-100 Secretariat*

The objective of this session was to introduce the AFR-100 Initiative, a country led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030, and to exchange on how CAFI could potentially help to respond to the challenge of translating restoration pledges into results on the ground.

Up until today 30 African countries have committed to restore 126 million hectares. AFR-100 priority support areas are monitoring, awareness raising and advocacy, national strategy development, accessing finance, landscape action plans, as well as coordination and mainstreaming of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR). The Initiative is now transitioning into the implementation phase, mobilizing financial resources and in-kind contributions to support AFR100 countries translate pledges into on the ground implementation.

AFR-100 relies on agencies with in-country presence (such as FAO) and national focal points to gather information on progress and activities on the ground. Although in some countries national focal points sit in the Prime Minister's office to take collaboration across sectors, focal points are often located in national Ministries of Environment and/or Forests. Focal points and donors meet on an annual basis. In

most countries, AFR-100 can build upon existing platforms to take restoration issues into account, but one of the Initiative's objectives for 2021 is to set up a national AFR-100 platform.

The commitment for restoration at country level is there: In Cameroon, restoration is driven by AFR-100 and the forest landscape restoration (FLR) program of Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI). Although not an official AFR-100 member, the Secretariat is in regular contact with Gabon.

## DAY 2 – Tuesday 10 November

---

No personal conflict of interest was signaled. To manage "institutional" conflicts of interest, representatives of implementing organisations disconnected when their programme proposals were discussed.

### Session 7 Gabon internal session

*Presentation by the CAFI Secretariat*

The objectives of this session were to i) provide the EB with an update on programming in Gabon ii) approve the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the independent verification to verify progress towards the commitments made in the Letter of Intent and iii) discuss the new national investment framework presented to CAFI.

**CAFI 1:** The first programme (AFD) under the Letter of Intent with Gabon supports the government with national land-use planning and forest monitoring.

**CAFI 2:** Consists of two new programs approved by the EB earlier this year to support forest certification (AFD) and protected areas and agriculture (UNDP). The funds for the latter were transferred, the first steering committee was held on 9 November and activities are likely to start soon. The forest certification program was approved internally by the AFD board, which should allow the conclusion of different legal agreements with MPTF and Gabonese partner institutions before the end of the year.

**CAFI 3:** Gabon in meeting the conditions for results-based payments agreed upon in the addendum to the Letter of Intent concluded in 2019.

### Session 8: Republic of Congo – Internal Session

*Presentation by the CAFI Secretariat and the implementing agency (AFD)*

#### **Coordination support programme:**

The CAFI Secretariat updated the Board on the status of the Coordination programme supporting the Prime Minister Office, highlighting objectives, theory of change, outputs and budget.

The strategic importance of the institutional arrangements was highlighted and will be further developed in a second draft of the project document. The UN Resident Coordinator will be responsible for managing the project and fiduciary management will be delegated to an executing agency or firm.

#### **Programmes under development by Executing agencies:**

The Secretariat reminded that the state of programme development by the executing agencies has been shared to the EB members prior to the meeting, for consideration and approval. The EB agreed to provide further comments on the proposals by email.

### Session 9: Cameroon – Internal Session

*Presentation by Dr. Christian Ruck, Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership*

*Presentation by James Acworth, CAFI Secretariat*

The EB was debriefed on the joint CAFI-CBFP mission to Cameroon in October, identifying opportunities for new CAFI engagement with government authorities, following the closing of the preparatory grant in December 2019.

The high-level leadership of the CBFP Facilitator during this mission opened up a high level dialogue with civil society and donors and confirmed that there is interest of at least three important ministries for CAFI's partnership in the country: The Ministry of Agriculture (MINADER), the Ministry of Mining, Industry, and Technological Development (MINMIDT) and the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MINEPAT). Furthermore, the CBFP Facilitator recommended CAFI to get in touch with Cameroon civil society on ongoing current land governance issues.





## **Session 10: Central African Republic - Internal session**

*Presentation by the CAFI Secretariat*

The objective of this session was to discuss AFD's preparatory grant proposal, adopt a related decision and prepare the Board for the country session.

The CAFI Secretariat briefly presented objectives, activities, timeline and budget of the new preparatory grant (700.000 USD) and raised points requiring clarification, such as the multiplicity of coordination bodies described in the proposal.

The preparatory grant's four key objectives include:

-  Definition of institutional arrangements and capacity building for the elaboration of a Letter of Intent (LoI)
-  Facilitation of a dialogue between CAFI and the government to elaborate the content of the LoI
-  Elaboration of feasibility studies to refine deforestation drivers and potential policies
-  Measures to address these policies in the three pilot zones identified in the National Investment Framework (Bangui and periphery, the South West and South East tropical forest zones).

## **Session 11: Democratic Republic of Congo – Internal session**

*Presentation by the CAFI Secretariat*

The aim of this session was to discuss priorities and modalities for a new DRC/CAFI partnership, the DRC consultation process and next steps towards a partnership agreement and adopt a decision on funding allocation for 2020 based on the demonstration of needs.

## **Session 12: Equatorial Guinea – Internal session**

*Presentation by the CAFI Secretariat*

The CAFI Secretariat updated the EB on institutional and regulatory changes and high-level exchanges with the country conducted by the French and German Embassies regarding a potential future partnership. The EB discussed next steps to refine ambitions and what support CAFI aims to bring to the country.

The EB agreed to mobilize expertise to conduct the policy dialogue and undertake feasibility studies of the measures proposed. As a preliminary step, the CAFI Secretariat was tasked to conduct a mapping of potential partners in the country, in order to further discussions towards a potential future partnership.




## Day 3 – Wednesday, 11 November

---

### Session 13: Gabon - Country session

*Presentation and discussions: Alvina Owono Essono and Tanguy Gahouma, National Climate Council*

#### Programme overview:

-  CAFI 1 – 18 M USD – Ongoing programme on land-use planning and forest monitoring system
-  CAFI 2 – 12 M USD – two national programmes (forest conservation and agricultural optimization)
-  CAFI 3 – 150 M USD – Results based payments (in preparation)

**CAFI 1** – *Programme is moving in the right direction and monitoring of milestones is ongoing.*

The program partners (AFD, UPP, CNC, CAFI etc.) engage in monthly coordination calls with the CAFI Sec to communicate on ongoing and completed activities.

**CAFI 2** – *Start-up phase*

Same as under internal session

**CAFI 3** – *ongoing work to set up pre-requisites to access payments for results on track*

The EB expressed its great satisfaction on the submission of the report on CO3 results, that advances the CAFI 3 partnership, and with Gabon's plans to achieve ART TREES certification to double the value of these reductions. Other discussion points referred to the submission of NDC and FREL, comments on the National Investment Framework and programmes to address illegal logging.

### Session 14: Republic of Congo - Country session

*Presentation by the Permanent Secretary for the coordination of the LOI implementation (country representative), and FAO and AFD representatives*

The Country representative presented the progress on the establishment of the partnership governance arrangements and a few remarks on the coordination support project. He also detailed recent developments leading to significant progress on certain LOI milestones (EITI status, land registry, land tenure legal framework, etc.) and key activities led under his mandate.

The executing agency representatives presented the outlines of the programmes under development and the expected calendar for project document submission to the EB. The Republic of Congo was commended for the significant progress achieved this year on the governance arrangements for the partnership and programming decisions and noted with great satisfaction the strong level of mobilisation and involvement of key authorities, both the Prime Minister and sectoral ministers.

Encouragements were expressed to pursue the NDC revision process to the highest standards and ensure civil society engagement through the support offered by DFDO and EFI.

### Session 15 – Central African Republic - Country session

*Presentation of pilot programmes by the CAFI focal point, Mr. Igor Gildas Toga and Emmanuel Dollfus from AFD*



CAR's partnership approach is based on including numerous national partners, donors, UN agencies, NGOs and private sector, and ensure coherence and synergies with EU projects.

#### Programme's governance structure

The Steering Committee will be chaired by the PM and comprised of sectoral ministries, the private sector, NGOs (including women's organizations) and para-state actors. A technical working group has been set up to prepare the needed documents and draft the Letter of Intent, which will then be approved by the Council of Ministers. All sectoral ministers will be included in the latter, along with the UNDP, AFD, FAO, WB among others, as well as civil society groups (IPs, environmental groups, women for the environment etc.)

### **Proposal on feasibility studies and ongoing activities (AFD)**

Context and objectives of the feasibility studies are to **support the government in preparing the Letter of Intent**. The studies are carried out on the principles of free consent, to do no harm and to be gender smart. Two types of activities that aim to;

-  Empower people to participate in the process
-  facilitate consensus by using innovative tools developed by CIRAD and ETH Zurich (small games to nurture ideas).

The studies will include a gender action plan and climate and environmental analysis that will feed into future programmes. **There is a strong willingness of the government to take ownership of the process**, and Mr Tola Kogadou called on all partners to commit to the development of the Letter of Intent and for CAFI donors to align bilateral portfolios with its objectives.

## **Session 16 – Democratic Republic of Congo – Country session**

*Presentation and dialogue with Mr. Mulenda, FONAREDD Secretariat National Coordinator*

The presentation highlighted lessons learned from the first partnership and provided an update on the forest sector roadmap and the national consultation process. The latter has been carried out in four steps to formulate priorities and new commitments: evaluations, two online surveys, discussions during COPIL 10 and consultations through 8 sectorial groups and three ad hoc groups (on policy dialogue, implementation modalities and forest monitoring). Alignment with the NDC process was also discussed.








## **Day 4 – Friday, 13 November**

---



### **Session 17 - Finalization, adoption of decisions & closing**

All adopted decisions have been published on the CAFI website here:

<https://www.cafi.org/content/cafi/en/home/events/cafi-executive-board-meetings-.html>

-  DRC: Funding allocation
-  Updated risk dashboard
-  Gabon: Terms of Reference for Independent Verification of milestones of Lol
-  Gabon updated Investment Framework
-  CAR: Preparatory grant to AFD - policy dialogue and feasibility studies
-  Rep Congo: Support to Coordination Project
-  Rep Congo: Programming timelines for Prodoc submission

Pending decisions:

-  Updated ToR and MoP (ready to be adopted when ToR and MoP are finalized)
-  New partnership with DRC

Upcoming decisions:

🌿 Rep Congo: timeline for selection of Executing Agencies for EIES