



## Partnership with the Republic of Congo

Adopted by email on January 23, 2019

### EB.2019.01

The CAFI EB:

1. Welcomes the exhaustive and ambitious measures presented by the Government of the Republic of Congo as a first basis for discussion and suggests setting ambitious objectives with realistic time-bound and quantitative targets;
2. Recalls the need to undertake, endorse and enforce core reforms already underway (forest sector, land tenure, agriculture) in line with the objectives set in the Investment Plan and encourages the Government to foster dialogue with its partners from the civil society, the private sector and development community in doing so;
3. Asks the CAFI Secretariat to prepare a first draft Letter of Intent to be shared with the Government by February 2019;
4. Welcomes the establishment of the inter-ministerial working group under the leadership of the Prime Minister office, recommends the working group to communicate its workplan, the organization of meetings, and the outputs of the latter to the CAFI Secretariat as well as the CAFI Board representatives in Brazzaville and recalls a message shared with the Government during the mission led in November 2018: the importance to ensure the effective participation and contribution to this group from resource persons with relevant expertise from: i) line ministries who can report directly to their authorities, ii) the civil society involved in different relevant workstreams (in the forestry sector, in the EITI, APOI National Action Plan, etc.) as well as iii) the private sector involved in land use activities (forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.).
5. Recalls that the partnership between the Republic of Congo and CAFI is performance-based, meaning that CAFI will seek to mobilize incremental funding for the Republic of Congo based on efforts made by the Government to move forward key policies and measures;
6. Recognizes that the Government of Congo needs to demonstrate to the population that the commitments made by the country to promote sustainable management of natural resources lead

to the swift launch and implementation of concrete activities on the ground;

7. Encourages the alignment and coordination of efforts to define and achieve the objectives of the future Letter of Intent. The EB also encourages synergies with other programs such as the Emission Reductions Program recently selected into the portfolio of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF and the activities planned to mobilize GCF funding;
8. Encourages the launch of a programming exercise in parallel of the negotiation of the Letter of Intent to better inform the programming needs, considering that:
  - a. Technical assistance will be provided to facilitate the dialogue between the Government, national counterparts and CAFI Board;
  - b. the Executive board could provide grants for pre-feasibility studies and/or for feasibility studies to the selected implementing organizations in line with the decision EB.2018.16;
  - c. no program document will be approved before the conclusion of the Letter of Intent.
9. Requests the CAFI Secretariat to prepare programming notes during the first semester of 2019 on the following potential areas of interest, discuss them with the Government in consultation with EB members, agencies, partners and submit them to the EB for approval, in line with the decision EB.2018.16:
  - i. Land use use planning;
  - ii. Land tenure security, including for local communities and indigenous people;
  - iii. Permanent Forest estate and gazetting of forest concessions;
  - iv. Adaptation of zero deforestation concepts to national situation;
  - v. Legal framework of land use conversion for agricultural activities;
  - vi. Development of palm oil plantations in the savanna (ex: identification of suitable areas);
  - vii. Assessment and revision of Env. and Social Impact Assessment Framework;
  - viii. Sustainable management of peatlands;
  - ix. Sustainable forest management (domestic markets, regulation of artisanal logging sector, etc);
  - x. Sustainable domestic energy supply, incl. wood energy, to large urban areas;
  - xi. Promotion of local private sector investment in sustainable deforestation free agriculture and wood energy plantations, including agroforestry (see EB.2018.25 on the preparatory grant to FAO for Republic of Congo);
  - xii. Low impact mining and petroleum activities.
10. Asks the CAFI Secretariat to prioritize the programming exercise on a future land use planning program, as it has been identified as a joint priority for the Government of RoC and CAFI since the signature of the CAFI Declaration and considering the need to undertake a pre-feasibility study to better inform the scope of a future program and the selection modality of a future executing agency;

11. Recalls that the development of a pipeline of program ideas does not pre-empt any decision from the Board to fund programs in the above-mentioned areas. This list is non-exhaustive and may be amended and completed through an ongoing programming phase after consultation with the Government, EB, national counterparts and partners.