



Mandate of the internal Country Working group for the Partnership with the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Adopted intersessionally on 9 December 2020

EB.2020.24

Considering:

1. Decision [EB.2020.12](#) that conveyed the willingness of the CAFI Executive Board to establish a partnership agreement with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for the period 2021-2030, subject to ambitious joint political commitments to address forest loss in line with development priorities of the Government of the DRC, and presented important principles for CAFI, to guide the future partnership;
2. The consultations undertaken at the national level on various thematic areas, the submission of the consultation reports together with a tentative negotiation timeline by the FONAREDD Secretariat on 11 November 2020;
3. The presentation of the FONAREDD Secretariat at the 17th meeting of the CAFI Executive Board;

The CAFI Executive Board:

1. Establishes an internal Country Working Group to further discuss and set out partners' priorities with respect to a future partnership with the DRC;
2. Requests this Group to:
 - a. Communicate with DRC authorities to gauge potential for meaningful political commitments;
 - b. Discuss with key international partners their strategic focus areas and potential alignment and coordination with respective bi-and multilateral portfolios (such as agriculture, energy, protected areas and buffer zones, geographic priorities, community-based forest

- management, PES, private sector involvement, domestic resource mobilisation, demographic transition etc.);
- c. Based on the positions and priorities shared by the FONAREDD on 11 November 2020
 - i) Reach out to the DRC to clarify these priorities
 - ii) Develop in parallel a joint position of the Executive Board on the level of ambition which could lay the ground for the establishment of a partnership, based on the lessons learned from the previous Letter of Intent;
 - d. Identify focus areas (including where CAFI could lead and where it would support the lead of others) and technical guidelines on future programming;
 - e. Request the CAFI Secretariat to launch programmatic feasibility studies based on the focus areas and technical guidelines mentioned above and DRC priorities;
 - f. Propose a negotiation mandate for approval by the EB; and
 - g. Examine ways to enhance the partnership in light of growing portfolio and ambitions, and adapt the governance and implementation structures, where needed and in agreement with the DRC
3. Seeks to agree with the DRC on a revised schedule that aims at the conclusion of a partnership agreement in advance of COP26 in 2021.

