



Republic of Congo – Agency selection- programme on Environmental and Social Control

Adopted by email on 18 May 2021

EB.2021.04

Considering:

- a) [Decision EB.2019.16](#) on the Letter of Intent with the Republic of Congo and the allocation to the country ;
- b) [Decision EB.2019.22](#) on the Republic of Congo and the subsequent joint endorsement by the CAFI Executive Board (EB) and the Government of the Republic of Congo of the background documentation to a Call of Expression of Interest (Programming Framework, Call for Expressions of Interest and its Terms of reference);
- c) The [Call for expression of interest](#) launched by the CAFI Secretariat on January 31, 2020;
- d) [Decision EB.2020.15](#) on the selection of the executing agencies for the development of the programs pipeline, by which the CAFI Executive Board recommended the launch of a new call for expression of interest under Axis 5 to strengthen the environmental control based on the revised Terms of Reference;
- e) The [Call of expression of Interest](#) launched by the CAFI Secretariat on October 9, 2020 and its terms of reference ;
- f) The assessment made by the CAFI Executive Board, in close consultation with the Government of the Republic of Congo, of the three expressions of interest received from the potential implementing organizations (World Bank, GIZ, UNDP) on October 30, 2020,

The CAFI Executive Board :

- 1) Requests the GIZ to develop a programme for the strengthening of the environmental and social control of activities affecting the forest cover and biodiversity, up to 6 M US \$.
- 2) Asks the GIZ to:

- a) Take due note that the partner institution for this programme is the Ministry for Tourism and Environment, as it holds the mandate for coordination, monitoring and control of all obligations regarding Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) and on the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) development process;
 - b) Discuss the institutional arrangements, in particular those regarding the oversight by COMIFAC and the establishment of a programme management unit within GIZ, with the coordination body established by the Prime Minister's decree and the Ministry of Environment and ensure joint approval of these prior to the submission of the project document;
 - c) Integrate within the project team an expert with demonstrated work experience on private sector – in particular with companies in the mining and hydrocarbons sectors, which adopt sustainable practices, such as ISO certified operators – to led the discussions with the private sector and work to identify norms and good practices;
 - d) Identify in discussion with stakeholders from the private sector the modalities for its sound engagement in the programme, regarding both their representation (including decision-making capacities) in the programme coordination bodies and their effective contribution to achieving the programme results ;
 - e) Closely follow the revised Terms of Reference as published in the call for expression of interest on this axis in the programme components and activities, and justify any different approaches chosen if the agency deems it appropriate to depart from them;
- 3) Reminds the GIZ that the challenges of environmental and social control are set in a high-stakes context for the Republic of Congo, and encourages the agency to closely consult with the CAFI Secretariat, the CAFI EB representatives established in the country, and the responsible national authorities for the harmonization of the programme development with ongoing policy dialogues;
 - 4) Recalls the [Terms of Reference of the CAFI Trust Fund](#) and the [Letter of Intent](#) signed between CAFI and the Government of Republic of Congo that the funding decisions will only be taken after positive independent reviews of the project documents submitted to the Board and the Government, and upon approval of the CAFI Executive Board, and that they will be made upon progress against the achievement of milestones;
 - 5) Asks GIZ to share with CAFI a workplan and calendar towards the elaboration of a programme document and to jointly identify with the CAFI Secretariat the different steps during which the latter shall be consulted to provide quality control and ensure consistency in the development of the forthcoming feasibility studies and programming exercise;
 - 6) Decides to contribute to cover the costs of feasibility studies upon demand of the executing agency. These costs will be estimated by the agency and detailed in the work plan submitted to CAFI for the programme document elaboration; if endorsed, these costs will be integrated in the future programme document;

- 7) Underlines that the GIZ will have to report on progress toward both the objectives and milestones of the LoI as well as on indicators of the National REDD+ Investment Plan and CAFI results framework. It will also need to integrate gender considerations into planning and program implementation to better address and account for the links between gender equality and climate change. It means that the executing agency must : (i) enhance gender equality within the program governing structure and day-to-day operations, (ii) promote goals of gender equality and women's empowerment through activities design, funds allocation, operations and overall impact (including specific desegregated output and outcome indicators in the Theory of Change and program results framework). These requirements should be included in the programme document and reflected in its financial plan.