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## CENTRAL AFRICA'S FOREST INITIATIVE

### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EoI) 2021/01/MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

Source of funding: [Central African Forest Initiative Trust Fund \(CAFI\)](#)

Publication date : 5 April 2021

Submission date (1) : 31 May 2021

Submission date (2) : 31 July 2021<sup>1</sup>

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## 1. Introduction

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CAFI is a unique initiative that supports strategic and holistic national investments in REDD+ and low-emissions development, with a focus on Central African high forest cover countries. Its objective is to recognize and preserve the value of forests in the region in order to mitigate climate change, reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development.

As a reminder, under CAFI's working approach, the country-level dialogue takes place in several phases:

1. Partner country develops and presents a national investment framework that addresses all drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
2. After a review of the national investment framework, CAFI's Executive Board (EB) agrees to support some large-scale policy reforms and programs
3. The EB and the partner country, represented by a government institution with an inter-ministerial coordination mandate, agree, through a Letter of Intent, on policy reform objectives and programmatic outcomes and on CAFI's financial contribution if the corresponding milestones are achieved.
4. The partner country develops and implements programs to achieve the Letter of Intent milestones, with the support of the implementing agencies.

Each EOI must meet the guidelines set forth in this document.

## 2. Background

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The Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI, [www.cafi.org](http://www.cafi.org)), operating in six Central African countries (Congo, DRC, Gabon, Cameroon, CAR and Equatorial Guinea), is a unique initiative that catalyzes high-level policy dialogue and increased funding to support ambitious reforms and on-the-ground investments to help its partner countries reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while reducing poverty.

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<sup>1</sup> Any submission made after this date will not be considered. See Part 6 on Submission of Proposals

Today, with the signing of three Letters of intent (DRC, Gabon and the Republic of Congo), CAFI is funding partner countries to implement programs that enable them to achieve and expand their ambitions to preserve their forests, reduce poverty, and move toward to economic diversification.

Small-scale deforestation for agriculture is the primary direct driver of forest disturbance in the region, contributing approximately 84% of the total area of forest lost between 2000 and 2014. This includes clearing for rotation agriculture (82.1 ± 1.8%) and semi-permanent conversion of woody vegetation to cropland (2.1 ± 0.5%), both of which could represent subsistence agriculture or cash crop production. Small-scale forest clearing is likely to be unmechanized, which is confirmed by the size of individual clearings (median annual size of small-scale clearings is estimated at 1.8 ha) and the lack of access roads visible in the very high-resolution images. At the national scale, small-scale clearing for agriculture is the main direct driver of disturbance in all countries except Gabon. In DRC and CAR, over 90% of all forest losses are due to small-scale clearing for rotational agriculture. Semi-permanent conversion to cropland is much less common than rotational agriculture, with Cameroon being the only country in which such conversion accounts for more than 10% of the total area of forest disturbed.<sup>2</sup>

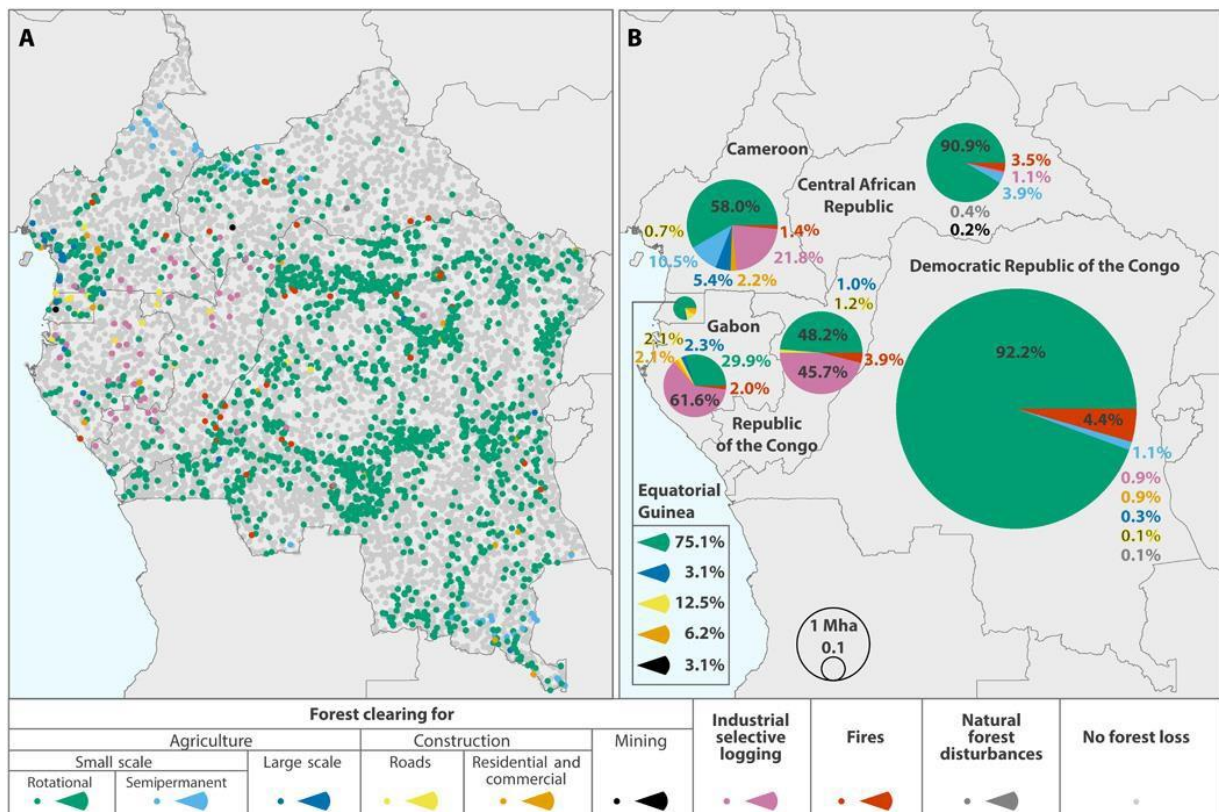


Figure 1: Forest disturbance factor (Tyukavina et al., 2018).

Currently in the region, yields are very low and agricultural techniques are not sustainable (soil depletion, deforestation). Farmers have little or no access to credit, inputs, new seeds and varieties and technical support to transition to more sustainable production systems.

<sup>2</sup>Tyukavina et al : Congo Basin forest loss dominated by increasing smallholder clearing ; Science Advances 07 Nov 2018: Vol. 4, no. 11, eaat2993

To alleviate the problems of deforestation related to small-scale agriculture, reduce poverty and support countries in achieving their objectives of food self-sufficiency and economic diversification, CAFI intends to mobilize substantial funding to support the development of innovative approaches in the agricultural sector by:

- Increasing its support for operational investments on the ground
- Enhancing the economic development of the savannah:
- Supporting research
- Stimulating private sector engagement and entrepreneurship

CAFI will seek to maximize investments in the field with actions with tangible impact, and then move towards payment-by-results mechanisms that help maintain good practices while creating a leverage. To do so, results monitoring will need to be more effective with geo-localized results monitoring systems, potentially in near-real time, interactive and available online.

NB : The term innovation implies a transformational change in practices in view to a more sustainable, productive, resilient approach with reduced impacts on deforestation.

### 3. Objectives

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This Call for Expression of Interest aims to identify **innovative operational projects** (in direct support to the actors of the agricultural sectors) that allow **to strongly increase zero-deforestation agricultural production, to promote a healthy and balanced diet and to improve the living conditions of a large number of agricultural households in a sustainable, resilient, equitable and cost-effective way, while protecting biodiversity and forest ecosystems.**

Successful bidders will be invited to develop a technical and financial proposal for a feasibility study and a program document in accordance with CAFI guidelines for independent review. Guidance for the development of technical and financial proposals and program evaluation criteria will be provided to the successful operators.

If the projects developed as a result of the feasibility studies are approved by CAFI, these same operators will be able, in a second phase, to implement these innovative models with CAFI financing.

### 4. Programmatic and geographic priorities

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Operators must favor local producers (small and medium-sized farms) and innovative sustainable approaches in agricultural productivity (maintenance and/or improvement of soil fertility) with the objective of preserving forest areas (zero deforestation agriculture and agro-forestry models).

In the absence of an enabling environment that offers these services, the models sought through these terms of reference must be able to offer multiple services addressing one or more of the following elements :

- Provision of inputs (eg thanks to procurement process with existing suppliers)
- Improvement of technical itineraries (to increase productivity, encourage product diversification, promote agroforestry, etc.)
- Support to post-harvest services and marketing
- Support for the organization of producers and the sector
- Access to financing and financial management
- Etc...

The chain approach will be favored, which consists in considering the whole chain concerning a product, from the producer to the final consumer, and which implies taking into account all the stakeholders in the chain and their interactions. **These approaches will need to pay particular attention to the specific context of the countries in which they will be developed, especially in relation to the lack of access to and quality control of inputs, the lack of capacity in technical support services, distance and lack of infrastructure, etc.** A resilient and adaptive approach is highly recommended to prevent external risks related to situations of fragility in relation to external risks to projects (health situation, etc.)

Programs should also integrate a gender dimension aimed at promoting and ensuring gender equity, women's rights and women's empowerment.

In addition, specific mechanisms will need to be identified to (i) guarantee long-term land and/or use rights (ii) guarantee forest preservation. These mechanisms could be identified during the feasibility study in consultation with CAFI and/or its technical and financial partners working in the areas targeted by the operators. For example, in the DRC, CAFI supports the land use planning process and finances several rural development programs (PIREDD) that aim to structure the development of the areas concerned and plan the allocation and use of land (simple management plans, etc.). In this framework, it will be possible to take into account zero deforestation guarantees with the support of other programs financed by CAFI.

In terms of location, activities will be deployed primarily in savanna regions and between forest areas and urban markets. Preference will be given to the DRC in the areas covered by the integrated programs financed by CAFI and to the Republic of Congo, for which a Letter of Intent has been signed including specific commitments on the reduction of deforestation linked to small scale agriculture.

## 4. Terms and Conditions

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### 4.1 Specific timetable of this Eol

On the basis of the above, the following timeline can be given for the Eol and its various stages<sup>3</sup> :

Etapes	Date
1. Publication of the Expression of Interest	5 April 2021
2. Final submission date of the first Eol	31 May 2021
3. Final submission date of the Eol	31 July 2021
4. Opening of the proposals	Upon receipt
5. Transmission of the results of the selection (indicative date)	1 month after receipt

### 4.2 List of eligible organizations

Bidders or bidding consortia may be the following agencies, in accordance with the legal framework of CAFI<sup>4</sup>:

- United Nations System Agencies;
- The World Bank;
- International Cooperation Organizations of which: : KFW, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Enabel, AFD, GIZ, USAID, JICA, SNV (non exhaustive list);
- International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), non-profit organizations or research institutes,

***Nota Bene : On the eligibility of INGOs and research institutes***

*The eligibility of INGOs and research institutes meeting the above criteria does not guarantee automatic access to the CAFI Trust Fund. Eligibility must be confirmed after the Multi-Partner Fund's fiduciary evaluation (Harmonized approach to cash transfers) of the applicants and is conditional upon acceptance of the agreement by CAFI's Executive Board, based on the said evaluation.*

*CAFI encourages the formation of consortia, particularly among agencies themselves and with INGOs and research organizations.*

### 4.3 Submission of expressions of interest

By submitting their proposals, bidders are considered to be aware of:

- The conditions of the call for expression of interest and accept them;
- The nature and scope of the results to be achieved and actions to be taken;
- The general and specific conditions of this call for expressions of interest;
- The Terms of reference of the Eol;
- The Terms of reference of the CAFI Fund and its results framework;

The bidder must submit a completed, password-protected form in English or French. The form can be found in the annex to the TORs of this Call for Expression of Interest.

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<sup>3</sup> This call for expressions of interest provides two dates for the receipt of submissions: (i) **May 31, 2021** for a first selection of proposals to be developed on a priority basis and (ii) **July 31, 2021** for a second phase of proposals taking into account the first submissions received that would not have been selected.

<sup>4</sup>See CAFI Fund Administrative Agreement and Terms of Reference

## 4.4 Criteria for selecting expressions of interest

The Secretariat will carry out the evaluation and comparison of the successful EOIs on the basis of the following headings (see part 7 on the form to be completed by the bidders for more details):

Areas	100
Proven experience and results in supporting farmers	30
Agency capabilities	30
Implementation approach	40

## 4.5 Financial Agreement

Once the program/project document is approved by the CAFI Executive Board, the selected entities will enter into an agreement with the Administrative Agent of the CAFI Fund, the UN MPTF Office. The government will sign the CAFI program/project document with the Implementing Agency.

Following instruction of the CAFI Executive Board, the Administrative Agent of the Fund, the MPTF office of the United Nations, will transfer the funds directly to the Agency, according to the payment schedule agreed in the contract. The Agency will apply its own financial management rules and regulations consistent with the implementation modalities defined in the CAFI program/project document.

## 5. Special requirements for the programs

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### 5.1 Available financial resources

The estimated cost of the feasibility studies and program document is US\$ 250,000 - 500,000 depending on the approach. The amount will be confirmed upon submission and revision of the technical and financial offer.

### 5.2 Duration of the studies

Following notification of the selection of proposals, operators will be required to develop technical and financial proposals in consultation with the CAFI- Secretariat within a maximum of 5 weeks. The execution time of the feasibility studies will be between 4 and 9 months.

### 5.3 Mode of Operation

An expression of interest submitted by an entity or consortium of entities.

CAFI will evaluate the submission(s) received based on the criteria presented in the ToR of the Expression of Interest. The CAFI Executive Board will then decide on the choice of the agency based on the advice given by the CAFI Secretariat. The Board may approve several bids. The evaluation of the bids will take place as soon as they are received by the CAFI Secretariat, i.e. **it can start before the end of the deadline.**

## 6. Submission of Expressions of Interest

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Tenderers should send their expression of interest (see form to be returned below) by E-mail to the following address: [florence.elhuyar@undp.org](mailto:florence.elhuyar@undp.org) and [secretariatcafi@gmail.com](mailto:secretariatcafi@gmail.com)

The present call for expressions of interest provides for two dates for the receipt of expressions

- No later than **May 31, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Geneva time** for a first selection of proposals to be developed in priority and
- No later than **July 31, 2021 at 6:00 pm Geneva time** for a second phase of proposals taking into account the first submissions received-

Submissions should be password protected with the following wording:

Subject: CAFI submission for the 2021/01/multi-country Call for Proposals  
To the attention of the CAFI Fund Secretariat

## 7. Form to be completed by bidders

<b>Name of the agency or consortium (indicating the lead)</b>	
<b>Contact person and contact details</b>	
<b>1. Experience of the operator/consortium of operators</b>	
<p>In order to justify their experiences and results achieved, operators are invited to present a list of programs and initiatives that they have developed in connection with support for agricultural development for producers, indicating for each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The name of the initiative, geographical location and duration</li> <li>- The amount of funding and the sources of funding,</li> <li>- A brief description of the program including the scale and promoted innovative approaches</li> <li>- The results achieved include, but are not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale: number of beneficiaries including % of women and Aboriginal beneficiaries, number of jobs created, etc.</li> <li>• Improvement of productivity and/or diversification of production (% of improved agricultural productivity, improvement of beneficiaries' income, diversification of production etc.),</li> <li>• Creation of cooperatives, platforms and other cooperation mechanisms</li> <li>• Financial: percentage of loan re-payment in case projects use it, mobilization of additional co-financing, etc.,</li> <li>• Miscellaneous.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Capabilities of the operator/consortium of operators</b>	
<i>Name of the Agency- Lead</i>	
Amount of the portfolio and number of programs managed by the operator over the last 5 years	
Internal agency technical capabilities (number of employees and areas of expertise)	
Presence in the Congo Basin and number of staff in the agency (management, programming, operations)	
Description of capabilities and procedures for recruiting local implementing agencies /staff to assist in the implementation and conduction of project	

<p>Description of the agency's capacity to manage with flexibility, rigor and efficiency its own procedures for implementing projects (examples of projects, existence of a procedures manual for managing internal activities and recruiting external firms, etc.)</p> <p><i>For INGOs and research institutes: provide evidence of their fiduciary capacity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Operations manual at headquarters and in projects managed for less than 5 years.</i></li> <li>- <i>Their external audits of the last 3 years</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Indicate here the existence of an accounting and contracting department at headquarters that can provide support and guidance in the management of field projects</i></p>	
<p><b>Name of Partner Agency - complete below the information requested for the lead agency for each partner agency</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Implementation approach</b></p>	
<p>Insert a brief description of the proposed implementation approach to achieve the expected results (consistent with the results (in accordance with the ToRs) that includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Description of the proposed services</li> <li>- Geographic location, scale and anticipated impacts of the approach</li> <li>- Advantages/disadvantages/strengths/weaknesses of the proposed model and how it could be adapted to the target area (success criteria and potential barriers)</li> <li>- The working approach foreseen (local partnerships, support modalities, etc.) including the arrangements made to ensure a participatory and inclusive process.</li> <li>- An approximate amount and timeframe for the pre-feasibility study</li> </ul>	