



Republic of Congo – Fast start wood energy plantations & Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) – Second Programme document review

Adopted on 25 June 2021

EB.2021.12

Considering:

- a) [Decision EB.2019.16](#) on the Letter of Intent with the Republic of Congo and the country allocation to the country
- b) [Decision EB.2019.22](#) on the Republic of Congo and the subsequent joint endorsement by the CAFI Board and the Government of the Republic of Congo (RoC) of the background documentation to a Call for Expression of Interest (EoI) (Programming Framework, Call for EoI, Terms of Reference of the Call for EI)
- c) [Decision EB.2020.15](#) on the selection of the implementing organizations for the development of the programmes pipeline, decision jointly reviewed and agreed upon by the Government during the 1st meeting of the Inter-ministerial Committee with the Ambassadors held on 24 September 2020 and headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo
- d) [Decision EB.2020.23](#) on programming and timelines for project documents' submission on the selected executing agencies respective work plan and timeline towards the submission of their project documents for CAFI independent review
- e) The programme documents submitted in January 2021 by the FAO for two programs named (i) Project for Sustainable Wood Energy potential reinforcement in the Republic of Congo (PROREP) and (ii) Operationalization of the SYNA-MRV of the Republic of Congo
- f) The independent reviews of the programme documents conducted in February 2021
- g) [Decision EB.2021.05](#) on the fast-start wood energy plantations and MRV programme documents review

- h) The revised programme document and comments responses matrix submitted by the FAO on 31 May 2021
- i) The complementary independent review of the programme documents conducted in June 2021
- j) The feasibility study for fast-start wood energy plantations performed by independent experts recruited by the CAFI Secretariat

The CAFI Executive Board (EB):

- 1) Thanks the FAO, GRET and ID for their revised programme document on Wood Energy and Improved Cook Stoves (ICS)
- 2) Understands that the initial ambitions of the program, namely 4,500 hectares of plantations and 20,000 ICS are not attainable given the national context, the budget, the program strategic choice to work with small-holders and to resort to agroforestry models
- 3) Understands that, to implement 2,500 ha plantations, many barriers still need to be addressed including, but not only, on confirming locations, land tenure security, assessing beneficiaries' interests, engaging with partners, reinforcing operational capacities etc. However, the program could implement 500 hectares of fast start wood-energy plantations by the end of year 2 with the support of [SPF2B](#);
- 4) Notes that the ICS result and plantation results are implemented separately and are not interdependent. Moreover, each result will be implemented over, respectively, a 3 and 5-year periods;
- 5) Notes that, with an extra budget of US\$ 225,000, ICS could be deployed in Pointe Noire.
- 6) Request FAO and GRET to review their program document for the implementation of at least 2,500 hectares of wood energy plantations in the wood-energy supply basin for Brazzaville for an amount of US\$ 7 million over 5 years. The disbursement shall be made in two tranches - a first tranche up to US\$ 3 million over a 2-year period and a second tranche of up to US\$ 4million, conditional to the achievement of results of the first 2 years. Therefore, the revised programme document should propose a two phase implementation approach including :
 - a) a first 2-year phase aiming at implementing 500 hectares of forestry and/agroforestry wood energy plantations and to prepare the second phase of programme implementation through land securing with the PRONAR (*Programme national de d'afforestation et de reboisement*) beneficiaries identification following a Free Prior and Informed Consent approach and contractors' identification, and
 - b) a second 3-year to deploy at least 2000 hectares of wood energy plantations in the Brazzaville supply Basin
- 7) Asks FAO and GRET to provide, in the programme document, an analysis of the average costs per hectare (and estimated budget excluding costs covered by beneficiaries and the PREFOREST) relative to each site of plantations identified for the program. These costs will be estimated based on existing pre-conditions in the specific sites, such as land tenure securing, access to nurseries, access to farm equipment, etc. and sufficiently detailed to justify the two phases proposed budgets.
- 8) Requests that FAO and GRET document and report on the mechanisms of local ownership and how they will be established and maintained (eg local committees engaged in decision-making about plantations)

- 9) Reiterates its request to examine the possibility to implement local monitoring and advisory committees in direct contact with the implementing agencies and the beneficiaries to monitor, assess barriers and propose corrective actions to the Steering Committee. The Steering and local committees should involve CAFI representatives
- 10) Requests the CAFI Secretariat, upon reception of the revised programme document, to draft and discuss with FAO and GRET a list of requirements to be met by the programme to access the second tranches
- 11) Requests ID to develop a program document for the deployment of at least 5,700 ICS in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire Supply Basins for an amount of US\$ 1 million over 3 years
- 12) Asks the CAFI secretariat to proceed with the HACT assessment to confirm ID eligibility to access CAFI fund in accordance with CAFI revised terms of reference and manual of operation endorsed by [decision EB.2021.01](#)
- 13) Asks the implementing organizations to submit both program documents by 15 August 2021 to be examined by CAFI EB and the RoC-CAFI partnership Steering Committee
- 14) Recalls that, while respecting their rules and regulations implementing organizations commit to zero tolerance for fraud, corruption and sexual exploitation and abuse; protection of whistleblowers, public disclosure, gender and social inclusion and use of adequate complaints mechanisms. In addition, implementing organizations commit to managing all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Executive Board with the outmost care. The implementing organizations are expected to be proactive in reporting those risks to the CAFI MPTF in respect to CAFI trust fund Terms of reference.
- 15) Recalls that the implementing organizations will have to report on progress toward both the objectives and milestones of the Lol as well as on indicators of the National REDD+ Investment Plan and CAFI results framework in accordance with CAFI guidelines and templates. In addition, they will have to provide information on how their activities are addressing and respecting CAFI social and environmental safeguards.
- 16) Encourages the implementing organizations to consult with CAFI Secretariat to ensure consistency with CAFI orientations and requirements.