



Republic of Congo—Programming—Approval of the Sustainable Wood Energy Potential Enhancement Project in the Republic of Congo (PROREP)

Adopted by email on 16 November 2021

EB.2021.20

Considering:

- a) Decision [EB.2019.16](#) on the Letter of Intent signed 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 Board of Directors 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 (CEI), Terms of Reference of the CEI);
- c) Decision [EB.2020.15](#) on the selection of executing agencies for the development of the programme portfolio, the decision jointly examined and approved by the government during the first meeting of the Interministerial Committee with Ambassadors held on 24 September 2020 and chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo;
- d) Decision [EB.2020.23](#) on the programming and submission deadlines for project documents regarding the work plan and timeline of executing agencies selected to submit their project document to the CAFI Independent Review;
- e) The programme document submitted in January 2021 by the FAO entitled: The Sustainable Wood Energy Potential Enhancement Project in the Republic of Congo (PROREP);
- f) The Independent Review of programme documents carried out in February 2021;
- g) Decision [EB.2021.05](#) on fast start wood energy plantations;

- h) The revised programme document and the comments response matrix submitted by FAO on 31 May 2021;
- i) The supplementary Independent Review of programme documents carried out in June 2021;
- j) Decision [EB.2021.12](#) on the second Programme Review;
- k) The revised programme document and the comments response matrix submitted by FAO;
- l) The memo on the FAO/GRET response to the questions received from the CAFI Board discussed on 23 September 2021.

The CAFI Board:

- 1) Thanks and congratulates FAO, GRET and their partners for their revised programme document (PROREP);
- 2) Approves the project document for an amount of US\$ 7,000,000 to be used over a 5-year implementation period, pending that:
 - a) Responses to questions asked on 23 September 2021 included in the aforementioned memo be incorporated into the programme document. This includes:
 - i. Clarifications related to the status of current land tenure and safeguarding procedures;
 - ii. A description of existing ecosystems on the blocks where the plantations will be established and commitments related to preserving existing forests;
 - iii. Procedures for selecting and allocating land to beneficiaries;
 - iv. A description of beneficiaries;
 - v. Functioning of the selection committees and the safeguards to be applied for the selection of beneficiaries;
 - vi. Operations of plantations and mobilized workforce;
 - vii. Integration of the proposed additional indicators.
 - b) A more precise breakdown be provided of the budget lines relating to transfers and subsidies to GRET and to seedling production for agroforestry plantations in seasons 1 and 2 so that CAFI and FAO are able to provide more effectual monitoring of the effectiveness and efficiency of these activities;
 - c) Clarifications be provided on the estimated number of units in the 'narrative description of budget line' column and assurance that no indirect costs appear in other budget categories (UNDG 1 to 7).
- 3) Asks the CAFI Secretariat to ensure that the aforementioned modifications are satisfactory before signing the programme document;

- 4) Requests that the total amount will be disbursed in two tranches of US\$ 3,010,000 and US\$ 3,990,000, respectively. The second tranche is conditional and will be transferred after 18 months of project implementation subject to the following conditions:
- a) Effective establishment of 500 ha of agroforestry wood-energy plantations;
 - b) Operationalization of Local Selection Committees and the existence of criteria for the allocation of lots to approved beneficiaries and to the first selected beneficiaries;
 - c) Submission of a budgeted work plan for the remaining 42 months of the project, adjusted based on feedback reviewed by the project Steering Committee;
 - d) A positive independent review of the programme;
 - e) Consideration of CAFI's feedback in the budgeted work plan.

The disbursement of the second tranche will be made by decision of the CAFI Board following the Independent Review.

- 5) Asks the CAFI Secretariat to take responsibility for recruiting and organizing the review;
- 6) Asks the FAO to notify the CAFI Secretariat at least 6 months before the date of disbursement of the requested tranche;
- 7) Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the executing agency undertakes to apply zero tolerance towards fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse; to protect whistleblowers; to inform the public; to promote gender equality and social inclusion; and to use appropriate complaint mechanisms. In addition, the executing agencies commit to carefully managing all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Board. The executing agency should act proactively in reporting these risks to CAFI's Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of CAFI's Trust Fund;
- 8) Recalls that the executing agency will have to report on progress toward both the objectives and milestones of the Letter of Intent as well as on indicators of the National REDD+ Investment Plan and the CAFI results framework in accordance with CAFI guidelines and templates. In addition, it will have to provide information on how their activities are addressing and respecting CAFI social and environmental safeguards;
- 9) Appoints the CAFI Secretariat to represent it on the Steering Committee and, in addition, will appoint a representative of a CAFI donor at a later stage;
- 10) Instructs the CAFI Secretariat to sign the Programme document on its behalf.