



Republic of Congo – Approval of the program document of the Sustainable Land Use Planning Program (PUDT)

Adopted on 27 June 2022

EB.2022.08

Considering:

- a) Decision [EB.2020.15](#) of October 5, 2020 on the selection of implementing agencies for the development of the program portfolio, including the French Development Agency (AFD) for the preparation of a Land Use Planning program document;
- b) The Program Framework and Terms of Reference of the Land Use Planning Program;
- c) Decision [EB.2020.23](#) on the "Project Presentation Idea Note" developed after the launching mission held with the national focal points from 14 to 23 October, 2020, the timetable for submission of the project document scheduled for April 2021;
- d) The first version of the program document submitted on July 25, 2021 and the three subsequent independent evaluations finalized on August 27, 2021;
- e) The second version of the program document submitted on December 20, 2021 and the two independent evaluations finalized on February 3, 2022;
- f) The third version of the program document and comment response matrix submitted on March 3, 2022
- g) Decision [EB.2022.05](#) on the Sustainable Land Use Planning program adopted on May 2, 2022 asking for the program document revision;
- h) The last version of the program document and comment response matrix submitted on May 19, 2022 and the deployment schedule for the first year of program implementation;
- i) The revised program budget submitted 26 June 2022.

The CAFI Executive Board :

1. Thanks and congratulates the AFD for their revised program document;
2. Approves the program document for an amount of US\$ 18,472,150 to be used over a 5-year implementation period, pending that the following are incorporated in the program document:
 - a) Amendment of the Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) section: The guidelines and mandate of the M&E responsible hosted in the program coordination unit should also include the monitoring and performance assessment of the land use planning decision-making and participation process (including concertation bodies implemented by the program) and the M&E of risks and risks mitigation measures;
 - b) Updated Risks Management Framework to cover all risks related to national ownership of the land use planning process, operations and safety & security;
 - c) Updated results framework with measurable indicators that are specific and as quantitative as possible and distinguish what is directly attributable to the program's interventions and what belongs to the broader context. The logical framework shall specify progress and result indicators with differentiated timelines for when they will be collected and propose realistic and attainable mid-term and end targets. Indicative budgets and estimated time associated with the collection of data under each indicator shall also be included;
 - d) Updated the deployment schedule for the first year of program implementation considering the date of the adoption of this decision.
3. Asks the CAFI Secretariat to ensure that the aforementioned modifications are satisfactory before signing the program document;
4. Requests that the total amount will be disbursed in two tranches of USD 10,852,865 and USD 7,619,285, respectively. The second tranche is conditional and will be transferred after 24 months of project implementation subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Cumulative expenditures have reached 70% of the disbursed CAFI fund;
 - b) The submission of previous mandatory financial and narrative reports as per CAFI Manual of Operation and of a provisional financial and narrative reports dated on the date the request of next installment is made;
 - c) The submission of the following deliverables:
 - The Stakeholder Analysis Matrix and the description of the decision-making, consultation, and participation Land-Use planning process. Each institution – governmental and non-governmental – their roles and level of participation should be clearly identified and mapped with all stakeholders allowing an inclusive and efficient decision-making process;
 - Data-sharing agreements signed with the Ministry of Territorial Development, Equipment and Roads maintenance (MATIER) and the institutions identified in activity 1.17.5 of the program document;
 - A report on the link between the identification of High Carbon Stocks/High Conservation Value (HCS/HCV) areas and the inclusion of forests into the Permanent Forest Domain endorsed by the authorities. The strategy for achieving the objectives of the Letter of Intent, i.e., commitments to non-conversion of HCS/HCV forests and limited deforestation of non-HCS/HCV forests, should be clarified with all stakeholders;

- A report endorsed by the authorities on the peatland special status indicating the strategy to be supported to protect peatlands from drainage and drying out;
 - A mid-term report analyzing lessons learned and recommendations for the second phase;
- d) An independent assessment reviewed by CAFI EB and shared with the partnership coordination bodies including: (i) a review of the deliverable indicated above and (ii) an assessment of program expected results as identified in the PRODOC;

The disbursement of the second tranche (in full or annually) will be made by decision of the CAFI Board following the Independent Review;

5. Asks the AFD to notify the CAFI Secretariat at least 6 months before the date of disbursement of the requested tranche and asks the CAFI Secretariat to take responsibility for recruiting and organizing the review;
6. Asks the CAFI Secretariat together with the partnership Permanent Secretariat to organize every 3 months (and on demand of any of the following stakeholders) a call with the Permanent Secretary, the AFD, the Monitoring & Evaluation responsible hosted by the Program Coordination Unit, the program management units' coordinators appointed by the government and the CAFI Secretariat to discuss progress made in line with the first-year deployment schedule and the future annual work plans and budgets. The purpose of this meeting will be to assess potential risk of delays linked to operations (PRODOC signature, fund transfer, recruitments, etc.) and, when necessary, identify solutions to support unlocking barriers at different levels;
7. Stresses that the non-respect of the deployment schedule may result in the termination of the program;
8. Recalls the importance of ensuring synergies with existing and future programs and building on lessons learned from other programs including programs supporting land-use planning at lower scale;
9. 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. Moreover, the narrative reports will include:
 - Description of how activities are addressing and respecting CAFI social and environmental safeguard;
 - M&E of identified risks and risks mitigation measures;

Recommendations associated with progress and barriers assessments shall be discussed during the program steering committee meeting and addressed in the next annual budgetary work plan of the program.

10. 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 agency commits to carefully managing all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Board. The implementing organization 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;

11. Recalls that, in conformity with decision [EB.2022.05](#), the overall amount allocated by the CAFI fund for the Sustainable Land Use planning program and the following investment program shall not exceed 35 M USD in accordance with decision [EB.2020.15](#) of October 5, 2020 and that the total amount of the management costs of the programs cumulated shall not exceed 18% of the total amount of the results of the two programs. If cumulative management costs exceed the threshold, the implementing organization shall provide a note justifying the strategy efficiency and associated costs for each expenditure items;
12. Recalls that synergies between both program including strategies for making the National Land-Use Scheme (SNAT) consistent with the Departmental Schemes and plans (SDATs/PDATs) and activities undertaken at the local level in the PI-PUDT shall be clarified in the PI-PUDT program document;
13. Appoints the CAFI Secretariat to represent it on the Steering Committee;
14. Instructs the CAFI Secretariat to sign the Program document on its behalf.