



Republic of Congo - Sustainable Land Use Investment Program (SLUPP) Adopted electronically on 08 November 2022

EB. 2022.27

Considering:

- a) The Programming framework adopted jointly by the Republic of Congo and CAFI;
- b) Decision [EB.2020.15](#) of October 5, 2020 on the selection of implementing agencies for the development of the portfolio of programs, including the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) for the development, in 2021, of a **portfolio of activities for the implementation of operational investments in the agricultural and forestry sectors** (aligned with the results and conclusions of the land use program (PUDT));
- c) The specific guidance for the PI-PUDT contained in decisions [EB.2022.05](#) and [EB.2022.08](#);
- d) The first version of the program document submitted on May 24, 2022 and the three subsequent evaluations finalized at the end of July 2022;
- e) The evaluation document prepared from the independent evaluations and exchanges with AFD and members of CAFI on the Republic of Congo;

The Executive Board

1. Thanks the AFD for the submission of its program document;
2. Requests AFD to revise its program document and submit a revised version along with a matrix response to the assessments and decision directions by November 17, 2022, for review by the CAFI-Republic of Congo Partnership Steering Committee and by the CAFI Executive Board at the Executive Board meeting to be held on December 6-7, 2022, and emphasizes the need to review the following:

In general:

2.1 In accordance with decision [EB.2020.15](#), to revise the budget allocations to fund mainly field investments following **an integrated territorial approach** and to **focus all support on the pilot territories**. The PUDT program, with an amount of USD 26.4 million, exclusively funds enabling activities, including research, and the PI-PUDT is an operational investment program for activities in the agricultural and forestry sectors;

2.2 In accordance with decision [EB.2020.15](#), to include pilot work on **Payments for Environmental Services (PES)** aligned with the guidelines of the PES program developed by CAFI in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as this work is essential to support the Republic of Congo in accessing this innovative funding;

2.3 **Clarify institutional arrangements**, in particular, for the role of the MATIER in the development of local land use plans and the MEDDBC ;

2.4 Beyond the identification of national programs contributing to the same objectives as the PI-PUDT program, clarify the complementarities and concrete synergies with these other programs, in particular PUDT, Preforest (MEF/FAO), ProClimat (World Bank) and PAJE (IFAD) and avoid duplication;

2.5 Incorporate the recommendations of the Partnership Steering Committee members expected by November 4, 2022;

Specifically:

2.5 On local land use plans and participatory mapping: to specify the working scale and jurisdictional level of the pilot territories as well as the governance structure that will be mobilized to carry out the local plans and monitor their implementation. The governance arrangements should allow for the strengthening and/or creation of representative bodies for the local management of the space concerned;

2.6 On the cost-sharing grant mechanism: (i) specify the methodology that will be used for the selection of pilot territories (presence of local committees, presence of protected agricultural areas (PAAs), stakes for agricultural development, pilot departments for SDATs, heterogeneity of sites for a more varied sampling, etc.) and (ii) describe the types, scales, objectives, and revenue streams of potential investment projects as specified in the request to IUCN by decision [EB.2021.08](#) ;

2.7 On Output 3 of the PI-PUDT: to meet the same expectations, in terms of quality of feasibility, formulated on the PROREP and the Lituka project contained in decisions [EB.2021.05](#), [EB.2021.12](#), [EB.2021.25](#), [EB.2021.20](#);

In more detail, please refer to the technical note on recommendations attached to this decision;

3. Recalls that, in accordance with decisions [EB.2022.05](#) and [EB.2022.08](#), the PUDT Program Management Units will be used for the PI-PUDT program and the total amount of the management costs of the combined programs shall not exceed 18% of the total amount of the results of both programs. In addition, indirect management costs shall not exceed 7.00% of total direct program costs;

4. Recalls that, as with the PUDT:
 - 4.1. The operations manual and the terms of reference of the monitoring and evaluation officer should also include monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the decision-making and participation process of the land-use planning process (including the consultative bodies implemented by the program) and monitoring and evaluation of risks and risk mitigation measures;
 - 4.2. The risk management framework will need to be updated to cover all risks related to national ownership of the land use planning process, operations and safety and security;
 - 4.3. The results framework should be updated with measurable, specific, and quantitative indicators that distinguish between what is directly attributable to the program's interventions and what belongs to the broader context. The logical framework should specify progress and outcome indicators with differentiated timelines for when they will be collected and propose realistic and achievable targets for the medium term and at closure.
Indicative budgets and estimated time associated with data collection for each indicator should also be included;
5. Requests AFD to annex to the program document a deployment schedule for the first year of program implementation;
6. Requests the Secretariat of CAFI to verify the conformity of the program document before its submission to the Executive Board and then to produce a technical summary note assessing the incorporation of the above-mentioned modifications in order to inform the Executive Board and the Partnership Steering Committee.

Central African Forest Initiative

PUDT Investment Program

REPUBLIC OF CONGO PROGRAMS

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

Submission date: May 24, 2022



PUDT Investment Program Guidance Note - Version 1 of May 24, 2022

Objective of the note

This note is attached to decision EB.2022.27 to support the work of revising the first version of the Sustainable Land Use Investment Program (SLUIP) - version 1 submitted to the CAFI Executive Board on May 24, 2022.

In accordance with the Programming framework and the joint decision of the Inter-Ministerial Committee and the CAFI Executive Board (EB.2020.15) on the selection of agencies and programs, this second program is an operational program that should directly support actors on the ground for agricultural and forestry activities. Enabling investments are planned in the PUDT program which already totals a **substantial investment of 18.5 M USD from the fund of CAFI plus 7 M EUR aligned.**

The recommendations below are intended to **facilitate, in a realistic manner (i.e. feasible in a relatively short period of time), the revision of the program document** by AFD and its partners **using the basis proposed in version 1 of the PUDT**, in order to ensure its alignment with **the orientations of the Programming framework, the requirements of the CAFI fund (Operations Manual, document formats, etc.) and CAFI decisions**, in particular, the following:

- EB 2020.15: Requests AFD to develop in 2021 a portfolio of activities for the implementation of **operational investments** in the agriculture and forestry sectors (aligned with the results and findings of the land use program) with additional new funding from AFD (EUR 8M) and USD 15-20M from the Trust Fund of CAFI. These investments will support **pilots on and operationalization of the land use process, including the development of climate-smart and zero-deforestation agriculture, implementation of sustainable energy supply schemes and sustainable management of HSC/HVC areas.** This portfolio of activities will focus on **mobilizing public and private investments and piloting innovative financial mechanisms** (PES, etc.)
- EB 2022.05: the work of participatory mapping at lower geographic levels (terroirs, villages, etc.) will be effectively taken into account in the UTPDP
- EB.2022.05 the **Coordination Unit and Program Management Units and safeguards will be funded for the PUDT and used by the PUDT Investment Program (PI-PUDT)**
- EB.2022.05 and 08: The total amount allocated by the CAFI fund for the two programs does not exceed 35 M USD and the total amount of the management costs of the programs cumulated does not exceed 18% of the total amount of the results of the two programs

The recommendations also aim to align the PI-PUDT program with other CAFI initiatives, in particular the PIREDD in the DRC and future innovative funding mechanisms such as the PES, which will make it possible to perpetuate the gains made and facilitate the Republic of Congo's access to this type of additional support, in accordance with the Government's request and the standardization strategy for CAFI support currently being developed.

Recommendations

On the basis of the main findings of the evaluation, the following directions are suggested:

On the strategic content of the program:

- Much of the program is devoted to enabling activities at the expense of operational field activities.

This distribution could be reviewed by removing research activities (innovation center, research on new models of improved stoves, on plant varieties, weather stations, etc.) and activities already funded by CAFI in other programs such as improved stoves (Lituka project) and Strategic Environmental Assessment on Plantations (activity also funded through the PUDT) to focus on field support. It is also noted that some activities such as weather stations are also funded through the World Bank's ProClimat.

- The program does not propose to develop **innovative PES-type payment mechanisms** that would guarantee the integrity of local land use plans and ensure the sustainability of investments over the long term. The development of a PES mechanism in the DRC and even on a regional scale offers **an important opportunity that would allow the Republic of Congo to benefit from this type of instrument.** A note on the opportunities of such a mechanism has been developed and highlights the main prerequisites, particularly on local land use planning and spatial monitoring, which should be implemented within the framework of the PI-PUDT.
- The first three results appear to be results that could be the subject of different programs, the complementarities are unclear and the **program would benefit from being restructured for greater coherence while refocusing support on the pilot territories identified in Result 1.**
- **The working scale and jurisdictional level of the pilot territories as well as the governance structure that will be mobilized to carry out the local plans and monitor their implementation should be specified.** The governance arrangements should make it possible to strengthen and/or create representative bodies for the local management of the area concerned. It should also be noted that the district scale seems unrealistic for the realization of participatory mapping work; this was highlighted in particular through discussions with ID, which has begun pilot work on the realization of a land use plan at the level of a district in the Pool.
- In accordance with CAFI's monitoring and evaluation framework, **results targets for field investments** will need to be quantified in the same way as other programs funded by CAFI such as PROPREP, the Lituka program, PI-REDD programs, and World Bank programs.

On the description of program outcomes, outputs and activities:

The description and justification of the activities must meet the expectations of the EB of CAFI by analogy with the requests made by the EB of CAFI on other similar activities or results in particular for:

- The governance mechanism for the process of producing and funding the implementation of Local Development Plans is insufficiently described and justified (cf. point 2c of decision EB.2020.15, point 2.3 on national ownership of the spatial planning process of decision EB.2022.05)
- The shared-cost funding mechanism proposed in Outcome 2 is not sufficiently explained, particularly with regard to: the types of projects supported, geographic limits (national or pilot zone) and links with local windows, the operation of technical assistance, the governance of the fund, etc., and the **rationale for the choice of mechanism** (i.e., why propose a shared-cost grant mechanism? what lessons learned and what potential for success in light of past experience lead to this choice?)
 - Refer to the Conservation Funding Initiative (CFI) program document and Decision [EB.2021.08](#) for guidance on CAFI's expectations for clarification.
- Outcome 3, which includes activities to support woodfuels, sustainable charcoal and improved stoves, is insufficiently described and justified. These activities replicate the PROREP and Lituka

programs and, therefore, the same requests apply to issues related to location, land tenure security, strategies, target figures, description of beneficiaries, etc.

- Refer to program documents PROREP & Lituka and decisions EB.2020.15, EB.2020.23, EB.2021.05, EB.2021.12, EB.2021.25, EB.2021.20

On institutional arrangements and program management

- Clarify that the PSUs funded through the PUDT will be strengthened to implement the PI-PUDT
- Clarify the role of MATIER in the development of local plans, as the PI-PUDT does not anticipate working with the MATIER PCU/PMU created by the PUDT
- Clarify the role of the MEDDBC PMU which is strengthened but does not carry out project activities
- Reduce project management costs to the limit agreed upon in decision EB.2022.08

On the duplication of activities and synergies with other programs funded by CAFI, the VCF and the WB

- Integrate into the program document the concrete synergies to be achieved in order to avoid duplication, in particular for :
 - PREFOREST (including PROREP) and the Lituka program - indeed, the strategies for Outcome 3 are not spelled out and the activities seem to replicate the activities of these projects already supported by CAFI.
 - The World Bank's Proclimate and IFAD's PAJE, which will support the agricultural sector and which is currently being developed, replicates the activities of the PI PUDT.

On monitoring and evaluation and risks (similar requests made to the PUDT - EB.2022.08)

- Review the results framework which does not conform to the format of the CAFI results frameworks and incorporate **quantified indicators and targets of results of operational investments in the field** (ha, output, beneficiaries, etc.)
- Adapt the operations manual and the terms of reference for the monitoring and evaluation officer, which should also include monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the decision-making and participation process of the land-use planning process (including the consultative bodies implemented by the program) and the monitoring and evaluation of risks and risk mitigation measures, as well as an updated risk management framework to cover all risks related to national ownership of the land-use planning process, operations and safety and security.
- Integrate an activity deployment plan to be monitored by a monitoring committee composed of the Agency, the program coordinators and the Secretariat of CAFI in order to anticipate and find solutions to possible implementation barriers and delays.
- Respect the 7% cap on indirect management fees

Suggestions for a restructuring proposal

Output 1 - Production of local land use plans

In accordance with the guidance provided in the PSE Note, for each selected jurisdiction, this would involve :

- Strengthen or create representative bodies for local management of the area concerned
- Produce community land management plans consisting of:
 - ✓ *A village base map* that includes the precise geographic boundaries of the village, a map of land rights (both customary at the village level and under national law), and a map of current land use;

- ✓ A *micro-zoning plan* with resource management rules and forest conservation objectives;
 - ✓ A *"green development plan"* outlining the basic needs of the community and the behavioral changes and investments required to meet the agreed-upon land use plan.
- Securing uses - Work on securing land tenure, if undertaken at the local level in accordance with version 1 of the UTPDP, will also have to make the link with the national level (i.e. work with the MAEP in consultation with the Ministry in charge of land tenure for the recognition of use rights)

Result 2 - Production/distribution of inputs and organization of actors in the pilot areas

This result 2 would aim to strengthen the capacities of actors for the production and distribution of agricultural seeds and nursery (currently planned in results 1 with the agricultural farms and 3 with the strengthening of the SNR). This result 2 could also include support to farmers' organizations

Result 3 - Direct access of beneficiaries to financial support for (i) zero deforestation agriculture and (ii) sustainable management of forests

Two financial mechanisms could be developed for (i) initial investment support through the cost-sharing grant mechanism proposed by AFD and (ii) individual and collective payments for environmental services (PES) as presented in the note on PES.

Excerpt from the note on payments for environmental services (PES)

Individual payment mechanisms for (i) **short-cycle or mixed agroforestry plantations in savannahs and degraded forests**, (ii) **plantations of perennial crops without deforestation** (palms, cocoa, rubber, cashew nuts, etc.), or (ii) **Reforestation**. The second modality could be implemented through outgrower schemes supporting private sector investments.

Mechanisms for collective payments to communities for (i) **Protection of community forests** through contracts for protection of community forests that adhere to forest conservation objectives in accordance with their simple land use plan (SLUP), (ii) **Community forest management** through similar contracts incorporating simple management plans approved by the forest authority, (ii) **Protection of savannahs and degraded forests without assisted natural regeneration (ANR)**, and (iv) **Protection of savannahs and degraded forests with ANR (short- and long-cycle plantations and forest species within containment)**

In this outcome, several key elements should be considered for the transfer of funding including the *technical assistance facility* (for project support and selection, contracting, etc.), spatial monitoring (M&E of the PUDT IP version 1 outcome strengthened on the roles of local committees and spatialized monitoring), and the financial circuit.

Result 4 - Sustainable coal and wood waste recovery

In the pilot territories near urban centers, this outcome would allow for the implementation of the proposed partnerships for wood waste recovery and charcoal maker training currently planned for outcome 3. Indeed, we understand that this work will be supported exclusively by technical assistance and will not benefit from the cost-sharing grant mechanism.