



Republic of Congo – Approval, conditional on revisions, of the Sustainable Land Use Investment Program (PI-PUDT) - Version 2

Adopted at the Executive Board Meeting 21, Geneva, Switzerland, on December 8, 2022

EB.2022.29

Considering:

- a) The programmatic 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);
- c) The specific guidance on 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 assessment document combining independent evaluations results and exchanges between AFD and CAFI members on the Republic of Congo;
- f) Decision [EB.2022.27](#) requesting revisions of the first version of the program document and the associated recommendation note;
- g) The second version of the program document submitted on November 18, 2022 and the associated evaluation response matrix;
- h) The assessment of the incorporation of independent evaluations and CAFI Executive Board guidance finalized on November 22, 2022 in the second version of the program document;
- i) The correspondence of his Excellency the Prime Minister, Head of the Government of the Republic of Congo, to the president of CAFI Executive Board on the third Partnership Steering Committee recommendations dating December 6, 2022.

The Executive Board,

1. Thanks AFD for submitting its revised program document;
2. Recognizes the need for rapid implementation of the program and that significant work remains to be done to refine the theory of change and funding mechanisms to support beneficiaries.
3. Approves the program document, subject to the modifications below, with a first tranche of funding in the amount of US\$ 2,000,000 and for a total amount of US\$ 16,527,850 to be used over a 5-year implementation period. This first tranche to be disbursed in year 1 of the program will be dedicated to Output 1.1, Activity 4.1.1 on the analysis of strengthening needs for monitoring projects financed through the Outcome 2 support facility and associated management costs. The second tranche is conditional and will be transferred after 12 months of project implementation subject to the following conditions:
 - 3.1. Cumulative expenditures have reached 70% of the transferred CAFI funding;
 - 3.2. Submission of all required financial and narrative reports, in accordance with the CAFI Manual of Operations and an interim financial and narrative report dated on the date the following payment request is made;
 - 3.3. The review and validation by CAFI Executive Board and the Partnership Steering Committee of :
 - 3.3.1. The description and mapping (geo-referencing) of the pilot territories selected in the framework of the PI PUDT as well as the methodology and selection criteria that led up to their selection as well as the areas selected for the elaboration of local development plans (and local institutional arrangements). It should be emphasized that the CAFI investments foreseen in output 2.2 will be directed exclusively to these territories (districts) and that it is therefore essential to take into consideration the investment opportunities in the selection of territories.
 - 3.3.2. The Operations Manual for the Shared-Cost Grant mechanism and Payments for Environmental Services including selection criteria, funding channels, governance of the mechanism, and types, scales, objectives, and revenue streams of potential investment projects, etc. in analogy to the request made to IUCN in Decision EB.2021.08;
 - 3.3.3. The description and justification of the proposed modalities in adequacy with an integrated territorial approach and focused on pilot territories in support of the activities in the agricultural and forestry sectors;
 - 3.3.4. Description of synergies and collaboration modalities with other relevant programs in the Republic of Congo that contribute to the same objectives of the Letter of Intent.
4. Stresses that the submission of the above deliverables must be made at least three months before the expected disbursement of the next tranche. The decision to disburse the second tranche (in full or annually) will be made by CAFI Executive Board in cooperation with the Partnership Steering Committee. In the event that assessed progress are deemed insufficient one year after the start date of the program, the Executive Board, in agreement with the Partnership's Interministerial Committee, reserves the right to suspend payment and, as a last resort, to reallocate funding to other programs for the Republic of Congo.

5. Requests AFD to revise its program document and submit a revised version with a matrix response to the evaluations and decision guidance by January 31, 2023, including the following requirements:
 - 5.1. Adjusted budget in accordance with the above requests.
 - 5.2. Full compliance with the checklist presented in Appendix 1 of the evaluation.
 - 5.3. Updated risk management framework tailored to the PI-PUDT and covering all risks related to national ownership, operations, and safety and security.
 - 5.4. 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.
 - 5.5. An annex to the program document outlining the deployment schedule for the first year of implementation.
6. Requests AFD to validate with the national parties the modifications made prior to the submission of the revised version as well as the proposed institutional arrangements and to annex the Minutes of the exchanges to the program document in accordance with the guidelines included in the format of the program documents.
7. Requests the CAFI Secretariat to ensure that the above changes are satisfactory before signing the program document and instructs the CAFI Secretariat to sign the program document on its behalf as long as the deadline of January 31, 2023 is met.