



**Central African
Forest Initiative
(CAFI)**

21st

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING**

DECEMBER 2022



INTRODUCTION



The 21st CAFI's Executive Board Meeting (EB21) took place in Geneva from **6 to 8 December 2022**. The EB21 was opened by Ms. Agi Veres, Director of UNDP Office in Geneva and by Mr. Tony Baumann, representing Germany as Chair of the CAFI Executive Board.

The EB21 agenda was structured in 12 sessions and covered topics such as the review of general aspects of the Trust Fund (status, Terms of

Reference, Manual of Operations), the review and adoption of some CAFI policies (monitoring and evaluation, risks, co-financing), the review of activities in partners countries (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon) and discussions with some implementing agencies.

This report presents the key points raised and the conclusions reached during the EB21.

1. CAFI TRUST FUND

1.1. Review of the CAFI Fund

CAFI currently has 35 Active Programs distributed throughout its 6 partners countries, with a total of USD 395,171,120.93 of approved Budget. During the second half of 2022, CAFI approved some new programs and projects for an investment amount of more than 527 M USD. Among these projects are: (i) *The transitional Budget and LOI Milestones program in DRC*; (ii) *The implementation of Nationally Determined Contribution in DRC*; (iii) *The program on National Coordination in Gabon*; (iv) *The Protected Area Network program in Gabon*; (v) *The Urban Greening program in Gabon*; (vi) *The Forestry Management program in Gabon*; (vii) *The Ecosystem Research & Monitoring in Gabon*, (viii) *The regional program Scaling-up Commercial investment*.

1.2. CAFI's Terms of Reference and Manual of Operations

The revisions of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Manual of Operations (MOP) of the CAFI Funds are on-going and cover both operational aspects and governance. It is expected that the new TOR and MOP will be adopted during the first quarter of 2023.

2. CAFI PROGRAMMING IMPROVEMENTS

2.1. Standardisation

CAFI is considering using standardisation to improve and replicate programmes such as PIREDD (already underway with a fast-track process), Payments for Environmental Services (PES), deforestation-free agriculture value chain, low impact logging value chain, energy, mining, and others. A first standard programme based on PES has been proposed and will be developed by the CAFI Secretariat during the first half of 2023.

2.2. Co-financing Policy

CAFI Executive Board has adopted a co-financing policy presented by the Secretariat.

Decision adopted	EB.2022.34 - Decision CAFI Cofinancing policy
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3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

CAFI Executive Board adopted the Monitoring, Evaluation, Verification and Learning Policy (MEL) presented by the Secretariat. A first draft of the MEL Guidelines will be discussed in the beginning of 2023. The CAFI Executive board also approved the proposed composition, role, and the frequency of the MEL Working Group.

A delivery chain mapping tool has been developed and shared with the implementing agencies. This tool allows to trace the chain of use of the funds granted and to determine the different risks. The tool is still in the testing phase. First results of testing will be analysed during the first quarter of 2023.

Decision adopted	EB.2022.28 - Monitoring and Evaluation
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4. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

The First version of the Risk Management Strategy was adopted by the board in April 2019 (Decision [EB2019.04](#)). A more recent version was presented during the EB21 and adopted at the end of December 2022. The most important improvements on this new version are: (i) *inclusion of definitions and principles, revision and update of the joint risk management approach (including roles and frequency of reporting)*, (ii) *incorporation of the new framework based on the definitions and structures of the OECD/DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) using the Copenhagen Circles*, and (iii) *updating of the key risks to be assessed through the risk dashboard twice a year based on country context and lessons learned from the previous year*.

Decision adopted **EB.2022.35 - Decision CAFI Risk management strategy**

5. CARBON FINANCE APPROACH

CAFI, which encourages investments in the carbon sector, received a request from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to support the assessment of the high value forest potential in Central Africa. After revision, the Executive board approved a feasibility grant to WCS to conduct this study at the beginning of 2023.

Decision adopted **EB.2022.33 - WCS High Value Forests Map Preparatory Grant**

6. COUNTRY OVERVIEWS

6.1. Cameroon

The CAFI secretariat presented updates on the proposed design and components of the CAFI-Cameroon partnership. Many activities are planned for 2023.

6.2. Republic of Congo (RoC)

The current portfolio in RoC is made up of 10 programs for a total of 53 M USD of commitment from CAFI, with 30 M USD in co-financing and 29 M USD in aligned funding.

Presently, there are **3 ongoing programs**: (i) Coordination support program; (ii) Sustainable Wood Energy Capacity Building Project (PROREP); (iii) Operationalising the National Measurement, Reporting and Verification System program (SYNA-MNV); **2 Approved programs**: (i) Sustainable Land Use Programme (PUDT), (ii) Lituka project (Project to combat deforestation through the dissemination of improved stoves); **3 Programs under development**: Sustainable Land Use Investment Programme (PI-PUDT) which was adopted during the EB21; (ii) Civil society, (iii) Environmental governance; and **2 Programs at the TOR stage**: (i) Private sector support; (ii) Zero-deforestation Palm oil basin (prep grant).

During the EB21, the decision about the approval of the Sustainable Land Use Investment Program (PI-PUDT) was adopted.

Decision adopted **EB.2022.29 - Programming RoC PI-PUDT**

6.3. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The new management of the DRC's national REDD fund (FONAREDD) was presented to the CAFI Executive Board during the EB21.

Regarding ongoing activities in the DRC, the Sustainable Forest Management Program was officially launched in December 2022. The project will be executed by AFD. Also, some milestones of the [LOI 2](#) were planned to be completed at the end of 2022. The annual review of the DRC planned for early 2023 will provide a clear overview of the milestones achieved.

A DRC call for Expressions of Interests (approved by the executive board on [Decision EB.2022.12](#)) closed on 31 August 2022, with 164 submissions. In accordance with the TOR, expressions were submitted by (i) United Nations agencies, (ii) bilateral cooperation organisations (AFD, Enabel, GIZ), (iii) international research and education institutions, (iv) international NGOs, (v) national NGOs, as well as (vi) Congolese and international private sector.

Also, the CAFI Executive Board took note of the demonstration of needs submitted by FONAREDD for an amount of USD 120 million. The first disbursement was made at the end of 2022.

Decision adopted	EB.2022.32 - DRC - Approval of disbursement to DRC National REDD+ Fund.pdf
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6.4. Gabon

The CAFI Executive Board approved the transfer of the second tranche of the CAFI 1 project (implemented by AFD). It was also requested to the project steering committee to approve a new annual work plan and corresponding budget with the available funding.

Decision adopted	EB.2022.30 - Gabon - Approval of second tranche of funding for CAFI 1.pdf
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7. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

CAFI encourages and is open to supporting South-South and triangular cooperation programmes ([CAFI Declaration 2015](#)). South-South cooperation refers to the technical cooperation among developing countries in the "Global South". It is a tool used by the states, international organisations, academics, civil society, and the private sector to collaborate and share knowledge, skills and successful initiatives in specific areas. Concept notes and project proposals based on South-South cooperation will be developed in 2023.

8. IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION DIALOGUE

AFD, FAO and UNDP were invited to give an overview of their programme/project implementation in partner countries. CAFE's Executive Board appreciated efforts made by the agencies to achieve their objectives. Discussions with Implementing Organisations (IOs) will be part of the further EB meetings on a rotating basis.

CONCLUSION

The 21st Executive Board Meeting enabled discussion on main themes of activities in the second half of 2022. It also facilitated reviewing the effectiveness of CAFE's processes and policies, and proposed options for improvement. Several decisions were taken and can be consulted on CAFE's website (www.cafi.org).