



Approval of an additional preparatory grant to One Acre Fund (Innovative agriculture in the Democratic Republic of Congo)

Decision adopted by email on 05 May 2023

EB.2023.09

Considering

- The CAFI Declaration and the persisting challenge of forest loss and food security in the region and existing cooperation frameworks with CAFI partner countries (including Letters of Intent, preparatory grants, and feasibility studies);
- [Decision EB.2021.03](#) on the launch of the call for expressions of interest (Eoi) on Innovative Agriculture;
- [Decision EB.2021.13](#) on the first appraisal of submissions received asking One Acre Fund and Farm Africa to develop and submit to CAFI a technical and financial proposals;
- The revised terms of reference and manual of operation of the CAFI Trust Fund endorsed by the [decision EB.2021.01](#), establishing that eligibility of International non-governmental organizations - other than UN organizations, the World Bank and ICAs - will be confirmed following a HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer) Assessment and a low-risk rating;
- [Decision EB.2021.24](#) on the approval of preparatory grants to One Acre Fund and Farm Africa;
- [Decision EB.2022.11](#) No-cost extension of One Acre Fund's pre-feasibility study;
- The feasibility study report submitted by One Acre Fund;
- The proposals for an additional feasibility study grant submitted by One Acre Fund;
- The conclusions of the HACT Assessment for One Acre Fund and Farm Africa;

The CAFI Executive Board:

1. Approves the additional preparatory grant and the transfer of US\$ 991,461 to One Acre Fund.
2. Request the CAFI Secretariat to sign the project document for the extension of the preparatory grant on its behalf.
3. Requests One Acre Fund to proceed with the development of the project document, based on the feasibility study undertaken by One Acre Fund, and the various comments received from CAFI as well as upcoming comments from the National REDD+ Fund (FONAREDD). The project document will be based on an indicative budget of US\$ 30 million over three years with the objective to, provided projects results are deemed satisfactory, to then shift for a second phase on a performance-based modality.
4. Reiterates that the present decision does not represent a funding allocation decision for the project document referred to under point 3 above. Funding will be approved based on agency submission and according to the Terms of Reference of the FONAREDD Trust Fund.
5. Underlines that projects under the CAFI-DRC partnership are executed by implementing organizations on behalf of the government, and that implementing organizations must develop their proposals in close coordination and synergy with the relevant national and local government counterparts.
6. For the development of the project document requests One Acre Fund to:
 - a) Use the updated project document template provided by the FONAREDD Secretariat.
 - b) Ensure in the project design a strong focus on (i) gender inclusivity, including in terms of gender-disaggregated data; (ii) rights; (iii) conflict prevention and resolution, especially in relation to land tenure; (iv) monitoring and learning, while ensuring a strong alignment with CAFI and FONAREDD's results framework; (v) analysing the agriculture-forest protection nexus, (vi) analysing opportunities for scalability and pathways towards it; (vii) analysing risks for corruption and conflicts of interest, as well as who stands to gain or lose from the initiative; (viii) the use of local references and analysis with respect to potential beneficiaries, market opportunities and income opportunities for smallholders and economic viability, limitations and risks; (ix) clear integration and interlinkages between the various interventions proposed; (x) a clear exit/sustainability strategy; (xi) a robust analysis and management of risks (incl. land tenure and fire).
 - c) Ensure concrete synergies with existing projects and programs in the target area (CAFI-funded as well as other relevant ones). Activities should not be limited to activities funded by CAFI and should also support CAFI donors in their programming efforts in a consistent manner. In particular, in areas where integrated REDD+ programmes (PIREDD) operate, ensure that support is provided in priority where land use planning has been done, in line and in support of the related land use plans and natural resources management plans.
 - d) Ensure, to the extent possible, a methodological alignment of planned remote assessment of land use changes with the CAFI-funded regional study on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
7. Recalls that the implementing organization will have to report on progress toward both the objectives and milestones of the LoI as well as on indicators of the National REDD+ Investment Plan and CAFI and FONAREDD results framework in accordance with CAFI guidelines and templates. In addition, it will have to provide CAFI with all reports and data (raw and analyzed) from household's surveys and other field studies including spatial information (i.e. GPS coordinates) and information on how their activities are addressing and respecting CAFI social and environmental safeguards.

8. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the implementing organization commits to zero tolerance for fraud, corruption and sexual exploitation and abuse, protection of whistle-blowers, public disclosure, gender and social inclusion and use of adequate complaints mechanisms. In addition, the implementing organization commits to managing all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Executive Board with the outmost care. The implementing organization is expected to be proactive in reporting those risks to the CAFI MPTF in respect to CAFI Trust fund Terms of reference.