



Republic of Congo - No cost extension of the project
'Operationalization of the National MRV System of the Republic of
Congo'

Adopted by e-mail on 24 of August 2023

EB.2023.20

Considering :

- a) Decision [EB.2019.11](#) on the approval of the program 'Operationalization of the National MNV System of the Republic of Congo' for an amount of 2,000,000 USD in two instalments over two years;
- b) The [end date of the current program](#) is September 30, 2023;
- c) FAO letter dated July 20, 2023 asking a no cost extension of the project until December 31, 2024.

The CAFI Executive Board:

1. Thanks the FAO for its letter and for the enclosed note justifying the delays incurred and the results achieved, as well as the next steps, in particular to have the data-sharing agreement before the end of 2023, prerequisite for the disbursement of the second tranche, and the submission of the Reference Forest Emission Level (FREL) at the beginning of 2024;
2. Notes that the difficulties encountered have prevented the organization of the first Steering Committee meeting since the project was launched;
3. Recalls, the imperative to hold the annual meeting of the Project Steering Committee of which CAFI is a member, and to have a Annual Work Plan and Budget reviewed and approved by the Project Steering Committee within the first few months of project implementation, in accordance with the Trust Fund Operations Manual;

4. Approve the no-cost extension of the project until December 31, 2024, on condition that the Annual Work Plan and Budget, approved by the project Steering Committee, is officially submitted to CAFI before September 30, 2023. The extension will only be effective once it has been submitted;
5. Recalls that in accordance with decision [EB.2021.11](#), the second instalment is conditional and will be transferred upon signature of the data sharing agreement (mentioned in activity 1.5.1) by all parties concerned, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Ensure that up-to-date, transparent data is available and accessible to the public, in particular to enable stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the objectives and impacts of the Letter of Intent once a year;
 - b. To grant full access to the databases for the duration of the program to experts recruited by CAFI and/or by the support program for the coordination of the CAFI partnership with the Republic of Congo in order to carry out the analyses deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the Letter of Intent;
6. Requests FAO to ensure consistency and national ownership with of the results of the regional project 'Assessment of deforestation and forest degradation and related direct drivers' funded by CAFI and implemented by FAO. To this end, FAO is requested to provide in annex to the future request for next instalment a detailed note of the activities undertaken in each of the projects in support of the Republic of Congo, highlighting operational synergies that ensure consistency and complementarity in terms of support and outputs, while avoiding duplication.
7. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the executing agency is committed to zero tolerance of fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse, whistleblower protection, public information, gender equality and social inclusion, and the use of appropriate complaint mechanisms. In addition, FAO commits to carefully manage all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Executive Board, and to act proactively in reporting such risks to the CAFI Multi-Stakeholder Trust Fund Office, in accordance with the CAFI Trust Fund Terms of Reference.
8. Reminds FAO of its reporting obligations under the current CAFI Operations Manual, in terms of both narrative and financial reports.