



# **23<sup>rd</sup> CAFI Executive Board meeting**

**October 29 to November 02, 2023  
Brazzaville (RoC) & Kinshasa (DRC)**

**EXTERNAL REPORT**

### INTRODUCTION

The 23<sup>rd</sup> CAFI Executive Board meeting (EB23) was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Brazzaville on October 30, and at the Pullman Hotel Kinshasa (DRC) from October 31 to November 02, 2023. This 23<sup>rd</sup> edition was moderated by the United Kingdom, which currently holds the CAFI EB presidency. Discussions focused mainly on:

- (i) In-depth discussions on mechanisms currently being developed by CAFI; and
- (ii) Meetings between the EB, the partner governments present (RoC, DRC, Cameroon) and implementing agencies.

### Part I: EB23 Brazzaville (October 29-30)

#### a) RoC Agency Session

This session provided an opportunity to discuss with FAO on the PROREP and SYNA-MNV programmes, and with AFD on the PUDT and PI-PUDT programmes.

During the discussions, the EB congratulated the agencies on their efforts to implement these projects, especially regarding promotion of national ownership. However, certain shortcomings in supporting the fulfilment of certain milestones in the Letter of Intent between the Republic of Congo and CAFI were identified. The agencies took due note of these identified gaps and demonstrated commitment to carrying out a more in-depth analysis of the projects with the support of the CAFI Secretariat and the RoC Permanent Secretariat. Furthermore, the Executive Board encouraged the agencies to strive to achieve more concrete results on the ground to ensure the viability of the partnership between CAFI and the Republic of Congo.

#### b) RoC Partnership Steering Committee (Steering Committee)

The fourth session of the Steering Committee of the Partnership between CAFI and RoC was held in Brazzaville, in parallel with other EB23 activities. Under the high authority of the Prime Minister, Head of the RoC Government, the Steering Committee brought together 80 participants. CAFI was represented by the Director of the United Kingdom's International Forestry Unit, the German Ambassador accompanied by the Director of BMZ/Germany, the French Ambassador, and several members of the CAFI Secretariat.

The Steering Committee set out to: (i) examine and validate the 2022 Annual Review report; (ii) examine and adopt the recommendations to the Partnership; (iii) inform the members of the Steering Committee on the request for a no-cost extension of the Partnership Coordination Support Project (PAC).



*From Left: Maggie Charnley, UK FCDO; Prime Minister Anatole Collinet Makosso, Republic of Congo; Minister of Forest Economy Rosalie Matondo, RoC; Minister of the Environment Arlette Soudan-Nonault, RoC*

## Part II: EB23 Kinshasa (Oct 31-Nov 2)

### *a) Regional technical assistance facility*

This meeting involved the presentation of the proposed project document on the regional technical assistance facility submitted by UNOPS for adoption by the Executive Board. After reviewing the project document, the EB approved a series of recommendations for its improvement.

### *b) Preparing for DRC Technical Committee 58*

This session provided an opportunity to discuss CAFI's position, in particular the analysis of proposed resolutions on project documents being prepared for the DRC's 58<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting. Projects on national entities, the DRC carbon market, local development support of the DRC's "145 territories" programme and the development of a national mechanism for Payments for Environmental Services (PES) were discussed.

### *c) Cameroon Sessions*

EB23 was an opportunity to discuss progress on the partnership between CAFI and Cameroon.

An exchange session was held with the agencies selected following the first call for expressions of interest under the Cameroon-CAFI partnership (IFAD, GIZ, KfW). They were invited to present the state of preparation and drafting of tender documents. During these discussions, the agencies were encouraged to create synergies between projects for greater efficiency.

### d) DRC Agency Session



*Session with Implementing Partners*

A meeting was held with the DRC's implementing agencies. Moderated by Ginette Nzau Muteta, Deputy Director, Finance Cabinet, the meeting was attended by members of the DRC Minister of Finance, the FONAREDD Executive Secretariat, CAFI Directors, Executive Board members and Secretariat members, and several agencies (UNOPS, GIZ, UNDP, AFD, FAO, UN Habitat, Enabel).

The meeting focused on analysing the structural costs of agencies, particularly those implementing the 5 PIREDD Fast-Track projects (Mongala, KO-Lomami, Equateur, Sud Ubangi, Plateau).

On one hand, the substantial efforts made by some agencies to increase targets were noted. On the other hand, the importance of making management costs more efficient and results-oriented was emphasised, irrespective of differences in provincial conditions.

In conclusion, the Deputy Finance Cabinet Director stressed the importance of efficiency, transparency, and accountability, and renewed the government's commitment to monitoring the proper use/management of funds for all programmes/projects.

### e) Workshop on monitoring and evaluation

This workshop provided an opportunity to: (i) discuss and finalise the indicators; (ii) discuss and finalize the reporting and evaluation guidelines, (iii) present the reporting outline, and (iv) adopt the decision on the MEL guidelines. The workshop was attended by a number of agencies (AFD, FAO, GIZ, FRM), partner country representatives (MINEPAT-Cameroon, Permanent Secretariat-RoC, FONAREDD-DRC) and CAFI donors (Norway, Germany, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom).

The importance of working with all implementing partners to ensure the correct integration of indicators was noted.



*Session on Monitoring and Evaluation*

### f) PES Workshop

CAFI is currently considering the development of a regional PES mechanism. The purpose of this session was to present the basic principles of the mechanism and to gather the comments of the Executive Board.

### Decisions

<a href="#">EB2023.30 RoC - PAC No cost extension</a>	Adopted
<a href="#">EB.2023.31 MEL guidelines</a>	Adopted