



Republic of Congo - Programming - Approval of the request for an exceptional advance on tranche 2 of the Project to Strengthen the Potential for Sustainable Wood Energy in the Republic of Congo (PROREP)

**Adopted on 5 December 2023**

**EB.2023.33**

Considering :

- a) Decision [EB.2021.20](#) approving the Sustainable Wood Energy Capacity Building Project in the Republic of Congo for a total amount of USD 7,000,000;
- b) The effective start of the project on 17 February 2022 for a period of 5 years with the transfer of the first tranche of funding of USD 3,010,000.
- c) Letter from the FAO dated 17 November 2023 requesting partial release of tranche 2 of USD 1,500,000

CAFI Board of Directors :

- 1) Thanks the FAO for its letter and all the annexes justifying the current state of progress of the project and the conditions for disbursement of tranche 2 partially met.
- 2) Takes note of the difficulties encountered which have delayed the effective start-up of activities in the field and of the issues involved in the partial disbursement of tranche 2 in order to prevent further delays in the establishment of 734 ha of additional plantations in the first quarter of 2024.
- 3) Approves the exceptional request for partial disbursement of the second tranche of USD 1,500,000. The remainder of the second tranche of USD 2,490,000 remains conditional and subject to the following revised conditions:

- a) The effective establishment of **600** ha of agroforestry plantations for energy purposes
- b) **The production of the 900,000 plants needed to plant the additional 734 ha in nurseries;**
- c) Operationalisation of the Local Selection Committees, the existence of criteria for allocating lots to approved beneficiaries and the first beneficiaries selected
- d) Submission of a budgeted work plan for the remaining 42 months of the project, adjusted on the basis of feedback and reviewed by the project's COPIL.
- e) **Organisation of the Project Steering Committee and approval of the budgeted work plan in February 2024**, taking into account feedback from the CAFI.
- f) A positive independent evaluation of the programme

Disbursement of the remainder of the second tranche will be decided by the CAFI Board of Directors following the independent evaluation.

- 5) Requests the SE CAFI to assume responsibility for recruiting and organising the assessment scheduled for **March 2024**;
- 6) Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the Implementing Organisation is committed to zero tolerance of fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse, to protecting whistleblowers, to informing the public, to promoting gender equality and social inclusion, and to using appropriate complaints mechanisms. In addition, the Implementing Organisation undertakes to manage with the utmost care all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Board. The Implementing Organisation shall be proactive in reporting such risks to the CAFI Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in accordance with the CAFI Trust Fund Terms of Reference;
- 7) Recalls that the Implementing Organisation will be required to report on progress against the objectives and milestones of the Letter of Intent, as well as the indicators of the REDD+ National Investment Plan and the CAFI Results Framework, in accordance with CAFI guidelines and templates. In addition, it will be required to provide information on how its activities take into account and will comply with CAFI's social and environmental safeguards;