



Approval of preparatory grant to map high value forests

Adopted by email on 07.03.2024

EB.2024.05

Considering

- [Decision EB.2022.33](#) requesting WCS to submit a preparatory grant request to support the mapping of high value forests in the Central African region, fully based on national definitions and ownership.
- [Decision EB.2023.25](#) authorizing access to CAFI Fund to WCS;
- The last version of the Preparatory Grant document submitted by WCS on December 13, 2023.

The CAFI Executive Board

1. Thanks WCS for its project document taking into account requests formulated in the EB.2022.33;
2. Approves the total funding amount of 467 836 USD to be used over an 18 months implementation period;
3. Requests WCS to submit, in each deliverable of outputs 1 and 2, a specific summary on how data submitted should be used to support ongoing processes to define High Value Forests in DRC and HCS/HVC Forests in Congo and Gabon for Land-Use Planning decision making system in each country in synergies with CAFI projects to be presented to CAFI EB.
4. Requests WCS that the mapping of high-value forests take place independently of their commercial value. The mapping should take place in accordance with the respective Letters of Intent and previous board decisions regarding this project.
5. Requests WCS to focus exclusively on mapping high-value forests and not include any elements about the development of credits in the project. Therefore, all the references to HIFOR credits shall be deleted from the Feasibility study grant request submitted by WCS. Requests WCS to submit, in output 3 as part of feasibility assessment, proofs of countries interest and willingness to move toward a potential implementation phase to be presented to CAFI EB.
6. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, WCS undertakes to apply zero tolerance

towards fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse; to protect whistle-blowers; to inform the public; to promote gender equality and social inclusion; and to use appropriate complaint mechanisms. In addition, WCS commits to carefully managing all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Board and should act proactively in reporting these risks to CAFI's Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of CAFI's Trust Fund.