



Republic of Congo programs
Adopted by email on 05 October 2020

EB.2020.15

Considering:

- a) [Decision EB.2019.16](#) on the Letter of Intent with the Republic of Congo and the country allocation to the country;
- b) [Decision EB.2019.22](#) on the Republic of Congo and the subsequent joint endorsement by the CAFI Board and the Government of the Republic of Congo (RoC) of the background documentation to a Call of Expression of Interest (Programming Framework, Call of EI, ToR of Call of EI);
- c) The Call of expression of Interest launched by the CAFI Secretariat on January 31, 2020;
- d) The assessment made by the CAFI Board, in close consultation with the Government of the RoC, of the seven expressions of interest received from the potential executing agencies (AFD, World Bank, GIZ, UNDP, FAO, EFI, GRET) on February 29, 2020;

The CAFI Executive Board:

- 1) Requests the AFD to develop by the end of 2020 a Land Use Planning Program (up to 15 M USD from CAFI Trust fund with additional 7 M Euros of AFD co-funding) covering the activities under **Axis 1** of the Programming Framework as well as the following activities related to land use planning under the other axis:
 - a) The cartography of the Agricultural Estate including mapping of agricultural potential under Axis 2;
 - b) The studies on the identification of the HCS and HVC and on the peatland areas, the support to the establishment of the Forest Permanent Estate and the potential adaptation of the legal framework under Axis 3; The support to the Forestry Ministry to identify social, economic and environmental impacts induced by the application of the production-sharing regime under the new forestry law under Axis 3;
 - c) The development of sustainable energy supply master plans for Brazzaville and Pointe Noire to reduce

unsustainable wood-energy consumption under Axis 4;

Asks the AFD to follow the below-mentioned guidelines in the development of its feasibility study:

- The National Land-Use Planning (NLUP) process will engage the responsibilities of all line ministries that have jurisdiction over land use assignment and land management. Therefore, institutional and operational arrangements should ensure that the key line ministries will be actively involved in the program and that conflicts over their respective competencies are avoided;
- The assignment and sharing of competencies between central and local levels must be understood and serve as guidelines to define the objectives and content of the different tools that will be elaborated (SNAT, PNAT, SDATs, etc.);
- If land use planning includes urban and rural areas, a specific attention should be given to sustainable planning of rural areas development taking into account the objectives of the Letter of Intent and the related commitments on forest and peatlands preservation. With respect to the LUP tools (listed in the Law 2014 on LUP), the priority shall be given to the elaboration of the National Land use planning Scheme (SNAT), the land use code, Departmental Land use planning Schemes (SDATs) and related plans, and sectoral plans (in particular for agricultural, forestry, mining, oil, transportation and energy sectors);
- The approach to identify the HCS/HCV areas at the national level shall be adapted to and relevant with the objectives of the Letter of Intent (as it will support a LUP process which would promote the sustainable management of natural resources & the development of zero-deforestation agriculture); the methodology used shall be consistent with the fact that the identification process of the HCS/HVC areas will support the definition of the national forest permanent and non-permanent estates;
- The SNAT must include the National Land Use Plan (PNAT - mapping tool) and national & sectoral prescriptions and orientations including the policy objectives of the national development plan & the sectoral strategies;
- The PNAT must include, at least, land occupations (forest, urban area, savannah, etc.), current land uses (land registry as defined in the Lol), land-use domains (permanent forest estate, agricultural domains), and networks (infrastructures for transportation and energy, existing and planned);
- In accordance with the LUP Law n°43 of 10 October 2014, the land-use planning code sets the rules for the rational use of land, the protection of safeguard areas, the access to state capital, the exercise of certain economic activities and the management of natural resources. It harmonizes the prescriptions contained in laws and regulations in terms of land use policy, guides the development of sectoral codes, ensures the adaptation of the regulatory frameworks and defines the guidelines in terms of land use;
- In order to stimulate synergies between the 6 axes identified for the Lol implementation, a coordination methodology should be developed, and resources allocated to ensure proactive interactions between activities to be implemented by AFD, and with the other activities identified in the programmatic framework;
- With respect to the contribution of all relevant actors to the implementation of the activities, a stakeholder engagement methodology should be developed for government and non-government entities (private sector and civil society) based on entry points provided in the milestones of the Lol. Specific attention should be given to the operationalization of mechanisms for dialogue, consultation and monitoring proposed under Lol milestones covered by the

activities, in close coordination with interventions planned under Axis 6;

- Understanding that a total amount of approximately 22.9 MUSD might be exceeding the actual cost to solely implement enabling activities described in the programming framework, the Executing Board asks the agency and the Government to submit a complete project document to secure funding and underlines that if the feasibility study does not demonstrate needs for the total amount of the financial allocation, CAFE funds will be reallocated and subject to another call of expression of interest based on new terms of reference.
- 2) Requests the WB to integrate by the end of 2020 a 15 M USD co-financing from CAFE Trust Fund in the “restructured” PDAC to support the Government in achieving the objectives of the Letter of Intent and expected results of **Axis 2** of the Programming Framework – not included in the LUP program - and asks the agency to:
- a) Confirm with the Government the extension of the project until minimum July 2023 and an effective start of the “restructured” project by mid-2021, as the EB highlights the critical risks that the project ends before the execution of the budget, recalls that this risk materialized in a WB project co-funded by CAFE in DRC and therefore reserves the right to cancel the funding commitment if the project does not start by mid-2021;
 - b) Develop and submit to the Board by July 17, 2020 a detailed implementation schedule towards the start of the activities, reviewed and endorsed by the Government;
 - c) support direct investments in agricultural development in savannah areas and to pursue efforts for the implementation of the National Investment Plan for Climate Smart agriculture.
 - d) pursue ongoing efforts on the improvement of the legal framework to promote climate smart agriculture
 - e) pursue ongoing efforts undertaken with the PDAC on the identification of private sectors interested in contributing to the development of value chains and in piloting PES schemes for climate-smart and zero-deforestation agriculture.
- 3) Requests the FAO and GRET together with ID to develop a joint fast-start project on Axis 4 (8 MUSD) by the end of 2020 - 7 M USD for a minimum of 4500 ha of agroforestry and forestry plantations for wood energy and 1 M USD on improved cookstoves (ICS); This funding will appear as CAFE co-financing to the PREFOREST project submitted to the GCF. The CAFE EB asks the agency to:
- a) develop a fast-start project with the objective to initiate/provide direct support to the plantation of at least 1 000 ha on the second year of implementation;
 - b) support existing initiatives and partner(s) on improved cookstoves that demonstrated tangible and best results in the country instead of supporting the development of new models;
 - c) Ensure closed linkages with the work undertaken on the development of sustainable energy supply Master Plans for Brazzaville and Pointe Noire to reduce unsustainable wood-energy consumption and align the workplans to the results and progress achieved under that workstream.
- 4) Requests the AFD to develop in 2021 a portfolio of activities to undertake operational investments in the agricultural and forestry sectors (aligned with first results and findings arising from the LUP program) with

additional new funding from the AFD (8 M euros) and 15 from 20 M USD from the CAFI Trust Fund. Those investments will support the piloting and operationalization of the LUP process, including the development of climate-smart zero deforestation agriculture the implementation of the sustainable energy supply schemes and the sustainable management of HCS/HVC. This portfolio of activities will focus on the mobilization of private and public investments and pilot innovative finance mechanisms (such as PES, etc.).

- 5) Requests the FAO to develop in 2020 a project for the revision of the REL/RL and the operationalization of a transparent National Forest Monitoring System for 2 M USD over two years, provided that:
 - a) The National Forest Inventory and associated databases used for the elaboration of the [FREL of Congo](#) and necessary to the identification of High Carbon Stock (HCS) Forests are finalized and published by November 06, 2020;
 - b) The National Forest Monitoring System conception should go beyond UNFCCC MRV guidelines and ensure the monitoring and evaluation of Lol commitments on forests and HCV/HCS preservation. To achieve so, the institutional arrangements shall ensure close coordination and synergies with the workstream under Land Use planning, and the establishment of the Forest Permanent Estate (in particular the participation of the Executing agency in charge of the LUP program to the Steering Committee project);
 - c) The project is fully aligned with and builds on the Regional Project on the Drivers of deforestation implemented by the FAO and funded by CAFI. Data and analysis produced through the regional project should be integrated to and made consistent over the National Forest Inventory, the REL/RL, the National Forest Monitoring System, the BUR and the NDC; this project could be integrated as a country child project of the regional project funded by CAFI;
 - d) The National Forest Monitoring System should integrate and publish information on annual forecasts of areas to be deforested and those deforested as defined in milestones 5.4;
 - e) Although this project will be led by the Ministry in charge of Forest, the institutional arrangements and workplans shall ensure close coordination and strong ownership of the two line Ministries which have key responsibilities towards the UNFCCC (Forest and Environment) to ensure consistency among the different workstreams, in particular on the NDC (e.g. participation in the project Steering Committee, regular coordination meetings, joint roadmaps, etc.).
- 6) Recommends launching at the earliest a new call for expression of interest under Axis 5 to strengthen the environmental control based on the revised Terms of Reference endorsed by the Board for a project of 6 M USD;
- 7) Requests the WB to provide more details on the modalities of a co-funding to the Development Policy Operations (DPO) on Axis 2 (5 M USD);
- 8) Requests the CAFI Secretariat to coordinate with the European Forest Institute (EFI) for the establishment of a Working Group to carry out under Axis 6 the necessary mapping and gap assessments for the design of a civil society engagement approach relevant to all other axes; asks the selected agency to closely follow the resulting guidance in the development of a further project document and underlines that the project shall focus on:

- a) reaching the following objectives : (i) All local communities and indigenous people are represented and express themselves through their representatives on questions related to land use and natural resources management, (ii) the civil society is able to contribute to public policy planning processes related to land use and natural resources and has a capacity to influence the latter, (iii) the civil society contributes to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Lol commitments.
 - b) Strengthening the organizing of the civil society, building on the comparative advantages of stakeholders engaging in the different sectors covered by the Lol and supporting the institutionalization of spaces for dialogue, while directing capacity building investments on some CSO.
- 9) Requests the CAFI Secretariat to better define and detail the needs for a future support project to engage the Private sector and expects this project not only to support the engagement of private sector but also to work with this constituency on the mobilization of private investments and innovative financing for “green activities” and sustainable natural resource management; This project shall pay particular attention in improving the business climate as stated in the National development Plan and in line with the recommendations of other partners (IMF, EITI, etc).
 - 10) Recalls the Terms of Reference of the Trust Fund and the Letter of Intent signed between CAFI and the Government of Republic of Congo that the funding decisions will only be taken after positive independent reviews of the project documents submitted to the Board and the Government, and upon approval of the CAFI Board, and that they will be made upon progress against the achievement of milestones, the availability of funds in the CAFI Trust Fund as well as the mobilization of additional funding in the Trust Fund as the total amount under programming goes beyond the commitment made in the Letter of Intent;
 - 11) Asks the CAFI Secretariat to consult with the agencies, draft technical recommendations to frame the scope and expected results of each program and submit the latter for Board review;
 - 12) Asks the Executing Agencies (EA) to share with CAFI a work plan and calendar towards the elaboration of a program document and to jointly identify with the CAFI Secretariat the different steps during which the CAFI Secretariat shall be consulted to provide quality control and ensure consistency in the development of the forthcoming feasibility studies and programming exercise;
 - 13) Decides to contribute to cover the costs of feasibility studies upon demand of the executing agency (EA). These costs will be estimated by the EA and detailed in the work plan submitted to CAFI for the program document elaboration; if endorsed, these costs will be integrated in the future project document.
 - 14) Underlines that the executing agencies will have to report on progress toward both the objectives and milestones of the Lol as well as on indicators of the National REDD+ Investment Plan and CAFI results framework. They will also need to integrate gender considerations into planning and program implementation to better address and account for the links between gender equality and climate change. It means that the executing agencies must : (i) enhance gender equality within the program governing structure and day-to-day operations, (ii) promote goals of gender equality and women's empowerment through activities design, funds allocation, operations and overall impact (including specific desegregated output and outcome indicators in the Theory of Change and program results framework). These requirements should be included in the project document and reflected in its financial plan.