



Republic of Congo – Programming & Timelines for project documents' submission

Adopted at EB17 on 13 November 2020

EB.2020.23

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 for Expressions of Interest and its terms of reference);
- c) [Decision EB.2020.15](#) on the selection of the executing agencies for the development of the programs pipeline, decision jointly reviewed and agreed upon by the Government during the 1st meeting of the Inter-ministerial Committee with the Ambassadors held on 24 September 2020 and headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo;
- d) The documentation submitted by the different implementing organisations on their respective work plan and timeline towards the submission of their project document for CAFI independent review;

The CAFI Executive Board:

- 1) Recalls the recommendations and expectations made in its Decision EB.2020.15 to inform development of the project documents by the executing agencies;
- 2) Shares the Government's willingness to advance the programming process, move towards the implementation of activities as expressed by the Prime Minister during the first CAFI meeting with the Inter-ministerial Committee and have first programs approved by the first quarter 2021; and encourages in that respect the agencies to closely liaise with the CAFI Secretariat and the Secretariat under the Prime Minister while developing the project documents before their submission to the independent reviews;

- 3) Thanks the FAO, GRET and ID for the proposed timeline towards a submission of the project document on Wood Energy and Improved Cook Stoves by 11 January 2021 for its independent review, as well as for the technical guidance and new proposed activities to inform the project development ; as the Board welcomes any new ideas which would ease the achievement of results on the ground, it recalls that one of the main objectives of this project consists in effectively establishing sustainable wood energy forestry and agro-forestry plantations to inform larger scale deployment based on demonstration activities and support ICS dissemination in major urban centers; in that respect, the expected results and financial feasibility of the new proposed options shall be carefully assessed and presented to CAFI and the government, as mentioned in the note, before any further integration in the project results framework.
- 4) Thanks the FAO for the prompt submission of its Guidance note on the development of the MRV Project and for sharing the timeline for publication of the National Forestry Inventory; takes note of the project document submission by the end of December 2020; and shares the following comments:
 - a) Underlines the need to:
 - i) make the National Forestry Inventory available for the identification of the High Carbon Stock and High Conservation Value areas by February 2021;
 - ii) closely monitor deforestation and forest degradation in HCS/HVC areas and non HCS/HVC areas to enable progress towards the commitments of the Letter of Intent (to be included in the project Activities);
 - iii) support the country in presenting sound and transparent data with known uncertainties and in building on the political commitment of the Government not to convert forest, to preserve HCS/HCV and peatlands areas;
 - iv) ensure consistency with the project on the Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation implemented by FAO and funded by CAFI
 - v) ensure consistency between the MRV system and the requirements of potential Results-Based Payments schemes that the country may apply to in the next years. In that objective, the methodology should be flexible enough to integrate new requirements
 - b) Ensure cost-efficiency and sustainability of the mechanism. Activity 4 shall mention that the National Forest Monitoring System will integrate and publish information on annual forecasts of areas to be deforested and those deforested as defined in milestones 5.4 of the Letter of Intent;
 - c) Activities 1 and 4 shall present mechanisms, partnerships and institutional arrangements to ensure sound coordination with the relevant Governmental and other entities for better identification and easier access of data from the different sectors (agriculture, forestry, environment, mining, etc.) and for better informing the national decision-making process to mitigate emission reductions, especially with the Ministry in charge of Environment; sound linkages with relevant projects funded or not-funded by CAFI are strongly encouraged (Land Use Planning, Adapt' Action, UN-REDD, etc.).
 - d) The Republic of Congo being considered as a High Forest Low Deforestation country, it is important to pay attention to the REDD+ "Conservation" activity, the maintenance of forest carbon stocks, particularly in intact forests, and further estimate the removals capacity of its forest (to be mainstreamed in the activities).
- 5) Thanks the AFD for submission of the "Fiche de Présentation de Projet" (FPP) developed after the

Induction mission held with the national counterparts from 14 to 23 October 2020 and for its submission to the *"Comité des Etats Etrangers de l'AFD"* by 16 December 2020 to secure the 7 M EUR co-funding from the AFD, takes notes of the timeline for a project document submission by April 2021 *for independent review*

a) shares the following comments :

- i. identify and implement concrete synergies with others CAFI supported programmes such as the MRV project, the wood energy and ICS program as well as the PDAC. The WB and FAO could also be integrated in the Steering Committee of the Land Use Planning program as observers.
- ii. Develop a robust results framework taking into account LoI milestones, National REDD+ Investment Plan and CAFI indicators. To this end, the EB strongly encourages the CAFI Secretariat to support the development of the framework to ensure consistency between the programs and the monitoring of the Letter of Intent implementation.
- iii. Ensure participation of CAFI Secretariat and other stakeholders such as the private sector into the development of the feasibility study.

b) Approves the integration of the costs of the feasibility study in the budget of the project documents for a total amount of 420 332 Euros. The agency will recover the cost once the program is approved by the Executing Board upon proof of payment. The following deliverables will be shared with the Government of the Republic of Congo and the Executive Board:

- i) Project document on sustainable land use in the Republic of Congo;
- ii) Project document on Operational Investments in the agricultural and forestry sectors;
- iii) Social and Environmental Impact Studies of the two programs as well as their management plans;
- iv) Stakeholders engagement framework;
- v) Operational modalities, environmental and social management frameworks, environmental and social engagement plans including Gender Action Plan for the two programs.

6) Requests the CAFI Secretariat to prepare an analysis of the options and requirements for potential results-based payments in the Republic of Congo.