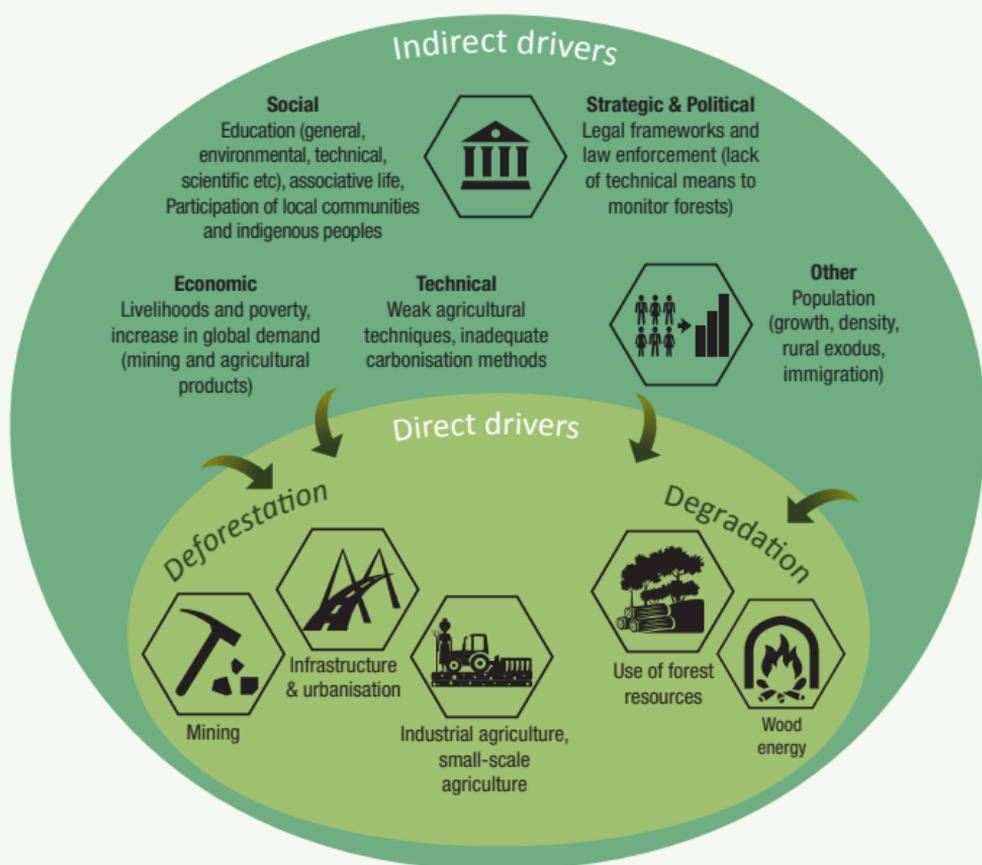


REPUBLIC OF CONGO



With nearly 22.5 million hectares of forests – 65% of its territory – and the lowest deforestation rate in the Congo basin (0.052%), the Republic of Congo is one of the six CAFI partner countries. Yet according to the REDD+ National Coordination, over 0.5 million hectares of forests could disappear every year between 2015 and 2020, notably due to the development of cocoa and palm oil.



Strong roots for the validated National REDD+ Strategy

REDD+ in the Republic of Congo is considered a “sustainable development tool” and a genuine “pillar of green economy”. Three strategic policy instruments anchor REDD+ in RoC beyond the forest sector:

- the 2012-2016 National Development Plan
- the Growth, Employment, and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
- the National Sustainable Development Strategy

On the basis of consensus on drivers, a National REDD+ Strategy was validated in July 2016. The country’s commitment to reducing deforestation was further demonstrated by the development of an Emissions Reduction Program (ER-P) in the Sangha and Likouala Departments. Selected by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in July 2014, the ER-P should generate nearly 11.7 million tCO₂ in emissions reductions by 2021.

“The Congo is engaged in the REDD+ process in the context of the fight against climate change ; however, REDD+ in Congo is also a tool to fight poverty and promote green economy, and hence a development tool, for which CAFI support will be welcome.”

Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment

⦿ An initial CAFI grant for the Republic of Congo to develop its REDD+ National Investment Framework

To complement the National REDD+ Strategy, the CAFI Executive Board approved a preparatory grant of 698,000 US\$ to support the Republic of Congo **to develop a comprehensive REDD+ National Investment Framework (REDD+ NIF)**. The REDD+ NIF will be **designed to accommodate existing and future additional resources for implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy**, such as funding from the Forest Investment Program (FIP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and other multilateral and bilateral donors, in addition to CAFI funding. Planned investments will support activities around two large scale programs :

- **the emission reduction program**, which also plans the participation of local communities in emission reductions activities, through i) implementing simplified management plans for community development ii) improving agricultural techniques and iii) participation in the conservation of fauna.
- **the establishment of forest plantations** with fast-growing tree species, to meet the energy needs of large cities, notably Brazzaville. Improved use of charcoal (e.g. improved cookstoves) will also be considered.

The initial CAFI grant will also be used to:

- organize international consultations on the Investment Plan
- undertake the necessary thematic studies
- consult stakeholders at the department level and in Brazzaville
- organize the national workshop to validate the Investment Plan.

The World Bank will support the development of the REDD+ National Investment Framework.



Photo credit: CN-REDD Congo

Have you checked our new web site? www.cafi.org