

“CAFI”

Multi-Partner Trust Fund



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Context: Central Africa is home to the second largest tropical rainforest in the world. The forest loss is accelerating despite all the efforts, as government action is not sufficient to delicately balance the interests of the forest and of economic development. In addition, the investments in REDD+ are not at the required scale and donor support is fragmented.

On this basis, a coalition of willing donors (*European Union, Federal Republic of Germany, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of France and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*) together with the Central Africa partner Countries (*Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea and Republic of Gabon*) has decided to enter into a collaborative partnership and to establish the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI). The objective of this initiative is to slow down and halt deforestation and forest degradation in the region through the implementation of country-led, national scale, holistic REDD+ and Low Emissions Development investment frameworks that include policy reforms and measures addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Within this context and in order to scale up funding support, a CAFI Multi-Partner Trust Fund administered by the UNDP MPTF-Office will be established to reduce aid fragmentation and increase predictability through multi-year country based financing strategies. Norway has announced multi-year regular contributions from 2015 to 2020, benefitting countries in central Africa, including Cameroon, Central

African Republic, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Republic of Congo.

Governance Features: The management of the CAFI MPTF is carried out at three levels: partnership coordination & fund operations (Executive Board and Secretariat) serving the overall CAFI initiative, fund design and administration (MPTF Office), and fund implementation (UN, World Bank and International Cooperation Agencies).

In order to ensure a flexible mechanism, the governance arrangements combine a light regional oversight mechanism in the form of an Executive Board with country specific configurations, either through existing National Funds administered by the MPTF Office or through Country National Programmes. The key donors will be members of the Executive Board together with UNDP, the World Bank and FAO will be observers. A small secretariat building on existing UNDP REDD+ capacity ensures the operational support for the CAFI MPTF.

Implementation Arrangements: The Initiative will finance one national investment framework per eligible country upon request of respective national governments and based on a strong commitment to reforms that address the drivers of deforestation. The Initiative will take a performance-based approach with disbursements based on targets agreed upon and specified in Letters of Intent agreed upon between the partner country and the donors under the Initiative.

Due to the cross-sectorial character of investments, high-level inter-ministerial task

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forces under the lead of the Prime Minister Offices, Ministries of Finance or similar high-level, cross-governmental offices will be requested to oversee the implementation of the programmes. In the case of DRC, the allocation will be channeled through the REDD+ National Fund administered by the MPTF Office.

Legal arrangements and timeline for operationalization: The CAFI Multi-Partner Trust Fund will use a pass-through modality, where each Implementing Organization applies its own set of procedures, provided that it meets the minimum requirements set up by the

Initiative in terms of safeguards and fiduciary principles. The MPTF Office will conclude agreements with Participating UN Organisations, International Cooperation Agencies, with the World Bank.

The special event, organized in the margin of the UNGA on the 29th of September, is the official launch the Initiative. The event will be the occasion to open the signing of a Joint Declaration between the Central African countries representatives and Donors countries formally joining the Initiative.



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