

What is CAFI?

CAFI - the Central African Forest Initiative - is a collaborative partnership that gathers:

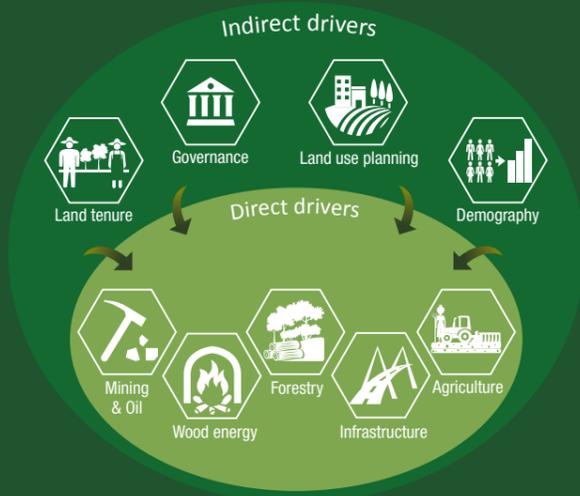
- Central African partner countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon
- A coalition of donors: the European Union, France, Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom
- Brazil as South-South partner.

CAFI works as a platform of coordination for like-minded partners, and as a forum of partnership and cross-country learning.

CAFI's objective is to recognize and preserve the value of the forests in the region to mitigate climate change, reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development.

Addressing drivers holistically

A number of interconnected drivers cause forest loss in Central Africa. Thus, emission reductions will come from policies and measures that properly address drivers such as:



The CAFI set-up

- Decisions are made by an Executive Board, supported by a small Secretariat.
- The CAFI Fund is hosted by the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office of UNDP. This Fund ensures coherence, coordination and efficiency through harmonized approval, disbursement, monitoring and reporting.
- Donors who are part of the Initiative can commit resources to the Fund or use, in a coordinated manner, bilateral or other channels to provide financial support.

CAFI is a unique initiative that supports strategic, holistic and country-level REDD+ and Low Emission Development investments while focusing on Central African high-forest cover countries.

CAFI
CENTRAL
AFRICAN
FOREST
INITIATIVE

INITIATIVE
POUR LA
FORÊT DE
L'AFRIQUE
CENTRALE

Seeking transformational change

CAFI's objective will be attained through substantially scaled-up international support to transformational interventions that are based on national REDD+ and low emission development investment frameworks.

Depending on the country-specific dynamics of drivers, CAFI supports national actions that combine:

- Sustainable agricultural practices towards less land conversion and increased food security
- Sustainable alternatives to current wood energy practices
- Enhanced capacity of forestry sector institutions and the legal frameworks to promote, monitor and enforce sustainable forest management
- Future infrastructure and mining projects that minimize their overall footprint
- Land use planning decisions that ensure a balanced representation of sectoral interests and keep forests standing
- Better tenure security that does not incentivize conversion
- Slower population growth and migration to forests
- Better inter-ministerial coordination and governance resulting in the permit and fiscal regimes that do not push actors to forest conversion and illegal activities.

Ensuring success

Success will depend on the capacity of Central African governments to combine and sequence different sectoral interventions in order to mitigate rebound effects (e.g. agricultural investments triggering forest clearing) and create mutually enabling conditions that facilitate sectoral investments.

Developing and implementing these complex investment plans requires a high level political commitment and capacity of a government institution with a broad inter-sectoral mandate to effectively manage inter-sectoral coordination.

CAFI facilitates this by:

- requiring national institutional arrangements supported by a cross-sectoral entity
- offering significant amounts of funding
- a high political profile
- pooling support from several donor countries through a single facility towards a coordinated and synergistic approach
- aligning its support to national frameworks that define clear priorities, even for non-CAFI funding and activities including the FIP, FCPF, bilateral support and FLEGT.

Working together to foster results

A broad-based joint partner initiative such as CAFI helps:

- Foster political commitment and reform willingness in partner countries
- Coordinate and increase financial resources and donors' comparative advantage
- Leverage donor resources towards ambitious political roadmaps
- Share risks among several donors
- Create a shared understanding between partner and donor countries on low emission development for the region

Why Central African forests?



240
million ha of forests



A carbon sink equivalent to 6 years of global emissions

Home to 60 million people inside or in the direct vicinity

Feed 40 million in urban centres close to forests

Home to rare and endangered species



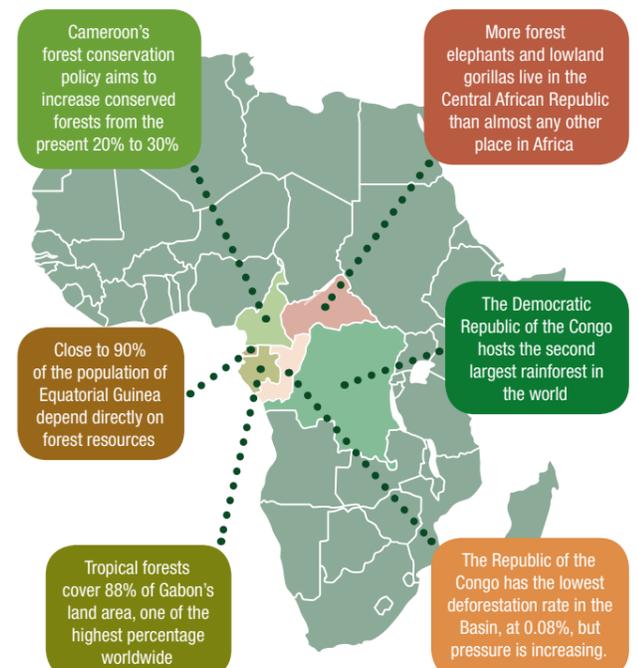
8,000 plant species are endemic

Forests are the largest storehouse of carbon after the oceans. Healthy, resilient forests play a critical role in combatting global climate change. Enhanced efforts in the forest sector are key to addressing the global ambition to maintain temperatures well below 2°C degrees. Forests also provide many other ecosystem services and social benefits that contribute to human well-being.

Central Africa is home to the second largest tropical rainforest in the world. This forest, so far, mostly spared from loss, is under increasing pressure. The land use and forestry sector is the main contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

The Central Africa region faces challenges such as poverty, inequality, food security, poor or non-transparent government revenues, gender inequality and poor business climate. These challenges are caused and exacerbated by weak legal frameworks, governance, institutions, reform processes and infrastructure. On the other hand, the region is exceptionally endowed with natural resources (forests, biodiversity, minerals, oil, land) whose exploitation is an obvious path to economic growth.

"Several countries in the region seek to become emerging economies in the coming decades; it will be important that they reach this goal in a low emission way that spares their forests."



For more information please visit www.cafi.org