



"Assessment of deforestation and forest degradation and related direct drivers using SEPAL"

Progress Report 2020

Version: April 2020

Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)

MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 SEPTEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2020

Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / **Programme Title and Project Number** Strategic Results² Country/Region: Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic Programme Title: Assessment of deforestation and forest of Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Central degradation and related direct drivers using SEPAL African Republic Programme Number/Symbol: UNJP/GLO/103/UNJ MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 3 00123542 Priority area/Strategic results: Forest management and governance is improved thanks to the application of global knowledge to mitigate climate change, with a focus on reducing poverty and contributing to sustainable development. **Participating Organization(s) Implementing Partners FAO** Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic Programme/Project Cost (USD) **Programme Duration** Total approved budget as per project document: Overall Duration (months) 18 Months MPTF /JP Contribution⁴: USD 1 200 000 • by Agency (if applicable) Agency Contribution 0 Start Date⁵ (dd.mm.yyyy) 17/08/2020 • by Agency (if applicable) Government Contribution 0 Original End Date⁶ (dd.mm.yyyy) 22/02/2022 (if applicable) Other Contributions (donors) Current End date⁷(dd.mm.yyyy) 0 22/02/2022 (if applicable) USD 1,200,000 TOTAL: Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. **Report Submitted By** Assessment/Review - if applicable please attach Name: Astrid Agostini \square Yes \square No Date: dd.mm.yyyy0 Title: REDD+/NFM cluster leader Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach* Participating Organization (Lead): FAO \square Yes \square No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* Email address: astrid.agostini@fao.org

¹ The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) project "Assessment of deforestation and forest degradation and related direct drivers using SEPAL" aims to develop a global, standard, large-scale methodology to assess forest dynamics and quantify direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) implements the project.

Both parties signed the project document at the end of August 2020. The current report presents the main progress achieved during the period covering September to December 2020, namely:

- The project completed its inception phase, including the setup of the task force, the recruitment of the
 chief technical adviser and six national consultants, the establishment of letters of agreements with the
 national forestry administrations, as well as the organization of two technical committee (COTECH)
 meetings through online modalities.
- The technical team of the project produced an advanced draft of the literature review and the methodological approach, to be validated during COTECH 3 (22/01/2021).
- The team also scheduled capacity building activities through online sessions with participants from the six countries, beginning in January 2021

I. Purpose

The CAFI-FAO project "Assessment of deforestation and forest degradation and related direct drivers using SEPAL" aims to develop a global, standard, large-scale methodology to assess forest dynamics, using cloud-computing solutions and open-source tools to map disturbances and quantify direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. This methodology will be initially tested in six Central Africa countries to assess deforestation and forest degradation trends and their associated current and historical direct drivers.

The project is aligned with the CAFI objective "to recognize and preserve the value of the forests in the region to mitigating climate change, reduce poverty, and contribute to sustainable development". It will provide to CAFI Partner Countries an enhanced, updated and common understanding of the direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation at both regional, national and local scales.

The methodology is implemented through a collaborative approach, in which national experts, global research institutes and civil society will work together and join resources and data to provide technical evidence and reach a common view on the direct drivers of forest disturbances.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

From September to December 2020, the project completed the expected outcomes and outputs as described below:

Outcomes: A standardized methodology is tested and applied to assess the trends of deforestation and
forest degradation and quantify direct current and historical drivers using cloud-computing solutions
and free and open-source tools for forest monitoring.

Through the implementation of this methodology, the project will contribute to improve REDD+ National Strategies, National Investment Frameworks and other existing national strategies and plans,

notably by providing decision-makers with updated and enhanced data on forest change, land-uses and climate change mitigation as well as encouraging the harmonization of the national strategies and plans at a regional scale.

Outputs

Project Inception Phase

- An internal Project Task Force (PTF), involving the different FAO country offices, as well as FAO's subregional office for Central Africa and FAO HQ, has been established.
- Partner countries have defined the national partner institutions that will lead the process at country level as follows:
 - O Cameroun : Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune
 - o Central African Republic : Ministère des Eaux, Forêts, Chasse et Pêche
 - o Democratic Republic of Congo: Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Conservation de la Nature et du Développement Durable
 - o Equatorial Guinea: Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Bosques y Medio Ambiente
 - o Gabon : Ministère des Eaux, des Forêts, de l'Environnement, Chargé du Plan Climat, des Objectifs de Développement Durable et du Plan d'Affectation des Terres
 - o Republic of Congo: Ministère de l'Économie Forestière
- Countries have also nominated the national focal point and representatives in the steering committee (COPIL):

Cameroun	Mr Nguibourg King Richard Hyacinthe	rnguibourgking@gmail.com
Cameroun	Mr Gabriel Etoga Nkoa	gabrieletoga@yahoo.fr
République Centrafricaine	Mr Moumoloala Bruno	bruno moumol@yahoo.fr
République Démocratique du Congo	Mr Malick Muamba Tshibangu	malick.muamba@yahoo.fr
Guinea Ecuatorial	Mr Fortunato Eneme Efua	fortunatoeneme17@yahoo.es
Gabon	Mr Aboubakar MAMBIMBA NDJOUNGUI	abmambimba@gmail.com
République du Congo	Mr Chérubins Brice Ouissika	ouissikadiamansuka@gmail.com

- The project document was signed by the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Congo and Gabon and is covered by the framework agreements on "Privileges and Immunities" for Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.
- The recruitment of the CTA position has been finalized. The recruitment of national consultants in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon has been completed, while it is in the process of being finalized in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Democratic Republic of the Congo. For these three countries, the internal technical focal points of the country offices act as interim staff, particularly for training on the tools.

Pays	Nom	Contact
CTA	Ms Aurélie SHAPIRO	aurelie.shapiro@fao.org
Cameroun	a.i. Ms Arielle Nkodo	Arielle.Nkodo@fao.org
République Centrafricaine	a.i. Mr Philippe Duchochois	Philippe.Duchochois@fao.org
République Démocratique du Congo	a.i. Ms Amélie Arquero	amelie.arquero@fao.org
Guinea Ecuatorial	Ms Josefina Mbulito Iyanga	Josefina.Mbulitolyanga@fao.org
Gabon	Ms Vanessa OVONO	ovonoaris@gmail.com
République du Congo	a.i. Parfait Ampali	mcarinesat@gmail.com

• Letters of agreements have been drafted in each country and related budget is being discussed with national counterparts. The documents have been submitted to the forestry administrations for signature and subsequent launching of activities in February 2021 as per attached work plan.

Output 1. Methodology to assess deforestation and forest degradation trends and direct drivers developed, with broad consensus among international, regional and national partners

- Two technical committee meetings (COTECH) have taken place on 6 November 2020 and 18 December 2020. The session recordings, reports, including participant lists are available.
- The two technical meetings focused on the development of the bibliographic review and the discussion of the general methodological approach of the project. The first draft of the methodology was developed and shared with COTECH members on 31 December 2020 for comments which are currently being compiled. It is foreseen that the final draft of the methodological approach is presented to the COTECH 3 for validation on 22 January 2021. The participants of COTECH 1 and 2, with details of their institution and gender, are in the annex.
- The literature review includes a compilation of published studies on deforestation, degradation, definition and drivers at multiple scales. A first draft was shared via the Slack group on 3 November 2020 and will be updated as more studies are published, and will further support the development of the methodology.

Output 2. Forest change map of Central Africa (2015-2020) produced and shared, providing harmonized and updated regional information on forests and forest changes

• A series of six online training sessions, two for each of the tools (i.e. LCCS, Collect Earth and SEPAL) have been prepared and will be organized in January 2021 for national experts. All the materials are available Shared folder: OpenForis FAO / CAFI training. Following the sessions, a survey will be conducted for evaluation.

Output 5. Project results and lessons learnt disseminated for global knowledge, and potential for scaling up at global level defined

- A Slack workspace has been set up for the project (https://fao-cafidddrivers.slack.com) currently has fifty-five (55) members from a large spectrum of civil society organizations and academia.
- Regular information has been posted on the different channels about relevant events and topics (e.g. finalization of the NICFI procurement through the PLANET/KSAT/AIRBUS consortium, virtual technical webinars on the cloud-based tools proposed in the project, web stories and resources...). The platform enables more regular interactions and comments between members.

Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned and best practices

Despite the global pandemic situation and the obvious difficulties in liaising with the different national counterparts when offices are closed and travel restricted, the inception phase is successfully coming to closure and the planned activities under Output 1 and 2 are taking place according to the overall schedule. The likely continuation of the global sanitary situation will likely hinder part of in-person, scheduled activities during 2021. It is foreseen that the capacity building and data production activities planned in 2021 will experience some delays in 2021 (i.e. Outputs 1, 2 and 3). The project team is building on experience acquired in 2020 and will adapt the traditional technical work and backstopping to online solutions, with the aim to achieve the main outcome of the project despite the COVID context. These

adjustments and solutions may require technical backstopping to national partners for a longer duration than initially framed and budgeted.

Qualitative assessment:

The technical committee meetings have resulted in very constructive exchanges regarding the different aspects of the proposed methodology, with relevant inputs from different technical, scientific and civil society partners. The level of commitment and interest from the members of the COTECH, as well as from national experts, will enhance the regional collaboration and networks, and promote knowledge exchange.

Progress towards Guidance from the CAFI Executive Board (EB.2020.07)

- Favouring a "South-South" transmission of knowledge and capacity

 The CAFI project has been building on synergies with related Sida-funded project in West Africa, sharing training material and facilitating exchanges between country experts of the two sub-regions. The project is engaging all six Congo Basin countries to work on the same tasks together, encouraging cross border collaboration. The programme connects stakeholders in regular meetings and discussions which promote interaction and exchange; stakeholders from West Africa have also been participating in technical meetings to reinforce capacity development and exchange.
- Adding additional trainings in coding platforms underneath the SEPAL platform
 Given that future trainings will be primarily online, there are more opportunities for regular trainings, including bi-monthly webinars on specific topics, such as coding, providing additional resources for training. The project team is developing tailored training material hosted on online platforms, which facilitates the search of information, the interaction (chats, comments) between FAO trainees and with FAO trainers.
- Ensuring country ownership

The project approach focuses on local implementation of algorithms and processes: technical staff from forest ministries in each country possess their own SEPAL accounts and data and are tasked to run algorithms and produce results independently, with backstopping as needed from the FAO team. This will contribute to country ownership

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification	Expenditure last year	Expenditure total
Outcome 18 Standardized methodology agreed, tested and applied to assess the trends of deforestation and forest degradation and quantify current and historical direct drivers using cloud- computing solutions and free and open-source tools for forest monitoring Indicator: Methodology agreed on to produce information on direct drivers Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1		N/A	Document available	USD 32 000	USD 32 000
Output 1 Methodology to assess deforestation and forest degradation trends and direct drivers developed, with broad consensus among international, regional and national partners	On track: An advanced draft document of the literature review has been shared and discussed with technical partners and is regularly updated with new incoming scientific papers and published work	N/A	Project documents		
Indicator 1.1 A review of the existing knowledge, national definitions and approaches on deforestation and forest degradation trends and current and historical direct and underlying drivers in Central Africa is published	On track: An advanced draft document of methodology has been shared and discussed with technical partners	N/A	Validation report		

⁸ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

Baseline: 0				
Planned Target: 1				
Taimed Target. 1				
Indicator 1.2 The scope, objective and methodolody, and the contributions of each stakeholder are validated by the Technical Commitee Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1				
Output 3 Forest change map of Central Africa (2015-2020) produced and shared, providing harmonized and updated regional information on forests and forest changes	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Indicator 2.1 Number of sets of Standards Operating Procedures (SOP) ensuring the quality of the assessments of forest changes and direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation developed by national administrations and institutions Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 6 Indicator 2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Percentage of women actively participating in each national workshops on drivers assessment Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 30%				
Indicator 3.3: A report on forest changes and current and historical direct drivers of				

deforestation and degradation is published and validated by each member of the Technical Commitee Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 30%				
Output 4.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Geospatial module to inform land use planning developed in SEPAL and tested in two pilot areas				
Indicator 4.1: Number of socio- economic field surveys conducted in the pilot areas to collect additional information to that provided by technical partners				
Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 2				
Indicator4.2: Percentage of women actively participating in each team in charge of a field survey				
Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 30%				
Indicator 4.3: A module in SEPAL (Geo4LUP) generating geospatial information to support land use planning is developed and tested in the pilot areas				
Baseline: 0				

	<u>, </u>			
Planned Target: 2				
Indicator 4.4: Number of assessments of the impacts of past land use policies and plans using Geo4LUP conducted				
Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 2				
Output 5. Project results and lessons learnt disseminated for global knowledge, and potential for scaling up at global level defined	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Indicator 5.1: Number of regional consultations where the multi-stakehjolder audience will receive additional information on the use of spatial data in the process of designing land use planning Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1				
Indicator 5.2: Number of presentation of the project's outputs in fora and in Global and South-South exchanges Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 3				
Indicator 5.3: Number of knowledge materials presenting the projects findings, results and best practices published Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 6				

Indicator 5.4: Percentage of best practice case studies focusing on achievements of women published Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 50%					
---	--	--	--	--	--

iii) A Specific Story (Optional)

Problem / Challenge faced: Involvement of the technical partners in the design of the methodology and training of the country experts despite the sanitary situation and the difficulty in organizing in person workshops and events.

Programme Interventions: At early stages of the project formulation, it became clear that online solutions would be necessary to ensure that all partners could contribute, in an easy way, to the design of the methodology. A virtual platform was setup to allow for continuous contributions while online technical meetings were held online on a monthly basis and capacity building events organized through regular online sessions.

Result (if applicable): The Slack platform is progressively growing in terms of members and contributions that produce a convergence of evidence to cover existing methods, tools and approaches to tackle drivers in a robust way. Very recent algorithms and tools were brought to the attention of the group in an interactive manner allowing to adapt quickly to this swiftly changing technical area. In addition, the monthly technical meetings of the COTECH have gathered a large group of relevant technical experts, dedicating time "pro bono" on the project and providing very relevant, informed and up-to-date inputs to the development of the methodology. Likewise, the country experts have shown very encouraging interest in learning about the tools, participating in October/November to an introduction series organized in the framework of a Sida funded project in West Africa.

Lessons Learned: the modalities under which capacity building can be done through online solutions are quite different from in-person approaches. It is necessary to organize regular, short sessions, spread out over a longer period of time than the usual one to two weeks workshop format. This however provides a more continuous engagement and learning framework which can be more effective in the long term than one-time workshops and provides more opportunities for interaction.

Group Zoom Photo



III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

• Transparency and integrity assessment

1. Fraud, misuse of funds	No	
Allegations	No	
Investigations	No	
Sanctions (including if any recovery made and amount)	No	
2. Sexual Abuse and exploitation		
Allegations	No	
Investigations	No	
Sanctions (including if substantiated how the case was reported)	No	
3. Other complaints using your organizations complaints management system	No	

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

• N/A

V. Communication and promotion

The launching of the project and CAFI support has been advertised through different channels, including the FAO's website and national media, as well as during discussions with partner organizations and national, regional and/or local government structures.

http://www.fao.org/redd/news/detail/en/c/1295606/

http://www.fao.org/republique-centrafricaine/actualites/detail-events/fr/c/1322636/

https://www.lenouveaugabon.com/fr/bois/0511-16058-la-fao-et-le-cafi-evaluent-les-facteurs-de-deforestation-et-de-degradation-des-forets-en-afrique-centrale

VI. Resources

• N/A

VII. Annexes

Participation in online sessions

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings are held online. The technical committee (COTECH) meetings are enabled by Zoom and well attended, providing greater opportunities for a wide reach of the project and crossover to other initiatives — while saving on time, carbon footprint and travel costs associated with these project activities. The table below shows the attendees and gender of COTECH 1 and 2.

Institution	Titr≏	Nom	Contact	COTECH-1 06/11/2010	COTECH-2 18/12/202
FAO	Ms	Amelie Arquero	amelie.arquero@fao.org	X	
AO	Ms	Aurélie Shapiro	aurelie.shapiro@fao.org	X	
AO	Ms	Arielle Nkodo	arielle.nkodo@fao.org	X	Х
RC	Mr	Baudouin Desclee	Baudouin.DESCLEE@ec.europa.eu	X	X
RD	Mr	Benoit Mertens	benoit.mertens@ird.fr	X	X
AO	Ms	Carine Saturnine Milandou	mcarinesat@gmail.com	X	X
CNIAF	Mr	Chérubins Brice Ouissika	ouissikadiamansuka@gmail.com	Х	Λ
SIRS	Mr	Christophe Sannier	csannier@groupcls.com	X	
AO	Mr	Cleto Ndikumagenge	cleto.ndikumagenge@fao.org		Х
PFBC	Mr	Damase Khasa	Damase.Khasa@ibis.ulaval.ca	Х	X
CIFOR	Mr	Denis Sonwa	D.Sonwa@cgiar.org	X	^
MEDD	Mr	Daudet Mbenza	mbenzadaudet@gmail.com	X	
	Mr	Elisée Tchana	elisee.tchana@fao.org	X	Х
FAO NICFI	Ms	Ellen Bruzelius Backer	Ellen-Bruzelius.Backer@kld.dep.no	X	۸
AO		Erik Lindquist	erik.lindquist@fao.org	X	
-AO CAFI secretariat	Mr	Estelle Fach		X	v
CAFI secretariat FONAREDD	Ms		<pre>estelle.fach@undp.org faustin.boyemba@fonaredd-rdc.org</pre>	Х	Х
-	Mr	Faustin Boyemba			
Guinea Ecuatorial	Mr	Fortunato Eneme Efua	fortunatoeneme17@yahoo.es	V	V
NRI RC	Mr	Fred Stolle	fred.stolle@wri.org	Х	Х
RC	Mr	Frederic Achard	Frederic.ACHARD@ec.europa.eu	V	
COMIFAC	Mr	Gervais Itsoua Madzou	imadzous2@gmail.com	Х	
R2FAC	Mr	Guillaume Lescuyer	guillaume.lescuyer@cirad.fr	.,	
DIAF	Mr	Heritier Kondjo	heritierkondjo@gmail.com	X	
RC	Mr	Hugh Eva	hugh.eva@ec.europa.eu	X	
WCS	Mr	Jean-Paul Kibambe	jpkibambe@wcs.org	X	
AO	Mr	Jeremie Mbairamadji	Jeremie.Mbairamadji@fao.org	X	X
RFUK	Mr	Joe Eisen	Joe@rainforestuk.org	X	X
FAO GNQ	Ms	Josefina Mbulito Iyanga	Josefina.Mbulitolyanga@fao.org		Х
RCA	Mr	Kemanda Bienvenu	Bienvenu.KemandaYogo@fao.org	Х	
NRI	Mr	Kendie Kenmoe	Kendie.Kenmoe@wri.org		Х
RD Congo	Mr	Malick Muamba Tshibangu	malick.muamba@yahoo.fr		
FAO HQ	Ms	Maria RuizVillar	maria.ruizvillar@fao.org		
AGEOS	Mr	Michel Ngui	ngui.michel@live.fr		
RCA	Mr	Moumoloala Bruno	bruno moumol@yahoo.fr		
Cameroun	Mr	Nguibourg King Richard Hyacinthe	rnguibourgking@gmail.com		
JSFS	Ms	Olivia Freeman	olivia.freeman@fs-ip.us	X	
AO CAR	Mr	Philippe Duchochois	Philippe.Duchochois@fao.org	Х	
AO HQ	Mr	Pierrick Rambaud	Pierrick.Rambaud@fao.org		
DFAC	Mr	Quentin Jungers	quent.jungers@gmail.com	X	
CAFI board	Mr	Raphael Linzatti	raphael.linzatti@giz.de		
AO	Mr	Rémi d'Annunzio	remi.dannunzio@fao.org	X	Χ
CIFOR	Mr	Richard Eba'a Atyi	R.Atyi@cgiar.org		
JSFS	Mr	Rene Siwe Ngamabou	rene.siwe@fs-ip.us	X	
AGEOS	Mr	Saturnin Ndotit	ndotit@yahoo.fr		
WCS	Mr	Tom Evans	tevans@wcs.org	Х	
AO Gabon	Ms	Vanessa Ovono	ovonoaris@gmail.com		Χ
R2FAC/CIRAD	Mr	Vivien Rossi	vivien.rossi@cirad.fr	Х	
AO DRC	Mr	Wilfred Kombe	IbeyWilfred.Kombe@fao.org	X	Х
			TOTA		16

Genderpratie 15 of 15

31%