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## MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2019

<p><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: CAFI Direct Cost Technical Secretariat</li> <li>Programme Number</li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> 00097460</li> </ul>	<p><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>Country/Region: <i>Africa</i></p>
<p><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <p>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNDP</p>	<p>Priority area/ strategic results:</p> <p>Sustainable Development (<a href="#">UNDP Strategic plan</a>)</p>
<p><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document:</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>: 7,699,778</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>Government Contribution</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors)</p> <p><b>TOTAL:</b> 7,699,778</p>	<p><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <p>UNDP</p>
	<p><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration (months) 5 years</p> <p>Start Date<sup>5</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy) 17.12.2015</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy) 31.12.2020</p> <p>Current End date<sup>7</sup>(dd.mm.yyyy)</p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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](#)

<sup>4</sup> The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>5</sup> 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](#)

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

<sup>7</sup> 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.

**Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.**

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

**Report Submitted By**

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## List of main acronyms

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CAFI: Central African Forest Initiative

CAR: Central African Republic

CBFP: Congo Basin Forest Partnership

DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

EB: (CAFI) Executive Board

LoI: Letter of Intent

M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation

(I)NGO: (International) Non-Governmental Organizations

REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

RoC: Republic of Congo

ToR: Terms of Reference

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

# Contents

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List of main acronyms .....	3
Contents.....	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	6
Purpose .....	7
Results.....	8
Raising funds and securing commitments.....	8
Supporting the programming cycle and accelerate implementation.....	8
Fostering coordination, exchanges and major decisions through three Executive Board meetings .....	10
Monitoring for results.....	13
Shaping the global narrative: global events and communications.....	14
Challenges and responses.....	16
Conclusion and steps forward .....	17
Financial report of the CAFI Secretariat Project Expenditures .....	18

## 2019 – a Super Year for CAFI

**CAFI signed a US\$ 150 million landmark agreement with Gabon for results-based payment**, the first time an African country will be rewarded in a 10-year deal for both reducing its greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation, and removals of carbon dioxide by natural forests.

**President Macron of France (on behalf of the CAFI Presidency) and President Sassou of the Republic of Congo signed a US\$ 65 million Letter of Intent.** The Republic of Congo committed to protecting its peatlands and avoiding conversion of more than 20,000 hectares of forest per year, and this only outside of forests with high carbon stocks and high conservation value.

We entered into a **new phase of the partnership with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.** A renewed dialogue with the new Minister of Environment concluded with a joint Forest Sector Roadmap to be implemented early 2020. The conclusion of independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent led to the high-level adoption of a joint Action Plan that in turn allowed the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of CAFI funding.

**Funding commitments and deposits continued to increase**, with Germany's announcement of a contribution of over US\$ 30 million to the CAFI Fund, South Korea's announcement of a contribution of US\$ 2 million to the CAFI Fund, and the finalization of the European Union US\$ 17 million pledge to the CAFI Fund. This brings the CAFI Fund capitalization to over 300 million US\$.

Funding turned into action, as programming continued and programmes took off, with

- The 4<sup>th</sup> sub tranche of US\$ 28 million disbursed from the CAFI Fund to DRC for the implementation of its portfolio bringing the transfers to a total of US\$ 150 M since 2016. A landmark sectoral program for orienting agriculture towards savannahs and degraded areas and another on the sustainable management of forests were approved, as well as an 8<sup>th</sup> province-wide program (in Mongala) covering all sectors.
- US \$ 12 million newly committed to additional programmes in Gabon, adding to the existing 18.4 million approved in 2018.
- Finalization of the programming framework under the Letter of Intent with the Republic of Congo.
- And the first results of our programs were recorded on the ground.

On the international scene, at the United Nations Secretary General Climate Action Summit, Heads of State from CAFI donors and partners countries highlighted the key role of Central African Forests for climate action, which prompted unprecedented coverage by top tier international media and contributed to shifting the global narrative on Central African forests. Social media exposure grew to maintain CAFI's position as a major player in the arena of climate, forest and development efforts in Central Africa. And partnerships grew with civil society with the organization of the first CAFI Dialogues in Bonn.

The overall context remains cause for concern: while deforestation is stabilized in some countries (Congo, Gabon), 14 million hectares of forests are said to have been lost across the CAFI partner countries over the last 5 years. Accelerating programme implementation, raising funds to scale up and ensure high level commitments will be the challenges of the few coming years.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This report on the activities of the Secretariat provides an update on progress made by the CAFI Secretariat in 2019. It outlines the Secretariat's progress towards the overarching goals set out in its [Terms of Reference](#), i.e. to:

- support the programming cycle through a proactive and strategic approach to accelerate implementation
- support monitoring and evaluation of the partnerships and results of CAFI's investments
- support the Executive Board (EB) in taking informed decisions and organize EB meetings and other meetings
- represent CAFI at meetings, side-events and regional fora
- support fund-raising efforts with the MPTF-Office and the EB
- ensure communications and knowledge management
- deliver efficient and effective operational processes (contract service providers and vendors)
- update any tools and processes based on internal and external evaluations and requests from the EB

This report has been structured around these main goals.

## Purpose

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The CAFI Secretariat, hosted by UNDP, supports the CAFI Executive Board (EB) and facilitates the overall operations of the Fund. The CAFI Secretariat acts as the central point of contact for CAFI and coordinates with countries regarding their different submissions and reporting processes. It provides the EB advice and support in strategic planning and consolidate narrative progress reporting. It facilitates the review process for National Investment Frameworks and CAFI programmes. The Secretariat also supports collaboration and communication between implementing organizations when necessary.

# Results

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## Raising funds and securing commitments

The funding agreement of the European Union (~ US\$ 17 million) was signed in November 2019. Through this funding, the EU seeks to support and monitor the effective implementation of key national policy reforms and programs in all sectors affecting Central African forests. In the short term, this means mobilizing funding and engaging policy makers, stakeholders, communities, and people on policy reforms in key sectors affecting Central African forests, notably on forest governance and legality, land use planning and zero-deforestation agriculture.

Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel announced over US\$ 30 million to the CAFI Fund and the agreement was signed in December 2019 with a focus on DRC. South Korea announced a US\$ 2 million contribution.

Twenty million dollars in aligned funding (i.e. funds committed to support the implementation of a Letter of Intent, but not passing through the CAFI Fund) were also mobilized for the Republic of Congo thus demonstrating CAFI's capacity to align different sources of funding to achieve shared goals.

In total, the CAFI Fund commitments grew to a total of over US\$ 300 million and deposits to close to US\$ 200 million by the end of the 2019.

In addition, France supported the recruitment of a United Nations Volunteer who took office in June 2019 to support the CAFI Board in fostering its partnership with the Republic of Congo. Norway contributed two Junior Professional Officers, one based in Geneva, enhancing the CAFI Secretariat's capacity on monitoring and evaluation and support to countries, in particular DRC; and another in DRC.

## Supporting the programming cycle and accelerate implementation

Missions of the CAFI Secretariat to support representatives of the Executive Board and embassies in the region, combined with regular exchanges with partners countries, contributed to mobilizing political actors at a high level and advance programmatic activities to generate commitments and results.

Notable direct results of this support include:

### **DRC**

Through the organization of regular meetings between Norway and the FONAREDD Secretariat, the CAFI Secretariat provided policy and technical advice and support to FONAREDD to meet its pipeline development objectives. It contributed to five Technical committee meetings to bring support to FONAREDD programming activities. As a result, an additional US\$ 28 million allocation was approved by the end of 2019, bringing the total to over US\$ 150 million transferred from CAFI to the FONAREDD since 2016. Two monitoring and evaluation missions allowed the harmonization of requested indicators, as well as progress on baseline data and discussions on the ongoing independent verification of the milestones. The CAFI Secretariat also partook in the Annual Review Meeting (see section 4 below), providing key political and technical support to the CAFI board members and representatives and enhanced dialogue and coordination at the country level. This contributed to the successful organization of the 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee of the FONAREDD on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with the participation of six Ministers and the French Ambassador, acting as representative of the Chair of the CAFI EB.

## **Republic of Congo**

Through two missions headed by embassies of CAFI donors, the continuous provision of policy and technical advice to the Government, the extensive consultation with government partners (including national and international NGOs, the Tropical Forest Alliance APOI Initiative, the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, FLEGT facilitator) as well as the on-site support of a CAFI Secretariat UN Volunteer, the Secretariat catalyzed the development and successful completion of the negotiations of the Letter of Intent. This process concluded with [the signature of the Letter of Intent \(LoI\) by two heads of State](#) (of France, as Chair of the CAFI EB, and the Republic of Congo), in September 2019.

The programming framework and background documentation for the launch of a call for expression of interest was then prepared at the end of 2019 for the launch of the programming cycle early 2020. Simultaneously, the Secretariat facilitated a bilateral dialogue between the Government of the Republic of Congo and CAFI donors for the establishment of national coordination structures to steer the implementation of the LoI.

## **Gabon**

The Secretariat's support to the dialogue with the EB and its missions allowed the approval of US \$ 12 million committed to new programmes in Gabon after a successful call for expression of interest managed by the Secretariat, and to a [landmark US\\$ 150 million agreement for results based funding](#). The Secretariat also supported the successful operational launch of the first programmes in the field of land use planning and forest monitoring and producing the first results. Gabon and the CAFI Secretariat also worked together to mobilize the governments of the region to develop a joint position through the Economic Commission of Central African States. This resulted in the high-level representation (Heads of State and Government) during the United Nations Climate Action Summit (see below).

## **Cameroun**

The CAFI Secretariat commissioned two independent reviews of the National Investment Framework (NIF) which were discussed during the 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting. It also provided policy and technical guidance to the Government for the revision of its NIF and the integration of the Board recommendations. Through a mission headed by the German Embassy to foster policy dialogue and two technical missions in Yaoundé, CAFI's objectives were presented to the Prime Minister and key government officials. This enabled to enhance the alignment and substantive coordination of the NIF development workstream with key ongoing development planning processes (National Development Plan and revision of the Rural Development Sectoral Strategy) under the leadership of the Ministry in charge of Economy, Planning and Land-Use Planning. The CAFI Secretariat also facilitated the recruitment of a new team of consultants to provide advice to the Government on the NIF and participated in the high-level meeting organized at the end of the year to inform the senior government officials of the NIF.

## **Equatorial Guinea**

A CAFI Secretariat mission that took place in June, including a high-level meeting hosted by the French Ambassador, allowed scoping of the landscape and political commitments as the country developed its National Investment Framework. The CAFI Secretariat organized two independent reviews of the successive versions of the country's National REDD+ Investment Framework, that raised technical and policy issues to be further discussed in 2020, notably the mainstreaming of land use objectives in the upcoming new Sustainable Development Strategy and monitoring the country's ban on roundwood export promulgated in 2018.

## Central African Republic

From March to September, the Central African Republic conducted a series of sectoral feasibility studies to gather data and propose ideas for policies and measures to address deforestation across different sectors. These feasibility studies formed the basis for its National Investment Framework (NIF), which was elaborated by a consortium of international and national consultants, contracted by the Ministry of Environment through the CAFI preparatory grant, and presented in October to national stakeholders in Bangui. By the end of 2019, the NIF is considered as a key document by the Government to implement the country's national reconstruction and peace building plan (RCPCA) and its nationally determined contribution (NDC), currently under revision. The preparatory grant implemented by the World Bank with the Ministry of Environment as government partner was extended until the end of June 2020.

## Fostering coordination, exchanges and major decisions through three Executive Board meetings

The CAFI Secretariat organized three CAFI Executive Board (EB) meetings, hosted by BMZ in Bonn (Germany), the AFD in Paris (France) and the UNDP in Geneva (Switzerland), to provide strategic guidance and approve major decisions for the Initiative.

The **12th EB meeting** (4-5 April in Bonn, hosted by BMZ) allowed, among other decisions, to agree on the launch of the negotiations of a Letter of Intent with the Government of the Republic of Congo. The meeting was also an opportunity to present the first version of Equatorial Guinea's National REDD+ Investment Frameworks, provide recommendations to the Government of Cameroon on its NIF based on its independent assessment and discuss progress in Gabon and DRC.

The highlights of the **13th EB meeting** (9-10 July in Paris hosted by AFD) included a decision to extend the duration of the CAFI Fund until 2027, a decision to launch a call for expression of interest for a total of US\$ 12 million to assist Gabon in the implementation of a national-scale forestry certification program and with accessing results-based funding for emission reductions. As part of the ongoing negotiations on a Letter of Intent, the Board Meeting was also a key opportunity to discuss with the Republic of Congo a cap for the conversion of forest and/or peatlands, in line with the country's commitments in the Brazzaville Declaration, to conserve and protect peatlands and prevent them from drainage and degradation. The EB also included a session to discuss progress in the implementation of the DRC's REDD+ NIF and the results of the CAFI Trust Fund

The **14th meeting** (29-30 November in Geneva hosted by UNDP) gave the opportunity to foster South-South exchanges and learning, as country sessions were opened to other countries. The Governments of Gabon, Republic of Congo, DRC, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea joined in. The DRC session was an opportunity to discuss the results of the independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent with the DRC. During the dialogue with the Republic of Congo, coordination mechanisms for effective and inclusive implementation of the recently signed LoI, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, were largely debated. A high-level delegation from Equatorial Guinea, headed by the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning, demonstrated how the country is integrating its REDD+ objectives into its new National Development Strategy, and its endeavor to initiate a land-use planning process that takes into account the value of its large forest cover. It was the first time that a delegate from the Central African Republic attended a CAFI EB meeting, which provided an opportunity to discuss the decentralization process including the national development plan and its new iteration. The conversation with Gabon's National Climate Council Chief was an opportunity to discuss the ongoing program on land use planning and monitoring (under the Letter of Intent signed in 2017), ask selected implementing agencies to develop full program proposals following a call for expressions of interest agreed to last June, and the contents of the addendum to the LoI to receive results-based payments (signed at the 2019 Climate Action Summit in New York).

All-together, the CAFI Executive Board took 27 decisions in 2019 (approximately the same number as in 2018 and 2017), listed in Figure 1. In a continuous effort towards transparency, decisions were translated and published online on CAFI's website as soon as they were agreed by the Board.

## CAFI EB 2019 Decisions

EB.2019.01	23/01/2019	Partnership with the Republic of Congo	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.02	19/03/2019	Extension of the Equatorial Guinea preparatory grant	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.03	05/04/2019	CAFI results framework	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB12, Bonn
EB.2019.04	05/04/2019	Risk Management Strategy	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB12, Bonn
EB.2019.05	05/04/2019	Letter of Intent with the Republic of Congo	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB12, Bonn
EB.2019.06	05/04/2019	Programming note for the prep grant to FAO for RoC (GCF proposal)	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB12, Bonn
EB.2019.07	05/04/2019	Equatorial Guinea's National Investment Framework	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB12, Bonn
EB.2019.08	31/05/2019	Mid-term evaluation of the CAFI Fund	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.09	27/06/2019	No cost extension of Cameroon prep grant	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.10	10/07/2019	Programming in the Republic of Congo	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB13, Paris
EB.2019.11	10/07/2019	Republic of Congo- Coordination project in support of PM office	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB13, Paris
EB.2019.12	10/07/2019	Revision of the 2020 budget of the CAFI Secretariat	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB13, Paris
EB.2019.13	10/07/2019	CAFI Fund extension	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB13, Paris
EB.2019.14	10/07/2019	Annual report	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB13, Paris
EB.2019.15	10/07/2019	Gabon programmes	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB13, Paris
EB.2019.16	03/09/2019	RoC Letter of intent and country allocation	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.17	20/09/2019	Gabon addendum to Letter of Intent	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.18	16/10/2019	Presidency of CAFI	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB14, Geneva
EB.2019.19	16/10/2019	Gabon Programs	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB14, Geneva

EB.2019.20	16/10/2019	Monitoring and evaluation framework	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB14, Geneva
EB.2019.21	16/10/2019	Risk Management Dashboard	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB14, Geneva
EB.2019.22	16/10/2019	Republic of Congo	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB14, Geneva
EB.2019.23	16/10/2019	Equatorial Guinea	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB14, Geneva
EB.2019.24	22/10/2019	Trends and drivers study	French	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.25	22/10/2019	Central African Republic	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.26	13/12/2019	Central African Republic – no cost extension	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2019.27	20/12/2019	Approval of disbursement to DRC National REDD+ Fund – 4th sub-tranche	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional

Figure 1: list and hyperlinks of CAFI EB decisions in 2019.

Between EB meetings, information exchange between Board members was facilitated by monthly calls organized by the CAFI Secretariat.

## Monitoring for results

At the global level,

- a revised [Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#) was adopted, and a new approach to palliate the issue of missing baselines was adopted.
- a Risk management strategy was adopted, with a request to the Secretariat to update the Risk Dashboard on an annual basis.
- the terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of the CAFI Fund were approved but activities postponed, through a decision of the Executive Board, to begin in mid-2019 in order to fully benefit from the conclusions of the independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent with DRC. By the end of 2019, however, no valid proposal had been received and recruitment is to continue in early 2020.

With the DRC,

- The CAFI Secretariat co-organized and contributed to regular calls between the FONAREDD Secretariat and the Norwegian EB representatives.
- The CAFI Secretariat organized the [independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent](#), that was completed in October and prompted the elaboration of a [Joint Action plan that was formally adopted in December by the DRC Steering Committee](#) with full attendance at ministerial level.
- In November the fourth annual CAFI-DRC partnership monitoring meeting was organized with the FONAREDD in Kinshasa. On behalf of the CAFI Executive Board, the Secretariat and the Government of Norway assessed progress over the past 12 months and key actions to be taken in 2020, including [recommendations](#), the above-mentioned Action Plan and a [Roadmap for the Forest Sector](#). The meeting was also an opportunity to convene implementing

agencies and government focal points and, for the first time, representatives from CAFI donor embassies to discuss the results of the independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent.

With Gabon,

- A second annual review was organized in Libreville during which the milestone monitoring matrix was updated, new operational deadlines for the delayed milestones were identified and several high-level meetings were organized with ambassadors and ministers of CAFI EB members.

## Shaping the global narrative: global events and communications

Through high-level political engagement, boosted events, communication efforts and an ever-increasing presence on social media, CAFI has held its position as a major player in the arena of climate, forest and development efforts in Central Africa.

In April 2019, over 20 INGOs and country representatives responded to the invitation of the CAFI EB to partake in the [first CAFI Dialogues and “generate more light than heat”](#). Organized and facilitated by the CAFI Secretariat and hosted by GIZ, this event was an opportunity to examine facts, studies and ground experiences, as well as discuss, debate and deliberate face-to-face. One key outcome was the decision to work jointly on regional study to better understand and reach consensus about the drivers of and trends in deforestation.

In September, the [United Nations Secretary-General Climate Action Summit](#) and its preparations allowed a high uptake of the value of Central African forests in the global policy and climate agenda, as well as their accelerating loss and its causes. Via addresses to the General Assembly and several side-events, heads of state and governments - including of the DRC, Germany, France and the Republic of Congo, as well as the UN Secretary-General - alerted the world and reiterated their commitments. This, combined with the announcement of the historic agreement between Gabon and CAFI, prompted top tier international media coverage. The CAFI Secretariat played an active role in coordinating country efforts and messaging, as well as supporting and spreading the word about events.

As mandated by the Executive Board, the **CAFI Secretariat contributed to key events** such as the Abu Dhabi Climate Conference to prepare the UN Climate Action Summit and facilitating a session on NDCs in Central Africa during the [FERN-Hosted dialogue on Forests in NDCS](#), with the participation of the EU and French Ministry of Environment.

Online, **CAFI’s increased presence raised awareness on its approach and actions**. In 2019 the CAFI Secretariat produced 12 articles in two languages and published them on the front page of the CAFI website<sup>8</sup>. Beside reporting on events (see section above), new programmes ([DRC](#)), agreements ([Republic of Congo](#), [Gabon](#)) and results of CAFI’s investments ([DRC](#), [Equatorial Guinea](#)), they also included a [Call to action](#). New [portfolio](#) and [results pages](#) were created to provide a clearer overview of CAFI’s investments, actions and results.

These articles helped boost CAFI’s online activity, and resulted in an overall increase in visitors to the CAFI website<sup>9</sup>, boosted also by promotion through the [@CAFISecretariat](#)<sup>10</sup> Twitter Account. Consistent growth in audience engagement is observed:

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cafi.org/content/cafi/en/home/events/all-news.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.cafi.org>

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/CAFISecretariat>

Data <sup>11</sup>	2017	2018	2019	Trend
Users	7934	10,322	15,917	↑
Sessions	14,344	16,286	23,223	↑
Page views	39,647	39,056	51,955	↑
Average session duration	3.24 minutes	2.40 minutes	2.25 minutes	↓
Pages visited / viewer	2.76	1.58	2.24	↑
User per month	661	860	Lowest:1000 ; highest : 2800	↑

Figure 2: *www.cafi.org* statistics

These numbers show an overall **increase in reach** (users and sessions). The continuous decrease in session duration may be explained by shorter articles and less time spent by users who know how to navigate the website.

In terms of visitors, the audience is increasingly **balanced between donor and partner countries**. While the United States still ranks first (25%) among our visitors, the DRC is now in second position (11.7%), followed by France (8.8%), and Gabon (4.6%) that rose from 5<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> position above the UK. Germany, Cameroon, Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada rank from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> position. While the Republic of Congo now appears 11<sup>th</sup> in the ranking, the Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea remain notably absent from the top 25 visitor countries, and efforts will be enhanced to make sure they are made aware of the type of information accessible from the CAFI website.

### Twitter

Through weekly tweeting in both French and English, the account attracted **434 new followers and raised the total number to 1019 as of 31 December 2019**, practically doubling our followers in one year and quadrupling them since 2017. Tweet impressions have regressed slightly.

Data	2017 (April to Dec)	2018 (Jan to Dec)	2019 (Jan to Dec)	Trend
Number of followers	285	588	1022	↑
Total tweet impressions	147,122	205,800	187,000	↓

Figure 3 Twitter statistics

The most popular tweet of 2019 (6,968 impressions and 16 retweets) was related to the signing of the Letter of Intent with the Republic of Congo;

« 65 millions de dollars de financement CAFI signé à Paris entre le Président [@EmmanuelMacron](#) Macron et son homologue Sassou-Nguesso pour protéger la forêt congolaise et ses tourbières, vitales contre le [#ChangementClimatique](#) [#Act4CentralAfricanForests](#) [#2èmePoumons](#) [pic.twitter.com/Qzl3XB0pbQ](https://pic.twitter.com/Qzl3XB0pbQ)”

<sup>11</sup> All numbers from Google analytics

## Challenges and responses

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Some of the risks identified in the Risk Management Strategy materialized, for which an updated risk dashboard was approved by the EB in November. The Secretariat has sought to overcome these challenges through scaled-up engagement and guidance.

First, 2019 was a year of political transition in DRC, where several members of the FONAREDD Steering Committee engaged in the post-electoral dynamic and expectation of a new government. While the FONAREDD Steering Committee was made functional through an interim, which allowed a smaller-composition Committee to approve programmes, the policy dialogue with the new Minister of Environment only resumed when he took office in September 2019. Further details on the DRC political situations are expected to be made available in the FONAREDD Consolidated Report.

Secondly, the very slow onset of some programmes, such as the land use planning programme in Gabon, is leading to tensions between the Governments and the implementing agencies, as the delay have an impact on the achievement of the milestones. The CAFI Secretariat (and the FONAREDD Secretariat in DRC) facilitated the resolution of the problems but a more systemic solution is recommended, as these concerns were formally reported by DRC through the independent verification process. This challenge will be addressed in the revised Terms of Reference of the Fund that will be proposed to the Executive Board for adoption in 2020.

Thirdly, the independent verification of the LOI with DRC identified several areas for improvement. As these areas concern CAFI as a whole and not exclusively the Secretariat, they will be detailed in the Fund's Consolidated Report.

Finally, as CAFI's portfolio grew in 2019, the Executive Board approved an increase in CAFI Secretariat staff in July, which has not yet materialized. The fact that the Secretariat was understaffed had a negative impact on its performance (mainly manifested by delays) or put high pressure on its staff members<sup>12</sup>.

Despite these challenges, CAFI's unique vision continues to be firmly backed and carried forward by its active Executive Board.

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<sup>12</sup> There were periods when the 300 million US\$ fund had a Secretariat relying on only 2 full time professional staff.

## Conclusion and steps forward

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As demonstrated, 2019 was a highly successful year for CAFI and the Secretariat. Moving forward, we will build on the results achieved and make changes to improve our work based on the different evaluations commissioned and received. The extension of the duration of the Trust Fund and the resulting need to revise both the strategic focus and the operational arrangements of the Fun will provide an excellent opportunity to do so in 2020.

## Financial report of the CAFI Secretariat Project Expenditures

### CAFI Secretariat Project Expenditures

**Project:** 00092735

**Output:** 00097312

Key Activities	Budget Account	Budget Description	Total Budget Received	2015 Expenses	2016 Expenses	2017 Expenses	2018 Expenses	2019 Expenses	TOTAL EXP
<b>1 - Staff Costs</b>	61200	GS staff	553.432,00	20.707,37	0,00	226.620,41	156.187,69	116.201,83	519.717,30
	61300	IP Staff	2.673.301,78	263.334,44	126.472,54	597.568,56	598.432,37	670.828,51	2.256.636,42
	71200	International consultants	1.145.827,56	0,00	18.655,95	635.133,60	64.982,35	80.279,82	799.051,72
	71600	Travel	0,00	0,00	10.673,76	0,00	4.147,41	0,00	14.821,17
	75105	F&A	139.003,26	0,00	10.906,16	101.816,60	57.662,49	60.710,43	231.095,68
<b>2 - GOE</b>	73100	Rental and Maintenance Premises	131.491,96	0,00	32.361,73	36.050,86	51.310,05	52.600,64	172.323,28
	72220	Furniture	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	2.253,35	0,00	2.253,35
	72425	Mobile Telephone Charges	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1.559,24	1.559,24
	72800	IT Equipment	10.000,00	0,00	769,49	1.249,77	4.411,42	1.947,79	8.378,47
	71600	Travel	197.000,00	26.036,96	19.977,39	105.391,82	77.046,54	94.034,14	322.486,85
	72100	Contractual Services-companies	20.000,00	4.674,35	12.145,00	35.990,14	9.754,85	1.967,60	64.531,94
	74200	Translations Costs	151.199,50	4.019,25	11.848,63	26.600,75	42.380,26	17.141,60	101.990,49
	74200	Printings & Publications	20.000,00	0,00	7.575,36	1.318,45	2.178,93	0,00	11.072,74
	74525	Miscellaneous	44.000,00	0,00	4.081,21	2.941,22	13.176,63	147,43	20.346,49
	75105	F&A	15.994,44	0,00	6.210,37	14.978,78	14.176,06	11.858,07	47.223,28
<b>3 - Executive Board</b>	75700	Workshops	113.000,00	5.803,44	3.279,31	45.718,60	46.351,40	60.978,25	162.131,00
	75105	F&A	4.550,00	0,00	229,66	3.202,88	3.244,11	4.268,73	10.945,38
<b>4 - Technical Reviews &amp; Evaluation</b>	71200	International consultants	160.000,00	6.225,00	0,00	7.379,06	28.500,14	281.771,64	323.875,84
	75105	F&A	0,00	0,00	0,00	516,53	1.995,02	19.724,02	22.235,57

<b>5 - DRC Independent Verification</b>	72100	Contractual Services-companies	500.000,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	210.355,22	210.355,22
	75105	F&A	35.000,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	14.724,87	14.724,87
<b>6 - Congo LOI Support</b>	75700	Workshops	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	45.420,74	45.420,74
	75105	F&A	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3.178,39	3.178,39
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>5.913.800,50</b>	<b>330.800,81</b>	<b>265.186,56</b>	<b>1.842.478,03</b>	<b>1.178.191,07</b>	<b>1.749.698,96</b>	<b>5.366.355,43</b>