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

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2020

<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>Priority area/ strategic results:</p> <p>Sustainable Development (<a href="#">UNDP Strategic plan</a>)</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><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <p>UNDP</p>
<p><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 10,634,390.50</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></li> <li>Agency Contribution</li> <li>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></li> <li>Government Contribution</li> <li>Other Contributions (donors)</li> </ul> <p><b>TOTAL:</b> 10,634,390.50</p>	<p><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>) 7 years</p> <p>Start Date<sup>5</sup> (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) 17.12.2015</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) 31.12.2020</p> <p>Current End date<sup>7</sup> (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) 31.12.2022</p>
<p><b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b></p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p><b>Report Submitted By</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Name: Berta Pesti</li> <li>○ Title: Head of CAFI Secretariat</li> <li>○ Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP</li> <li>○ Email address: berta.pesti@undp.org</li> </ul>

<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.

This report on the activities of the CAFI Secretariat provides an update on progress made by the CAFI Secretariat in 2020. It outlines the Secretariat's progress towards the overarching goals set out in its [Terms of Reference](#)<sup>8</sup>, i.e. to:

- support the programming cycle through a proactive and strategic approach to accelerate implementation
- support monitoring and evaluation
- support the Executive Board (EB) in taking informed decisions, 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, and support the MPTF-Office in the preparation and update of agreements between implementing agencies and CAFI
- 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.

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<sup>8</sup> The link on new CAFI web site, as of May 2021, will be at [www.cafi.org/how-we-work](http://www.cafi.org/how-we-work)

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## Purpose

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The CAFI Secretariat, hosted by UNDP, supports the CAFI Executive Board (EB) and facilitates the overall operations of the CAFI 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 organisations when necessary.

# Results

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## Raising funds and securing commitments

The CAFI Secretariat visited the Executive Board donor capitals in January 2020 to identify donor strategies and plans and areas of particular interest within the CAFI framework.

Regarding fund mobilization:

- The funding agreement with the Netherlands (US\$ 17 million) was signed in October 2020 and a first deposit of US\$ 5 millions was made
- Germany deposited its second installment of US\$ 67,516,724
- France deposited its third installment of US\$ 3,398,970
- South Korea deposited its first installment of US \$ 408,868
- The results-based payment agreement for Gabon was signed with Norway, committing an additional 875 million of Norwegian kroners.

With this, CAFI met the targets set out in the CAFI declaration in 2015 to mobilize US \$ 500 million in funding for the region by 2020.

## Supporting programming cycles and accelerating implementation

Missions and remote support of the CAFI Secretariat to 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:***

### **Procedural**

The CAFI Secretariat undertook major revisions of the terms of reference and development of a Manual of operations, in broad consultations with EB members, and presented to the EB during its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in November 2020. Approval of the revised Terms of reference and new Manual of Operations is expected in January 2021.

In part as a response to [a report by Transparency International](#) that considered CAFI as sub-optimal on certain aspects of accountability and inclusiveness, this new Manual of Operations sets out clear provisions on CAFI's information disclosure, complaints mechanism, whistleblower protection and zero tolerance for fraud and corruption.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

Through the organization of regular meetings between Norway (DRC Lead) and the FONAREDD Secretariat, the CAFI Secretariat provided policy and technical advice and support to FONAREDD to meet its pipeline development objectives. It participated in ten Technical committee meetings to bring support to FONAREDD programming activities, whose outcomes are summarized in Annex A. The CAFI Secretariat also facilitated the development of the CAFI position during the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting including the assessment and approval of several new programs (top up Mongala and new PIREDD in Maniema), second tranches (civil society support program and land tenure reform program) and the 2019

FONAREDD Trust Fund report.<sup>9</sup> The CAFI Secretariat facilitated the disbursement of a 5th sub-tranche of 19,6 M US\$ to the FONAREDD towards specific programmes, following decision EB.2020.18<sup>10</sup>.

The CAFI Secretariat coordinated the consolidation of joint positions of the Board on program approval, next phase of partnership (strategic framework and programming framework) through:

- support to CAFI Executive Board members and embassies' participation in the 10th Steering Committee of the FONAREDD with the participation of the EU Ambassador in Kinshasa,
- regular internal calls with Board members dedicated to DRC and fostered the creation and functioning of a "DRC programme working group" and a "DRC policy working group"
- a webinar with external expertise on dynamics of drivers of deforestation in the DRC and expert workshop on payment for ecosystem services
- coordination calls with FONAREDD
- position paper to foster thinking about the next phase of the partnership between CAFI and the DRC, expected to be concluded by end of 2021.
- organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent, that concluded in December<sup>11</sup>

The Secretariat supported the organization, on the occasion of the 16th Executive Board meeting, of a high-level dialogue on the Nationally Determined Contribution's revision and the forest sector between the Minister for Environment and the country's key partners on this matter.

### **Republic of Congo (RoC)**

The CAFI Secretariat developed and launched the call for expression of interest in January, reviewed the proposals, supported negotiations between the authorities and the CAFI Executive Board. This process reached a key milestone with the high-level meeting in September 2020 where agreement was reached to select four agencies to develop five programmes. This meeting was held between the Government and CAFI, headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo and chaired by the EU Ambassador on behalf of the CAFI Board. This meeting was the first of biannual meetings established to monitor the partnership in the Republic of Congo and establish key agreements on strategic issues. Through a decision, the CAFI Executive Board officially requested four agencies to draft programmes in six areas, for an indicative budget of US \$ 45 million. A call for expressions of interest [was relaunched in October](#)<sup>12</sup> focusing on environmental governance

As requested by the Executive Board in its programming decision, the CAFI Secretariat coordinated with the European Forest Institute for the establishment of a working group to carry out a consultation with national and international civil society on the mapping and gap assessment for the design of a civil society engagement approach for a future CAFI-funded programme. This activity began in October 2020 and is to be carried out into the first trimester of 2021.

The Secretariat supported the organization, on the occasion of the 16th Executive Board meeting, of a high-level dialogue on the Nationally Determined Contribution's revision between the Minister for Environment and the country's key partners on this matter.

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<sup>9</sup> A comprehensive overview of the pipeline development and portfolio management activities (steering committee and technical committee meetings) and their results in terms of disbursements, spending and outputs can be found in the annual Report of the Fonaredd Secretariat, available on the MPTF [GATEWAY](#).

<sup>10</sup> [Link on old web site](#). On the new web site, as of May 2021, decisions will appear at [www.cafi.org/cafi-board](http://www.cafi.org/cafi-board)

<sup>11</sup> [Link on old website](#). On the new CAFI web site, as of May 2021, news will appear at [www.cafi.org/news-centre](http://www.cafi.org/news-centre)

<sup>12</sup> On the new CAFI web site, as of May 2021, decisions will appear at [www.cafi.org/cafi-board](http://www.cafi.org/cafi-board)

The CAFI Secretariat also supported the negotiations between the authorities and the CAFI Executive Board for the establishment of a governance and coordination framework for the partnership and the implementation of the Letter of Intent, leading to the adoption of a decree by the Prime Minister instituting key governance bodies. A coordination Secretariat was established in Brazzaville as part of this framework within the Prime Minister's Office, and the CAFI Secretariat closely collaborated with this new coordination as a pivotal actor for governance and coordination and provided financial support through the UNDP Country Office. Additionally, in order to prepare long term support to the Prime Minister's Office in its coordination and arbitration role, the Secretariat facilitated the initiation of a dialogue with the Resident Coordinator's Office in the Republic of Congo to co-steer a dedicated programme to this effect.

## **Gabon**

The CAFI 2 UNDP programme<sup>13</sup> was launched while the second AFD programme is awaiting signature.

The Secretariat provided technical support to the development of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL), submitted in February 2021), the Summary of Information on Safeguards (submitted in Jan 2021), the National Investment framework (finalized in Feb 2021), the first Results report, for the years 2016-2017, under the landmark 150 million US \$ Agreement reached in 2019, and the independent verification of these results. These will allow the country to receive the first results-based payment under the 2019 Agreement.

The Secretariat participated in two programme steering committee meetings (CAFI 1 & 2) resulting in the approval of annual workplans and budgets, and coordinated regular bipartite and tripartite calls between the government, the French Development Agency and CAFI to discuss project implementation progress and progress towards the milestones. The Secretariat provided experts to the Government to prepare the national forestry certification, the report of which is expected by Q1 2021. The Secretariat worked with the Government to develop and finalize the terms of reference of the independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent, that were approved by the Executive Board during its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Cameroun**

A consultant was recruited to support the policy dialogue. His joint mission, on behalf of the CAFI Secretariat, with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Facilitator was held at the end of October to probe the interest of Cameroon authorities and diplomatic missions to formulate a partnership towards rural green development. The mission findings and concrete proposals on next steps were shared with the CAFI Executive Board during its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting<sup>14</sup>.

Throughout the year, the CAFI Secretariat supported and advised the CAFI Executive Board members on developing a common position on land-use related developments in Cameroon, in particular on the subject of Ebo Forest, and ensured that the CAFI Executive Board's position is presented in donor coordination circles on the ground (CCPM) and integrated into the policy dialogue with Cameroon's government. Furthermore, in close coordination with other donors, the CAFI Secretariat supported the integration of forest and climate change considerations in Cameroon's Rural Sector Development Strategy and National Development Strategy 2030.

## **Equatorial Guinea**

The CAFI Secretariat supported the engagement of the French and German Embassies in Malabo to conduct the policy dialogue with the authorities in Malabo. A meeting conducted on 18 June between the Minister of Finance and the two

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<sup>13</sup> Accessible on CAFI new web site (May 2021) at [www.cafi.org/countries/Gabon](http://www.cafi.org/countries/Gabon)

<sup>14</sup> Accessible on CAFI new web site (May 2021) at [www.cafi.org/countries/Cameroun](http://www.cafi.org/countries/Cameroun)

Ambassadors on behalf of CAFI concluded with the need to identify specific mutual measures to advance with the partnership. The CAFI Secretariat provided two rounds of inputs into the draft National Sustainable Development plan (2020-2025) to ensure integration of land-use issues. An independent study was commissioned and finalized on transborder illegal timber trade (internal to the Executive Board), and discussions held with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership on how to foster a dialogue with neighboring to address such issue. As per guidance from the Executive Board during its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the CAFI Secretariat will launch a call for expression of interest in 2021 to support policy dialogue and conduct feasibility studies on various axes of the National Investment Plan.

### **Central African Republic**

The CAFI Secretariat launched a call for Expression of Interest in the Central African Republic to identify an implementing agency to support the policy dialogue between CAFI and the government of the Central African Republic and conduct pre-feasibility studies for the pilot projects identified in the national investment framework while requesting the use a conflict sensitivity approach to ensure that consultations are mindful of and not reinforcing the grievances of different stakeholders. The French Development Agency (AFD) was selected through EB decision 2020.16 and in consultation with the Government to develop a full project proposal, that was approved during the CAFI 17<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting in November and is expected to be implemented over the year 2021.

### **Regional**

The CAFI Secretariat supported the organization of consultations with the Executive Board, international NGOs and FAO in February on the FAO-led “Drivers study”<sup>15</sup> and facilitated a dialogue between FAO and the DRC on the matter. The project was adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> CAFI EB meeting. The CAFI Secretariat is taking part in the Steering and Technical Committees of the programme and participated in their first respective meeting.

In terms of regional cooperation, the facilitation of Congo Basin Forest Partnership is now a permanent observer and active participant in CAFI EB meetings and in the Steering Committee of the abovementioned study. The CAFI Secretariat also provided several inputs into a CBFP-commissioned to be titled “Study on REDD+ in the Congo basin”<sup>16</sup>, including on baseline approaches for results-based payments, and actively contributed to the CBFP meeting on “Day of Regional programmes of the Congo Basin” organized in November 2020.

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

The CAFI Secretariat organized three CAFI Executive Board meetings, hosted virtually, to provide strategic guidance and approve major decisions for the Initiative.

The **15<sup>th</sup> EB meeting** (March) saw the participation of UK Africa Ambassador for CoP 26 in high level sessions with the Ministers of Environment of DRC, Rep Congo, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea. The Minister of Finance of Equatorial Guinea also participated in a dedicated session, for the first time. Decisions were made about two new Gabon programmes on i) *“Improved Forestry Management: Implementation of a National Scale Certification Process in Gabon”*, a collaboration between the Gabonese Ministry of Forests, the National Climate Council and the French Development Agency,

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<sup>15</sup> Link on new web site (as of May 2021)

<sup>16</sup> To be titled “Status, barriers and options for REDD+ in the Congo Basin”

that will bring together relevant stakeholders from the public administration and private sector to define a new set of certification standards to be applied in the logging industry. In addition, a national legal unit will be put in place to follow up on whether certification procedures are respected, and its staff will receive legal training and advise on emission monitoring and analysis ii) *“Protected Area Expansion and Land-use Optimization for Food Crop Production in Gabon”*, implemented by the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture and National Climate Council with UNDP, will tackle cross-border timber trafficking, by establishing 400 000 Ha of new protected forest areas in border zones currently opened to logging. The programme will also help intensify crops, to improve food security without expanding production into forest areas with high carbon content. As part of this process, efforts will be made to strengthen the Agricultural Ministry’s technical capacity to reform the agricultural sector and participate in national land-use planning processes, to ensure that changes initiated are supported by rigorous institutional and legal structures.

**The 16th Board meeting** (June) was an opportunity to address strategic processes that are taking place this year, as Central African countries prepare to communicate by the end of the year their long-term commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as set out in the Paris Agreement. The [participation of Arlette Soudan-Nonault](#), Minister of Environment and Tourism of the Republic of Congo, was a testimony to her country’s strong political commitment to take on global responsibility to preserve the Central African rainforest. She talked about the need to protect the Congolese peatlands, vulnerable ecosystems that store a carbon quantity that is [similar to the above-ground carbon stocks of the entire Congo Basin](#), and about the critical efforts to ensure that the commitments of the Letter of Intent with CAFI be reflected in the revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) this year.

The negotiations towards **a new green partnership with DRC** represented another highlight on the agenda, a process that will be based on high-level political dialogue to ensure national ownership and commitment. On top of [existing policy areas](#), the partnership will include workstreams to improving the business climate to attract private sector investments to the country, geo-specific monitoring of results, and aligning CAFI programming and policy dialogues with the DRC COVID-recovery and new National Development Plan.

Invited to participate in a high-level session with the UK Ambassador for COP-26, [the Minister of Environment in DRC, Claude Nyamugabo](#), expressed his country’s commitment to make the new partnership a foundation for sustainable development and forest preservation and to ensure that **new sectors are taken into consideration in the new NDC**.

**The 17th meeting** of the CAFI Executive Board took place virtually on 9-13 November 2020. Besides finalizing the design of the new phase of CAFI (Terms of reference, Manual of Operations, Risk Management, CAFI Mid-Term review), highlights included funding allocation decisions and country sessions with representatives of Gabon, DRC, Republic of Congo and Central African Republic. For the first time, and in an increased effort in transparency and accountability - following one the recommendations of the Transparency International report mentioned above – forms of declarations of conflict of interest were filled by each participant ahead of each session of the meeting, and a public report was prepared and published on the CAFI web site<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> [Link on old web site](#). The public report of EB 17 will be accessible on the new CAFI web site at [www.cafi.org/cafi-board](http://www.cafi.org/cafi-board) from May 2021

The CAFI Executive Board adopted 24 decisions in 2020, 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 and, for country-specific decisions, communicated to the authorities.

2020					
EB.2020.01	01/04/ 2020	Gabon – addendum to the LOI – April 2020	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB15, virtual
EB.2020.02	01/04/ 2020	Gabon – approval of programs	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB15, virtual
EB.2020.03	01/04/ 2020	Equatorial Guinea	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a> , Spanish	EB15, virtual
EB.2020.04	24/04/2020	DRC	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2020.05	08/05/2020	Gabon – approval of programs - UNDP	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2020.06	12/05/2020	Republic of Congo - PREFOREST project to the Green Climate Fund	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2020.07	23/06/2020	Drivers study	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB 16, virtual
EB.2020.08	25/06/2020	Annual report and M&E	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB 16, virtual
EB.2020.09	25/06/2020	Central African Republic – Eol	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB 16, virtual
EB.2020.10	25/06/2020	Revised ToR for CAFI Sec	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB 16, virtual
EB.2020.11	25/06/2020	CAFI phase 2 – White paper and foundational documents	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB 16, virtual
EB.2020.12	16/07/2020	DRC Phase 2	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2020.13	17/07/2020	CAFI Sec budget	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2020.14	05/10/2020	Closure of Cameroon project	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2020.15	05/10/2020	Roc Programming	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2020.16	09/10/2020	Preparatory grant for Central African Republic	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional
EB.2020.17	13/11/2020	Approval of preparatory grant in the Central African Republic (Policy Dialogue and Pre-feasibility studies)	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB17, virtual
EB.2020.18	13/11/2020	DRC funding allocation	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB17, virtual
EB.2020.19	13/11/2020	Risk Management	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB17, virtual
EB.2020.20	13/11/2020	Gabon - Independent verification of the milestones of the Lol	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB17, virtual
EB.2020.21	13/11/2020	Gabon – National Investment framework	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB17, virtual
EB.2020.22	13/11/2020	RoC Coordination support project	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB17, virtual
EB.2020.23	13/11/2020	Roc programming. Timelines for project development	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	EB17, virtual
EB.2020.24	09/12/2020	DRC Partnership and Working Group	<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	Intersessional

*Figure 1: list and hyperlinks of CAFI EB decisions in 2020<sup>18</sup>*

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, the mid-term evaluation of the CAFI Fund was conducted and near-finalized by the end of the year. A Reference group of donors was constituted to guide the consultants. Publication of the findings will occur in early 2021, when an Executive Board management response is finalized.

Across countries, the CAFI monitoring framework continues to be filled: baseline data is being established as per the DRC's National Forest Monitoring system and Gabon's carbon results for 2016-2017. Results data is being compiled as per DRC programmes activities. As per the CAFI M&E framework adopted in 2019, a strategy is being developed to gather information at outcome level when baseline data is missing (or expected to be).

In the DRC, the CAFI Secretariat organized the update to the [independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent<sup>19</sup>](#), that was completed on 20 October.

In Gabon, regular dialogues were held to monitor the milestones, for which an independent verification is being organized, to be conducted in 2021.

## Shaping the global narrative: CAFI's visibility in 2020

2020 was a complex year for enhancing CAFI's visibility. Planned events and media trips that had been identified as opportunities to showcase CAFI's approach and results were cancelled, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the CAFI Dialogues in Bonn in March, the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum and the EU Development week. Cancelled ministerial missions due to travel restrictions were also missed opportunities to highlight CAFI's high level profile.

Nevertheless, CAFI managed to increase its profile amongst high profile dignitaries through two major online events

- 1) During the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meetings, held in March and June, in which special sessions were dedicated to [encounters between the Ministers of Environment of DRC and of Republic of Congo with the UK COP 26 Ambassador<sup>20</sup>](#).
- 2) During a high-level meeting online in the Republic of Congo in September 2020, headed by the Prime Minister of Congo and attended by six Ministers as well as the European Union and Norway Ambassadors on behalf of CAFI (screenshot below), which was disseminated online via a series of [Tweets](#)
- 3) CAFI was also featured during the UK hosted virtual Climate Ambition Summit and a short video message was prepared with participation from Ministers from Gabon, DRC, UK, Norway, civil society, private sector and academia representatives.

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<sup>18</sup> As of May 2021, these decisions will be available on the new CAFI web site at [www.cafi.org/cafi-board](http://www.cafi.org/cafi-board)

<sup>19</sup> As of May 2021, all CAFI news will be available on the new CAFI web site at [www.cafi.org/news-centre](http://www.cafi.org/news-centre)

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

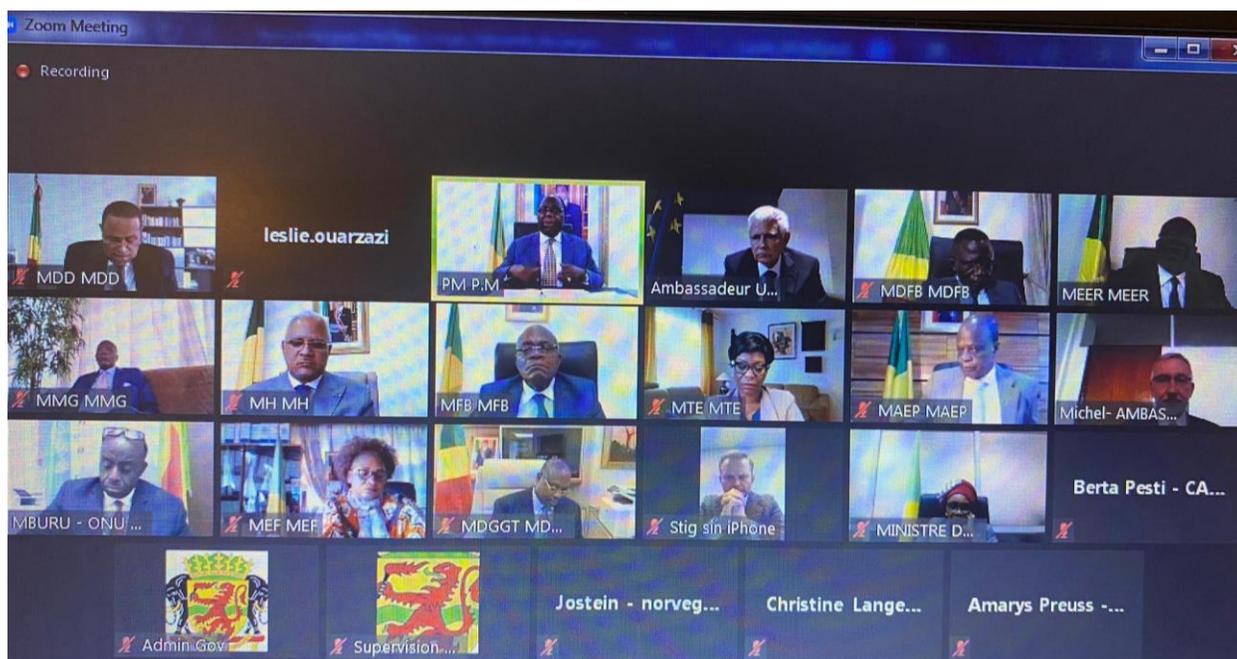


Figure 1: Screenshot of meeting between the members of the Government of the Republic of Congo and the CAFI EB

These events contributed not only to visibility, but also to build strong political commitment from the highest levels of government in target countries, guaranteeing sustainability after projects end through the dedication of national attention, action and resources.

Online, **CAFI's increased presence raised awareness on its approach and actions.** In 2020, the CAFI Secretariat had produced 11 articles in two languages and published them on the front page of the CAFI website<sup>21</sup>. These have allowed to convey key achievements on policy progress ([DRC](#), [Equatorial Guinea](#)), calls for expressions of interest (2 for the Republic of Congo and one for the [Central African Republic](#)), new programmes or activities ([Gabon](#), [DRC](#)), a refocused [gender approach](#), [transparency commitments](#) and [overall results](#). [Portfolio](#) and [results pages](#) were updated to continue to provide a clear 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>22</sup>, boosted also by promotion through the @CAFISecretariat<sup>23</sup> Twitter Account. Consistent growth in audience engagement is observed:

Data <sup>24</sup>	2017	2018	2019	2020
Users	7934	10,322	15,917	18,778

<sup>21</sup>1 <http://www.cafi.org/content/cafi/en/home/events/all-news.html>. As of May 2021, these will be accessible from [www.cafi.org/news-centre](http://www.cafi.org/news-centre)

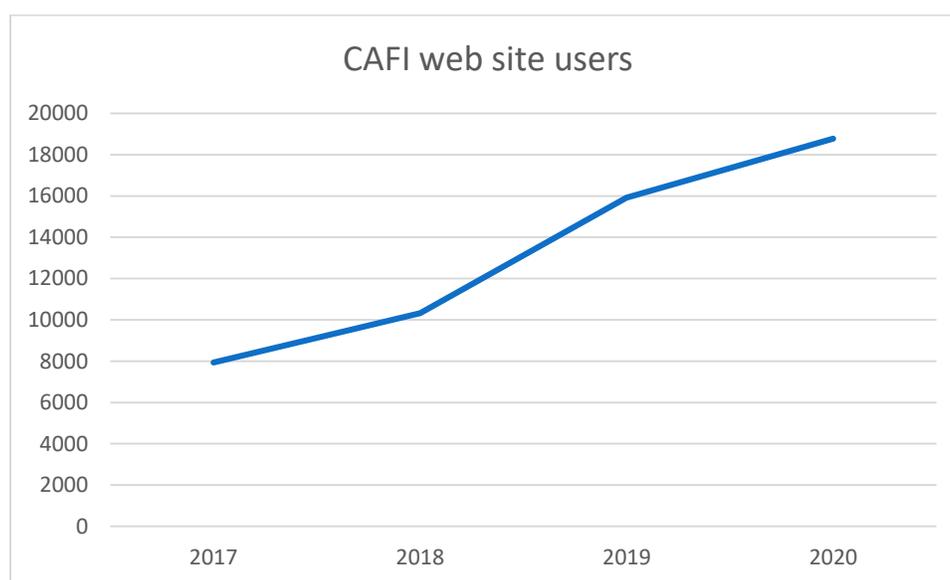
<sup>22</sup>2 <http://www.cafi.org>

<sup>23</sup>3 <https://twitter.com/CAFISecretariat>

<sup>24</sup>4 All numbers from Google analytics

Sessions	14,344	16,286	23,223	28,132
Page views	39,647	39,056	51,955	61,447
Average session duration	3.24 minutes	2.40 minutes	2.25 minutes	2.17 minutes
Pages visited / viewer	2.76	1.58	2.24	1.50
User per month	661	860	Lowest:1000 ; highest : 2800	Lowest : 1212 (April); highest ; 2213 (October)

Figure 2: www.cafi.org statistics



These numbers point to a steady 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. The top visited page, beside the home page, has been a page describing volumes of timber extraction in DRC, which is likely triggered by International NGO's interest and public campaigns on the matter.

In terms of visitors, the audience remains **balanced between donor and partner countries**. While the United States still ranks first (18%) among our visitors, the DRC remains in second position (16%), followed by France (9%), UK (4%) and Gabon (4%), followed by Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Cameroon and Finland. While the Republic of Congo has dropped from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> in the ranking, the Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea remain absent from the top 25 visitor countries. Language barriers and lack of active programmes in these two countries provide a partial explanation.

The CAFI Secretariat is developing a new website (to be launched in Q1 2021) to increase transparency, country and programme information and the CAFI portfolio as a whole.

## Twitter

Through weekly tweeting in both French and English, the account attracted **351 new followers to date in 2020, marking a slower trend than in the previous years, to a total number of 1373 by the end of 2020**. The absence of large events (such as the signature of Letter of Intents) to communicate upon could be an explanation for this slower increase. Tweet impressions have also sharply decreased, the reason why being investigated.

Data	2017 (April to Dec)	2018	2019	2020
Number of followers	285	588	1022	1373
Total tweet impressions	147,122	205,800	187,000	121,000

Figure 3 Twitter statistics

## Media engagement

The CAFI Secretariat provided background inputs to journalists<sup>25</sup>, upon request, on CAFI's activities with its partner countries, enhancing the overall narrative and accuracy of CAFI's actions and approach.

## Efforts to increase transparency

The CAFI Secretariat engaged in extensive discussions with Transparency International (TI) and the CAFI Executive Board ahead of the release of [the TI report](#) assessing CAFI's transparency and accountability procedures and practices. This allowed a finer understanding and contextualization of the TI report findings in the associated [press release](#) and modifications to operating procedures as mentioned above.

## Looking ahead

A consultant was recruited to support the development of key messaging and programme fact sheets and CAFI's communication work in 2021. A new website is under development (to be launched in Q1 2021) to increase transparency, country and programme information and the CAFI portfolio as a whole.

# Challenges and responses

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Some of the risks identified in the Risk Management Strategy were identified and recorded in the 2020 Risk dashboard approved by the EB at its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in November.

- The covid-2019 pandemic and related lockdowns affected staff capacity in the CAFI Secretariat as well as in partner countries.
- The lack of information on and/or progress in the implementation of a small number of projects funded by CAFI through FONAREDD and the insufficient follow-up by the FONAREDD Secretariat required intensive engagement from

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<sup>25</sup> Including with La Lettre verte (Gabon), Der Spiegel (Germany), le Monde (France), Mongabay (US/Global), Tamedia (Switzerland)

the CAFI Secretariat in the formulation and follow-up of decisions made by the Technical Committee (a task that was supposed to be delegated to the FONAREDD Secretariat)

- Programme management issues have continued in Gabon, although improvements were witnessed and catalyzed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year.

Finally, although CAFI's portfolio continues to grow, recruitment of additional CAFI Secretariat staff was not yet finalized in 2020. The fact that the Secretariat was understaffed prevented it from reaching its full potential and put high pressure on its staff members.

## Annex A: FONAREDD's Technical Committee meetings – Main discussions and results

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### 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee (CT 27)

- Discussion on PIREDD Oriental. Due to low performance by implementing agency, the Technical Committee requested UNDP to develop an action plan to accelerate implementation of programme activities, and FONAREDD to carry out monthly follow-up sessions.
- Discussion of PIREDD Maniema programme proposition by GIZ – updated programme document to be made available in April 2020.
- ENABEL's Programme proposition to expand programme activities across new territories as part of the PIREDD Mongala programme was validated (5 M USD addendum)
- Launch of preparations for new partnership between DRC and CAFI

### CT28

- Presentation of 2019 annual reports, with a special mention of programmes performing below expectations; Land-use planning programme, support to indigenous people's programme and the National Forest Monitoring System programme
- Discussion on 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche disbursements principles (note: related resolution not received)
- 2019 programming results (resolution unavailable).

### CT29

- Presentation of status report of ongoing programmes and financial needs for 2<sup>nd</sup> tranches
- CAFI presentation of main concerns of the Land-use planning programme and requested a follow up session in CT with the agency.

### CT30

- FONAREDD 2019 annual report validated
- Discussion of programmes performing below expectations, which will be reviewed by the Steering Committee. The Technical Committee mandated the SE FONAREDD to follow up closely with the lowest performing programmes; PIREDD Oriental, PIREDD Sud Ubangi and the support to indigenous peoples programme.
- Presentation by UNDP of the land-use planning programme (status, next steps, and challenges). The Technical Committee issued a resolution with further recommendations.
- Presentation of the Terms of reference to launch a PIREDD in Kasai Oriental and Lomami provinces (request for revised ToR by June 2020) and endorsement of the direct selection of ENABEL as executing agency.
- Discussion on regional drivers' study implemented by FAO

### CT31

- Presentation of status report of ongoing programmes and estimated financial needs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche (final revised versions of the notes and resolutions not received).

### CT32

- Review of submissions to the open expression of interest to take over PIREDD Sud Ubangi from the WB. The Technical Committee issued a resolution to select ENABEL as implementing agency.
- Technical Committee discussed the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche disbursement of 16M USD for the PIREDD Mai-Ndombe and its extension into the Plateaux district (final resolution not received)

#### **CT33**

- Validation of 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche (2 M USD) to the programme on support to tenure reform in two separate disbursement, the second depending on the results from an independent evaluation.

#### **CT34**

- Presentation of a road map on DRC's agriculture policy
- Discussion on mission reports for PIREDD Mai-Ndombe, Support to indigenous peoples programme
- Review of the Project document for PIREDD Maniema (GIZ)
- Discussion on terms of reference for independent evaluation of FONAREDD (resolution that validates TORs not received)

#### **CT35**

- Discussion of ENABEL's programme document for PIREDD Sud Ubangi. Validation was not possible due to a 15 M USD funding gap (initial budget of 3 M USD).
- Validation of programme document proposition from GIZ for PIREDD Maniema (30 M USD)

## Annex B - Financial report

### 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	2020 Expenses	TOTAL EXP
<b>1 - Staff Costs</b>	61200	GS staff	756,744.00	20,707.37	0.00	226,620.41	156,187.69	116,201.83	188,042.16	707,759.46
	61300	IP Staff	5,752,799.98	263,334.44	126,472.54	597,568.56	598,432.37	670,828.51	738,201.67	2,994,838.09
	71200	International consultants	1,356,183.76	0.00	18,655.95	635,133.60	64,982.35	80,279.82	44,380.17	843,431.89
	71600	Travel	0.00	0.00	10,673.76	0.00	4,147.41	0.00	0.00	14,821.17
	75105	F&A	383,524.86	0.00	10,906.16	101,816.60	57,662.49	60,710.43	67,943.68	299,039.36
<b>2 - GOE</b>	73100	Rental and Maintenance Premises	267,491.96	0.00	32,361.73	36,050.86	51,310.05	52,600.64	60,069.21	232,392.49
	72220	Furniture	7,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,253.35	0.00	3,616.37	5,869.72
	72425	Mobile Telephone Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,559.24	1,293.73	2,852.97
	72800	IT Equipment	32,500.00	0.00	769.49	1,249.77	4,411.42	1,947.79	331.46	8,709.93
	71600	Travel	374,000.00	26,036.96	19,977.39	105,391.82	77,046.54	94,034.14	3,808.53	326,295.38
	72100	Contractual Services-companies	31,700.00	4,674.35	12,145.00	35,990.14	9,754.85	1,967.60	34,790.91	99,322.85
	74200	Translations Costs	206,199.50	4,019.25	11,848.63	26,600.75	42,380.26	17,141.60	28,139.67	130,130.16
	74200	Printings & Publications	21,200.00	0.00	7,575.36	1,318.45	2,178.93	0.00	3,715.06	14,787.80
	74525	Miscellaneous	51,000.00	0.00	4,081.21	2,941.22	13,176.63	147.43	301.03	20,647.52
	75105	F&A	45,226.44	0.00	6,210.37	14,978.78	14,176.06	11,858.07	9,526.62	56,749.90
<b>3 - Executive Board</b>	75700	Workshops	194,000.00	5,803.44	3,279.31	45,718.60	46,351.40	60,978.25	22,647.53	184,778.53
	75105	F&A	10,220.00	0.00	229.66	3,202.88	3,244.11	4,268.73	1,586.61	12,531.99
<b>4 - Technical Reviews &amp; Evaluation</b>	71200	International consultants	580,000.00	6,225.00	0.00	7,379.06	28,500.14	281,771.64	719,289.76	1,043,165.60
	75105	F&A	29,400.00	0.00	0.00	516.53	1,995.02	19,724.02	50,359.19	72,594.76
<b>5 - DRC</b>	72100	Contractual Services-companies	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210,355.22	114,363.40	324,718.62
	75105	F&A	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,724.87	8,005.44	22,730.31
<b>6 - Congo LOI Support</b>	75700	Workshops	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45,420.74	21,758.43	67,179.17
	75105	F&A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,178.39	1,514.04	4,692.43
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>10,634,390.50</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>2,123,684.67</b>	<b>7,490,040.10</b>

