



CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREST INITIATIVE

MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January - 31 December 2024

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: CAFI Direct Cost Technical Secretariat Programme Number (<i>if applicable</i>) MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 127868 	<p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>Country/Region: Central Africa</i></p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNDP 	<p><i>Priority area/ strategic results: Sustainable Development (UNDP Strategic plan), Climate and Environment</i></p> <p>Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP, UNCDF, World Bank, AFD, UNOPS, FAO, TNC, IUCN, One Acre Fund, Farm Africa, UNESCO, ID, IFAD, &GREEN and DRC FONAREDD Trust Fund
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 38,056,041.80</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) 	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>) 60 months (5 years)</p> <p>Start Date⁵ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) 07.15.2021</p>

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](#)

Government Contribution (if applicable) Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable) TOTAL: 38,056,041.80	Original End Date ⁶ (dd.mm.yyyy) 31.12.2025 Current End date ⁷ (dd.mm.yyyy) 31.12.2026
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy	Report Submitted By <input type="checkbox"/> Name: Berta Pesti <input type="checkbox"/> Title: Head of CAFI Secretariat <input type="checkbox"/> Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP <input type="checkbox"/> Email address: berta.pesti@undp.org

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

⁷ As per [EB.2025.07 - Extension of CAFI Secretariat to 2026.pdf](#) 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 provides an update on the activities and progress made by the CAFI Secretariat in 2024 under the “MPTF Secretariat – Direct Cost” project, which started in 2021 and will run until 31 December 2026. This project builds on the work of the previous CAFI Secretariat project, which ran from 2015 to 2021.

This report highlights the Secretariat’s progress toward the overarching goals set out in its Terms of Reference, including:

- Supporting the programming cycle through a proactive and strategic approach to accelerate implementation.
- Supporting monitoring and evaluation.
- Supporting the Executive Board (EB) in taking informed decisions, organizing EB meetings, and other meetings.
- Representing CAFI at meetings, side-events, and regional fora.
- Supporting fundraising efforts with the MPTF-Office and the EB, and supporting the MPTF-Office in preparing and updating agreements between implementing agencies and CAFI.
- Ensuring communications and knowledge management.
- Delivering efficient and effective operational support processes.

The list of CAFI Secretariat team members is continuously updated here: [CAFI Secretariat | Central African Forest Initiative \(CAFI\)](#)

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Acronyms

AFD = French Development Agency
CAFI = Central African Forest Initiative
CBFP = Congo Basin Forest Partnership
COP 27 = 27th Conference of the Parties (to the UNFCCC)
CBFP = Congo Basin Forest Partnership
COMIFAC = Central African Forests Commission
CPIC = The Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation
CIFOR = Center for International Forestry Research
DRC = Democratic Republic of Congo
EB = Executive Board
EFI = European Forest Institute
ENABEL = Belgian Development Agency
EUR = euros
EoI = Expression of Interest
FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FONAREDD = National REDD+ Fund (of the DRC)
GEF = Global Environment Facility
GIBADER = Groupe Inter-Bailleurs pour l'Agriculture et le Développement Rural
GIBEC = Groupe Inter-Bailleurs pour l'Environnement et le Changement Climatique
GIZ = German Corporation for International Cooperation
GRET = Group for Research and Technology Exchanges
HACT = Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
ID = Initiative Développement (NGO)
(I)NGO = (International) Non-Governmental Organisation
IIED = International Institute for Environment and Development
IUCN = International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency
KFW = Germany's Investment and Development Bank
LOI = Letter of Intent
MPTF-O = Multi Partner Trust Fund Office
MRV = Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
M USD = million United States dollars
NICFI = Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative
PRODOC = Project Document
PSE = Payments for Environmental Services
REDD+ = Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SOP = Standard Operating Procedures
TNC = The Nature Conservancy
IUCN = International Union for the Conservation of Nature
UNCDF = United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP = United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UK = United Kingdom
WCS = Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF = World Wildlife Fund

1. Maintaining High-Level Engagement with Policy Dialogue

The CAFI Secretariat continued to support strategic dialogue between CAFI's partner countries and the Executive Board (EB), including their embassies in the region. In 2024, this dialogue was strengthened by the appointment of new experts and the facilitation of high-level meetings.

1.1 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In line with the monitoring commitments made by partners within the 2nd Letter of Intent (LoI), the CAFI Secretariat coordinated policy dialogue efforts, supported donors and contributed to the successful organization of several high-level meetings throughout 2024. These included the [2023 Annual Review of the CAFI-DRC Partnership, held in March 2024 and the subsequent successful publication of reports](#) on the achievement of milestones 2022 and 2023 in March 2024 as planned in its 2024 annual workplan⁸.

This high-level meeting, held in Kinshasa and attended by representatives of the signatory parties to the Letter of Intent, had several objectives: i) monitor progress made on political engagements ii) review progress on the milestones of the 2nd Letter of Intent and iii) take stock of the programming progress to secure CAFI funding commitments and issue recommendations to enhance FONAREDD's performance and catalyse the operationalization and implementation of priority projects. The Annual Review confirmed the strong progress made under the Letter of Intent signed in 2021. The review was chaired by the Minister of Finance, H.E. Nicolas Kazadi, and the Minister of State, in charge of Environment and Sustainable Development, H.E. Eve Bazaiba, with participation from ambassadors, UN Resident Coordinator, and civil society leaders. The CAFI Secretariat played a crucial role in facilitating this review by preparing briefing notes, managing logistics, and developing the agenda, among other support tasks.

⁸ A report on 2023-2024 milestones will be published prior to the Annual Review 2024 to be held in 2025.



2023 POLITICAL ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CAFI-DRC PARTNERSHIP IN KINSHASA, MARCH 2024

CAFI's contributions to the restructuring of FONAREDD, which was one its 2024 objectives, are still ongoing including the approval of the Support Project to FONAREDD Secretariat and Standard Operating Procedures for the FONAREDD and CAFI Secretariats.



TECHNICAL SEGMENT OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/KMISxCsOBOI?FEATURE=SHARED](https://youtu.be/kmISxCsOBOI?feature=shared)



POLITICAL SEGMENT OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/VYyUSVBeCms?FEATURE=SHARED](https://youtu.be/vYyUSVBeCms?feature=shared)

1.2 Republic of Congo

The CAFI Secretariat continued supporting the dialogue in the Republic of Congo in 2024, through the Permanent Secretariat of the Partnership between CAFI and the Republic of Congo, focusing on accelerating milestones under the 2019-2023 Letter of Intent (LoI). To date, the Republic of Congo has reached 6 out of 34 milestones related to land-use governance and forestry sector reforms.

The CAFI Secretariat also prepared the independent mid-term evaluation of the Partnership, decided at the 2023 Partnership Steering Committee, producing terms of reference incorporating contributions from the national side and donors. The recruitment process for the independent evaluators was launched in June 2024 and is expected to be completed in early 2025. Regarding the monitoring of milestones, the CAFI Secretariat organized a series of technical meetings with relevant ministries, CAFI's Executive Board members and the Permanent Secretariat, to assess progress against the 2019-2023 milestones and create joint understanding of the 2025 milestones. These meetings provided an opportunity to update the 2019-2023 milestones tracking sheets with the progress made since the 2022 Annual Review. The 2022 Annual Review report was published in February 2024. The next Annual Review, that will assess progress until end of 2024, is scheduled to take place in 2025.

In December 2024, the CAFI Secretariat, together with the Permanent Secretariat of the Partnership and the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations, organised a high-level round table on the implementation of the LoI. The event was attended by relevant Ministers involved in the partnership: CAFI donor countries, Congo-based Ambassadors, private sector representatives, implementing agencies (AFD, FAO, UNDP, Initiative Development and GIZ) and civil society partners.

1.3 Gabon

In Gabon, the CAFI Secretariat worked on strengthening the governance structures of projects funded under the Gabon- CAFI partnership (implemented by AFD, UNDP, TNC and UNESCO). As such, the CAFI Secretariat first held a workshop in Geneva in April of 2024 and supported meetings between national

implementing partners and implementing organisations listed above, as well as with civil society and private sector organisations involved in the governance of the projects.

The CAFI Secretariat was key to achieving the following partnership outcomes:

- Identification of Ministry focal points for new CAFI programme development (Human Elephant Conflict and Payments for Environmental Services) and created Ministry technical groups.
- Facilitation of discussions between Ministry counterparts and implementing organizations.
- Improved technical and scientific support to Gabon government counterparts.
- Development and implementation of a communication strategy to support climate, conservation, and CAFI projects in Gabon.

Due to the political change in August 2023 and subsequent reshuffling of ministerial positions, the closing of the LOI which was planned for 2024 did not take place and was postponed to 2025.

Finally, the CAFI Secretariat facilitated the participation of two Gabon representatives at the Yaoundé EB meeting.

1.4 Cameroon

The year 2024 marked a pivotal moment in the partnership between CAFI and the Government of Cameroon, with the official [signing of the Letter of Intent \(LoI\) 2025–2035, which took place on 7 October 2024 during the Sustainable Development Conference held in Hamburg.](#)

This Letter of Intent is the result of an in-depth consultation process conducted throughout 2024, bringing together various stakeholders, including the Government of Cameroon—represented by the CAFI focal point within the Ministry of Economy and Land use planning (MINEPAT)—the members of the CAFI Executive Board, and the CAFI Secretariat, which played a central coordinating role.

The CAFI Secretariat actively prepared this Letter of Intent through a series of key actions, including:

- The organisation of national consultations in Cameroon, involving sectoral ministries, decentralized administrations, civil society, and the private sector, was carried out as part of the consultations conducted during the development of the four project documents for the start-up phase. The data collected contributed to defining the priority milestones of the Letter of Intent.
- Support of the participation of the Government of Cameroon in the 24th CAFI Executive Board meeting, held in June 2024 in Oslo (Norway), to discuss the strategic orientations and content of the Letter of Intent.
- Two working sessions held at the CAFI Secretariat headquarters in Geneva, from 25 May to 2 June and from 15 to 21 September with the participation of a government delegation composed of representatives from MINEPAT and MINEPDED. These discussions enabled the finalisation of the Letter of Intent draft. They also served as a platform to reflect on the resource mobilization strategy, the methodology for developing the National Climate Plan and the revision of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), in order to strengthen Cameroon's engagement in implementing its international climate commitments.

- Supporting the organization of the official signing ceremony of the Letter of Intent, held on October 7 in Hamburg, attended by:

- Mr. Alamine OUSMANE MEY, Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development of Cameroon.
- Ms. Anneliese Dodds, from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
- Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany—both representing the CAFI Executive Board.

The 2025–2035 Letter of Intent establishes a structuring partnership between CAFI and the Republic of Cameroon, with the ambition of mobilizing USD 2.5 billion over a ten-year period to support Cameroon's transition to a green economy, promote deforestation-free agriculture, and advance the country's sustainable development efforts.

1.5 Equatorial Guinea

No significant progress was achieved in terms of policy dialogue between the Government and the CAFI Executive Board, which is expected to resume in 2025.

1.6 Central African Republic

In 2024, the Central African Republic (CAR) and CAFI moved into the investment phase of their partnership.

A high-level meeting, prepared and facilitated by the CAFI Secretariat, was held on 5 February with HEM the Prime Minister Félix MOLOUA and key government officials, including the Minister of Economy, Planning, and International Cooperation, Sylvain MALIKO, and Minister of Environment Thierry KAMACH. During this meeting, the Government and CAFI reaffirmed their joint commitment to preserve the country's forest and biodiversity and improve the living conditions of its 6.1 million inhabitants. This marked the beginning of the partnership's investment phase with CAFI's Executive Board allocation of USD 10 million for an integrated pilot project in Bangui, focused on sustainable development and deforestation-free agriculture.

[A Call for Expressions of Interest \(Eoi\) was launched by the CAFI Secretariat](#) in October and November to select the implementing organisation which will develop and implement this integrated pilot project.

The CAFI Secretariat also supported [the High-Level Dialogue on Afforestation, Biodiversity and Climate Finance, chaired by H.E.M. the President of the Central African Republic on 14 October 2024 in Bangui](#), and attended by three high-level CAFI donors' representatives and the UNDP Resident Representative. With CAFI Secretariat support, the CAFI's Executive Board took an active part in the event through a remote intervention by the representative of the Presidency of CAFI Executive Board (UK) and a speech delivered by the Norway Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, present in Bangui, and representing CAFI EB members.

During this event, the Government shared its priorities for a partnership agreement with CAFI, i.e.:

- Integrated and inclusive land-use planning, and greater security of land tenure.
- Adoption of good environmental and social practices.

- Development of zero deforestation-sustainable agriculture.

H.E.M. President notably instructed the three designated focal points of the Partnership – the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, the Minister for Finances and Budget and the Minister for Forestry – to pursue the dialogue with the CAFI Secretariat to deepen the Partnership.

Finally, the CAFI Secretariat facilitated the participation of CAR representatives at the Yaoundé EB meeting.

2. Project Development and Oversight

The CAFI Secretariat supports the CAFI Executive Board in the development and approval processes of projects as well as their oversight. Projects results are described in their 2024 project reports, published on the CAFI Data Information system, and in the consolidated Trust Fund report. As such, the report you have in hand focused on the CAFI Secretariat’s role in project development and monitoring.

Addressing programming bottlenecks

The CAFI Secretariat continues to analyse programmatic bottlenecks and identify solutions. Over the years, the CAFI Secretariat identified several recurring programmatic challenges that hinder the effective implementation of projects. These included

- i) prolonged project inception phases
- ii) contextual risks that have materialized (pandemic, Gabon political change in 2023 that has led to political refocus in 2024)
- iii) complex institutional frameworks
- iv) continuous constraints related to implementation capacity (recruitment, partnership management)
- v) change of focus by implementing organizations, impacting 4 projects in 2024.

These challenges lead to discrepancies between achievements and agreed upon targets. Target revisions required adjustments in resource allocation and output structures, numerous project extensions (26 no-cost extensions and 5 at-cost cumulatively, with 10 no-cost extensions and 5 at-cost extensions for 2024 alone), and two projects had to be closed before completion (albeit none in 2024).

To address these issues, the CAFI Secretariat continued to look for and implement innovative solutions at the request of the Executive Board. In the past, these have included the establishment of joint monitoring committees with implementing organizations, the development and oversight of acceleration plans, and, in 2024, the identification of alternative funding sources through UNOPS technical assistance.

Towards performance- based programming

One additional solution to improve performance is preparation for the deployment of payments for environmental services (PES). As part of its ongoing programming efforts to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of PES and, as planned in its 2024 annual workplan, the CAFI Secretariat finalized an overall implementation framework and “toolbox” for PES. Building on its global as well region-specific experience with PES, the CAFI Secretariat developed a PES framework aiming to standardize all key elements of PES programming, for their deployment at scale and efficient management across CAFI countries, with potential application beyond the region (South-South cooperation).

This PES framework is structured around the various strategic pillars necessary for ambitious regional and national PES deployment: political & financial lobbying, standardisation, planning & management tools, applied research, etc. The standardisation process includes:

- i) finalising the list of eligible PES activities
- ii) reporting requirements and associated methodologies
- iii) creating an initial set of templates and
- iv) establishing guidelines for their contextualization in each CAFI country.

In 2024, the CAFI Secretariat also developed prototypes of innovative tools with partner countries to support the preparation, deployment and management of the PES programme in the most efficient way possible:

1. **A PES planning tool**, using modelling techniques to support CAFI and its partners, for each CAFI country and the whole region, assess:
 - a. The potential for deployment of the various PES activities (agroforestry, regeneration, conservation, etc.).
 - b. The magnitude of PES deployment (surface areas, budget) necessary to satisfy the essential needs associated with the main drivers of deforestation (staple food, charcoal, timber) in a sustainable manner.
 - c. Expected benefits: forest carbon, additional revenues, number of direct beneficiaries, contribution to food security and job creation, etc.
 - d. The impact of various PES parameters on costs and expected results: various combinations of PES activities, associated payment terms, etc.

This tool will help define the most cost-effective way of deploying the PES initiatives, taking into account carbon and socio-economic objectives. Actual data and studies during implementation will contribute to refining the assumptions and enhance the model iteratively.

2. **A PES management tool**: a state-of-the-art digital platform designed to manage and track the effective implementation of PES in a transparent and performance-based manner. By providing a digital platform to manage the entire PES lifecycle — from registration and contracting of participants to monitoring and reporting on environmental services delivered — the tool streamlines the administration of PES schemes from the field to the national and global level. This leads to better resource allocation, more effective monitoring of results, and greater accountability among participants. Furthermore, the tool facilitates real-time access to data and analytics, allowing for timely decision-making and adjustments to PES strategies as needed. This is expected to increase the overall impact of CAFI's investments, ensuring that funds are deployed efficiently and that results are measurable and verifiable.

Box 1: The PES Management tool

The PES tool consists of five overarching modules accessible to different users depending on their role:

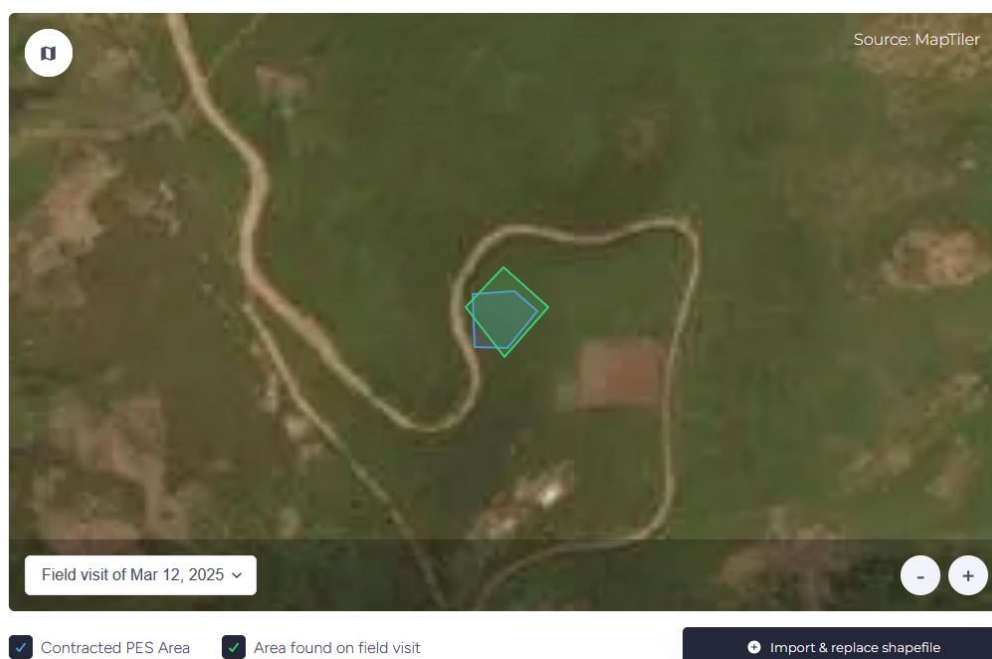
1. **Administration Module**: The administration module enables the central management of users, roles, permissions, and workflows within the PES tool. It provides administrators with full control over the configuration of the platform, ensuring that only authorized users can access sensitive information and perform key functions. This module also supports the customization of the platform to meet the specific needs of different PES projects.

2. **Admission Module:** The admission module is responsible for registering participants in the PES scheme, including farmers, community groups, and other stakeholders. It handles the validation and verification of eligibility criteria, ensuring that only qualified participants can benefit from the scheme. This module also manages the documentation and approval process for new participants, providing transparency and accountability.
3. **Monitoring Module:** The monitoring module tracks the delivery of environmental services, such as agroforestry, reforestation or conservation, by participants in the PES program. This module shall integrate with remote sensing technologies (upcoming), geospatial data, and field reports to provide real-time updates on the status of these services. The ability to monitor progress in real-time helps ensure that PES participants are meeting their commitments and allows for timely interventions if issues arise.
4. **Reporting Module (upcoming):** The reporting module generates detailed reports on the performance of the PES program, including financial summaries, environmental outcomes, and compliance with program requirements. These reports can be customized to meet the needs of different stakeholders, including CAFI, partner governments, and donor organizations. This module plays a crucial role in maintaining transparency and demonstrating the impact of CAFI's investments to external stakeholders.
5. **Map Viewer Module:** The map viewer module provides a geospatial visualization of the areas covered by the PES scheme. It allows users to view the areas allowed for each type of PES activity, areas under each type of PES contract, as well as land use cover and key zoning data. Together with the reporting module, the map viewer is also a crucial element of transparency and accountability and will feed CAFI website.

Together, these modules form a comprehensive system for managing CAFI's PES programs, improving the overall effectiveness of the initiative by ensuring that resources are used efficiently, results are clearly documented, and participants are held accountable for their contributions to environmental preservation.

By enabling reliable monitoring in a reasonable time frame, the tool will help to scale the success factor of PES, the conditionality of payments and thus the effective protection and restoration of forests.

Screenshots of various components of CAFI PES Management tool:



MAPPING OF THE PES CONTRACT (ACTUAL RESULTS VERSUS APPLICATION)



EXAMPLE OF GEOTAGGED PHOTO ENABLING TO RELIABLY DOCUMENT ACTUAL RESULTS ON THE GROUND AND INFORM PAYMENT DECISIONS

To deploy these prototypes, in 2024, CAFI launched two strategic Calls for Proposals:

The first [request for proposals](#) (RFP), published on 29 November 2024, sought service providers to host and maintain the PES Management Tool, enabling its deployment and ensuring its smooth operation and data integrity. This is key for the demonstration of the PES at COP 30 in Belem in November 2025.

The [second Request for Proposals](#), launched in collaboration with UNOPS, focuses on implementing and testing a cash transfer system for PES to add functionality to the PES management tool. This initiative includes regional and national components in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, and Gabon, aiming to demonstrate and refine mobile payment systems for PES, which will help guarantee secure and transparent financial support to communities engaged in sustainable land-use practices.

2.1 Democratic Republic of Congo

Monitoring the portfolio of ongoing projects

First, as highlighted in its 2024 annual workplan, the CAFI Secretariat supported the development of the CAFI-funded FONAREDD portfolio in:

- Providing quality assurance for evaluations organized by FONAREDD to accelerate project development.
- Supporting CAFI-EB decision making process in preparing technical analysis and position notes for the members of its Executive Board
- Actively monitoring the 20 projects active in 2024, through

- 6 meetings of the FONAREDD's Program Review Committee - CRP (16 projects were reviewed by the CRP, 9 related to the approval of new projects and 7 related to the monitoring of projects implementation)
- 1 regular meeting of FONAREDD political steering committee (held on 27 November 2024)
- 3 "restricted" (transition period after the 2023 elections) political steering committees
- 4 technical steering committee meetings

Second, the CAFI Secretariat contributed to the overall quality assurance and oversight of the CAFI-funded FONAREDD portfolio by supporting the CAFI Executive Board's participation in project steering committees, reviewing projects semi/annual reports and supporting and following up on project implementation. The CAFI Secretariat organized 12 Working Group meetings in 2024.

Third, the CAFI Secretariat supported the implementation of performance-based programming to improve investment efficiency and impact in:

- o Supporting FONAREDD thinking on PES deployment in DRC, as well as related communication with national stakeholders.
- o Supporting the operationalization of performance-based programming (including, amongst others: technical assistance to implementing organisations on performance-based disbursements, support for the development of methodologies, support for planning and implementation of independent verification processes, etc.).
- o Mainstreaming of performance-based programming in FONAREDD's programming guidelines.

Finally, the CAFI Secretariat contributed substantially to analysis and quality control during the project development, by providing technical advice to FONAREDD to improve evaluation and decision-making processes, in close collaboration with the representatives of Norway and the United Kingdom (CAFI Chair) in the DRC.

Tracking the portfolio

With the contribution of the CAFI Secretariat in the various programmatic monitoring work, the FONAREDD Secretariat transferred a total of \$ 55,400,000 USD in 2024 to implementing organizations.

Period	Project Id	Project title	Organization	Disbursements to agencies in M USD
Oct-2024	140884	PIREDD Kasai Oriental & Lomami	Enabel	10
	113546	Energy addendum	UNDP	3
	140811	PDL/sustainable Agriculture	UNDP	15
	105042	DRC National Fund: Direct Cost	UNDP	0,3
Sept-2024	117600	PIREDD Equateur	FAO	3
May-2024	126783	PIREDD Maniema	GIZ	10
	140679	PIREDD Plateau	UNOPS	5,5
March 2024	140631	Land tenure reform II (PARF II)	UNHABITAT	3,1
Feb-2024	113546	Energy	UNDP	1,1
Janv-2024	113547	PIREDD Kwilu	JICA	3
	105282	Land use planning reform (PARAT)	UNDP	1,4
TOTAL				55,4

New projects approved in 2024

On 27 November 2024, the Steering Committee of the DRC National REDD+ Fund (FONAREDD) with new government authorities approved five new projects and two project extensions, bringing the total number of CAFI-funded projects through FONAREDD to 29, with 20 active projects.

The programming pace was achieved in December 2024 with the approval of 60,000,000 USD including 9,200,000 USD of direct Swedish contribution to PIREDD Equateur.

ID	Project title	Organization	Approved budget	1st tranche to be disbursed	Disbursements to Agencies
113546	Energy Addendum	UNDP	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000
TBD	Construction of two CDR (part of PROMIS 2)	UNOPS	3 000 000	1500000	Scheduled in 2025
TBD	Support Civil society-phase 2	CIFOR	5 500 000	3 000 000	Scheduled in 2025
TBD	Zero" deforestation small-scale farming in Central Kongo	OAF	30 000 000	15000000	Scheduled in 2025
TBD	Readiness grants to national entities	UNDP	2 000 000	2 000 000	Scheduled in 2025
TBD	Support reaching milestones LOI 2	PNUD	8 000 000	4000000	Scheduled in 2025
117600	PIREDD Equateur Addendum 2/ Sweden	FAO	9 200 000	3 000 000	Scheduled in 2025
<i>Total</i>			<i>60 700 000</i>	<i>31 500 000</i>	<i>3 000 000</i>
<i>Total CAFI without Sweden</i>			<i>51 500 000</i>	<i>28 500 000</i>	<i>3 000 000</i>

NEW PROJECTS APPROVED IN DRC IN 2024

To inform the participation of the CAFI Executive Board in this decision-making process, the CAFI Secretariat prepared documentation, organized and facilitated 12 calls (monthly) of the [CAFI DRC Working Group](#).

2.2 Republic of Congo

In the Republic of Congo, the CAFI Secretariat provides oversight to six projects - \$46,500,000 USD from the CAFI Fund and 30,000,000 EUR in contributions from the European Union and the Agence française de développement (AFD).

New private sector project: the CAFI Secretariat supported the launch of a private sector support project through UNICONGO in December 2024. This two-year project, with a budget of 800,000 USD, is being implemented by UNOPS as part of the regional technical assistance facility.

In 2024, as planned in its annual work plan, the CAFI Secretariat:

- Monitored the execution of active projects, by participating in 6 Steering Committees (COPII) and 4 technical monitoring committees during which the projects' 2023 annual reports and 2024 budgeted work plans were approved.
- Organized 2 Working Group meetings.

- Supported the 6-month non-cost extension of the SYNA-MNV project, whose goal is to operationalise the Republic of Congo's National Measurement, Reporting and Verification System.
- Supported the contractualization for the independent verification of the PROREP Wood Energy project.
- Supported, under the partnership coordination support project, the mandated independent observation of logging, the involvement of civil society in monitoring the Letter of Intent and the replanting activities of the PROREP agroforestry plantations.
- Supported the EITI Permanent Secretariat in the Republic of Congo in raising awareness of the EITI among stakeholders and disseminating the 2021 and 2022 EITI reports in the framework of the regional technical assistance facility project implemented by UNOPS.
- Supported and facilitated capacity building for climate and carbon negotiators in the Republic of Congo and the Congo Basin Climate Commission.

The revamping of the Coordination project including the drafting of modalities for a new governance support system has been postponed to 2025.

2.3 Gabon

In Gabon, the 8 CAFI-funded active projects continued in 2024. As planned in its 2024 annual work plan, the CAFI Secretariat contributed to:

- Creating a harmonized CAFI projects governance structure.
- Rebranding/Relaunching of the CAFI- Gabon partnership.
- Revising workplans and budgets completed for all active CAFI projects.
- Organizing 1 Working Group meeting.
- Creating a Science Advisory Committee to support the Permanent Secretary of the National Climate Council (*CNC in French*) and other decision-makers with the production and validation of documents required for UNFCCC compliance and access to results-based payments through ART TREES.
- Submission of the Gabon Technical Registration and Reporting Documents to ART TREES.
- Creation of a coordination group for Implementing Organizations to improve oversight and synergy development of overlapping projects.
- Revising and completing the CNC Coordination and Climate Governance Programme Document.
- Completion of a Gabon concept note defining new program priorities, totalling \$15,000,000 USD and its validation by the Minister of Environment, Minister of Forest, CNC, and the General Secretary of the Presidency.

The CAFI Secretariat completed a six-week mission to Gabon from 27 August to 07 October 2024 during which technical retreats and working groups were conducted with partners.

Technical groups and IO's re-oriented programmes and budgets according to priorities of the new administration and prepared for programme Steering Committee meetings (COPIs) and an IO coordination group was created to improve program cross program synergies and efficiency. Steering Committee (COPI) meetings for all programs were subsequently conducted for all but 3 UNDP implemented projects in 2024.

The CAFI Secretariat also supported new project development.

- a. **Concept note development:** The CAFI Secretariat provided support for the Government to develop a concept note defining two high priority projects for Gabon, which was approved by the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests, CNC and the Presidency, with the non-objection of the EB (decision here: [EB.2024.37- Gabon Elephant Fencing_2.pdf](#)). The concept note includes mobile fencing and a pilot insurance and piloting of a conservation Payment for Environmental Services project for Gabon.
- b. **Selection of the Implementing Agency** by the Government (RBP project).
- c. **Project document formulation:** the CAFI Secretariat actively and rapidly supported the completion of a full project document that defines an integrated \$10,000,000 USD project to mitigate human-elephant conflicts. This represented a rapid and effective response to an urgent call from the Gabonese Prime Minister to the international community on 12 December to ask for support on this priority issue, without which the Government would have to start mass culling.
- d. **CAFI Internal Compliance Review:** The CAFI Secretariat conducted internal compliance reviews covering technical and financial aspects. This stage also included a review of the gender and safeguards action plan, as well as the results framework and monitoring and evaluation plan.
- e. **Independent Evaluation:** An independent expert recruited by the CAFI Secretariat conducted the evaluations on 20 December 2024. The synthesis report was submitted for validation to the CAFI Political Dialogue Lead and the Head of the Secretariat.

The \$10,000,000 USD project to mitigate human-elephant conflicts demonstrated the CAFI's rapid and effective response to the urgent call from the Gabonese Prime Minister to the international community on 12 December to ask for support on this priority issue.

2.4 Cameroon

In 2024, CAFI and the Government of Cameroon took a major step forward in their partnership with the approval of two large-scale projects, worth respectively \$ 22,400,000 USD and \$13,600,000USD .

CAFI followed standard operational procedures to develop and support the review and validation processes of both project documents, with the following steps coordinated by the CAFI Secretariat:

- f. **Selection of the Implementing Agency:** GIZ and IFAD were selected through CAFI Board Decisions [EB.2023.17](#) and [EB.2024.16](#), which invited the agencies to submit a project document, without guaranteeing funding.
- g. **Project kick-off meeting:** The project document formulation process began with kick-off meetings on 11 October 2023 and 25 October 2023, attended respectively by IFAD and GIZ as implementing organizations, the Government (represented by MINEPAT), and the CAFI Secretariat. This meeting marked the start of expertise mobilization, studies, and consultations, validated by the CAFI focal team and Secretariat. The meeting minutes and roadmap signed by all parties are available here ([link](#) and [link](#)).
- h. **Preparatory Grant:** A preparatory grant submitted by IFAD was approved by the CAFI Secretariat to support project development. Initially planned for 12 months (December 2023–December 2024), IFAD requested a no-cost extension until December 2025, which was approved by the CAFI Board on 17 October 2024, through Decision [EB.2024.35](#). GIZ did not request a preparatory grant.
- i. **Project Document Development:** The project documents were developed jointly with MINEPAT, through consultations with national stakeholders (sectoral ministries, FODECC, decentralized administrations, and the private sector).

- j. **National Validation and Submission to CAFI:** The project documents were validated at the national level by the Minister of MINEPAT and submitted to CAFI on 11 October 4 and 24 October 2024 respectively, by an official transmission letter.
- k. **CAFI Internal Compliance Review:** The CAFI Secretariat conducted internal compliance reviews covering technical and financial aspects. This stage also included a review of the gender and safeguards action plan, as well as the results framework and monitoring and evaluation plan.
- l. **Independent Evaluation:** An independent expert recruited by the CAFI Secretariat conducted the evaluations. The synthesis report was submitted for validation to the CAFI Political Dialogue Lead and the Head of the Secretariat.
- m. **CAFI Board Review:** Following the review, the PRODOCs were submitted to CAFI Board members for non-objection approval, along with the independent evaluation summaries. The Board approved the IFAD PRODOC through an official decision (available via this [link](#)) while the GIZ PRODOC was approved, subject to the integration of recommendations from the compliance review and independent evaluation and is currently being finalized.
- n. **Publication of the Board Decision on the website:** Signature of the PRODOC by MINEPAT, CAFI, and IFAD: The PRODOC was then signed by the three parties (Government, CAFI, and IFAD). The signed document is available [here](#).
- o. **Submission of Signed PRODOC for Fund Disbursement:** First tranche funds were disbursed to IFAD on 28 November 2024.

[Support to the Fund for the Development of Cocoa and Coffee Sectors \(FODECC\)- with IFAD- \\$22.4 million](#)

The project aims to provide technical and financial support to FODECC, a national public institution in Cameroon, to strengthen its institutional and operational capacities.

The objective is to enable FODECC to fully assume its role as the main grant mechanism benefiting cocoa and coffee producers across all production regions in the country while increasing the income of small-scale farmers, improving agro-ecological practices, and contributing to forest protection. It will be implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) over a three-year period.

Additionally, the project aims to consolidate and diversify the operations of FODECC's producer financing window by supporting its expansion into other priority agricultural value chains and encouraging producers to engage in a nationwide agroecological transition. The project is divided into 2 sequences:

- ✓ \$499,315.50 USD preparatory grant to IFAD to support the development of a pilot project on sustainable agricultural intensification and agroecological transition.
- ✓ \$22,412,743 USD committed by CAFI to support FODECC over a three-year period.

This project represents a major advancement in the CAFI–Cameroon partnership, highlighting the potential of private investment in deforestation-free agriculture. It will also serve as a foundation for scaling similar projects, with the ambition of supporting 2.7 million farming households in transitioning to sustainable practices.

Support to Cameroon's governance structure- with GIZ: \$ 13.6 million USD

This project supports Cameroon's governance structure and the consolidation of the partnership agreement between Cameroon and CAFI. It focuses on enhancing intersectoral and multi-level coordination with Cameroon's forest and climate policy and promoting a green economy. The project is

aligned with the country's National Development Strategy 2030 (SND30) and contributes to the priority milestones of the Letter of Intent, signed in October 2024.

The project aims to build the capacities of MINEPAT, sectoral ministries, and decentralized local governments. It also supports key reforms and flagship plans identified in the SND30 and promotes the integration of climate issues into sectoral policy reviews.

Additionally, the CAFI Secretariat organized 3 Working Group meetings on Cameroon in 2024.

2.5 Equatorial Guinea

The CAFI Secretariat facilitated the following processes regarding feasibility studies:

AFD grant

The Executive Board adopted on 2 April 2024 a decision (EB.2024.08) approving the US\$ 600,000 USD grant to AFD and conditioning fund disbursement to a series of requests in line with the EB decision of June 2022. On 12 September 2024, AFD submitted a revised draft of the concept, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment, in charge of the Forestry and Environment Sector, to include recommendations from the Executive Board. All conditions of funding outlined in the EB decision have been met, with the exception of pre-selection of the 3 zones. AFD holds this selection process should be completed once a full time Technical Assistant is in Equatorial Guinea.

In the absence of any direct transfer of funds from AFD to another partner or beneficiary, it has been determined that a formal grant agreement with Equatorial Guinea is not necessary. AFD has thus requested that the signed document be considered an MoU between AFD and the Government.

Land use planning support (FAO)

The Executive Board decision of June 2022 asked FAO to present a proposal on land use planning, based on their project titled "Support of the Formulation of Equatorial Guinea Land use plan (*Apoyo a la formulación del Plan de Ordenación Territorial de Guinea Ecuatorial*)". The \$ 1,000,000 USD FAO proposal was received on 22 April 2024 and an independent review was organized by the CAFI Secretariat and completed in August 2024. FAO is in the process of responding to reviewer recommendations.

2.6 Central African Republic

The CAFI Secretariat monitored progress made under the preparatory grant of \$ 600,000 USD allocated to UNDP, which was approved in February 2024, in particular through one mission in Bangui in October. The grant enabled the continued efforts of the partnership between the Government and CAFI for the integration of the measures identified in the REDD+ National Investment Framework on the National Development Plan 2024-2028.

In close consultation with national counterparts, the CAFI Secretariat drafted the Terms of Reference and launched a Call for Expressions of Interest (open from October to the end of November 2024) to select the implementing organization that will develop and implement a pilot project of investment, pre-identified in REDD+ National Investment Framework (NIF).

This project will be implemented in Bangui and its surrounding area, for a maximum amount of \$10,000,000 USD and 5 years for the implantation phase. The project will have to respond to a holistic approach along three axes, namely:

- i) Institutional reinforcement of stakeholders
- ii) Land use planning
- iii) Implementation of development plans and REDD+ measures, with emphasis on the deployment of a Payment for Environmental Services (PES) mechanism

The CAFI Secretariat organized an information session about the call for Expression of Interest, that was made publicly available (see Youtube recording below). After the submission deadline, the Secretariat evaluated submissions and shared its evaluation report with CAFI Executive Board mid-December. The decision on the selection of the implementation organization is expected in early 2025.



VIDEO RECORDING OF THE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE CALL FOR EOI IN CAR

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/TBHh_EWAOKI?FEATURE=SHARED](https://youtu.be/TBHh_EWAOKI?feature=shared)

Additionally, the CAFI Secretariat organized its first CAR Working Group meeting in 2024.

2.7 Regional

Communications for social and behavioral change

At the Executive Board request, the CAFI Secretariat launched in May 2024 [a Call for Expression of interest](#) to select an implementing organization to develop and implement a project of communication for social change and behaviors linked to improved cookstoves. A review was organized to select an implementing organization, and the process is expected to be completed in Q1 2025.

Support for Innovative Finance solutions

CAFI expanded its engagement with the private sector through the launch of a [Call for Expressions of Interest \(Eoi\)](#), opened on 4 July and closed on 12 August, aiming to identify potential implementing

partners capable of offering blended finance and innovative solutions for both the private sector and social enterprises.

This call was designed to identify capital acceleration providers and foster new partnerships that will contribute to CAFI's goals, providing funding to private sector stakeholders to orient their investments and expertise towards sustainable development in Central Africa. The assessment of the 6 received submissions concluded in the CAFI Secretariat recommendation to select Catalytic Finance. This recommendation was adopted by Board decision EB.2024.32

Private sector Investment Facility

CAFI had launched the Private Sector Investment Facility at the end of 2023, with an initial value of \$100,000,000 USD. The facility is part of CAFI's strategy to mobilize private capital for environmental and social goals.

CAFI's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has enabled the organization to experiment with innovative finance, particularly through multi-sectoral projects that have provided insights into how to best support sustainable development in the region. These projects have paved the way for the integration of the private sector into CAFI's operations, which is now seen as critical for enhancing accountability, efficiency, and the impact of the fund.

The response to the 2023 Call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) already generated a significant pipeline of projects, demonstrating strong interest from a variety of private sector entities. CAFI seeks to engage with for-profit investments, de-risking through blended finance, grants, and other financing mechanisms, including loans and innovative financial instruments. Potential partners may include development finance institutions (DFIs) or public intermediaries, and CAFI also encourages the use of blended finance to increase the efficiency of donor resources.

A key feature of the new Call for Eoi is the potential expansion of results-based payments, such as Payments for Environmental Services (PES), to incentivize private sector participation in sustainable development projects.

UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility

Private Sector- Following EB decision 2024.01, the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility is currently supporting FAJA LOBI and SOBICO in carrying out their feasibility studies in accordance with the requirements and procedures of the UNOPS Regional Technical Assistance Facility project approved by the EB in Decision EB.2024.01. INTERHOLCO, ARISE, Mushiete & Co, GoCongo and Criterion Africa Partners (CAP) completed their feasibility studies in 2024.

Research and Data: In June 2024, CAFI announced its support for the creation of a Scientific Network/Platform with a \$6,500,000 USD investment. This initiative will provide financial support for scientific research to better inform policy decisions, with a focus on preserving biodiversity and combating climate change in the Congo Basin. By promoting collaborative efforts among various stakeholders, CAFI aims to address scientific gaps and support informed decision-making processes related to forest conservation and sustainable development in Central Africa.

Following this announcement, the CAFI Secretariat launched the Science & Innovation Programme by issuing, through the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility, a Call for Proposals in November 2024. This initiative seeks implementing partners capable of executing impactful scientific projects focused on sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and poverty reduction in the Congo Basin.

The CAFI Secretariat oversaw the selection and funding of these projects to ensure they align with its strategic objectives.

Global South-South platform

In 2024 the CAFI Secretariat developed the initial concept note for the "Global South Platform on Financial & Digital Instruments for Tropical Forests," which was presented to the Executive Board in March. Following this, the Secretariat facilitated the approval of a prep grant for a South-South Cooperation Project on Payment for Environmental Services which was approved in June 2024. The platform will build on existing international commitments and involves CAFI partner countries alongside Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Indonesia. UNDP will serve as the platform's host and convener, while CAFI will provide financial support for its launch.

Monitoring regional projects

As forecasted in its 2024 annual work plan, the CAFI Secretariat participated in regional project steering committees to monitor changes in the targets or budget outputs, and provide recommendations and monitor results achievement of its regional portfolio including FAO Study on trends and drivers, the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility and the WCS preparatory grant.

3. Improved Support Operations for Optimized Results

3.1 Secretariat Recruitments: Increasing Secretariat Capacity

In 2024, the CAFI Secretariat continued its recruitment efforts in order to strengthen its ability to deliver the strategic and tactical results for the Trust Fund.

The Secretariat reached a rate of 79% of the approved positions being recruited, with on-going recruitments in place targeting field-positions in Gabon, Cameroon and DRC expected to be completed in early-2025.

3.2 Access to the CAFI Fund: Diversifying Our Pool of Expertise

In 2024, the CAFI Secretariat continued to diversify its expertise, enhancing technical capacity and fostering local expertise within the Secretariat and among implementing agencies. The CAFI Secretariat supported several prospective implementing partners in line with CAFI's Terms of Reference, to allow access to funding to international non-governmental organizations (including but not limited to INGOs, international cooperation agencies - ICA, international organizations).

The CAFI Secretariat continued its work for both accreditation and re-accreditation in compliance with MPTFO's NUNO Policy and in application of CAFI's Procedure on Accreditation and Quality Assurance. In 2024, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and the Catalytic Foundation, joined CAFI's group of implementing partners.

The list below presents all implementing organizations that receive CAFI funding, including through the FONAREDD.

Implementing Organizations	NUNO/PUNO ⁹	Type of NUNO	Implementing Projects in 2024?
AFD	NUNO	ICA	Yes
ENABEL	NUNO	ICA	Yes
GIZ	NUNO	ICA	Yes
JICA	NUNO	ICA	Yes
Farm Africa	NUNO	INGO	Yes
IUCN	NUNO	INGO	Yes
One Acre Fund	NUNO	INGO	Yes
The Nature Conservancy	NUNO	INGO	Yes
Initiative Développement	NUNO	INGO	Yes
&GREEN	NUNO	INGO	Yes
GRET	NUNO	INGO	No
CIFOR	NUNO	INGO	No
PROFOREST	NUNO	INGO	No
WCS	NUNO	INGO	No
CFC	NUNO	International Org.	No
IDH	NUNO	INGO	No
Catalytic Foundation	NUNO	INGO	No
IFAD	PUNO	-	Yes
WB	PUNO	-	Yes
UNFPA	PUNO	-	Yes
UN-Habitat	PUNO	-	Yes
UNOPS	PUNO	-	Yes
FAO	PUNO	-	Yes
UNCDF	PUNO	-	Yes
UNDP	PUNO	-	Yes
UNESCO	PUNO	-	Yes

The list below displays the volume of funding approved across these several implementing organizations cumulatively until December 2024. The top three Organizations mobilizing resources with the Trust Fund are UNDP¹⁰, AFD and UNOPS.

IO	CAFI TF	FONAREDD TF	TOTAL APPROVED	%
UNDP	68,603,019	116,320,849	184,923,868	28%
World Bank	2,240,000	39,000,000	41,240,000	6%
UNHABITAT	-	21,999,490	21,999,490	3%
UNCDF	1,893,656	6,957,050	8,850,706	1%
JICA	-	8,999,601	8,999,601	1%
UNFPA	10,617,524	-	10,617,524	2%
UNOPS	26,570,000	32,272,514	58,842,514	9%
Enabel	-	47,000,000	47,000,000	7%
FAO	12,843,673	29,000,003	41,843,676	6%

⁹ PUNO : Participant UN Organizations. NUNO : Non-UN Organizations.

¹⁰ UNDP received funds both as project Implementing Agency as well as funds for the administration of CAFI and FONAREDD Secretariats.

AFD	54,728,689	26,999,378	81,728,067	12%
GIZ	11,100,000	30,000,000	41,100,000	6%
IFAD	21,012,059	-	21,012,059	3%
UNESCO	411,080	-	411,080	0%
ID	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	0%
Farm Africa	431,001	-	431,001	0%
One Acre Fund	3,491,461	-	3,491,461	1%
IUCN	7,500,000		7,500,000	1%
TNC	12,427,239		12,427,239	2%
IDH	499,542		499,542	0%
CFC	500,000		500,000	0%
Catalytic	9,919,392		9,919,392	2%
&Green	51,106,348		51,106,348	8%

3.3 Set-up of CAFE Project Offices

In 2024, under the coordination of the MPTFO, the CAFE Secretariat signed host agreements with the UN Resident Coordination Office and UNDP in the Republic of Congo and Gabon to support the establishment of Offices for the Secretariat personnel, strengthening the CAFE presence in the partner countries. CAFE Secretariat is now present in 4 partner countries, namely, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo.

3.4 Digital Solutions

In 2024, with support from the MPTFO, the CAFE Secretariat finalized the procurement processes to acquire digital solutions in portfolio management and a revamped website. With such contracts signed, the implementation is expected to reach completion by the end of quarter 3 of 2025. An additional digital solution focusing on database management is under planning to be rolled out in 2025.

3.5 Fund Transfers

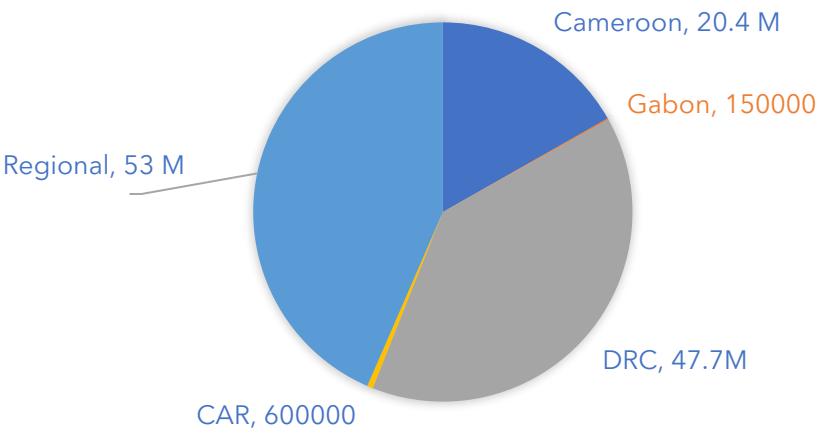
In total, \$121,936,462 USD in fund transfers were disbursed in 2024 as per portfolio and organizational details below.

Country	Implementing organization ¹¹ and funds transferred (USD)
Cameroon	IFAD (USD 19,000,147)
	UNDP (USD 1,458,000)
Gabon	UNESCO (USD 150,000)
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	UNDP (USD 47,719,157)
Central African Republic	UNDP (USD 600,000)
Regional	UNOPS (USD 7,187,889)

¹¹ See list of acronyms at the start of report

	One Acre Fund (USD 2,000,000)
	&GREEN (USD 43,821,269)
Total	121,936,462

FUNDS TRANSFERRED PER COUNTRY IN 2024 IN \$USD



3.6 Building Central African Talents: the CAFI Fellowship Programme

Building expertise among young central African professionals in human development and climate change mitigation is essential for long-term forest protection in the region. That is why CAFI launched a third call for applications for the third cohort of the Fellowship Programme at its Secretariat in Geneva in October 2024. The Fellowship Programme invites young talent from the region to join its team for one year and grow skill sets that can in turn benefit future actions for Central African forests and people. Recruitment shall be concluded in early 2025.



TWO FORMER (2023) AND 2024 CAFI FELLOWS SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES ON CAFI
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/BB_r0TLR9Q0?FEATURE=SHARED](https://youtu.be/BB_r0TLR9Q0?feature=shared)

4. Monitoring and Evaluation: Implementing the 2023 MEL Guidelines

4.1 Tracking compliance to the CAFI MEL Guidelines

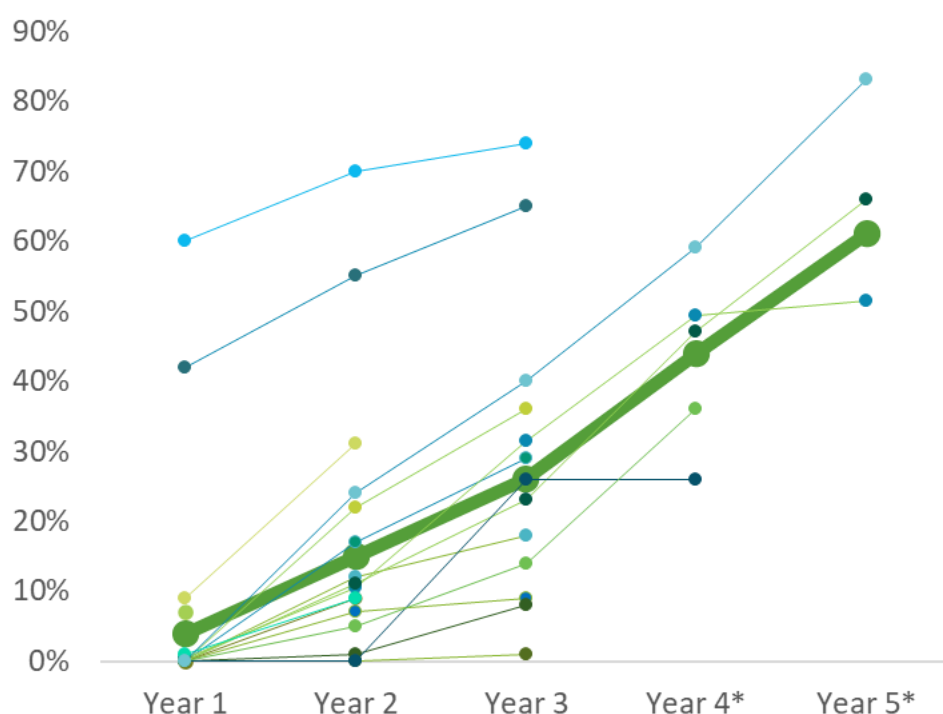
Adopted in November 2023, the CAFI MEL Guidelines came into force in 2024. They were complemented in 2024 with two annexes on the areas where the CAFI Secretariat had identified challenges and gaps, namely annexes on spatial reporting and the organisation of project-steering committees

To disseminate these guidelines and ensure their uptake, the CAFI Secretariat organized three information sessions with all implementing organizations (together with the FONAREDD for projects operating in the DRC), and provided targeted support to new and requesting projects, with a focus on major items including reporting, beneficiary counting and the new annexes. The Secretariat also developed a tool to track compliance, enriching the existing tool used to track reporting compliance.

The MEL Guidelines require that the CAFI Secretariat participates as an ex-officio member in project steering committees. While this means that the CAFI Secretariat does not partake in decision-making, it helps provide first hand information about the project workplan, budgetary or target changes, and results.

4.2 A new methodology to track and report on project performance

The CAFI Secretariat developed and implemented a methodology to track project performance. The methodology combines benchmarked annual financial delivery (see graph below), review of the cost structures of expenditures, achievements of projects vs. targets based on annual reports, as well as compliance to CAFI MEL Guidelines, notably on reporting.

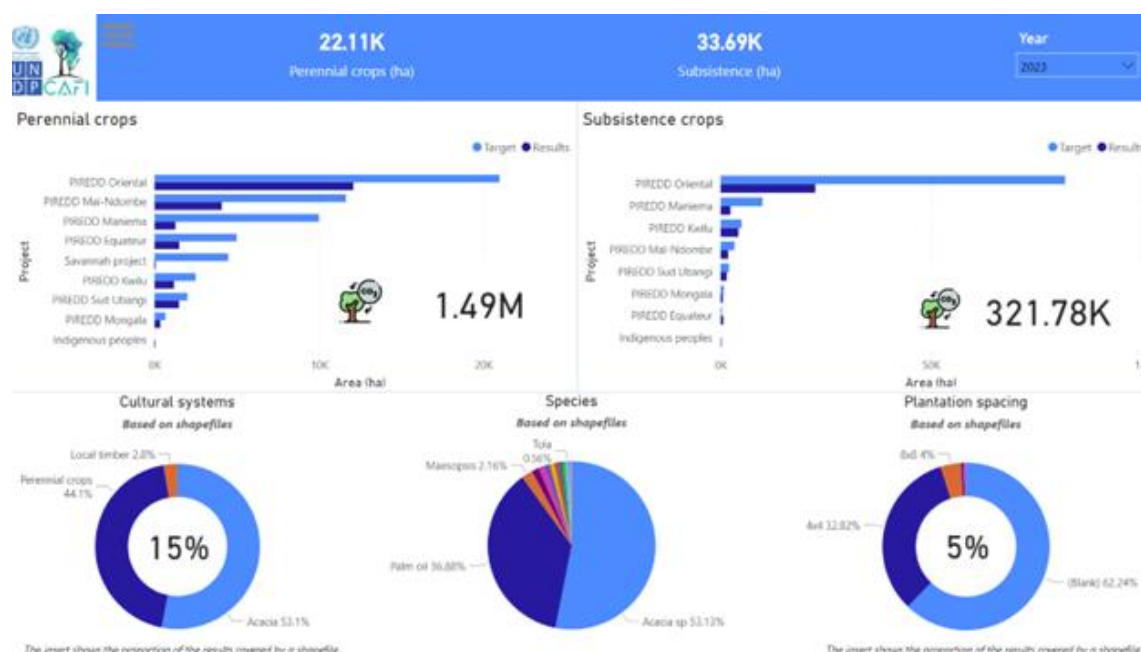


AVERAGE YEARLY EXPENDITURE PER PROJECTS (BOLD LINE) AND INDIVIDUAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES

Briefing notes on projects with the most challenges were produced ahead of an “Accountability session” originally scheduled for the CAFE Executive Board meeting in Yaoundé, but that could not be held for lack of high-level participation and was postponed to Q1 2025.

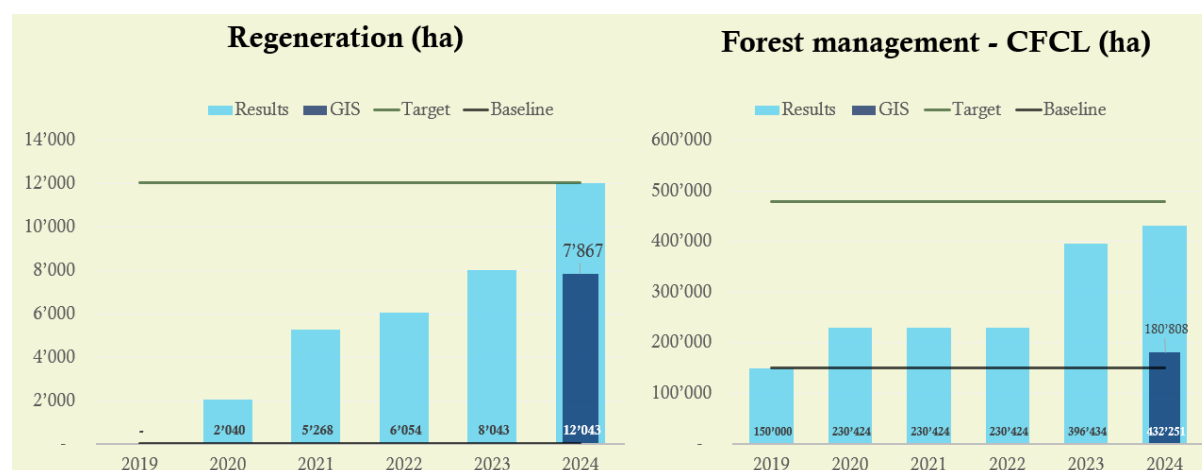
Launch of a live visualisation platform

The CAFE Metrics Hub was developed by the CAFE Secretariat and launched in June 2024 as a tool to track projects and cumulative progress against standardized land-use indicators.



The CAFI Secretariat performed data quality control to ensure robustness of the figures i) displayed on the CAFI Metrics Hub, ii) in the CAFI consolidated report and iii) in the FONAREDD Annual report. This included, *for each indicator*

1. Coherence between 2024 and figures reported in earlier years.
2. Coherence between reported figures within different sections of a given project 2024 annual report.
3. Coherence between reported figures in a project 2024 report and communication tools the project may have published (e.g. the DRC Energy project Power BI platform, PROREP newsletter, etc).
4. Coherence between declarative figures and geospatial data reported through shapefiles. The latter represents between 5% and 40% of the data declared in narrative reports. This is either due to the lack of collected GIS data, especially for projects approved prior to 2023 that did not have planned the capacity to collect such GIS data, or to the actual lack of results (*absence of evidence is not evidence of absence*). It was not possible to determine the exact cause of these discrepancies for each project at this stage, but the use of the PES tool and forthcoming independent verifications of land use results should greatly remedy this issue.



EXAMPLE OF THE AMOUNT OF DECLARATIVE DATA (LIGHT BLUE) THAT IS CORROBORATED BY GIS DATA (DARK BLUE) IN A GIVEN PROJECT IN DRC. 2024 WAS THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONALIZING THE MEL GUIDELINES THAT ASKED FOR GIS DATA IN A STANDARDIZED MANNER.

When the CAFI Secretariat discovered inconsistencies, feedback was provided to the Implementing organizations, and to the FONAREDD Secretariat. This involved between 40-50% of all data reported.

These efforts were focused during the reporting exercise, i.e. in May, to i) feed the CAFI Metrics Hub ii) inform CAFI's approval of the FONAREDD 2024 Annual report and iii) consolidate CAFI's results in its 2023 Annual report) and in September – October 2024, to update the CAFI Metrics Hub and communication materials.

4.3 Country Level Evaluations and verifications

The CAFI Secretariat prepared the independent review of the partnership with the Republic of Congo and supported the UK-led evaluation of the Programme to support Coordination in the same country.

The CAFI Secretariat also prepared a decision and produce briefing notes on the independent verification of results for AFOLU projects, a turning point in the way results will be subsequently verified.

4.4 Quality Reporting

Reporting systems were upgraded to provide better transparency and allow for more efficient tracking.

For the 2023 Annual reporting exercise, the CAFI Secretariat reviewed and assessed the results and compliance of 18 annual reports projects reported by implementing organizations. The CAFI Secretariat prepared and finalized the CAFI Fund 2023 Consolidated report, in [print](#) and [web based](#) , that was adopted during the 24th Executive Board Meeting on 24 June. The report included the results of the fourth Gender assessment, undertaken by the CAFI Secretariat in coordination with the DRC's FONAREDD Secretariat.

5. Informed Executive Board and Working Groups

5.1 Two Executive Board Meetings and a record number of Executive Board decisions

In 2024, the CAFI Secretariat prepared, organized, facilitated and documented (internally and externally) two meetings of the CAFI Executive Board. Two successful Executive Board meetings were held in 2024 in Oslo (June) and Yaoundé (December) to make key decisions regarding fund allocation, project priorities, and regional collaboration.

Following the EB meeting, the CAFI Secretariat also organized, at the request of the Executive Board, a three-day field trip, from 5 to 7 December, to Mbangassina, Grand Mbam and Melong, Cameroon. This field visit, which was designed as a learning exchange on sustainable cocoa and coffee production and the functioning of the Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund (FODECC) grant tools, mobilized representatives of governments (5 participants from MINEPAT, 3 from the DRC, 2 from the Central African Republic, 10 members and observers of the CAFI Executive Board and embassies), as well as 8 persons from FODECC, 2 from IFAD, and 6 from the CAFI Secretariat. Participants had an opportunity to interact with cocoa/coffee farmers, local authorities, cooperatives leaders, farmers and microfinance and agro-dealers representatives enrolled through the FODECC, representing over 170 people in total.

In total, adding intersessional decisions, the CAFI Executive Board adopted 49 decisions in 2024, listed in the table below, a record since the establishment of the Fund.

As per its rules, decisions are shared with a two-week notice with the Board, adopted, translated and published online on CAFI's website (<https://www.cafi.org/cafi-board>) as soon as they are agreed on by the Board and, for country-specific decisions, as soon as they are communicated to the authorities. Most importantly, the CAFI Secretariat acted based on the Executive Board's requests and updated a tracking table, shared with the EB during each monthly call.

List of CAFI's EB decisions in 2024

[EB.2024.01 - Private Sector Facility General Selection](#)

[EB.2024.02 - CAR - Policy Dialogue Investments](#)

List of CAFI's EB decisions in 2024

[EB.2024.03 - Social and Behavior Change Communication \(SBCC\)](#)

[EB2024.04 - DRC - Nomination 3 Board members to CRP](#)

[EB2024.05 - HIFOR prep grant](#)

[EB.2024.06 - Approval of the Revised Regional Technical Assistance Facility PRODOC to include the Scientific Network](#)

[EB.2024.07 - Private Sector Facility Selection FAJA LOBI](#)

[EB.2024.08 - Equatorial Guinea AFD Grant Approval](#)

[EB.2024.09 - CMR - No-Cost Extension of the UNDP-MINEPAT Preparation Grant Project](#)

[EB.2024.10 - Access to CAFI Fund to &Green](#)

[EB.2024.11 - UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility PRODOC Amendment](#)

[EB.2024.12 - SBCC launch of EoI](#)

[EB.2024.13 - Projects Annual Reports](#)

[EB.2024.14 - Approval of the revised Prodoc UNCDF](#)

[EB2024.15 - No cost extension FONAREDD sec support project](#)

[EB.2024.16 - No cost extension of Regional trends and drivers study](#)

[EB.2024.17 - UNESCO Additional Cost Approval](#)

[EB.2024.18 - FONAREDD MoP Validation](#)

[EB.2024.19 - FONAREDD funding allocation](#)

[EB.2024.20 - Approval of the Revised &Green PRODOC](#)

[EB.2024.21 - Adoption of 2023 Annual report](#)

[EB.2024.22 - Regional Request for proposals for blended finance](#)

[EB.2024.23 - Cameroon IFAD Project Approval](#)

[EB.2024.24 - DRC No cost extension for One Acre Fund Bridge Grant](#)

[EB.2024.25 - Private Sector - Approval of FAJA LOBI Additional Funding](#)

[EB.2024.26 - Approval of GIZ & NUNO Framework Agreement](#)

[EB.2024.27 - FONAREDD Sec support project - 2nd NCE](#)

[EB.2024.28 UNDP MINEPAT prep grant](#)

[EB.2024.29 - Approval of One Acre Fund](#)

List of CAFI's EB decisions in 2024

[EB.2024.30 - Private Sector Facility SOBICO](#)

[EB.2024.31 - CAFI representative in the FONAREDD Technical Steering Committee](#)

[EB.2024.32 - Selection of Organization for Capital Acceleration Providers Eol](#)

[EB.2024.33 - Independent Verification of Projects](#)

[EB.2024.34 - Cameroon Letter of Intent English](#)

[EB 2024.35 - No-Cost Extension of the IFAD Preparatory Grant Project](#)

[EB.2024.36 - No-Cost Extension SYNA MNV](#)

[EB.2024.37 - Gabon Support for human-elephant conflict mitigation and PES](#)

[EB.2024.38 - Launch of the Call for Expressions of Interest - CAR](#)

[EB.2024.39 - Prep grant approval South-South cooperation initiative for PES](#)

[EB.2024.40 - Additional Budget Allocation to Prep Grant UNDP-MINEPAT](#)

[EB2024.41 - Access to CAFI Fund and Approval to Prep Grant IDH](#)

[EB.2024.42 - Approval of CAFI Private Sector Assessment Criteria and Performance-Based Funding Allocation Process](#)

[EB.2024.43 - CAFI Invest Project with Catalytic Finance Foundation](#)

[EB.2024.44 - Cameroon - Project Approval GIZ Coordination](#)

[EB.2024.45 - Access to the CAFI Fund and Approval of Prep Grant for CFC](#)

[EB.2024.46 - Project Approval CAFI INVEST Catalytic](#)

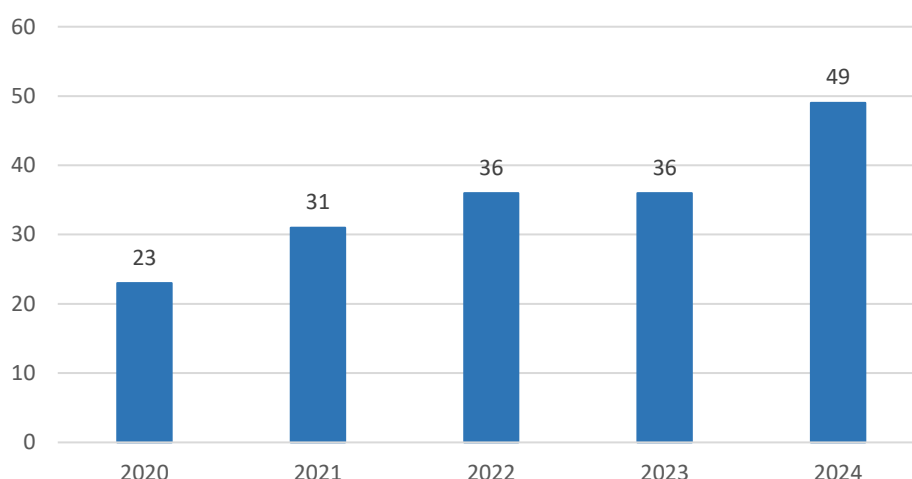
[EB.2024.47 - FONAREDD-SE support project phase 1- 3rd Cost Extension](#)

[EB.2024.48 - No-Cost Extension of the UNCDF Forest Performance Bons Series - 00133946](#)

[EB.2024.49 - FONAREDD funding allocation - Dec 2024](#)

LIST OF DECISIONS PREPARED BY THE CAFI SECRETARIAT AND ADOPTED BY THE CAFI EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2024

Number of Executive Board decisions



NUMBER OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY CAFI EXECUTIVE BOARD SINCE 2020

5.2 Country Working Groups

Country working groups played a crucial role in project oversight and policy implementation, ensuring smooth coordination across all CAFI countries. In 2024, the CAFI Secretariat prepared and managed background documentation and minutes, presented and facilitated discussions in 19 meetings of country working groups.

These working groups, established by the CAFI Terms of Reference and EB decisions, have a recurring agenda of programming and policy dialogue, to which are added matters of particular concern to participants.

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS IN 2024	TOTAL SINCE CREATION OF WORKING GROUP
DRC	12	87
ROC	2	31
GABON	1	6
CAMEROON	3	15
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	1	4
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	0	2
TOTAL	19	127

NUMBERS OF WORKING GROUPS ORGANIZED BY THE CAFI SECRETARIAT FOR EACH COUNTRY, IN 2024 AND CUMULATIVELY.

6. Fund Mobilisation

The CAFI Secretariat continued to facilitate fund mobilisation. This notably resulted in Denmark joining the CAFI Initiative as new contributor, with a 2024 contribution agreement of 113,000,000 DKK – approximately \$15,940,000 USD.

The CAFI Secretariat worked with donor partners supporting the CAFI Trust fund's capitalization via the following contributions agreements:

- United Kingdom: GBP 3,530,000 (2nd Addendum) – approximately \$4,470,000 USD.
- Norway: NOK 588,386,200 (5th Addendum) – approximately \$52,300,000 USD.
- France: EUR 3,000,000 (7th Addendum) – approximately \$3,160,000 USD.
- Germany: EUR 30,000,000 (4th Addendum) – approximately \$32,000,000 USD.

With that, the total amount committed to support CAFI reached \$978,678,998 USD with a deposit rate of 84%.



Contributor	Deposits in 2024 alone (USD)	Cumulative deposits by 31 December 2024 (USD)
Germany	10,895,700	276,539,846
Norway	25,306,566	399,683,157
The Netherlands	-	34,000,000
France	9,718,587	29,355,771
Belgium	1,699,954	13,223,259
Sweden	3,009,022	7,406,131
European Union	-	15,096,179
South Korea	378,593	2,030,775
United Kingdom	13,528,599	36,012,145
Denmark	4,931,850	4,931,850
TOTAL	69,468,871	818,279,112

2024 AND CUMULATIVE DONOR DEPOSITS

7. Communications and Knowledge Management

7.1 A new logo and branding guidelines

The CAFI Secretariat organized the development of a re-designed and modernized logo that remains recognisable in its main features but adds human and biodiversity dimensions. Accompanying branding guidelines were also developed, and the package shared with all implementing organizations.

2015-2023 CAFI LOGO	REDESIGNED 2024 CAFI LOGO
	

7.2 A robust website

The CAFI website was updated with new resources and project outcomes, enhancing visibility and transparency of ongoing initiatives.

- The web site includes 30 project pages updated in 2024 with background and regularly updated results for each CAFI-funded project in English and French, providing easy access to CAFI's investments and results for stakeholders.

- Eight thematic pages, corresponding to CAFI's outcomes, developed and updated with results.

- Graphs updated to showcase commitments per countries and sector.

- All Executive Board decisions and meeting reports.

[Fourteen news articles](#) were published in 2024 on the web site in two languages.

Metrics (see table below) are comparable to previous years.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 ¹²	2023	2024
Users	7934	10,322	15,917	18,778	15,822	24,000	31,000	39,100
Sessions	14,344	16,286	23,223	28,132	22,329	25,000	51,000	NA
Page views	39,647	39,056	51,955	61,447	40,678	105,000	95,000	90,000
Average session duration	3.24 minutes	2.40 minutes	2.25 minutes	2.17 minutes	1.38 minutes	2.21 minutes	1.40 minutes	1.63 minutes
Pages visited / viewer	2.76	1.58	2.24	1.50	1.87	4.4	3.09	3.58
User per month	661	860	Low: 1000 ; High: 2800	Low: 1212 (April); High: 2213 (October)	Low: 221 (June) High: 2947	Low: 1700 (Sept.) High: 3300 (June)	Low: 2.1k (Jan, Feb, Jul) High: 4.3k (Nov.)	Low: 1.7k (Jan) High: 4.0k October

CAFI WEB SITE STATISTICS

The recruitment process for a company to develop a new website was finalized in 2024, with improved content management system and more flexibility.

7.2 Diversified social media presence

Social media platforms were diversified, with the CAFI Secretariat opening in 2024 and maintaining throughout:

- [A Youtube platform](#) for video streams, targeting media and the general public, in which the CAFI Secretariat posted 15 videos and gained over 100 followers in less than a year.

- [A Linked In platform](#) for technical content in English, targeting professionals, where the CAFI Secretariat posted 47 updates in 2024 and gained 1300 followers [\(14\) Central African Forest Initiative \(CAFI\): Company Page Admin | LinkedIn](#), with a total of 72,849 impressions.

¹² Due to an update in the metrics in Google Analytics, which is used to obtain this data, from this point on, data may not be entirely comparable to previous years.

- [A Facebook page](#) in French targeting Governments and stakeholders in the Central African region – totalling 251 followers gained in less than one year, with 421 post engagements and page posts reaching 2,093 users.
- [A BlueSky account](#), with functions similar to X (ex-Twitter).

This diversification strategy has prepared CAFI for a potential and progressive phasing out of X (ex-Twitter).

7.3 Media Coverage

The CAFI Secretariat continued throughout 2024 to engage with the press on an ad hoc basis via “off the record” interviews with top-level international journalists, including le Monde (on the Cameroon Letter of Intent), National Geographic, targeted media such as Mongabay (eg [here](#)), as well as local news outlets (see below). Most of the time, these journalists reach out to CAFI for background information on issues related to deforestation in Central Africa. In this way, CAFI continues to serve as a reliable resource to reputable international press outlets.



INTERVIEW OF CAFI SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL EXPERT BY DRC MEDIA https://youtu.be/9pCSp8L_9f8?feature=shared

7.4 Events

In 2024, the CAFI Secretariat actively engaged in high-level events to strengthen partnerships and advance policy dialogues on sustainable forest management and climate finance.

20th Meeting of Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership

From June 3–5, 2024, the CAFI Secretariat played an active role the 20th Meeting of the Parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) in Kinshasa, DRC. The event brought together government officials, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and international donors to discuss sustainable

development and forest conservation. As a major stakeholder in the region, CAFI participated in several workshops and side events that brought together ministers, investors, leaders, and civil society representatives from across the Congo Basin region. These events focused on sustainable development, forest conservation, and innovative financing solutions. On 5 June 2024, during the CBFP Meeting, CAFI and UNDP announced a new inter-country cooperation and exchange platform on financing for tropical forests. This initiative fosters South-South collaboration and promotes financial instruments for forest conservation and sustainable land use. The platform will facilitate knowledge sharing on environmental services payment mechanisms, bioeconomy innovations, and digital applications.



PFBC EVENT IN KINSHASA - FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: AL-HAMNDOU DORSOUMA, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; DIARA NDIAYE, RFI (MODERATOR); H.E. ARLETTE SOUDAN NONAULT, MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CONGO BASIN, REPUBLIC OF CONGO; H.E. DIOSBADO OBIANG MBOMIO NFOÑO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA; MAGGIE CHARNLEY, UNITED KINGDOM, CAFI CHAIR

Oslo Tropical Forest Forum

Also in June 2024, the CAFI Secretariat participated in the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum (OTFF). Key highlights of the CAFI Secretariat participation included

- ✓ **Private Sector Engagement:** CAFI Secretariat organized a side event, "Catalysing Sustainable Growth in Central Africa's Tropical Forests through Deforestation-Free Investments", featuring private sector companies presenting deforestation-free and socially inclusive projects. This event highlighted responsible private investments as key solutions to forest loss and sustainable economic development in the region.
- ✓ **High-level interactions:** CAFI Secretariat engaged in bilateral exchanges with ministers, including H.E. Eve Bazaiba (Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, DRC) and H.E. Rosalie

Matondo (Minister of Forest Economy, DRC), discussing CAFI partnerships and the way forward for the region.

- ✓ **Innovative Finance:** CAFI Secretariat contributed to a panel on "Accelerating the Development of Innovative Financing Mechanisms", highlighting the increase in fund mobilization for the Congo Basin and the need to build capacity and inclusivity in sustainable development.
- ✓ **Civil Society Role:** CAFI Secretariat supported a session on the status of civil society's involvement in the REDD+ agenda, where organizations in the DRC and Gabon shared their experiences of strengthening the voice of civil society in governance and natural resource management.

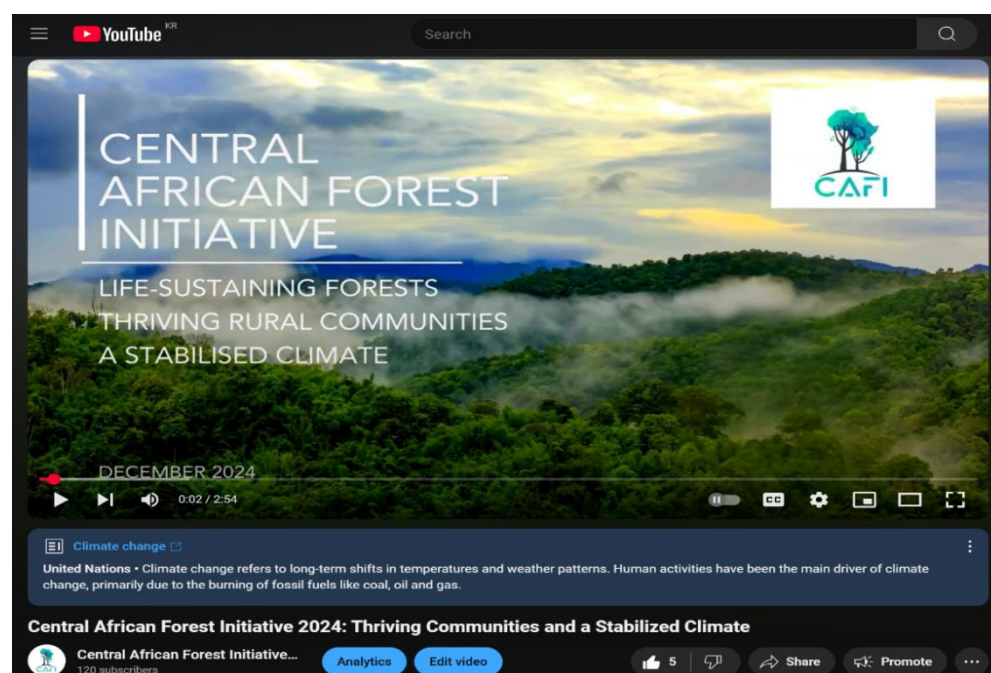
Other key events included the official signing of the Letter of Intent (LoI) with Cameroon and the High-Level Dialogue on Afforestation, Biodiversity and Climate Finance in the Central African Republic, both of which are detailed in the country sections above.

Key highlights of CAFI's participation included:

- High-level policy engagements with ministers from CAFI partner countries.
- A panel discussion on innovative financing mechanisms, highlighting CAFI's efforts in mobilizing funds for the Congo Basin.
- Private sector engagement, showcasing deforestation-free business models.
- The launch of a new scientific network, with an initial CAFI investment of 6,500,000 USD to support research and policymaking.

7.5 Communication Tools

The CAFI brochure was updated twice in two languages, and videos developed. The [CAFI 2024 "Life Sustaining Forests, Thriving rural communities, Stabilised climate" video](#), launched on 3 December, gathered over 400 views (combining the French and English versions) in less than a month.



8. Safeguards and Risk Management

8.1 Addressing Risks and Challenges

The CAFI Secretariat addressed various risks through its risk management framework, focusing on contextual, institutional and programmatic challenges, and updated the Risk Dashboard. New programmatic risks emerged in 2024, such as shifts in the priorities of implementing organizations leading to a de-priorisation of CAFI projects, while other major programmatic risks remained, such as low capacity and long inception periods due to difficulties in contracting personnel and services.

8.2 Gender

The CAFI Secretariat continued its efforts to

- ensure gender balance in the public events it organized, to the extent possible when certain levels of participation are required such as ministers.
- incorporate gender-responsiveness in its guidance, such as the MEL Guidelines, templates for project documents and reporting templates.
- monitor gender in the implementation of CAFI-funded projects, with a detailed annual assessment appearing in the 2023 Annual consolidated report.
- maintain a gender balance in the staffing CAFI Secretariat, currently a balance of 50% female and 50% male.

8.3 Transparency and integrity

All members of the CAFI Secretariat have taken UNDP's mandatory trainings on prevention of, and response to, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) as well as on fraud and corruption within the past two years. Consultants on long-term contracts are also required to take (and pass) these trainings.

The Secretariat continued to circulate a conflict-of-interest form before Executive Board meetings and shared the results for the Executive Board to decide on how to handle identified or perceived conflicts of interest.

8.4 Complaints management

As per annex 2 of the Manual of Operations adopted in 2021, CAFI has a complaints management system that complements implementing organizations' systems. Designed to "empower and reinforce national processes and respect the rules and regulations of implementing agencies", the system specifies that action at the CAFI level should not be taken except in cases where CAFI has exclusive competence (such as an EB decision). When complainants have exhausted procedures offered by the implementing organizations, they can address a complaint to the EB using the contact information provided on the CAFI web site. No complaint was received in 2024 regarding projects funded directly by CAFI - including the CAFI Secretariat project. Complaints concerning projects funded via the FONAREDD will appear in the FONAREDD report when available and will be summarized in the CAFI Fund annual report.

9. Conclusion

The CAFI Fund and Initiative have expanded, with Cameroon and the Central African Republic joining the pool of countries with large investment projects, and the need for continued political dialogue in increasingly sensitive contexts.

With increased human resources capacities and streamlined processes, the CAFI Secretariat demonstrated its ability to deliver funding and catalyse results, learning to strategically manage the expanding workload that came with the expansion of funding, projects volume and donor pool.