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## CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREST INITIATIVE

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

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January - 31 December 2025

<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 (if applicable)</li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> 127868</li> </ul>	<p><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>Country/Region: Central Africa</p>
<p><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNDP</li> </ul>	<p>Priority area/ strategic results: Sustainable Development (UNDP Strategic plan), Climate and Environment</p> <p><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<p><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: <b>38,056,041.80</b></p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p>	<p><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration (months)                      60 months (5 years)</p> <p>Start Date<sup>5</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy)                      07.15.2021</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy)              31.12.2025</p>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

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

<sup>5</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

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

Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)
TOTAL: <b>38,056,041.80</b>

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

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

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

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Current End date <sup>7</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	31.12.2026
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<sup>7</sup> 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 2025 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)  
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  
UNEP – United Nations Environment 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 2025, this dialogue was strengthened by the facilitation of high-level meetings.

## 1.1 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat continued to play a central role in structuring and sustaining policy dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), CAFI donors and implementing partners, in line with the commitments of the 2nd Letter of Intent (LoI).

Following the validation and publication of the 2023 Annual Review of the CAFI-DRC Partnership on 15 May 2024, the Secretariat ensured continuous follow-up on political commitments throughout 2025 and supported preparations for the next Annual Review, now expected in 2026.

Throughout the year, the Secretariat maintained close engagement with national counterparts in a changing political context. Following the 2025 government reshuffle, the Secretariat established working relations with the new Minister of Environment and the newly designated CAFI focal point ensuring continuity of dialogue and alignment on CAFI priorities.

The Secretariat ensured continuous engagement across FONAREDD governance bodies, including the Programme Review Committee, Technical Steering Committee and Political Steering Committee, providing structured technical inputs and facilitating exchanges between national authorities and CAFI donors.

At the international level, the Secretariat contributed to aligning CAFI engagement with broader reform frameworks. In particular, it supported discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), approved on 15 January 2025 (USD 1 billion), ensuring alignment between CAFI LoI milestones and reforms related to forest monitoring systems, forestry code revision and environmental governance in the extractive sector.

At the regional and international levels, the Secretariat also supported the positioning of the DRC as a key actor in climate and forest governance. This included:

- Supporting the participation of DRC representatives in regional discussions on Payments for Environmental Services (PES), including the high-level event held in Kinshasa from 27 to 29 January 2025 bringing together Central African countries to define a regional PES roadmap and identify priority activities, financing needs and implementation modalities;
- Supporting DRC engagement at COP30 in Belém (10–21 November 2025), including the presentation of the national PES roadmap, early implementation results and PES tools (planning and management platforms).

Despite a complex political context, the Secretariat ensured sustained engagement with national stakeholders and donors, contributing to maintaining momentum on key reforms under the CAFI-DRC partnership.

## 1.2 Republic of Congo

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat continued to structure and drive policy dialogue in the Republic of Congo through close coordination with the Permanent Secretariat of the CAFI–RoC Partnership, national authorities and donors, with a focus on monitoring Letter of Intent (LoI) commitments and supporting key reform processes.

A central priority in 2025 was the launch of the independent evaluation of the CAFI–RoC partnership. The Secretariat finalised the Terms of Reference in coordination with the Permanent Secretariat and CAFI donors; led the procurement process and selected TEREAs as independent evaluators; organised and facilitated the evaluation mission conducted from 9 to 23 September 2025, including consultations with government, donors, implementing organisations and civil society; reviewed and consolidated comments on the inception report submitted in September 2025.

The Secretariat also supported policy dialogue around LoI milestones and climate commitments, notably the development of the NDC 3.0. In this context, the Secretariat: mobilised technical support through the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility and coordination with the NDC Partnership; supported the launch of the NDC 3.0 process on 27 May 2025 and followed up on key deliverables, including the evaluation of NDC 2.0 on 25 August 2025 and the transmission of a policy brief to national authorities on 3 November 2025.

Throughout the year, the Secretariat maintained regular exchanges with the Permanent Secretariat, line ministries and donors, contributing to a shared understanding of progress and challenges under the partnership and supporting alignment on next steps.

## 1.3 Gabon

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat focused on re-establishing and structuring policy dialogue with the new Gabonese authorities following the government reorganisation of 15 January 2025, while supporting strategic positioning on key priorities including human-wildlife conflict and Payments for Environmental Services (PES).

At the start of the year, the Secretariat ensured rapid high-level engagement with the newly appointed government in January the Secretariat briefed the Minister of Environment and Climate, , on CAFI-supported programmes and strategic priorities, with a particular focus on PES and regional engagement; and the Minister of Water and Forests, , on the newly approved Human-Elephant Conflict programme and its implementation modalities.

Throughout 2025, the Secretariat structured dialogue between national counterparts, implementing organisations and technical partners, notably through:

- The establishment and facilitation of a national PES workgroup bringing together government entities, research institutions, private sector actors and civil society organisations;
- Continuous technical and strategic exchanges with national counterparts to define priority areas and implementation approaches for PES;
- Facilitation of coordination between ministries and implementing organisations to align programme development with national priorities.

The Secretariat also supported the strengthening of Gabon's positioning in international climate frameworks, notably:

- Follow-up on ART-TREES registration and monitoring submissions for the 2018–2022 crediting period, submitted on 13 August 2025, and coordination of revision processes with the ART Secretariat;
- Preparation and support to the CAFI–Gabon Annual Review held on 27–28 October 2025, including coordination with national counterparts and consolidation of key messages.

Through these actions, the Secretariat ensured continuity of policy dialogue, alignment with new government priorities and strengthened coordination between stakeholders under the CAFI–Gabon partnership.

## 1.4 Cameroon

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat focused on operationalising the Letter of Intent (LoI) 2025–2035 signed in October 2024, by supporting the Government of Cameroon in advancing priority milestones and structuring policy dialogue across key sectors.

The Secretariat worked closely with MINEPAT and sectoral ministries to support the implementation of LoI milestones, in particular:

- Supporting the coordination of work on the National Climate Plan (NCP) and the revision of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), including follow-up on technical deliverables prepared by consultants (mitigation pathways, adaptation planning, MRV framework and gender action plan);
- Supporting the organisation of key validation workshops held from 22 to 24 October 2025 (consolidation workshop) and from 4 to 6 November 2025 (finalisation workshop), bringing together national stakeholders under the leadership of MINEPDED;
- Supporting the consolidation of a draft consensual version of the NDC 3.0 and NCP, pending final validation.

The Secretariat also supported the advancement of other structural reforms under the LoI, including:

- Launch of the development processes for the National Forest Economy Plan and the National Agro-Industrial Plan in early 2025;
- Support to the development of Cameroon's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL);
- Ongoing support to MINEPAT in coordinating LoI implementation through the preparatory grant mechanism.

In parallel, the Secretariat supported the structuring of the scale-up phase of the partnership, notably through engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In this context, the Secretariat supported:

- MINEPAT in the preparation and submission of the RACINE concept note to the GCF (submitted August 2025 and endorsed in November 2025);
- alignment between CAFI and GCF processes, including the development of a pilot results-based direct access approach;
- Executive Board discussions in September 2025 mandating the Secretariat to develop this pilot approach and allocate funding.

Through these actions, the Secretariat ensured continuity of policy dialogue, supported the translation of Lol commitments into operational processes and strengthened the strategic positioning of the CAFI–Cameroon partnership.

## 1.5 Equatorial Guinea

In 2025, a key contribution of the Secretariat was to facilitate the participation of Government representatives in regional processes. In particular, two delegates from the Ministry in charge of Environment, Forests, Agriculture and Livestock participated in the regional conference on the deployment of Payments for Environmental Services held in Kinshasa from 27 to 29 January 2025. This engagement contributed to the endorsement by the Government of the joint regional position note and PES roadmap.

Throughout 2025, the Secretariat continued exchanges with national counterparts and implementing organisations to support alignment on next steps for the partnership.

## 1.6 Central African Republic

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat supported continued high-level engagement with the Government of the Central African Republic in the context of the transition to the investment phase of the partnership.

The Secretariat supported:

- the continuation of dialogue with the three designated focal ministries (Finance, Environment and Forestry) following the Government’s instruction in October 2024 to deepen the partnership;
- follow-up on national processes, including the integration of CAFI-related priorities into the National Development Plan and alignment with the REDD+ National Investment Framework;
- coordination around next steps for structuring the partnership, including identification of institutional arrangements and priority areas for investment.

## 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 2025 project reports, that will be consolidated in the CAFI Trust Fund Annual report. As such, the report you have in hand focuses 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
- iii) complex institutional frameworks
- iv) continuous constraints related to implementation capacity (recruitment, partnership management)
- v) change of focus by implementing organizations.

These challenges lead to discrepancies between achievements and agreed upon targets. Target revisions required adjustments in resource allocation and output structures, numerous project extensions (35 no-cost extensions and 6 at-cost cumulatively, with 9 no-cost extensions and 1 at-cost extensions for 2025 alone), and five projects had to be closed before completion, including 3 in 2025).

To address these issues, the CAFI Secretariat continued to look for and implement innovative solutions at the request of the Executive Board. These have included the establishment of joint monitoring committees with implementing organizations and the development and oversight of acceleration plans. In 2025, this was further strengthened through the operationalisation of performance-based programming approaches, including the introduction of independent verification processes, the systematic review of project performance against targets, and the preparation of analytical briefs to inform Executive Board discussions on underperformance. The Secretariat also structured and facilitated accountability processes, including dedicated session and follow-up actions with implementing organisations, ensuring closer alignment between disbursements, delivery and verified results.

## 2.1 Democratic Republic of Congo

### *Monitoring and supporting the FONAREDD portfolio*

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat continued to play a central role in the development, oversight and strategic orientation of the CAFI-funded FONAREDD portfolio.

The Secretariat actively contributed to portfolio monitoring through participation in over 10 formal FONAREDD governance processes across the year (Programme Review Committee, Technical and Political Steering Committees), complemented by 12 CAFI Working Group meetings in DRC in 2025, ensuring continuous technical oversight and coordination across the portfolio, including:

- Programme Review Committee meetings
- Technical Steering Committee processes, including decisions reviewed in February, June and December 2025;
- Preparation and review of Political Steering Committee decisions and supporting documentation.

Through these processes, the Secretariat:

- Provided detailed written technical reviews across more than 10 project documents and processes in 2025, representing over USD 40 million in new or revised programming, including CANOPEE KIVU (Farm Africa, USD 10 million), PIREDD Maniema 2 (GIZ, USD 20 million) and PSFD addendum (AFD, USD 8 million), and followed up on the integration of comments into revised versions;
- Requested clarification on portfolio-level financial inconsistencies, including the discrepancy between total commitments (USD 780.1 million) and total donor contributions (USD 713.2 million);
- Recommended strengthening and standardising the review of project extension requests, including assessment of their impact on delivery and results.

The Secretariat also strengthened monitoring and reporting systems by:

- Providing detailed technical inputs to the FONAREDD 2024 Annual Report prior to its approval in June 2025;
- Organising working sessions with implementing organisations on monitoring methodologies, including beneficiary tracking, GIS integration and application of CAFI MEL guidelines;
- Supporting the review and consolidation of semi-annual reports across key projects, including PIREDD Maniema, PIREDD Kwilu, PIREDD Équateur, PARF 2, PSFD and Energy programmes

### *Supporting programming and disbursement decisions*

The Secretariat played a key role in supporting programming decisions and disbursements throughout 2025.

At the beginning of the year, it supported the preparation of programming decisions covering three projects worth USD 70.8 million, including:

- PROMIS-2 implemented by UNOPS (USD 58 million, first tranche USD 22.5 million);
- Health infrastructure project implemented by UNOPS (USD 3.5 million, first tranche USD 2 million);
- FONAREDD Secretariat support project phase 2 implemented by UNDP (USD 9.3 million, including CAFI contribution of USD 8.3 million, with a first tranche of approximately USD 5 million).

In April 2025, the CAFI Executive Board approved an additional allocation under decision EB.2025.19, including:

- USD 22.5 million for PROMIS 2 (UNOPS);
- USD 15 million for zero-deforestation agriculture (One Acre Fund);
- Disbursement of the first tranche for the FONAREDD Secretariat support project (UNDP) (USD 4.95 million);
- USD 3.5 million for Civil Society Support 2 (CIFOR);
- USD 2 million for PIREDD Kwilu (JICA, second tranche);
- USD 3.5 million for PSFD Savanes (AFD, partial second tranche);
- USD 3 million for Standards, Mines and Hydrocarbons (GIZ).

In November and December 2025, the Secretariat reviewed and provided technical recommendations on a Government expression of financial needs totalling USD 63.3 million, corresponding to first tranches for five new projects, including Energy-2 (UNCDF, USD 50 million), PIREDD Sud-Ubangi (Enabel,

USD 25 million), as well as PES-related initiatives, ensuring consistency with CAFI programming timelines and conditions.

### ***Advancing performance-based programming and PES***

A major focus of the Secretariat's work in 2025 was the operationalisation of performance-based programming through the development of the Kinshasa Supply Basin PES programme (PROBAK), following the mandate received from the Government on 2 March 2025.

The Secretariat played a central role in structuring and managing the full programming cycle, including:

- Supporting the CAFI Executive Board decision EB.2025.20 launching the Call for Expressions of Interest on 12 May 2025, and supporting its official launch on 13 May 2025;
- Managing the evaluation process, with 19 expressions of interest received, 16 deemed compliant and 10 subject to technical evaluation;
- Supporting the preparation of the evaluation report and subsequent Executive Board decision EB.2025.27 (June 2025) selecting implementing organisations to develop full project proposals;
- Providing detailed technical guidance to preselected organisations on PRODOC development, including performance-based disbursement structures, spatial targeting and integration of independent verification requirements.

Following this process, two organisations submitted full project proposals under the PROBAK framework: the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and WWF.

In November 2025, the CAFI Executive Board approved the first PROBAK project implemented by CFC for a total amount of USD 15.05 million, including a dedicated envelope for ex-post PES payments directly managed by the CAFI fund. The project introduced a results-based disbursement structure linking payments to independently verified agroforestry performance.

In parallel, the WWF proposal was finalised and technically reviewed by the Secretariat in 2025, and was subsequently approved by the Executive Board in early 2026.

This work was embedded in a broader PES momentum supported by the Secretariat in 2025, including:

- The high-level regional event held in Kinshasa from 27 to 29 January 2025, which brought together Central African countries to define a regional PES roadmap and launch associated planning and management tools;
- The presentation of initial PES implementation approaches and tools at COP30 in November 2025.
- The implementation of early PES pilots supported by the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility across several countries (DRC, Republic of Congo and Cameroon), including the testing of operational tools (planning and management platforms), the establishment of national PES roadmaps and institutional arrangements, and the execution of first pilot payments. Notably, initial mobile payments linked to verified results were carried out in the Republic of Congo and in the DRC, demonstrating the feasibility of direct, results-based transfers to beneficiaries and validating key components of the PES delivery system.

## **2.2 Republic of Congo**

### ***Monitoring performance and managing non-performance across the portfolio***

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat focused its efforts on strengthening performance management and accountability across the Republic of Congo portfolio, in line with CAFI's approach to monitoring and managing non-performance.

The Secretariat provided oversight to a portfolio of 7 projects (6 active) representing approximately USD 53.5 million in CAFI funding, with USD 22.3 million disbursed to date.

A major focus in 2025 was the management of underperformance and delivery risks. In this context, the CAFI Secretariat:

- Prepared detailed analytical notes and project performance briefs on PUDT and KOPEKOBA (AFD), highlighting delays in implementation, financial execution gaps and reporting issues;
- Organised and facilitated an extraordinary session of the CAFI Executive Board held on 13 March 2025, bringing together Government representatives, AFD and Board members to assess project performance;
- Supported the formulation of Executive Board follow-up actions, including the request for an acceleration plan to be submitted by 30 June 2025 and the organisation of follow-up high-level and technical meetings;
- Followed up on the implementation of these actions throughout 2025, including review of the acceleration plan submitted in August and preparation of discussions held in December 2025.

The Secretariat also conducted systematic monitoring of project performance based on narrative and financial reporting, identifying delays, inconsistencies and delivery risks, and translating these into actionable inputs for decision-making.

A central element of the Secretariat's work in 2025 was the operationalisation of independent verification to inform disbursement decisions and manage performance risks.

For the PROREP project (FAO), the Secretariat:

- designed an independent verification of project results, conducted by UNOPS between May and October 2025 by an external verification body;
- Ensured that verification covered reported results and the robustness of the project's monitoring system;
- Organised the presentation of verification findings to the CAFI Executive Board Working Group on 26 November 2025;
- Used verification results to inform subsequent discussions on disbursement and project performance.

Similarly, the Secretariat enforced disbursement conditionalities under the SYNA-MNV project (FAO), including:

- Suspension of the second tranche request in mid-2025 due to unmet conditions;
- Follow-up with implementing partners and national authorities to ensure fulfilment of conditions, including signature of the data-sharing agreement in July 2025;
- Preparation of the Executive Board decision approving the second tranche (USD 500,000) and no-cost extension until 30 June 2026, adopted on 31 October 2025.

In parallel, the Secretariat supported the implementation of early PES pilots in the Republic of Congo, in coordination with UNOPS under the Regional Technical Assistance Facility. This included the testing of operational PES tools, the structuring of implementation arrangements and the execution of first pilot

payments linked to verified results. Notably, initial mobile payments were carried out in 2025, providing a first proof of concept for direct, results-based transfers to beneficiaries and informing the scaling of PES approaches across the portfolio.

Across the portfolio, the Secretariat applied CAFI's performance-based approach by linking disbursement decisions to verified results, enforcing compliance with agreed upon conditions and strengthening the use of evidence to support Executive Board decisions.

### ***Supporting programming and project development***

In parallel, the Secretariat supported project development and programming processes, ensuring alignment with CAFI standards and policy framework.

In June 2025, the CAFI Executive Board approved a project on environmental governance implemented by GIZ, with a CAFI contribution of USD 6 million over four years. The Secretariat supported the full project development cycle, including technical review of the project document, alignment with safeguards and performance requirements, and preparation of the decision submitted to the Executive Board.

The Secretariat also supported follow-up on projects under development, ensuring readiness for implementation and compliance with CAFI requirements.

## **2.3 Gabon**

### ***Supporting programming, delivery and rapid response***

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat played a central role in supporting project implementation, accelerating delivery and ensuring alignment with national priorities across a portfolio of 8 projects totalling USD 48.2 million, with USD 45.6 million disbursed.

A key achievement in 2025 was the rapid operationalisation of the Human-Elephant Conflict programme, approved by the CAFI Executive Board on 17 January 2025 for USD 10 million.

The Secretariat:

- supported the rapid approval of the project document (in 5 weeks)
- Organised three technical working groups with international and national stakeholders in January 2025 to structure project governance, workplans and budgets;
- Supported the first project Steering Committee held on 31 January 2025, chaired by the Minister of Water and Forests, validating governance arrangements and implementation modalities;
- Supported the operational launch of the programme and coordination with national counterparts and implementing partners.

### ***Strengthening oversight, governance and delivery across the portfolio***

The Secretariat ensured close oversight of project implementation and governance across all CAFI-funded programmes.

In January 2025, the Secretariat:

- Organised and facilitated a project Steering Committee covering multiple programmes, resulting in validation of 2025 workplans and budgets and adjustments to activity allocations;
- Facilitated coordination between implementing organisations through dedicated coordination mechanisms to improve synergies and delivery.

Throughout 2025, the Secretariat also:

- Supported project Steering Committees held on 19 August 2025 (forestry and research programmes), validating workplans and budgets for 2025–2026;
- Participated in technical committees to monitor implementation progress and strengthen coordination between partners;
- Supported the closure of the CAFI 1 project on 28 September 2025 and initiated discussions on the reallocation of approximately USD 4 million in remaining funds.

The Secretariat also supported key portfolio management decisions:

- Contributed to Executive Board decisions regarding extension requests for CAFI 2 and CAFI 3 projects;
- Facilitated transitional implementation arrangements through UNOPS (USD 472,300 with CNC and USD 1.96 million with ANPN), including support to project launch meetings held on 22 October 2025;
- Supported strengthening of project management and financial oversight arrangements, including mobilisation of external technical support.

### ***Advancing PES programming and new project development***

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat played a central role in structuring and advancing PES programming in Gabon.

The Secretariat:

- Established and coordinated a national PES workgroup in Q1 2025, bringing together the Ministry of Environment, DG Environment, DG Wildlife and Protected Areas, AGEOS, CENAREST, ARISE, Brain Forest, WCS, WWF and TNC, and convened regular technical sessions throughout the year to define priorities, scope and implementation modalities;
- Organised a dedicated technical workshop in January 2025 to initiate the development of a national PES roadmap and identify priority intervention areas;
- Conducted a mission to Gabon in late October–early November 2025 to unblock administrative constraints affecting the PES pilot, working directly with national authorities to finalise implementation arrangements;
- Supported a field mission on 5 November 2025 to engage three pilot communities, including consultations on FPIC and benefit-sharing mechanisms and identification of priority activities (mangrove conservation, community forest concessions and conservation of key biodiversity areas);
- Supported the organisation of a PES side-event at COP30 on 19 November 2025 in the Gabon Pavilion in Belém, including preparation of communication materials (video documentation of field activities) and coordination of national participation.

## 2.4 Cameroon

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat played a central role in structuring the programme pipeline, supporting project approval processes and strengthening oversight across the portfolio.

The Secretariat supported the development of the RACINE programme (joint CAFI–GCF initiative), including:

- Supporting submission of the concept note by MINEPAT in August 2025 and its endorsement by the GCF in November 2025;
- Supporting the definition of a pilot results-based direct access approach, mandated by the Executive Board in September 2025;
- Providing technical inputs on the design of performance-based financing mechanisms and alignment with CAFI requirements.

Across the portfolio, the Secretariat ensured close follow-up on implementation and proactively addressed delays and bottlenecks. In particular, the Secretariat:

- Organised and participated in high-level discussions with MINEPAT, implementing organisations and partners (including meetings held on 22–23 September 2025) to address implementation constraints and define corrective actions;
- Requested and reviewed updated implementation plans and timelines to ensure delivery of priority activities;
- Strengthened monitoring arrangements, including the introduction of regular tracking tools and reporting requirements.

The Secretariat also played a key role in advancing project approval, compliance and disbursement processes across multiple projects in 2025, including:

- Reviewing and ensuring compliance of project documents with Executive Board decisions and CAFI policies;
- Supporting the signature of key project documents, including the Land Use Planning project signed on 20 November 2025;
- Facilitating disbursement processes, including the transfer of USD 5.7 million to GIZ on 10 October 2025 for the coordination project;
- Preparing and submitting additional Executive Board decisions where required to clarify implementation arrangements and enable continuation of activities.

The Secretariat further ensured continuity of coordination and implementation support through preparatory grants, including:

- Supporting the approval in July 2025 of an extension of the UNDP preparatory grant until 31 December 2026 with an additional allocation of USD 2.216 million;
- Supporting coordination between MINEPAT, UNDP and implementing partners to advance LoI milestones;
- Following up on preparatory grant implementation and closure processes.

## 2.5 Equatorial Guinea

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat focused on advancing two feasibility-study processes and addressing outstanding conditions for future programming.

### *AFD grant*

For the AFD feasibility study (USD 600,000 approved in April 2024), the Secretariat:

- Reviewed and followed up on the revised concept, which met Executive Board conditions except for the pre-selection of three intervention sites;
- Engaged with AFD and MPTF-O on the finalisation of the Standard NUNO framework agreement required for fund transfer;
- Supported the process to manage the concerns raised by AFD regarding specific provisions of the framework agreement, in particular related to project modification and termination;
- Reviewed the draft side-letter submitted by AFD in November 2025 to address these provisions, in coordination with MPTF-O;

### *Land use planning support (FAO)*

For the FAO land-use planning proposal (approximately USD 1.1 million), the Secretariat:

- Followed up on the revision process following completion of the independent technical review;
- Reviewed FAO's request dated 20 May 2025 to proceed with revisions;
- Requested and assessed a formal justification in line with CAFI operational requirements regarding the extension of the PRODOC development timeline.

## 2.6 Central African Republic

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat played a central role in advancing the first investment project under the partnership, from selection of the implementing organisation to the finalisation of the project design phase.

The Secretariat:

- Prepared and submitted the evaluation report and draft decision leading to the selection of UNDP as implementing organisation (Decision EB.2025.01 adopted on 10 January 2025), and coordinated the non-objection process with the Government (21 January) and notification to UNDP (23 January);
- Organised the project kick-off meeting on 17 February 2025 and supported the implementation of a preparatory grant (USD 300,000) from 8 April to 8 September 2025;
- Conducted the compliance review of the Project Document submitted on 9 September 2025 and reviewed subsequent revisions (28 October and 14 November 2025), supporting finalisation of the project documentation for submission to the Executive Board.

The Secretariat also supported the positioning of CAR within the regional scale-up of the Payments for Environmental Services (PES) programme.

In addition, the Secretariat ensured closure of preparatory activities, including the completion in January 2025 of the UNDP preparatory grant (USD 600,000) supporting policy dialogue and integration of REDD+ priorities into national planning.

## 2.7 Regional

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat played a central role in structuring and advancing key regional programmes, with a focus on performance-based programming, private sector engagement and technical assistance across partner countries.

### Scaling-up Payments for Environmental Services (PES)

A major milestone in 2025 was the preparation of CAFI's first multi-country PES scale-up programme.

The Secretariat:

- Prepared and submitted the proposal for a regional Call for Expressions of Interest covering DRC, Republic of Congo and Central African Republic, for a potential envelope of up to USD 100 million;
- Supported the adoption of Decision EB.2025.47 on 18 November 2025 launching the call and requesting the development of Terms of Reference;
- Developed and submitted the Terms of Reference, approved by the Executive Board on 19 December 2025 (Decision EB.2025.52);
- Prepared the operational launch of the call, including outreach and preparation of information sessions to ensure participation of national actors.

### South-South Cooperation on PES

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat continued to advance the South-South Cooperation initiative on Payments for Environmental Services, building on the preparatory grant approved in June 2024 to support the development of a Global South platform on financial and digital instruments for tropical forests.

The Secretariat:

- Coordinated the implementation of the preparatory phase led by UNDP, engaging CAFI partner countries alongside Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Indonesia to structure knowledge exchange and define priority areas of cooperation;
- Supported the development of the platform's scope and workplan, including technical exchanges on PES design, digital monitoring systems and results-based financing approaches;
- Prepared and submitted a no-cost extension request to the Executive Board, approved on 5 August 2025 (Decision EB.2025.35), extending the preparatory phase until 31 December 2025 to allow completion of key deliverables and preparation of the full programme phase.

In this context, the Secretariat facilitated the formal engagement of Costa Rica as a South–South partner in June 2025, supporting an exchange of knowledge regarding Payments for Environmental Services and bringing globally recognised experience into the CAFI partnership. This milestone further strengthened the platform's role in fostering practical cooperation across tropical forest countries.



*COSTA RICA JOINS CAFE - A UNIQUE SOUTH SOUTH PARTNERSHIP ON PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – SIGNING CEREMONY AND VIDEO OF THE EVENT*

## Regional Technical Assistance Facility (UNOPS)

The Secretariat ensured oversight and strategic orientation of the Regional Technical Assistance Facility (USD 26.57 million), which supports both country programmes and regional initiatives.

The Secretariat:

- Reviewed and coordinated with UNOPS the consolidation of the disbursement request, contributing to the Executive Board's consideration and subsequent approval of the third tranche of USD 10 million on 25 April 2025 (Decision EB.2025.18);
- Worked closely with UNOPS to coordinate and align the delivery of technical assistance across CAFE countries, including support to PES deployment, independent verification processes and national coordination mechanisms;
- Coordinated with UNOPS the implementation of regional scientific and technical initiatives, including research programmes under the CAFE Scientific Network (with multiple grant agreements signed and implementation launched).

## Private Sector Engagement and Investment Pipeline

In 2025, the CAFE Secretariat played a central role in structuring, reviewing and advancing CAFE's private sector portfolio and pipeline, in line with the Private Sector Investment Framework and the performance-based funding approach adopted by the Executive Board.

Building on the Regional Private Sector Facility launched in 2023, the Secretariat led the consolidation and transition of the initial pipeline into a structured portfolio of investment projects and proposals.

In this context, the Secretariat:

- Finalised the technical assessment of expressions of interest submitted under the Regional Private Sector Facility and prepared recommendations to the Executive Board, leading to the formal closure of the call on 31 August 2025 (Decision EB.2025.34);
- Structured and managed a regional pipeline of private sector investments, including 4 active projects representing USD 83.5 million in CAFE funding and a pipeline of projects under development totalling over USD 110 million (CFC, IDH, KfW), ensuring alignment with CAFE's performance-based investment criteria;

- Prepared technical analyses, compliance reviews and Board documentation for private sector projects, including the CAFI INVEST (Canopy Trust) project approved on 20 August 2025 for approximately USD 10 million;
- Ensured application of the Private Sector Project Document Assessment Criteria (Decision EB.2024.42), including evaluation of emission reduction potential, co-financing, financial viability and readiness for performance-based disbursement mechanisms.

In parallel, the Secretariat provided direct support to private companies to build a pipeline of bankable investments through the UNOPS Technical Assistance Facility. In 2025:

- Supported 7 companies (including GoCongo, Interholco, Mushiete & Co, Arise IIP, SOBICO and Faja Lobi) in completing feasibility studies aligned with CAFI investment criteria;
- Facilitated engagement between these companies and CAFI-accredited implementing organisations (&Green, CFC, Catalytic, UNCDF), supporting structuring of potential financing solutions;
- Conducted detailed supply-demand analysis to assess alignment between available CAFI financing instruments and private sector investment needs, informing Executive Board discussions on pipeline prioritisation and financing gaps.

This work directly informed investment decisions and pipeline development. In particular, the Secretariat conducted due diligence and prepared documentation leading to the selection of Ngassam Farm for a feasibility study (USD 110,000) approved on 21 August 2025, as part of efforts to expand the pipeline of bankable deforestation-free investments.

More broadly, the Secretariat's work in 2025 highlighted key structural challenges in mobilising private investment in the Congo Basin, including high reliance on carbon revenues, demand for concessional finance and the need to further develop performance-based instruments such as Payments for Environmental Services to de-risk investments and crowd-in private capital.

### 3. Improved Support Operations for Optimized Results

#### 3.1 Secretariat Recruitments: Increasing Secretariat Capacity

In 2025, 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 71% of the approved positions being recruited, with on-going recruitments in place through 2026.

In 2025, the Secretariat maintained solid local presence in partner countries via its local project offices namely in Kinshasa (DRC), Yaoundé (Cameroon), Brazzaville (Rep. of Congo) and Libreville (Gabon). Such representation is fundamental to ensure the necessary policy dialogue with local stakeholders, facilitating country-level negotiations, agile programming and monitoring of results across the portfolio.

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

The Year of 2025 marked an important milestone in regard to the approach of the Trust Fund in terms of partnership engagement. In 2025 the Secretariat facilitated submission and approval via the Executive Board of the National Access facility, with direct access to both local NGOs ([EB.2025.29](#)) and Governmental Entities ([EB.2025.44](#)). This represents an intensified commitment of the Trust Fund to

diversify its pool of partner expertise, enhancing the Trust Fund’s reach and network of technical capacity, fostering local alliances and maximising results.

In parallel, 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 2025, the Catalytic Foundation and KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau - a German state-owned development bank), joined CAFI’s group of implementing partners, with projects approved in the same year.

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

Implementing Organizations	NUNO/PUNO	Ever implemented CAFI-Funded Project?	Direct Access via which Fund?
AFD	NUNO	Yes	CAFI and FONAREDD
ENABEL	NUNO	Yes	FONAREDD
GIZ	NUNO	Yes	CAFI and FONAREDD
JICA	NUNO	Yes	FONAREDD
KfW	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
Farm Africa	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
IUCN	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
OAF	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
TNC	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
&Green	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
ID	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
IDH	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
WCS	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
CFC	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
CIFOR	NUNO	Yes	FONAREDD
IFAD	PUNO	Yes	CAFI
WB	PUNO	Yes	CAFI and FONAREDD
UNFPA	PUNO	Yes	FONAREDD
UN-Habitat	PUNO	Yes	FONAREDD
UNOPS	PUNO	Yes	CAFI and FONAREDD
FAO	PUNO	Yes	CAFI and FONAREDD
UNCDF	PUNO	Yes	CAFI and FONAREDD
UNEP	PUNO	Yes	CAFI
UNDP	PUNO	Yes	CAFI and FONAREDD
UNESCO	PUNO	Yes	CAFI
Catalytic	NUNO	Yes	CAFI
PROFOREST	NUNO	No	-
GRET	NUNO	No	-

The list below displays the volume of funding approved across these several implementing organizations cumulatively until December 2025. The top three Organizations mobilizing resources with the Trust Fund are UNDP<sup>8</sup>, UNOPS and AFD.

IO	Category	CAFI TF	FONAREDD TF	TOTAL	% From Total
UNDP	PUNO	73,905,275.10	159,134,635.80	233,039,910.90	23%
UNOPS	PUNO	26,570,000.00	94,766,289.00	121,336,289.00	12%
AFD	NUNO-ICA	54,128,689.00	26,999,378.00	81,128,067.00	8%
Enabel	NUNO-ICA		71,431,920.20	71,431,920.20	7%
UNCDF	PUNO	12,505,560.36	56,957,050.00	69,462,610.36	7%
GIZ	NUNO-ICA	24,400,000.00	36,000,000.00	60,400,000.00	6%
FAO	PUNO	12,839,650.21	39,653,671.84	52,493,322.05	5%
&Green	NUNO	51,106,348.00		51,106,348.00	5%
World Bank	PUNO	2,240,000.00	39,000,000.00	41,240,000.00	4%
One Acre Fund	NUNO	3,595,995.00	30,000,000.00	33,595,995.00	3%
IFAD	PUNO	22,949,558.66		22,949,558.66	2%
UNHABITAT	PUNO		21,885,474.45	21,885,474.45	2%
UNFPA	PUNO		20,617,523.89	20,617,523.89	2%
KFW	NUNO-ICA	20,400,000.00		20,400,000.00	2%
TNC	NUNO	17,854,645.62		17,854,645.62	2%
CFC	NUNO	15,551,764.00		15,551,764.00	2%
IUCN	NUNO	15,000,000.00		15,000,000.00	2%
WCS	NUNO	10,467,839.00		10,467,839.00	1%
Catalytic	NUNO	9,919,392.00		9,919,392.00	1%
JICA	NUNO-ICA		9,831,167.00	9,831,167.00	1%
CIFOR	NUNO		5,500,000.00	5,500,000.00	1%
UNEP	PUNO	4,236,585.00		4,236,585.00	0.4%
ID	NUNO	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00	0.1%
UNESCO	PUNO	672,160.00		672,160.00	0.1%
IDH	NUNO	499,542.00		499,542.00	0.05%
Farm Africa	NUNO	429,206.71		429,206.71	0.04%

### 3.3 Digital Solutions

In 2025, with support from the MPTFO, the CAFI Secretariat initiated the implementation of the digital portfolio solution (CAFI Connect) with expected deployment in 2026. In parallel, the Secretariat continued to develop and operationalise the CAFI Metrics Hub, providing a centralised digital platform for tracking portfolio results, including emissions reductions, land-use outcomes and beneficiary data, and supporting real-time analysis and decision-making across projects and countries. Additional

<sup>8</sup> UNDP received funds both as project Implementing Agency as well as funds for the administration of CAFI and FONAREDD Secretariats.

deployment of digital solutions is planned for 2026, including on Database management and payment for environmental services management.

### 3.4 Fund Transfers

A total of \$ 169,082,499 USD in fund transfers were disbursed in 2025 as per portfolio and organizational details below.

Country	Implementing organization and funds transferred (USD)	
Cameroon	GIZ (\$ 10,332,709)	
	KFW (\$ 15,877,585)	
	UNDP (\$ 2,257,285)	
Gabon	WCS (\$ 4,843,653)	
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	UNDP (\$ 98,073,340)	
Central African Republic	OAF (\$ 104,534)	
	UNDP (USD 300,000)	
Regional	Catalytic (\$ 5,548,192)	
	UNOPS (\$ 10,000,000)	
	UNEP (\$ 3,399,806.00)	
	UNCDF (\$ 8,600,194)	
	WCS (\$ 467,836)	
	IDH (\$ 499,542)	
	CFC (\$ 500,000)	
	UNDP (\$ 7,786,822)	
	Republic of Congo	FAO (\$ 500,000)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>169,082,499</b>

### 3.6 Building Central African Talents: the CAFI Fellowship Programme

CAFI concluded the recruitment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort of the CAIF Fellowship Programme, as means to build expertise among young central African professionals in human development and climate change mitigation is essential for long-term forest protection in the region. With more than 120 applications received, the Secretariat succeeded in identifying two talented Fellows to join the cohort of 2025-2026 (one from Cameroon and one from DRC). The Fellowship Programme invites young talent from the

<sup>9</sup> See list of acronyms at the start of report

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.

## 4. Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning: From Compliance to Performance-Based Programming

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat further operationalised the shift toward performance-based programming across the portfolio, translating Executive Board guidance into concrete operational rules and tools. This included strengthening the systematic link between disbursements and verified results, scaling the use of independent verification, and standardising monitoring approaches across projects.

Through these efforts, the Secretariat reinforced a results-based approach to programming, enabling more transparent, evidence-based and adaptive decision-making across the CAFI portfolio.

### 4.1 Operationalising the MEL Guidelines across the portfolio

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat consolidated the implementation of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Guidelines adopted in November 2023, moving from initial rollout to systematic application across the portfolio.

The Secretariat ensured compliance through:

- Direct engagement with all implementing organisations during the 2025 annual reporting cycle (deadline 30 March 2025), covering over 40 active projects;
- Targeted technical support on key requirements, including standardised indicators, beneficiary counting and spatial reporting;
- Systematic participation as an ex-officio member in project steering committees, enabling real-time tracking of project-level decisions, including revisions to workplans, budgets and targets;
- The operational use of a compliance tracking system, combining reporting timeliness, completeness and adherence to MEL requirements.

These efforts resulted in a significant increase in the completeness and standardisation of reported data, enabling portfolio-wide analysis for the first time.

### 4.2 Tracking performance and informing decision-making

In 2025, the Secretariat further operationalised its methodology to assess project performance, combining multiple sources of evidence into a single analytical framework.

This included:

- Analysis of annual financial delivery across the portfolio, benchmarking project expenditure profiles against expected trajectories;
- Systematic comparison of reported results against annual targets, based on 2024 annual reports submitted in March 2025;
- Integration of compliance metrics (reporting, MEL adherence) into performance assessments;

- Cross-checking of financial, narrative and indicator data to assess internal consistency.

This methodology directly informed Secretariat analysis shared with the Executive Board, including the preparation of project-level briefing notes and identification of underperforming projects requiring corrective action or enhanced monitoring.

### 4.3 Scaling verification and strengthening data credibility

A major shift in 2025 was the operationalisation of independent verification as a core component of CAFI's performance-based approach, following Executive Board decision EB.2024.33.

In this context, the Secretariat:

- Prepared and initiated the roll-out of independent verification processes for projects with land-use components, including PES activities;
- Developed verification schedules in coordination with implementing organisations;
- Integrated verification requirements into project documentation and disbursement processes, ensuring that future funding tranches are linked to independently verified results;
- Continued to conduct sample-based spatial verification using satellite imagery, identifying inconsistencies between reported and observed results and engaging directly with implementing organisations to address them.

These efforts marked a transition from declarative reporting towards evidence-based validation of results, strengthening accountability across the portfolio.

### 4.4 Delivering transparent, consolidated and decision-ready reporting

In 2025, the Secretariat led the full reporting cycle and continued to strengthen CAFI's transparency and communication tools.

Key outputs included:

- The review and assessment of all 2024 annual reports submitted by implementing organisations (March 2025 deadline), including detailed feedback and follow-up;
- The preparation and publication of the [CAFI 2024 Annual Report](#) (31 May 2025), consolidating financial and results data across the portfolio;
- Continued development and use of the CAFI Metrics Hub, providing real-time access to standardised indicators and portfolio-level results, including emissions reductions and beneficiary data;
- Data quality control processes applied across all reporting outputs, including cross-checks between narrative reports, financial data, and spatial datasets.

As highlighted in the 2024 Annual Report, the Metrics Hub now enables tracking of results across projects and countries, including consolidated estimates of emissions reductions and spatial coverage of interventions.

These tools and processes allow the Secretariat, Executive Board and partners to access timely, comparable and decision-ready information, supporting the transition towards performance-based programming.

## 5. Informed Executive Board and Working Groups

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

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat prepared, organised, facilitated and documented one Executive Board meeting (EB26), held on 24–25 June 2025 in Geneva, as well as the subsequent Executive Board meeting held on 10–11 February 2026 (EB27), which built directly on 2025 workstreams.

For both meetings, the Secretariat developed and coordinated all documentation, including analytical briefs, session notes and decision packages, and ensured the smooth facilitation of discussions across key agenda items, including portfolio performance, private sector engagement, governance reform, national access and performance-based programming.

The June 2025 meeting marked a key milestone in CAFI’s evolution, with the Secretariat supporting the adoption of major decisions, including:

- The CAFI 2024 Annual Report (Decision EB.2025.25);
- The CAFI Policy on performance-based programming (Decision EB.2025.26);
- Key country-level decisions in DRC, Cameroon and Gabon.

The Secretariat also structured and facilitated country sessions, preparing performance analyses and decision options to support evidence-based discussions and portfolio reprioritisation.

The February 2026 meeting further consolidated these efforts. The Secretariat supported discussions on portfolio performance, milestone tracking, strategic planning and resource mobilisation, and operationalised key tools to strengthen risk management and performance-based programming across the portfolio.

Across both meetings, the Secretariat ensured effective preparation, facilitation and documentation of Executive Board deliberations, enabling timely and informed decision-making on CAFI’s portfolio and strategic direction.

#### List of CAFI’s EB decisions in 2025

EB.2025.01	10/01/2025	CAR - Central African Republic - Selection of UNDP	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.02	17/01/2025	Gabon - Peaceful Human-elephant co-existence in Gabon	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.03	20/01/2025	Republic of Congo No-Cost Extension of the Coordination Support project (00129481)	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.04	11/02/2025	Regional – Project Approval PROCONGO UNEP UNCDF	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.05	12/02/2025	Cameroon - Project Extension_IFAD_FODECC	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.06	17/02/2025	Access to the CAFI Fund to Catalytic Finance Foundation	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.07	21/02/2025	Extension of CAFI Secretariat to 2026	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.08	28/02/2025	No cost extension for AFD Gabon	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.09	28/02/2025	Cameroon - Approval Project Extension_IFAD_FODECC	<a href="#">English</a>

List of CAFI's EB decisions in 2025

EB.2025.10	14/03/2025	Cameroon - No cost extension of UNDP-MINEPAT Prepgrant	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.11	01/04/2025	Gabon - Elephant Project Spending Decision	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.12	03/04/2025	DRC - WWF selection	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.13	08/04/2025	Extension of the United Kingdom's Presidency	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.14	10/04/2025	Cameroon - GIZ LUP project budget increase	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.15	18/04/2025	Access of KfW to CAFI Trust Fund	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.16	21/04/2025	Adoption of CAFI Midterm Evaluation Terms of reference	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.17	25/04/2025	RoC - Selection Climate Analytics	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.18	25/04/2025	Regional - Approval of the disbursement request for the 3rd tranche of the UNOPS Regional Technical Assistance Facility Programme	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.19	23/04/2025	DRC - Approval of the allocation to FONAREDD (11th sub-tranche)	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.20	12/05/2025	DRC - Lancement de l'AMI PROBAK	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.21	04/06/2025	Regional - KfW PAMOL prep grant	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.22	13/06/2025	RoC - Accountability of projects in Republic of Congo	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.23	18/06/2025	RoC - Project Approval GIZ Env. Governance	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.24	25/06/2025	Cameroon - Approval of KfW Grand Mbam PRODOC	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.25	25/06/2025	Adoption of the 2024 Annual Report	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.26	25/06/2025	CAFI Policy_AFOLU_PES	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.27	25/06/2025	DRC – PROBAK Selection	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.28	25/06/2025	Approval of GIZ LUP Cameroon	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.29	25/06/2025	Approval of National Access for NUNO	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.30	22/07/2025	Cameroon - Decision UNDP MINEPAT PrepGrant Extension	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.31	04/07/2025	RoC - Extension sans coût SYNA MNV	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.32	02/07/2025	Gabon - No cost extension of CAFI 2	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.33	02/07/2025	Gabon - No cost extension of CAFI 3	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.34	01/08/2025	Regional - Closure Private Sector Facility	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.35	05/08/2025	Regional - no-cost extension South-South Cooperation	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.36	20/08/2025	Regional - Approval of Canopy trust Project Document_Final Version	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.37	21/08/2025	Regional - Selection Private Companies - Ngassam Farm	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.38	22/08/2025	Extension of the Trust Fund	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.39	12/09/2025	Cameroon - Mandate Pilot Results based Approach for Direct Government Access with GCF	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.40	12/09/2025	Cameroon - SELECTION_CTFC	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.41	24/09/2025	Earmarking per theme and inclusion of additional themes	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.42	03/04/2025	DRC - Approval of One Acre Fund project addendum	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.43	31/10/2025	Regional - No-Cost-Extension IDH PrepGrant	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.44	11/11/2025	Approval of National Access for Government Entities	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.45	18/11/2025	DRC - CFC PROBAK Project Approval	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.46	31/10/2025	RoC - Disbursement tranche 2 - No-cost extension SYNA MNV	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.47	18/11/2025	Regional - Launch Of Multicountry PES Call For Eol	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.48	02/12/2025	Gabon - Closure of CAFI 2 & 3	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.49	12/12/2025	DRC - Approval of the allocation to FONAREDD (12th sub-tranche)	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.50	12/12/2025	Project Approval_Canopy Trust	<a href="#">English</a>
EB.2025.51	18/12/2025	Cameroon - RACINE_MINEPAT Invitation PRODOC	<a href="#">English</a>

## List of CAFI's EB decisions in 2025

EB.2025.52 19/12/2025 DRC - RoC - CAR - Call for EoI PES 2026

[English](#)

*LIST OF DECISIONS PREPARED BY THE CAFI SECRETARIAT AND ADOPTED BY THE CAFI EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2025*

### 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 2025, the CAFI Secretariat prepared and managed background documentation and minutes, presented and facilitated discussions in 23 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 2025	TOTAL SINCE CREATION OF WORKING GROUP
DRC	12	99
ROC	4	35
GABON	4	10
CAMEROON	3	18
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	0	4
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>168</b>

*NUMBERS OF WORKING GROUPS ORGANIZED BY THE CAFI SECRETARIAT FOR EACH COUNTRY, IN 2025 AND CUMULATIVELY.*

## 6. Fund Mobilisation

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

- United Kingdom: GBP 15 million (4<sup>th</sup> Addendum) – approximately \$ 21 million.
- Norway: NOK 450 million (7<sup>th</sup> Addendum) – approximately \$ 44.7 million.
- Belgium: EUR 5,6 million (4<sup>th</sup> Addendum) – approximately \$ 6 million.
- Germany: EUR 9 million (5<sup>th</sup> Addendum) – approximately \$ 10.4 million.

With that, the total amount committed to support CAFI reached \$ 1,036,279,144 with a deposit rate of 88%<sup>10</sup>.

Contributor	Deposits in 2025 alone (USD)	Cumulative deposits by 31 December 2025 (USD)
Germany	\$ 34,463,280	\$ 311,003,126
Norway	\$ 44,217,335	\$ 443,900,508
The Netherlands		\$ 34,000,000

<sup>10</sup> Considering deposits made until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

France		\$ 29,355,771
Belgium		\$ 13,223,259
Sweden		\$ 7,406,131
European Union		\$ 15,096,179
South Korea	\$ 357,105	\$ 2,387,879
United Kingdom	\$ 11,282,951	\$ 47,295,096
Denmark	\$ 4,653,616	\$ 9,585,466
TOTAL	\$ 94,974,287	\$ 913,253,414

*2025 AND CUMULATIVE DONOR DEPOSITS*

## 7. Communications and Knowledge Management

### 7.1 Events

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat played a central role in positioning the initiative at key international and regional events, supporting high-level policy dialogue, resource mobilisation and the promotion of performance-based approaches to forest conservation.

1) In January 2025, the CAFI Secretariat supported the organisation of a **high-level regional conference on Payments for Environmental Services (PES)**, held in Kinshasa from 27 to 29 January 2025, hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Secretariat contributed to the preparation, structuring and facilitation of the event, which brought together ministers and senior representatives from the six CAFI partner countries, as well as technical and financial partners.

The conference resulted in the adoption of a regional roadmap for the large-scale deployment of PES in Central Africa, identifying priority intervention areas (including agroforestry, reforestation and conservation), financing needs and implementation modalities.

The Secretariat also supported the development and presentation of two operational PES tools — a planning tool (Ground Impact PES) and a digital management platform — designed to support targeting, monitoring and payment processes based on verified results.

This event marked a key step in translating CAFI’s performance-based programming approach into a coordinated regional agenda and laid the foundation for subsequent PES developments, including the launch of multi-country programmes and scaling efforts later in 2025.



*JANUARY 2025 - KINSHASA INTER-MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF PSEs*

2) A major highlight was CAFI’s participation in **Climate Week NYC on 24 September 2025**, where the Secretariat organised, a high-level event marking CAFI’s 10-year anniversary. The event brought together seven ministers from partner and donor countries, the UNDP Administrator and senior international partners.

The Secretariat led the preparation and delivery of the event, including the launch of the [“10 Years, 10 Breakthroughs” report](#), showcasing CAFI’s impact since 2015 and positioning the initiative as a flagship platform for aligning climate, biodiversity and development objectives in Central Africa. The event also provided a platform for ministers to highlight national reforms and priorities, including land-use planning, PES and national access to climate finance.

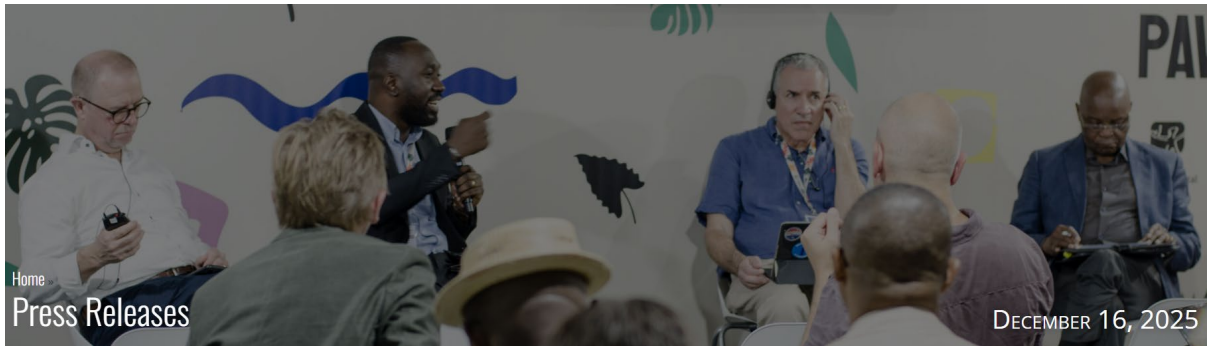


*MINISTERS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF CAFE BREAKTHROUGHS AT CLIMATE WEEK IN NEW YORK, 24 SEPTEMBER 2025*

3) In November 2025, the Secretariat supported CAFE's strong presence at **COP30 in Belém** (10–21 November 2025), working alongside Congo Basin countries to advance a shared regional positioning. The Secretariat:

- Supported national delegations and coordinated CAFE's participation in ministerial and technical discussions;
- Contributed to the presentation of the Congo Basin scientific assessment report, supported by CAFE and partners;
- Organised and supported three high-level panels on Payments for Environmental Services (PES) with ministers from DRC, Republic of Congo and Gabon;
- Supported the demonstration of operational PES systems, including digital tools for registration, monitoring and mobile payments;
- Contributed to two major announcements: the launch of a regional PES call for expressions of interest with USD 100 million commitment, bringing total CAFE funding for PES in Central Africa to USD 125 million and announcement of national access for governments.

Beyond event participation, the Secretariat played a proactive role in shaping the regional and international positioning of the Congo Basin ahead of COP30. This included supporting the preparation of the Congo Basin joint declaration and facilitating alignment among partner countries, regional institutions and donors on key priorities, including Payments for Environmental Services, forest governance reforms and financing needs.



*PANEL AT COP30 IN BELÉM, NOVEMBER 2025*

These engagements positioned CAFI and Congo Basin countries as key actors in the global climate agenda and demonstrated the transition from pilot approaches to large-scale, performance-based investments.

## 7.2 A robust website

In 2025, the CAFI Secretariat led the launch of [CAFI's new website](#), which is now fully functional and operational, marking a significant step in improving the visibility, accessibility and transparency of CAFI's activities and results.

The Secretariat supported the full deployment of the website, including content migration, structuring and quality control, ensuring bilingual access (English and French) and improved user navigation.

The website provides comprehensive and up-to-date information on CAFI's portfolio, including:

- Over 30 project pages, regularly updated with background information and results;
- Eight thematic pages aligned with CAFI's outcomes, presenting consolidated results and key messages;
- Updated visual content, including graphs on commitments by country and sector;
- Systematic publication of Executive Board decisions and meeting reports.

In addition, 13 **news articles** were published in both English and French, covering key developments, country activities and major events.

Further enhancements are planned for 2026, including expanded functionalities and improved data visualisation tools.

## 7.3 Diversified social media presence

Social media platforms were diversified, with the CAFI Secretariat maintaining:

- [A Youtube platform](#) for video streams, targeting media and the general public, in which the CAFI Secretariat posted 26 videos and received 10,157 views in 2025 alone.

- [A Linked In platform](#) for technical content in English, targeting professionals, where the CAFI Secretariat posted 31 updates in 2025 and reached a total of 2645 followers.

- [A Facebook page](#) in French targeting Governments and stakeholders in the Central African region – totalling 532 followers gained in less than one year.

- [A BlueSky account](#), was also created as part of ongoing efforts to explore emerging platforms.

Social media platforms are increasingly used as complementary tools to enhance visibility and stakeholder engagement. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen content consistency, improve engagement, and align outputs with CAFI’s strategic communication objectives.

## 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 2025, 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 2024 Annual consolidated report.
- maintain a gender balance in the staffing of the CAFI Secretariat, currently a balance of 50% female and 50% male.

### 8.3 Transparency and integrity

The Secretariat continued to circulate a conflict-of-interest form before Executive Board meetings and shared the results for the Executive Board to consider 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.

One case of apparent alleged financial irregularity was submitted by a project to the Administrative Agent; this incident is currently under due diligence and review. 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

In 2025, marking ten years since its establishment, the CAFI Secretariat strengthened its role in supporting policy dialogue, project development and portfolio oversight across an expanding and increasingly complex portfolio.

A key shift was the transition towards performance-based programming, including the operationalisation of Payments for Environmental Services (PES), the rollout of independent verification and stronger performance monitoring to inform Executive Board decisions and improve accountability.

At the same time, the Secretariat continued to support the expansion and diversification of the portfolio, including through private sector engagement, new partnerships and increased access for national entities.

With over USD 1 billion committed and increased international visibility, 2025 marked an important step in positioning CAFI as a platform delivering results at scale for forests, climate and sustainable development in Central Africa.