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MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2022

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

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

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

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

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

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

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

This report on the activities of the CAFI Secretariat provides an update on progress made by the CAFI Secretariat in 2022 under the project “MPTF Secretariat - Direct Cost” project, that started in 2021 and will run until 2025. This project picks up from the previous CAFI Secretariat project that had started in 2015 and ended in 2021.

This report outlines the Secretariat’s progress towards the overarching goals set out in its Terms of Reference, i.e. to:

- support the programming cycle through a proactive and strategic approach to accelerate implementation
- support monitoring and evaluation
- support the Executive Board (EB) in taking informed decisions, organize EB meetings and other meetings
- represent CAFI at meetings, side-events and regional fora
- support fund-raising efforts with the MPTF-Office and the EB, and support the MPTF-Office in the preparation and update of agreements between implementing agencies and CAFI
- ensure communications and knowledge management
- deliver efficient and effective operational processes (contract service providers and vendors)

The report you have in your hands is structured around these main goals.



CONTENTS

Acronyms	4
1. Maintaining high level engagement with policy dialogue	5
1.1 Democratic Republic of Congo	5
1.2 Republic of Congo.....	7
1.3 Gabon	8
1.4 Cameroon.....	9
1.5 Equatorial Guinea	9
1.6 Central African Republic.....	9
2. Participating in governance structure & supporting the development and submission of project documents and project portfolio documents.....	9
2.1 Democratic Republic of Congo	9
2.2 Republic of Congo.....	10
2.3 Gabon	11
2.4 Cameroon.....	11
2.5 Equatorial Guinea	12
2.6 Central African Republic.....	12
2.7 Regional.....	12
3. Improved operations for smoother processes	13
4. Monitoring and Evaluation: improved reporting and clearer guidance	16
5. Informed Executive Board and working groups.....	17
6. New donor joins and fund mobilisation remains strong	23
7. Communications and Knowledge Management.....	24
8. Safeguards and risk management	29
9. Strategic partnerships and exchanges	31
10. Conclusion.....	31

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
GIZ = German Corporation for International Cooperation
GRET = Group for Research and Technology Exchanges
HACT = Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
ID = Initiative Développement
(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
PROFOREST
REDD+ = Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
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

To support the strategic dialogue between CAFI's partner countries and the Executive Board, the CAFI Secretariat provided support to representatives of the Executive Board and embassies in the region, held regular exchanges with partners countries and contributed to mobilizing political actors at a high level.

1.1 Democratic Republic of Congo

Following the signature of the Joint Statement in November 2021, during the COP 26 in Glasgow, by President Tshisekedi of the DRC and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, the CAFI Secretariat supported the organization of the signing ceremony of the Letter of Intent between the Government, represented by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Kazadi and Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Environment, Ms. Bazaiba, with CAFI represented by the German Ambassador in DRC on behalf of German Presidency. During this ceremony - that took place on 30 May 2022 and was attended by authorities (ministers in charge of Mining, Land Use Planning and Land Tenure), the Heads of Office of the Head of State and the Prime Minister, the UN Resident Coordinator, and several ambassadors - the Government presented the programming framework (see section 2.1) as well as the guidelines for the institutional arrangements for the second phase of the DRC-CAFI partnership, jointly endorsed with the CAFI Board. The CAFI Secretariat prepared notes and briefings to support this successful outcome.

In June, the Ministry of Finance's Deputy Chief of Staff participated in the 20th meeting of the CAFI Executive Board in Oslo, Norway.

Through the summer of 2022, the CAFI secretariat supported the understanding and development of a joint position of partners regarding Oil Block auctions.



On May 30 in Kinshasa, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the DRC, Eve Bazaiba, the Minister of Finance, Nicolas Kazadi, and the German Ambassador to Kinshasa, Dr. Oliver Schanzenberg, signed the 2nd the Letter of Intent

In September 2022, the CAFI Secretariat supported the organization of a high-level meeting held in Kinshasa to monitor progress made on political engagements and review progress on the milestones of the 2nd Letter of Intent. This meeting was attended by the Heads of Cabinets and Administration of more than ten ministries in charge of the implementation of the respective milestones. They presented their roadmap to reach the 24 milestones planned for 2021-2022. Before the meeting the CAFI secretariat provided support to these ministries in the development of their roadmap. These milestones span land use & planning, energy, agriculture, forestry, mining, demographics, and governance. The Government agreed to hold multi-partite biannual strategic meetings to monitor the progress towards the commitments in the Lol in 2023 and beyond.

The CAFI secretariat helped raise high-level ownership and monitoring of those commitments notably by:

- ensuring that measures at risk were put on the agenda of the Donor group on environment and climate (GIBEC) monthly meetings, as well as at the agenda of GIBEC meetings with the authorities (two meetings with the Dep Prime Minister in charge of Environment, one meeting with the Head of Office of the Head of State, one meeting with the Minister Petroleum etc) and providing subsequent briefings

- to GIBEC and CAFI presidency as well as partners in DRC to support coordination in the policy dialogue with the authorities on the climate / forest agenda;
- supporting the alignment of policy dialogue and measures on the climate/forest agenda, notably with the integration of triggers aligned with milestones of the Letter of Intent for the first Development Policy Operation of the World Bank in DRC and;
- coordinating policy dialogue in the forest sector with partners and other multilateral initiatives (World Bank and European Union (EU)) on sensitive milestones such as
 - the publication of the Report of the Inspection Générale des Finances on the forest concessions in April 2022
 - the finalization of the independent review of the legality of forest concessions funded by the EU and
 - supporting the coordination of GIBEC inputs to the revision of the Decree on the “National Consultative Forest Council”
- closely monitoring progress towards the development and finalization of policies in main land use sectors, especially on land use planning, land tenure and for the promotion of sustainable agriculture, and briefing partners in DRC and in the CAFI Board accordingly, especially through active participation in the Donor group on agriculture (GIBADER).

The CAFI Secretariat participated and contributed to the United Nations System support to the organization of the pre-COP27 in Kinshasa, in October 2022 through the Office of the Resident Coordinator. It also provided support to the organization of a high-level meeting on climate finance in the margins of the Pre-COP 27. Several authorities from the Congo Basin region (Ministers of Environment of Republic of Congo and Cameroon, Minister of Forest of Gabon) and from CAFI Board members (Alok Sherma, UK COP26 President, Ministers of Environment of Germany, Norway, Netherlands and high-level negotiators from France, EU, Belgium) attended this meeting conveyed by the Minister of Finance to further exchange on the opportunities and challenges of climate finance mobilization.

Finally, the CAFI Sec supported the organization and participated in-side events organized in the DRC Pavilion at COP27 in Charm-El-Sheikh.

1.2 Republic of Congo

Throughout the year, the CAFI Secretariat provided policy dialogue support directly through one full time staff supporting the coordination project the Republic of Congo, in addition to two missions during 2022. The Permanent Secretary for the coordination of the implementation of the Letter of Intent in the Republic of Congo participated in the CAFI Executive Board meetings in Oslo, Norway and Libreville, Gabon, an opportunity for exchanges with CAFI donors and implementing organizations. The CAFI Secretariat prepared and organized the meeting of the Partnership Steering Committee, hosted and presided by the Prime Minister, held on 3 December 2022, in which the Ministers of Forest Economy and Environment, Embassies of CAFI donors (Germany, France and European Union) participated as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator. This meeting led to the approval of the Land Use Planning Investment program (also called “KOPEKOBA”).

The CAFI Secretariat facilitated exchanges with the Ministers of Forests and Environment on the margins of international forum such as the World Forestry Congress in Seoul, the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum in Oslo and the CBFP's meeting in Libreville. Bilateral meetings were also held during the COP27 in Charm-El-Sheikh.

1.3 Gabon

The CAFI Secretariat supported the conduct of the Annual review of the Partnership, that took place in Libreville in July 2022. In this review, the CAFI Secretariat facilitated and participated in meetings between the CAFI Executive Board and the National Climate Council, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Waters, Forests, Sea and Environment, the Agence Gabonaise d'Études et d'Observations Spatiales (AGEOS), Agence de Développement Agricole du Gabon (ADAG), the Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux du Gabon (ANPN), and Agence gabonaise de Normalisation. During the Review, the CAFI Secretariat also supported meetings between national implementing partners and the implementing organisations for projects funded under the Gabon - CAFI partnership (AFD, UNDP, TNC and UNESCO), as well as with civil society and private sector organisations involved in the governance of the projects. Partners reviewed the strengths and results of the two current projects (CAFI 1 on land use planning and forest monitoring and CAFI 2 on optimising land use and expanding the protected areas network). They identified areas for potential improvement and discussed perspectives for implementation the five new programmes recently validated under Gabon's first results-based payment from CAFI. The CAFI Secretariat facilitated consensus on a set of recommendations to accelerate progress against the programmatic and political milestones of the partnership.



CAFI - Gabon Annual review in Libreville

1.4 Cameroon

The CAFI Secretariat prepared documentation and facilitated policy dialogue at country level, notably between the Government (Ministry of Land Use Planning, Ministry of Forests) and the local delegation of the European Union and Embassies of, France, the UK and Germany. This led to a consensus at the end of the year on an engagement plan with Cameroon to be developed in 2023.

1.5 Equatorial Guinea

The CAFI Secretariat coordinated with the French Embassy in Malabo and the Ministries of Finance, Economy and Planification and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and Environment to develop and finalize, with formal endorsement, the terms of reference for a call for expressions of interest.

1.6 Central African Republic

The CAFI Secretariat organized and facilitated a new country group for the Central African Republic (CAR).

The Secretariat supported the preparation and conduct of a mission in CAR to engage political dialogue and launch the implementation of the preparatory grant to support policy dialogue and the elaboration of three prefeasibility studies piloted by the AFD. During the mission, the CAFI Secretariat, with the support of the European Union and France Ambassadors, met with different Ministers and the Prime Minister to discuss next steps of the partnership starting with the studies financed through the preparatory grant to be finalized in 2023.

2. Participating in governance structure & supporting the development and submission of project documents and project portfolio documents

2.1 Democratic Republic of Congo

Programming under the Second Letter of Intent (2021-2030)

Following the signature of the Letter of Intent in November 2021 during the COP 26 in Glasgow with a joint statement signed by President Tshisekedi of the DRC and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, the programming phase began in 2022, with objective structured across 8 thematic pillars.

A [programming framework](#) was developed jointly by the CAFI Secretariat and the DRC Partnership Task Force, approved in May 2022, leading to an ambitious call for Expressions of Interest prepared and launched jointly on 31 May 2022 (see [DRC - CAFI partnership: Call for expressions of interest | Central African Forest Initiative \(CAFI\)](#)). In addition to efforts to reach out to all potential implementing organizations on the CAFI web site, through social

media and mass mailing, open information sessions were held, and a system developed to acknowledge receipt of queries and proposals. In parallel, a Fast-track process was agreed on to accelerate the implementation of the letter of intent, with a pipeline of project currently under development for consideration by the joint governance bodies of FONAREDD.

Monitoring the portfolio under the First Letter of Intent (2016-2020)

A dedicated portfolio manager was hired in 2022 to support this function.

Through the organization of regular meetings between Norway (DRC Lead) and the FONAREDD (DRC's National REDD+ Fund) Secretariat, the CAFI Secretariat provided policy and technical advice and support to the FONAREDD. The CAFI Secretariat contributed to informing CAFI Board members, and participated in discussions and monitoring of the 18 active projects in the DRC that CAFI funds through the FONAREDD by participating and/or briefing the Executive Board in the preparation of :

- eight meetings of the FONAREDD Technical Committee in 2022, whose agendas are available [here](#)
- ten project steering committees, whose list is available [here](#)
- the non/objection decisions of the FONAREDD Steering Committee on 3 May 2022 ([here](#))

The CAFI Secretariat participation in these meetings helped facilitate the transfers from the FONAREDD to implementing organizations of a total of **26,474,254 USD towards eight projects** (3 full second tranches, 4 partial 2nd tranches and one additional funding).

In efforts to centralize and make information easily accessible (with different access levels) to CAFI donors, Executive Board and the general public, the CAFI Secretariat continued to make related documentation available, with various levels of access, by meeting and by project.

Thanks to facilitation by the CAFI Secretariat, on 16 December 2022, the Government of DRC and the CAFI Executive Board came to an agreement on the funding of the first batch of programs under the 2nd letter of intent signed with the DRC in Glasgow. As a result, a tranche of 60 million was released from the CAFI Trust Fund, part of the 500 million committed by CAFI to the DRC. The funding will support the reform process initiated during the 1st phase of the partnership, rural development programs in several DRC provinces and investments in the energy, agriculture and family planning sectors.

2.2 Republic of Congo

Two projects were approved in 2022: i) the Sustainable Land use project (or "Programme d'utilisation durable des terres (PUDT)" in French) and ii) the Sustainable Land Use Investment Project (also called "KOPEKOBA").

To advance this process, the CAFI Secretariat assessed several versions of project documents submitted by AFD, organized the independent evaluation of the projects and supported discussions between the CAFI EB and the partnership Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

These two new projects in 2022, totalling 35 MUSD from the CAFI Fund plus 30 MEUR from the European Union and the French Development agency (AFD), bring the total to six projects under the joint programming framework of the Letter of Intent.

Beside approved projects, the CAFI Secretariat

- supported ongoing efforts to operationalize approved projects including the Coordination support project (also called “Projet d’appui à la coordination”, or “PAC”), the project for the national system for MRV project, the Wood Energy project (PROREP) and the Improved Cook Stoves projects (also called “Lituka”)
- developed the project document for the Environmental Governance project and Civil Society project
- developed terms of reference of the private sector project

2.3 Gabon

The CAFI Secretariat participated in three project steering committee meetings that resulted in stronger implementation of the two active projects under CAFI 1 (Land use planning and forest monitoring and 2 (Agriculture research and expansion of national parks). The Secretariat also prepared the release of the second tranche of the CAFI 1 project to AFD after meeting the disbursement conditions set by the EB.

The Secretariat also supported the development, under the validated National Investment Framework, of five projects funded under CAFI 3 (results-based payments) that were approved by Gabon’s National Climate Council in 2022⁸. In order to allow funding to new entities the CAFI Secretariat completed the accreditation process of TNC.

To ensure the flow of further results-based payments, the CAFI Secretariat provided support to the finalize or update the results reports and several UNFCCC documents (National REDD+ Strategy, FREL, BUR and Technical annex) required by the convention to qualify for RBPs.

2.4 Cameroon

The CAFI Sec conducted two missions to Cameroon in 2022. The first mission, in May 2022, set out to advance the design of a partnership, in particular i) the final selection of pilot areas, ii) definition of a list of accompanying measures for the pilot phase of the partnership that will be used for negotiations between the Government and the CAFI Board; and iii)

⁸ [Five new projects signed under Gabon’s historic results-based partnership with CAFI | Central African Forest Initiative \(CAFI\)](#)

define the key elements of a preliminary program with a technical assistance project for MINEPAT and other Ministries according to the needs identified.

A draft programming framework was prepared for future investments in Cameroon and shared with the Executive Board (EB), followed by a full project document for a national intersectoral Coordination Project. Based on guidance by the EB, the CAFI Secretariat started to discuss the Coordination project with MINEPAT and further refine the partnership mechanism, embedded within the existing National Development Strategy (SND30) monitoring structures.

The EB also approved that the CAFI Secretariat could present to the country a stepwise approach to engagement. In 2023: launch the coordination project; prepare a set of pilot investments including 2 jurisdictional projects and 2 sectoral programs (Land Use Planning and one value chain) up to a financial amount of 60 MUSD total including the coordination project. CAFI Secretariat worked on identifying a few policies and measures that could be agreed upon (in parallel of the approval of the project document of the pilot investments) on institutional arrangements, cross sectoral coordination, integration of forest/climate objectives into development planning.

The CAFI Secretariat mission to Cameroon in Dec 2022 confirmed the majority of the selected projects on a transparent, participatory and objective manner and based on analyses conducted by both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forests during preparation of the CAFI-FAO Regional study of drivers of deforestation.

2.5 Equatorial Guinea

The CAFI Secretariat launched a call for Expressions of Interest in January 2022, examined the expressions of interest received and provided its analysis to the Executive Board, that selected the French Development Agency in June 2022. The French development Agency (AFD) was asked to develop a full proposal to support the policy dialogue and conduct studies to identify preliminary data and the most suitable relevant opportunities in the land-use and forestry sector for a potential future collaboration.

2.6 Central African Republic

The CAFI Secretariat monitored progress made under the ongoing preparatory grant through one mission in April in Bangui and visio-conference.

2.7 Regional

The CAFI Secretariat participated in nine meetings and provided guidance in the Steering and Technical Committees of the FAO-led "Trends and Driver's study" and facilitated information sessions with the Executive Board on the findings of this study and its at-cost extension.

With regards to IUCN’s Regional Nature+ Accelerator programme, although the project remained in its start-up phase, the CAFI Secretariat provided input to a regional market barrier study for CAFI launched in early December 2022.

The CAFI Secretariat facilitated the approval by the Executive Board of the capitalization of the “&Green” Fund, that will provide 47 million USD as donor capital to &Green, who will catalyse more than double that amount in additional capital the Congo Basin. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) will act as the CAFI investment agent. Watch [this video](#) and read more here : [CAFI and &Green Commit 120 million USD to deliver on Congo Basin Pledge | Central African Forest Initiative \(CAFI\)](#).

3. Improved operations for smoother processes

The CAFI Secretariat proposed additional revisions to the [CAFI Terms of Reference](#) and the [CAFI Manual of Operations](#), ultimately approved by the Executive Board on 10 March 2023. Updates included strengthening of quality assurance processes for recipient organizations, streamlining of accreditation process and access to the Fund, optimization of Forms for project development, reporting, amidst other improvements.

3.1 Access to the CAFI Fund: diversifying our pool of expertise - from theory to practice

In 2022, CAFI fostered partnership dialogue with several prospective implementing partners in line with CAFI’s Terms of Reference, which allows access to funding to international non-governmental organizations (including but not limited to research institutions, INGOs, bilateral cooperation agencies, international organizations).

Completed and on-going accreditations and re-accreditations are listed below:

Completed accreditations or re-accreditations	Ongoing accreditations	Ongoing re-accreditations
<i>Completed prior to 2022</i> Farm Africa IUCN One Acre Fund Enabel <i>Completed in 2022</i> The Nature Conservancy CIFOR PROFOREST AFD	Initiative Développement World Wildlife Fund GRET European Forest Institute KFW Germany Wildlife Conservation Society	GIZ JICA

3.2 Funding transfers

The CAFI Secretariat supported the MPTF-Office in the preparation and updating of CAFI's agreements with implementing organizations.

In total, USD 191,671,524 in fund transfers were disbursed in 2022 as per geographical and organizational details below.

Country	Implementing organization⁹ and funds transferred (USD)
DRC	FONAREDD (USD 74,888,331.06)
Gabon	UNDP (USD 500,000)
	AFD (USD 9,028,689.00)
	TNC (USD 9,900,797.31)
Republic of Congo	UNDP (USD 12,078,312.83)
	UNESCO (USD 261,080.00)
	AFD (USD 10,852,865.00)
	FAO (USD 3,010,000.00)
Regional	Farm Africa (USD 431,001.00)
	IUCN (USD 3,750,000.00)
	One Acre Fund (USD 500,000.00)
	UNCDF (USD 53,000,000.00)
	UNDP (USD 13,470,447.90) ¹⁰

⁹ See list of acronyms on page 3

¹⁰ CAFI Secretariat

3.3 First two fellows under 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's why CAFI launched a fellowship program at its Secretariat in Geneva, to invite young talents from the region to join its team for one year and grow skillsets that can in turn benefit future actions for Central African forests and people. The first two fellows, two women from Cameroon, joined the CAFI Secretariat team in 2022.



CAFI Director with the first two fellows under the CAFI Fellowship programme

4. Monitoring and Evaluation: improved reporting and clearer guidance

4.1 Country level evaluations

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the CAFI Secretariat, through its participation in eight DRC FONAREDD Technical Committee held in 2022, contributed to monitoring progress of ongoing projects including

In **Gabon**, the CAFI Secretariat contracted and coordinated the [independent verification of the milestones of the Letter of Intent with Gabon](#), finalized in 2022. An annual review of the partnership with Gabon was organized in person in July 2022 in Libreville (see section 1.3)

As per the Letter of Intent with the **Republic of Congo**, the CAFI Secretariat, in support to the Permanent Secretariat, continued to strategically monitor milestones that will support the annual review of the partnership to be conducted in 2023 following the reception of project annual review.

4.2 Clearer and streamlined guidance

After coordinating and consolidating several rounds of inputs, the CAFI Secretariat developed the CAFI [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning \(MEL\) Policy](#), that was adopted by the Executive Board in December 2022.

The CAFI Secretariat improved the reporting template for the 2022 exercise and held two information sessions to ensure its comprehension and dissemination amongst implementing organizations, including with the FONAREDD Secretariat.

The CAFI Secretariat initiated increased coordination with the FONAREDD Secretariat, through monthly meetings dedicated to monitoring and evaluation, to ensure consistent guidelines and templates for all implementing organizations receiving CAFI funding.

4.3 Quality reporting

For the 2021 reporting exercise, the CAFI Secretariat reviewed and assessed the results of more than 30 projects reported by implementing organizations, and on this basis monitored delivery rate and reported back to the Executive Board on programme financial delivery. The CAFI Secretariat prepared and finalized the [CAFI Fund 2021 Consolidated report](#). 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

In 2022, the CAFI Secretariat prepared, organized, facilitated and documented (internally and externally) two meetings of the CAFI Executive Board. Both meetings were organized in a hybrid format.

The 20th CAFI Executive Board meeting was organized in three parts

- An internal segment on 3 and 6 May in Seoul, hosted by Korean Forest Service
- A segment with in-person country representatives (Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, DRC, Gabon) from June 22 to June 27 in Oslo, Norway, hosted by UNDP
- A high-level segment in July in Libreville, Gabon

The 21st meeting, hosted by UNDP, was organized in Geneva, Switzerland.



CAFI EB 21 meeting in Geneva, opened by UNDP Geneva Director Agi Veres (left hand side)

In total, adding intersessional decisions, the CAFI Executive Board adopted 36 decisions in 2022, listed in the table below, a new record since the establishment of the Fund¹¹. As per its rules, decisions are shared with a two-week notice with the Board, adopted, translated and published online on CAFI's website as soon as agreed by the Board and, for country-specific decisions, as soon as they are communicated to the authorities. Most important, the CAFI Secretariat took action based on the Executive Board's requests, as shown in the tacking table below.

¹¹ 31 decisions had been adopted in 2021

DECISION NUMBER	DATE (2022)	SCOPE	TOPIC	HYPERLINKS		EVENT	FOLLOW UP ITEMS ADDRESSED TO CAFI SEC	STATUS
EB.2022.01	10/01	Regional	No cost extension for trends and drivers study	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.02	22/02	RoC	Agency selection - civil society support	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB. 2022.03	09/03	Gabon	Working Group	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.04	24/03	CAR	Working Group	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.05	02/05	RoC	Sustainable Land Use Program	French	English	Intersessional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share with a technical memo • Produce a satisfactory technical assessment. 	Completed Completed
EB.2022.06	06/05	M&E	Fixed asset management reporting	French	English	EB20 Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect information on relevant funds and organisations' procedures and policies for the management and reporting of fixed assets • Conduct a pilot inventory of the fixed assets of CAFI's implementing organizations mid-way through 2022 	Completed
EB.2022.07	13/07	M&E	Gender targets	French	English	Intersessional	Ensure that compliance with the new objectives is verified in the process to approve new programs.	Continuous
EB.2022.08	27/06	RoC	Approval of Land Use Planning PRODOC	French	English	EB20 Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the modifications requested in the decisions are satisfactory before signing the program document 	Completed

DECISION NUMBER	DATE (2022)	SCOPE	TOPIC	HYPERLINKS		EVENT	FOLLOW UP ITEMS ADDRESSED TO CAFI SEC	STATUS
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit and organize the independent review of the programme Organize every 3 months a call with key partners to discuss progress made in line with the first-year deployment schedule and the future annual work plans and budgets. Represent the EB on the Steering Committee and sign the program document on its behalf. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Two first calls completed in 2023 - to be continued</p> <p>Completed</p>
EB.2022.09	27/06	CAR	No-cost extension of support project	French	English	EB20 Part II	None	N/A
EB.2022.10	27/06	EG	PRODOC development	French	English	EB20 Part II	None	N/A
EB.2022.11	04/07	DRC	No cost extension of One Acre Fund's pre-feasibility study	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.12	30/05	DRC	Call for Expressions of Interests	French	English	Intersessional	Approve preparatory grants for a total amount of up to 5 million US\$ based on the programming framework and the projected pipeline, and to report back to the Executive Board on this matter on a regular basis.	Ongoing
EB.2022.13	13/07	Gabon	Gabon - Approval of transfer of RBPs	French	English	Intersessional	Sign the PRODOCs on behalf of the Board	Completed

DECISION NUMBER	DATE (2022)	SCOPE	TOPIC	HYPERLINKS		EVENT	FOLLOW UP ITEMS ADDRESSED TO CAFI SEC	STATUS
EB.2022.14	13/07	DRC	DRC - transfer of funds for FONAREDD Secretariat transitional budget	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.15	29/07	DRC	DRC - EOI extension of deadline	French	English	Intersessional	Update the website and inform the parties	Completed
EB.2022.16	19/08	DRC	DRC - fast track programs	French	English	Intersessional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop terms of reference with the FONAREDD Secretariat. Contact with the FONAREDD Secretariat the relevant implementing organizations and ask them to submit the required documents based on which funding allocation decisions can be made Propose an update to the list of projects for fast-track in August-September 2022, following the review of submissions from the call for expressions of interest. 	Ongoing
EB.2022.17	27/07	Operations	CAFI Secretariat budget revision (PES programme)	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.18	08/08	M&E	Risk management and national ownership	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.19	05/08		Direct cost support UNCDF	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.20	15/09	DRC	Support to Ministry of Environment	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.21	19/09	M&E	Adoption of 2021 Annual report	French	English	Intersessional	Review and post	Completed

DECISION NUMBER	DATE (2022)	SCOPE	TOPIC	HYPERLINKS		EVENT	FOLLOW UP ITEMS ADDRESSED TO CAFI SEC	STATUS
EB.2022.22	28/09	RoC	Civil society project	French	English	Intersessional	Provide clarifications to UNDP on steps, procedures, and responsibilities and organize an information meeting with partners	Ongoing
EB.2022.23	14/10	EB	Presidency of CAFI	French	English	Intersessional	Announcement during the COP 27	Completed
EB.2022.24	20/10	DRC	Farm Africa No cost extension	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.25	04/11	Regional	Extension of FAO trends and drivers study	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.26	07/11	Regional	UNCDF NGreen PRODOC approval	French	English	Intersessional (COP27)	Sign the Project document	Completed
EB.2022.27	08/11	RoC	PUDT Investment Programme (PI-PUDT)	French	English	Intersessional	Verify the conformity of the project document	Completed
EB.2022.28	08/12	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	French	English	EB21, Geneva	Develop guidelines and workplan for working group	Ongoing
EB.2022.29	08/12	RoC	Approval of PI-PUDT	French	English	EB21, Geneva	Review and sign the project document	Ongoing
EB.2022.30	08/12	Gabon	Approval of second tranche of funding for CAFI 1	French	English	EB21, Geneva	None	
EB.2022.31	16/12	Operations	Access to CIFOR to the CAFI Fund	French	English	Intersessional	Work with CIFOR on the Quality Assurance plan for 2023	Ongoing
EB.2022.32	16/12	DRC	Approval of disbursement to DRC National REDD+ Fund	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.33	23/12	Regional	WCS High Value Forests Map Preparatory Grant	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.34	23/12	Operations	Co-financing policy	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.35	28/12	M&E	Risk management strategy	French	English	Intersessional	None	N/A
EB.2022.36	28/12	Operations	Quality Assurance	French	English	Intersessional	Implement the QA Procedure as of January 2023	Ongoing

5.2 Country working groups

The CAFI Secretariat prepared and managed background documentation and minutes, presented and facilitated discussions **in 44 meetings of country working groups in 2022**.

These working groups, established by 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 2022	TOTAL SINCE CREATION OF WORKING GROUP
DRC	23	52
ROC	13	23
GABON	3	3
CAMEROON	2	6
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	2	2
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	1	2
TOTAL	44	88

6. New donor joins and fund mobilisation remains strong

Sweden joined CAFI as a new contributor, with an overall commitment and deposit of over 3.6 M USD.

The CAFI Secretariat continued to facilitate commitments and deposits into the CAFI Trust Fund. **In 2022 alone, donors deposited over 151 million USD to the Fund**, as such:

CONTRIBUTOR	DEPOSITS IN 2022 ALONE (USD)	CUMULATIVE DEPOSITS BY 31 DECEMBER 2022 (USD)
GERMANY	76,708,921.41	236,783,311.31
NORWAY	30,549,587.07	336,465,493.25
THE NETHERLANDS	8,000,000	22,000,000
FRANCE	3,047,148	16,486,128
BELGIUM	3,193,083	6,552,831
SWEDEN	3,663,027.12	3,663,027.12
EUROPEAN UNION	10,834,815.84	15,096,178.84
SOUTH KOREA	412,190.96	1,264,191.26
UNITED KINGDOM	14,697,640	14,697,640
TOTAL	151,106,413.40	653,008,800.78

7. Communications and Knowledge Management

7.1 Web site

The CAFI Secretariat maintained its website (www.cafi.org), maintaining **transparency and access to country and project information** and the CAFI portfolio.

The web site includes:

- Over 30 pages with background and results for each CAFI-funded project in both languages, hence providing easy access to CAFI's investments and results.
- Eight thematic pages, corresponding to CAFI's outcomes, developed and updated with results.
- Graphs updated to showcase commitments per countries and sector

[Twelve news articles](#) were published on the web site in two languages, meeting the objective of one article per month.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 ¹²
Users	7934	10,322	15,917	18,778	15,822	24,000
Sessions	14,344	16,286	23,223	28,132	22,329	25,000
Page views	39,647	39,056	51,955	61,447	40,678	105,000
Average session duration	3.24 minutes	2.40 minutes	2.25 minutes	2.17 minutes	1.38 minutes	2.21 minutes
Pages visited / viewer	2.76	1.58	2.24	1.50	1.87	4.4
User per month	661	860	Low: 1000 ; High : 2800	Low : 1212 (April); High : 2213 (October)	Low: 221 (June) High : 2947	Low : 1700 (September) High : 3300 (June)

While metrics are comparable to previous years, the highest number of User per month was reached in June 2022, with the launch of the Call for Expression of Interest in the DRC.

The CAFI Secretariat also provided substantive inputs to showcasing CAFI's results on the [CAFI dedicated page of the revamped MPTF Gateway](#).

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

7.2 Social media

The CAFI Secretariat continued to focus its social media presence on Twitter.

Data	2017 (April to Dec)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of followers ¹³	285	588	1022	1373	2004	2474
Total tweet impressions	147,122	205,800	187,000	121,000	204,600	66,088

The number of followers continued to increase, and the number of impressions over a 3-month period reached as high as 28.6k, peaking during the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum in June.



A temporary decrease in capacity in the CAFI Secretariat led to fewer tweets produced in 2022, causing a significant drop in Tweet impressions, but the numbers have been steadily increasing since the fall.

Top Tweet earned 795 impressions

Highlights from the first part of the event on the [#congobasin](#) today 🌟

[@ZacGoldsmith](#) [@Evebazaiba](#)
 Jules Doret Ndongo of [@COMIFACINFO](#)
[@LeeWhiteCBE](#)
[@SimonLLewis](#) [@Nene_Mainzana](#) Peter Minang of [@CIFOR_forets](#)

[#cop27egypt](#) [#CoP27](#)
pic.twitter.com/zuqVyHKVLI



7.3 Media coverage

The CAFI Secretariat engaged regularly with the press on an ad hoc basis, usually at least once per month, mostly via “off the record” interviews with top-level international journalists looking for background information on CAFI, issues related to deforestation in Central Africa, and what CAFI sees as the main forest issues today and into the future. These

¹³ New followers minus departing followers

interactions proved useful in positioning CAFI as a critical resource, and often serves to balance negative press coverage.

For example, following the report on DRC's logging sector in early 2022 and the country's decision to open oil and gas blocks for auction, press focused on whether the agreements made at COP26 would work. An article in April 2022 condemned a "lawless" logging industry in DRC. Yet despite continued criticism following the country's decision to open oil and gas blocks for auction in the DRC, press refrained from pointing fingers at CAFI directly, as demonstrated in this Guardian [article](#) from October 2022, which includes wording from a statement from CAFI that "No money has been released so far but DRC has made progress in meeting the agreement, which [includes objectives](#) to protect high-value forests and peatlands. In April, [concerns were raised](#) about the country's "lawless" logging sector but it is understood that donor countries are generally pleased with progress since the Glasgow summit."

As a result, these engagement of the CAFI Secretariat with media contacts succeeded in shifting the narrative. Press toward the end of the year therefore focused more positively on developments from COP27 and COP15 on biodiversity, CAFI's potential role in the announced One Forest Summit and the forest-focused coalition between Brazil, Indonesia and Central Africa, and more often than not cited CAFI as a resource for statistics and figures on forested areas in the region

7.4 Events

Seoul World Forestry Congress - May 2022

In May 2022, the CAFI Secretariat organized and facilitated two public ministerial side events at the Seoul World Forestry Congress, hosted by CAFI-donor Korean Forest Service, that gathered the Environment Ministers of Gabon, Republic of Congo, Cameroon as well as Cabinet Director of the DRC.

The CAFI Secretariat also facilitated a plenary session that discussed the results of the CAFI-funded regional study on trends and drivers in Central Africa (sub theme 1: what causes deforestation and degradation, watch [here](#)), and provided remarks in the closing plenary for the Congress.

Altogether, **these four events reached approximately 700 people** in the audience and an additional few thousand online, raising awareness on the challenges and solutions inherent to the central African region.

Oslo Tropical Forest Forum - June 2022

The summer solstice, 21 June 2022, was chosen for CAFI's side event at the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum. This global conference hosted by Norad on behalf of the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) was an opportunity to showcase what works for Central African forests and people, what does not, and what remains to be tried at scale. The event brought together high-level participants, such as the Gabon's Minister of Environment and Permanent Secretary of the National Climate Council, the DRC Cabinet Director of the Ministry of Finance, but also agricultural producers, representatives of indigenous peoples, implementing agencies, donors, and NGOs, who debated:

- What is the latest data and developments on tropical forests in one of the poorest regions in the world?
- Can rural development solve the poverty/deforestation cycle in the DRC?
- Could Gabon's innovative and sustainable approaches in the forestry sector work elsewhere?
- New approaches in fighting poverty to reduce deforestation at the sub-national scale



Well-attended CAFI event at the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum

Watch CAFI's full event at the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum: [Win-win opportunities for people and forests in Central Africa \(vimeo.com\)](https://vimeo.com/651111111)

By the end of this interactive event, a quick poll revealed that **65% of participants declared themselves energized about solutions that can be developed, while 30% were curious to find out more.**

Libreville, Gabon 19th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership - July 2022

CAFI's Annual Forum and High-level roundtable on the vision 2030 for CAFI were organized in Libreville on 6 July and 7 July 2022 at the 19th meeting of the Parties (MoP 19) Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

The roundtable provided a space for fruitful dialogue and joint reflection amongst high-level representatives from CAFI's donor and partner countries as well as key technical partners.

CAFI's Annual Forum 2022 successfully created a space for dialogue and exchange amongst more than 100 technical-level representatives from civil society organisations, implementing organisations, and governments in CAFI's partner countries in the Congo Basin, as well as technical-level representatives of CAFI's Executive Board. The event allowed stakeholders to address and discuss progress towards the objectives of the Letters of Intent signed between CAFI and three Central African countries (DR Congo, Republic of Congo and Gabon), lessons learnt and recommendations for the way forward. Furthermore, the event **facilitated joint reflections on strengths and concerns raised by civil society** with regards to the implementation of the objectives of the partnerships set up by CAFI.

The CAFI Secretariat produced a "Results" video showcased during the event, that can be watched [here](#).

Sharm el Sheik, Egypt, COP 27- November 2022

The CAFI Secretariat organized and participated in several events at COP-27, including the highly mediatized

- Support to the organization and facilitation of a ministerial event at the UK Pavilion titled "Congo Basin, raising Ambitions and driving solutions", with the UK, Cameroon, Gabon, and DRC Ministers, researchers and civil society
- Contribution to a DRC event on the CAFI-DRC partnership
- Launch of the partnership with the &Green Fund



CAFI Secretariat events at COP-27

7.5 Communication tools

- The CAFI Secretariat developed and disseminated several communication tools in 2022A new general brochure about CAFI, in [French](#) and in [English](#)
- A "Results" Brochure, in [French](#) and [English](#)
- A [brochure in English and French](#) dedicated to the 2nd Letter of Intent with the DRC
- [A video about CAFI's results](#), showcased online and at the high-level segment of the 20th EB meeting in Libreville

8. Safeguards and risk management

8.1 Addressing risks and challenges

The CAFI Secretariat revised the [Risk Management Strategy](#), that was adopted by the CAFI Executive Board in December.

Risks identified for the CAFI Secretariat project are of operational and implementation nature, notably:

1. Transitioning from BPPS to the MPTF-O as Administrative Agent and provider of operational services, from adjusting to new operational and internal control framework to ensure optimization and achievement of CAFI needs in terms of processes: this risk perception, that materialized in 2021, has been addressed in 2022 via mitigation measures such as definition of standard operating procedures, training of staff, and operational improvement reviews.
2. Understaffing of the CAFI Secretariat in 2021: this risk impact has decreased (6 new full-time staff including 2 full-time fellows joined the CAFI Secretariat in 2022, with the Secretariat having achieved 54% of fulfilment rate of its organigram. Critical challenges remain in recruitment of field positions, namely in DRC, Cameroon and Republic of Congo. Failed processes present low capacity of sourced candidates and potential

review of positions might be needed to raise competitiveness of CAFI positions within the labour market.

3. With a bigger and more decentralized team, the risk of lack of internal coordination increased slightly. However, this risk was managed by
 - a. development of internal standard operating procedures
 - b. an in-person staff retreat and planning meeting
 - c. and a coordination function created in the CAFI Secretariat.
 - d. standardization of templates
 - e. development of a strategic CAFI communications plan that includes internal communications
4. The risks of unmanageable volume of donor requests for information increased in 2021 as the donor pool and CAFI portfolio increased.

Mitigation actions continue to be implemented and risk monitoring is continued.

8.2 Gender

The CAFI Secretariat continues 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 templates for project documents and reporting
- monitor gender in the implementation of CAFI-funded projects, with a detailed annual assessment appearing in the 2021 Annual consolidated report.
- maintain a gender balance in the staffing CAFI Secretariat, with now a balance of 60% female and 40% 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.

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 CAFI level should not be taken except in cases where CAFI has exclusive competence (such as an EB decision). When complainants 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 complaints were received in 2022.

9. Strategic partnerships and exchanges

One priority of the German CAFI presidency, that was renewed in 2022, was to foster the collaboration with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). This endeavour continued in 2022 with

- The adoption of the new terms of reference of CAFI in 2021 that had made the CBFP a permanent observer to the CAFI Executive Board took effect with the participation of Dr. Christian Ruck, CBFP Facilitator, in the EB meetings
- CAFI Secretariat participation in meetings of the different colleges of the CBFP
- Coordination of side events in Seoul and Libreville
- Hosting a high-level segment of its 20th Board meeting on the sidelines of the CBFP meeting in Libreville in July
- Contribution to spaces dedicated to Congo Basin countries in COP 27

10. Conclusion

The CAFI Fund and Initiative have expanded, with enhanced dialogue with all partner countries, more programmes in new countries, and additional donors. While the transition to a new Unit at UNDP (the MPTF Office) concluded in 2021, the staffing of the CAFI Secretariat continued to increase in 2022 and is not yet finalized.

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