



CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREST INITIATIVE (CAFI) TRUST FUND

2022 CONSOLIDATED REPORT

31 MAY 2023

DRAFT V1 – SUBMITTED BY THE CAFI SECRETARIAT TO THE MPTFO

List of main acronyms

ADAG: Agricultural Development Agency of Gabon
AFD: French Development Agency
ANPN: Gabonese National Agency for National Parks)
AGEOS: Gabonese Studies and Space Observations Agency
BUR: Biennial Update report
CAFI: Central African Forest Initiative
CAR: Central African Republic
CBFP: Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CNAT: National Land Use Commission (of Gabon)
CNIAF : Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement des Ressources Forestières et Fauniques, Republic of Congo
COP: Conference of the Parties (to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo
DIAF: Forestry Department in the DRC Ministry of Environment
EB: (CAFI) Executive Board
ENABEL: Belgian bilateral cooperation agency
FAO: Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations
FONAREDD: French acronym for the DRC's National REDD+ Fund
GDA: French acronym for the Project on Sustainable management of Agriculture (DRC)
GIZ: German International Cooperation Agency
Ha: hectares
HCS: High Carbon Stock
HCV: High Conservation Value
(ID): Initiative Development (NGO)
IO: (CAFI's) Implementing Organization
LPG: Liquid Gas Petroleum
LoI: Letter of Intent
NFMS: National Forest Monitoring System
NIF: National Investment Framework
MCH: micro hydro electric
MEDD: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (DRC)
MEF : Ministère de l'Economie Forestière, Republic of Congo
M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation
(I)NGO: (International) Non-Governmental Organizations
PGDF = French Acronym for the Project on Sustainable management of Forests (DRC)
PIREDD: French acronym for province-wide multisectoral (“integrated”) REDD+ projects, used in the DRC
REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
RoC: Republic of Congo
TI: Transparency International
ToR: Terms of Reference
UNCDF: United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA: United Nations Fund for Population
UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Services
WB: World Bank
WRI: World Resources Institute

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Important note to readers

The version of this report is compiled with the data available at the time of submission of 31 May 2023.

Information pertaining to projects funded by CAFI via the FONAREDD in the DRC— that represents over 60% of CAFI's investments, could not be verified, and depend on the harmonization with the FONAREDD Annual report, whose legal deadline for submitting its annual report is also on 31 May 2023. All data and analyses that pertain or include DRC data should therefore be considered provisional.

For this reason, the CAFI Executive Board, has allowed, through a formal decision, the CAFI Secretariat to submit another version of this report. This will be done once data has been consolidated with the data duly analyzed by the FONAREDD.

The final version of the CAFI Annual report, will be, upon approval of the Executive Board, posted on the MPTF Gateway and CAFI web site.

Executive Summary

Fund's key progress and achievements in 2022

The CAFI Fund remains by far the largest climate Fund United Nations Multi Partner **Trust Fund** (MPTF), its 3rd largest Trust Fund. The CAFI Fund is the only broad-ranging UN fund focused specifically on the world's 2nd largest tropical rainforest and its 247.8 ±3.65 million ha of forest cover¹, with more than 50% classified as intact forests.

With Sweden joining in 2022, CAFI now boats **nine donors** (Belgium, European Union, France, Germany, Norway, South Korea, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and Sweden). Donor contributions are pooled and channeled to implementing organizations to promote joint action and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Backed by high-level policy dialogue, forty CAFI-funded projects, implemented by **16 implementing organizations** (UN, Multilateral, national cooperation agencies and non-governmental organizations) contribute to reducing forest loss and improving livelihoods of those who rely, directly or indirectly, on these forests.

Funded projects range from Regional and National levels (supporting development of National Investment Frameworks and policy reforms) to concrete, on-the-ground implementation in provinces, districts and villages. Since its inception in 2015, the CAFI Fund has committed \$718 million, of which **\$406 million has been transferred**.

Progress on many CAFI-funded projects took off again in 2022 pursuing CAFI's double objective to promote sustainable development and the preservation of forests in six Central African countries, through its **unique combination of high-level policy dialogue and direct investments on the ground**.

2022 was marked by a massive joint effort to program the 500 million USD of the 2021 Letter of Intent with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and develop a pipeline of projects that will help the country meet the milestones set forth in the 2nd Letter of Intent (LoI) signed in 2021 during the COP26 in Glasgow.

This also meant ramping up efforts in the 20 active projects covering 7 sectors that started since 2016. On the ground, some of the most salient results of CAFI-funded projects include:

Best of 2022

- Programmatic framework agreed and call for proposal launched for 500 M DRC Letter of Intent
- 5 first projects launched under the Gabon results-based payment agreement
- Major 53 M agreement to enhance private sector partnerships in the agricultural sector, with the &Green Fund
- Total of hectares under local management plans in the DRC reached 8.5 million ha (=a quarter of the size of the Republic of Congo)
- Total of rural households/people that are direct beneficiaries in the DRC now reaches 142,000 in 8 provinces. Indirect beneficiaries can be estimated between 6 and 9 million (10% of DRC population)
- Firm progress in partnership with Cameroon with the expected launch in 2023 of the Calls for EOIs for a total amount of approximately \$60 million
- Emission estimated in the DRC have dropped below 100 million of tCO₂ in 2020

¹ Using national definitions of forests, that vary across the six CAFI partner countries

- Land use planning: **8,5 million of rural lands in the DRC** (approximately a quarter of the size of the Republic of Congo) **are now under a validated land use plan in eight provinces of the DRC** at the local level, elaborated in a participatory manner by over 2215 local development committees that cover 6% of DRC villages. This major structuration of how land will be used is the foundation for a more sustainable use of land and natural resources. In Gabon, the National Land use planning commission started its arbitration to resolve some land allocation conflicts.
- To reduce the pressure of agriculture on forest land while improving food security, close to **75,000 direct beneficiaries, in eight of the DRC provinces** with deforestation hotspots, benefit directly from support on a more productive and sustainable agriculture that spares forest land. These households have established close to **36,000 hectares of pilot agroforestry, perennial crops, and subsistence agriculture**, which represents to date 15% of initial targets. Available estimates in the most mature projects estimate that revenues from subsistence agriculture have more than doubled thanks to better yielding – crops.
- In the energy sector, **over 47,000 hectares are now dedicated to providing sustainable wood energy** and replacing unsustainable fuel wood and charcoals. Access to funding for clean cooking entrepreneurs has expanded, with 1.2 million dollars US awarded to 12 entrepreneurs to produce and **market over 90,000 improved cooking solutions** and creating and **strengthening Congolese sustainable energy businesses**. A national energy policy document was validated on 9 December 2022. **Household energy spending on fuelwood dropped by 13% to 19% in targeted areas**, demonstrating the potential of CAFI’s support.
- CAFI now funds **45% of the family planning solutions** (couple years of protection) provided in the DRC.
- The land tenure reform was validated for adoption by the Council of Ministers and takes into account the consultations of Indigenous peoples.

In the Republic of the Congo, the portfolio keeps expanding, with three projects being implemented on governance, MRV and wood Energy, and **two new projects approved in 2022** on Sustainable Land use Governance and land use investments.

CAFI strengthened its partnership with Gabon through reinforcing support to two active projects with positive first results, focused on land use Planning, thanks to which **closed to the footprint of 470 villages have already been mapped by drones and 144 by villagers** and agricultural research, that saw the construction of a new laboratory for soil analysis in 2022. In a historic decision, in 2022 Gabon was also the first African country to receive a Results-Based Payment (RBP) of \$17 million from CAFI for verified emissions reduction of more than 5 million tonnes in 2016-2017, the first of an RBP-focused agreement worth \$150 million. Gabon’s National Climate Council subsequently **approved five new projects** to be financed by this payment, bringing the total to 8 projects, for a total amount of \$48 million approved.

In Cameroon, CAFI moved forward with a pilot phase of the partnership with the Government based on a number of initial projects being defined for 2023. CAFI’s Executive Board together with the Cameroonian authorities endorsed the launch of the EOIs for a total amount of approximately \$60 million as part of the startup phase of the CAFI-Cameroon Partnership.

In Equatorial Guinea, CAFI selected an agency to develop a full proposal to support policy dialogue and conduct studies to identify preliminary data and the most suitable relevant opportunities in the land-use and forestry sectors.

In Central African Republic, progress is made on feasibility studies and policy dialogue, with results expected in 2023.

CAFI-funded **regional projects now total \$62 million**. They include 1) the funding of the project Nature+ Accelerator with IUCN, for which a regional market barrier study was initiated in December 2022; 2) the first CAFI partnership with the private sector that came in the form of the **commitment of \$47 million of donor capital to the Dutch &Green Fund** with a view to more than double the amount with other investors. A partnership that includes UNCDF as the investment agent, &Green provides loans to local entrepreneurs to implement forest-positive projects with de-risked loans. 3)

Robust and updated scientific evidence on the extent and major drivers of deforestation and degradation in the region under the Regional Trends and Drivers of Deforestation study with FAO.

The impact on forests of this support cannot be attributed to CAFI's efforts. They, however, contribute to a stabilization of deforestation and degradation areas observed at the regional level, according to data generated by CAFI's regional trends and drivers' study.

In 2022, all of CAFI's projects achieved the status as either *gender-sensitive* or *gender-responsive* projects. The target set in July 2022 by the Executive Board to **achieve 20% of highly sensitive and 40% of gender responsive projects** were met, but attention needs to be paid to ensure that new and existing projects abide by their gender guidelines to project implementation, budgeting and reporting.

Looking ahead, CAFI is expanding rapidly, building capacity with the necessary expertise both within its Secretariat and in partner countries to drive project development and implementation. As the fund expands, diversification of partnerships is facilitating project implementation, as CAFI seeks to make a positive impact in reducing forest loss and improving livelihoods in Central Africa.

The expansion of CAFI's portfolio and countries coverage is not devoid of risks and challenges – be they fiduciary, programmatic, political or reputational. That is why joint efforts of Partner countries, the Executive Board, its Secretariat, implementing organizations and beneficiaries on the ground must continue to protect a forest that is possibly the **last significant land-based tropical carbon sink in the world** and the people who depend upon it.

1. CAFI's Purpose

Second largest in the world, the forest of the Central African region covers an area the size of Western Europe. Each year, it absorbs 1.5 billion tons of CO₂eq from the atmosphere, or 4% of the world's emissions. According to research published in 2021², the degradation of tropical forests in Amazonia and Southeast Asia may soon make them net emitters of carbon, **leaving the Congo Basin forest as possibly the last significant land-based tropical carbon sink in the world**. In addition to being indispensable to mitigate the climate crisis, this forest harbors 10,000 different species of plants, trees, and animals, which makes it essential to halt and reverse the massive loss of biodiversity in line with the 2021 Kunming Declaration adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Last but not least, the Central African forest is the source of food, energy, shelter and spirituality for over 40 million people living in and around it, in countries with some of the lowest Human Development indices, conflict areas and the highest number of people in urgent need of food security assistance worldwide³. While trends in deforestation and forest degradation and their drivers vary widely with national contexts and that region-wide, forest loss seems to be stabilizing, CFI-funded latest data for 2015-2020 shows the region continues to lose over half a million hectares of forest each year.

Slowing down the loss of forests can only be attained through transformational reforms and scaled up, ambitious investments on the ground. To support these objectives in its 6 partner countries, the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) is both a multi-donor Trust Fund that provides direct investments on the ground and a political negotiation platform that aims to drive high-level policy dialogue.

This means that in parallel - and in complement - to funding 42 enabling, reform and rural development programs, studies, and preparatory grants as well as the CFI Secretariat, CFI negotiates and encourages high-level commitments that place forests at the center of countries' development policies. The most recent examples include the DRC commitment, endorsed by DRC President Tshisekedi at COP-26 in Glasgow in November 2021, to stabilize forest cover loss at its 2016-2018 levels⁴ and restore 30 million hectares of land; and Gabon's commitments to avoid or cap the conversion of forest with high carbon stocks and high conservation value.

As a collaborative partnership, CFI gathers:

- Central African partner countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon, with over 30 Ministries engaged
- A coalition of donors: Belgium, the European Union, France, Germany (Chair until 2023), the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden (who joined as a contributor in 2022) and the United Kingdom
- Brazil as South-South partner

The CFI Trust Fund is managed by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office of the UN, that also hosts the CFI Secretariat.

At country level, CFI enters phased dialogues that ensure the mainstreaming of climate and forestry objectives into sectoral and development plans. This catalyzes a long-term process necessary for the changes required but develops relatively quickly as the programming process is already ongoing through the CFI portfolio and opportunities for co-funding have been identified.

1. Partner countries develop their **national investment frameworks** addressing all drivers of deforestation and forest degradation according to their priorities

² <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/role-of-amazon-carbon-sink-declines-nature-study>

³ <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1392394/icode/>

⁴ Based on the estimates generated by the CFI-funded Project to support the National Forest Monitoring System

2. Following a review of the national investment framework and discussions with the partner country, the CAFI Executive Board (EB) agrees to support certain policy reforms and large-scale programs
3. Through a **Letter of Intent** (e.g. with [the DRC in 2016 and in 2021](#), [Gabon](#) and the [Republic of Congo](#)) signed between the CAFI EB and by Ministers with coordination mandates (e.g. Minister of Finance) or Heads of state or government, agree on time-bound targets in policy reform and programmatic performance and the corresponding financial support by CAFI if jointly defined milestones are met.
4. CAFI and partner countries agree on a programming framework and then partner countries develop and implement **programs** (sectoral and landscape/jurisdictional) to achieve the milestones in the Letter of Intent and jointly monitor progress with the EB.

Throughout the process, CAFI offers a framework that allows for a combination of field investments and high-level policy dialogue. Multi-donor coordination strengthens the convening power of the Initiative.

CAFI is an opportunity to drive systemic change through whole-of-government approach and donor coordination. Through CAFI, donor countries pool their financial resources, coordinate their policy dialogue and align their bilateral funding and thus multiply the impact of their individual contributions.

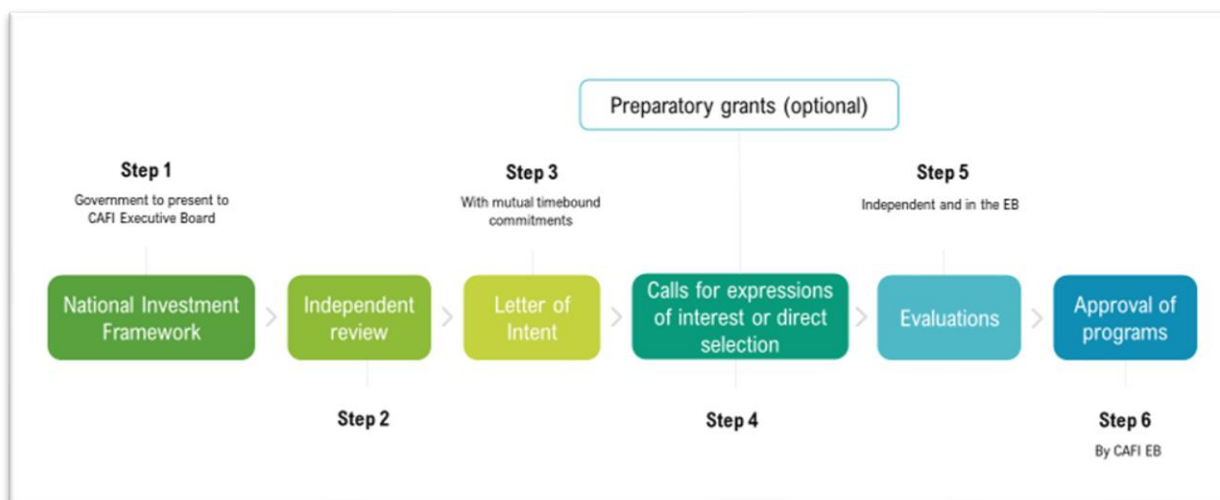


Figure 1: CAFI Project cycle

2. Fund Overview

2.1 2022: Continuing fund mobilization

The CAFI Fund in 2022 alone received total deposits of over US\$ 151 million (see Figure 2 and Annex I – Financial report) and over US\$ 653 million cumulatively since 2015.

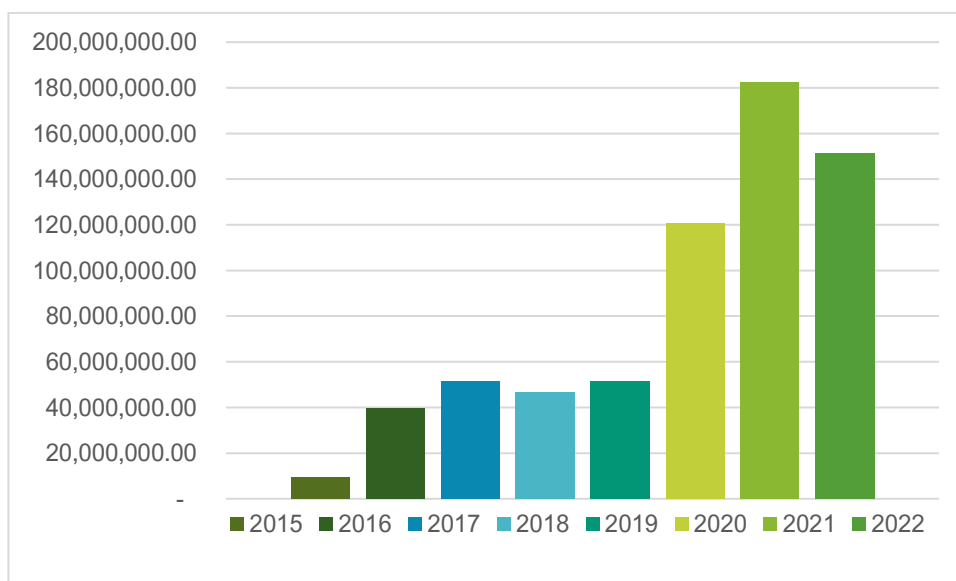


Figure 2: total annual deposits (in US\$) into the CAFI Trust Fund

In 2022, deposits per donor occurred as below:

- Belgium signed the first addendum to the funding agreement (now totaling US \$ 6,552,831) and deposited its final instalment of US\$ 3,193,083.
- The Netherlands signed the first addendum to the funding agreement (now totaling US \$ 34,000,000) and deposited US\$ 8,000,000.
- Germany signed the third addendum to the funding agreement (now totaling US \$ 279,166,892) and deposited US\$ 76,708,921).
- France deposited the last installment (US\$ 3,047,148), totaling over US\$ 16.5 million
- The Republic of Korea deposited the last installment (US \$ 412,190), totaling US\$ 1,264,191 contributions.
- Norway's deposited US \$ 30,549,587 out of its commitment of US \$ 56,850,508 and remains CAFI's top donor, with over US\$ 336.5 million deposited since the creation of the CAFI Fund.
- Sweden deposited its 2022 installment and anticipated its 2023 one, totaling US \$ 3,663,027.
- EU deposited the last instalment (US \$ 10,834,815), totaling over US \$ 15,096,178.
- United Kingdom signed the 1st addendum to the contribution agreement (totaling US \$ 42,007,423) and deposited two instalments totaling US \$ 14,697,640.

Norway and Germany remain the top contributors with 51.5% and 36.2% of these deposits, respectively.

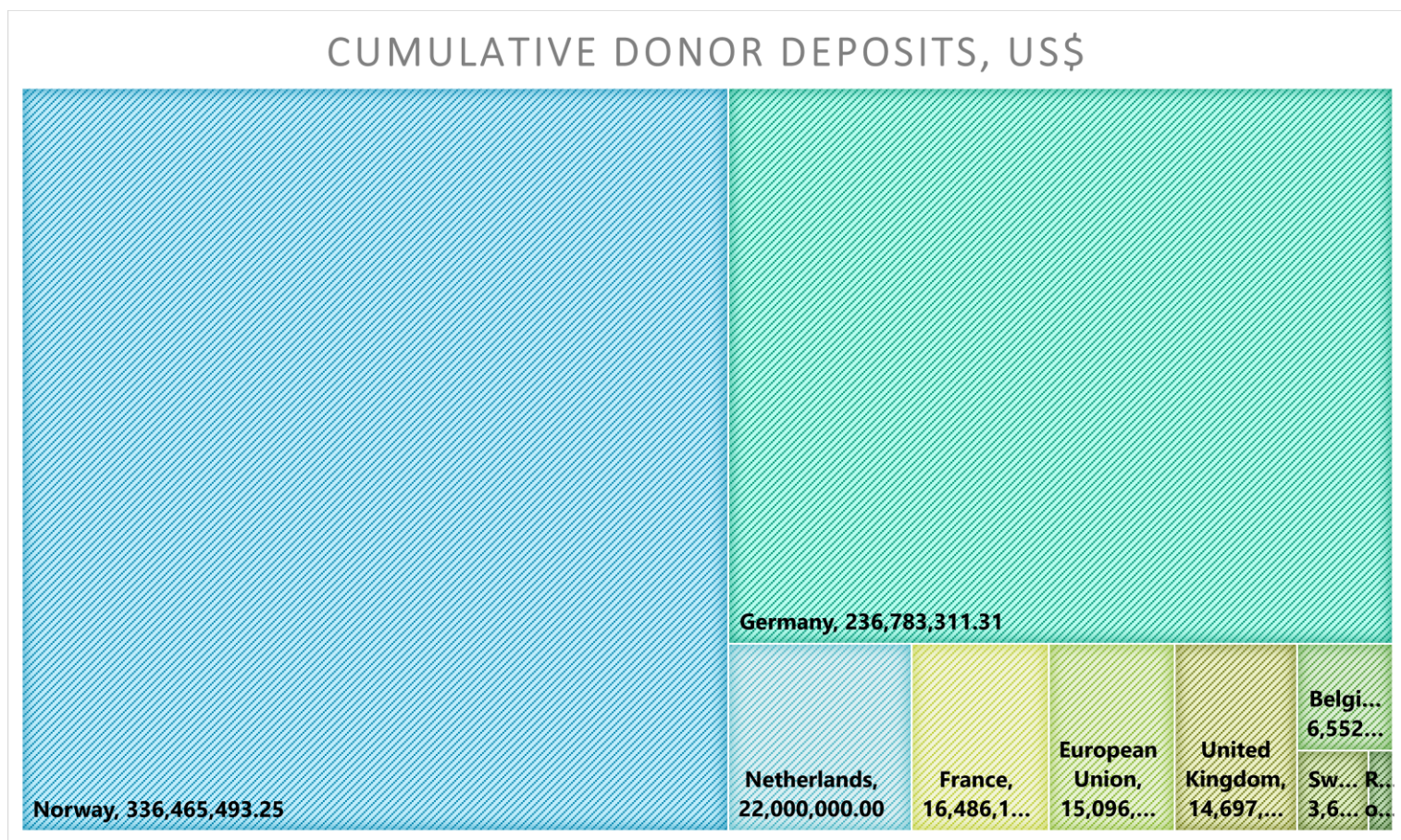


Figure 3: Cumulative donor deposits (in US\$) into the CAFI Trust Fund (2015-2022)

In 2022, Norway and Germany continued their contribution of two Junior Professional Officers to the CAFI Secretariat, based in Geneva and Kinshasa, enhancing the capacity of the CAFI Secretariat on monitoring and evaluation, gender, and the partnerships with the Countries. France contributed to an International Technical Expert (NRLA modality) to support CAFI works in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo), whose recruitment will conclude in 2023.

2.2 The CAFI portfolio

Overview

As of 31 December 2022, CAFI has funded **42 projects** (with 35 projects active in 2022), **implemented by 16 implementing organizations for a total of 843 million dollars committed.**

These projects vary widely in their size, scale, and scope. They are displayed in the three figures 4 below by status (approved, active, closed), country and type (Large scale rural development; Sectorial and support to policy reforms; forest monitoring; enabling conditions and governance; small preparatory grants and feasibility studies; Investments with the private sector, through capitalization of another Fund)

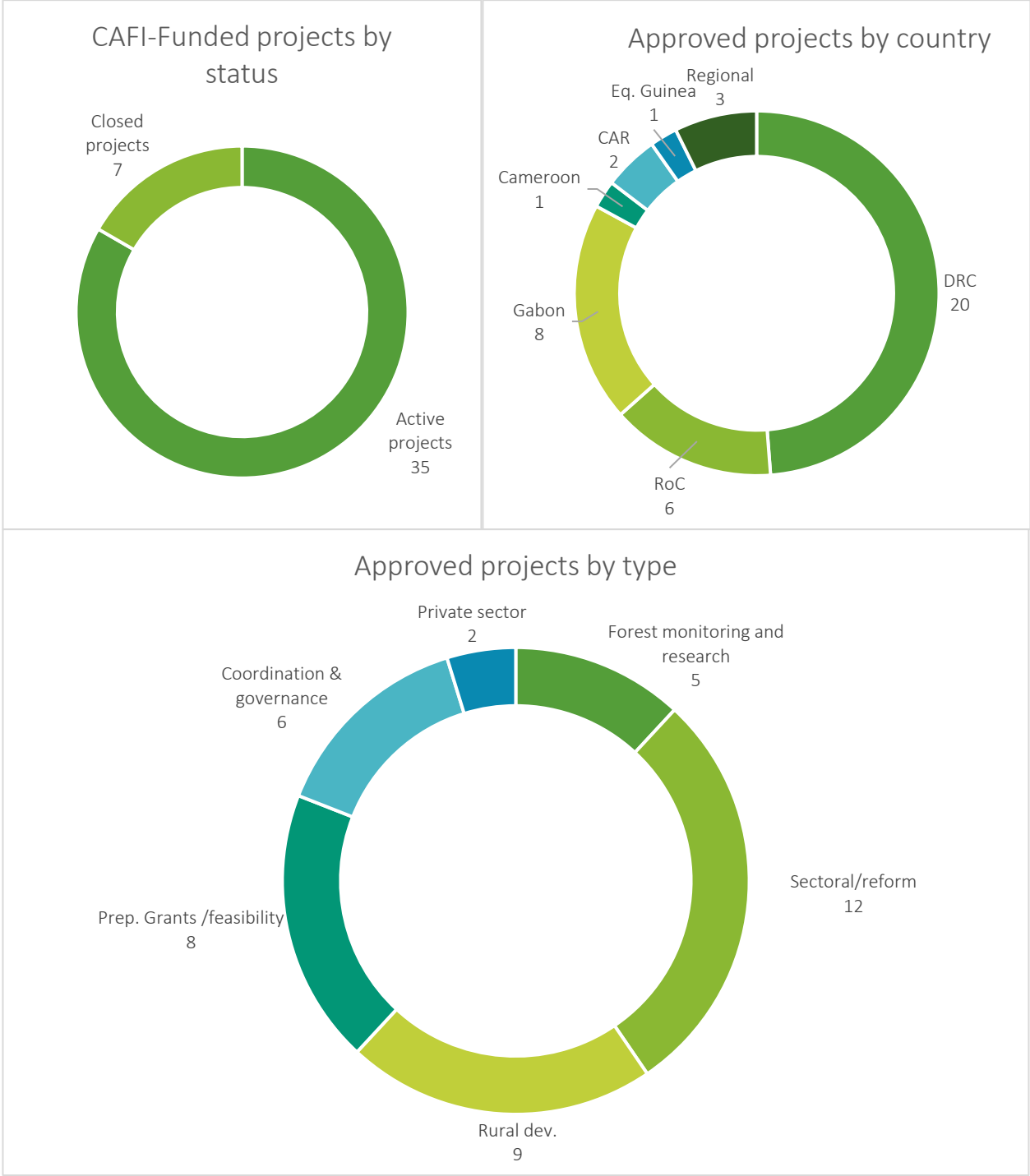


Figure 4 : number of projects by status, country and type, by end 2022

The table below showcases the entire CAFI portfolio of approved projects, their most salient objectives and targets as set in project documents, the overall approved budget for each project and the amount transferred.

Net transferred amount to each of these projects is reported in the financial report (Annex I). Details for DRC’s FONAREDD disbursement to projects is found the FONAREDD 2022 financial report (available here: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/3CD00>)

In the case of the DRC, the CAFE Fund transfers to the National REDD+ Fund (FONAREDD), who then, based on decisions of its Steering Committee, transfers to implementing organizations. This transfer to the FONAREDD represents, cumulatively, 171.2 M. This additional step is not reflected in the table below, that displays in its last column the amounts effectively received by the implementing organizations.

The Table below showcases the entire CAFE portfolio, including projects objectives, budgets, implementing organizations, transfers and expenditures. Closed projects are highlighted in grey.

Project short name	MPTF Code	Objectives ⁵	Approved Budget ⁶	Impl. Org	Approval date ⁷ & duration	Transferred ⁸	Spent ⁹
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (17 active projects)							
Support to civil society	103801	National civil society platform fully functional (national coordination, governance and oversight bodies) Organization expanded and new partnerships sought Active provincial and territorial coordination, especially for REDD+ intervention areas Training projects implemented	3.3	UNDP	Approved in October 2016 Duration: 47 months	3.3	2.6
Land use planning reform	105282	Land use planning policy developed Regulatory and legal framework strengthened to coordinate sectoral and territorial policies to resolve land conflicts and promote a balanced land use development Strengthen capacity for dialogue and negotiations of stakeholders, primarily MATUH, CONARAT and their regional units as well as territorial entities Ensure that social and environmental safeguards are taken into account in land use planning	8	UNDP	Approved in February 2017 * Duration: 48 months	5.7	4.5
Integrated program - Tshopo, Ituri and Bas Uele (ex-Orientale)	107819	Income of target populations increased by 10% A reduction of app. 10.8 million tCO ₂ eq, or app. 10% of emissions in the target areas, with focus on hotspots along roads and large urban area Strengthened local governance of land use planning and natural resources management Increases in the yields of staple crops (9000 ha), cash crops, sustainable subsistence agriculture (160,000ha) and agroforestry (6000 ha) Reduced consumption of fuel energy (fuelwood plantations, natural regeneration (45,000 ha) and 5000 cookstoves 150,000 ha of community forestry established	33	UNDP	Approved in February 2017 * Duration: 60 months	26	17.6

⁵ Numbered targets are provided as examples, and not exhaustive as not always defined at onset of projects

⁶ Million US\$, exact amounts are found in Annex I

⁷ Approval by FONAREDD Steering Committee marked with *, approval by CAFI Executive Board marked with **

⁸ M US\$. In the DRC, these figures include the amount transferred by the FONAREDD to projects, whether they have been transferred or not. Amounts transferred from the FONAREDD to projects are available here: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/3CD00>

⁹ In M US\$ unless specified otherwise. As of 31 December 2022.

Project short name	MPTF Code	Objectives ⁵	Approved Budget ⁶	Impl. Org	Approval date ⁷ & duration	Transferred ⁸	Spent ⁹
Integrated program - Mai Ndombé	103850	Deforestation and forest degradation stabilized in the former Mai-Ndombé District, through a holistic vision centered on land use planning and strengthening local governance resulting in an estimated decrease in emissions of 27.7 million tCo2eq Living conditions and incomes of close to 150 000 people (incl. 75,000 women) improved by 20%, especially those of farmers, while ensuring the sustainable management of resources and land Sustainable rural development promoted by increasing agricultural productivity through improved practices, developing perennial crops (1650ha), agroforestry (5000 ha), subsistence agriculture (11,650ha) 180,000 households (or 360,000 adults) trained on family planning	30	WB	Approved in October 2016 * Duration: 60 months	30 ¹⁰	19.2
Integrated program – Kwilu province	113547	Carbon sequestration and avoided deforestation (223,000 tons of CO2) through promoting agroforestry (5000 ha) Improved livelihoods (improved median revenue of supported farmers by 10%)	4 ¹¹	JICA	Approved in 2018 * Duration: 57 months	3.1	2.3
Integrated program – Equateur province	117600	Support sedentary agriculture in savannahs and fallow lands, using PES and improved crops 3000 ha of wood energy plantation and 7000 ha under natural regeneration 10,000 households (or a total of 80,000 people) adopt improved cookstoves 480,000 ha of community forestry supported Increase contraceptive prevalence in 10% of targeted communities	10	FAO	Approved in June 2019 * Duration: 48 months	8.5	7.1
Integrated project - Mongala province	117080	A two-phase project based on a territorial approach and capacity strengthening, to support sustainable agroforestry systems (banana, fruit trees), non-timber forest products (caterpillar trees) and a territorial development planning	12	ENABEL	Approved in 2019* Duration: 54 months	9 ¹²	4.8

¹⁰ 16 M US\$ were approved for transfer to the FONAREDD in December 2020 but pending a number of conditions whose fulfilling need confirmation ([See EB decision EB.2020.18](#)), so these 16M are not counted in the transferred amount reported here

¹¹ This project benefits from another 3.4 M in co-financing from JICA

¹² Including 5 M US\$ approved for transfer to the FONAREDD in December 2020 as per [decision EB.2020.18](#)

Project short name	MPTF Code	Objectives ⁵	Approved Budget ⁶	Impl. Org	Approval date ⁷ & duration	Transferred ⁸	Spent ⁹
		Up to 250 hectares of fuelwood plantations through community forestry					
Integrated project – Maniema province	126783	A 15% income increase in targeted rural populations 20,000 ha of sustainable agricultural practices, including agro-forestry and conservation agriculture 7.000 + 13.000 ha APAC 250,000 ha of community concessions 5,000 ha reforested 50,000 hectares of forest reserves managed sustainably	30	GIZ	Approved in August 2020* Duration: 60 months	12 ¹³	6
Land tenure reform	105381	Strengthen CONAREF to prepare and implement tenure reform Support communities to elaborate methodological guidance to strengthen cadasters, and capitalize on lessons learned in pilots (conflict resolution and harmonization of secure tenure) to feed into the tenure policy document Tenure policy document and associated legal text elaborated in a participative manner	7	UN-Habitat	Approved in February 2017* Duration: 36 months	7 ¹⁴	7
Support to Indigenous Peoples	103851	Develop national capacity to identify models of sustainable natural resource management by Indigenous peoples Experiment these models to disseminate them more widely	2	WB	Approved in October 2016* Duration: 60 months	2	0.6
Sustainable wood energy	113546A-B	Provide alternatives to unsustainable wood energy by developing markets for LPG and improved cookstoves. Access to 87,000 clean energy solutions	15	UNDP and UNCDF	Approved in November 2018 * Duration: 48 months	10.6	6.7
Agriculture in savannah and	120055	Small and medium agricultural enterprises sustainably manage savannahs and degraded forests - Kwilu and Tshopo provinces, with the establishment of 7000 hectares of agroforestry	15	AFD	Approved in June 2019*; duration: 60 months	8	1.4

¹³ Including 10 M US\$ approved for transfer to the FONAREDD in December 2020 as per [decision EB.2020.18](#)

¹⁴ Including 2 M US\$ approved for transfer to the FONAREDD in December 2020 as per [decision EB.2020.18](#)

Project short name	MPTF Code	Objectives ⁵	Approved Budget ⁶	Impl. Org	Approval date ⁷ & duration	Transferred ⁸	Spent ⁹
degraded forests							
Scaling up Family planning	116875 A-B	Reduce the effects of unplanned demographic growth on forests 8 million Couple Year Protection ¹⁵ 193 health centres supported	33	UNOPS and UNFPA	Approved in December 2018* Duration: 39 months	33	30
Sustainable Management of Forest	123066	A strategy is elaborated to strengthen the governance of the sector Transparent and participatory elaboration of a Forest policy Developing the forest/timber artisanal sector with legal practices Communities and territorial entities manage forests sustainably Large forest concessions are managed according to Congolese law Strengthen the capacity of local forest and decentralized administration	12 ¹⁶	AFD	Approved in December 2019* Duration: 48 months	6	0.4
DRC National REDD+ Fund Secretariat	133419	Coordination, technical assistance, transparency and policy dialogue	15.9	UNDP	Approved in 2016 * Duration: Ongoing	6.6	4.8
Support to NDC (not through FONAREDD)			0.5	UNDP		0.5	
National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)		Monitoring of the changes in forest cover Proactive monitoring of major deforestation events Meet UNFCCC criteria to allow access to results-based payments related to reduction in deforestation (including submission of FREL)	10	FAO	Approved in October 2016* Duration: 48 months (Closed)	10	9.99

¹⁵ A Couple year Protection (CYP) is the estimated protection provided by contraceptive methods during a one-year period, based upon the volume of all contraceptives sold or distributed free of charge to clients during that period. The CYP is calculated by multiplying the quantity of each method distributed to clients by a conversion factor, to yield an estimate of the duration of contraceptive protection provided per unit of that method. More at <https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/family-planning/couple-years-protection-cyp>

¹⁶ Benefits from another 4 M USD in co-financing from AFD

Project short name	MPTF Code	Objectives ⁵	Approved Budget ⁶	Impl. Org	Approval date ⁷ & duration	Transferred ⁸	Spent ⁹
Integrated program - Sud Ubangui province		<p>Management capacity strengthened</p> <p>Support agricultural development that respects management plans and promote sustainable and perennial crops (cocoa and coffee)</p> <p>22 sustainable development plans and 100 simple management plans</p> <p>Strengthen technical capacities of decentralized authorities</p>	7	WB. ENABEL	<p>Approved in February 2017 *</p> <p>Duration: 48 months (closed on 30/06/2022)</p>	4	2.6
Sustainable agriculture policy		<p>Develop and implement an agricultural policy that takes into account forests including the promotion of savanna-based agriculture</p>	2.3	FAO	<p>Approved in 2019*; duration 36 months (closed on 31/12/2022)</p>	2.3	1.5
Sub-total DRC			249.9			162.1	113.2

GABON (8 funded projects)							
Project short name	MPTF Code	Objectives ¹⁷	Approved Budget ¹⁸	Impl. org	Approval date ¹⁹ & duration	Transferred ²⁰	Spent ²¹
Land use planning and forest monitoring	111269	Develop, adopt and implement a National Land Use Plan (PNAT) and a National Observation System for Natural Resources and Forests (SNORF) that will contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions from LULUCF in Gabon	18.4	AFD	Approved in 2018 Duration: 60 months	18.4	6
Expansion of protected areas and optimization of agriculture	122613	400,000 new ha of forests are placed under protected area status and logging concessions reclassified A transboundary park is planned along contested borders The capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture is strengthened: agricultural legal unit, lab for <geographic information systems, to engage in land use optimization and ensure intensified food crop production for increased food security	5	UNDP	Approved in 2020 Duration: 36 months	5	1.2
Forest certification	132798	An expected 30 million tons of CO2 emissions reduced per year by 2025 with a target to ensure that 100% of logging concessions are FSC certified. Elite law enforcement team of 30 officers equipped and trained	7	Transferred from AFD to TNC in 2021	Approved in 2020, reallocated in 2021** Duration: 48 months	4.4	0
Safeguarding and Expanding Gabon's Protected Area Network	133386	The program aims to conserve and enhance the potential for carbon sequestration in forests by protecting important HCV and HCS forests from encroachment (National Protected Areas) and expanding the network of protected areas by: - Completing the headquarters of the Technical Department located in Cape Santa Clara;	9	UNDP	Approved in 2022 Duration: 12 months	9	0

¹⁷ Numbered targets are provided as examples, and not exhaustive as not always defined at onset of projects

¹⁸ Million US\$, exact amounts are found in Annex I

¹⁹ Approval by FONAREDD Steering Committee marked with *, approval by CAFI Executive Board marked with **

²⁰ M US\$. In the DRC, these figures include the amount transferred by the FONAREDD to projects, whether they have been transferred or not. Amounts transferred from the FONAREDD to projects are available here: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/3CD00>

²¹ In M US\$ unless specified otherwise. As of 31 December 2022.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring the monitoring of forests by aerial surveys. - Protecting the parks from illegal activities. - Supporting cross-border parks 					
Urban Greening	133387 A-B	<p>Providing Education and Access Opportunities of Urban Populations to Forested Gardens and City Parks.</p> <p>To enhance Gabon's carbon absorption potential and improve urban health and well-being, the project specifically aims to contributing to urban reforestation and the development of city parks with native species.</p>	1.82	UNDP UNESCO	Approved in 2022 Duration: 60 months	1.82	0
Reducing Emissions Through Improved Forestry Management	133560	<p>Reduced GHG emissions and increased biomass sequestration from the forest sector through:</p> <p>1) the development and implementation of a national forest certification and Community Forestry program and the implementation of sustainable management plans for logging concessions.</p> <p>2) the fight against illegal logging and non-compliance with national forest laws through the creation and deployment of an elite Forest Law Enforcement Unit within the Ministry of Forestry, Sea and Environment</p>	2.9	TNC	Approved in 2022 Duration: 60 months	2.9	0
Forest Ecosystem Research and Monitoring Program (FERM)	133561	To reduce emissions from the forestry sector by setting up: a fully operational National System for the Observation of Natural Resources and Forests (SNORNF) and a standardized monitoring framework and support for research sites and long-term ecological monitoring (LTERM)	2.4	TNC	Approved in 2022 Duration: 60 months	2.4	0
Coordination	133375	Strengthening institutions for coordination and implementation of climate programs and policies	1.4	UNDP	Approved in 2022 Duration: 60 months	1.4	0
Sub-total Gabon			47.9			45.3	7.2

REPUBLIC OF CONGO (5 active projects)							
Project short name	MPTF Code	Objectives ²²	Approved Budget ²³	Impl. org	Approval date ²⁴ & duration	Transferred ²⁵	Spent ²⁶
Coordination in support to the Prime Minister Office	129481	<p>Support a leadership, coordination and monitoring at high level, intersectoral and inclusive, that increase mobilisation and alignment of interventions and funding (private and public, domestic and international) on the objectives of the letter of Intent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and monitoring of the objectives and milestones of the Lol, including the respect of its commitments in national policies, climate commitments and planning processes <p>Mobilize and coordinate funding to implement, monitor and assess projects and initiatives that will help achieve the milestones (inc. additional domestic funding)</p>	1.45	UNDP	<p>Approved in 2021, Funds transferred in November 2021</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p>	1.45	0.006
SYNA MRV	129333	<p>Modernize the National system for monitoring, reporting and verification so that it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produces data that allow the monitoring of REDD+ in the DRC • Revise and submit the FREL to the UNFCCC • Evaluate and strengthen the capacities of the Government to report on emissions from the LULUCF sector <p>Publish data in transparent manner on a web geo-portal</p>	2	FAO	<p>Approved in 2021, funds transferred in November 2021</p> <p>Duration: 24 months</p>	1.5	0.1

²² Numbered targets are provided as examples, and not exhaustive as not always defined at onset of projects

²³ Million US\$, exact amounts are found in Annex I

²⁴ Approval by FONAREDD Steering Committee marked with *, approval by CAFI Executive Board marked with **

²⁵ M US\$. In the DRC, these figures include the amount transferred by the FONAREDD to projects, whether they have been transferred or not. Amounts transferred from the FONAREDD to projects are available here: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/3CD00>

²⁶ In M US\$ unless specified otherwise. As of 31 December 2022.

Wood energy plantations - ProRep	130492	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the country's potential in sustainable wood energy for the Brazzaville consumption basin Establish 2700 fast start wood energy plantations with subsistence agriculture Benefit 500 direct beneficiaries <p>Reduce emissions by 0.830 tons over 5 years</p>	7	FAO	Approved in 2021 Duration: 60 months	3	1.7
Sustainable Land Use Planning Program (PUdT)	134411	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Republic of Congo in the implementation of a town and country planning process and rural land use at the national level, in line with its low-carbon economic diversification policy <p>Specifically, the activities of the Project aim to structure the national approach by supporting the development of the National Land Use Plan (PNAT), a National Land Use and Development Plan (SNAT) 2025 and two pilot local Plans (SDAT) for the Niari and Pool Départments.</p>	18.4	AFD	Approved in November 2022 Duration: 60 months	10.8	0
Lituka – Improved cookstoves	n/a	PRODOC is approved, but accreditation process is ongoing so the project implementation has not started as of 31/12	1	Initiative Développement	Approved in 2021	0	0
		Preparatory grant for National investment Framework (closed)	0.7	WB	Closed (2016-2020)	0.7	0.7
		Grant to prepare GCF proposal (closed)	0.3	FAO	Closed (2019-2020)	0.3	0.3
Subtotal RoC			29.8			16.7	1

CAMEROON							
		Preparatory grant for National investment Framework (closed)	0.54 ²⁷	WB & AFD	Closed (2016-2020)	0.54	0.5 (by WB)
EQUATORIAL GUINEA							
		Preparatory grant for National investment Framework (closed)	1.087	FAO	Closed (2017-2020)	1.087	1.087
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (1 active project)							
		Preparatory grant for National investment Framework (closed)	1	WB	Closed 2017-2020)	1	1
		Preparatory grant for policy dialogue and feasibility studies	0.7	AFD	Approved in 2020**	0.7	--
Sub-total CAR			1.7			1.7	1
REGIONAL							
Project short name	MPTF Code	Objectives ²⁸	Approved Budget ²⁹	Impl. org	Approval date ³⁰ & duration	Transferred ³¹	Spent ³²
CPIC Conservation Initiative	131425	To unlock greater volumes of private finance for conservation investments in the Central African region via the Nature + Accelerator Fund to achieve 30-60,000 ha of deforested and degraded landscapes under restoration, and 10,000,000 ha of terrestrial, marine and coastal habitat with improved management integrating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at year 10.	7.5	IUCN	Approved in 2021	3.7	2.1

²⁷ Originally approved as 1 million dollars but the portion of the AFD grant was, in agreement with the Executive Board, not used and refunded to the Trust Fund

²⁸ Numbered targets are provided as examples, and not exhaustive as not always defined at onset of projects

²⁹ Million US\$, exact amounts are found in Annex I

³⁰ Approval by FONAREDD Steering Committee marked with * , approval by CAFI Executive Board marked with **

³¹ M US\$. In the DRC, these figures include the amount transferred by the FONAREDD to projects, whether or not they have been transferred. Amounts transferred from the FONAREDD to projects are available here: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/3CD00>

³² In M US\$ unless specified otherwise. As of 31 December 2022.

Study to assess recent trends and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation	123542	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on joint, Central-Africa adapted, replicable and transparent methodology with international and national partners based on cloud-based computing tools, and train stakeholders to use it • Produce a land cover map for 2015 that responds to each country's definition of forests • Calculate hectares of degraded and lost forests annually for 2015-2020 across the region • Estimate frequency of observations of drivers associated with deforestation and degradation separately • Further analyse trends, historical drivers (2000-2020) and socio-economic factors in pilot sites • Develop tool to support land use planning processes 	1.2	FAO	Approved in July 2020 ** Revised duration: 24 months	1.2	1
Scaling-up investments (NGreen)	133946	Scaling-up Commercial investment in Deforestation-Free Central African Commodity Supply Chains	53	UNCDF & GREEN	Approved in October 2022 Duration: 60 months	53	0
Innovative agriculture (prep)	131426	<u>Feasibility study on innovative agriculture</u>	0.5	One Acre Fund	Approved in 2021	0.5	0.2
Innovative agriculture (prep)	131427	Feasibility study on innovative agriculture	0.43	Farm Africa	Approved in 2021	0.43	0.39
Sub -total regional			62.6			58.8	0.6
Sub total – projects			358.2				
CAFI SECRETARIAT							
		CAFI Secretariat	48.6	UNDP	2015& 2021 **	32.6	12.2

Table : CAFI portfolio with project objectives, as of 31 December 2022

Co-financing and collaboration with other donors

CAFI has leveraged co-financing from several sources, demonstrating other donors' confidence in CAFI's model and projects. The table below presents confirmed sources of co-financing, both to projects currently under implementation and projects in the pipeline to be implemented.

Source and amount of co-financing	Project benefiting from a co-financing	Status
JICA: 3.3M\$	PIREDD Kwilu in the DRC	Project under implementation
AFD: 5M\$	Sustainable forest management project in the DRC	Project under implementation
GIZ: 18M\$	PIREDD Maniema in the DRC	Project under implementation
Sweden: 4M\$	PIREDD Equateur in the DRC	Project under implementation
AFD 7 M	Land Use planning governance project in Republic of Congo	Project approved in 2022, funds transferred in 2022
European Union: 15M EUR (16.3 M US\$ ³³). AFD: 8M EUR (8.69M US\$).	Land use planning Investments in Republic of Congo (KOEKOBA)	Project approved in 2022, funds transfer expected in 2023

Partners' confidence in CAFI's approach is also reflected in their adoption of or commitment to CAFI's objectives and milestones. For example, the World Bank included CAFI LoI milestones in their budget support triggers for their cooperation with the DRC government.

³³ At the exchange rate of 1 EUR = 1,08712 USD

2.3 Investments per country

With 246 million US \$ transferred to the DRC National REDD Fund (and 200 M passed on by the FONAREDD to 18 projects), as well as a small grant to UNDP that did not go through the FONAREDD, the DR Congo remains the main recipient of CAFI's investments (61% by 31 December 2022, compared to 80% in 2021), followed by regional projects at 14.5% with 58.8 million and Gabon at 11.2% with 45.6 million.

The effective transfer to projects of the payment of the 1st tranche of results-based payment to Gabon and the transfers to regional projects drastically modified the distribution compared to 2021.

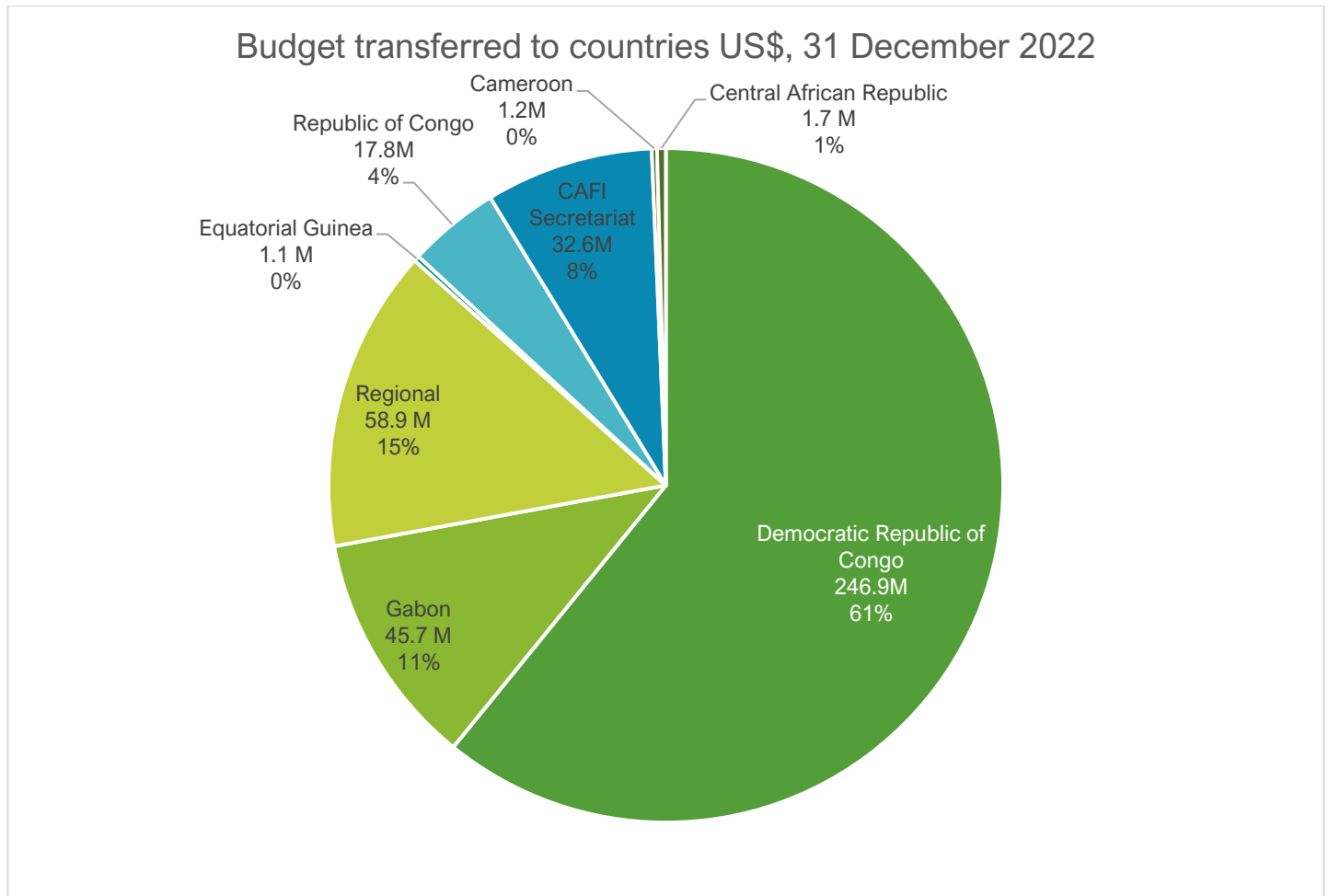


Figure 5: funding transferred to countries, in US \$ by 31 December 2022

Indeed, when zooming on 2022 alone (see [this Annex](#)), just over half of (51%) transferred funds in 2022 were directed to projects of regional scope (namely the UNDCF-&Green Fund), while DRC, Republic of Congo, Gabon and the CAFI Secretariat received similar shares of the remaining transfers.

In terms of cumulative expenditure per country, shown in Figure 6 below

- With the largest portfolio the DRC totals a 55.9% rate of expenditure/transfers
- Projects in the Republic of Congo showcases a cumulative 22.3% expenditure rate
- Gabon projects have a 21% expenditure rate

- Regional projects have an overall 7% expenditure rate

Low figures for the latter three are explained by the earlier stage at which these projects stand, with funds transferred in 2022. More details, project by project, are provided in Figure 9 below.

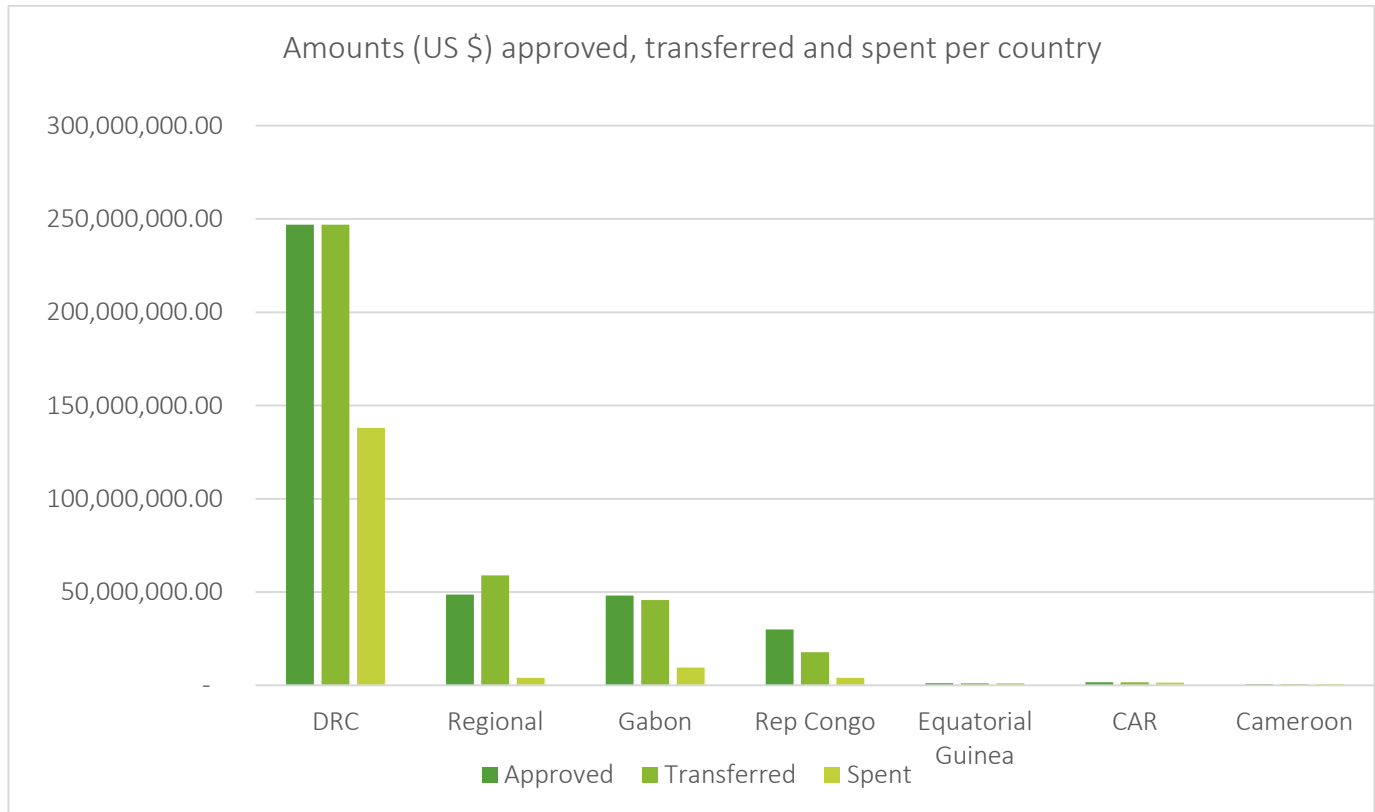


Figure 6: Approval, Transfers to Countries and expenditure per country- Cumulative as of December 31, 2022 (US \$)

2.4 Funding and delivery per implementing organization

Funding

CAFI funds are now channeled to national or regional projects **via sixteen implementing organizations, five more than in 2021**. While multilateral and bilateral cooperation agencies have been acting as implementing agencies since 2015, international non-governmental organizations have, since 2021, access to the CAFI Fund.

In terms of accreditation, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), One Acre Fund and Farm Africa were granted access to the CAFI Fund in end 2021, and UNESCO and The Nature Conservancy in 2022.

In 2022 alone, CAFI funding (including via the FONAREDD) was transferred to projects via 12 implementing organizations, including, for the first time, to the 5 aforementioned. See [this annex](#) for more details and Figure 7 below.

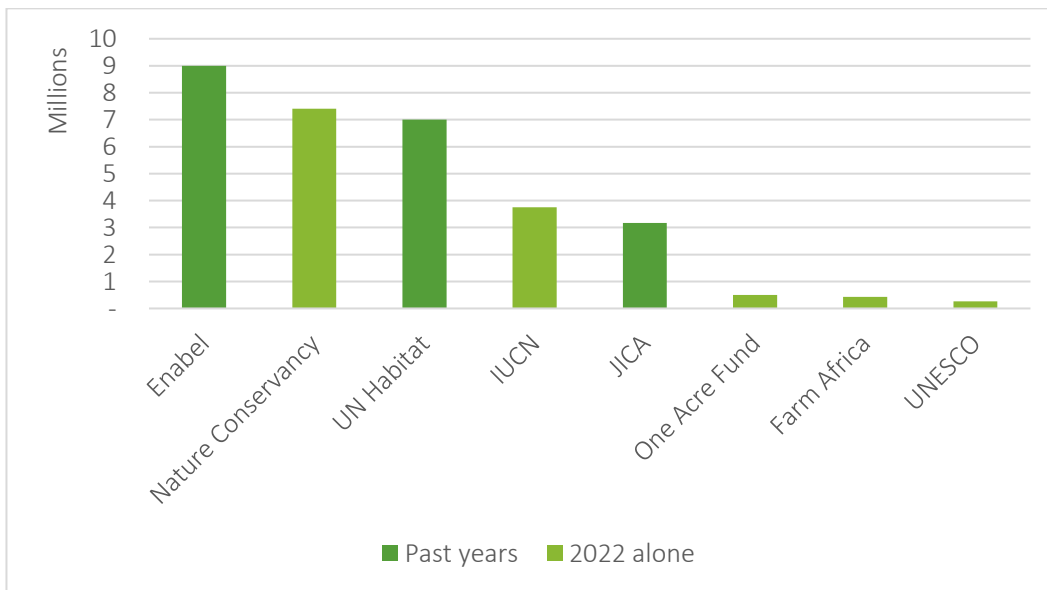
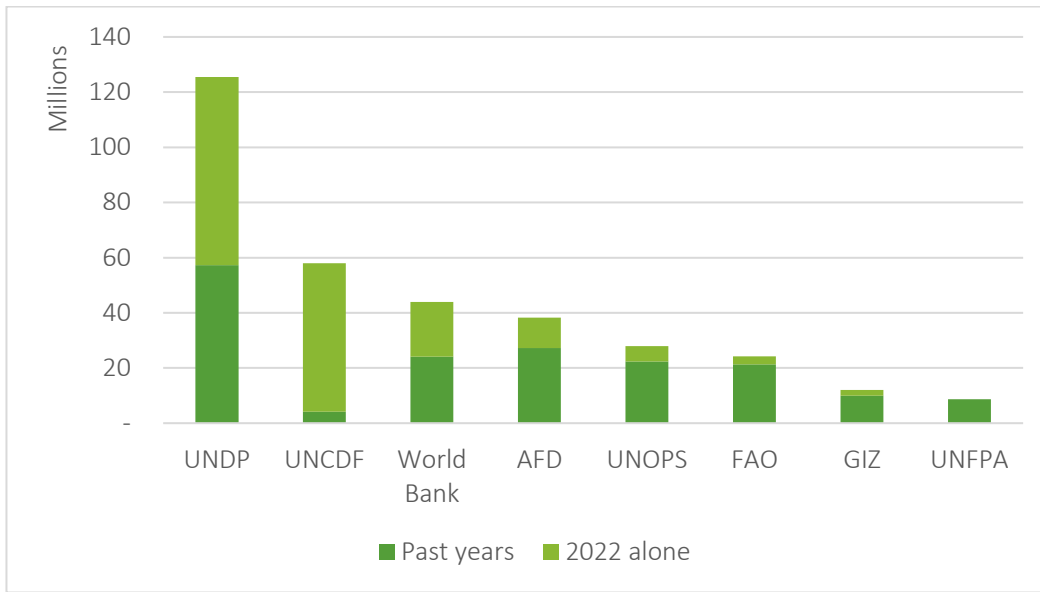


Figure 7: Amounts of net transferred amount per agency (in US\$), cumulative (2015-2021), for projects above 10 million US \$ (top) and below (bottom)

With over 125 million dollars received cumulatively and 68 million in 2022 alone³⁴, UNDP projects remain the largest recipient of CAFI funding. It is followed by UNCDF, thanks in large part to the 53 million US \$ of transfers in 2022 in the framework of its partnership with the &Green Fund.

³⁴ This figure does not comprise the CAFI Secretariat. By adding it, the total cumulative funding (2015 to 2022) to UNDP is of 158,421,778 US\$. See [this annex for all details](#).

While funding transfers are spread across the type of implementing organizations, UN and bilateral cooperation agencies receive the most funding (figure 7, top). After UNDP, UNCDF is the largest recipient of UN organizations, AFD the largest recipient among bilateral cooperation agencies, while the Nature Conservancy tops the non-governmental organizations thanks to its projects in Gabon.

Overview of delivery

Delivery rates per implementing organizations, including for CAFI direct transfers and the FONAREDD, are presented in [this Annex](#) and Figure 8 below. It is important to note that these delivery rates are cumulative, and are therefore associated with projects at different stages of time maturity, as explained further in Figure 9 and 10 below.

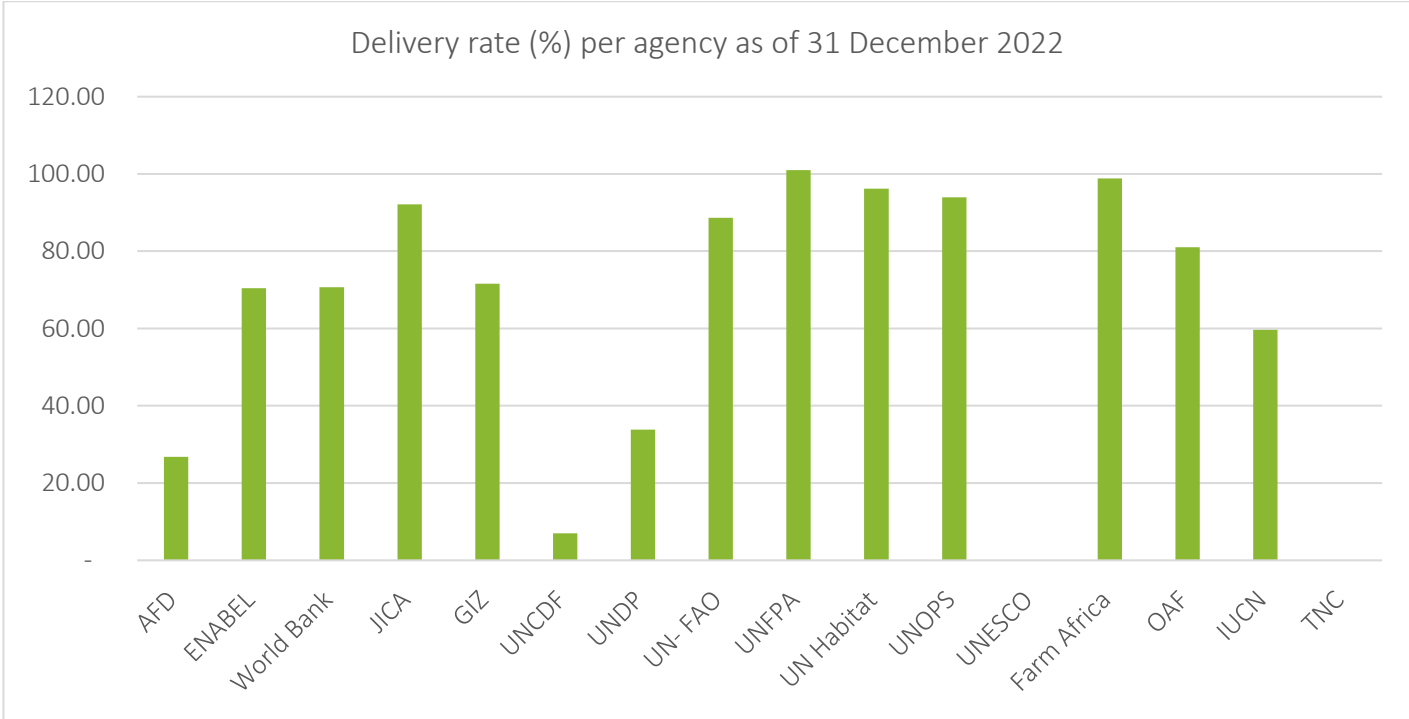


Figure 8: cumulative delivery rate per implementing organization

Several benchmarks are considered to flag projects of concerns - strictly based here on the financial figure and not on results:

Benchmark 1: Time between fund transfer and effective launch (inception period). Fund transfer dates related to the date of transfer of fund to the implementing organization, and are available on the MPTF Gateway for the CAFI and FONAREDD funds; and effective launch is measured the date at which the projects effectively starts its operation, i.e. when its first steering committee is held.

The medians of this timelapse are 90 days for all projects and 120 days when excluding preparatory grants.

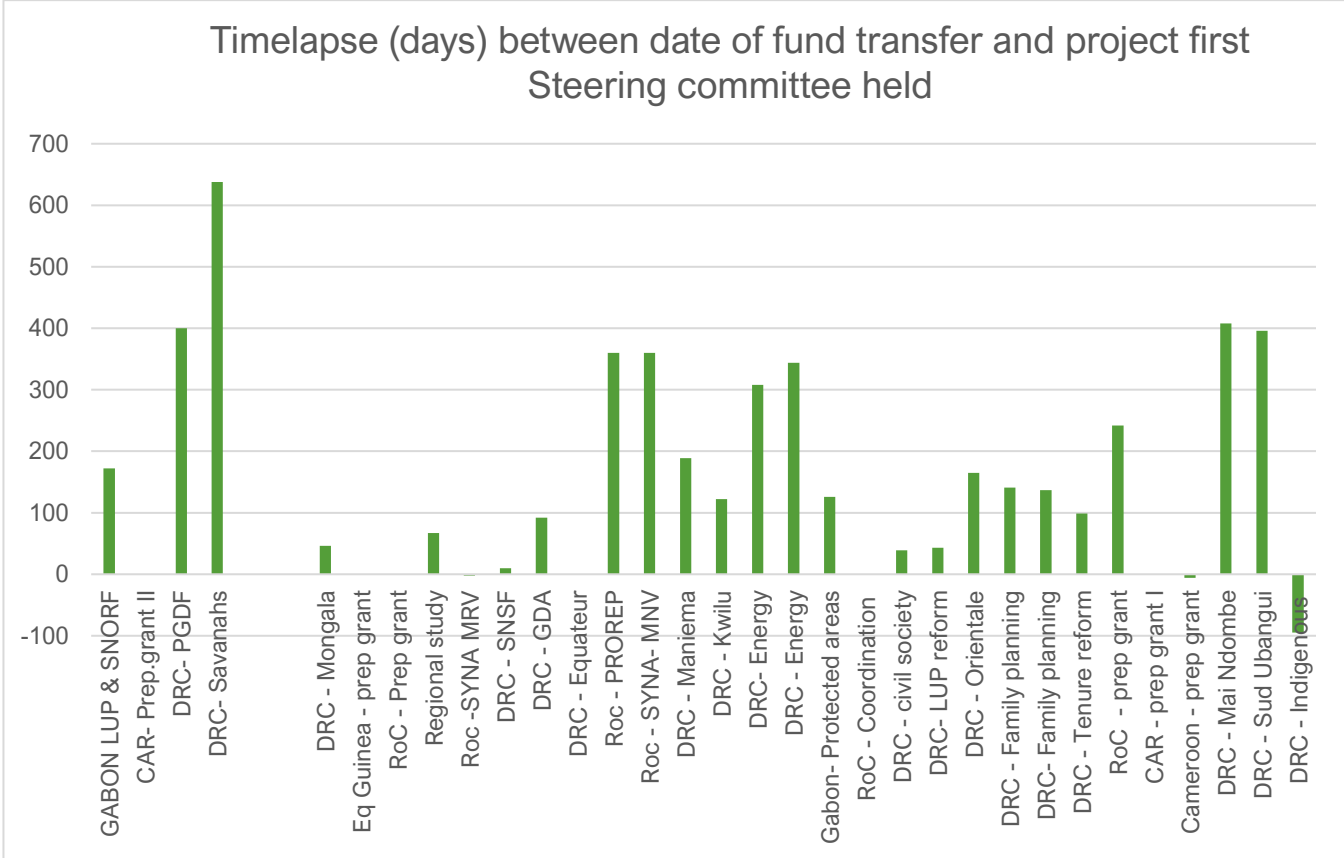


Figure 9: Number of days between fund transfer and effective project launch as of 31 December 2021. Color codes indicate implementing organizations listed in alphabetical order: AFD (far left), Enabel (yellow), FAO (purple), GIZ (grey), JICA (green), UNCDF (turquoise), UNDP, UNOPS (dark blue), UNFPA, UN-HABITAT and World Bank (green, far right).

With this timelapse benchmark, the two new projects of FAO in the Republic of Congo projects are flagged. As they exceed the median of all projects. The DRC AFD projects were flagged from previous years, with long inception phases.

Benchmark 2: Cumulative spending compared to the time maturity of the project since effective launch. Time maturity is the % of time consumed by the project compared to its expected duration.

A "50%-50%" benchmark is based on the assumption that a project that has spent 50% of its expected time duration since effective launch should have spent close to 50% of its funds. Based on this benchmark, Figure 10 below provides a visual check of the time maturity and financial expenditure. According to this benchmark, projects are flagged when their time maturity (counted at the time of transfer) exceeds 50% and is largely below their financial delivery rate.

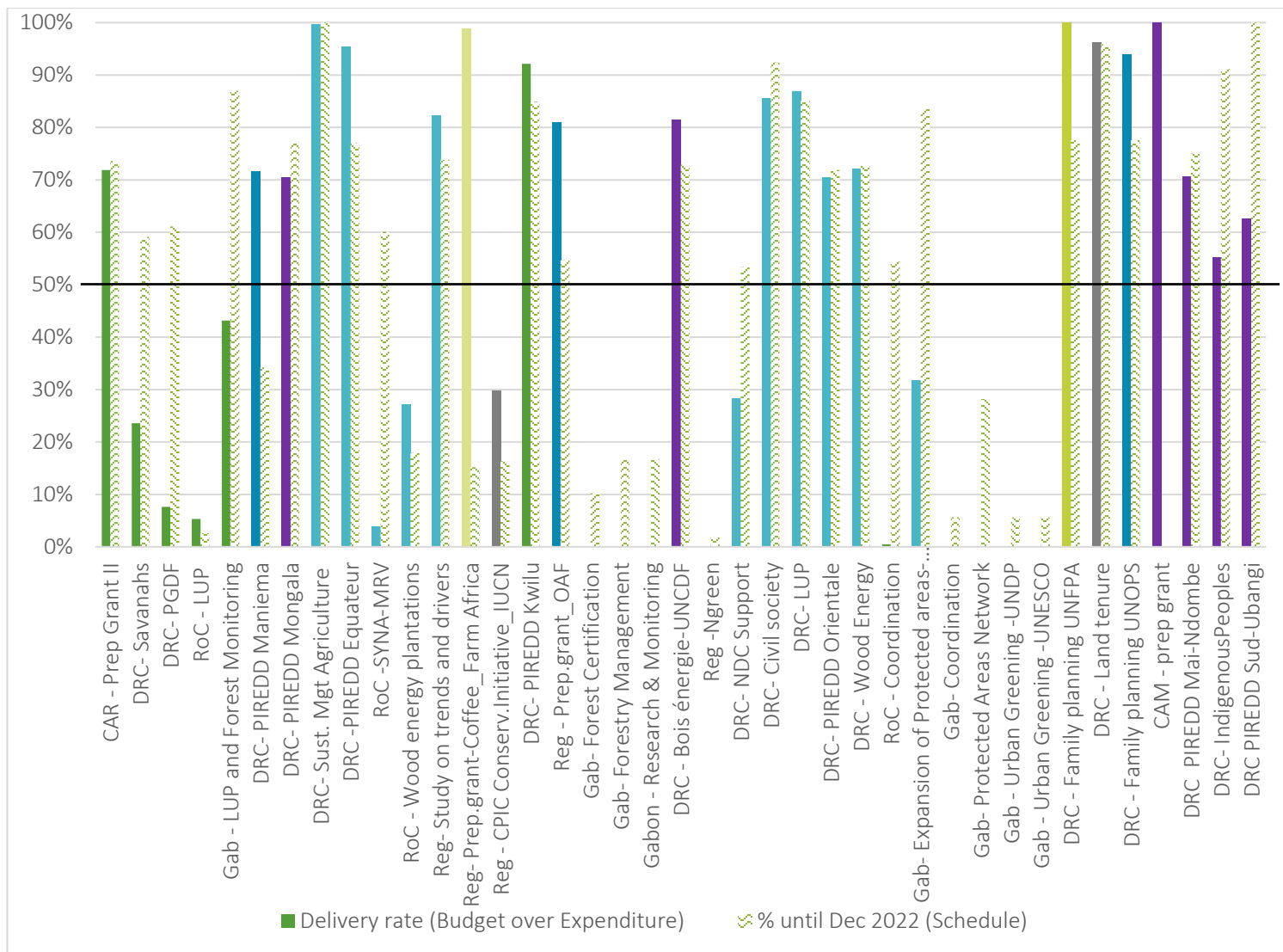


Figure 10 : delivery rate and time maturity across project. Color changes indicate a different implementing organization, with, from left to right: AFD, GIZ (purple), Enabel (blue), FAO (turquoise), Farm Africa (pale green), IUCN (grey), JICA, One Acre Fund, TNC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNOPS, and World Bank

According to this benchmark, projects are flagged when their time maturity (counted at the time of transfer) exceeds 50% and is largely below their financial delivery rate. This is the case of

- The AFD DRC projects on sustainable management of forests and the project on investments in savannahs and degraded forests
- The AFD Gabon Land use planning and forest monitoring project. To note, this project received in 2022 a second tranche of funding, and the delivery rate of the 1st tranche improved in 2022 over previous reporting periods
- The FAO-led projects in the Republic of Congo national MRV system, that had not held a steering committee meeting in 2022 due to political tensions
- The UNDP-implemented project in Gabon on expansion of protected areas and agriculture
- The World Bank DRC project to support Indigenous peoples

2.5 Investments per outcome

CAFI-funded projects contribute differently to the 7 outcome of CAFI Theory of Change, as seen in Figure 11 below.

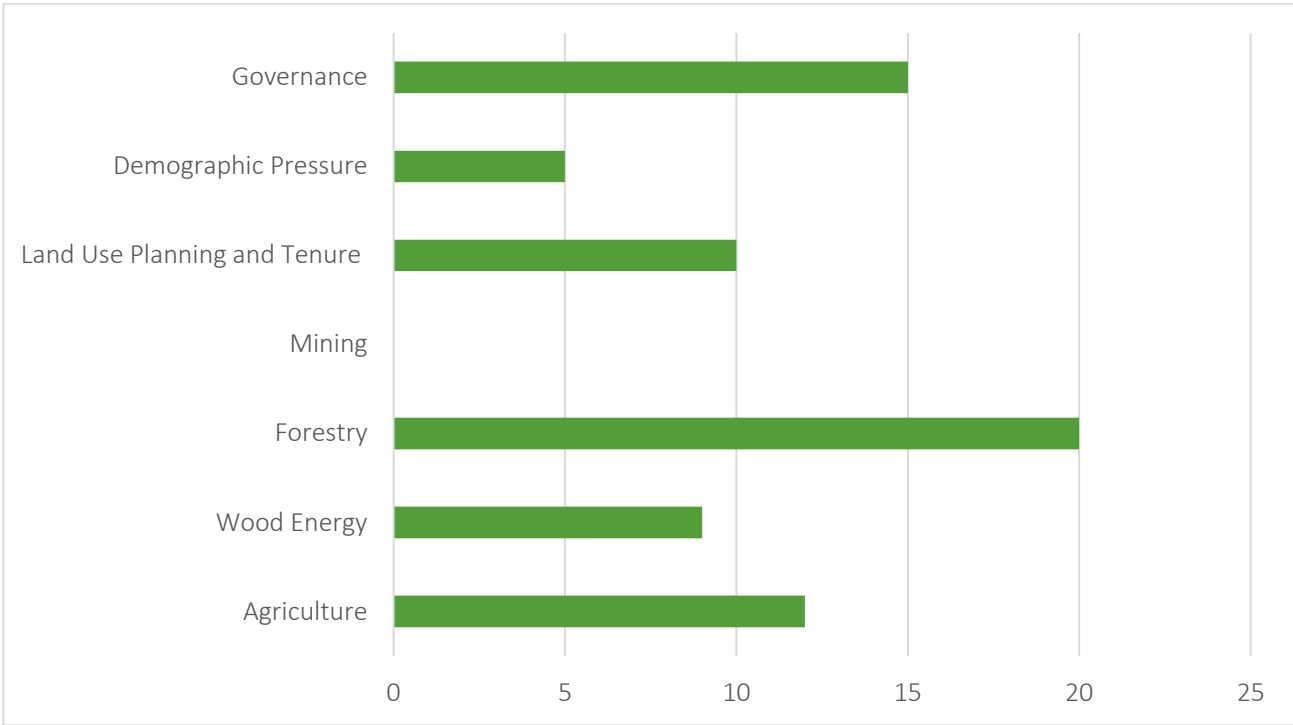


Figure 11: Number of CAFI-funded projects by outcome

In 2022, CAFI invested in all outcomes of its Theory of Change, with the exception of mining and infrastructure. This exception continues to be attributed to the due to the slow programming in the DRC and Congo towards this outcome.

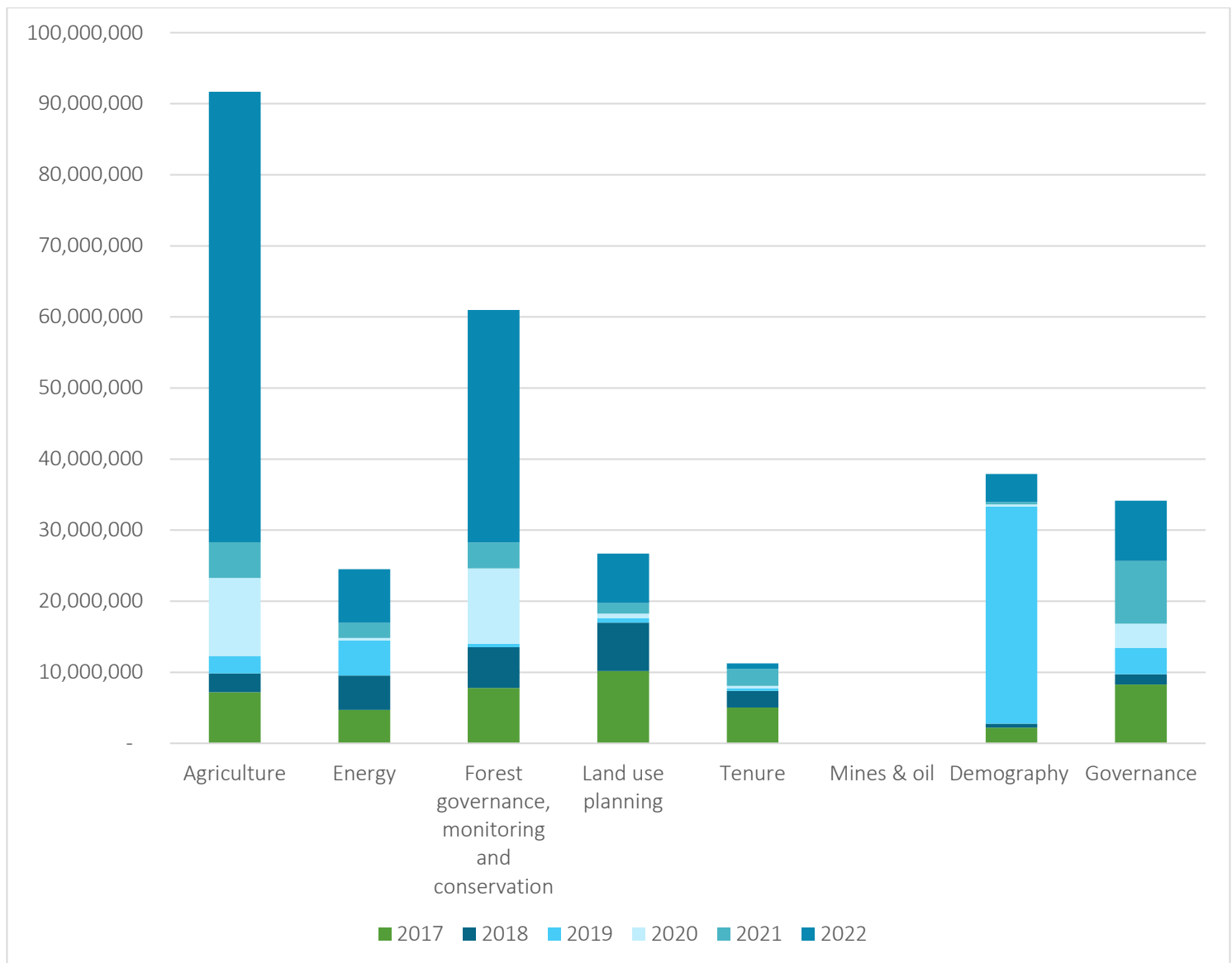


Figure 12: 2017 -2022: Evolution of CAFI's investments (in US \$) per CAFI outcome

Figures 12 and 13 showcase funding transfers (in US \$) from the CAFI Fund or FONAREDD to projects, across the outcomes of its theory of change, annually and cumulatively. They are calculated based on the budgeting undertaken in project documents and the transfers from the fund (CAFI or FONAREDD) to projects.

To be noted, several projects span across different outcomes, such as the integrated provincial projects in the DRC or the Urban Greening project in Gabon (forestry and governance). The graphs include the FONAREDD Secretariat costs but do not include the CAFI Secretariat cost.

These graphs are available for each country in country sections below.

- Agricultural investments that reduce pressure on forest lands remain CAFI's top-funded outcome (from Us\$ 45.5 M in 2021 to **92.7 M USD in 2022**). While funding to agriculture goes to 11 projects, including 9 in the DRC, the increase is due in large part to CAFI's new investment of 53 M USD into the region-wide &Green Fund in 2022. With this, **agriculture now representing 31.2% of funding transferred (compared to 25% in 2021)**.

- In second place come investments towards better **forest management, forest governance, forest monitoring and conservation** have seen a large increase in 2022 and **now represent 60.9 M USD (or 21.3% of all of CAFI's transfers)**. The large increase in 2022 is primarily due to funding transfers to the five new projects in Gabon funded through the results-based payment agreement with CAFI.
- Investments to reduce demographic pressure on forests, all concentrated in the DRC, now represent 37.9 M, entirely directed to the DRC. Despite a small increase in 2022 due to a transfer to the Family planning project in the DRC, DRC in support of the national Family Planning strategy, this outcome shows a relative decrease from 17.8% in 2021 to 13% of CAFI's transfers in 2022.
- **Investments in governance and coordination at local, provincial and national scale have reached 34 M USD and represent 11.9% of CAFI's investment transfers.** They include governance structures at different levels in provincial projects in the DRC, the Secretariat of the National REDD¹ Fund and support to the Prime Minister in Republic of Congo,
- The land use planning outcome received an additional 6.9 M USD in 2022, leading to total of 26.7 M USD and a share of 9.3% of CAFI's investment transfers.
- The Energy outcome benefited from an additional 7.5 M USD in 2022, towards a total of 24.5 M USD since 2016. It represents 8.6% of CAFI's investment transfers.
- **Land tenure now totals 11,2 M USD**, just below 4% of CAFI's investments transfers.

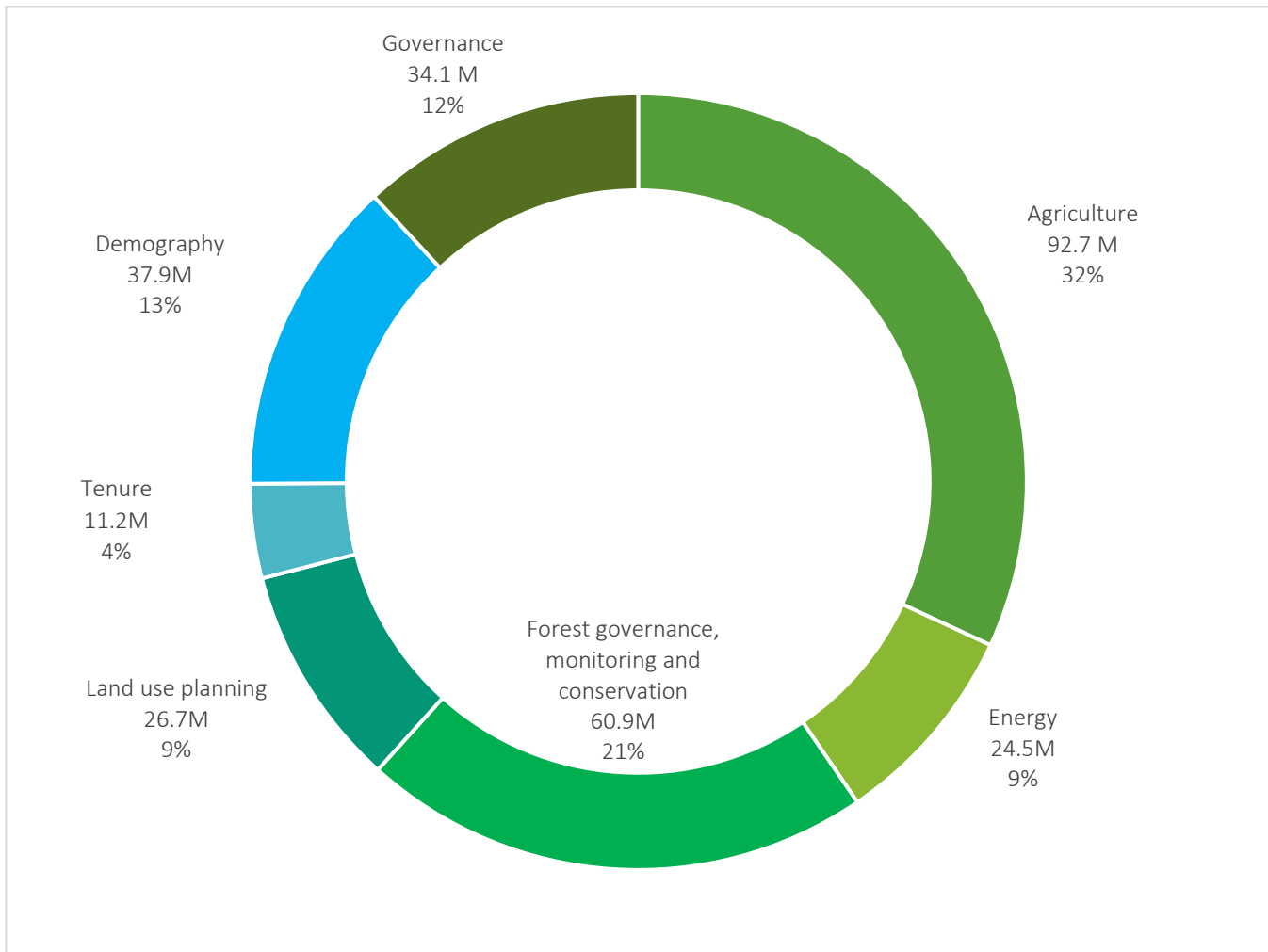


Figure 13: Cumulative transfers per outcome of the CAFI Theory of Change, in US \$

3. Results

3.1. The CAFI Initiative: catalysing political mobilisation

CAFI is not solely a Trust Fund but also an Initiative, that seeks to mobilize and catalyze political commitments at the highest level of Government in central African countries.

In the DRC, while 2021 was marked by the endorsement of the second DRC-CAFI Letter of Intent by DRC President Tshisekedi, a Letter of Intent that displays commitments agreed to by all sectors of the DRC's economy and the Minister of Finance, 2022 saw a **continuous mobilization of Ministries and Embassies to monitor progress against these commitments**. On September 2022, Heads of Office and Heads of Administration of all line ministries were conveyed by the Offices of the Ministers in charge of Finance and Environment to a high-level workshop to take stock of progress against the milestones and present sectoral roadmaps to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the political commitments. This high-level and ongoing mobilization as well as enhanced country ownership led to substantial progress by the end of 2022 towards the achievement of political milestones with 19 milestones out of 23 being rated as being met or in good progress. These efforts were supported by enhanced coordination of technical and financial partners in their policy dialogue with the authorities. They were materialized by the alignment of few triggers of the 2022 World Bank budget support to DRC on the milestones of the Letter of Intent, such as i) the cancellation of illegal contracts in the forestry sector, ii) the adoption of the revised Decree for the establishment of the National Consultative Forestry Council, iii) the adoption of the Sustainable Agricultural Policy. CAFI donor members and secretariat were also very active in aligning the policy dialogue led by the Inter-donor Group on Environment and Climate (GIBEC) with the Authorities with the monitoring of key milestones of the Letter of Intent – especially in its dialogue with the Minister in charge of Env and Sustainable Development (two meetings held on 2022) and also with the initiation of a dialogue with the Head of Office of the Head of State (one meeting).

On May 2022, the Minister of Finance together with the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Environment and Sustainable Development conveyed the authorities (Heads of Office of the Head of State and of PM, sectoral ministers) as well as the CAFI Ambassadors and the UN RC in an event to launch the Calls for Expression of Interest for the 500 M USD portfolio and to approve the renewed institutional framework for the CAFI-DRC partnership. On October 2022, at the margins of the Pre-COP27 organized by the Government of DR Congo, the Minister of Finance conveyed the Heads of Delegations from Congo Basin countries, as well as from CAFI donor countries to exchange on the mobilization of climate finance for the region

In the Republic of Congo, the Letter of Intent was signed in 2019 by President D. Sassou-Nguesso and its implementation is piloted by the Prime Minister – now supported by a dedicated project - for cross-sectoral coordination and arbitration. An Inter-ministerial Committee convenes 13 line-ministers for a biannual policy dialogue with CAFI, and a Steering Committee includes representatives of the private sector and civil society.

In Gabon, the coordination of climate action is the remit of the National Climate Council. The policy dialogue with CAFI concentrates on the milestones of the letter of intent and it culminates in the annual review that has both a technical and political segment. In 2022, the annual review was organized on the margin of the CBFP meeting of the parties in Libreville in July, with attendance from key ministries (environment, economy and agriculture) as well national agencies (ANPN, ADAG, AGEOS) and international implementing organizations (AFD, UNDP, TNC, UNESCO). The independent verification of the milestones was finalized, and recommendations were adopted to reach remaining milestones.

In Cameroon, as a follow up of the 19h meeting of the Executive Board in October 2021, during which the CAFI Board asked the Minister in charge of Economy, Planning and Land Use planning (MINEPAT) to confirm his interest in leading the partnership with CAFI and supporting the coordination of line ministries to better integrate climate concerns in the development planning processes and implementation of the SND30, 2022 marked the confirmation from the Head of State Office of the appointment of MINEPAT as the official national focal point and counterpart with CAFI. This enabled the active mobilization of MINEPAT to confirm the interest from Government to enter to a partnership with CAFI in a phased approach and fix the main programming priorities which could be funded. Based on this, the CAFI executive Board approved at its 22nd meeting in December 2022 the launch of a programming phase for 60 M US\$.

With the lifting of travel restrictions, high-level mobilization resumed and accelerated in 2022. CAFI's participation in wide-reaching global events, detailed in section 7 through public meetings and ministerial exchanges, also contributed to maintaining the mobilization of partner and donor countries.

3.2 The CAFI Fund: contributing to climate change mitigation and poverty reduction

CAFI's theory of change defines two impacts that CAFI seeks to contribute to: 1) emission reductions and removals from the forest and land use sector, measure in tons of CO₂ equivalent and 2) development co-benefits, measured through various proxies.

A. Contribution to the CO₂ impact

In the DRC, figures compiled from projects ³⁵ show targets of emission reductions of 75 million tons of CO₂eq and an increase from 10 to 20% in household revenues. These numbers however are conservative, as they only take into account the figures estimated by some provincial projects in the DRC (est. 45 Mt of ER³⁶), the Gabon Forest certification project (est. 30 Mt of emission reduction (ER) per year starting in 2025) and the Republic of Congo Wood-energy plantations project (est. 0.8 M tons).

More robust methodology to estimate the contribution of CAFI's projects to reduced emissions (or their proxy, reduced areas of deforestation) are being developed, and will be presented in 2023.

In the DRC, emissions calculated by FAO in 2022 (see Figure 14) using the data from the regional study show that emissions from deforestation (alone) in the DRC are estimated to be 44,210,746.22 ± 6,196,609 tCO₂e³⁷ in 2020. Again, this possible decrease when compared to 2016 levels cannot be attributed to CAFI's interventions.

³⁵ Not all projects have quantitatively estimated their ER impacts – see footnote for DRC below.

³⁶ This is a conservative estimate based on the targets provided by the PIREDD Mai Ndombe and Orientale and the Savanahs and Energy projects. The absence of published reference levels for each province makes it impossible to estimate the emission reduction targets (of 10%) as absolute figures.

³⁷ These are different from what the DRC reported in its Biannual Update Report Annex to the UNFCCC

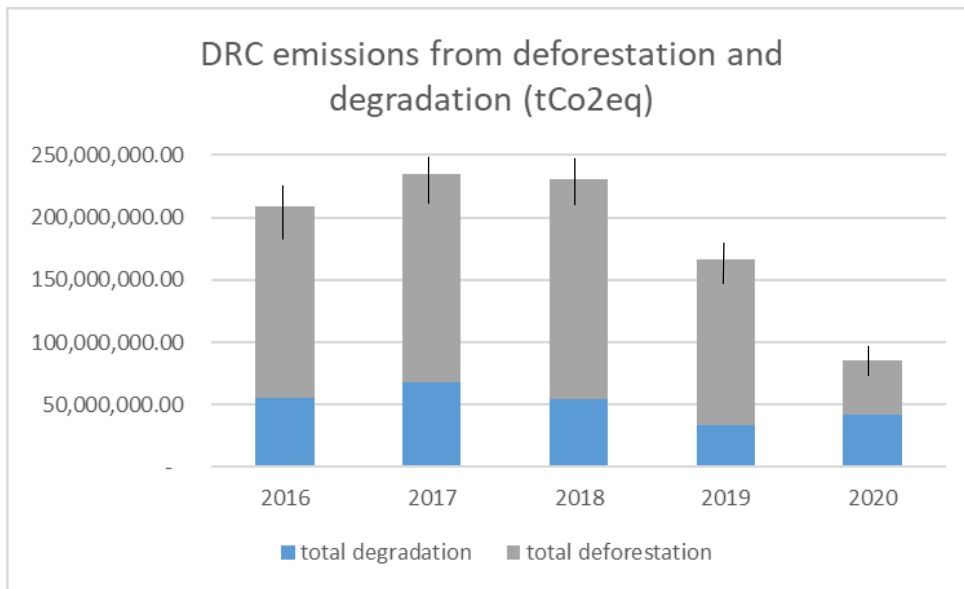


Figure 14 : DRC annual emissions from deforestation and degradation, 2015-2020

These results are presented below at provincial level, with provinces benefiting from a CAFI-funded project marked with an arrow.

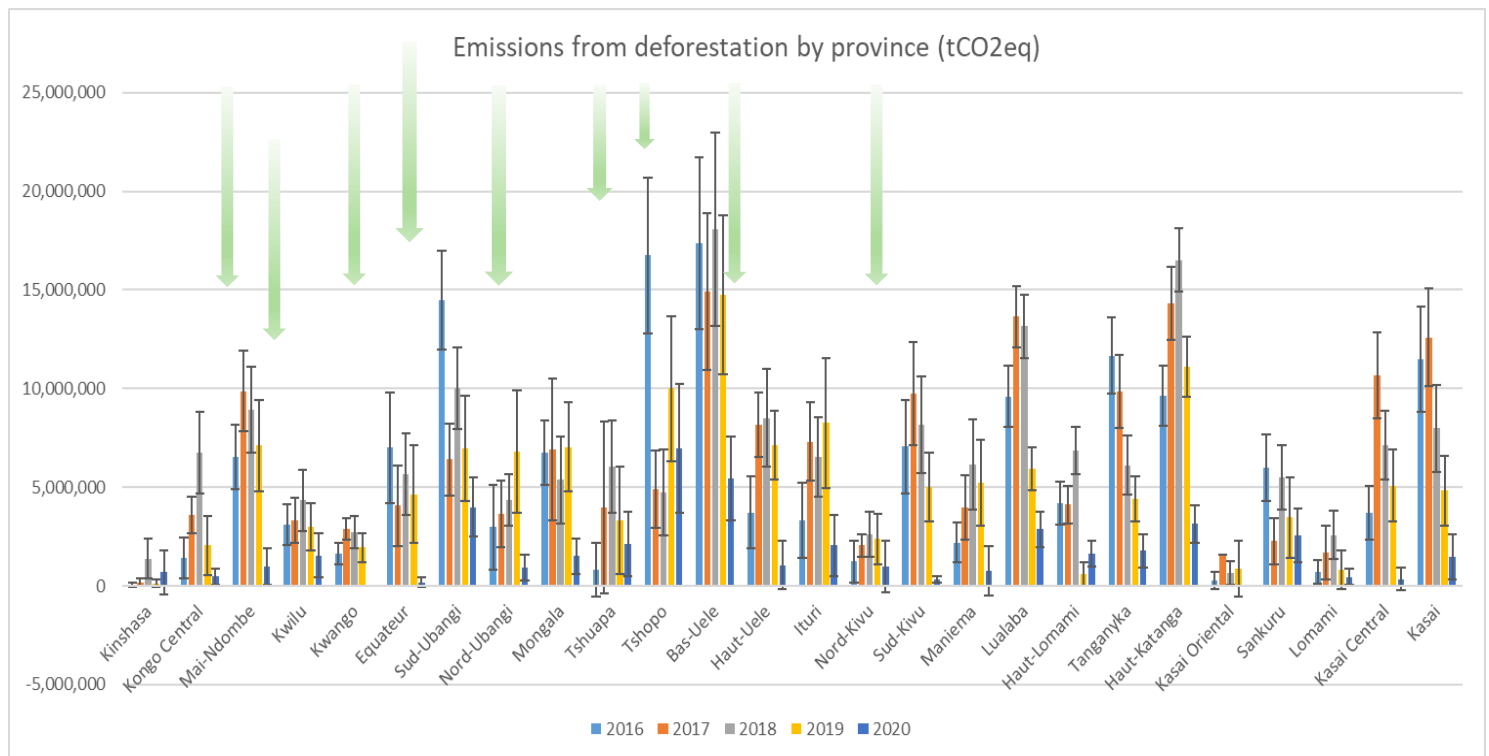


Figure 15: annual emissions from deforestation by DRC province (in tCO₂), 2015-2020

What can be inferred from Figure 15 is:

- There is no increase in emissions in provinces with a PIREDD

- There could be a decrease in emissions, but confidence intervals (error bars) are high
- It is not possible to infer from this figure that decrease in deforestation correlates with CAFI’s support in these provinces, since other (non-CAFI-supported) provinces show similar profiles.
- The 2nd phase of the regional study will provide in 2023 figures of areas of deforestation and degradation with better confidence intervals.

These results, however, cannot all be attributed to CAFI.

Few projects (or none) have set up a system to estimate or report against areas of avoided deforestation that can be attributed to their activities and outputs, let alone the associated emission reduction. The Mai Ndombé project reported that efforts are underway at project level to provide such data, but estimated that 100,000 ha of primary forests under a natural resource management plan are now voluntarily protected by 24 « terroirs » that benefit from a local development committee (with an additional 100,000 ha under GEF funding.³⁸

Sectorial reform projects do not report quantitatively against the emission reduction outcome, this because their contribution to climate change mitigation and reduced deforestation, although it is an expected element of the sectoral reforms, is too indirect.

In Gabon, emissions have been calculated for 2016 and 2017, and served as a baseline against which to measure project performances against their emission reduction targets. These reductions were rewarded by CAFI in 2021 with a US\$ 17 million payment under the 2019 150-million dollars results-based payment agreement with CAFI.

In the Republic of Congo, emission data is not available but areas of deforestation and degradation, extracted from the regional study and validated by the Ministry, are presented below.²⁶

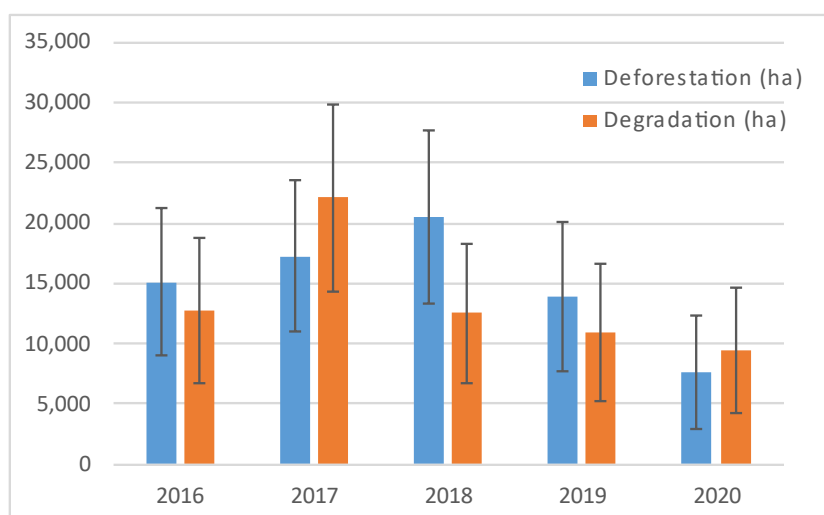


Figure 16 : estimated deforestation and degradation annual areas in Republic of Congo. Note that this preliminary data is extracted from the regional study and may be improved with additional validation data in the 2nd phase of the project.

³⁸https://docs.google.com/document/d/100Ea0E4x_VG30a4zHvTVb7I_1vSjgVDM?rtpof=true&authuser=secretariatcafi%40gmail.com&usp=drive_fs

B. Contribution to the development impact

Number of beneficiaries with improved livelihoods

Based on reports from CAFI-funded projects on the number of beneficiaries and further analysis by the CAFI Secretariat, estimates of direct and indirect beneficiaries are provided below.

It is estimated that CAFI-funded projects have reached, so far, **142,000 direct beneficiaries and 9 million indirect beneficiaries, for which definitions are reported in [this Annex](#)**. Caution should however be exercised when considering these figures, as

- Interpretation by reporting projects of what represents a direct or indirect beneficiaries was not homogenous, despite the guidance that CAFI and the FONAREDD provided.
- Some projects failed to report numbers of beneficiaries.

Additional exchanges with implementing organizations, which could not be performed ahead of the submission of this report³⁹, will be organized in 2023.

Project	Direct beneficiaries	Indirect beneficiaries	Definitions used and comments
PIREDD Orientale (DRC)	28,702	2,939,166	28,702 direct beneficiaries ⁴⁰ . Indirect beneficiaries are individuals whose awareness has been raised (low intensity support)
PIREDD Mai Ndombe (DRC)	68,187	130,562	68,187 individuals (including 22,715 women and 3,542 Indigenous people) reported as direct beneficiaries (members of local development committees that receive direct support and payment for ecosystem services) 16 320 households (or an estimated 130,562 people including 99,093 men, 31,469 women and 10,774 indigenous people) benefiting from awareness on family planning services (low intensity)
PIREDD Mongala (DRC)	4,956	48,804	4,956 including 1,262 women direct beneficiaries (high intensity), and 48,804 trained in various capacities (low intensity)
PIREDD Maniema (DRC)	5,419	800,000	5,419 direct beneficiaries of rural support (high intensity) and large awareness campaigns that have reached an estimated 800,000 people.
PIREDD Kwilu (DRC)	4,030	5,490,000	2,015 households are considered direct beneficiaries. The project used a conversion factor of 8 to calculate the number of individuals. To be more conservative, we used a factor of 2 here.
PIREDD Equateur (DRC)	11,299	520	

³⁹ The FONAREDD report was received too late to ensure that all data appropriately responds to the definitions of direct and indirect beneficiaries (see Annex) provided by the FONAREDD and CAFI to projects.

⁴⁰ High intensity support provisionally comprises farmers of members of local communities who have received direct support

Energy programme (DRC)	1867	95,107	1867 partial and fulltime jobs created of which 61% are youth, 41% women amongst which 21.8% hold director level position. 95,107 ⁴¹ individuals have been estimated ⁴² to have access to cleaner cooking energy, which is considered here indirect support 43
Family Planning (DRC)	18,737	Not reported	
Land use planning and monitoring (Gabon)	Not reported	Not reported	
Total (estimate)	Est. 142,000 direct beneficiaries from "field" projects	Est. 9 million indirect beneficiaries from "field" projects	

To note, an average household in rural DRC comprises 6 children, who may be considered indirect beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries of reform projects cannot be inferred as precisely (at one extreme, one could estimate that the whole population of a country would benefit from a land-use planning project or forest monitoring project), except for counting individuals in various institutions whose capacity has been strengthened through trainings, equipment etc.

Beneficiaries per outcome

An estimate of the beneficiaries per outcome is presented below.

	Estimated number of direct beneficiaries	Estimated number of indirect beneficiaries
Agriculture	Est. 75,000	Est. 3 million
Energy	500 with enhanced access to finance 1867 jobs created	95,107 households with cleaner cooking solutions Est 2.4 million
Forests	269,169	Est. 3 million
Mining and Hydrocarbons	No support to date	
Land-use planning	347	Est. 9 million
Land tenure	127	Est. 3 million
Demography	5874 reported by PIREDD and 12,863 service providers trained by PROMIS-PF ⁴⁴ = 18,737	Est. 2.7 million

⁴¹ 3500 in PIREDD Equateur and 91 607 from Energy project

⁴² Figures can be estimated by the number of clean cooking solutions sold (improved cookstoves, Liquid Gas Petroleum) sold.

⁴³ People who buy cookstoves cannot be identified nor do they know they are receiving support by buying cookstoves, hence they do not meet the CAFI definition of direct beneficiary.

⁴⁴ One can estimate that such training has an impact on the trainees's own awareness and access to CYP

	direct beneficiaries & 3,921,769 CYP distributed to date ⁴⁵	
Governance	13,435	Est. 2.6 million

An important caveat is that, to avoid double counting, **figures by outcome should not be aggregated**, since a beneficiary of rural development often receives support simultaneously on several outcomes, such as agriculture and wood energy (eg rural households supported to establish manioc fields under wood-energy plantations).

In addition, because the definition requested by CAFI in the project annual report template how to define direct and indirect beneficiaries (see [Annex](#)) was not systematically understood or adhered to, **numbers in the above are, again, indicative estimates.**

Improved revenues

Beyond the number of beneficiaries, their increase in income (or decrease in spending, for example due to more efficient cookstoves or cheaper energy sources) has been estimated by some of the more mature projects.

The PIREDD Orientale has for example estimated that yields for rural households supported with improved subsistence agriculture having multiplied and prices remaining constant, a rice field of 0,57 hectares⁴⁶ has supplied a revenue of 1 539 000 CAF francs in 2021 vs 800 280 francs in 2019; and a corn field a revenue of 264 000 francs vs 144 000 francs in 2019. **These represent a two-fold increase in revenues from two subsistence crops for 2185 beneficiaries (295 women, 1337 men, 528 young people and 26 indigenous people).**

These numbers, however, are not yet systematically reported for each type of productive activity or by each project.

C. Results per outcome of the CAFI Theory of Change

The terms of reference of the CAFI Trust fund identify seven outcomes that contribute to the achievement of the two impacts based on the assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

These 7 outcomes are:

- Sustainable agricultural practices lead to less land conversion and increased food security
- Sustainable alternatives to current wood energy practices are adopted
- Forestry sector and protected areas institutions and stakeholders have the capacity and the legal framework to promote, monitor and enforce sustainable management of forests
- Future infrastructure and mining projects minimize their overall footprint on forests
- Land use planning decisions ensure a balanced representation of sectoral interests and keep forests standing, and better tenure security does not incentivize forest loss by individuals, communities or companies
- Population growth and migration to forests and forest fronts are slowed down
- Better inter-ministerial coordination and governance resulting in a permitting, enforcement and fiscal regime of economic activities that do not push economic actors to forest conversion and illegal activities; and a business climate favourable to forest-friendly investments

⁴⁵ Not counted as beneficiaries. A CYP (Couple year Protection) is the estimated protection provided by contraceptive methods during a one-year period, based upon the volume of all contraceptives sold or distributed free of charge to clients during that period. The CYP is calculated by multiplying the quantity of each method distributed to clients by a conversion factor, to yield an estimate of the duration of contraceptive protection provided per unit of that method. More at <https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/family-planning/couple-years-protection-cyp>

⁴⁶ Estimated from the compilation of data and information of the first 2020 planting cycle.

Further details on the indicators and outputs associated with each of the 7 outcomes are available in the [CAFI Results Framework](#).

Results are summarised below, by outcome and for each country. Details on results per outcome and output indicators are available in [Annex IV: Reporting against the M&E framework](#).

C.1 Sustainable agricultural practices lead to less land conversion and increased food security

Background

Data extracted from Resource Watch by FAO⁴⁷ below allows, for the first time, to establish areas of cropland gains and losses over forests and non-forests. This could be a starting point to establish a baseline (2016-2019)⁴⁸ for CAFI's interventions and can be compiled by province.

⁴⁷ Available here:

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/aur.lie.shapiro/viz/Forest_Croplands_Change/CroplandextentDRCprovince?publish=yes

⁴⁸ Baseline years cannot currently be changed as they depend on data availability from ResourcesWatch

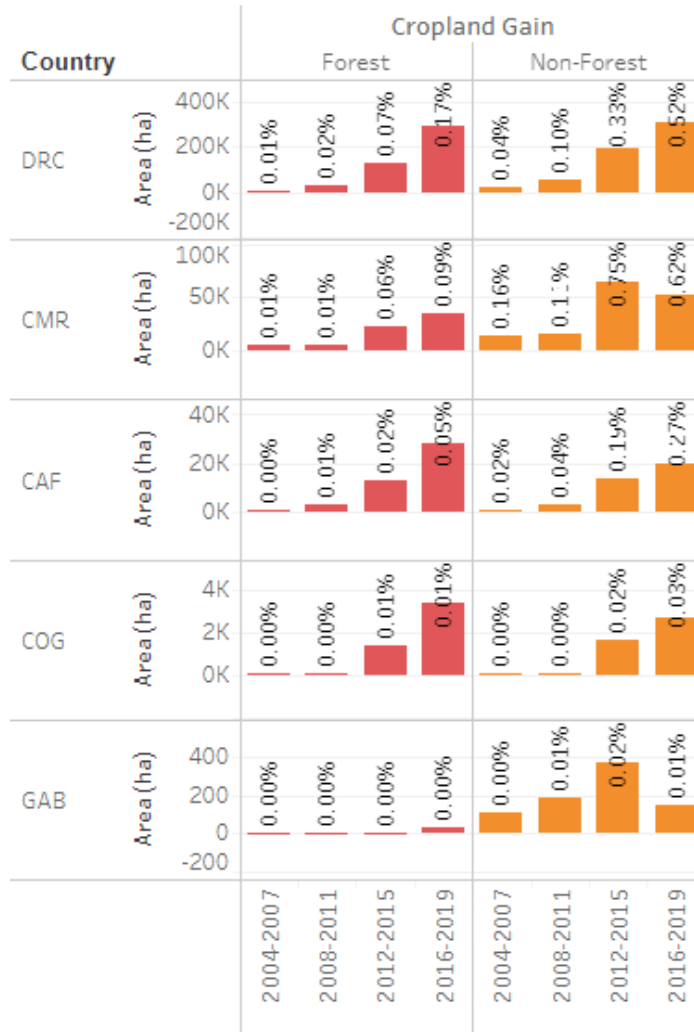


Figure 17: data extracted by FAO from ResourcesWatch

Data extracted from the CAFI-FAO Regional Trends and Drivers⁴⁹ study shows that, between 2015 and 2020, small-scale agriculture has remained the largest driver of disturbances, associated with approximately 92% of observations of deforestation and 74% of observations of degradation, while industrial agriculture is associated with 6% of deforestation observations and 5% of degradation events.

⁴⁹ Explore the data at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/08c4d90f9caf4d6ab9e5bbdb21f222fa>

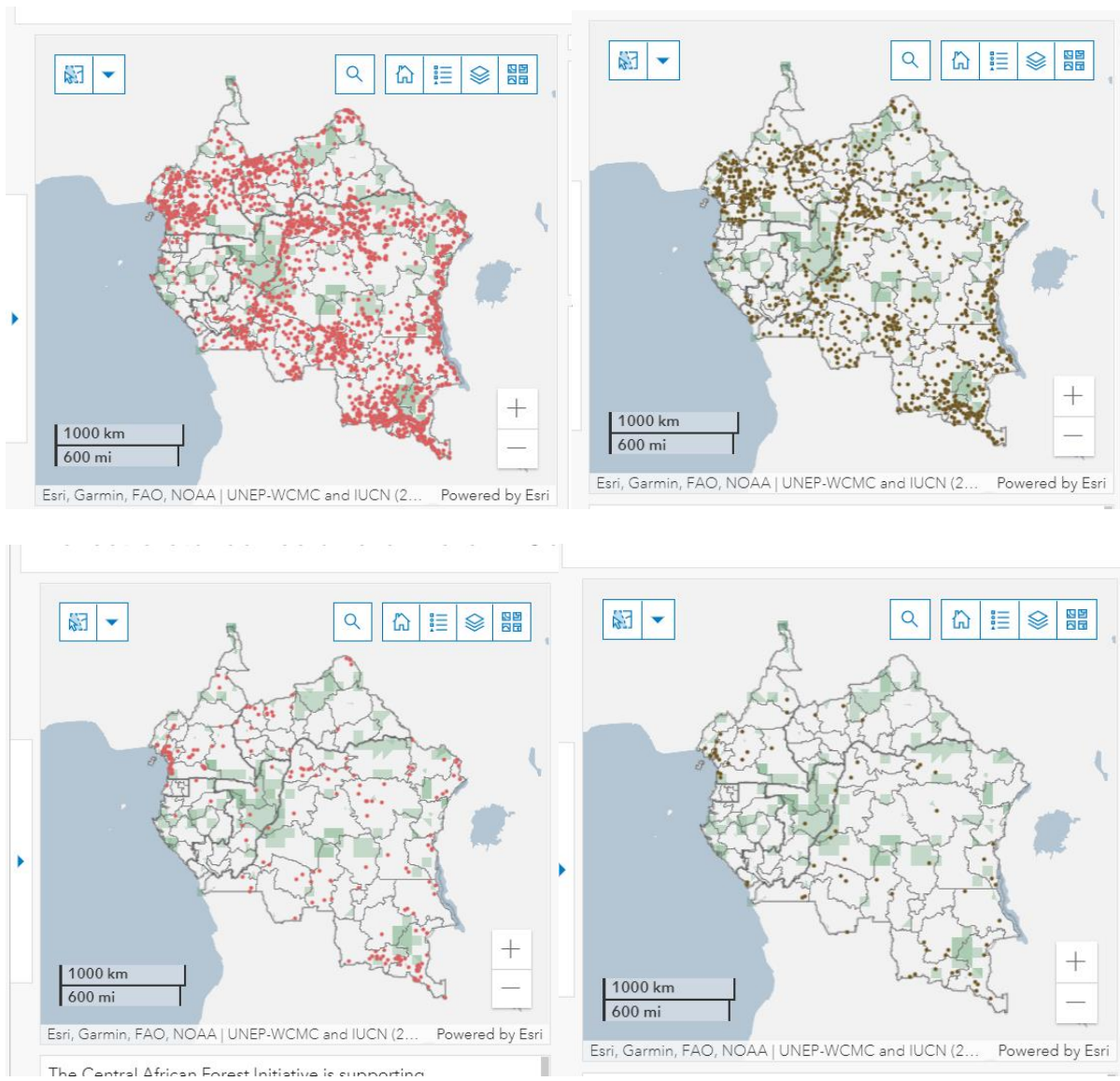


Figure 18: Top row: observations of small-scale agriculture associated with deforestation (left) and degradation (right) between 2015 and 2020. Bottom row: observations of industrial agriculture associated with deforestation (right) and degradation (left). Data extracted from [CAFI validation data \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

The study also shows that small scale agriculture associated with deforestation and degradation is predominantly observed in corridor forests⁵⁰ (57%) and outer edge forests (20%), as per Figure 19.

⁵⁰ For the purposes of the study, these are long and narrow (less than 540 meters-wide) areas of forest that link together areas of intact forests

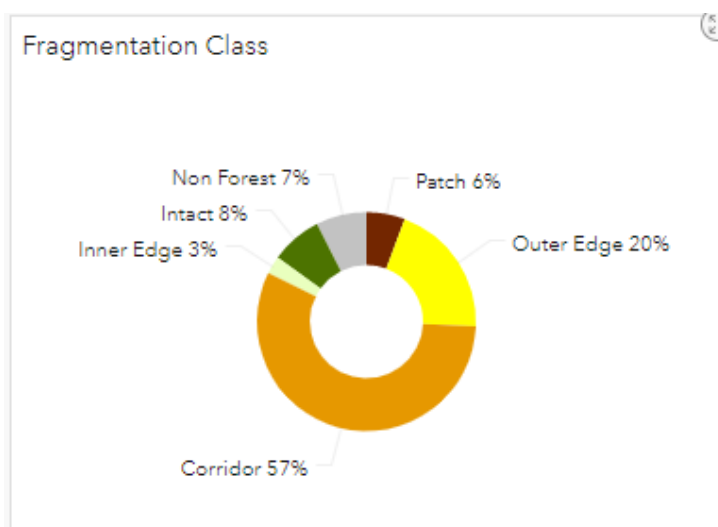


Figure 19: occurrence of observations of small-scale agriculture by forest fragmentation type. Data extracted from [CAFI validation data \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Support overview

	Projects approved/funded/active contributing to this outcome by end 2022	Disbursed to implementing organizations by end 2022
DRC	11/9/9	US\$ 36.7 M
Gabon	1/1/1	US \$ 2 M
Republic of Congo	--	0
Regional	3/3/3	US \$53 M
Total	15/15/9	US 92.7 M⁵¹

DRC results

CAFI investments under the first Letter of Intent (2016-2020) funded two sectoral projects dedicated to agriculture that aim at i) accompanying the normative and regulatory environment towards sustainable, low deforestation agricultural practices and ii) encouraging activities of small and medium commercial private actors in savannahs & degraded forests. In addition, support to agriculture is currently provided by seven projects operating in nine provinces. These projects have to date resulted in:

- At the policy level, **the first draft of the National Sustainable agriculture Policy (SAP), that takes into account land-use planning, forest and peatland protection and the development of sustainable commercial agriculture outside forests and towards savannahs areas**, has been finalized, validated at the national level, submitted to

⁵¹ The incomplete data made available in project annual reports – i.e., their expenditure, cumulative over the duration of the project for each outcome, as is requested in the reporting template – makes impossible an analysis of how much funds have been effectively spent by projects towards the agriculture outcome.

the cabinet which presented it to the Council of Ministers⁵². The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of the policy was submitted to the CEA, which issued its report and comments.

- **On the ground, an estimated 16,875 households⁵³ have been supported as beneficiaries on different types of agriculture** (subsistence, perennial, agroforestry) which translates into close to 135,000 individuals (at an average of 8 people per rural household).
- The combined results at the quantitative output levels of all provincial integrated projects (PIREDD), cumulatively since they started implementation, is of **5,342 hectares of agroforestry⁵⁴, 12, 323 hectares of perennial crops and 18,017 hectares of improved subsistence.**
- **These are established as demonstration activities that provide not only immediate better revenues and nutrition, but also incentives for rural communities to engage and continue engaging in a sustainably planned use of land and natural resources,** through the land-use plans at various levels described below. As mentioned below, the impact of these activities on avoided deforestation in surrounding areas can be inferred but not measured.
- Figure 20 below displays the cumulative targets for these outputs – obtained through projects at different time maturity and with one tranche of funding – compared to the cumulative targets of all projects by their closure and with two tranches of funding.

	Cumulative targets (in hectares)- by end of all projects, as set in project documents with two tranches of funding	Cumulative results by end 2020	Cumulative results by end 2021	Cumulative results by end 2022	Progress against target by end 2022
Agroforestry	17,000 ha ⁵⁵	664 ha	6,700 ha	5,342 ha ⁵⁶	31%
Perennial crops	45,310 ha	1,227 ha	3,392 ha	12,323 ha	27%
Subsistence agriculture	176,400 ha	2,336 ha	10,610 ha	18,017 ha	10,2%
Estimate number of direct beneficiaries					75,000

Figure 20: Hectares supported in agriculture by CAFI-funded projects

⁵² Adopted in February 2023.

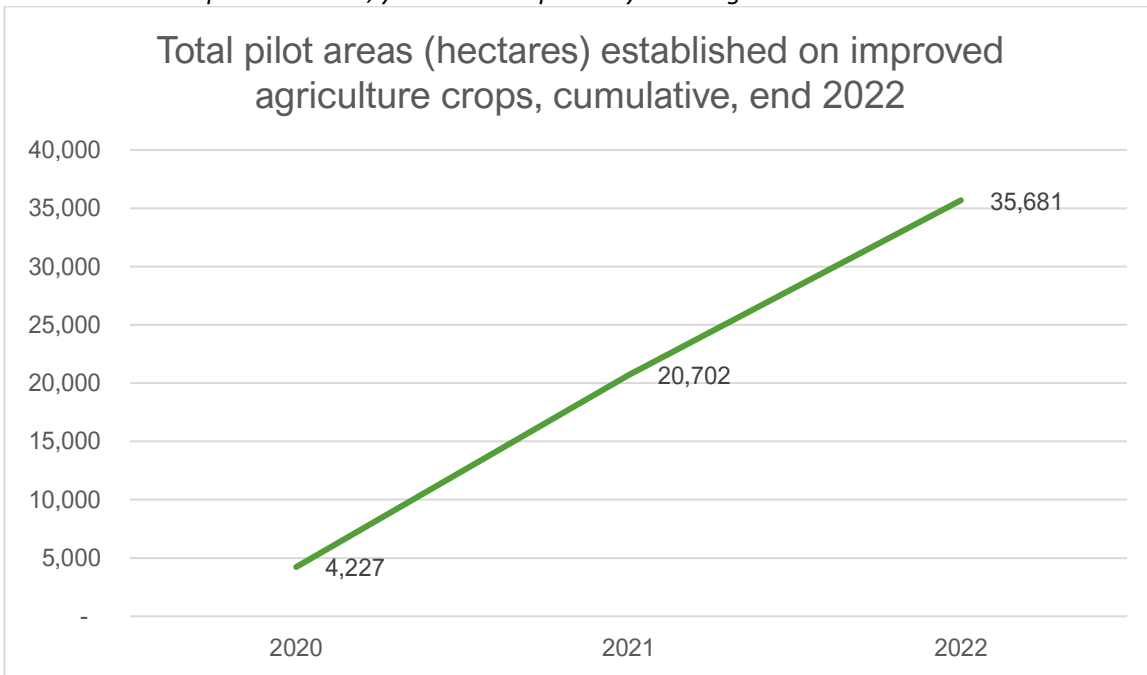
⁵³ This is an estimate while clarification on some data is sought.

⁵⁴ This result is not consistent with the one reported in 2021. Considering that the FONAREDD annual report has the same deadline as the CAFI annual report of 31 May, these figures will be clarified in V2 of this report

⁵⁵ The target in 2021 was 51,000 ha. This result is not consistent with the one reported in 2021. Considering that the FONAREDD annual report has the same deadline as the CAFI annual report of 31 May, these figures will be clarified in the next version of this report

⁵⁶ This result is not consistent with the one reported in 2021. Considering that the FONAREDD annual report has the same deadline as the CAFI annual report of 31 May, these figures will be clarified in V2 of this report.

Emmanuel, one of the farmers of the pilot programme and a beneficiary of CAFI funding through PIREDD Equateur province, DRC: "I first received support and advice, then seeds. I now have a fishing pond and livestock. If your farm becomes like what the land use plan describes, you have vanquished your hunger."



Gabon results

The UNDP-supported project under the 2nd phase of the partnership (CAFI-2) contains a 2M component on analyses of agricultural suitability that will complement the national land use planning process supported by CAFI (CAFI 1). In 2022, while protracted delays slowed down agriculture outcome is the construction of the building that will host the laboratory of geographic information system (GIS) and soil analyses is 80% completed (completion is expected in mid-2023). The establishment of the agriculture legal unit allowed its supervision of a [bibliographic review of agricultural tenure](#). In addition, several experts produced training manuals on sampling, conservation, transport of soil samples, and on strengthening Geographic Information System capacities towards a spatial study on agricultural feasibility for five priority crops.

C.2 Sustainable alternatives to current wood energy practices are adopted

Support overview

	Projects approved/funded/active by end 2022	Disbursed to implementing organizations by end 2022 ⁵⁷
DRC	8/8/8	US \$ 21.5 M
Gabon	--	--
Republic of Congo	2/1 ⁵⁸ /0	US \$ 3 M
Total	10/9/8	US \$ 24.5 M

DRC results

Studies: Wood-energy sector user surveys were finalized, in partnership with CIFOR, for [Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Goma and Bukavu, Productive users reports](#)). They documented in 2021, for example, **that 97% of Kinshasa inhabitants use charcoal regularly for cooking, and that improved cookstoves usage rate is only of 12 %**. A Kinshasa inhabitant use on average 0,346 kg of charcoal and 0,016 kg of fuelwood per day, which extrapolates into between 9,84 and 13,39 million⁵⁹ tons of wood equivalent used each year.

The reports of the modeling studies and the analysis of the impact of the deployment of the LPG in Kinshasa⁶⁰, that aims to help plan how to reach the target of 250,000 households use LPG for cooking in substitution for fuelwood and charcoal, concludes that **LPG has become a credible alternative for Kinshasa inhabitants, with a consumption rate that jumped from 750 tons in 2019 to 3000 tons in 2020**. Success factors to reach the goal of reaching 250,000 households with GPL include the availability of new bottles, a dense and nimble distribution network, industrial capacity to fill bottles and ensure its safety for consumers, and a sustainable and safe logistical supply chain. These completed studies are important elements to feed into the Energy policy reform.

Reform: The roadmap was launched [for the development of the energy policy](#) and updated in 2021. The comprehensive Energy Sector Diagnostic [Report](#) was completed and submitted to the relevant authorities for validation in May 2022.

Investments for clean cooking entrepreneurs for more efficient use and substitution to wood energy: The [Incubator Fund for Clean Cooking, launched in 2020](#), disbursed 1,201,400 US\$ (up from 700,000 dollars in 2020) to 12 enterprises that produce and promote the distribution of improved cookstoves and Liquid Gas petroleum (LPG), and co-financing mobilized.

To date, a total of 91,607 improved stoves, 8,000 stoves and gas kits, 1,700 tons of gas and 998 tons of briquettes for cooking have been sold and more than **1867 partial and fulltime jobs created, of which 61% are youth, 41% women amongst which 21.8% hold director level position**.

⁵⁷ Available figures did not allow to calculate the amount disbursed cumulatively by all projects on this outcome

⁵⁸ The Lituka projects, both approved in 2021, had not received funding transfers by end 2022

⁵⁹ Depending on different population estimates

⁶⁰ [Report of the impact of the deployment of the LPG in Kinshasa](#) show that LPG has become a credible alternative for Kinshasa inhabitants, with a consumption rate that jumped from 750 tons in 2019 to 3000 in 2020.

jobs have been created, 53% of which are for women. All directly related to the program have been sold through the [Challenge Fund](#).

In 2022, figures also show that household expenditures related to cooking energy in the target areas of the energy program have decreased significantly: Kinshasa 13%, Lubumbashi 10%, Bukavu 17%; Goma 20%. In addition, the roadmap for the LPG Master Plan and LPG Regulatory Development was finalized, and micro-hydro feasibility studies carried out for three sites⁶¹.

The catalytic approach used by UNCDF has made it possible to mobilize \$1.1 million in partner funding from the \$1.2 million invested by FONAREDD/CAFI. It has also made it possible to mobilize \$650,000 in concessional credit for Congolese companies through the "bridge" mechanism of UNCDF's [Least Development Countries Investment Platform](#), \$500,000 from SIMA and \$20,000 from the Virunga Foundation.

Changing behaviours on wood energy:

A communication, social marketing and behavior change strategy is available, and tools validated in a workshop. The implementation of this strategy ensured by the NGO Femmes de Media pour la Justice au Congo

- The artist Barbara Kanam composed a Awareness song on clean cooking which is used in behavior change awareness activities
- trade fairs were organized in [Kinshasa](#), [Lubumbashi](#) and Kisangani.. Over 15,000 households and users were sensitized on Liquid Gaz petroleum LPG during the re-launch of LPG microfinance with Equity BCDC and COETE GAZ as well as in the bank's branches Several households and users (+15,000) were sensitized on LPG during the re-launch of LPG microfinance with Equity BCDC and COETE GAZ as well as in the bank's branches

More sustainable sources of wood energy: On the ground, savannahs areas planted with fast-growing trees have seen a modest increase to supply more sustainable wood energy; areas set aside for natural regeneration (mise en défens) saw a much larger increase.

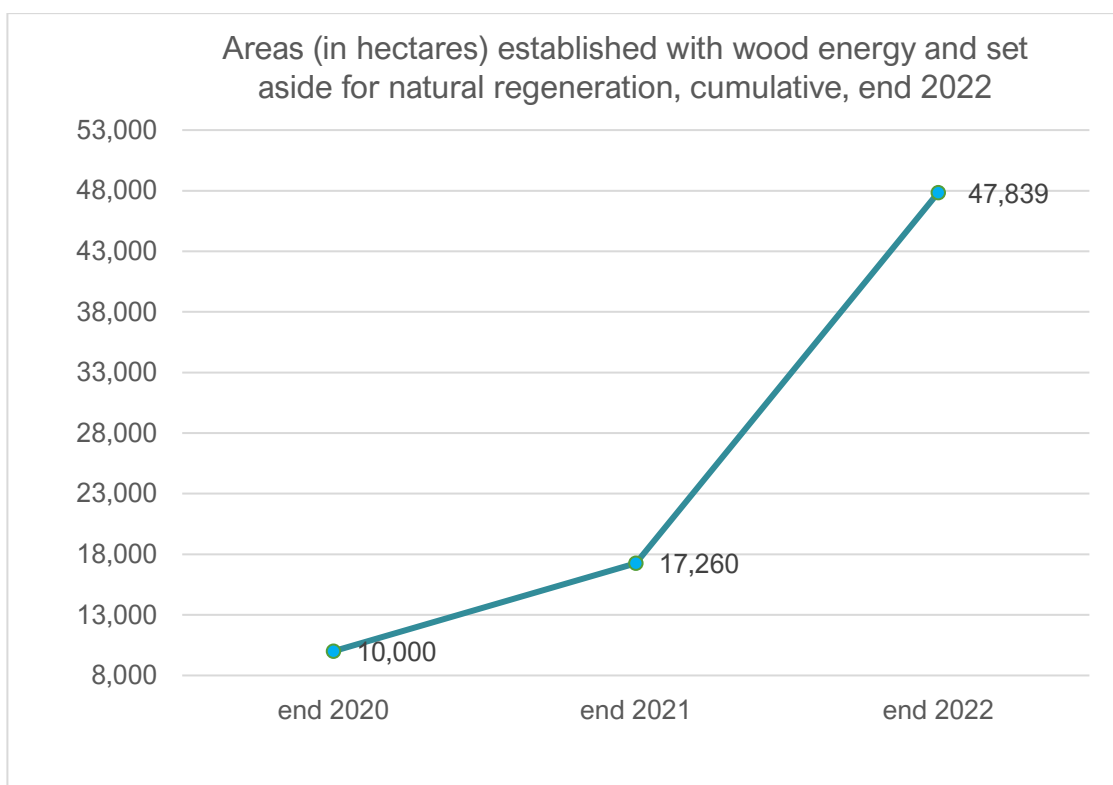
	Cumulative targets (in hectares) ⁶²	Cumulative results by end 2020 (ha)	Cumulative results by end 2021 (ha)	Cumulative results by end 2022 (ha)	Progress against final target
Wood energy plantations	17,100	2,200	4,469	5,342	31 %
Mis en défens	67,000	App. 10,000	17,260	42,407	63%
Improved cooking solutions	97,500 ⁶³		34,601 ⁶⁴	95,107	97% of revised target
Estimated number of direct beneficiaries				2,367	

⁶¹ Available here : [technical feasibility studies](#)

⁶² by end of all CAFI-funded projects, as set in project documents with two tranches of funding

⁶³ Targets were revised downwards for Equateur (from 27,500 to 7500 and Orientale (from 5000 to 3000)

⁶⁴ 33,051 improved stoves were sold in the major cities (Goma, Bukavu, Lubumbashi, Kinshasa and Bandaka) through the Energy project and 3750 through the Equateur project



Republic of Congo

Two projects related to wood energy had been approved in 2021. In February 2022, funds were disbursed to the ProRep – Wood Energy plantations, with FAO). The project budgets and result targets are in line with the joint programming framework agreed to between CAFI and the Republic of Congo, and seek to:

1) **establish 2,700 hectares of fast start wood energy plantations⁶⁵** to supply the capital, Brazzaville, with sustainable wood energy . This 5-year, US\$ 7 million project, called “Project to strengthen the potential of sustainable wood energy in the Republic of Congo” (*in French “Projet de renforcement du potentiel en bois energie durable en République du Congo”, or PROREP Bois-Energie in short-hand*), is to be implemented by FAO with the Ministry of Forest Economy and GRET (NGO). It complements a Green Climate Fund – supported project, implemented by FAO, that seeks to establish 11,800 hectares of wood energy plantations, with CAFI funding adding a focus on strengthening the emission reductions impact of both projects. In 2022, 600,000 acacia seedlings were produced in nursery in order to reach the objective of 500 ha of planting as planned during the first growing season 2022/23 **It is estimated that the PROREP could generate a reduction of 830,230 tonnes of CO2eq over 5 years and reach an estimated 500 direct beneficiaries.**

2) **equip 8,300 households in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire with improved cookstoves**, this by structuring a supply chain and demand-creation. This 1 million dollars project, called “ Lituka- Improved coosktoves” in short, is to be implemented by Initiative Development (ID) together with the Ministry of Forest Economy. ID was not accredited by end 2022 and could yet not receive CAFI funding.

⁶⁵ Associated with subsistence or commercial crops to improve livelihoods

C.3 Forestry sector and protected areas institutions and stakeholders have the capacity and the legal framework to promote, monitor and enforce the sustainable management of forests

Background

Data extracted from the CAFI Regional Trends and Drivers Results Dashboard⁶⁶ shows that, between 2015 and 2020, artisanal forestry has been associated 8 times more with observations of disturbances (degradation or deforestation) than industrial forestry. Artisanal and industrial forestry combined remain however less often observed than small scale agriculture.

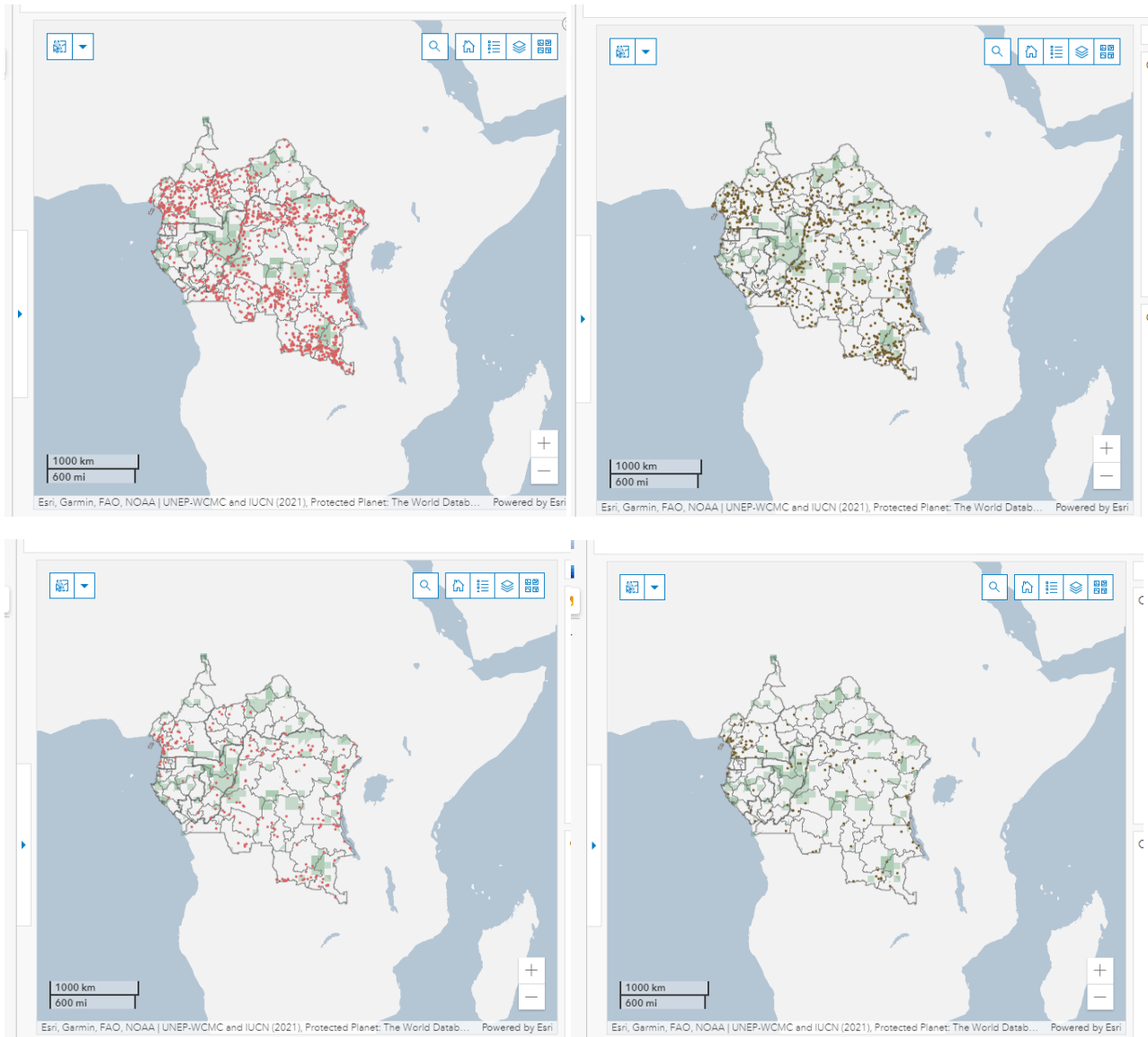


Figure 21: Top row: observations of artisanal forestry associated with deforestation (left) and degradation (right) between 2015 and 2020. Bottom row: observations of industrial forestry associated with deforestation (right) and degradation (left). Source: [CAFI validation data \(arcgis.com\)](#)

⁶⁶ [ArcGIS Dashboards](#)

The study also shows that artisanal and industrial forestry are observed more frequently in dense forests than in secondary forests, and that industrial forestry is the driver (of all direct, observable drivers) with the greatest presence in intact forests.

Support overview

	Projects approved/funded/active	Disbursed to implementing organizations by end 2021 ⁶⁷ (US\$)
DRC	9/9/8 ⁶⁸	20.1 M
Gabon	5/5 ⁶⁹ /1	35.4 M
Republic of Congo	1/1/1	1.5 M
Total		60.9 M

With the approval of new projects in Gabon, this outcome saw a large increase in funding in 2022.

DRC Results

Monitoring of forests: The Project supporting the National Forest Monitoring System closed in 2021. No evaluation was undertaken in 2022. The project resulted overall in:

1) An operational National Forest Monitoring System that produced a first and revised Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) submitted to the UNFCCC, the first Biannual update report drafted for the UNFCCC ([submitted on 30 December 2022](#)), the production and updating of several forest cover change maps, including based on provincial estimates for the periods 2000-2010 and 2010-2014 (data available in Annex 1 of the NFMS Annual report), and including new strata for the periods 2014-2016 and 2016-2018. This dataset was complemented for 2019 and 2020 by the FAO regional trends and drivers study.

2) The National Forest inventory, completed on 85% of the country.

Forest governance reform: A process to launch of the process to reform the Forest policy was initiated. The legal review of the concessions, as per the forest sector roadmap agreed to with CAFI in 2019, was funded by the EU and expected to conclude in 2022. to support the key policy processes and reinforce the legality of the forest sector. **The publication of the report of the Inspectorate general of Finance was set as a milestone of the second CAFI-DRC Letter of Intent and met in April 2022.** The project for the Sustainable Management of Forests started in 2022.

Community forestry: On the ground, province-wide projects (PREDD) support communities with securing areas for local community forest concessions. **With close to 250,000 hectares established with titles⁷⁰, CAFI-funded projects reached 25% of their cumulative target in 2022.**

⁶⁷ Available figures did not allow to calculate the amount disbursed cumulatively by all projects on this outcome
⁶⁸ The project for the sustainable management of forests was not active by end 2021
⁶⁹ The Forest certification project, whose implementation was transferred from AFD to The Nature Conservancy in 2021, had not received funding by end 2021
⁷⁰ Some are, as reported in the draft FONAREDD report, awaiting validation by the Governor, but there is no data on what areas this covers.

	Cumulative targets (in hectares)- by end of all PIREDD, as set in project documents with two tranches of funding	Cumulative results by end 2020	Cumulative results by end 2021	Cumulative results by end 2022
Local Community Forestry Concessions	990,750 ⁷¹	132,000 ha submitted	185,000 hectares	249,285 established with titles ⁷² - 25% of target
Number of supported communities identified /supported	Not available			555/501
Estimated number of individuals in supported communities	Not available			246,000, pending confirmation

Figure 22: Progress on community forestry

Gabon results

Following the 2021 achievement of the first payment of \$17 million US dollars rewards Gabon's reductions in 2016 and 2017, compared to annual emission levels from 2006 to 2015, **5 new projects were approved in 2022. The projects will strengthen forest governance through community forestry and forest certification, promote urban green spaces, conduct monitoring and research on forest ecosystems, and safeguard and expand the protected area network.**

From project that has been running since 2019, salient results include

- **Establishment of 72 permanent plots for the Natural resources Inventory** to collect data on biomass, forest carbon and biodiversity (up from 47 in 2021).
- **Drone monitoring of the spatial footprint of settlements of 468 villages** (up from 27 villages in 2021) of the Estuaire province and data collection for the forest mask in three provinces.

⁷¹ Target was reported at 1,492,500 in 2021 but revised/ refined down. This is a conservative estimate, since for 146 administrative units (terroirs) in Mongala and Oriental, projects have not provided figures in hectares

⁷². Some titles are, as reported in the draft FONAREDD report, awaiting validation by the Governor, but there is no data on what areas this covers.



Figure 23: mission to install permanent plots for the Natural resources Inventory in the Nyanga province, Gabon

Republic of Congo

A US\$ 2 M project (SYNA-MRV) was approved by the Executive Board (with FAO) to revise the Forest Reference Emissions Level and operationalize and modernize the National Forest Monitoring System. Funds were transferred in November 2021. The project experienced delays however project staff were recruited, an inventory of the *Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement des Ressources Forestières et Fauniques* (CNIAF)'s MRV unit was conducted and a week training course on radar imagery for monitoring tropical forests to CNIAF (in collaboration with US Forest Service) facilitated by the project. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the *Ministère de l'Economie Forestière* (MEF) and the FAO on institutional issues management is expected to be signed in early 2023. Training activities and the upgrading of the CNIAF are expected to start in the first quarter of 2023.

C.4 Land use planning decisions ensure a balanced representation of sectoral interests and keep forests standing

Support overview

	Projects approved/funded/active with a land use planning component	Disbursed to implementing organizations by end 2022 ⁷³ (US \$)
DRC	6/6/6	17.5 M
Gabon	1/1/1	9.20 M
Republic of Congo	--	10.85 M
Total	7/7/7	26.7 M

This outcome saw a sizeable increase in 2022 - from 19.8 M in transferred funding in 2021 to 26.7 M in 2022.

DRC Results

Most importantly, **2,215 (of the 2,523) planned local development committees are now established or revitalized** (up from 745 by end 2021). This effort, at scale and inclusive, including with quotas for women representation, has allowed the production and validation of already **632 validated natural resource management plans (or simple land-use planning plans)** whose purpose is to orient, in a sustainable and inclusive manner, agricultural, wood-energy, forestry and conservation activities. Because they were elaborated in a participatory manner by CLDs, these local-level plans can orient and guide practices that date back millennia.

A total of 663 simple land use plans have been elaborated and validated since the start of the integrated projects

PIREDD	Province	Areas under simple land use plans ⁷⁴
Equateur	Equateur	6*
Kwilu	Kwilu	62*
Maniema	Maniema	3*
Mai-Ndombe	Mai-Ndombe	480*
Mongala	Mongala	8*
Orientale	Tshopo/Bas Uele	91*
Sud Ubangi	Sud Ubangi	13*
		663*

Figure 24: DRC terroirs with validated simple land-use plans

⁷³ Available figures did not allow to calculate the amount disbursed cumulatively by all projects on this outcome

⁷⁴ Marked with an asterisk when validated

Three provincial land use plans (for Ituri, Tshopo and Bas Uele provinces) and eight territory plans are now validated, 9 local development plans validated in Mai Ndombe (5) and Equateur (4) provinces. As part of the PIREDD Mongala deliverables, an essential study for the completion land plans on the dynamics of fires and hot zones of deforestation was completed in 2022.

The Annex named [Understanding Land use planning tools in the DRC](#) provides an overview of the articulation of different land use planning instruments in the DRC.

Gabon results

The National Land Use Commission (CNAT) is operational and provides a key venue to reach high level consensus across the different land use sectors on land allocations in line with the strategic objectives of the country set in various policy documents and the Letter of intent. High value forests (High Carbon Stocks and High Conservation value) that should not be converted are being identified, with compliance by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Results of the CAFI-supported project (whose details are in section 6) related to land use planning in 2022 include:

- As part of the mapping and data management unit within the Gabonese Agency for Spatial Studies and Observations (AGEOS), a platform for visualizing GIS (Geographic Information System) data of the National Plan of Land Use (PNAT) has been put in place. This platform, which is still being improved, is available online here: <https://pnat.ageos.ga/>. It contributes to the compliance of land use data in the agriculture, fisheries, mining, water and energy sectors, forestry, conservation, and infrastructure sectors.
- 117 villages in the Ogooué-Lolo province were mapped thanks to the provision of VHR satellite images provided as part of the program. **Four thousand four hundred hectares (4400) hectares of disaggregated surfaces have been mapped.**
- The National Parks Agency of Gabon (ANPN) launched a participatory mapping exercise in the province of Ogooué-Lolo. A total of **446 villages were visited and participatory village maps** are being finalized.

Additional details about the project supporting this outcome are found in section 6.2

The National Directives on palm oil investments in forested areas was adopted in the Ministerial Council and is applicable to other crops until crop-specific guidance is developed. The guidelines prevent HCS and HCV forests from being converted to palm oil plantations.

Republic of Congo

Major advances have been achieved towards the land use planning outcome in the Republic of Congo in 2022 with the approval of two projects:

- The Sustainable Land Use Project (PUDT), led by AFD in partnership with the Ministry of Territorial Development, Infrastructure and Road Maintenance, with a CAFI Fund contribution of around USD 18 million was approved by CAFI's EB (EB 20) + 23 MEUR of co-financing (EU + AFD). Its main objective is to support the Republic of Congo in the implementation of a town and country planning process and rural land use at the national level. The funds were transferred on December 21, 2022, and duration of the project is 60 months.
- The Land Use planning - Investment Project resulting from the Sustainable Land Use project was approved during [EB 21](#) in December 2022 and is awaiting feedback from AFD on revised submission.

C.5 Tenure

Support overview

	Projects approved/funded/active with a land tenure component	Disbursed to implementing organizations by end 2021 ⁷⁵ (US \$)
DRC	5/5/5	11.2
Gabon	1/1/1 ⁷⁶	--
Republic of Congo	0/0/0	--
Total	6/6/6	11.2 M

DRC results

This outcome is supported by budget lines in 7 provincial integrated projects and a dedicated sectoral reform project.

At the policy level, the Democratic Republic of Congo had validated its new land tenure policy document on 17 November 2021. This validation, that concludes a process with consultations in 26 provinces⁷⁷ and included inputs by Indigenous peoples, results from joint efforts including the political impetus of the DRC Government, the technical work of its National Commission on Land Tenure Reform (CONAREF) - funded by CAFI via the National REDD+ Fund through UN-Habitat - and the commitment of numerous civil society actors. This land reform policy document, that resulted from a large consultative process at national and provincial levels, updates a legal framework that dated back some 50 years. The policy document is now awaiting the inputs by the Congolese Environment Agency to allow its submission for adoption by the Council of Ministers.

In May 2022, the National Land Reform Commission (CONAREF), with the support of CAFI, **approved a draft land law bill**. This draft bill helps prevent conflicts between mining law and land law, and is the centerpiece of the land reform process. It

Text box: The land reform bill in the DRC

Here are some of the **key features and innovations of the draft bill**:

1. Maintaining the nationalisation of the soil and subsoil
2. The recognition, respect and securing of the legitimate customary land tenures, collective and individual, of local communities
3. Consideration of the continuum of land rights based on ancestral traditions and local practices
4. Improving the legal security of land transactions
5. The recognition and consolidation of the land rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, in particular women and indigenous communities
6. Modernization of land administration through the use of new information and communication technologies
7. Strengthening transparency in land administration and the administration of the provision of public land services, particularly in terms of simplification of procedures, costs and speed of services
8. Decentralisation of land management and state land services
9. Promotion of local land management
10. Carrying out legal and institutional reforms
11. Informed participation of citizens in the implementation of land reform and in improving the governance of the land sector
12. Respect for social and environmental safeguards in land allocation processes;
13. The search for compliance of the entire land policy with regional and international commitments.

⁷⁵ Available figures did not allow to calculate the amount disbursed cumulatively by all projects on this outcome

⁷⁶ The Cafi-1 project with AFD has land tenure benefits, such as the mapping of village lands, but these are not separated in the budget

⁷⁷ Up from 15 in 2020

amends and completes law n° 73-021 of 20 July 1973 on the general property regime, land and real estate regime and securities regime.

Securisation of titles for community forestry concessions, as seen in section C3, led to 250,000 hectares of community forest concessions established with secured titles.

Finally, a guide to define provincial strategies on land tenure was elaborated, as well as a strategic plan on tenure rights for Indigenous peoples, and access to information enhanced through studies covering three provinces, an experimentation in two provinces of the new Tenure Information System and its tools, and a maintained web site (www.conaref-rdc.org/).

C.6 Demography

Support overview

	Projects approved/funded/active with a demography component	Disbursed to implementing organizations by end 2022 ⁷⁸
DRC	8/8/8	37.9M ⁷⁹
Gabon	--	--
Republic of Congo	--	--
Total	8/8/8	38.6 M

This outcome saw an increase from 33.8 to 38.6 M, directed towards the DRC Family Planning project.

DRC results

CAFI funding under this outcome, restricted to the DRC, has so far resulted in **12,863 service providers trained and providing counselling to accompany the distribution of over 3.9 million couple-year protection (CYP)⁸⁰** to date (totaling 61% of target completion after two years of project implementation) across 11 provinces, in support of the country’s strategy on family planning.

A total of 175 health zones have received support from the project. 90% of health facilities in target provinces offered at least three different contraceptive methods and at least one long-acting method in 2022 (112,5 % of the 80% target). **According to Tulane University, the contribution of FONAREDD/CAFI to family planning represents 45% of the total ACP (Couple years of protection) provided in the DRC.⁸¹**

⁷⁸ Available figures did not allow to calculate the amount disbursed cumulatively by all projects on this outcome

⁷⁹ Not all 7 PIREDD have spent funds on demography.

⁸⁰ A Couple year Protection (CYP) is the estimated protection provided by contraceptive methods during a one-year period, based upon the volume of all contraceptives sold or distributed free of charge to clients during that period. The CYP is calculated by multiplying the quantity of each method distributed to clients by a conversion factor, to yield an estimate of the duration of contraceptive protection provided per unit of that method. More at <https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/family-planning/couple-years-protection-cyp>

⁸¹ private communication. The PROMIS-PF project had not submitted its annual report to the FONAREDD at the time of the submission of this report.

	Cumulative targets by end of all PIREDD, as set in project documents with two tranches of funding	Cumulative results by end 2021	Cumulative results by end 2022
Couple year protection	4,875,355 ⁸²	2,536,255 ⁸³	3,921,769 ⁸⁴
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate		Kinshasa: from 26% in 2020 to 27,3% in 2021 Kongo central: from 20% in 2020 to 26.3% in 2021 ⁸⁵	n/a
Health zones supported	10 provinces/ 152 health zones	11 provinces/ 165 health zones	11 provinces/ 175 health zones
Awareness on family planning	Not available	27,427 households ⁸⁶	n/a

Figure 25: results in access to family planning services

The 2024 Public Health Survey will inform additional indicators, such as the fertility rate and the percentage of married women or women with partners from 14 to 19 years old that use a modern contraceptive method.

In addition, two studies were launched to understand migratory movements. In the Ituri province, security risks did not allow for this study to be performed, while in Kwilu province the study is planned in deforestation hotspots.

« I am 22 years old, and I have 4 children and a husband who manages as a driver. I stay at home because of the housework load. After attending this meeting [of the Family planning project] I am now sure of the way forward for me. Meeting you was a chance for me to address a problem that has lasted too long”. Marie, a beneficiary of the Family planning project in DRC, Kikwit, Kwilu province.

⁸² The original target of the Family planning project was revised, from 6,434,688 down to 4,875,355 CYP, as a result of the revision of Tulane University's CYP target in 2021

⁸³ 2,533,106 from the Family planning project and 3149 from the Mongala project

⁸⁴ Informal figures as the PROMIS-PF project had not submitted its report at the time of submission of this report.

⁸⁵ 2020 Performance Monitoring and Accountability study on contraceptive prevalence rate in Kinshasa and Kongo Central.

⁸⁶ Mai Ndombe : 9739 households (est. 40,000 individuals); Mongala : 9375 households ; Family planning project: 8,313 health workers or students trained. Other projects: unreported.

C.7 Governance

Support overview

	Projects approved/funded/active with a Governance component	Disbursed to implementing organizations by end 2022 (US \$)
DRC	11/11/11	29.6 M
Gabon	2/2/1	3M
Republic of Congo	1/1/1	1.4
Total	14/14/13	34.1M

This Governance outcome is supported by several projects

- In the DRC
 - Local governance structures established in provincial integrated projects (PIREDD), such as local development committees or at a higher level of governance
 - General awareness-raising about the impact of different sectors on forest and climate, and training activities
 - Projects to support to civil society and indigenous peoples in the DRC
 - The FONAREDD Secretariat project in the DRC
 - The support project to the NDC
- In the Republic of Congo: Support to coordination by the Prime Minister
- In Gabon: Support the coordination of the National Climate Council, and educational component of the urban Greening project

The total above does not comprise the support to policy dialogue by the Executive Board provided by the CAFI Secretariat.

DRC results

The most prominent result of 2022 was, in DRC, the implication of all line ministers of sectors with an impact of forests during the negotiations of the 2nd Letter of Intent. In addition, a number of milestones had then been integrated in the World Bank budget support.

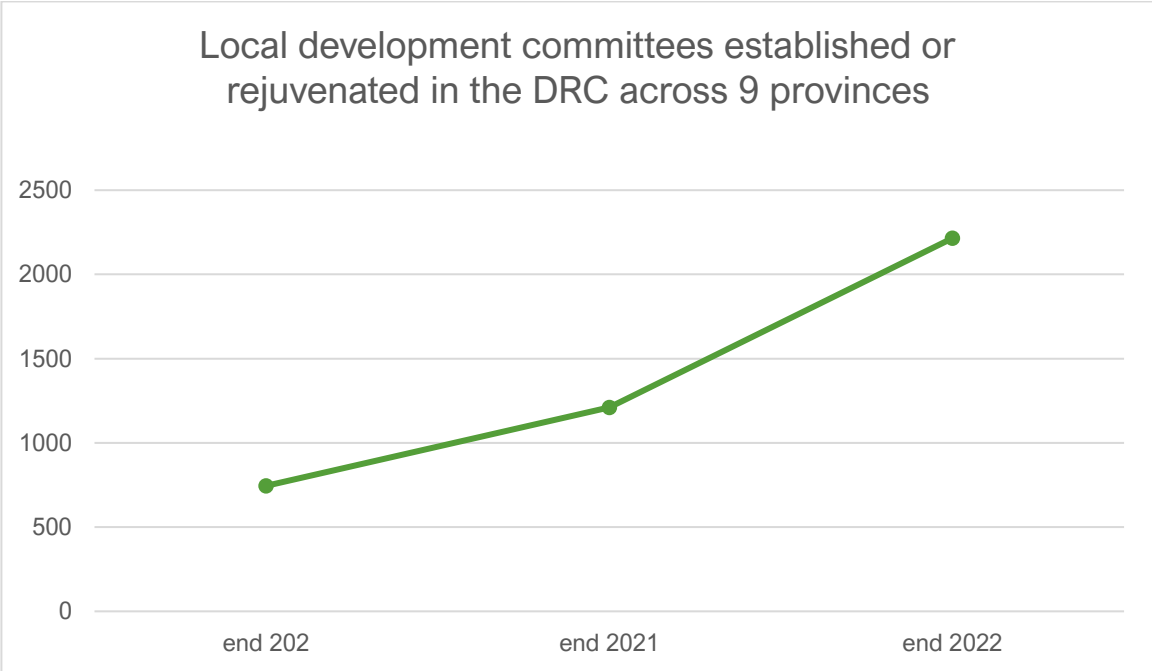
At the national level, the multi-ministerial and multi-stakeholders Technical Committees of FONAREDD remained fully active and operational in 2022, with seven meetings of the Technical Committee held⁸⁷. These meetings have allowed the Technical Committee to fulfill its monitoring functions, make recommendations on second tranches of projects and guide evaluations.

At the local level, 2215 local development committees (88% of the target) are now established in 9 provinces to promote inclusive governance systems. These bodies, nearly all established, are essential to the sustainability of CAFI's

⁸⁷ Documentation is available here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/176WzcmiwjJYWK6zFbPjqU3o2Sixom3->

interventions, as they design local land use and natural resources management plans that determine the future of the use of forest and agricultural lands. They generally have a quota of 20 or 30% of women.

19 Provincial civil society coordinations of the Renovated REDD Climate Working Group (GTCRR) - of the provinces of Mongala, Sud-Ubangi, Mai-Ndombe, Equateur, Bas Uélé, Tshopo and Ituri are operational and carried out independent monitoring and joint monitoring missions⁸⁸ with the FONAREDD Secretariat. These coordination structures carry the voice of civil society, ensure and advocate for effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in project implementation and allow independent observation of the achievements of the various actors involved in the province. Consultations of civil society partners on the policy reform processes were also held, for land use planning, agriculture, land tenure, forestry and energy) notably in the Maniema, Nord Kivu, Sud Kivu and Kasai central provinces.



Transparency of FONAREDD operations and projects was maintained through the FONAREDD and projects web sites.

In the Republic of Congo, following the 2020 adoption of the Decree on inter-ministerial coordination by the Prime Minister⁸⁹, support the Prime Minister in monitoring and achieving the objectives of the Letter of Intent in all sectors affecting forests, to support the multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach of the partnership. While funding was transferred in late 2021, the governance bodies have already been operationalized (CAFI-Inter-ministerial Committee, Steering Committee, Permanent Secretariat), marking the achievement of a first milestone of the Letter of Intent on establishing a framework to monitor the partnership. A joint resolution of the Inter-ministerial Committee has called for the preparation of sectorial action plans.

In Gabon, forest governance continues to be led at the highest level, and civil society is included in the work of the National Land use Commission as well as the Project steering committees. An Annual review of the Partnership was conducted in Libreville in July 2022 with the active participation of a wide range of national partner institutions demonstrating once again the great interest of the Gabonese authorities in forest governance issues. In this review, the

⁸⁸ Independent observation reports for Kwilu, Mongala and Sud Ubangui provincial projects are available here : https://drive.google.com/open?id=1KnIHrTau_nhGBeBMA9kkoyXMn5iceWM&authuser=secretariatcafi%40gmail.com&usp=drive_fs

⁸⁹ It establishes a coordination structure within the national counterpart for the implementation and monitoring of progress on the LOI. These structures include a Minister-level Steering Committee as a multi-stakeholder concertation organ, involving the private sector and the civil society; it also establishes a national coordination unit, responsible for facilitating and monitoring these processes

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), *Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux du Gabon* (ANPN), and *Agence gabonaise de Normalisation*.

In addition, five projects funded by results-based payments were approved by Gabon's National Climate Council in 2022 under the validated National Investment Framework. One of them is **dedicated to the coordination, monitoring and reporting on the entire portfolio of programmes**, as well as building government capacity on climate governance.

In Equatorial Guinea, dialogue was maintained through the French Embassy and concluded in agreement on the terms of reference for the Call for Expression of interest, launched in early 2022. CAFI's initial support on the development of the National REDD+ Strategy has been catalytic for the country to mobilize funds for land-use planning, including domestic funding, and the National Forest Inventory, supported by FAO.

In the Central African Republic, the situation has remained the same as previously. Many NGOs and associations are active within a national platform called Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment. A National REDD+ Committee, created by Decree and chaired by the Prime Minister, oversees the entire National REDD+ strategy, with 26 members⁹⁰. The preparatory grant to undertake policy dialogue will support institutional arrangements that will help the effective engagement of all stakeholders, and effectively started in 2022.

In Cameroon, the Government displayed a greater understanding of the key role of climate change in its national development processes, as the National Development Plan Strategy 2030 integrates for the first time a Strategic Axis on the integration of climate change concerns. Integration of forest/climate objectives into development planning is a government priority. In 2022, a draft programming framework was prepared in consultation with all relevant sectoral ministries for future investments in Cameroon, followed by a full draft project document for a national intersectoral and multi-level Coordination Project. Discussions on institutional arrangements and cross sectoral coordination are ongoing with the Cameroonian authorities including MINEPAT to further refine the partnership mechanism with CAFI.

⁹⁰ including 6 ministers, the President of the Commission in charge of the Environment at the National Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, representatives of producer groups, the private sector, civil society organizations, representatives of local communities, indigenous peoples. This committee will be made operational once the second preparatory grant (through AFD) is operational.

4. CAFI Governance

4.1 Two hybrid Executive Board meetings, 36 decisions

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 Fund⁹¹. 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 tracking table below. Figure 26 below illustrates the status of each decision made by the Executive Board in 2022.

Date (2022)	Decision Number and Actions for follow-up by CAFI Sec	Scope
10/01	EB.2022.01: No cost extension for trends and drivers study	Regional
22/02	EB.2022.02: Republic of Congo - Agency Selection - Civil Society Engagement Support Programme	Rep Congo
09/03	EB.2022.03: Gabon Working Group	Gabon
24/03	EB.2022.04: CAR Working Group	CAR
02/05	EB.2022.05: RoC - Sustainable Land Use Program	Rep Congo
06/05	EB.2022.06: Asset management reporting	M&E
13/07	EB.2022.07 - Gender targets	M&E
27/06	EB.2022.08 - RoC - Approval of Land Use Planning programme	Rep Congo
27/06	EB.2022.09 - CAR - no-cost extension of support project	CAR
27/06	EB.2022.10 - EG - PRODOC development	EG
04/07	EB.2022.11 - DRC - No-cost extension OAF	DRC
30/05	EB.2022.12 - DRC - Call for EOI	DRC
13/07	EB.2022.13 - Gabon - Approval of RBPs	Gabon
13/07	EB.2022.14 - DRC - FONAREDD transitional budget	DRC
29/07	EB.2022.15 - DRC - EOI extension of deadline	DRC
19/08	EB.2022.16 - DRC - Fast track programs.	DRC
27/07	EB.2022.17 - CAFI Secretariat budget revision	Operations
08/08	EB.2022.18 - Risk management and national ownership	M&E
05/08	EB.2022.19 - Direct support UNCDF	Regional

⁹¹ 31 decisions had been adopted in 2021

Date (2022)	Decision Number and Actions for follow-up by CAFI Sec	Scope
15/09	EB.2022.20 - DRC - Support to Min Env	DRC
19/09	EB.2022.21 - Adoption of 2021 Annual report	M&E
28/09	EB.2022.22 - RoC - civil Society Program	Rep Congo
14/10	EB.2022.23 - Presidency of CAFI	Operations
20/10	EB.2022.24 - Farm Africa No cost extension	DRC
04/11	EB.2022.25 - Extension of FAO regional drivers study	Regional
07/11	EB.2022.26 - Decision UNCDF Green PRODOC approval	Regional
08/11	EB.2022.27 - RoC - PI PUDT Decision	Rep Congo
08/12	EB.2022.28 - Monitoring and Evaluation	M&E
08/12	EB.2022.29 - RoC - Approval of PI-PUDT	Rep Congo
08/12	EB.2022.30 - Gabon - Approval of second tranche of funding for CAFI 1	Gabon
16/12	EB.2022.31 - Access to CIFOR to the CAFI Fund	Operations
16/12	EB.2022.32 - DRC - Approval of disbursement to DRC National REDD+ Fund	DRC
23/12	EB.2022.33 - WCS High Value Forests Map Preparatory Grant	Regional
23/12	EB.2022.34 - Cofinancing policy	Operations
28/12	EB.2022.35 - Risk management strategy	M&E

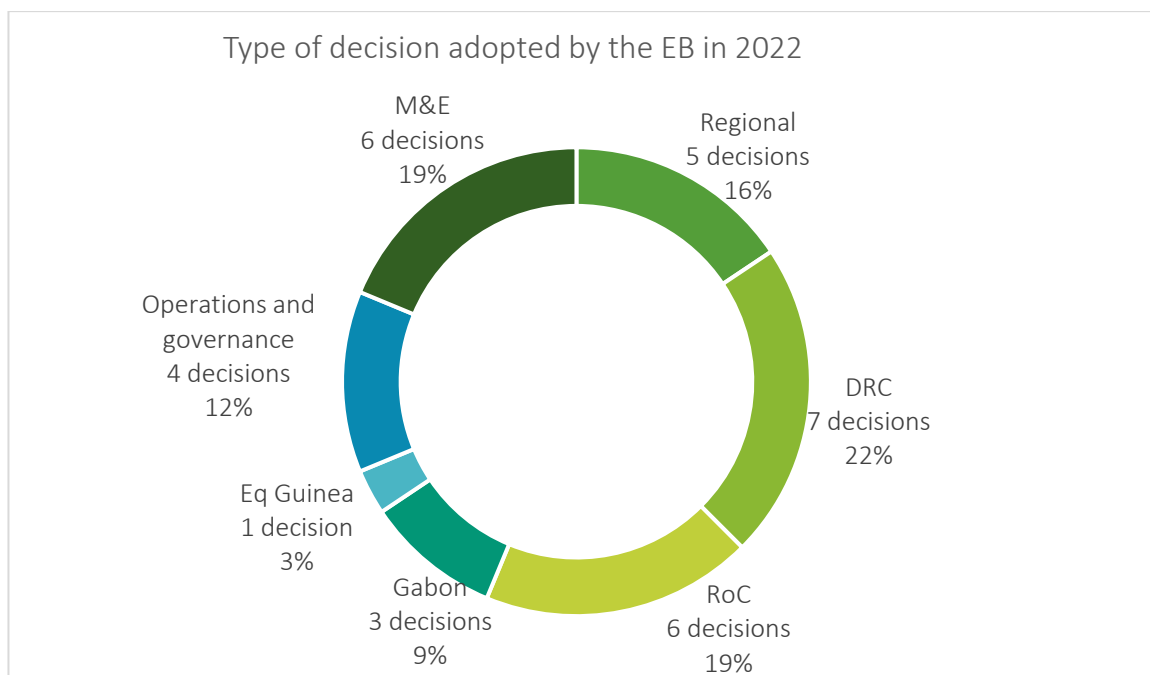


Figure 26: type of decision adopted by the Executive Board in 2022

4.2 Improving rules and processes

The Manual of Operations and revised Terms of reference of the Fund were revised in 2022. Major earlier changes in 2021 were piloted in 2022 – such as opening access to the CAFI Fund to new non-governmental organizations and new requirements for project development and reporting. The [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Policy](#) and [the revised Risk Management Strategy](#) were adopted approved by the Executive Board by end 2022 and will start implementation on 2023.

4.3 Gender assessment of the CAFI portfolio

Women play a central role in the sectors covered by CAFI and are, as such, important drivers for change. Neglecting gender perspectives causes a risk that project activities have a negative effect on the livelihoods and empowerment of women and other marginalized groups.

Gender responsiveness means that women and other marginalized groups such as youth, indigenous, or disabled people⁹² can benefit from forest-related project investments that impact their lives and the forests. Therefore, a “gender responsive” project is a project that

- includes gender issues in its design, including accounts of how women, men and marginalized groups will be affected differently by project activities
- has budgeted gender sensitive activities and mobilized gender expertise
- ensure and reports on the participation of women, men and marginalized groups in project activities and decision-making.

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Based on the UN-REDD Project gender marker methodology, the gender responsiveness analysis of the CAFI portfolio was carried out for the 5th consecutive year. It assesses whether gender considerations have been applied to 4 project stages, corresponding to 4 criteria:

- gender analysis in the project document context
- implementation of activities
- monitoring and evaluation
- allocation of budget

Using the same methodology as previous assessments, projects were assessed as either gender blind (GEN 0; 0 criteria met), gender sensitive (GEN 1: 1 to 3 criteria met, with ¾ criteria labelled as “highly sensitive”) or gender responsive (GEN 2; 4 criteria met).

CAFI’s 2022 gender objectives

Through Executive Board Decision [EB.2022.07](#), adopted on 13 July 2022, CAFI further raised its ambitions on gender compared to 2020, with new 2021 targets as follows:

- No active CAFI-funded program is gender-blind;
- At least 20 % of active CAFI-funded programs are highly gender sensitive, i.e., they meet 3 out of 4 criteria;
- At least 40 % of active CAFI-funded programs are gender responsive with 4 out of 4 criteria met.

Results

The 2021 gender assessment shows that, out of 24 assessed projects:

- **No program was classified as GEN 0 - gender blind - with 0 criteria met.**
- **15 programs were classified as GEN 1 - gender sensitive – 73 % (compared to 18 programs or 75% in 2020) with;**
 - 2 programs – or 9% - with 1 criterion met
 - 6 programs – or 27% - with 2 criteria met
 - 8 programs – or 27% - with 3 criteria met
- **9 programs – 41 %- were classified as GEN 2 - gender responsive - with 4 criteria met**

	2019 (18 projects assessed)		2020 (24 projects assessed)		2021 (22 projects assessed) ⁹³		2022 (24 projects assessed)	
	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result
Percentage of CAFI-funded projects that are gender responsive (4/4 criteria)	At least 15%	17%	30%	25% ⁹⁴	30%	27%	40%	41%
Percentage of highly gender sensitive projects (3/4 criteria)	Not set	11%	20%	38%	40%	37%	20%	27%
Percentage of gender blind projects	0%	5% (1 project)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

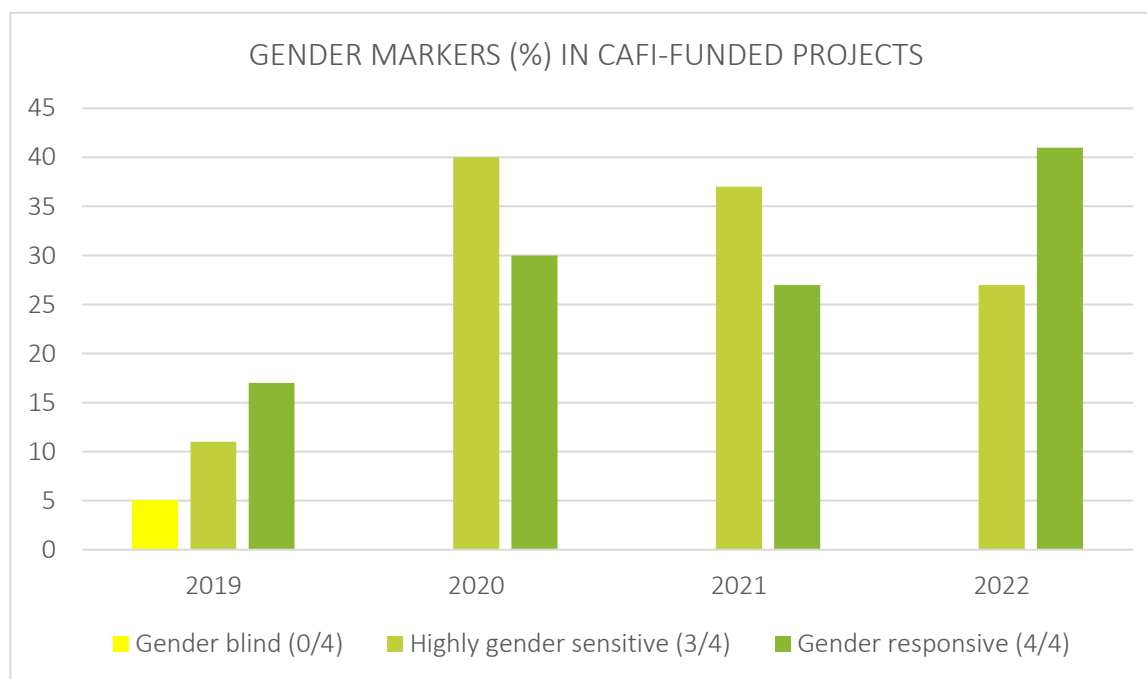


Figure 27: evolution of gender markers over time in active CAFI projects (%)

⁹³ The number in parenthesis indicate the assessment including closed projects

⁹⁴ In the DRC: PIREDD Sud-Ubangi (with JICA), PIREDD Equateur (with FAO), Civil Society (with UNDP), Family planning (with UNOPS); the Equatorial Guinea Preparatory Grant (with FAO); the Republic of Congo GCF preparatory grant (with FAO)

Details of the gender analysis is provided in [this Annex](#)

4.5 Safeguards

The CAFI terms of reference stipulate that *“It is expected that all recipient organizations will provide information on how CAFI-supported activities are addressing and respecting the social and environmental safeguards outlined in Annex 4 as part of the CAFI requirements for Monitoring and Reporting. While taking into account national context, the reports should include information on each of the key issues associated with the safeguards”*

Accreditation

In 2022, several Non-UN Organisations (NUNOs) applied for CAFI accreditation, a process that includes a social and environmental (SES) assessment of the NUNO’s safeguard framework. In 2022 :

- AFD was approved via the fast track procedure.
- Enabel and WWF started their SES assessments .
- As allowed by section 2.2.2 of the CAFI MOO, Initiative Development (ID), that does not have their own social and environmental framework, was authorized by the EB through decision EB.2022.17)to implement the Litaku project in a way that is fully compliant with UNDP’s Social and Environment standards (SES). The Litaku project SESP template was submitted and review by CAFI Secretariat confirming the project is categorized as Low Risk according to UNDP SES.

Analysis of safeguards tools

An analysis of safeguards tools was performed to examine the existence of the following tools:

- 1) Preliminary social and environmental screening
- 2) Social and environmental impact assessment
- 3) Complaints mechanism (project-specific or using the FONAREDD’s)
- 4) Environmental and social management plan
- 5) Strategic environmental study of a new policy or law
- 6) Gender specific action plans
- 7) Indigenous-specific action plans

The complete analysis is available in this Annex : [Monitoring safeguards tools – 2022 update](#)

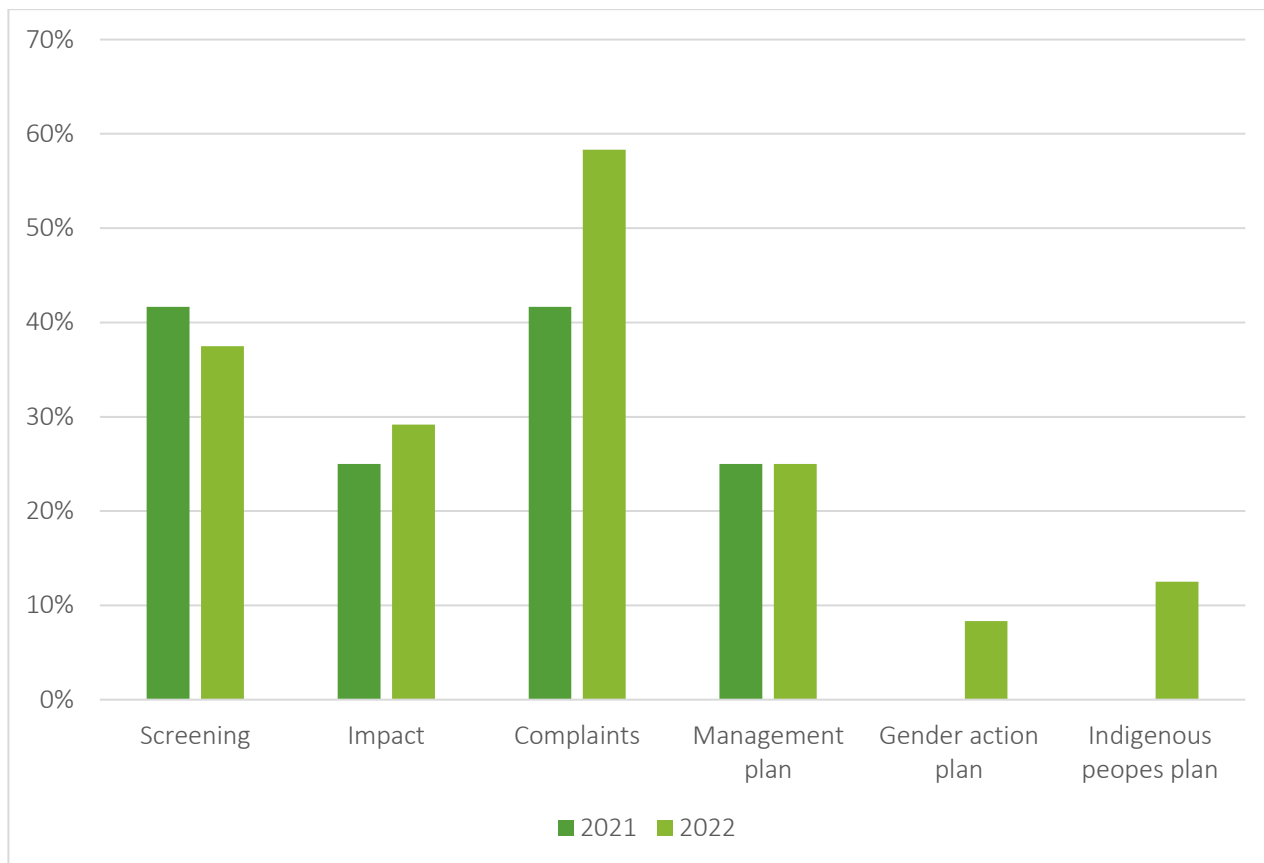


Figure 28: Existence of safeguards tools across CAFI-funded projects

Not all projects are expected to develop all tools (eg a strategic study of a new policy), and CAFI as a pass through fund relies on the accreditation process to ensure that the implementing organizations’ own safeguards processes are of sufficient quality. The analysis of figure 28 (detailed in this Annex [Monitoring safeguards tools – 2022 update](#)) shows that initial screening and complaints mechanisms are the most adhered to.

In total, projects with a dedicated grievance mechanism (7 projects to date) have claimed to receive 128 grievances or complaints, and resolved 104, the remaining being pending. In the DRC, the FONAREDD has set up a system to implementing organizations that do not have their own complaints/grievance mechanism. It has not reported on number of complaints in its report in 2022⁹⁵. CAFI has not received complaints from its complaints mechanism process.

As mentioned above, focus in 2022 has been on the assessment as part of the accreditation process. 2023 will be a year to examine the implementation, rather than the mere existence, of tools.

⁹⁵ To be revised upon receiving a final version of the FONAREDD report.

5 Shaping the global narrative: communications and visibility

5.1 Web site

The CAFI Secretariat maintained its website (www.cafi.org), ensuring **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, providing easy access to CAFI’s investments and results.
- Eight thematic pages highlighting 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 ⁹⁶
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 min	2.40 min	2.25 min	2.17 min	1.38 min	2.21 min
Pages visited / viewer	2.76	1.58	2.24	1.50	1.87	4.4
User per month	661	860	Low:1 000 ; 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 ‘Users 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 information serving to showcase CAFI’s results on the [CAFI dedicated page of the revamped MPTF Gateway](#).

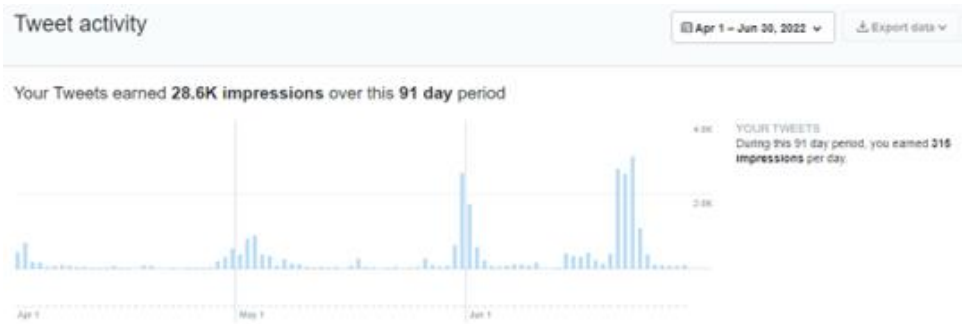
⁹⁶ Due to an update in the metrics in Google Analytics, which is used to obtain this data, the data may not be entirely comparable to previous years.

5.2 Social media presence

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 ⁹⁷	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.

The CAFI Secretariat reached its objectives of 2400 followers on Twitter by 31 December 2022.

⁹⁷ New followers minus departing followers

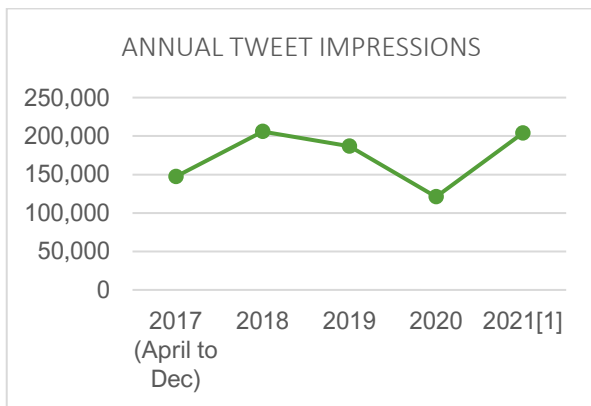


Figure 29: Tweet impressions for @CAFISecretariat on Twitter



5.3 Media engagement

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 interactions proved useful in positioning CAFI as a critical resource, and often serve 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 April 2022 article 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.

5.4 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 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 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

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, facilitated, and participated in several events at COP-27, including the highly mediatized 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 but also:

- Contributed to a DRC event on the CAFI-DRC partnership
- Launched the partnership with the &Green Fund



CAFI Secretariat events at COP-27

Communication tools

The CAFI Secretariat developed and disseminated several communication tools in 2022

- A 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

6. Country details

6.1 DRC ⁹⁸

DRC has the longest running partnership with CAFI, initiated in 2016 and renewed in 2021 with the endorsement of a second Letter of Intent that runs until 2031, the first phase of which runs until 2026.

2022 was marked by preparations for optimal implementation of the 2nd letter of intent. With the support of CAFI, the government has laid the foundations of the Programmatic Framework by launching the Call for Expressions of Interest and validating a note on the Fast-Track programming process for high-performance projects. As part of the second tranche of project funding, the governance bodies approved transfers of \$28.5 million. Lastly, the FONAREDD and CAFI governing bodies approved the demonstration of needs for programming fast-track projects to the tune of \$229 million for the next year.

The restructuring of FONAREDD's governance frameworks was initiated with the validation of a note on institutional arrangements, the independent review by FONAREDD's Administrative Agent (MPTF) followed by recommendations on the restructuring of the Fund's governance bodies, and the appointment of a new FONAREDD management by Ministerial Order in November 2022.

Finally, the milestones were reviewed by the college of Cabinet Directors and General Secretaries of all the sectors concerned, to assess the status of implementation of the 2022 milestones.

Main achievements are described for DRC (political commitment and results per outcome), in section 3 above.

6.1.1. Overview of the DRC portfolio

CAFI's funding, channeled almost exclusively through the FONAREDD at the exception of one small grant to UNDP, is spread across outcomes as per Figure 30.

⁹⁸ This section was prepared by the CAFI Secretariat. It may not be fully consistent with the FONAREDD 2022 Annual report, whose deadline is 31 May 2022.

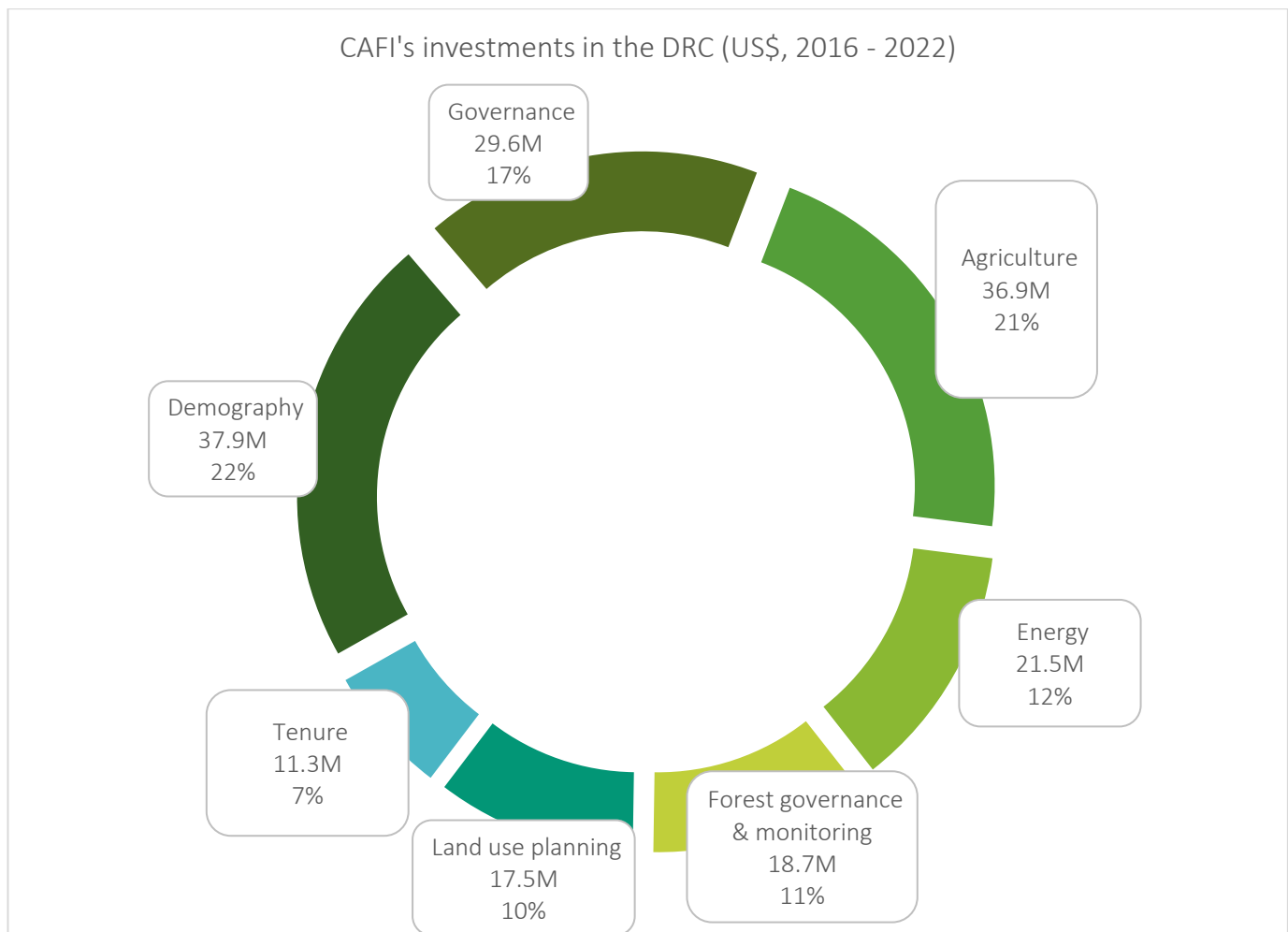


Figure 30: CAFI's investments per outcome in the DRC

The DRC portfolio comprises

- 8 running rural development projects (7 integrated projects - PIREDD and the Savannahs & degraded forest project)
- 11 running sectoral projects
- The FONAREDD Secretariat
- Three closed projects:
 - The National Forest monitoring project, closed in 2021
 - The Sud Ubangui provincial programme (PIREDD), closed in 2022
 - The sustainable management of agriculture programme (PGDA in French), closed in 2022

In total, since 2016:

- 246 M were transferred from CAFI to the FONAREDD and 0.5 M to UNDP
- 183 M were transferred to implementing organizations

- Total expenditures of projects reached 113.2M, i.e., 70% of transferred amounts and 45% of approved amounts.

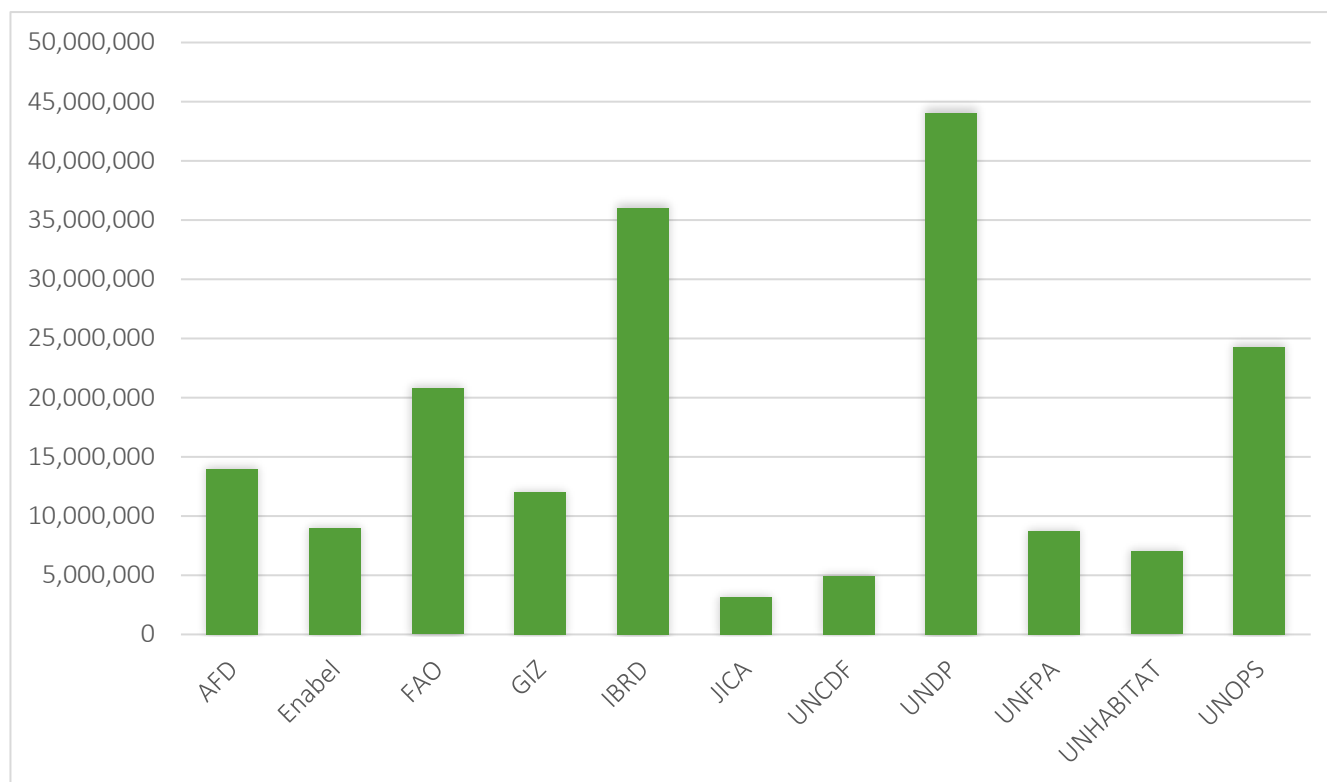


Figure 31: Funds transferred (in M US \$) per implementing organization in the DRC cumulatively as of 31 December 2022

6.1.2 Assessing project results delivery

Project performance was assessed in a table (Figure 32) below that puts in perspective

- achieved results, quantitatively and against targets when possible
- how long the project has been running (funds transfer)
- its financial delivery performance – indicating how much funding has been spent to achieve these results and comparing it to approved amounts and transferred amounts.

The table below does not, however, capture softer, non-numerical aspects, such as the sustainability and inclusiveness of a project, social and environmental safeguards put in place, its gender aspects, how it seeks to ensure ownership at various levels of governance, nor its transparency or adaptive management efforts. Mid-term evaluations, when they have been performed, are listed. In 2021, mid-term evaluations were undertaken for 5 projects, namely the project to support land tenure reform, the project to support land use planning reform, support to civil society, PIREDD Mai-Ndombe and the internal evaluation of the Family planning project⁹⁹

⁹⁹ Links are provided below, but their access is restricted.

Efforts are underway to establish clear guidelines to report objectively and neutrally on these, based on defined criteria¹⁰⁰, guiding questions and by mobilizing expertise, that will allow a more completed analysis of project performance. These guidelines will be part of the Monitoring, evaluation and learning guidelines under development.

¹⁰⁰ Primary criteria : 1) effectiveness and 2) efficiency ; secondary criteria : 3) Gouvernance, 4) Participation 5) Gender 6) Monitoring and Evaluation ; Criteria to be evaluated only at mid-term and end of project : 7) Relevance 8) Sustainability

Project	Main quantitative results and targets as of 31 December 2022	Budget approved, transferred and spent by 31 Dec 2022
Sectoral projects		
<p>Project for the sustainable consumption and substitution of wood energy (Energy project) ⁹⁹</p> <p>Implemented by UNCDF and UNDP</p> <p>2022 Annual report</p>	<p>12 contracts for 1.2 M US\$ for Improved cookstoves will amount to dissemination to 99,300 households (or an estimated 764,400 people), bringing the project closer to its 500,000 target and usage of 10% in Kinshasa households.</p> <p>These funds enabled the sale of 91,607 improved stoves, 8,000 stoves and gas kits, 1,700 tons of gas and 998 tons of briquettes for cooking and have created more than 1867 partial and fulltime jobs created Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Goma, and Bukavu, of which 61% are youth, 41% women amongst which 21.8% hold director level position.</p> <p>Clean Cooking Challenge and Incubation Fund: 650 000 USD mobilized from the Least Development Investment Platform, 500 000 USD mobilized from ALTECH, 20 000 USD from SIMA and BRISOL. This represents 3.9% of the 30 M US\$ target to support deployment of LPG by microfinance programs). A total of 16 partnerships in the form of performance-based funding agreements were signed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The modeling study of the potential and impact of LPG deployment in Kinshasa has been finalised - LPG Master Plan for the City of Kinshasa validated in September 2022 with a roadmap for the development of legal texts and resource mobilization. - An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was carried out in accordance with ACE measures. The latter has developed the ToR guiding this study in accordance with national regulations on ESIA. To date, the report examined in the workshop of July 6, 2022 has been submitted to the CEA, which has deemed it acceptable with amendments taken into account in the final version. It is expected that the certificate will be issued by the CEA. - Three exchange visits to Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya were conducted to build the capacity of national experts on policy and regulatory aspects of the energy sector with a focus on clean cooking - Nine training modules on the design, production and distribution of improved cookstoves as well as business models in the clean cooking sector in general including LPG were developed <p>Additional targets for which full results are not yet reported but progress is being made</p>	<p>15 M approved</p> <p>10.6 M transferred</p> <p>6.7 M USD spent (63 % of transferred amount and 44 % of approved budget)</p>

	<p>- A national energy policy document was validated on December 9, 2022. It will be submitted to the government after the strategic environmental and social assessment under the leadership of the MRHE.</p> <p>- Equip 4,000 households with micro-hydroelectricity – progress: feasibility studies conducted.</p>	
<p>PROMIS -Scaling up family planning</p> <p>Implemented by UNOPS + UNFPA with INGO consortium ¹⁰⁰</p> <p>2022 Annual report not submitted</p> <p>Mid-term evaluation (October 2021)</p>	<p>-unconfirmed number of 3,921,769 CYP (61% of initial target, 85% of revised target). It is estimated that this represents 45% of family planning solutions (CYP) offered in the DRC.</p> <p>Modern contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 26% to 27,3 % in Kinshasa and from 20 to 26.3% in Kongo Central from 2020 to 2021., the target being a 1.5% annual increase in target provinces¹⁰¹</p> <p>- 90% of health facilities in target provinces offered at least three different contraceptive methods and at least one long-acting method in 2021 (112,5 % of the 80% target)</p> <p>A total of 175 health zones covered in 11 provinces.</p> <p>The target of 3,500 health providers to be trained was far exceeded with a total of 12,863 trained since the start of the project.</p> <p>The technical studies for the construction of one of the two Regional Distribution Centers (RDC) (in the province of Bas Uele) are finalized and validated.</p>	<p>33 M approved</p> <p>33 M transferred</p> <p>30 M spent (90% of transferred amount and 90% of approved budget)</p>
<p>National Forest Monitoring system</p> <p>Implemented by FAO</p> <p>Final report (Project closed)</p>	<p>Annual hectares of disturbances 2000-2018</p> <p>National Forest Inventory 85% completed</p> <p>Terra Congo website online</p> <p>FREL submitted to the UNFCCC</p>	<p>10 M approved</p> <p>10 M transferred on 22 December 2016</p> <p>9.99 M spent (99.9% of approved and transferred amounts)</p>
<p>Land Tenure project</p> <p>Implemented by UN-Habitat</p> <p>2022 Annual report</p> <p>Mid term evaluation</p>	<p>The national Commission for land tenure reform (CONAREF) is fully operational. To date, CONAREF has a Manual of Administrative and Financial Management Procedures, an internal capacity building plan, a capacity building plan/guide for the provincial coordination, a communication plan and a ten-year capacity building plan for land administration.</p> <p>11 thematic groups have been created to promote quality dialogue on land reform.</p>	<p>7M approved</p> <p>7 M transferred on 25 Apr 2017</p> <p>7 M spent (100% of approved and transferred amounts)</p>

	<p>A land tenure policy document was officially adopted by the Council of Ministers on April 15, 2022</p> <p>The draft land law amending and supplementing the 1973 land law, approved by the Council of Ministers, has been awaiting a thorough reading in the PAJ committee of the National Assembly since October 2022. The draft 1 of the national land plan for the implementation of the land policy and law is already available and is being reviewed by thematic groups.</p>	
<p>Land use planning project Implemented by UNDP 2022 Annual report Mid term evaluation</p>	<p>Land-use planning policy developed, adopted in 2020. A communication plan for the reform was validated by all stakeholders during a workshop held in September 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Methodological guides for the realization of provincial land use plans (PPAT) and local land use plans (PLAT) validated in September 2022; -Report of the sectoral assessment for the elaboration of the National Land Use Planning Scheme (SNAT) validated in September 2022. -The signing of a professional services contract with FRM in December 2022 for the completion of the DRC Forestry Capital Study <p>Establish the “Territory Observatory of the Ministry of Land use planning” : completed</p>	<p>8M approved 5.7 M transferred on 18 Apr 2017 4.5 M USD spent (79% of transferred amount and 56 % of approved budget)</p>
<p>Sustainable management of agriculture Implemented by FAO Project closed. Final report not submitted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i): finalization of the diagnosis of the major agricultural issues and opportunities, finalization of the orientation note of the national sustainable agricultural policy and the finalization of the draft 1 of the national sustainable agricultural policy (Target is the adoption of the policy) (ii) Consolidation of the regulatory texts of the Agricultural Law to support the implementation of the national sustainable agricultural policy (iii) Introduction and dissemination of the EX-ACT-Carbon tool to DRC managers and technicians (training manual) (iv) website of the Ministry of Agriculture as a dissemination platform established and is regularly updated (v) 5 sentinel posts for the monitoring of major deforestation events have been installed in 5 territories (Inongo, Masimanimba, Bumba, Budjala and Bomongo), equipped and the agents trained and reinforced. 	<p>3M approved 3 M transferred on 29 April 2019 1.5 M spent (50% of approved and transferred amounts)</p>
<p>Savannahs and degraded forests Implemented by AFD 2022 Annual report</p>	<p>The general objective of the project is "to contribute, through improved services, to the appropriation by farms and agricultural SMEs of sustainable practices for the development of savannah lands and degraded forests, in order to consolidate local economies in two different agro-ecological zones (savannah in Kwilu province and forest in Tshopo province), maintain forest landscapes and mitigate pressure on the forest resource.</p>	<p>15M approved 8M transferred on 18 April 2020 1.4 M USD spent (18% of transferred amount and 9% of approved budget)</p>

	<p>The project was officially launched two years after funding transfers, in July 2022, and has cumulatively completed the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Official launch of the program in the two program provinces; - Recruitment and installation of program teams and technical assistance; - Identification of beneficiaries; - Identification of promising agricultural sectors in the two provinces of the program; - Definition with microfinance operators of financial outputs and their mode of intervention. - Establishment of a geographic information system; - Establishment of the forest cover baseline; - Selection of LRAs; - Discussions with the provincial technical services of agriculture on the modalities and establishment of a memorandum of understanding of collaboration. 	
<p>Sustainable management of forests (PGDF) Implemented by AFD</p> <p>2022 Annual report</p>	<p>A national PGDF Coordinator was appointed in Nov. 2022 and the PGDF launch workshop took place on Dec. 5, 2022.</p> <p>A 2023 roadmap was validated in Nov. 2022 by relevant stakeholders including the leadership of the MEDD</p>	<p>12M approved 6M transferred on 23 Jul 2020 0.4M spent (7% of transferred budget and 3% of approved budget)</p>
<p>Support to Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>Implemented by the World Bank</p> <p>2022 half year report (annual report not submitted)</p>	<p>Adoption of the law on the promotion and protection of the rights of Pygmy indigenous peoples (IPs)</p> <p>6 microprojects for Indigenous Peoples elaborated in 5 territories benefit 1260 households (7560 Indigenous people) – 60% of the target</p> <p>4750 indigenous people – 70% of which are women - supported on literacy</p> <p>One perpetual title for forestry concession by local communities was obtained and covers 40,507 hectares (Bolombi community, Kiri territory)</p> <p>Over 300 beehives distributed to produce and commercialize honey</p> <p>Training and material</p>	<p>2M approved 2M transferred 0.6M spent (31% of transferred amount and 31% of approved amount)</p>
<p>Civil society support project Implemented by UNDP</p> <p>2022 Annual report Evaluation</p>	<p>Consolidation of the national platform and installation of provincial units in 16 provinces</p> <p>Went from gathering 480 organizations in 2016 to 600.</p> <p>8 Independent observation missions in PIREDDs (not target specified) that focus on participation of civil society and indigenous peoples</p>	<p>3.3M approved 3.3M transferred on 22 December 2016 2.6M spent (81% of transferred and approved budget)</p>
<p>FONAREDD Secretariat</p>	<p>Programming of 18 funded programs and monitoring and evaluation of 16 operationalized programs.</p>	<p>15.9M approved 6.6M transferred</p>

	<p>Organization of 51 meetings of the FONAREDD Technical Committee and 14 Steering Committees¹⁰¹</p> <p>Completion of five independent mid-term evaluations: PIREDD Maniema, Equateur Program, PIREDD Oriental, PIREDD Kwilu.</p> <p>Coordination of sectoral ministries related to REDD+ through regular meetings to monitor progress towards fulfilling the milestones of the first and second Letter of Intent signed between DRC and CAFI</p> <p>Production of five FONAREDD annual reports.</p>	4.8M spent (72% of transferred amount and 30% of approved amount)
Provincial integrated projects (PIREDD)		
<p>PIREDD Mai Ndombe</p> <p>Implemented by World Bank¹⁰²</p> <p>2022 annual report</p> <p>Independent evaluation</p>	<p>68,187 farmers supported/ direct beneficiaries (members of CLD who receive direct support from the project as well as PES), including 22 715 women and 3 542 indigenous people</p> <p>- 480 local development committees (CLD) supported (480 PSAT validated (80 % of 600 CLD target)</p> <p>-9 936 ha of savannah set aside for natural regeneration (33% of the 30,000 ha target)</p> <p>-2 194 ha community forestry planted (21.9% of 10,000 ha target)</p> <p>-898 ha of perennial crops planted (9% of the 10,000 ha target)</p> <p>-1 693 ha of perennial crops in savannahs planted (102.6% of 1650 ha target)</p> <p>-1 800 ha in agroforestry planted (53.7% of 3350 ha target)</p> <p>This brings the total in hectares to 16 521 ha, or 30 % of the 55,000 ha target</p>	<p>30 M approved</p> <p>30 M transferred on 18 May 2018</p> <p>19.2 M USD spent (64% of transferred amount and 64 % of approved amount)</p>
<p>PIREDD Sud-Ubangi</p> <p>Implemented by the World Bank ¹⁰³</p> <p>(Project closed)</p> <p>Final report</p>	<p>98 Local Development Committees/CLD supported (54 % of the 100 target)</p> <p>13 land use plans developed (52,4 % of the 21 plans target)</p> <p>54 Natural Resource Management Plans developed (54 % of the 100 plans target)</p> <p>1486 ha agroforestry crops planted (74 % of the 2000 ha (revised) target¹)</p>	<p>7 M approved</p> <p>4 M USD transferred on 16 February 2018</p> <p>2,6 M USD spent (65 % of transferred amount & 37,1 % of approved amount)</p>
<p>PIREDD Orientale</p>	<p>162 multi-stakeholder platforms have been put in place and supported to support sustainable land use management (56,6 % of the 286-platform target)</p>	<p>33 M approved</p> <p>26 M transferred in 2017</p>

¹⁰¹ Some funding approvals were made through no objection requests sent to Steering Committee (COFIL) members by email.

<p>Implemented by UNDP</p> <p>2022 Annual report</p> <p>Independent verification report</p>	<p>124 territorial governance/development entities have local development plans (51,7 % of 240 entity target)</p> <p>13,519 ha food crops under sustainable agriculture methods (16 % of the 160 000 ha target)</p> <p>7060 ha new perennial crops planted (25,4 % of 5000 ha target)</p> <p>15721 ha of savannas set aside for natural regeneration (of 30 000 ha target)</p> <p>-48 technical administrative services and territorial governance/development entities have strengthened their capacity (80 % of the 60-entity target)</p> <p>-175 technical administrative agents have had their capacity strengthened (59 % of 296 agent target)</p> <p>- 28702 have been reported as direct beneficiaries</p> <p>-275 000 people made aware of REDD+ activities carried out by the program (27,5 % of the 1 M people target)</p>	<p>17.6 M spent (68 % of transferred amount and 53 % of approved amount)</p>
<p>PIREDD Kwilu</p> <p>JICA</p> <p>2022 Annual report</p>	<p>-No Territorial Development plans put in place to date (of the 30-plan target), but 62 land use plans at village level (PSAT) have been developed. 263 CLDs have been setup.</p> <p>2702 ha planted (24,5 % of 5000 ha target)</p> <p>11146 ha of savannas set aside for natural regeneration</p> <p>100 villages were involved in creating community agroforestry plantations (40 % of the 250 villages target)</p> <p>16126 have been evaluated as direct beneficiaries</p> <p>122 broadcasts of one hour on natural resource management diffused (10 % of 1200-hour target)</p> <p>450 communication boards on natural resource management installed across villages (90 % of 500 board-target)</p>	<p>4 M approved</p> <p>3,17 M transferred on 20 December 2018</p> <p>2.3 M spent (74 % of transferred amount and 57 % of approved amount)</p>
<p>PIREDD Mongala</p> <p>Implemented by ENABEL</p> <p>2022 annual report</p> <p>Independent evaluation (2021)</p>	<p>60 CLD supported but 10 are operational (120 % of 50 CLD target)</p> <p>10 land use plans (PSAT) being validated (20 % of 50 PSAT target)</p> <p>-214 ha of fruit trees planted (of 160 ha target)</p> <p>-154 ha of food crops under sustainable agriculture methods</p> <p>3149 Couple Years Protection (CYP) distributed (no specific target)</p> <p>4956 have been reported as direct beneficiaries including 1262 women</p>	<p>12 M approved</p> <p>9 M transferred on 8 August 2019</p> <p>4.8 M spent (54 % of transferred amount and 40% of approved budget)</p>

<p>PIREDD Equateur</p> <p>Implemented by FAO</p> <p>2022 Annual report</p> <p>Independent verification report</p>	<p>255 local development committees (CLD) supported</p> <p>300 ha of food crops planted (4,8 % of 3000 ha target) 441 ha of agroforestry planted for sustainable wood energy use (15,7 % of 3000 ha target)</p> <p>6054 ha savanna area set aside for protection (86 % of 7000 ha target) 3500 improved cookstoves produced (13 % of the 27 000 cookstove target)</p> <p>80,424 ha of forest established as community forestry (of the 480 000 ha target), and 17 community files (covering 162 000 ha) have been identified by the competent local administrative department and have been submitted for approval.</p>	<p>10 M approved 8.5M transferred on 27 August 2019 7.1 spent (85% of transferred amount and 71% of approved amount)</p>
<p>PIREDD Maniema</p> <p>Implemented by GIZ</p> <p>2022 Annual report</p>	<p>6 Local development plans put in place (60 % of the 10-plan target) 935 local development committees (CLD) supported</p> <p>50 ha of trees planted (1 % of 5000 ha target) 399 ha of agroforestry managed sustainably (2 % of 20 000 ha target) 168,861 ha of forest areas under protection (48 % of 350 000 ha target). 4 Local Community Forest maps are available.</p> <p>439 persons had an increase in their revenues through community projects linked to green value chains (8,8 % of 5000-person target)</p> <p>75 000 persons made aware of the importance of local governance (37,5 % of 200 000 persons target)</p>	<p>30 M approved</p> <p>12 M transferred in 2021 and 2022</p> <p>6 M spent (50 % of transferred amount and 20 % of approved amount)</p>

Figure 32: Project quantitative results and financial delivery

Throughout 2022, programs that had been assessed by the FONAREDD Secretariat as presenting risks of non-delivery were subject to dedicated sessions of the Technical Committee. Specific resolutions and communiqués¹⁰² were adopted by the Technical Committee, as explained below.

6.1.3. Performance of the Governance structures of the FONAREDD

In 2022, no Steering Committee (COFIL) meeting was held. However, the FONAREDD Steering committee took several decisions by e-mail regarding disbursements and extensions to the duration of some projects. The table below shows the content of the various decisions taken by this body.

Meeting date	Subject/Projects	Decisions	Status
April 2022	<p>Sustainable Consumption and Partial Wood Substitution Program</p> <p>Approval decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disbursement of \$US1.645 millions, a portion of second tranche of funding. ▪ Project extended to June 30, 2024, i.e. 18 months from January 2023, of which 12 months for programmatic activities and 6 months for closing administrative activities. ▪ Requests the Agency to gather all the necessary prerequisites in terms of feasibility, operationalization and sustainability of the Yame Micro-Hydro Power Plant before considering construction activities. ▪ Instructs FONAREDD's Executive Secretariat: i) in close collaboration with CAFI's Secretariat, to support the Agency in carrying out the necessary consultations to ensure that the prerequisites for the construction of the Yame Micro-Hydro Power Plant are met; iii) to accelerate the Program's mid-term evaluation process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disbursement of \$US1.645 M USD made. ▪ Extension completed. ▪ The agency has not yet provided all the technical elements required to the FONAREDD and CAFI secretariats in order to obtain technical feedback from the Technical Committee and approval from the Steering Committee (COFIL). ▪ i) The feasibility study and the environmental and social impact study for this infrastructure were submitted to the project's independent evaluation. ii) The independent mid-term evaluation is still in progress.
	<p>PROMIS" family planning scale-up project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approves: (i) the disbursement of the second tranche of "PROMIS" funding of \$US3 M; (ii) the relocation of MSI activities and (iii) the adjustment of Tulane's ACP production targets. ▪ Recommends that the agency: (i) implement measures to strengthen project governance in order, in particular, to address the recurring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disbursement of \$US3 M made ▪ Revision of targets and relocation of MSI activities effective

¹⁰² Resolutions are not public, but communiqués are made public. See [here](#) for each project.

Approval decision	<p>delays in the organization of project Steering Committee (COPIL) meetings; (ii) accelerate, under the supervision of the FONAREDD and CAFI Secretariats, the final evaluation of the Project in accordance with the recommendations of Technical Committee 44; and (iii) propose concrete measures to respond to the improvements requested in the audits of the three implementing partners, by May 1, 2022, in particular for MSI, whose audit emphasizes that many improvements are needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steering Committee (COPIL) measures taken and entrusted to Ministry of Health supervision ▪ PROMIS organizes its own independent evaluation which is still ongoing ▪ Action taken on audits of three effective partners
<p>PIREDD Equateur</p> <p>Approval decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conditional approval of the second tranche of US\$4 million of funding, and makes transfers conditional on positive recommendations from the TC. ▪ Requests the Technical Committee to: (i) ensure that the recommendations of TC 47 and the independent audit report are properly taken into account in the revised version of the 2022 PTBA; (ii) submit to the President of the Steering Committee (COPIL) a disbursement schedule in order to plan cash flow requirements; and (iii) set up a monitoring group with monthly meetings to ensure proper implementation of the PTBA. ▪ Requests the Agency to make available to the FONAREDD Technical Committee by May 30, 2022: (i) the management response to the results of the independent audit; (ii) the operational documents to enable the Technical Committee to give its opinion on whether the observations contained in the results of the independent audit and in Technical Committee resolution no. 47 have been taken into account. ▪ Instruct the Executive Secretariat, in collaboration with the CAFI Secretariat, to closely monitor the project and prepare progress reports on implementation of the TC's recommendations for the Steering Committee at six-monthly intervals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$US2.5 M disbursed in the second half of 2022 ▪ The Technical Committee has achieved what was expected of it. ▪ The Agency has also achieved everything expected of it. ▪ SE FONAREDD and SE CAFI have made available notes prepared for this purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
<p>PIREDD Mai - Ndombe</p> <p>Approval decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cancellation of decision N°01/11 approving \$16 million to the World Bank for PIREDD Mai-Ndombe ▪ Approval of a financial allocation of 10 million dollars to enable the PIREDD Mai-Ndombe, in accordance with the results and budget framework approved by the decision of the 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee (COPIL) of February 08, 2017 to continue the implementation of its activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests the World Bank to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the independent evaluation, particularly on women's participation in project activities 	
09/2022	PIREDD Mai-Ndombe Approval decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of PIREDD Mai-Ndombe approved until 31 décembre 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	PIREDD Province Orientale Approval decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the final tranche of US\$13 million to enable PLEs to finalize their activities Approval of US\$6 million disbursement in accordance with the Project's adjusted AWP; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
12/2022	PIREDD Maniema Approval decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the disbursement of US\$3 million to GIZ in December, as the first transfer of the second tranche of US\$5 million to enable PIREDD Maniema to continue implementing its activities. Requests GIZ to: (i) Submit, as an appendix to the 2022 annual report, within the contractual deadline, the updated financial report presented by Results and Products, but also by UNDG category; and (ii) Share, by January 31, 2023, an explanatory technical note on (a) the operational mechanism for agricultural supervision and (b) the operational mechanism for monitoring and certifying the activities of beneficiary households and local NGOs subsidized by the program Instruction to the SE FONAREDD, in collaboration with the CAFI Secretariat: (i) to enable the decision to disburse the balance of the second tranche, i.e. USD 2 million to be transferred to GIZ during January 2023; and (ii) to inform, by the end of January 2023, the Fund's governance structures of the results of the independent evaluation currently being carried out, so as to make the decision to allocate the other tranches of funding conditional on the mandatory integration of the main recommendations of the said evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of US\$3 million to GIZ completed Annual Report to be submitted in March 2023 The independent evaluation report has not yet been discussed by the TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

12/2022	Support to civil society Approval decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval of a supplementary budget of \$300,000 to cover residual activities ; ▪ Approval to disburse the full amount on the basis of the submitted AWP; ▪ Approval of the project extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Done
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The Technical Committee held 7 sessions, 3 of which were held over two days. In addition to these sessions, members of CT were active in several other meetings, notably the ad hoc monitoring committees set up to monitor programs requiring specific support in implementing the Technical Committee's recommendations. These included the Gestion Durable de l'Agriculture (GDA) project, PIREDD Oriental and PIREDD Equateur. Related documentation is available [here](#).

Meeting	Date	Subjects treated
CT45	27 January 2022	(i) Review of the PARF mid-term evaluation report; (ii) Review of the reports of the independent evaluations of the PIREDD Mai-Ndombe PRODOC; (iii) Review of the follow-up note on the 2021 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE resolutions; (iv) Presentation of the 2022 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE calendar; (v) Information point on the Civil Society program and (vi) Information point on the Energy Program.
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE46	24 February 2022	(i) Review of the PIREDD Mongala budget revision; Progress report on reviews of monitoring mechanisms and plans (including field missions) and program evaluations and (ii) Information point on the program preparation fund.
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE47	07 April 2022	(i) Review of the report of the verification mission of the PIREDD Oriental achievements; (ii) Review of the report on the verification mission of PIREDD Equateur and (iii) Review of the analysis note on the Energy Program.
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE48	31 May to 01 June 2022	(i) Review of the management response and work plan (PTBA 2022 and Forecasts 2023) of PIREDD Equateur; (ii) Review of the PIREDD Oriental management response;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) Review of the revised Operational Plan 2021-2026 of PIREDD Maniema and (iv) Review of PIREDD Mongala's management response and no-cost extension request.
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE49	26 to 27 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Review of the progress of the IP Support Program; (ii) Review of the Operational Plan (2nd Phase) and adjusted PTBA 2022 of PIREDD Oriental; (iii) Review of the progress of the GDA Program; (iv) Review of PIREDD Kwilu progress; (v) Review of the progress of the Programme d'appui à la (vi) Réforme Foncière and (vii) Review of the SE-FONAREDD mission report to PIREDD Maniema.
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE50	29 to 30 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Review of the progress of the Programme d'appui à la réforme de l'Aménagement du territoire (PARAT); (ii) Review of the request for extension and amendment of the Land Reform Support Program; (iii) Review of the progress of the Civil Society Support Program and (iv) Progress review of the GDA Program.
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE51	04 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Review of the PROMIS Extension Program; (ii) PIREDD Mongala progress review;

6.1.4 Results against the milestones of the Letters of Intent

Major results per outcome are provided in section 3. The section below measures the continuous progress against the final milestones of the 1st Letter of Intent¹⁰³, and the increased level of ambition agreed to in the 2nd Letter of Intent.

Overview

Figure 33 below displays progress against the 2022 milestones of the 2nd Letter of Intent.

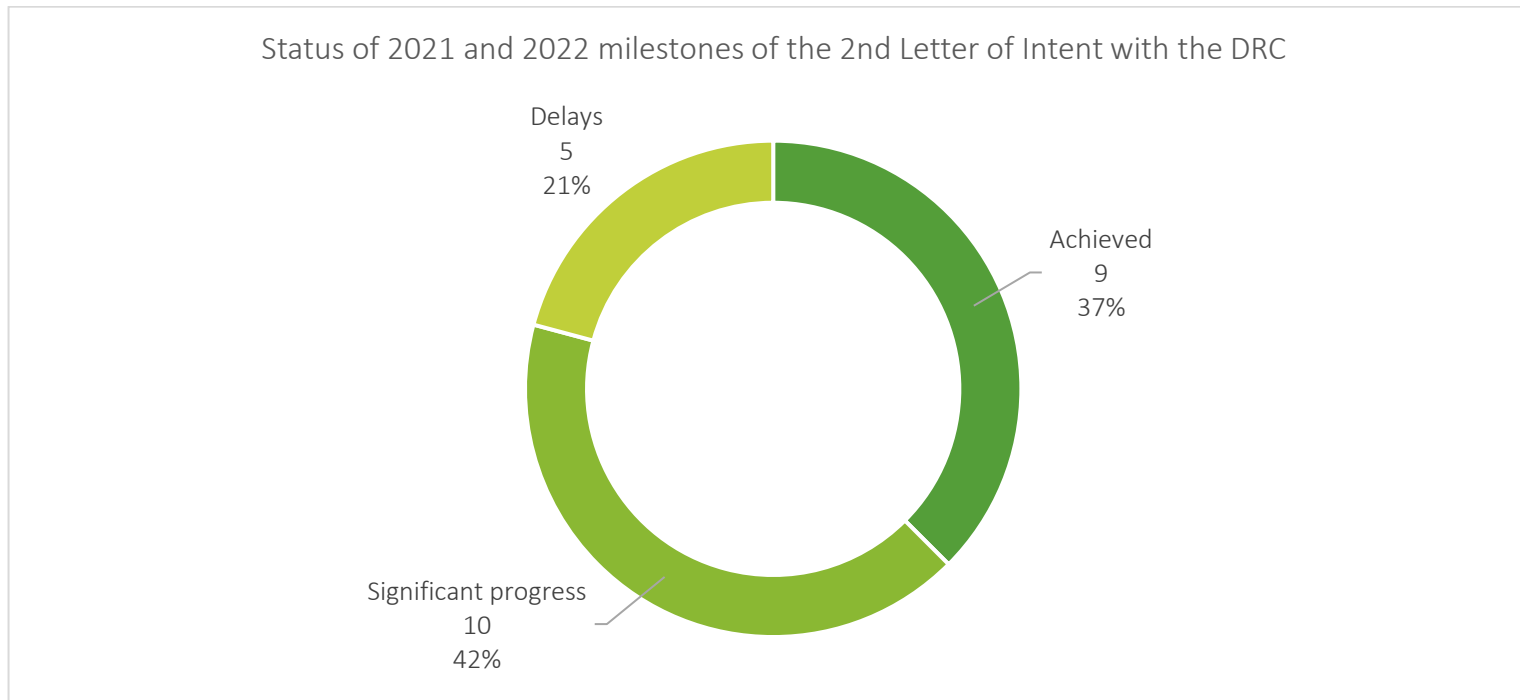


Figure 33 : status of 2021 and 2022 milestones of the 2nd Letter of Intent

¹⁰³ The status of 2018 milestones is reported in the 2021 Annual report

Agriculture

1st Letter of Intent

	By end 2018 ¹⁰⁴	By June 2020 ¹⁰⁵	By December 2020 ¹⁰⁶	By December 2021 ¹⁰⁷	By December 2022
2020 milestones					
Agriculture policy adopted	Not evaluated	Sust. Agr project just started, long process ahead	Ibid	Official adoption of the policy is pending. Became a milestone for end 2022 in the 2 nd Letter of Intent.	Became a milestone in the 2 nd letter of intent, see below
System to monitor major deforestation events available on Terra Congo	Not evaluated	Not evaluated, information considered scattered	System not publicly available	SNSF web portal: www.rdc-snsf.org/portal/# ; Forest cover change maps (2014-2016 and 2016-2018); Provincial deforestation estimates	unchanged

2nd Letter of Intent

Ambitions were renewed by end 2021 for this outcome, through the 2021-2031 Letter of Intent. As seen in the table below, the two 2022 Agriculture milestones have been fulfilled. Indeed, the World Bank made these two milestones'

¹⁰⁴ As assessed by the 1st independent verification. The same applies to matrices for all outcomes

¹⁰⁵ As assessed by the 2nd independent verification. The same applies to matrices for all outcomes

¹⁰⁶ As assessed by the FONAREDD Secretariat. The same applies to matrices for all outcomes

¹⁰⁷ As assessed by the FONAREDD Secretariat

conditions for its budget support to the government. Ensuring consistency between the legislation being considered in the March 2023 parliamentary session and the direction of the Agricultural Policy is the major challenge for this milestone during 2023.

Milestone	Status by end 2022
<p>The Agricultural Policy is adopted [in the Ministerial Council] by the [end of 2022], integrating the principles of Land Use Planning and the protection of forests and peatlands (cf. Forest pillar), and promoting the development of sustainable commercial agriculture in savannah areas.</p>	<p>Achieved. Final version of the sustainable agriculture policy available; Finalization of the SESA: Draft SESA report available and submitted on Dec. 15, 2022 by MINAGRI to ACE for validation (here is a letter of transmission); Validation of the PAD in the Council of Ministers: Letter from the MinAGRI to the SG of the Government and Letter from the SG for inclusion on the agenda of the Council of Ministers.</p>
<p>Agricultural concession contracts are published at least every year on the Sector Ministry website and are accessible to the public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>The National Agricultural Advisory Council is in place and operating by the [end of 2022].</p>	<p>Achieved. The NACC decree on the composition, organization and operation of the National Advisory Council on Agriculture has been issued.</p>
<p>A map of potential sustainable agricultural production, integrating the preservation of forests and peatlands, is prepared for key cash crops [for example coffee, cocoa, palm oil, rubber, etc] by the [end of 2023], and based on the study made of the agricultural potential in the framework of the Land Use Planning Pillar.</p>	<p>To be assessed in 2023</p>
<p>A participatory process of consideration and definition of the medium-sized (intermediate) agriculture, its specific requirements, and the manner to accompany it to reduce its impact on forests while responding to the country's requirements, in line with the objectives of this Letter of Intent, on the base of the specific context of the DRC and supported by good international practices in similar countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

The Sector Ministry formally notifies the development partners and Provincial Governors to ensure the consistency between public development assistance programs on the one hand and the provincial programs including the public and private investments, and on the other hand, the orientation of the national agricultural policy as well as the requirements of the Land Use Plans/Schemes [especially those developed in the framework of the PIREDD] by the [end of 2023].	To be assessed in 2023
A plan or roadmap to gradually increase the domestic budgetary allocation and execution to the agricultural sector is adopted by the [end of 2023].	To be assessed in 2023

Challenges

Practically all provincial projects reported constraints on supplying agricultural intrants, the quality of seeds, their multiplication and distribution.

The formulation of the Agricultural policy will need to ensure that the reduction of the dependance on the import of agricultural products is taken into account.

Energy

1st Letter of Intent

2020 milestones			End 2020	End 2022
Revised Energy policy	Not assessed	Not assessed	Roadmap launched and data being collected	Became a milestone in the 2 nd letter of intent, see below
Improved cookstoves (ICS) used in 10% of households	Not assessed	Objective impossible to attain, although a	Incubator Fund and Energy projects have	Over 90,000 clean cooking solutions

		dynamic was initiated by the FIP	started the sale of cookstoves, but no relative %	
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2nd Letter of Intent

Ambitions on Energy were renewed with the 2nd Letter of Intent. As per the table below, the two energy outcome milestones to be achieved by the year 2022 are still in progress. The current priorities of the energy pillar are the development and adoption of a legal, regulatory and fiscal framework for liquefied petroleum gas as well as the planning and implementation of master plans for woodfuel supply with clear multi-stakeholder institutional support for their piloting and implementation.

Energy milestone	Status by end 2022
<p>An intersectoral coordination mechanism on the issue of sustainable energy, that includes clean cooking, is defined by a legal act and made operational by the end of [2023], with at least [1 or 2] annual meeting(s) from [2022] and a clarification of the respective mandates and necessary synergies by [end of 2023].</p>	<p>In progress. The decree for the creation of a unique working group on LPG and Wood-Energy aspects was already available. But it was proposed to consider the integration of Woodfuels aspects in the missions of the National Energy Commission. Reflections on the purpose of this mechanism continue.</p>
<p>The National Energy Policy is developed and validated in the Council of Ministers by [end of 2022], integrating clean cooking with a view to reducing the impact on natural forests.</p>	<p>In progress. A national energy policy document was validated in a National workshop on 9 December 2022 and is at the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment level.</p>
<p>The Energy Policy recognises the importance of establishing fuelwood supply master plans, with clear multi-stakeholder institutional support for managing their implementation</p>	
<p>The legal, regulatory and fiscal framework for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), is adopted by [2023].</p>	<p>To be assessed in 2023</p>
<p>A plan or roadmap is adopted by [end of 2023] aiming at gradually increasing the allocation and execution of the national budget in support of the implementation of this Letter of Intent in the energy sector</p>	<p>To be assessed in 2023</p>

Forest sector

1st Letter of Intent

2020 milestones	Status as of 31 December 2022
Adopted forest policy	Not achieved. Became a 2023 milestone in the 2 nd Letter of Intent
Revised forest code	Not achieved. Became a 2023 milestone in the 2 nd Letter of Intent
Illegal logging stabilized	Not measured. Adapted in 2 nd Letter of Intent (EITI)
Provincial FREL submitted to the UNFCCC	Achieved at national level
Biennial Update Report submitted to the UNFCCC	Validated since 2019 but not submitted

2nd Letter of Intent

Ambitions were renewed by end 2021 for this outcome, through the 2021-2031 Letter of Intent. As per the table below, the Forest objective pillar has a total of 9 milestones: 1 milestone for the year 2021, 7 for the year 2022 and 1 for 2023. The 2021 milestone and one 2022 milestone have been fully achieved; five milestones are in progress, 1 milestone postponed for 2023, and 1 not achieved.

The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development is committed to ensuring the consultation and inclusion of forestry stakeholders in the proper development of projects (revision of the legality of contracts, forestry policy, forestry capital study, macro-zoning, etc.). It will forward to the Council of Ministers for validation the proposed revisions to the Decree establishing the National Forestry Advisory Council and will organize regular meetings to gather the opinions and recommendations of stakeholders, including on the processes underway to revise the legality of contracts.

Milestone	Status by 31 December 2022
The 2020 audit report of the Inspection Générale des Finances, to be published on a publicly available website before the end of 2021.	Achieved. Report published in April 2022
Define by 2025, by means of a participatory and multi-sectoral process: (i) the concept of high-value forests and peatlands; (ii) provide them with a legal protection status iii) provide them with associated rules of use and management aiming at the conversation of forest cover and its stock of carbon, differentiated	

<p>by sectors (agriculture, mines and hydrocarbons, etc.) and actors (local communities, large scale private sector, etc.); (iv) Identify them spatially. This process will take into consideration the good local, national, and international practices regarding the consideration and valuation of carbon stocks and biodiversity values. It will aim to: (a) at a preliminary technical definition by the end of 2022; (b) a validation of the latter accompanied by a spatial identification and preliminary rules of use and management by the end of 2023, and a complete and participatory spatial identification by 2025.</p>	
<p>The conditions to launch¹⁰⁸ the Sustainable Forest Management Program are achieved by 31 January 2022.</p>	<p>Achieved. Appointment of National SFMP Coordinator (Nov. 2022). Organization of the work between the MEDD (Dircab & SG) and the firm hired to define the roadmap for 2023 (Nov. 2022) Organization of the SFMP launch workshop on Dec. 5, 2022.</p>
<p>The legal review of forestry concessions for industrial operations¹⁰⁹ is completed by mid-2022 in consultation with the various stakeholders; the results published; and the forestry concessions that are judged illegal with regard to the national legislation, are canceled by [end of 2022]. The achievement of this milestone is a prerequisite for any new allocation and reallocation of industrial forest concessions.</p>	<p>Draft report discussed in a multi-stakeholder workshop in June 2022 and report circulated in September 2022; Final report of the review transmitted to the Monitoring Committee.</p>
<p>A legal review of the conservation forestry concession titles is completed by the [end of 2024], and considers notably agreements on social clauses, management plans and taxation, together with the different stakeholders of civil society; with the results published as soon as the review is finalized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accelerate the work of the Contract Review Board to have an interim report available for consultation; - Notification of draft decisions, appeals, deadlines and additional information; -Publication of the final results.

¹⁰⁸ These are the seven conditions precedent to the payment of a first advance on the bank account of the PGDF, as determined by the directives for the award of AFD contracts financed in foreign countries and registered in Clause 5.6 of the CCD 1087 01 E and CCD 1098 01 G Financing Agreements signed on July 14, 2021, between the AFD and Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the DRC.

¹⁰⁹ As established in the 2019 Forest Sector Roadmap

	Session of the Commission for the examination of appeals.
The concept of degraded forests will be defined and identified for various types of forests in the DRC, in the framework of a national participatory and multisectoral process, by end 2023	
The concept of high-value forests and peatlands is defined through a participatory and multisectoral process, taking into account local, national, and international good practices on the consideration and valuation of the carbon stocks and biodiversity values by the [end of 2023];	
The forest sector is clearly and strongly integrated in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and in this regard, all the industrial and conservation operating concession contracts, and including the audit reports ¹¹⁰ , review, and observation missions, are published on a publicly available internet site by the [end of 2022].	<p>In progress. Needed action :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publish a first initial report 2022. ● Financial support to the EITI Coordination for the implementation of the 2023 roadmap for the production of the full EITI Forest Report (PTBA approved; HACT in progress). ● Establish a registry/cadastre of forest rights comparable to that of the Mines.
Evaluate the efficiency of forest law enforcement and develop provincial strategies on this basis for prioritising controls based on the risk of illegality, this to ensure a more efficient use of the limited resources of the central and deconcentrated and decentralise services of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) dedicated to forest control. In parallel, initiate thinking about the role of independent observers, mandated and non-mandated, under the National Forest Advisory Council framework to reinforce civil society support for forest monitoring, in coordination with the central, deconcentrated and delocalized services of the MEDD	

¹¹⁰ And including the Audit Report of 2020 of the General Inspection of Finances, to be published before the end of 2021.

<p>The Forest Policy is prepared and adopted by the [the end of 2023], resulting from a participatory and transparent process with all the stakeholders and, in particular, (i) the principles of land use planning and the protection of valuable forests and peatlands, as well as (ii) the local and community-based models of forest management.</p>	
<p>The Forest Code is revised by the [end of 2023] to integrate (i) the strategic orientations of the forestry policy, and including the advances and challenges related to the REDD+, the industrial, artisanal, and community management of the forests; (ii) the strengthening of the penalization of forestry and wildlife infractions; and (iii) the new dynamics of conservation, protection of the biodiversity, and nature-based solutions.</p>	
<p>Within the framework of allocation of new industrial forestry concessions, efficient measures of evaluation, quality standards, and procedures considered by the Forestry Code and its application texts (especially <i>Decree No. 08/09 of August 8, 2008, setting the attribution procedure for the forestry concessions and the Decree No. 011/25 of May 20, 2011, modifying the said Decree 08/09 of August 8, 2008</i> particularly in terms of (i) adjudication, (ii) a preliminary public inquiry, (iii) negotiation of the social clauses with the communities as part of the terms of reference, and (iv) independent observation of the process, are respected, as provided for in the regulatory framework for forest management.</p>	
<p>The decree formalising the lifting of the moratorium will be adopted only after the realisation, on the base of a consultative process, of the geographical programming¹¹¹ of future allocations in compliance with the Presidential Decree No. 05/116 of October 24, 2005], funded entirely by CAFI by the end of 2022.</p>	<p>See above: milestone n°2: effective start of the Sustainable Management of Forests project with definition and implementation of a 2023 roadmap.</p>

¹¹¹ Targeted land-use planning at the relevant national and/or provincial level identifying priority areas for forest sector development based on ecological, geographic, economic, social and financial criteria and taking into account the climate change. Financial support for this process will be provided entirely by CAFI.

<p>Prepare in a participatory manner and adopt a Plan by the [end of 2022] to ensure the effective protection of the existing protected areas and extend the areas under protection status to at least 30% of the national territory by 2030¹¹².</p>	<p>In progress : Strategy being developed with support from GIZ.</p>
<p>At least 5 million ha in total of Local Community Forest Concessions (CFCL) are allocated by [end of 2025], following best practices as defined in a <i>best practice guide</i> to be adopted by [end of 2023].</p>	<p>To be assessed in 2024</p>
<p>The data of forest deforestation and degradation generated at the provincial and national level by the SNSF, as well as the [key] data of the national forest inventory, are updated annually and gradually improved, after adoption of a unique methodology for the DRC, considering the new technologies and standards available, paying attention to the comparability between periods; they are made available on the Terra Congo platform by the [end of 2022], then annually.</p>	<p>Signed Ministerial Order No. 023 instituting the evaluation and dissemination of data every two years. The 2000-2020 DD data are not published.</p>
<p>The updated biannual reports (BUR) are submitted to the UNFCCC, integrating the most updated data issued for the national REDD+ process, considering the revised CDN.</p>	
<p>The National Advisory Council for Forests is operational and functional with a minimum of two sessions per year, and the Provincial Advisory Councils for Forests are functional in the PIREDD provinces by the [end of 2024], with at least two sessions per year.</p>	<p>To be assessed in 2024</p>
<p>The revised CDN is aligned with the most recent data from the national REDD+ process prior to submission to the UNFCCC, and the country meets its UNFCCC reporting commitments on a regular basis.</p>	
<p>The Forest Reference Emission Level of the DRC for reducing emissions from deforestation (FREL) is updated by the end of 2022 and submitted to the UNFCCC.</p>	<p>Not achieved. FREL published in 2018. In relation to the 5-year deadline, the FREL review is scheduled for 2023.</p>

¹¹² That could include, as defined by the DRC, the protected areas and their buffer zones, conservation concessions, areas dedicated by local communities to forest preservation in simple, participatory land use plans, etc.

Challenges and looking forward

In its dialogue with the DRC Government to outline the contours of a future partnership, CAFI continued to focus on the importance of respecting the commitments jointly made at the time of the signature of the previous Letter of Intent as well as those recorded in the Roadmap for Improvement in the Forest Sector agreed between the Government and all partners in the environment sector in the DRC in December 2019. This roadmap provides for a review of the legality of forest titles, through a study commissioned with the support of the European Union. The Prime Minister also asked the General Inspectorate of Finance to conduct an audit of forest concessions. The conclusions of these reports, that were made public in 2022, provided valuable context for the definition of meaningful partnership objectives and concrete recommendations to restore forest governance.

The Project on the Sustainable Management of Forests started its operations in 2022. The project aims to find solutions to the complex challenges of a sector marked by the largely informal nature of logging and the chronic lack of human and financial resources to enforce the law, resulting in the unsustainable management of this vast resource. The Government of the DRC has committed to a review and discussion by the National Consultative Council on Forests at each stage of this central reform. This Council brings together all concerned stakeholders, an unprecedented innovation. In the meantime a review of the legality of forest titles, was conducted in 2021 by an external auditing firm recruited through a process involving the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the European Union and the National REDD+ Fund. First meetings of the National Consultative Committee on Forests (*CCNF in French*) were organized with strengthened participation of the private and public sector and national and international civil society.

Mining and hydrocarbons

Mining and hydrocarbon investments should adopt and implement REDD+ standards in forest areas to prevent, reduce or compensate their impacts on forests. The FONAREDD has planned a 5 M USD project to strengthen the legal, institutional and operational process in place on the protection of the environment and implementation measures. This workstream was suspended pending the signature of the new agreement.

Status of the milestones of the Letter of Intent

Intermediate milestones (2018)	Status		
	2018 ¹¹³	June 2020	End 2022
REDD+ standards defined	Partial	Not achieved	No significant progress but new milestones in 2 nd Letter of Intent
Final milestone (2020)			
REDD+ standards adopted, disseminated and implemented	Not assessed	Not achieved	

2nd Letter of Intent

Ambitions were renewed by end 2021 for this outcome, through the 2021-2031 Letter of Intent

Mining and hydrocarbon milestones	Status by end 2022
All contracts of hydrocarbon concessions are published, in compliance with the Agreement between the Government of the DRC and the EITI by the end of 2022.	Achieved
To demonstrate the implementation of the legal obligations to undertake social and environmental evaluations by operators practicing in the sector of hydrocarbons, mines, forest, agriculture, infrastructures and energy, etc	
To respect the ban of all hydrocarbon activity incompatible with the objectives of conservation in protected areas, in compliance with the legal framework in force ¹¹⁴ .	
To realize, with a view to supporting the land-use planning process, an analysis determining to what extent mining and hydrocarbon titles overlap with and/or have an impact on protected areas, high-value forest and peatlands, as to adopt appropriate measures of prevention or mitigation, and to publish and apply the results which emerge from this by the end of 2023.	To be assessed in 2023

¹¹³ As assessed by the independent verification

¹¹⁴ Article 25 of Law number 14/003 of February 11, 2014 concerning the conservation of nature.

To condition all hydrocarbon investment in the buffer zones of protected areas on the fact that there is no negative incidence in protected areas, and subject these investments to a prior social and environmental impact study, associated with its duly approved management plan, complying with the legal framework in force¹¹⁵.

The REDD+ Standards¹¹⁶ are developed in a participatory manner, adopted and integrated in the Manual of Operations and Procedures of Social and Environmental Evaluation, taking into account the best national and international practices in relation to the prevention, attenuation and compensation (in order of priority) of the direct and indirect negative impact of hydrocarbon investments, by the end of 2023. The REDD+ standards are linked to an independent audit mechanism.

To be assessed in 2023

¹¹⁵ Article 19 of Law number 14/003 of February 11, 2014 concerning the conservation of nature.

¹¹⁶ Social and environmental standards limited to the impact on forest ecosystems.

Land use planning

Status of the Land Use planning milestones

Final milestones (2020)	By end 2018 ¹¹⁷		End 2020	End 2022
Land use planning policy respects forest resources and provincial rights. Directives schemes for land use planning at national level and in all areas with integrated projects	Not assessed		Land use planning Policy adopted by the Council of Ministers in July. Draft Law validated in January 2020, adopted by the Council of Ministers and submitted for approval. 3 provincial schemes elaborated.	Land policy adopted Became milestone in 2 nd letter of Intent

2nd Letter of Intent

Ambitions were renewed by end 2021 for this outcome, through the 2021-2031 Letter of Intent. As per the table below, the land-use planning outcome has a total of eleven milestones, 4 of which are for the year 2022. Of these 4 milestones, 1 has been achieved and 3 are in progress. In the realization of the milestones of this pillar, the main bottleneck is the fact that in the examination of the draft law on land use planning, the parliament required the opinion of the Constitutional Court to rule on the constitutionality of such a law.

Milestone	Status by end 2022
The Law on Land Use Planning is promulgated by the President of the Republic by end 2022;	Draft law on LUP declared admissible by the National Assembly during the session of Sept 2021; debated in plenary during the session of March 2022; reservation issued by the National Assembly which requested the opinion of the Constitutional Court to rule on the constitutionality of this draft law;

¹¹⁷ As assessed by the independent verification

	Bill to be placed on the docket for the March 2023 legislative session;
<p>the National Council for Land-use Planning (<i>CNAT in French</i>) is set up by mid-2022 by a legal act, that also defines its missions, its organization and its functioning as a multi-sector structure for consultation, orientation, advice and assistance to the government, ensuring synergies with other existing structures including the National Commission for Land Reform; a first meeting of the CNAT is organized by [end of 2022] and a meeting is held at least annually afterwards; Provincial and Local Land Use Planning Councils (CPAT and CLAT in French) are set up by legal acts in at least two pilot provinces by [end of 2023], and in all the other PIREDD by the end of 2026.</p>	In progress : The establishment of the CNAT depends on the adoption of the law by the Ass. Nat. and its promulgation by the President of the Republic.
<p>A national directory of soil and subsoil natural resources, in terms of inventories of natural, renewable and non-renewable resources, is performed by the end of 2023 on the basis of the information provided by the sectoral ministries by 2022, and makes it possible to draw up a preliminary draft of the Land Use Planning Atlas bringing together the cartographic representation of the directory data as well as the existing sector allocations and those projected</p>	Directory outline approved by the Council of Ministers on June 17, 2022.
<p>Regarding existing land use disputes, an arbitration process is initiated and driven, in compliance with the law, by the relevant competent authority (Prime Minister, Provincial Governor, local authority) on the basis of directives proposed by the regional planning council of the level concerned (national, provincial or local) for at least [2-5] allocation conflicts in priority protected areas.</p>	

Tenure

1st Letter of Intent

Final milestones (2020)				End 2021	End 2022
Land tenure policy adopted	Not assessed		Draft 2 of the policy elaborated and draft 1 of the Law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National land policy integrating the concerns of indigenous peoples adopted in 2021 after broad consensus at the provincial and national levels (in the 26 provinces of the DRC); • Approval of the land policy document by the Land Reform Steering Committee. 	Achieved. Land tenure policy adopted, milestone in 2 nd Letter of Intent

2nd Letter of Intent

Ambitions were renewed by end 2021 for this outcome, through the 2021-2031 Letter of Intent. As per the table below, the 2022 Milestone on adoption of the Land tenure Policy was achieved. In 2023 are expected the adoption and publication of the national land plan, the adoption of the land law and the finalization of the land information system and its application tools.

Milestone	Status by end 2022
A national Land Tenure Policy is adopted by [the end of 2022] and linked to a national land plan for implementation, adopted and published by [the end of 2023].	Achieved
The Land Information System (<i>Système d'informations foncières - SIF</i>) and its tools for enforcement in urban and rural environments are developed and adopted by [the end of 2023], taking into account vulnerable people, including indigenous peoples, women and others.	

The procedures of land attribution take into account the pre-existing rights and requirements of the country in the area of land-use planning in force, as well as environmental obligations such as those defined in the law. In particular, as defined in the draft of land tenure policy, strengthening the preliminary inquiry system, and in particular integrating into it the principle of free, prior and informed consent, of the compensation of losses or restriction of local tenure rights and the organization of simplified remedies benefiting local peoples who might suffer harm.

Demography

1st Letter of Intent

Intermediate milestones (2018)	Status by end 2018	Status by June 2020	Status by end 2021	Status by end 2022
National plan implemented in areas targeted by the National Strategy	Not assessed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,533,106 years of CYP protection generated through PROMIS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unconfirmed figures ¹¹⁸ of CYP 3,921,769 CYP. It is estimated that this represents 45% of family planning solutions offered in the DRC

2nd Letter of Intent

Ambitions were renewed by end 2021 for this outcome, through the 2021-2031 Letter of Intent. In 2023, FONAREDD plans to identify an entity in the Ministry of Planning whose fiduciary and management capacities have been evaluated and judged sufficient to sign a letter of agreement and accelerate the achievement of the milestones.

Milestone	Status by end 2022
The National Population Committee (<i>Comité national de population - CONAPO</i>), including its Technical Secretariat, is revitalized by the end of 2022, and its local and provincial boards are revitalized and/or installed in at least six target provinces by the end of 2023, and at least four others by the end of 2025, to frame the development of the Policy, ensuring the coordination and framing of multisectoral planning in terms of linkage between questions of population and	Not achieved

¹¹⁸ Annual report of PROMIS-PF not submitted by the time of writing this report

sustainable development, namely its economic, social and environmental dimensions, with the objective of making the DRC an intermediate economic country by 2035

The National Population Policy is updated and adopted by [the end of 2024], including the demographic aspect, with a view to accelerating the demographic transition, seizing the demographic demand and better evaluating and optimizing the impact of population growth on all the areas of development, including the economic dimension, the fight against poverty and inequality and the sustainable development of natural resources

In progress

The new Multisectoral Strategic Plan for family planning for the period 2021-2025 is finalized and adopted by [early-2022] to accelerate the demographic transition through a rights-based approach

Achieved

A national strategy of raising of awareness of sexual and reproductive health is developed integrating the elements of the National Communications Strategy for the promotion of family planning (adopted in 2021), taking account of the associated socio-cultural concerns and the questions of population and development, and adopted by [the end of 2023].

To be assessed in 2023

An agreement protocol is concluded between the Ministry of Health and financial and technical partners, to support the implementation of the Multisectoral Strategic Plan for family planning 2025, so as to facilitate a substantial increase in family planning services through complementary private and public approaches.

An Advocacy Plan with the Government to (i) gradually increase the allocation and execution of the domestic budget to family planning, in line with the existing governmental decision, and to (ii) allocate a constant line of credit to CONAPO, is adopted by [the end of 2023].

To be assessed in 2023

To maximize internal and external advocacy, the national coordination of the Permanent Multisectoral Technical Committee (CTMP) for family planning is revitalized and is functional by the end of the first quarter of 2022, In compliance with its statutes of internal regulation

Governance

1st Letter of Intent

Final Milestone (2020)			End 2021	End 2022
Alignment of external interventions to the National REDD+ Strategy and investment framework	Not assessed	Not assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Territorial planning policy adopted by the Council of Ministers; ▪ National Land Policy adopted by the Steering Committee; ▪ National Agricultural Policy Draft 1 ▪ Roadmap of the National Energy Policy developed ▪ Forest policy development process launched ▪ Benefit sharing under development (CNREDD) and FPIC manual ▪ Progressive alignment of agencies on REDD through co-financing of sectoral programs (AFD for the SFMP) and PIREDDs (JICA for the PIREDD Kwilu and GIZ for the PIREDD Maniema). 	Land use planning policy and land tenure policies adopted, Bill on Sustainable Management of Agriculture A national energy policy document was validated on 9 December 2022

2nd Letter of Intent

Ambitions were renewed by end 2021 for this outcome, through the 2021-2031 Letter of Intent. The governance outcome has 13 milestones, including four 2022 milestones, of which one has already been achieved, two are in progress and one has not been achieved.

Milestone	Progress by end 2022
The Government will suggest in 2022 to the IMF and the World Bank to integrate certain commitments of this Letter of Intent through the monitoring mechanisms of these partners, thus ensuring consistency in the conduct of reforms	Achieved : Integration of Letter of Intent milestones into WB budget support;

	Proposal of milestones for the Letter of Intent by the Government and by the EB of CAFI in exchanges with FMI on RST.
A legal review of exploration licenses and hydrocarbon contracts is performed by 2023 in consultation with the various stakeholders, and its results are published and applied by the end of 2025	To be assessed in 2023
The tools for payment for ecosystem services are piloted in at least 3 PIREDD by end 2023	To be assessed in 2023
By the end of 2023, at least 3 PIREDD provinces are supported to define, in an open, participatory and inclusive manner, provincial and local development plans, integrating the priorities of this Letter of Intent as per the National REDD+ Framework Strategy, with a view to consolidating the response to the drivers of deforestation and to provide direction to the land use planning process at different levels	To be assessed in 2023
A pilot model of the special economic zones and its plan of mobilisation of domestic and foreign resources is defined and adopted by the end of 2023	To be assessed in 2023
A mechanism of monitoring and evaluation of the participation of stakeholders (women, indigenous peoples, local communities and others) is defined and implemented by the end of 2022	In progress : Each program funded by FONAREDD develops a mechanism to ensure broad participation and inclusion of vulnerable segments of the population in the implementation of activities.
A review of the legal texts of inclusive governance at the local level is performed by the end of 2023 under the coordination of the Ministries of Planning and Rural Development, so as to clarify the institutional aspects, the function of coordination of activities, the role and responsibilities of the structures of representation of actors in local governance (including CLAT, CARG, CLD etc), while preserving the sectoral inclusiveness of local processes and the representativeness of stakeholders	To be assessed in 2023
A plan to mobilise domestic resources is defined and adopted by end 2022, to contribute to the implementation of this Letter of Intent. This plan will inform the development of a new Strategy of Medium-Term Revenue Mobilisation (Stratégie de Mobilisation des Recettes à Moyen Terme - SRMT) in partnership with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)	In progress : Funding with interest from the CAFI Fund of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o World Bank <i>Climate Change Development Report</i> (need for RST trigger) o WB regional project on the development of indicators integrating climate change for budget planning and macroeconomic risk management; - PIMA (public investment management assessment) integrating climate indicators; IMF / RST: Government proposals included "measure" on climate indicator

<p>A mobilisation of private investment plan is defined and adopted by [the end of 2022], to contribute to the implementation of this Letter of Intent</p>	<p>Not achieved. Risk: no vision and strategy for mobilizing private funding and therefore 1) missed opportunities; 2) lack of leverage of grant resources; 3) lack of capacity to develop ambitious impact programs (e.g., Energy).</p>
<p>Innovative non-domestic resources are mobilised for the implementation of REDD+ priorities, in the form of direct contributions, co-financing and alignment</p> <p>The Law on Indigenous peoples is finalised and adopted, and its texts of priority application defined, developed and approved.</p>	

6.1.4 Risks and challenges in the DRC

Programmatic risks

- The overall performance of some projects, including due to long internal procedures of implementing organisations to ensure quality control, continued to remain mixed. To help mitigate this risk, the Technical Committee (in which CAFI participates) carried on it strengthened its role in project oversight and mobilized the senior management of the IOs to alert on projects performances.
- Security risks in the Ituri province continued to be high in 2022, impacting the delivery of the PIREDD Orientale
- Coordination between different projects when the costs and time required for such coordination have not been included in the project documents. While previously addressed partially through a Framework for Exchange and Collaboration put in place by the Executive secretariat of the FONAREDD, these exchanges stopped in 2022.
- Delays in the development of the new DRC-CAFI partnership and, consequently, in the new Programming. To mitigate this risk, FONAREDD and CAFI launched a national EOI call in May 2022 to collect project proposals and validate strategic notes. Sectorial consultations were also organized on the objectives of the new Letter of Intent.
- The operational context of FONAREDD in a restructuring phase could have a negative impact on the programming and execution capacity of FONAREDD. To mitigate this risk, a roadmap has been put in place by CAFI and FONAREDD to ensure the proper functioning of governance bodies pending the finalization of the process and mobilization of temporary expertise to meet programming and review needs.
- Delays in the disbursement of the second tranche of the projects, due to delays in the completion of the mid-term evaluations of the programs and in the decision-making by the governance structures of FONAREDD. To mitigate this risk, planning process tools are being used. However, the risk continues to remain, and consultations continue with agencies for anticipatory planning of programmatic and financial needs.

Reputational risks

- With the Letter of Intent signed at the highest level with significant funding, media attention is likely to increase, leading to some reputational risks when delays occur. To respond to these risks, the policy dialogue at high level - between CAFI donor Ambassadors and Ministers - should remain at the same level as was undertaken during the negotiations of the Letter of Intent.

On the other hand, a number of “contextual risks” listed in the Risk Management dashboard can be assessed as decreasing in probability thanks to the activities of projects under implementation. Therefore, risks related to increase in wood energy, inadequate land use planning and tenure rules, and uncoordinated forest and agriculture sectors should be increasingly mitigated.

Challenges and recommendations

- Mobilizing and retaining high-quality national and international expertise for the implementation of the projects remains a lengthy and challenging process
- Finding the balanced between expectation in terms of speed, cost and quality of implementation with tight budgets remains a challenge. In other words, nevertheless, monitoring missions and continuous dialogues and trust building with implementing organizations have helped boost the performance of some projects.
- With a view to requiring more accountability from implementing organizations towards the REDD+ specifications, the FONAREDD governance bodies and the CAFI and FONAREDD secretariats are actively working on the development of SOPs including with regards to payment for environmental services (PES) which is based on the performance of the actors on the results defined beforehand.
- While waiting for all these tools to be put in place, measures are being taken at the CT level to demand results from less efficient projects. This is particularly the case for GDA, PARAT, PARF, PIREDD Oriental, PIREDD Equateur, PIREDD Mongala and PIREDD Maniema.
- In terms of management, the governance bodies and experts from the CAFI and FONAREDD secretariats invite greater commitment in accordance with the performance indicators and criteria defined in the project documents and partnership agreements.

6.2 Gabon

A. Background

Gabon has preserved the majority of its rainforest since the early 2000s with the creation of 13 national parks. The country has made significant advances in sustainable management of its timber resources outside the parks. As a result,

whilst it only houses 12% of the Congo Basin forests, Gabon hosts almost 60 percent of the surviving forest elephants in Africa – a key indicator of sound natural resource governance. In its expected new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Gabon seeks to reduce its emissions by more than 50% compared to 2005 – effectively cutting by half the emissions from the forest sector.

In June 2017, **the Government of Gabon and the CAFI signed a Letter of Intent for 18 million US dollars** on the basis of the Gabon Investment plan, to allow the country to meet its 50% emission reduction target, better plan and monitor the use of land and protect over 23 million hectares of tropical rainforest - nearly 90% of its national territory. Achieving the objective set in Gabon’s Intended NDC will only be possible by preventing the conversion of high-carbon stock and high conservation value forest and limiting the conversion of forests outside of this category. Milestones to be reached include targets such as 50% economy-wide emission reductions compared to 2005, the non-conversion of HCS/HCV forests and the setting of “a long-term cap on carbon-neutral conversion of non-HCS/HCV forests, with no more than 10,000 ha converted on an annual basis”.

B. Policy dialogue

An Annual review of the Partnership was conducted in Libreville in July 2022 during which 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), Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux du Gabon (ANPN), and Agence gabonaise de Normalisation met. Three project steering committee meetings also took place in 2022. 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.

B. Portfolio overview

CAFI’s ongoing partnership with Gabon is characterized by several sets of actions:

- Phase 1 (“Gabon- CAFI 1”): The ongoing 18.4M US\$ project approved in 2018 Gabon to “develop, adopt and implement a National Land Use Plan (PNAT) and a National Observation System for Natural Resources and Forests (SNORF) that will contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions from LULUCF in Gabon “
- Phase 2 (Gabon- CAFI 2): US \$ 12 million committed to 2 projects approved in 2020
- Phase 3 (Gabon - CAFI 3): Following the signing of a landmark US\$ 150 million agreement for results-based funding in 2021, five projects funded by results-based payments were approved by Gabon’s National Climate Council in

2022 under the validated National Investment Framework. An accreditation process of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was completed by the CAFI Secretariat to allow funding transfers.

D. Funding per outcome in Gabon

CAFI's investment in Gabon are, predictably considering the context, Letter of Intent and deforestation and degradation drivers, focused on forest monitoring, governance and conservation (71%) and land use planning (19%), s shown in Figure 34.

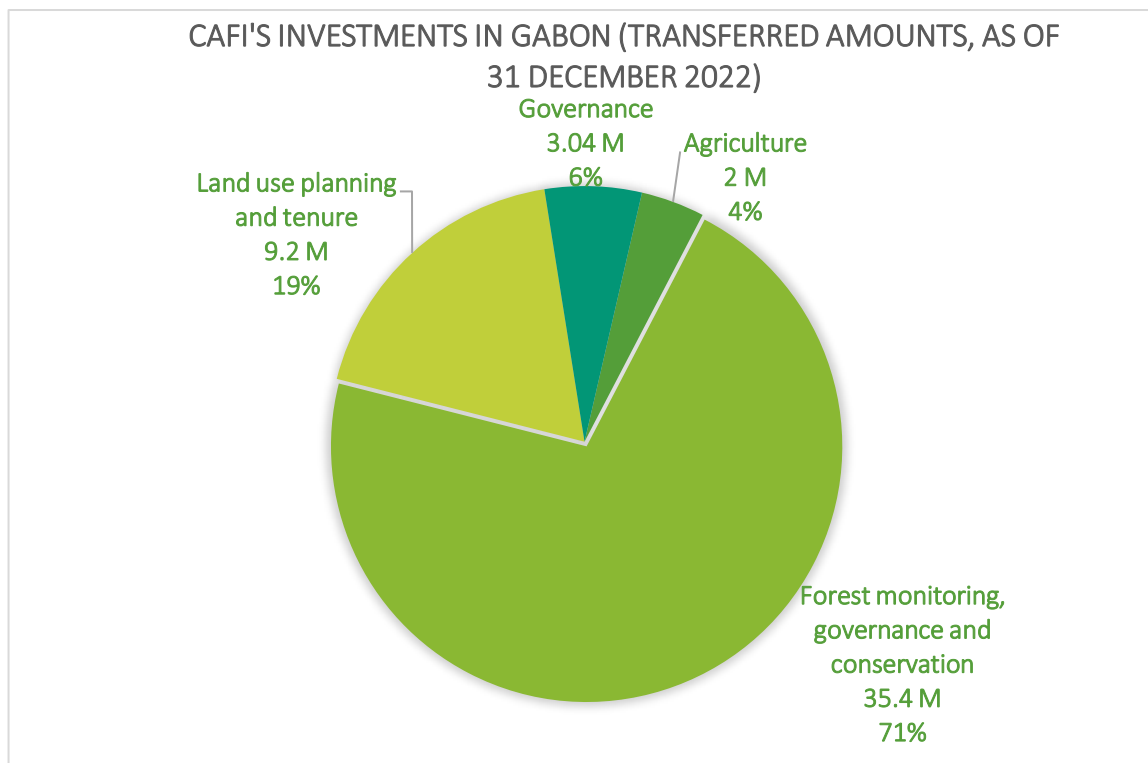


Figure 34: CAFI's investments in Gabon by outcome (transferred amounts, US\$)

E. Main results in Gabon

1 CAFI Phase 1: First partnership under the 2017 letter of Intent

National Land Use Plan (PNAT) and a National Observation System for Natural Resources and Forests - AFD

The convention between AFD and the Government was signed in March 2019 (hence one year after the approval of the Project by the CAFI Executive Board), marking the operational beginning of the project. In addition, this project underwent a long inception period followed by a temporary freeze in 2021. The project resumed and is expected to end in August 2024. The release of the second tranche of the CAFI 1 project to AFD after meeting the disbursement conditions set by the EB was facilitated by CAFI's Secretariat in 2022.



Main results include:

- As part of the mapping and data management unit within the Gabonese Agency for Spatial Studies and Observations (AGEOS), a platform for visualizing GIS (Geographic Information System) data of the National Plan of Land Use (PNAT) has been put in place. This platform, which is still being improved, is available online here. <https://pnat.ageos.ga/>. This contributes to the compliance of land use data in the agriculture, fisheries, mining, water and energy sectors, forestry, conservation and infrastructure sectors.
- **117 villages in the Ogooué-Lolo province were mapped thanks to the provision of VHR satellite images** provided as part of the program. Four thousand four hundred hectares (**4400**) hectares of **disaggregated surfaces** have been mapped.
- An assessment of this data highlighted forest losses linked to logging estimated at 1695.87 ha for the second quarter and 2734.88 ha for the third quarter of 2022. Maps highlighting this trend have been produced.

- The National Parks Agency of Gabon (ANPN) launched a participatory mapping exercise in the province of Ogooué-Lolo. **A total of 446 villages were visited and participatory village maps are being finalized.**



- 4 botanical survey missions were carried out by the Herbar National du Gabon (HNG) in the provinces. A total of 254 collections of fertile plants were carried out during the general collection of the undergrowth and 20 transects of forest vegetation (200 m long by 5 m wide) were carried out, accompanied by the **collection of 400 tree specimens.**



See more in the project factsheet [here](#)



Although several risk categories were identified during the elaboration of the project, the ones that materialized and explain the observed delays were conflicts about some ineligible expenses that led to non-replenishment of program accounts for the financing of activities and a project freeze until October 2021, resulting in delays. Activities resumed in 2022 and financial and results delivery improved.



Source: Rapport annuel 2022 – Projet Planification Nationale de l’Affectation des Terres et Surveillance Forestière



D.2 CAFI 2: Two additional programs under the 2017 Letter of Intent

Improved Forestry Management: Implementation of a National Scale Certification Process in Gabon” - “Forest Certification Project

This US\$ 7 million project was originally developed as a collaboration between the Gabonese Ministry of Forests, the National Climate Council, and the French Development Agency to bring together relevant stakeholders from the public administration and private sector to define a new set of certification standards to be applied in the logging industry. In addition, a national legal unit will be put in place to follow up on whether certification procedures are respected, and its staff will receive legal training and advise on emission monitoring and analysis.



While the project was approved with AFD in 2020, protracted delays in fund transfers prompted the Minister of Forests to request a change in implementing agency to the Nature Conservancy, that was granted by the CAFI Board in 2021. The project activities are being revised for their **effective start in the second quarter of 2023**.

Protected Area Expansion and Land-use Optimization for Food Crop Production in Gabon

This US\$ 5 million project is implemented by the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture and National Climate Council (CNC) with UNDP and will tackle cross-border timber trafficking, by establishing **400 000 ha of new protected forest areas in border zones currently opened to logging and 500 000 hectares of forest concessions are reclassified as HCV forests**

The project will also help intensify crops, to improve food security without expanding production into forest areas with high carbon content. As part of this process, efforts will be made to strengthen the Agricultural Ministry’s technical capacity to reform the agricultural sector and participate in national land-use planning processes, to ensure that changes initiated are supported by rigorous institutional and legal structures. The national implementing partners are the Gabonese National Agency for National Parks (ANPN), the Agricultural Development Agency of Gabon (ADAG) and the Gabonese Studies and Space Observations Agency (AGEOS).



This project underwent a fast inception period. Activities since its July 2020 launch resulted in :

- Finalization of the recruitment of most personnel
- Procurement of equipment

-
- Bibliographic review of agricultural tenure.
 - Construction to build the Laboratory for soil analysis (in progress)
 - 10 field agents from the National Parks Agency (ANPN) were trained in natural resource inventory (IRN) methodologies
 - Agricultural Development Agency of Gabon (ADAG) staff in charge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were trained in drone and GPS remote control as well as in initiation to GIS such as ArcGis to prepare for data collection missions.
 - [Legal review of the agricultural tenure in Gabon](#)



Read more in the project factsheet [here](#)



Figure 35 : Photocredit UNDP – Expansion des aires protégées et optimisation de l'utilisation des terres au Gabon

D.3 CAFI 3 – Results - based payments and projects under the 2019 Addendum to the Letter of Intent

In 2021 Gabon received the first results-based payment for emission reductions under the 2019 Agreement¹¹⁹. In 2022, five new projects funded under the ("Gabon- CAFI 3") phase, or results-based payments phase, whose development was supported by CAFI were approved by Gabon's National Climate Council. These are:

¹¹⁹ The last pending payment condition, a Registry of carbon credits, will be designed by December 2021. 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.

Safeguarding and expanding Gabon's Protected areas network – with UNDP

This 9 M project, approved in 2022, aims to conserve and enhance the potential for carbon sequestration in forests by protecting important HCV and HCS forests from encroachment (National Protected Areas) and expanding the network of protected areas by:

- Completing the headquarters of the Technical Department located in Cape Santa Clara;
- Ensuring the monitoring of forests by aerial surveys;
- Protecting the parks from illegal activities;
- Supporting cross-border parks

Urban Greening – with UNDP and UNESCO

This 1.8 M project, approved in 2022, seeks to providing education and access opportunities of Urban Populations to Forested Gardens and City Parks. To enhance Gabon's carbon absorption potential and improve urban health and well-being, the project specifically aims to contributing to urban reforestation and the development of city parks with native species.

Forestry Management – with The Nature Conservancy

This 2.9 M project, approved in 2022, seeks to reduce GHG emissions and increased biomass sequestration from the forest sector through:

- 1) the development and implementation of a national forest certification and Community Forestry program and the implementation of sustainable management plans for logging concessions;
- 2) the fight against illegal logging and non-compliance with national forest laws through the creation and deployment of an elite Forest Law Enforcement Unit within the Ministry of Environment

Forest Ecosystem Research &Monitoring - with The Nature Conservancy

This 2.5M project, approved in 2022, seeks to reduce emissions from the forestry sector by setting up a fully operational National System for the Observation of Natural Resources and Forests (SNORNF) and a standardized monitoring framework and support for research sites and long-term ecological monitoring (LTERM)

Coordination - UNDP

This 1.5 M project, approved in 2022, seeks to strengthen institutions for coordination and implementation of climate programs and policies. Project staff is being recruited.

F. Milestones and partnership monitoring

As of December 31, 2022, 3 additional milestones of the Letter of Intent can be considered as achieved, giving a total of 13 milestones achieved since the start of the project, 10 partially achieved and 1 not achieved out of the 24 to be achieved. In total, of the 11 milestones globally achieved, 5 were achieved in 2020, 3 in 2021 and 3 in 2022.

The overall achievement rate of the milestones was 45.8%.

	Forest monitoring	Land use planning	Governance	Total
Met by 31 December 2022	4	6	3	13
Partially met by 31 December 2022	4	3	4	11
Not met by 31 December 2022	0	0	0	0

Figure 36: status of achievement of milestone per objective of the Gabon Letter of Intent

The reasons listed by the independent evaluators¹²⁰ for the partial or no achievement of milestones can be summarized as follows:

- The lack of widespread knowledge of the milestones by technical agents in the administration
- Delays in the implementation of the AFD- CAFI 1 Project on land use planning and forest monitoring, due to disagreements between the AFD and the administration, heavy procedures for acquisition that required a lengthy process of ownership by the project management unit, and slow recruitments
- A lack of correlation of certain milestones with activities of the AFD- CAFI 1 project
- Difficulty engagement of civil society
- Difficulty in accessing information

¹²⁰ An independent verification of the milestones was carried out in 2021 to examine the status and progress of achievements of 24 milestones

F. Risks and challenges

Implementation challenges and delays remained in 2022, with concerns about funds spent on salary while some scheduled field missions were not conducted.

As the CAFI portfolio in Gabon has expanded in scope and financial investments, so has the necessity to improve program harmonization – specifically in cross program planning, oversight, and implementation.

A general challenge for all eight CAFI projects in Gabon is the fact that they, by design, build on each other and are intricately linked by law and Gabon emissions reduction and forest protection strategy. Yet, given they are all implemented by different accredited agency partners, they are managed by steering committees and organizational structures that are not harmonized. This has resulted in lack of cross-program coordination and budget and personnel inefficiencies. The creation of a series of technical cross cutting workgroups, could be envisioned to ensure technical orientation, coordination, and synergy development among programs with highly related activities.

A large proportion of the responsibility for CAFI program implementation lies within the National Parks Agency. Given the general lack of cross-program harmonization and understanding regarding roles and responsibilities for project implementation and oversight, this could signal a significant challenge and potential bottleneck for project implementation. To remedy this, significant effort were made by the CAFI Secretariat to assisting the ANPN Executive Secretary and Technical Direction define CAFI program oversight needs, roles, and program management structures into the future.

6.3 Republic of Congo

A. Background

The Republic of the Congo has a high forest cover and area, estimated at more than 22 million hectares, or 65.4% of the land area. The gross annual deforestation rate is 0.07%, a historically low rate that is explained by economic growth based on the oil sector and the country's long-standing efforts to promote sustainable management of its forests.

The Republic of Congo intends to diversify its economy towards sectors based on land use, primarily agriculture but also the extractive sector, which is recorded in its National Development Plan (PND 2018-2022). The country has expressed its desire to put its development trajectory on a sustainable path, and to promote good management of natural resources, by preserving the forest, especially the most sensitive areas.

The commitments of the [Letter of Intent](#), signed on 3 September 2019 by President D. SASSOU-NGUESSO for the Republic of Congo, and President E. MACRON for France as representative of the Board of Directors, are ambitious and underline the strong will of the country to manage its natural resources in a sustainable way with in particular:

- National land use planning through a multisectoral and inclusive spatial planning process
- Orientation of agricultural activities in savannah areas
- Identification and commitment not to convert its high carbon stock (HCS) and high conservation value (HCV) forests;
- Commitment not to drain or dry out peatland areas. The partnership between CAFI and the Republic of Congo is most ambitious in its multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, thirteen ministries, including those with the most impact on the Congolese economy, are engaged to turn the goals of the Letter of Intent into policy and practice at all levels.

As per the CAFI regional trends and drivers study, deforestation and degradation seem to have stabilized since 2015 121, as seen in Figure 37 below. When/if this trend is confirmed with 2021 and 2022 data, it will mark an honoring of the Republic of Congo’s commitment in the Letter of Intent to cap deforestation under 20,000 ha per year.

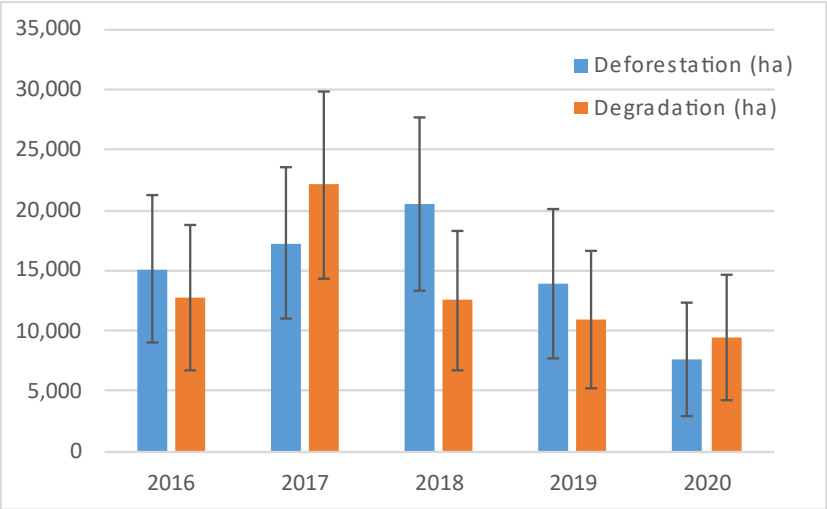


Figure 37: annual deforestation and degradation in republic of Congo. Preliminary data

121 Source : Validation workshop for republic of Congo, regional drivers study led by FAO.

B. Portfolio overview

Project	Amount	Lg	IO	Objective / Status /Comments
Projects approved & funds transferred – 29 MUSD (+29 MUSD GCF)				
Coordination support project	1.45	2	UNDP	Objective: Support a leadership, coordination and monitoring, that increase mobilisation and alignment of interventions and funding on the objectives of the letter of Intent Status: Approved in 2021, Funds transferred in November 2021. Duration: 24 months
National MRV system (SYNA MNV)	2	2	FAO	Objective: Modernize the National system for monitoring, reporting and verification so that it produces data that allow the monitoring of REDD+ in the DRC Status: Approved in 2021, funds transferred in November 2021. Duration: 24 months
Wood energy plantations (ProRep)	7 (Cofin. GCF)	5	FAO/ GRET	Objective: Strengthen the country's potential in sustainable wood energy for the Brazzaville consumption basin and Establish 2700 fast start wood energy plantations with subsistence agriculture Status: Approved in 2021. Duration: 60 months
Land Use planning governance	18.5 (+ AFD: 7 MEUR)	5	AFD	Objective: Support the Republic of Congo in the implementation of a town and country planning process and rural land use at the national level Status: Approved in November 2022 & funds transferred. Duration: 60 months
Projects approved & funds to be transferred in 2023 – 17.5 MUSD (+7 MEUR AFD)				
Improved Cook Stoves	1	3	ID	Status: Accreditation being finalized. Ongoing: updating and reviewing of the PRODOC with stakeholders
Land Use planning – Investment	16.5 (+AFD& EU:23M EUR)	5	AFD	Status: Initial PRODOC budget not compliant with EB Decision, revised PRODOC submitted Feb. 1st + conformity check shared by CAFI Sec. with AFD on Feb. 7, 2023. Awaiting AFD feedback on revised submission.

Figure 38 below showcases CAFI's investments, measured by funding transferred¹²² to projects until 31 December 2022. With the approval of two projects focused on land use planning, this outcome now dominates (63%) the mix. This outcome analysis shows that Land use planning dominates the mix, representing 64% of CAFI funding transfers

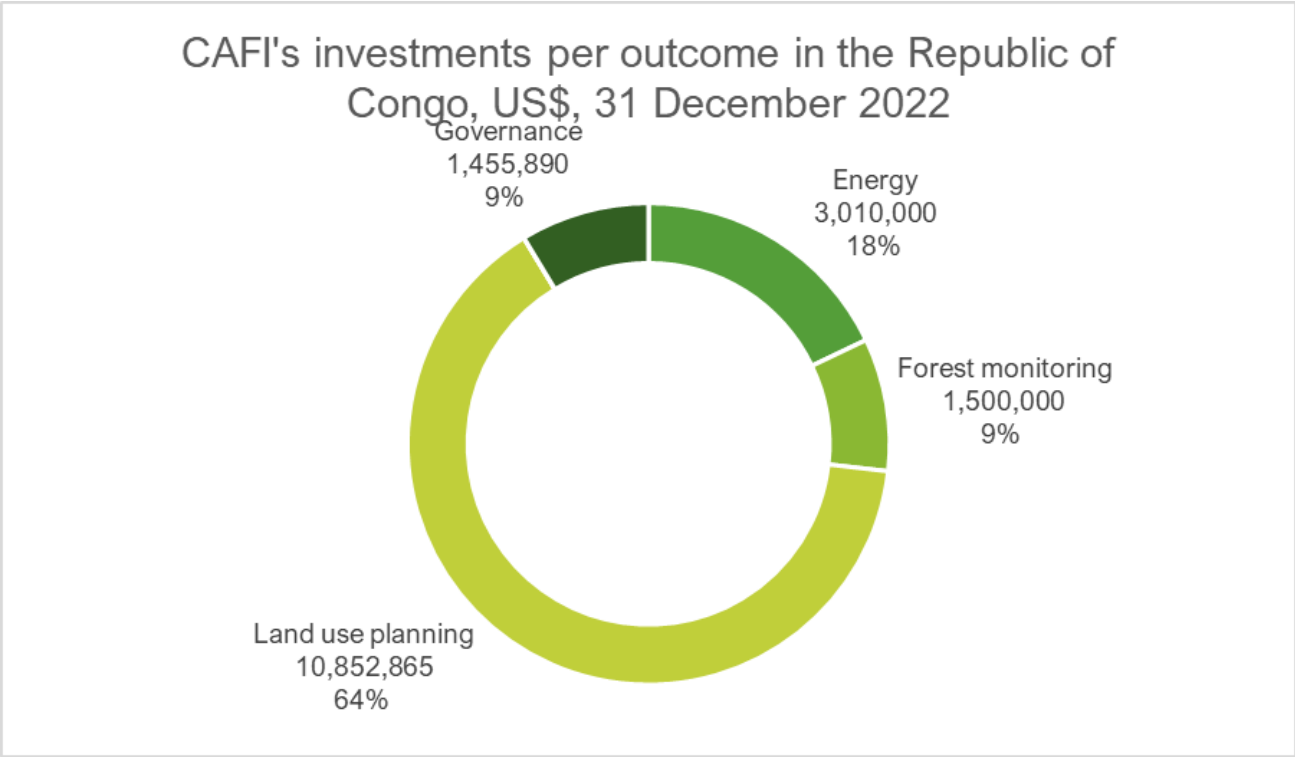


Figure 38: investments per outcome in the Republic of Congo

To note, the Energy outcome in the graph above does not include the project approved on improved coosktoves (“Lituka”), since accreditation of the NGO Initiative Development was not completed by end 2022.

¹²² As opposed to funding approved

The Energy outcome does not include the project approved on improved cookstoves (“Lituka”) as accreditation of the NGO Initiative Development was not completed by end 2022.

C. Progress and results

The CAFI Executive Board, in its decision EB.2019.16 of September 03, 2019, approved a minimum initial allocation of 65 million USD over the period 2019-2025, including 45 million USD from the CAFI Trust Fund and 20 million USD in additional bilateral financing. **CAFI has today committed 53.5 M USD** (i.e. 30.3 M CFA francs) for the development of a portfolio of 9 support projects under implementation or development, which has made it possible to mobilize in co-financing an additional amount of donations of approximately 64 M USD (i.e. 36 M F CFA) distributed between AFD, the EU and the GCF.

Portfolio development

Major advances have also been achieved in 2022 from a fund mobilization and implementation of financing from the CAFI Fund perspectives, namely:

- Following a call for expressions of interest launched in October 2021 on the support project for civil society engagement, the Executive Board, through decision EB.2022.02, selected UNDP as implementing agency
- The Sustainable Land Use Project (PUDT), led by AFD in partnership with the Ministry of Territorial Development, Infrastructure and Road Maintenance, with a CAFI Fund contribution of around USD 18 million was approved by CAFI’s EB (EB 20) + 23 MEUR of co-financing (EU + AFD). The funds were transferred on December 21, 2022, following the signature of the project document by all parties – official start date of the project;
- The Investment Project resulting from the Sustainable Land Use project was approved during EB 21 (following the Steering Committee (COFIL) meeting of the partnership) in December 2022
- The PREFOREST project (FAO-GRET/MEF) was formally launched during a high-level ceremony, in the presence of the Minister of Forest Economy, on 26 April 2022.

Milestones

In 2022, progress was made on many of the milestones, particularly in connection with EITI, governance, regulation of the forest sector and governance of the partnership although no milestone has been fully reached so far.

Results from active projects

Operationalization of the national MRV system (SYNA-MRV)

Due to implementation modalities issues, the first project Steering Committee did not meet in 2022 and activities were delayed. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the *Ministère de l'Économie Forestière* (MEF) and the FAO on institutional issues management is expected to be signed in early 2023. Training activities and the upgrading of the *Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement des Ressources Forestières et Fauniques* (CNIAF) are expected to start in the first quarter of 2023.

Some activities were however undertaken in 2022: a senior Project manager was recruited, the Inventory of the CNIAF's MRV unit was drafted, and a one-week training course on radar imagery for monitoring tropical forests to CNIAF (in collaboration with US Forest Service) facilitated.



More information in the project Factsheet [here](#)

Coordination support project

This 1.45 M project has so far achieved commitment of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Letter of Intent's objectives and the development and approval of an action plan to achieve and monitor the implementation of the letter of intent's milestones.

The project is however experiencing significant delays in the implementation of activities. A review of the project's governance arrangements (ii) recruitment of dedicated staff for the operationalization of activities and (iii) a review and adjustment of the annual workplan are therefore underway.



More information in the project Factsheet [here](#)

PROREP – Wood energy project

This XX M project received funding in February 07, 2022. In its first year of implementation and despite delays, the project has recorded several groundwork results in 2022:

- The Project Management Unit (PMU) including the Principal Technical Advisor and the Operations Manager were recruited; all project staff are expected to be starting in 2023's first quarter; The signing of a memorandum of understanding with the GRET association, as implementing partner for all plantation-related operations; The production of 600,000 Acacia seedlings in nursery in order to reach the objective of 500 ha of planting as planned during the first growing season 2022/23; The diagnosis needed to identify the beneficiaries of the project in 11 villages has been carried out.



More information in the project Factsheet [here](#)

Risks and Challenges in Republic of Congo

Key risks and challenges going forward include

- New projects mean new ways for CAFI to collaborate with the Government. While the relationship was, until 2021, mostly between the Government, the CAFI Executive Board and Embassies, new projects being approved and rolled out have meant that **implementing organizations have now become stronger stakeholders in the partnership.**
- High-level commitment of Congolese authorities (Prime Minister and 13 Ministers in the interministerial committee), while desirable, has also generated significant delays in programming and a lack of clarity in the distribution of roles and responsibilities of each in the planning and implementation of projects. This bears the risk **of losing the interest of some stakeholders.** Defining and understanding respective roles and responsibilities remains a priority.
- Ensuring **alignment of national policies implementing the economic development strategies with key climate commitments**, in order to demonstrate economic viability of sustainability-based practices in strategic sectors (agriculture, mining, peatlands management, etc.) requires **sustaining a high-level policy dialogue with sectoral authorities**, boosting cross-sectoral coordination – including among financial partners – and demonstrating tangible results that can be showcased as solutions for sustainable economic development.
- Governance and coordination risks continue to be addressed during the negotiation phase and continued in the programming exercise of 2022. Ambassadors (in particular Germany and European Union) continue to convey the need of inter-ministerial coordination at the highest level through participation in Steering Committees.
- The engagement of stakeholders from civil society and private sectors remains a key aspect in the implementation of the Letter of Intent. To ensure effective and sound participation CAFI is dedicating

dedicate funding for specific projects, with in 2022 the selection of UNDP to develop the **support project for civil society engagement**.

- The NDC 2020 and National Development plan adopted in 2022 needs further harmonization with the commitments of the Letter of Intent.

6.4 Cameroon

A. Context

Cameroon forests cover approximately 19 million hectares. Deforestation was relatively low until 2013, **but annual rates have doubled between the 2006-2012 period and the 2013-2019 period**. While there is no recent study on drivers, agriculture – small-scale food crop production (maize, sorghum, root-crops, bananas), cash crops such as cocoa in the forest zone and cotton in the Northern region, and large scale (oil palm, rubber), wood-energy production, as well as infrastructure projects and mining play an important role.

The rural sector is one of the mainstays of the Cameroonian economy, contributing approximately 21% of GDP (2012 to 2018). In terms of exports, the rural sector accounts for 55% of the country's export earnings - ahead of hydrocarbons (30%). However, the large imports in agro-food products impact the trade balance negatively, catalyzing **a national ambition to increase domestic agricultural production**. This is compounded by the fact that Cameroon's population is expected to double by 2046, with projections of an increase of 20 million people in urban areas and 17 million in rural areas, which will trigger a growing demand for food production.

Cameroon's ambition to increase its domestic agricultural production and reduce its dependence on food imports is part of the national vision to become an emerging and industrialized economy by 2035 and improve its balance of trade. The Government strategy aims to satisfy the growing national and regional market for oil palm and its industrialised derivatives, thereby driving expansion of large, medium and small-scale palm plantations – currently all concentrated in the humid forest zone. The Government's goal to double cocoa production could drive increasing forest degradation. The Rural Development Strategy predicts that without increases in productivity of all crops is increased on existing farms, and expansion focused in already degraded forest, or afforestation in the savanna zone, **these crops are likely to drive accelerated deforestation and degradation.** Promoting locally-developed cocoa agroforestry practices and irrigated palm oil in the savannah areas, are. Unlike other countries in the region, Cameroon is already experiencing very significant pressure on land, not only due to demographic factors but also related to the development of economic activities.

B. Policy dialogue

The closure of CAFI's existing preparatory grant in 2020 allowed to re-adjust CAFI's approach to support Cameroon and integrate other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MINEPAT) into the dialogue who eventually agreed to pilot and coordinate the future partnership with CAFI. As part of this renewed dialogue and based on the conclusions from the joint CBFP-CAFI mission to Cameroon in November 2021, the CAFI Executive Board agreed on a phased approach to move forward in the partnership with Cameroon, that would test and evaluate pilot investments and institutional arrangements and combine this with technical assistance for the finalization of sectoral strategies and policy reforms.

The CAFI Secretariat conducted two missions to Cameroon in 2022. The first mission, in May 2022, set out to advance the design of a partnership with the Cameroonian authorities, in consultation with all relevant sectoral ministries, 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) 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 draft project document for a national intersectoral and multi-level Coordination Project. Based on EB guidance, CAFI Secretariat initiated discussions about the Coordination project with MINEPAT and further refined the partnership mechanism, which MINEPAT proposed to embed within the existing National Development Strategy (SND30) monitoring structures.

At its December 2023 meeting, EB also approved to present the country a stepwise approach to engagement for 2023 : launch the calls for Expressions of Interest (EoI) (scheduled for May 2023) for a) the intersectoral and multi-level coordination project; and b) set of pilot investments including 2 jurisdictional projects and 2 sectoral programs (Land Use Planning capacity building; and one value chain) up to a financial amount of 60 MUS\$ total. Policies and measures that could be agreed upon (in parallel of the approval of the project document of the pilot investments) were agreed to on institutional arrangements, cross sectoral coordination, integration of forest/climate objectives into development planning.

A CAFI Secretariat mission to Cameroon in Dec 2022 confirmed the majority of the selected projects via a transparent, participatory and objective process, against agreed criteria and, and a review of historical analyses conducted by both the Ministry of Environment during preparation of the REDD+ Drivers and Strategic Options

Study in 2016, the MINEPDED studies conducted during the drafting of a National Investment Framework for Cameroon in 2019 and the CAFI-FAO Regional study of drivers of deforestation conducted with the Ministry of Forests in 2020.

C. Risks and Challenges The main risks remain the same as previously, including “lack of national appropriation” by some key Ministries, “environmental, political and/or economic changes/shocks” and “country’s vision and CAFI theory of change not harmonized”. While climate change is now recognised as ‘real’ in Cameroon, climate smart development lacks high level Government “champions” for a common vision to be translated into coordinated policy and concrete practice.

Based on discussions with government and technical and financial partners, CAFI anticipates a period of adjustment to the realities of newly formed regional councils. This will influence work in the North of Cameroon where many CAFI partners have flagship programs and in potential areas for CAFI supported interventions.

Increasing the political ownership of the national investment framework across all sectors and ministries at the highest possible political level has remained a challenge for CAFI.

Finally, conflict and insecurity have remained a concern in 2022. The attention of the government and the international donor community continues to be directed to the complex humanitarian situation in the anglophone regions. Until the situation improves, there is a risk that this influence negatively on the pace of the donor community’s development agenda, impacting also on the capacity of delegations from members of the CAFI Executive Board to mobilize support for the political dialogue around the national investment framework.

6.5 Equatorial Guinea

A. Background

Equatorial Guinea forests covered 93 % of the territory in 2014, making Equatorial Guinea one of the most forested country in the world. These 2.5 million hectares are estimated to store 364 million tons of carbon. These forests are however highly degraded, notably due to forestry activities (23%) and shifting agriculture. Forest degradation was estimated between 2004 and 2014 at **0.9% per year, or 23 000 hectares per year (entre 2004 et 2014)**. However, the country’s FREL, submitted to the UNFCCC in 2020, estimates that 30 579 (± 8 530) hectares of forests, or **1.2% of forests, were degraded each year over the 2014-2018 period**, marking a sharp

increase from the 2004-2014 period. It is possible that this degradation accelerated with the boom of exports of round wood to Asia between 2014 and 2018. A ban on the export of roundwood was promulgated at the end of 2018 and lifted in 2020. Equatorial Guinea remains one of the most important African exporters of timber to China, especially *oukoumé*.

From 2016 to 2019, CAFI supported, through a (now closed) preparatory grant implemented by FAO, the development of key national REDD+ strategic documents to guide and move forward the REDD+ process in Equatorial Guinea. The project, of total costs of 1,087,000 M US\$ provided solid basis for strategic decision making about REDD+, through the publication of the [“Study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014”](#) and the [“Historical analysis of deforestation and forest degradation 2004-2014”](#). The [“REDD+ national strategy \(EN-REDD+\)”](#) was developed through a participatory process involving multiple stakeholder, as well as the [National Investment plan \(PNI-REDD+\)](#) was developed and validated at national level, as a solid tool to plan and mobilize resources for the implementation of the EN-REDD+. It spells out the objective of the Government to **maintain the current level of forest cover at 93% and to halve the degradation rate (to reach a rate of less than 0.045%) rate by 2025.**

B. Policy dialogue and exploratory studies

CAFI continued the political dialogue with Equatorial Guinea, with support of the French Embassy in Malabo. This dialogue and technical exchanges lead to the adoption by the Executive Board and launch of terms of reference for a call for Expression of Interest (EoI) that were negotiated in 2021 and launched in January 2022. The EoI sought to identify an implementing organization to support policy dialogue and studies in Equatorial Guinea. The French Development Agency was selected by the CAFI Executive Board in June 2022 and 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.

C. Main challenges and risks

The main risks remained the same, i.e. “weak capacity in government” and “lack of national appropriation”. With no presence on the ground and delays, relationships have weakened. While a dialogue was renewed in June 2022 during the CAFI Executive Board, the lack of funding has triggered a declining interest from authorities.

The political risks linked to low levels of transparency and weak institutions and financial tracking systems of the country as a whole represents a constant risk. Insufficient governance, especially regarding the forestry sector, is also an ongoing risk in Equatorial Guinea.

6.6 Central African Republic

A. Context

Heavily impacted by the 2013 political-military crisis, CAR is one of the poorest countries in the world with a GDP per capita of US \$ 418 in 2017 with 4.6 million inhabitants in 2018.

The humanitarian crisis caused by the 2012-2013 political-military crisis continues, with population movements continuing to fluctuate with episodes of violence. At the end of August 2018, there were 621,035 internally displaced persons and 572,984 persons in neighboring countries. The World Food Project recently estimated the number of food-insecure Central Africans at more than 2 million and in 2018, more than half of the country's population still required humanitarian assistance (2.9 million people), according to OCHA a figure that increased by 16% compared to the previous year.

The country's economic growth rate has been around 4% and remains largely insufficient to meet the reconstruction needs (BM databank, 2018). This growth rate is supported by the recovery of activities in construction, trade and transport as well as by timber export. The country's public finance situation is still characterized by low domestic revenue mobilization, which represented only 9.1% of GDP in 2017 (sub-Saharan Africa average: 16%) and low investment from domestic resources.

The Central African Republic remains largely dependent on the support of technical and financial partners. During a joint donor conference in November 2016, the international community promised to mobilize 2,2 Billion US\$ to implement a National Crisis and Development Plan, called the National Peace Building and Recovery Plan for the Central African Republic (RCPCA). The plan's elaboration was supported by three donors (EU, UN, World Bank).

Forest cover approximately **28.3 million hectares**, or 47 % of the national territory. Deforestation is relatively low in dense humid forests, with an average of 0.10 to 0.20% per year (in the best -known region of the South-West).

B. Two preparatory grants

CAFI provided a first grant to help CAR define its vision for green recovery, now closed. Details may be found in the CAFI 2021 Annual report.

A second preparatory grant, approved in 2020, is to support the continued efforts of the partnership between the former and the Government and CAFI for the implementation of the measures identified in the National Investment Framework, through

1. support for the development of a Letter of Intent and the associated coordination and monitoring-evaluation mechanism, and
2. the conduct of three pre-feasibility studies for programs in three pilot areas.

Funds (700,000 US\$) were transferred in July 2021 to AFD. **The support project effectively started in 2022.**

Through activities preparing for the implementation of investments in the sectors identified in the National Investment Framework, the preparatory grant will provide data to **help define ambitions for reducing emissions and improving livelihoods** in the three target areas.

As part of the implementation of this agreement, AFD launched a call for proposals to identify a partner to operationalize the implementation of the measures identified in the CNI REDD+ (investment phase). **The call for proposals resulted in the contractual commitment of the TERE-IRAM-SALVATERRA consortium on 14 March 2022 for a period of 12 months.**

In terms of progress, pre-feasibility studies to prepare 3 programs in 3 pilot areas (Bangui & periphery, Dzanga-Sangha and Mbaere Bodingue protected areas complex and corridor, Bangassou forest) started affectively in April 2022. The studies analyze the drivers of deforestation, stakeholders' capacities and needs, assess the potential for CO2 mitigation and storage and propose intervention approaches. **Advanced draft version of the pre-feasibility reports for the Bangui area was issued on 4 December 2022 and in January 2023 for the Bangassou and Sangha-Mbaéré areas.** The content of the Letter of Intent and results of the pre-feasibility studies are being disseminated to the populations and five capacity-building workshops were held in the different target areas in July 2022 to provide key stakeholders with tools to make decisions on deforestation, land use planning, agriculture, wood energy and timber exploitation, mining issues.

Risks and Challenges

Although in early 2019 a peace agreement was signed in Khartoum as result of a lengthy and direct dialogue between the CAR government and different rebel groups, the political situation remains unstable with frequent reshuffling of the cabinet. In addition, the government is slowing deploying its administrative capacity beyond Bangui, and weak administrative capacity on the regional level can be expected for the next years. Bearing the fragility of the new CAR state in mind, the CAFI Executive Board expects the national investment framework align strongly with country's National Recovery and Peace Building Plan (RCPCA).

Political risks include a potential increase of violence in the potential intervention zones.

Further potential risks include insufficient governance processes (e.g. decisions are not taken in an intersectoral coordinated manner or unclear mandates of the different inter-ministerial organs working on land-use planning and REDD+). This risk should be mitigated through the establishment of a high-level, intersectoral coordination organ.

Socio-environmental risks include potential land-use conflicts arising from the tenure reform, which will be mitigated by the elaboration of national land-use plan and the revision of the legal framework relating to tenure. Social and tenure-related conflicts could also emerge from the return of displaced persons.

Furthermore, a potential risk could be a lacking coordination of finance for development activities channeled through CAFI. However, CAFI is planning on providing dedicated support to the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of future investments. Furthermore, future activities will be aligned with the National Recovery and Peace Building Plan (RCPCA) that has been extended to 2023

Reputational risks increased with the slow onset of the 2nd preparatory grant, that had effectively started in 2022 although approved in 2020.

6.7 Regional

6.7.1 Regional study on trends and drivers

In Central Africa, as in other parts of the world, **deforestation and forest degradation are complex, transboundary processes with various direct and underlying causes.** Regional estimates of the drivers of forest

loss in the Congo Basin are based on current global scientific literature, with **data available only through 2014 and that often excludes the recent upward trend observed in tree cover loss**. Studies also tend to omit the role of degradation resulting from induced by forestry operations, timber extraction and other commercial activities. There is no **clear consensus on the relative weight of the main direct drivers and agents of deforestation and degradation** of the Central African forests, including the possible growing relevance of mineral extraction, road development, agribusiness, commercial logging and biofuels, in addition to the recognized and leading drivers, which are traditional subsistence agricultural expansion and charcoal collection.

The CAFI Board approved in June 2020 a study, undertaken by FAO, ***to assess deforestation and forest degradation and related direct drivers*** aims to map disturbances and quantify direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Central Africa region. It aims at

- *Reaching a good understanding of **why and where** forest disturbances occur and their extent is key to developing targeted policies and actions to reduce forest loss and related carbon emissions.*
- *Strengthening the capacities of national stakeholders and convene a large community of scientists and NGOs to develop a global, standard, large-scale methodology. The project partners with **20 national partners and implementing agencies convened through virtual monthly meetings***
- *Testing it to quantify deforestation and forest degradation trends and their current and historical direct drivers in the six CAFI partner countries.*



The implementation of the CAFI preparatory grant of 1,200,000 US\$ was awarded to FAO. Considering the results of the first phase and further data needs, the study was granted an extension in 2022 until 30 August 2023.



More details in this project [Factsheet](#)

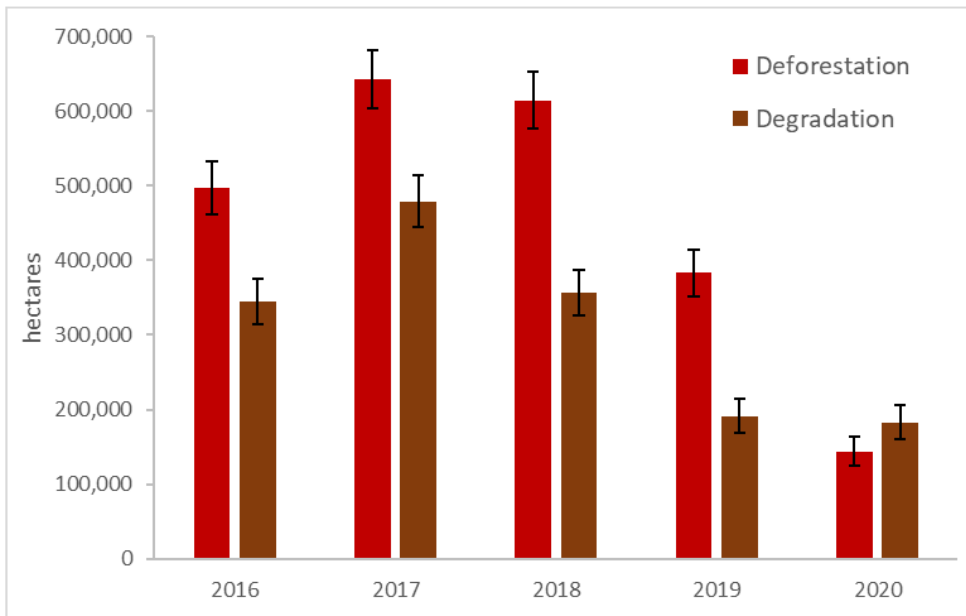


Figure 39: estimated areas (hectares) of deforestation and degradation cumulatively in CAFI's 6 partner countries

6.7.2 &Green Fund

The CAFI Secretariat facilitated the approval by the Executive Board of the capitalization of the Dutch “&Green” Fund, that will provide 53 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) acts as the CAFI investment agent.



More details in this project [Factsheet](#)

6.7.2 CPIC conservation initiative

The CPIC Conservation Finance Initiative is a global project which aims to unlock greater volumes of private finance for conservation investments. Additionally, it aims at improving knowledge on best practices for catalysing private-sector investment at scale in conservation, with improved recognition among private sector actors, and improved tools for assessing biodiversity and ecosystem impacts from conservation.

In line with CAFI’s results framework and GEF guidelines, the Nature+ Accelerator Fund aims to achieve 30 to 60,000 ha of deforested and degraded landscapes under restoration, and 10,000,000 ha of terrestrial, marine and coastal habitat with improved management integrating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at year 10.

The Fund was operationalized in mid-2022, with the first closing and the signing of Fund agreement documents among parties concerned. Committee structures were set up to manage the selection and investment process of the Fund.

The first Request for Proposal (RFP) for Seed (USD 100-200k) and Early Venture (USD 1-2m) windows was launched in early 2022, and the Fund has received 95 applications. 48 of those projects were presented to pre-selection phase, 10 projects were presented to Expert Committee, 10 projects were approved as PON (Project Opportunity Note) stage, 2 projects were signed and disbursed, and further 2 projects were approved and are under negotiation.

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.



More details in this [project Factsheet](#)

6.7.4 Feasibility studies on innovative agriculture

Two preparatory grants were transferred in 2022 to Farm Africa and One Acre Fund, respectively, to develop feasibility studies on innovative agriculture approaches.

One Acre Fund and Farm Africa submitted their respective feasibility studies, that were subject to exchanges with the CAFI Secretariat and the Executive Board. Although the launch for expression of interest was regional in scope, these studies focus on the DRC. These submissions will therefore be integrated into included in the pipeline of projects under the second Letter of Intent with the DRC.

The One Acre Fund feasibility study focuses on the development of a market for agriculture inputs and a support to zero deforestation agricultural production chains in savannahs, with the objective to support the supply of large consumption basins, including Kinshasa. The Farm Africa study feasibility study focuses on the development of deforestation-free coffee production.

7. Risks, challenges & lessons learned

The CAFI Secretariat revised the Risk Management Strategy, that was adopted by the CAFI Executive Board in December 2022. This Strategy separates contextual, institutional and programmatic risks and sets out responsibilities more clearly.

Besides the risks and challenges summarized at country level in section 6, as well as the risks presented in CAFI’s internal risk dashboard, challenges and risk faced at the Fund level in 2022 and associated lessons learnt are summarized in the left column of the table below. Measures planned for 2022 to address these risks and challenges are presented in the right column.

Challenges and risk faced in 2022 and associated lessons learned	Measures planned for 2023 to address these challenges and risks
Lack of political alignment on priorities for programming under the DRC letter of Intent	

<p>CAFI lacked information on and/or there was a lack of progress in the implementation of a small number of projects funded by CAFI through FONAREDD; this challenge was exacerbated by the insufficient follow-up by the FONAREDD Secretariat and required intensive CAFI engagement in the formulation and follow-up of decisions made by the Technical Committee.</p>	<p>The CAFI Secretariat will continue following up closely on FONAREDD's work. The recruitment of two international staff for the FONAREDD Secretariat, under CAFI's supervision, should strengthen their capacities.</p>
<p>Although CAFI's portfolio continues to grow and recruitment took place (communication specialist, carbon finance specialist), recruitment of CAFI Secretariat staff was not yet finalized in 2022. The fact that the Secretariat was understaffed prevented it from reaching its full potential and put high pressure on its staff members.</p>	<p>The recruitment of several new staff members for the CAFI Secretariat will accelerate in 2023, including a reporting specialist, a policy advisor, a coordination officer, M&E positions, Junior staff for donor countries and fellows from the Central African region.</p>
<p>The 2022 Annual reporting exercise was a test of compliance to the new reporting template, that was not entirely successful. Some projects failed to report on major sections of the reporting template or submitted it with delays (see Annex VIII) which made compilation at the Fund level impossible.</p>	<p>Beyond policies and guidelines, more regular dialogues will continue to be undertaken with implementing organizations to ensure feedback, suggestions and finally uptake of the guidance provided by the Fund. This needs to continue and be enhanced in 2023 with additional capacity in the CAFI Secretariat.</p>
<p>The expansion of the CAFI portfolio and its multi-country, multi-stakeholder and multi (inter-related) outcomes, requires more sophisticated Monitoring, Evaluation and learning systems that mobilize various expertise (financial, programmatic, M&E). These should allow testing the theory of change, alert on pending and increasing risks in the appropriate timeframe and recommend adaptive actions by the Executive Board, Embassies or implementing organizations.</p>	<p>The CAFI Executive Board adopted a Monitoring and Evaluation Policy in 2022, whose implementation will start in 2023. MEL Guidelines for IOS including a revision of the existing Results framework, will; be developed in 2023, aiming at an adoption by the Executive Board by end 2023.</p>

<p>With a growing portfolio, ever-ambitious new milestones with short deadlines and high-level political engagement in CAFI donor and partner countries, reputational risks in the media also increase.</p>	<p>Increased staffing at the CAFI Secretariat, media watch, swift information flows and a reactive Executive Board will be needed to address these risks. Trust building with international NGOs is also a desirable process.</p>
<p>Organizations currently active in the Congo Basin who possess the technical expertise, capacity and a proven track record necessary to successfully implement CAFI-funded are lacking</p>	<p>To diversify its pool of expertise, CAFI fostered partnership dialogues with prospective implementing partners including a number of NUNOs such as research institutions, INGOs, other bilateral cooperation agencies and international organizations. Additional revisions to CAFI's Terms of Reference and Manual of Operations made at the end of 2022 reflect this, with the inclusion of processes of accreditation for access to CAFI funds for all NUNOs.</p>
<p>The challenges met in the region cannot be met with business as usual development assistance.</p>	<p>Thanks to close contact and exchanges with the other tropical forest pools in South America and Asia, CAFI has successfully initiated a programmatic approach to implement innovative finance projects beyond RBP highlighted in Gabon, to include payment for environmental services (PES), for example.</p>

8. Looking ahead

2022 was largely devoted to **turning the success of the Glasgow Forest pledges into approved projects that can deliver fast, long-term and sustainable results**, notably in the DR Congo, Gabon and Republic of Congo. The partnership with Cameroon is expected to enter a new phase in 2023, with a 60 million dollars launch for Expression of Interest, and CAFI continues, at a more modest pace, to deepen the partnership with Equatorial Guinea and the Central Africa Republic with new, tailored opportunities. Country ownership remains a strong focus of CAFI's support. CAFI's new procedures are now in place to allow access to the CAFI Fund for international non-governmental organizations.

The CAFI Fund and Initiative have expanded, with enhanced dialogue with all partner countries, additional projects in Gabon and Republic of Congo, and an additional donor. The transition to a new Unit at UNDP (the MPTF Office) concluded in 2021, with the staffing of the CAFI Secretariat that will continued to increase in 2023

In addition to proudly communicating about its achievements, CAFI also decided to **tackle its structural and operational challenges** that have been identified in the first six years of operations. Workstreams started on access for national entities and in the meantime the introduction of the managing agent model to the DRC programming framework to ensure better national ownership. Discussions were initiated on fund governance and reforms necessary to deploy funds more efficiently (non-grant instruments). 2023 is expected to bring answers to these challenges.

Joint efforts of Partner countries, the Executive Board, its Secretariat, other donors, implementing organizations, and beneficiaries on the ground must continue to protect a forest that is possibly the **last significant land-based tropical carbon sink in the world** and the people who depend upon it.

Annexes

Annex 1 : [Reporting against the CAFI Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#)

Annex 2 : [Number of projects by type, status and country](#)

Annex 3: [Methodology to estimate numbers of beneficiaries](#)

Annex 4: [Monitoring safeguards tools – 2022 update](#)

Annex 5: [CAFI portfolio of projects by outcome](#)

Annex 6: [Understanding Land use planning tools in the DRC](#)

Annex 7: [Transfers per agency by end 2022](#)

Annex 8: [Submission of project annual reports](#)

Annex 9: [CAFI Financial report \(MPTF-O\)](#)

Annex 10 : [Gender assessment](#)