

# CAFI portfolio in the DRC: Factsheet

March, 2018

## TIMELINE

In 2012, the DRC adopted its National REDD+ Framework Strategy, aiming to **stabilize forest cover** and maintain it thereafter. Stemming directly from the Framework Strategy, the [2015-2020 DRC REDD+ Investment Plan](#) was adopted by the Government of the DRC and presented to the CAFI Executive Board in December 2015. Following this, in April 2016, the DRC/CAFI [Letter of Intent](#) was approved, which, with support from the DRC's [REDD+ National Fund](#), marked the start of the programming and implementation phase.

## FUNDING

The Letter of Intent committed the Government of the DRC to 43 transformational change elements (called “the milestones”) and donors to provide financing up to 200 MUS\$ over 5 years.

Of these 200 MUS\$, over \$US 91 million in project funding has been allocated to date. Addressing all direct and underlying drivers - agriculture, wood energy, forest governance, mining and oil, infrastructure, land use planning, land tenure, demography, and governance - the REDD+ Investment plan includes **sectoral approaches** and **integrated programs**. Approved programs as of March 2018:

### FAST FACTS:

DRC harbours the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest swath of rainforests in the world – **152 million Ha, or 60% of the rainforest in the Congo Basin**

**1.7 million Ha lost** each year (2000-2014)

Deforestation rates dramatically increased from **0.44% per year (1990-2010) to 1.25% per year (2010-2014)**

The Letter of Intent: **8 Policy Objectives** ; **US\$200 million financial commitment** ; **43 milestones** to be reached by 2020

National REDD+ Fund Steering Committee: **15 calls for proposals** and **approved eight programs**

<b>Project: Support to civil society</b>	<b>(operational)</b>
<b>Implementing Partner:</b> UNDP	
<b>Objective:</b> To ensure that the Congolese civil society has the structural and strategic framework necessary for effective, concerted and transparent participation in the REDD + process in the DRC. This program contributes to good governance of the REDD + process by supporting the representation of civil society; allowing it to fully play its role of information relay, advocacy actor, observer and whistle-blower.	
<b>Progress:</b> Guidance material under development to ensure structured engagement and participation of civil society in the design and monitoring of the REDD+ process.	

<b>Project: Finalization and operationalization of the National Forest Monitoring System</b>	<b>(operational)</b>
<b>Implementing Partner:</b> FAO	
<b>Objective:</b> The finalization and implementation of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) to provide the DRC with an operational system capable of monitoring forest cover, meeting the requirements of the UNFCCC, and reporting on results of REDD+ implementation.	
<b>Progress:</b> The DRC published its first Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) in early 2018. This demonstrated commitment for more transparent oversight mechanisms. There is currently a forest	

inventory in progress, and new alert mechanisms in case deforestation occurs.

**Project: Support for land tenure reform (operational)**

**Implementing Partner:** UN Habitat

**Objective:** To put in place a land tenure policy– inclusive of gender, vulnerable persons, local communities and indigenous peoples - to ensure the sustainable and non-confrontational management of land and the clarification of land rights in order to limit the conversion of forest lands.

Ultimately, the goal is to clarify land right regimes that enable the sustainable evolution of forestry and agricultural exploitation.

**Progress:** An analysis of the national legal framework has been undertaken with land taskforces and reinforcement plans identified.

**Project: Support to land use planning reform (operational)**

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP

**Objective:** To support land use reform that tallies environmental, social and economic interests and accounts for the government's climate change mitigation ambitions, including those of the national REDD + strategy.

**Progress:** Project launched and recruitment underway.

**Project: Sustainable management of forests by Indigenous Peoples (operational)**

**Implementing Partner:** World Bank

**Objective:** To promote sustainable forest management by strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples and their participation in REDD +.

The plan is to support, complement and expand the reach of the Forest-dependent Communities Support Project (PACDF), funded by the Dedicated Grant Mechanism of the Forest Investment Program. Combined, the goal is to build technical capacity and expertise, carry out micro-projects and build capacity for land governance by indigenous peoples and local communities in order to facilitate their participation in sustainable forest management activities.

**Progress:** Implementation framework developed and monitoring and evaluation systems in place.

**Project: Integrated REDD+ programme for the provinces of Tshopo, Ituri et Bas Uele (operational)**

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP

**Objective:** The program aims to achieve two specific objectives: (i) Improve governance of natural resources (forests and land) in three target provinces in the East; (ii) Reduce the impact of economic activities and population dynamics on forests in target provinces through the following activities:

- 1. Sectoral activities** that compensate for or avoid deforestation while improving the performance of traditional agriculture or medium size agricultural enterprises, including:
  - a. Distribution of improved varieties of annual crops (cassava, maize);
  - b. Distribution of perennial crops and sector organisation to stabilize shifting agriculture;
  - c. Exclusion areas to allow for the natural regeneration of wooded savannas and grasslands, allowing their re-entry to the rural complex; increasing space for shifting agriculture and slowing the decrease of fallow periods;
  - d. Development of agroforestry using short cycle plants to improve fallows.
- 2. Enabling activities** to increase the impact of sectoral activities and prevent rebound effects (i.e. agricultural intensification leading to even more deforestation):
  - a. Inclusive **development of a vision for development that integrates the fight against deforestation:**
  - b. **Official validation** at the corresponding subnational administrative level.

- c. **Capacity building** of all stakeholders, including the administration so that they respect, enforce and implement these plans, including: monitoring, identifying non-compliance and applying sanctions.

In addition to these measures, there are also **family planning** activities associated to every integrated program; including awareness raising about family planning opportunities and access to contraception.

**Progress:** Political backing established and team recruitment underway.

**Project:** Integrated REDD+ programme for the province of Sud Ubangi (grant agreement signed)

**Implementing Partner:** World Bank

**Objective:** To orient the agricultural development of the province of South Ubangi toward greater attention to sustainable management of soils and to the reduction of emissions related to deforestation and the degradation of the forests.

Thus, support will be provided for:

1. Strengthening the sustainable management of land by communities to encourage planned development that reduces deforestation;
2. Support for agricultural projects with low impact on the forest (agroforestry, reclaiming savannahs, improvement of agricultural practices, etc.) through the implementation of REDD + criteria for the award of subsidies;
3. Capacity building of actors to integrate REDD + into local development.

**Progress:** Plan to commence in June 2018.

**Project:** Maï - Ndombé Integrated programme (recruitment underway)

**Implementing Partner:** World Bank

**Objective:** The Project will work in three distinct sectors: agriculture, environment and rural development (community organization, infrastructure and equipment), with a view to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the Maï – Ndombé jurisdiction (99 641km).

The project's strategy is to build capacity at the different levels of territorial management to formulate natural resource management plans that combine:

1. The protection of forest areas with the highest carbon stocks,
2. The protection of savannahs to promote assisted natural regeneration and suitable food or perennial crops,
3. Improving the performance of short-cycle food crops on forest fallows,
4. The development of perennial crops to further determine the share of agricultural areas generating monetary incomes,
5. Diversification of crops and agricultural activities such as fish farming or beekeeping,
6. The development of vital infrastructures (bridges, roads, processing equipment) to maximize commercial revenues by reducing transport costs and adding value to products through their transformation.

The project will also support the improvement of the living conditions of the most vulnerable, and promote modern methods of family planning that respect the local culture.

**Progress:** Plan to commence in April 2018.

Further programs have been approved to support the development and implementation of a sustainable agricultural policy and two provincial integrated programs. No disbursement have been made to these programs. Others are under development, namely the sustainable forest management program, the family planning support program, the sustainable energy program.

## WHY ACT NOW?

Demographic growth and the desire for national economic development might be considered at odds with CAFI's efforts, and indeed the efforts of other organisations, to prevent deforestation and preserve the Central African Forests. But, CAFI wants to ensure that economic development and the protection of the Central African Forest, are not mutually exclusive.

We must act now, endorsing and enabling a multi-sectoral vision for forest-friendly and sustainable growth in the DRC. CAFI believes that this is the holistic approach that will allow for the protection of the forest whilst also addressing the need for the alleviation of poverty in the region.

It's not simple - last year we prepared a briefing that helps explain the complex situation in the DRC, which you may find [here](#).