



CAFI Executive Board Decision

Republic of Gabon – Approval of the project “Peaceful human-elephant co-existence in Gabon” implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society

Adopted by email on 17.01.2025
EB.2025.02

Considering:

- The CAFI Declaration and the persisting challenge of forest loss and food security in Gabon.
- The [Letter of Intent](#) signed between CAFI and the Republic of Gabon on 27 June 2017.
- Decision [EB.2017.03](#) that adopted the Gabon National Investment Framework.
- Decision [EB.2021.02](#) that adopted the revised Gabon National Investment Framework
- Decision [EB.2023.25](#) authorizing access to CAFI Fund to WCS;
- Decision [EB.2024.33](#) on the independent verification of projects;
- CAFI’s [Monitoring and Evaluation and Guidelines](#) which include standard indicators for AFOLU projects and their [Spatial Reporting Guidelines](#).

The Executive Board:

1. Thanks Wildlife Conservation Society (referred here as “implementing organization”) for submitting the project proposal.
2. Approves the project document for an amount of 10,000,003 USD, to be used over a period of 24 months, starting from the date of first transfer to the implementing organization.
3. Decides that the independent verifications referred in paragraph 9-15 below will inform CAFI’s decisions regarding the second tranche of disbursement.
4. Requests that the total amount will be disbursed in tranches as follows; The disbursements are conditional and subject to the following conditions:
 - a) *Tranche 1 of 4 843 653 USD,*
 - b) *Tranche 2 of \$5,156,350 USD, with the following conditions:*

- I. Achieve the validation of a verification methodology by an independent verification body selected by CAFI
 - II. Complete the independent verification of a sample of the results reported carried out in accordance with the above-mentioned verification methodology.
5. Asks the implementing organization to notify the CAFI Secretariat at least 2 months before the date of disbursement of the requested tranche.
6. Stresses that this project is a rapid, concrete response to the government's call for action and requests that the implementing organisation work jointly with the government to develop a strategy to ensure the sustainability of the measures to prevent human elephant conflict.
7. Encourages the government to ensure the continued use of vehicles purchased with project resources for the functioning of provincial human elephant conflict units after the project ends.
8. Recalls that feasibility studies and the design of projects and programmes should place strong emphasis on (i) gender inclusion, including in terms of sex-disaggregated data, (ii) human rights and non-discrimination, (iii) conflict prevention and resolution, in particular with regard to land tenure, (iv) monitoring and learning, while ensuring strong alignment with the CAFI results framework, (v) analysis of the link with forest conservation, (vi) analysis of opportunities for scale-up and means to achieve them , (vii) analysis of risks of corruption and conflicts of interest, as well as the stakeholders likely to gain or lose as a result of the initiative, (viii) the use – to the extent possible – of local references and analysis with respect to potential beneficiaries, market opportunities and income opportunities for smallholders and economic viability, limitations and risks; (ix) clear integration and interlinkages between the various interventions proposed; (x) a clear exit/sustainability strategy; (xi) a robust analysis and management of risks (incl. land tenure and fire).
9. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the implementing organization commits to apply zero tolerance towards fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse; to protect whistleblowers; to inform the public; to promote gender equality and social inclusion; and to use appropriate complaint mechanisms. In addition, the implementing organization commits to carefully managing all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Board and should act proactively in reporting these risks to CAFI's Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of CAFI's Trust Fund.
10. Recalls that the implementing organization will have to report on progress toward both the objectives and milestones of the Letter of Intent as well as on the indicators of CAFI's results framework in accordance with CAFI guidelines and templates. In addition, the implementing organization will have to provide CAFI with all reports and data (raw and analyzed) from household's surveys and other field studies including spatial information (i.e. GPS coordinates), as well as information on how its activities address and respect CAFI social and environmental safeguards requirements.
11. Recalls that as per Decision [EB.2024.33](#) this project will be subject to periodic independent verification of a sample of the results reported. The cost of independent verifications will be borne by CAFI.
12. Stresses that this verification is intended to guarantee the accuracy and quality of the results reported and to ensure the overall integrity of the project monitoring and evaluation system, and

hence of CAFI, to identify opportunities for improvement and to make the chain of stakeholders responsible for results fulfilment more accountable.

13. Decides that these verifications will be carried out in accordance with a methodology defined between CAFI and the independent auditor, taking into account ISO 14064 standards. This methodology will include at a minimum performance indicator(s), methodology for monitoring, reporting and verifying the results, the periodicity of verification and the recommended level of payment per unit of results.
14. Instructs the CAFI Secretariat to prepare a schedule for carrying out these independent verifications in discussion with the implementing organisations.
15. Instructs the Secretariat of CAFI to commission and instruct these independent verifications.
16. Requests implementing organisations to include these requirements in the monitoring and evaluation section of an amended project document for approval within 6 months of first disbursement.
17. Requests implementing organisations to anticipate and facilitate the conduct of these verifications by the independent verifier. This includes, in particular, making information available, answering questions raised, supporting verifications in the field, etc.
18. Reminds the implementing organization of its reporting obligations under the current CAFI Operations Manual, in terms of both narrative and financial reports.
19. Instructs the CAFI Secretariat to sign the project document on its behalf.