



CAFI Executive Board Decision

Central African Republic Selection of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the implementation of a pilot project in Bangui and its surrounding area

**Adopted by email on 10.01.2025
EB.2025.01**

Considering:

- The [CAFI Declaration](#) and the persisting challenge of forest loss and food security in Central African Republic ;
- Decision [EB.2024.38](#), adopted by email on 25.10.2024, for the launch of the Call for Expression of Interest 2024/01/RCA aimed to select the implementing organisation responsible of developing and implementing a pilot project in Bangui and its surrounding area ;
- The Expressions of Interest received on 26 November 2024.

The executive Board:

1. Approves the selection of the United Nations Development Programme (referred here as “implementing organisation”), as implementing organisation for the pilot project in Bangui and its surrounding area.
2. Invites the implementing organisation to submit a preparatory grant request to conduct a feasibility study of an amount up to 300,000 USD for approval by the Secretariat.
3. Requests the implementing organisation to ensure that the preparation grant covers all costs associated with the design of the project and that the full project proposals includes the following:
 - a) Contextualisation for Central African Republic of the Payments for Environmental Services (PES) mechanism developed by CAFI at regional level, in perfect coordination with the CAFI Secretariat and the duly designated country representatives.
 - b) The selection of one or more responsible part(ies) in charge of managing the delivery of environmental services (aggregators).
 - c) The selection of the independent assessor which will conduct the independent verification of results. This independent assessor must be an internationally

recognized institution of repute, with no commercial relationship with any of the other parties that may impair its objectivity, impartiality or independence.

- d) The proposed performance-based payment agreement including the formulation of performance indicators, the payment per unit of results and verification methodology validated by the independent assessor.
4. Requests the implementing organisation to ensure that a minimum of 70% of costs related to technical outputs of the project are in the form of direct support to farmers and communities (e.g. cash, vouchers, agricultural inputs and materials). When feasible digital tracking of the support provided to farmers and communities is preferred (e.g. e-voucher, mobile payments).
5. 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).
6. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the implementing organisation 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.
7. Reiterates that the present decision does not represent a funding allocation decision. Funding will be approved based on implementing organisation submission and according to the Terms of Reference of the Trust Fund.
8. Underlines the fact that projects under the CAFI – Central African Republic partnership are executed by implementing organisations on behalf of the government, and that implementing organisations must develop their proposals in close coordination and synergy with the relevant national and local government counterparts.
9. Requests the implementing organisation, for the development of the project document, to:
 - a) Use the updated project document template provided by the CAFI Secretariat ;
 - b) Ensure concrete synergies with existing projects and programs in the target area (CAFI-funded as well as other relevant ones) ;
 - c) Ensure, to the extent possible, a methodological alignment of planned remote assessment of land use changes with the CAFI-funded regional study on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as regarding socio-economic studies.

10. Recalls that the implementing organisation will have to report on progress toward indicators of CAFI's results framework in accordance with CAFI guidelines and templates. In addition, it will have to provide CAFI with all reports and data (raw and analysed) from household's surveys and other field studies including spatial information (i.e. GPS coordinates) and information on how their activities are addressing and respecting CAFI social and environmental safeguards.
11. Recalls that this decision is subject to the non-objection of the government of CAR.