

CAFI 2020 HIGHLIGHTS





A WORD FROM CAFI'S CHAIR

As current Chair of the CAFI Executive Board, we are pleased about the progress made by CAFI in the difficult year that 2020 turned out to be. In the DRC, one of Germany's main partner countries, the negotiations with the new government to extend the partnership with CAFI until 2030 are picking up speed. Thanks to several missions by the CAFI Secretariat and the high-level support given by the Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), we have also been able to make substantial progress with regard to a future partnership with Cameroon. We would like to see this trusting collaboration with the CBFP continue over the next few years. With regard to the Republic of Congo,



we hope that CAFI's programming efforts will soon translate into results on the ground. Furthermore, we welcome the participation of civil society in CAFI, including the accessibility of CAFI's Trust Fund for NGOs. We see that CAFI's efforts to foster inclusion and transparency are underscored by rigorous implementation of the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review and the Transparency International Report.

Looking forward to the months ahead, we would like to reiterate our commitment to the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests. Germany will chair the CBFP for a third year, until the end of 2022, and will host the Tropical Forest Symposium in Berlin in September this year with the aim of mobilizing further funding for tropical forests. In this context, we emphasize the importance of the call by the CBFP for well-coordinated, broad donor alliances as well as for complementary and ambitious reform agendas from forest countries.

Dirk Schattschneider

*Assistant Director General and Commissioner One World - No Hunger
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*

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A UNIQUE APPROACH FOR A UNIQUE REGION

The forest of the Central African region is the 2nd largest in the world, spanning over 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. It harbors 10,000 different species of plants, trees, and animals. **This rainforest is essential to mitigate the climate and biodiversity crises.**

This forest is also 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 and conflict areas and with the **highest number of people in urgent need of food security assistance worldwide.**

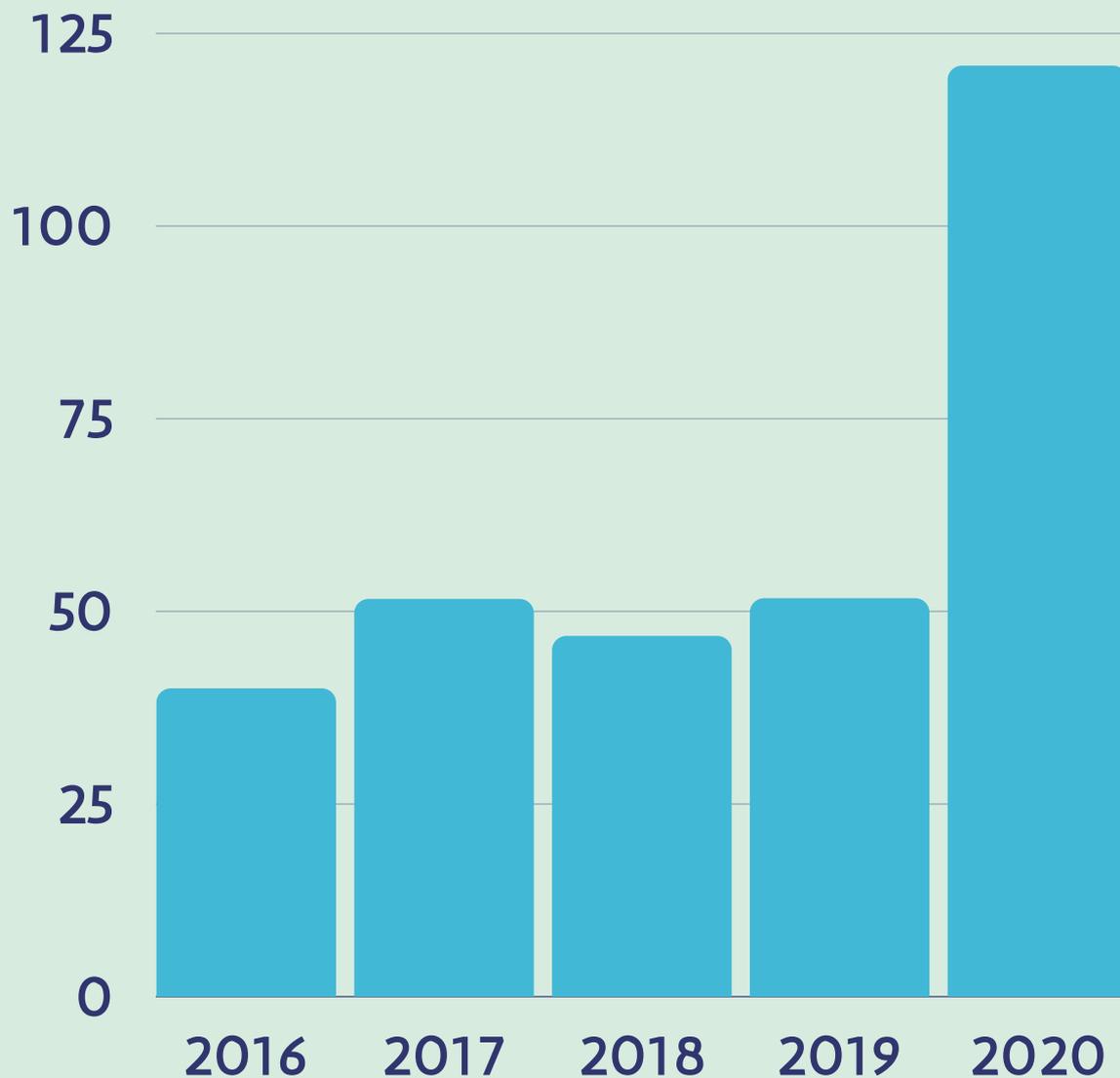
The Central African forest was historically mostly spared from loss, but is under increasing pressure. While trends and their causes vary widely with national contexts, the region has totaled **a loss of over 6 million hectares of humid primary forest since 2001.** That's about 6 million rugby fields, and the trend is largely accelerating.

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 28 enabling, reform and rural development programs, CAFI negotiates and encourages policy commitments. Examples include the Republic of Congo's ban on agro-industrial activities above 5 hectares in forests; Gabon's commitments to avoid or cap the conversion of forest with high carbon stocks and high conservation value; and DR Congo's engagement to integrate the forest and land use sector in its Nationally Determined Contribution.

FUND MOBILISATION

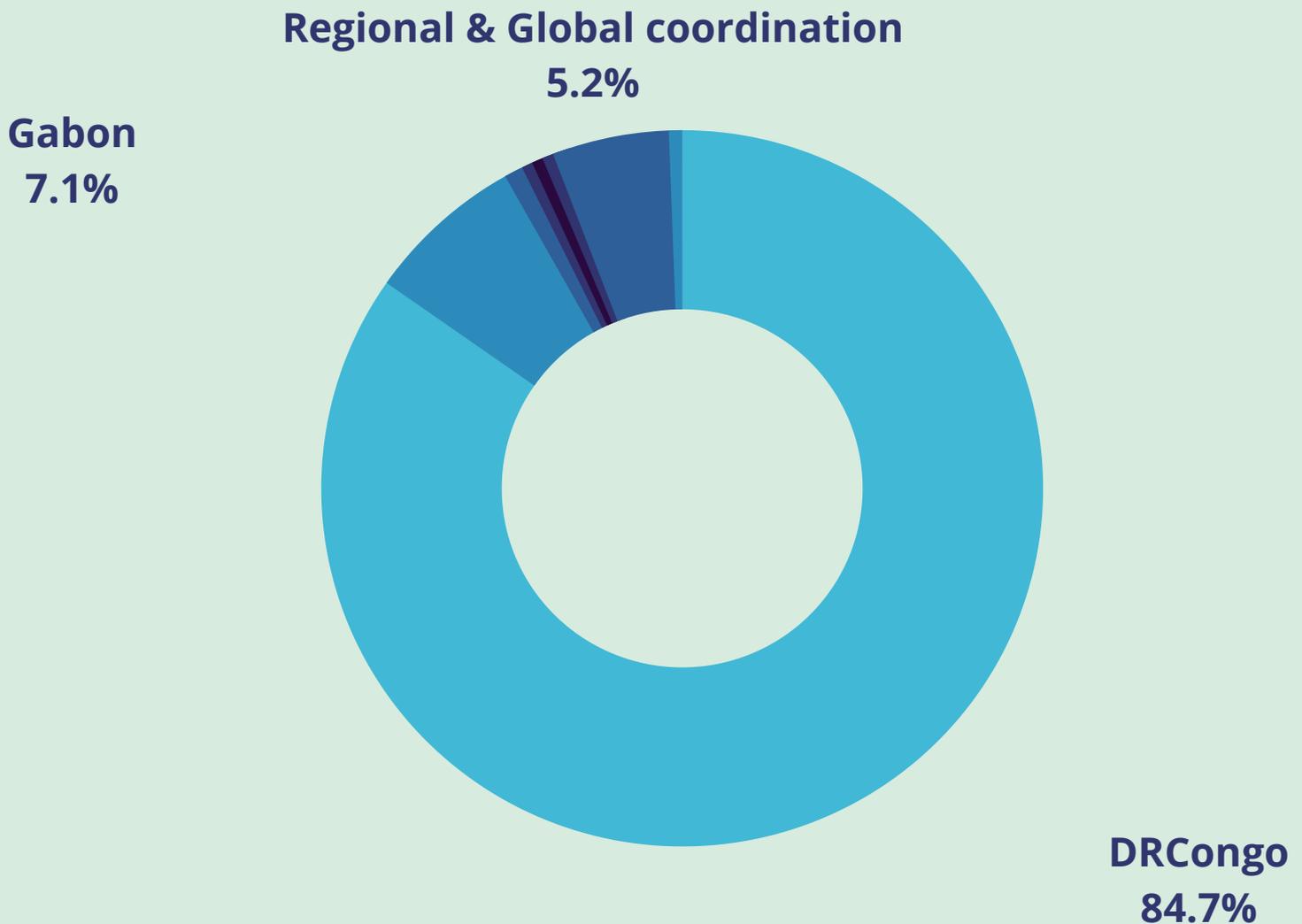
GRAPH 1 : YEARLY DEPOSITS INTO THE CAFI TRUST FUND (M US\$)



Deposits into the CAFI Trust Fund reached close to US \$ 121 million in 2020 (321 million cumulatively since 2015), while commitments for 2020 alone rose to US \$138 million. With 72% of deposits to date, Norway remains CAFI's main contributor, followed by Germany, the Netherlands, the European Union, France and the Republic of Korea.

WHERE WE INVEST

GRAPH 2 : FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO PARTNER COUNTRIES (2016-2020)



With 171.5 million US \$ transferred to 18 programmes, the DR Congo received close to 85% of CAFI's investments by 31 December 2020, and Gabon 7.1% with 14.4 million. This split has been relatively unchanged since 2016. However, figures are expected to change significantly over the next few years, with the forecasted approval of programmes in the Republic of Congo in 2021 (following calls for proposals for programmes to achieve the milestones of the 65 US\$ M Letter of Intent signed in 2019)- as well as new programmes under the Gabon National Investment Framework funded by payments for results under its 150 million US \$ 150 Agreement with CAFI.



Male silverback gorilla in Gabon. Photocredit : Mongabay

OUR PORTFOLIO

In addition to global and regional coordination costs of the CAFE Secretariat, CAFE's portfolio of 28 programmes comprised by end 2020:

- 21 large-scale programmes to implement national visions for climate, forests and development (18 in the DRC and 3 in Gabon). These programmes, ranging from 2 to 33 million US dollars, cover different scales (from national to provincial). They support ambitious policy reforms (eg in agriculture, energy, land use planning, land tenure), rural development, governance processes and monitoring of forests and programme impacts.
- 6 preparatory grants in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo (2) and Central African Republic (2)
- A regional study to determine recent trends and causes of forest loss

Click on each vignette in the pages below or visit the CAFE website (www.cafi.org) to find out more about each programme.



28 PROGRAMMES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



- Sustainable Forest Management
- USD 12M approved



- Savanna-based Agriculture
- USD 15M approved



- Provincial Program Equateur
- USD 10M approved



- Sustainable Wood Energy
- USD 15M approved



- Provincial Program Mongala
- USD 12M approved



- Family Planning Program
- USD 33M approved



- Provincial Program Kwilu
- USD 4M approved



- Sustainable Agriculture Policy
- USD 3M approved



- Provincial Program Sud Ubangui
- USD 7M approved



- Provincial Program in ex-Oriental
- USD 33M approved



- Land Use Planning Program
- USD 8M approved



- Provincial Program Mai-Ndombé
- USD 30M approved



- Indigenous People Support
- USD 2M approved



- Land Tenure Reform
- USD 7M approved



- National Forest Monitoring System
- USD 10M approved



- Civil Society Support
- USD 4.3M approved



- Provincial Program Maniema
- USD 30M approved



- National REDD+ Fund Secretariat
- USD 10.4M approved

LEGEND

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Energy
- Land Use Planning
- Land Tenure
- Demography
- Governance

28 PROGRAMMES

GABON



- Land Use Planning & Forest Monitoring
- USD 18.4M approved



- Protected Areas and Agriculture
- USD 5M approved



- Forest Certification Program
- USD 7M approved

REPUBLIC OF CONGO



- NIF Preparatory Grant
- USD 0.7M approved



- GCF Project Preparatory Grant
- USD 0.3M approved

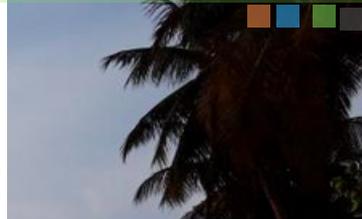
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, Eq. GUINEA & CAMEROON



- CAR NIF (Investment Framework) Grant
- USD 1M approved



- Feasibility Studies & policy dialogue (CAR)
- USD 0.7M approved

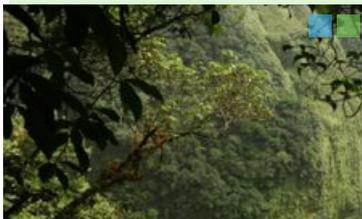


- Eq. Guinea NIF Preparatory Grant
- USD 1.1M approved



- Cameroon NIF Preparatory Grant
- USD 1M approved

REGIONAL



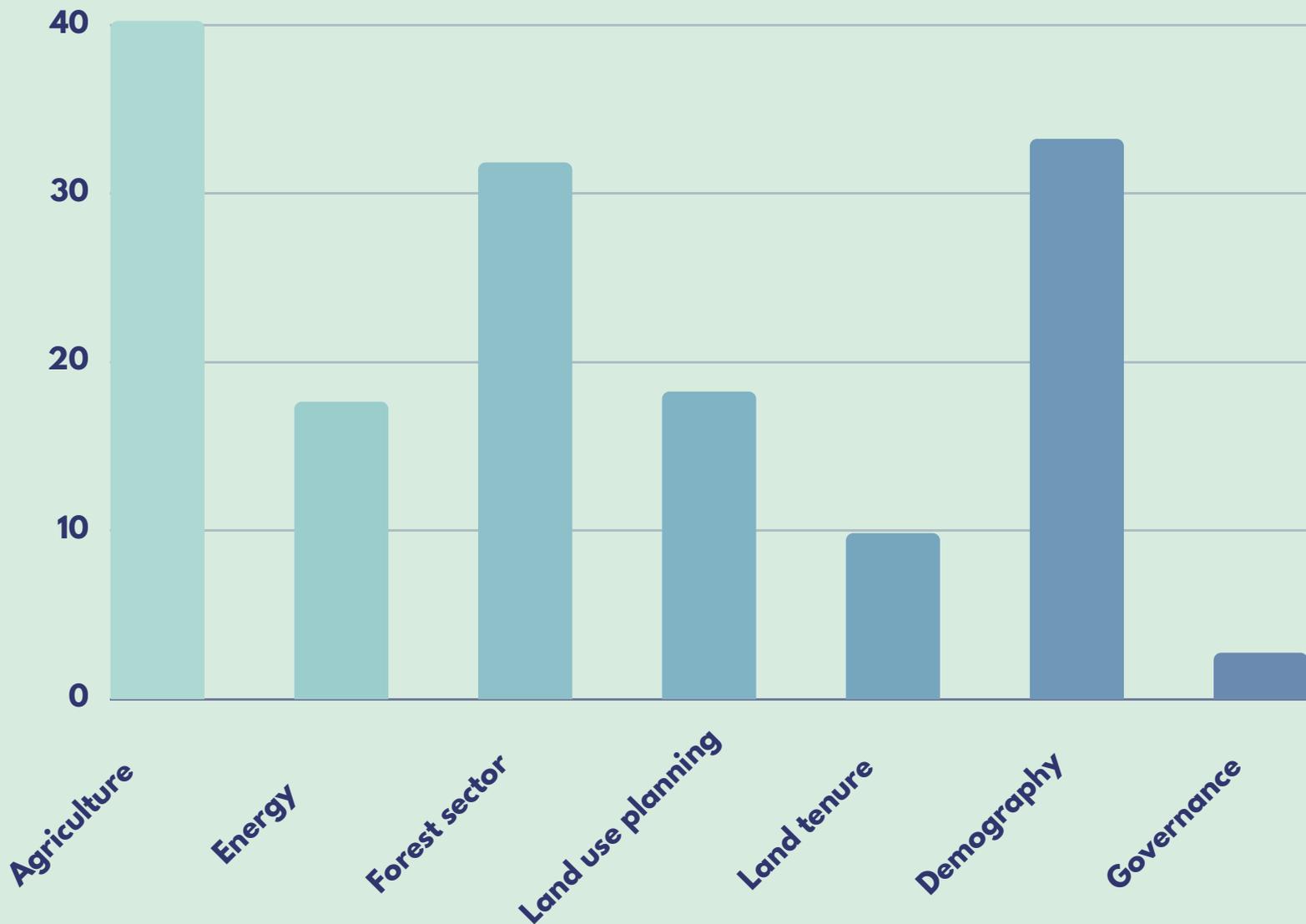
- Regional Drivers Study
- USD 1.2M approved

LEGEND

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Energy
- Land Use Planning
- Land Tenure
- Demography
- Governance

WHAT WE INVEST IN

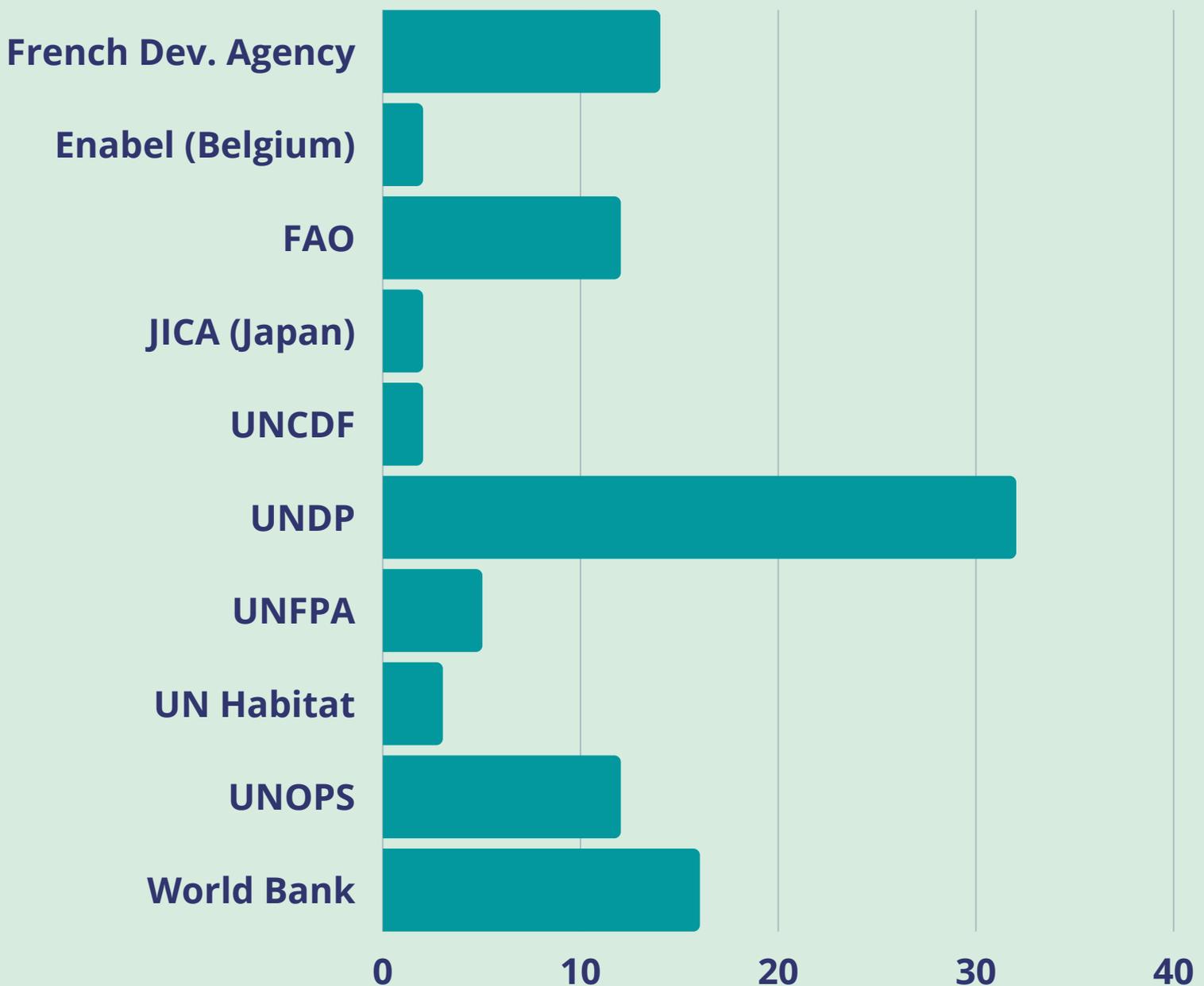
GRAPH 3 : FUNDING TRANSFERS (US\$ M, 2016-2020) ACROSS CAFI'S OUTCOMES



Agricultural investments that reduce pressure on forest lands remain Cafi's top-funded outcome (23% of transferred funding), supported by 10 programmes in the DRC and Gabon. **Reducing demographic pressure** on forests, in support of the national Family Planning strategy, represented 19%, with one large dedicated programme and budget lines in 7 provincial multi-sectoral programmes. Investments towards **better forest management, governance and monitoring** reached 18.4% (with the largest proportional increase compared to 2019), while investments to **offer energy substitutes to unsustainable fuelwood and charcoal** represented 18% of Cafi's investments.

WHO WE JOIN FORCES WITH

CAFI funds are channeled to country programmes via ten implementing organizations. GIZ joined this pool in late 2020. While only multilateral and bilateral cooperation agencies were initially qualified to implement programmes, major revisions in 2020 of CAFI's Terms of Reference and a new Manual of Operations opened up access to the CAFI Trust Fund to other international organizations, including research institutes and international non-governmental organizations.



GRAPH 4: % OF NET FUNDED AMOUNT PER AGENCY, CUMULATIVE (2016-2020)

DELIVERING CONCRETE RESULTS

Cumulatively, current CAFE-funded programmes seek to reduce emission by 75 million tons of CO₂eq and improve the livelihoods of roughly 10 million people. Through its policy dialogue at the highest level, CAFE also negotiates and supports ambitious national commitments, that are conducive to making results sustainable.



RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Although impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated travel freezes, results obtained from programmes in the DR Congo continued to ramp up across the seven outcomes of CAFI's Theory of Change. This is particularly visible

- in the **Agriculture** sector, the primary direct driver of deforestation, where 745 rural local development committees have been set up in 8 provinces and have drafted land use natural resources management plans for areas covering over 1 million hectares. 3800 hectares are now established in agro-forestry, savannahs and for better yielding subsistence agriculture that reduces pressure on forests

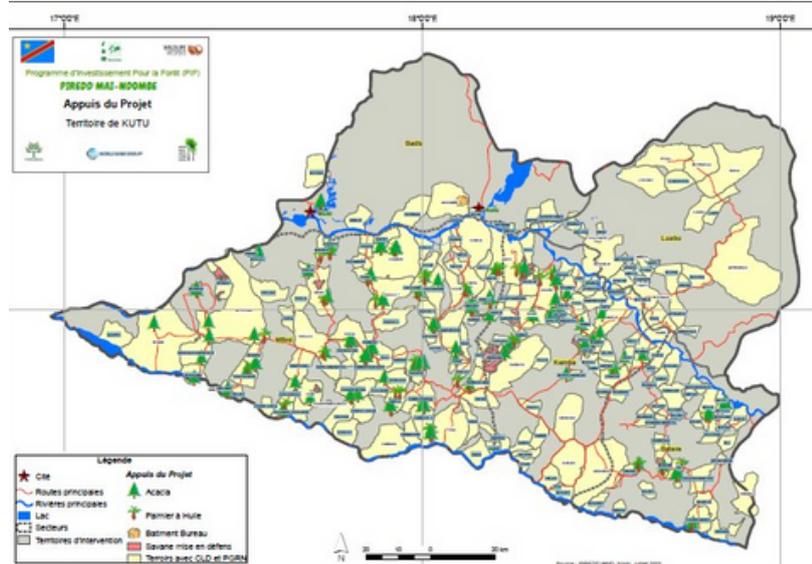
- in the **Wood-energy** sector, with an Incubator Fund that attracted over 120 proposals; 4,000 hectares of trees planted in savannahs or set aside for regeneration, and the production and sale by local actors of the first 30,000 more efficient cookstoves

- in the **Land tenure** sector, with draft policy and law advancing through highly participatory processes

- in the **Health** sector, with over 863,000 years of couple-protection already distributed to support the national family planning strategy, provide access to health education and help reduce demographic pressure on forests.

In addition to support to land use planning and forest monitoring, Gabon now benefits from two additional programmes on **transboundary protected areas**, strengthened capacity on agriculture and **forest certification**. The Forest Reference Emission Level and Summary of Information on Safeguards were submitted to the UNFCCC in early 2021. Most important, data was assembled and verified in 2020 and allowed **the first result-based payment of 17 US\$ M** to be made under the historical agreement signed in 2019.

In the Republic of Congo, four agencies were jointly selected by CAFI and the Prime Minister to develop five programmes, as per the programming framework under the 65 US\$ M Letter of Intent signed in 2019.



Activities in Kutu Territory, Mai Ndombe Programme. DRC

DR CONGO

1.1M HECTARES OF FOREST LOST
EACH YEAR BETWEEN 2010
& 2014

72% OF THE POPULATION LIVES
WITH LESS THAN 1 DOLLAR
A DAY

The high-level policy dialogue between CAFI and Ministers focused in 2020 on land-use planning, the revision of the DR Congo's Nationally Determined Contribution and forest governance.

The CAFI Executive Board recognized the considerable development challenges of the DR Congo and the imperative of addressing climate change and forest conservation within the wider context of a green, inclusive and low-deforestation economy that not only preserves the DRC's forests and biodiversity, but also fights poverty, creates jobs and revenues and promotes sustainable rural development. The Board therefore initiated in 2020 the negotiations of a second Letter of Intent with the Government of the DR Congo.

These will open a new phase of the partnership for 2021-2030, based on the strategic framework developed jointly between the DR Congo and CAFI.



DR CONGO

WWW.CAFI.ORG/COUNTRIES/DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLIC-CONGO

172M US \$ TRANSFERRED
TO 18 PROGRAMS VIA
THE FONAREDD

9

FIELD LEVEL AND 9
REFORM, MONITORING
AND ENABLING
PROGRAMS

45 M ANTICIPATED TONS
OF EMISSION
REDUCTIONS (FIELD
LEVEL PROGRAMS)

10M

PEOPLE WHOSE
LIVELIHOODS ARE
EXPECTED TO
IMPROVE

The portfolio of 18 programmes approved by the National REDD+ Fund (FONAREDD) Steering Committee, almost entirely funded by CAFI, is fully developed under the current funding envelope. Salient results include :

- **Land-use planning:** National Policy adopted; 3 provincial land use plans (Ituri, Tshopo and Bas Uele) and 8 territorial plans validated;
- **Agriculture:** 745 local development committees established; close to 500 simple plans developed to manage natural resources sustainably, covering 1 million hectares ; roadmap launched to elaborate the national sustainable agricultural policy; 994 hectares of palm oil, coffee, cocoa and fruit trees planted in forests, and another 450 in savannahs ; 2336 hectares of improved crops (rice, maize, manioc, peanuts) established with rural households (to obtain better yields with less demand for land);
- **Wood energy:** 2200 hectares of acacias established in savannah areas for wood energy, 10,000 hectares set aside for natural regeneration; over 48,000 improved cookstoves produced by local entrepreneurs and 31,000 already sold ; implementation of the roadmap for the development of the energy policy; Incubator Fund for Clean Cooking launched with 122 proposals received and first 700,000 dollars disbursed and co-financing mobilized

« Thanks to the higher revenues that we get by selling this enhanced manioc, we can now bring our girls to school to study, and to the hospital when they need care. »

Beatrice BOLUMBU, President of the Women's organization of BODJIFI, Equateur province, DR Congo.

- **Forest sector** : forest cover change maps for 2000-2010, 2010-2014 and 2014-2016 produced, and Forest reference Emission Level submitted to the UNFCCC and revised
- **Demography**: national family planning communication strategy prepared; 3696 reproductive health service providers trained and 863,000 couple-year protection distributed; in response to the covid-19 pandemic, a teleconsultation center was rapidly established
- **Governance**: 7 provincial civil society coordinations of the Renovated REDD Climate Working Group (GTCR-R) established and carried out independent monitoring and evaluation mission; Indigenous peoples inputs coordinated to inform the draft Land tenure policy and the Law on the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous pygmy people.

Challenges remain, such as the slow start of several programmes (sustainable management of forests, savannah-based agriculture) and the resulting lack of synchronicity and coordin:



Outreach and new "Chic" condom distribution, Family Planning Programme, DRC

GABON

WWW.CAFI.ORG/COUNTRIES/GABON

110M TONS OF NET
ABSORPTIONS PER
YEAR

88% OF THE COUNTRY IS
COVERED BY
FORESTS

60% OF THE REMAINING
ENDANGERED
FOREST ELEPHANTS

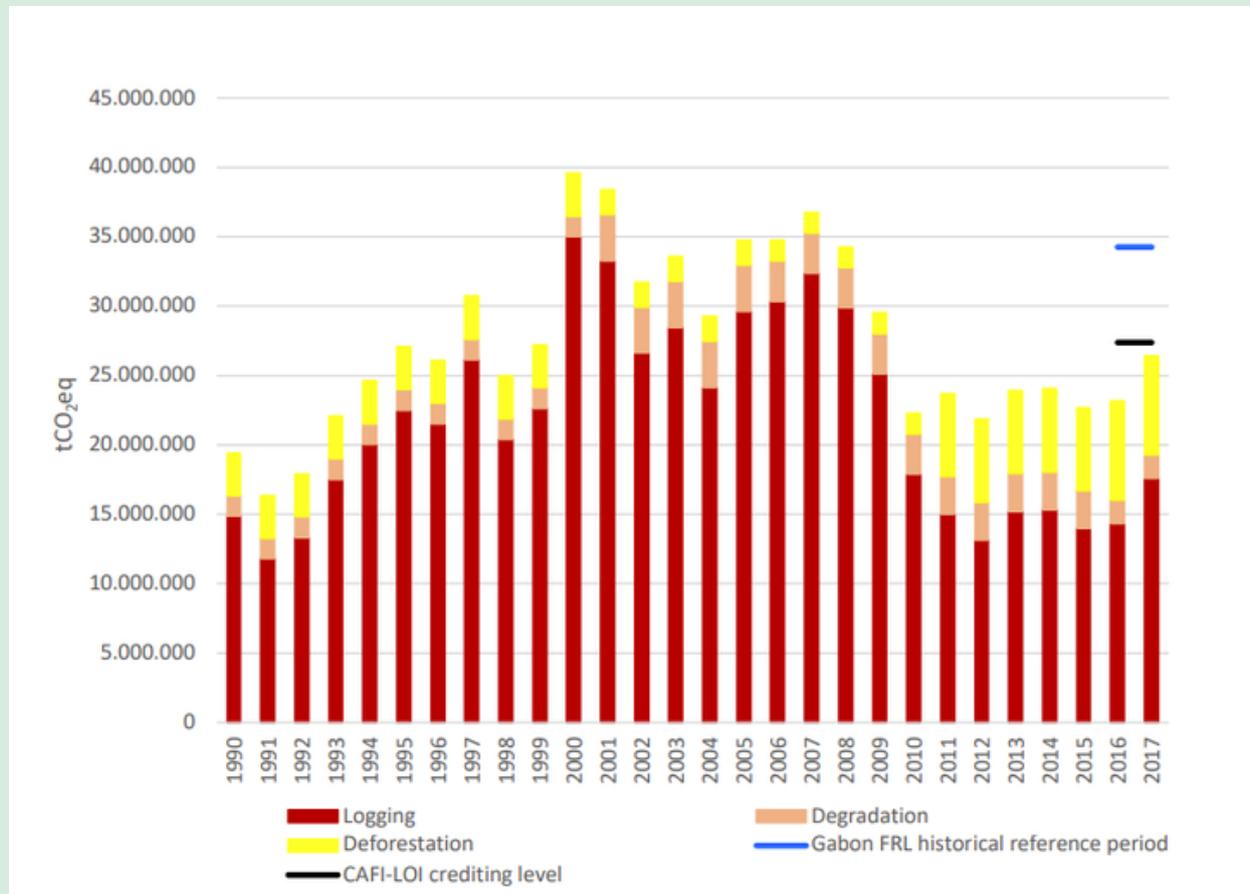
3 CAFI-FUNDED
PROGRAMS AND 5 IN
THE PIPELINE

180M US\$ COMMITTED,
INCLUDING 150 M IN
RESULTS-BASED
PAYMENTS

5M TONS OF CO2 REDUCED
IN 2016 & 2017
COMPARED TO 2006-
2015

Gabon has preserved the majority of its rainforest since the early 2000s with the creation of 13 national parks, one of which is listed as UNESCO's Natural Heritage. The country has made significant advances in sustainable management of its timber resources outside the parks, and committed to ensuring that 100% of logging concessions are Forest Stewardship Council-certified. 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. Following the 2017 signature of a [Letter of Intent](#) and its [2019 addendum on results-based payments](#), CAFI's partnership with Gabon is characterized by several sets of actions:

- **"CAFI 1"**: a first 18.4M US\$ programme approved in 2018 to develop, adopt and implement a [National Land Use Plan and a National Observation System for Natural Resources and Forests](#) that will contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions from LULUCF, with support of the French Development Agency (AFD). While this programme underwent a long inception period, early results include 21 permanent plots established and data collected for the forest map in 4 provinces.
- **"CAFI 2"**: 12 M US\$ were approved in 2020 for 2 additional programmes to i) [expand protected areas by 400,000 hectares in transborder areas and optimize food crop production \(with UNDP\)](#), and ii) implement a [National Scale Forest Certification](#) (with AFD). First results are expected in 2021.



Yearly emissions from logging, degradation and deforestation in Gabon

- **"CAFI 3"** : To meet the conditions under the landmark US\$ 150 M agreement for results-based funding, in 2020 Gabon, prepared, with CAFI support, its Forest Reference Emission Level and Summary of Information on Safeguards for submission to the UNFCCC, its National Investment framework and its first National Results Report, for the years 2016-2017, demonstrating a reduction of 5.2 million tons compared to the average emissions of 2006-2015 period. The independent verification of these results in 2021 triggered the release of the 1st tranche of payment.

The National Climate Council has assessed that, in 2020, five milestones of the Letter of Intent agreed with CAFI in 2017 have been met, including the adoption of National Guidelines to ensure that High Carbon Stocks and High Conservation value forests are not converted to oil palm plantations. An independent verification of the degree of achievement of all milestones is underway.

REP. CONGO

WWW.CAFI.ORG/COUNTRIES/REPUBLIC-OF-CONGO

22.5 MILLION HECTARES OF FORESTS (3 TIMES THE SIZE OF IRELAND)

0.06% DEFORESTATION RATE

74% OF FORESTS UNDER LOGGING CONCESSIONS

66M US\$ COMMITTED BY CAFI

5HA MAXIMUM SIZE OF NEW AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PLANTATIONS IN FORESTS

8 SECTORS ENGAGED UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER TO REACH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LETTER OF INTENT

The Republic of Congo and CAFI signed in 2019 a [Letter of Intent](#) that presented an overarching commitment of protecting peatlands by prohibiting any drainage and drying, and avoiding conversion of over 20,000 hectares of forest annually, and this only outside of forests that boast high carbon stocks and high conservation value.

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.

Following the development of a mutually agreed programming framework, a joint selection of four implementing organizations was undertaken in 2020, requesting them to develop five programmes for an indicative budget of US \$ 45 million.

[The pipeline](#) includes wide-reaching programmes in key strategic sectors: sustainable land use planning, sustainable agroforestry practices for sustainable wood energy production and consumption practices; the development of an operational National Forest Monitoring System; and twin programmes for ensuring robust and constructive engagement of community representation and sustained engagement of civil society and the private sector.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CAMEROON & EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Following preparatory grants to develop National Investment Frameworks, concluded in 2020, the partnerships with the Central African Republic, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea continued to move forward.

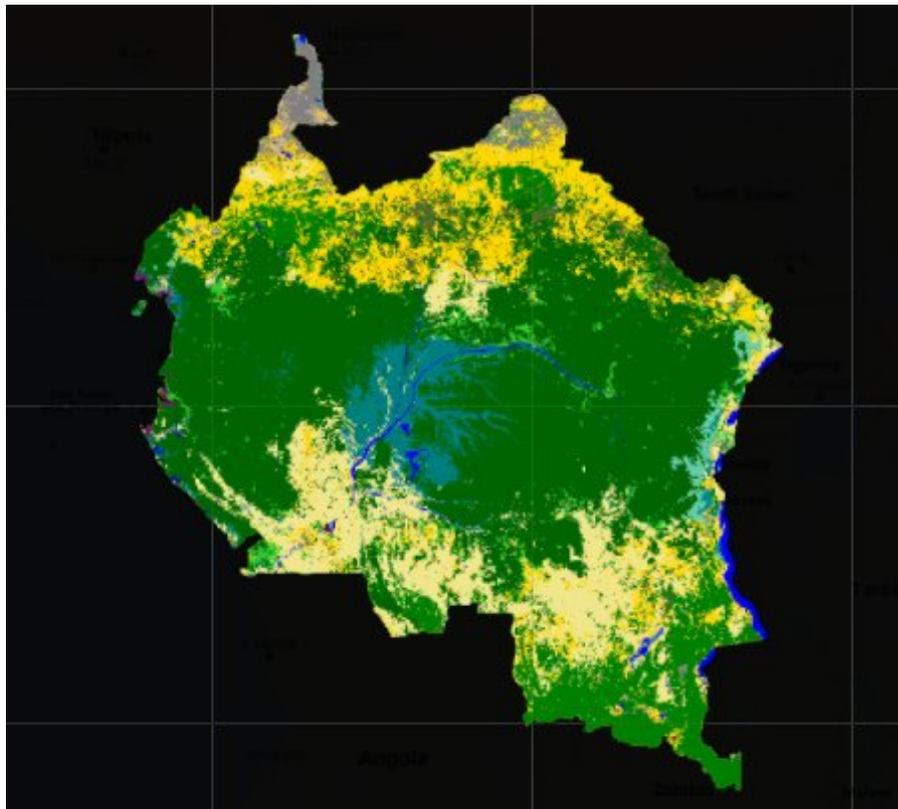
The partnership with the Central African Republic reached a new step in 2020, with the approval of a second, 0.7 M US\$ preparatory grant awarded to the French Development Agency. It will support the policy dialogue towards the development of a Letter of Intent and associated coordination and monitoring mechanism, and conduct pre-feasibility studies for three pilot areas of the National Investment Framework.

CAFI continued to engage in a policy dialogue with the Government of Cameroon and technical and financial partners in Yaounde, focused on identifying priority areas and potential institutional arrangements to steer future investments and identify appropriate institutional mechanisms. A joint mission of the Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the CAFI Secretariat was organized in November 2020, a critical time, shortly before Cameroon's historic first regional elections and during discussions on new decisive planning strategies (the National Development Strategy 2030, operationalizing Cameroon's vision of becoming an emerging and industrialized economy by 2035, and the Rural Sector Development Strategy).

Policy dialogue also continued with Equatorial Guinea, including with the Minister of Finance during the 15th meeting of the Executive Board, and carried on through the French and German Embassies in Malabo throughout 2020 with the new Administrations (Finance/Economy/Planning and Agriculture/Forest/Environment). A study on flows of timber between Equatorial Guinea and neighboring countries concluded to the likelihood of illicit transfers of logs before exports to China. Considering the submission of the Forest Emission Reference Level, the CAFI Board instructed its Secretariat to explore options for feasibility studies and results-based payments.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

The CAFI Board commissioned in June 2020 a regional study, undertaken by FAO, to assess and quantify recent deforestation and forest degradation trends and related direct drivers in the Central Africa region. A vastly inclusive process mobilizes national counterparts of the 6 CAFI partner countries, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), research institutes and international NGOs. The study aims at reaching a good understanding of why, where and how much forest disturbances occurred from 2015 to 2020, through a consensual methodology.



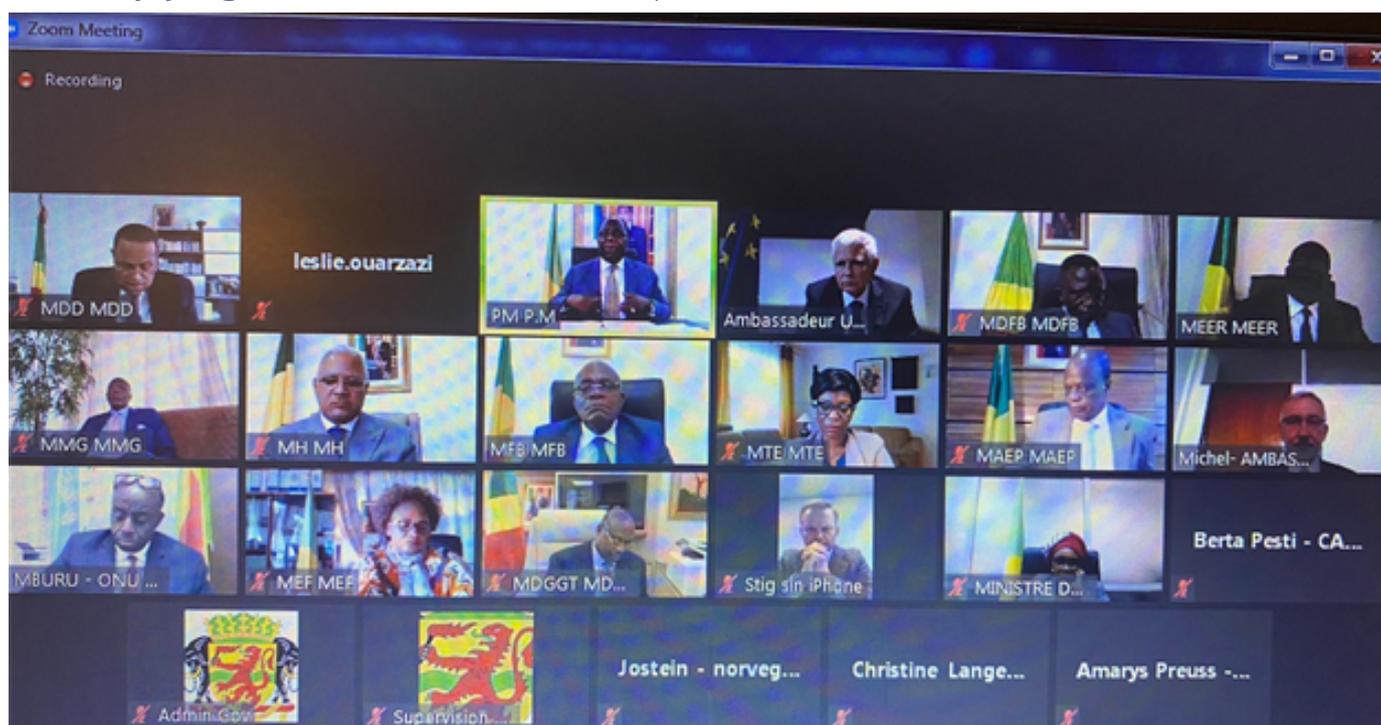
Regional map of land cover classification in 2015 produced by the regional programme

Collaboration with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), who became a permanent observer to the CAFI Executive Board, also translated into joint mission and CAFI's participation in several meetings of Colleges of the CBFP.

HIGH LEVEL MOBILISATION

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, CAFI continued dialogue with high-level decision makers, notably through three major online events

- At CAFI's 15th and 16th Executive Board meetings (March and June 2020), special sessions were dedicated to exchanges between the Ministers of Environment of DRC and of Republic of Congo with the UK COP 26 Ambassador for Africa to discuss how Nationally Determined Contribution can include the forest sector.
- A high-level meeting with the Republic of Congo in September 2020, headed by the Prime Minister of Congo and attended by six Ministers and the European Union and Norway Ambassadors on behalf of CAFI, allowed the joint selection of agencies to develop programmes to achieve the objectives of the Letter of Intent (screenshot)



High level multi-Minister meeting organized with the Republic of Congo in June 2020

- At the UK-hosted Climate Ambition Summit, a video message featured the Ministers of Environment of UK, Gabon, Norway and DRC together with civil society and private sector representatives.

These events helped CAFI's visibility and strong political commitment at the highest levels of government, in turn contributing to more sustainability and dedication of national attention, action and resources.

ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

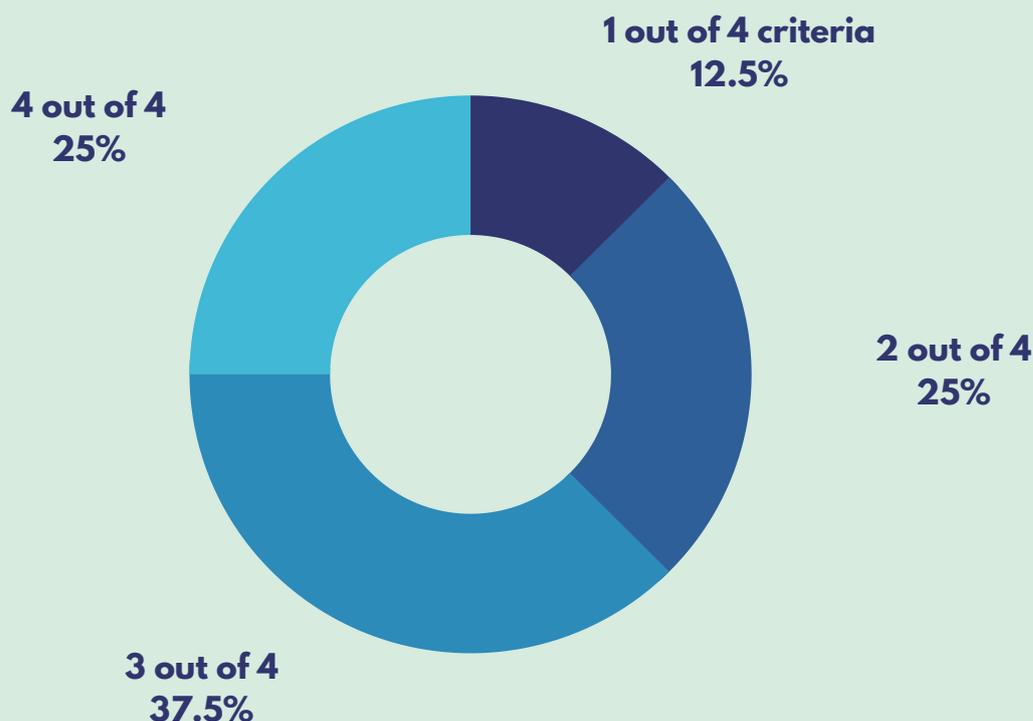
In light of the recommendations made by its mid-term review and a report by Transparency International that considered CAFI as sub-optimal on certain aspects of accountability and inclusiveness, CAFI developed and adopted a Manual of Operations that sets out clear provisions on CAFI's information disclosure, complaints mechanism, whistleblower protection and zero tolerance for fraud, and corruption. The Manual of Operations also requires clearer guidelines to report on measures to prevent fraud and sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation.

Other immediate actions included ensuring that potential conflicts of interest are declared and recorded prior to each session on the Executive Board; publishing reports of these meetings are published; and, for each CAFI-funded programme, making sure that real-time updated information on financial, objectives and results is easily accessible on the CAFI website for all funded programme, in English and French.



GENDER, SAFEGUARDS & RISKS

GRAPH 5 : 2020 GENDER ASSESSMENT



Based on a methodology developed by the UN-REDD Programme, the gender assessment examines i) how gender issues are framed in programme documents ; ii) what budgets and expertise are dedicated to gender-sensitive activities ; iii) how gender actions are implemented and iv) how they are reported upon. The 2020 assessment established that 25% of CFI-funded programmes are fully gender-responsive and that another 37.5% meet 3 of the 4 criteria.

Several actions were taken in 2020 to enhance gender mainstreaming, respect for safeguards and risk monitoring and mitigation.

- CFI's Terms of Reference were revised with a stronger focus on gender and better protection against sexual harassment and abuse.
- Programme document and reporting templates were updated to strengthen the Fund's capacity to monitor and evaluate progress and shortcomings from a risk, safeguards and gender perspective.
- A gender focal point was nominated at the CFI Secretariat, and worked with the FONAREDD Secretariat to produce a gender guidance note and a Gender Action Plan template.

The CFI Risk Dashboard allows the CFI Board to reflect on action to be taken - by the Board, implementing agencies or national partners. The likelihood of several risks increased throughout 2020, eg those linked to the negotiations of a new partnership with the DR Congo and security situation in Cameroon and Central African Republic.

LOOKING AHEAD

CAFI's term has now been extended to 2027. New funding pledges are expected to increase the Fund capitalisation and could allow, inter alia, the signature of a new ambitious deal with the DR Congo ; the deployment of CAFI's activities in Cameroon, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea with ambitious new targets ; increased activities in Gabon and the Republic of Congo ; and enhanced alignment with relevant multi and bilateral partners to increase the impact of CAFI's investments.





CAFI

CENTRAL
AFRICAN
FOREST
INITIATIVE

INITIATIVE
POUR LA
FORÊT DE
L'AFRIQUE
CENTRALE